

The Angel

(an'jel: angele, fr. L. angelus, fr. Gr. angelos: messenger)

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Scholar in the World: Taiwan

Our very own editor, Angela Giertych, made a trip to Taiwan two days after Fall 2007 semester ended, and successfully applied for academic credits for her journey. The trip was so enjoyable, and made such a positive impact on her life, that she was happy to share details on the credit process as well as the trip itself.

After rigorous preparation for the international trip along with fall semester finals, Angela flew with her mother for over 13 hours to Taipei to visit family. They stayed in Taichung for nine days, exploring surrounding cities, religious architecture, the local harbor, and other captivating features of the area while enjoying the local cuisine. She recorded her impressions in a personal travel journal.

Angela's decision to travel across the world fulfilled a major life goal to learn about her familial roots and the lives of her distant relatives. Achieving this goal has radically changed Angela's daily outlook, and she



says that after visiting Taiwan "I feel like more of a whole person, which allows me to be more confident with my identity as an Asian American." She describes her trip as being similar to an out-of body experience, seeing diverse attractions, experiencing foreign events, and temporarily living in an unfamiliar new society. Her global perspective has been significantly broadened.

A lot of the trip was focused on family. Angela met her relatives and had the good timing to be able to attend her cousin's engagement dinner.

She says that even "just living in the house and being with my family was educational, interesting, and fun in itself. Together we ate, sang karaoke, exercised, talked, [and] enjoyed each other's company for the first time. I saw where my mom grew up, and I feel that was the most important thing about it all." Having local family members created a safety net for Angela, contributing to the ease and familiarity gained in her travel.

In order to earn academic credits, Angela submitted a proposal form (found in the Honors Student

Handbook) to the Honors Board. With their approval, she applied for Independent Study, creating her own course which includes both the travel component and a paper combining her personal experience from her journal with academic research about the country's culture. Angela enjoys the creative process, saying that this project "is something I care about. I am interested in learning more and more about a place that influences my heritage." Angela will earn 3 units for Social Science general education requirements by the end of this Spring semester.

Upon their return to the States, Angela and her mother immediately began planning for the next trip. She hopes to "return with more knowledge of the culture and languages, and to try new things, make more memories with my family," maturely asking the question, "What could be more important than that?"

- Dana Rae Gross

Spring Break 08: Thailand and Vietnam

At a time when many students will be deciding whether they want to go to Las Vegas or Cancún, junior Molly Sooper will be packing her bags for Thailand and Vietnam as part of The City as Text course in the Honors Program. Not having traveled since she was a young child, Sooper decided to go on the trip this year to broaden her horizons.

"I'm looking forward to just, well, seeing it," Sooper said. "I'm an art his-

tory major and the buildings, the architecture--it's all art."

For the past eight years the Honors Program has offered its students and interested others a trip to one or more foreign countries during Dominican's spring break. Departing on March 6 from San Francisco, 29 students, faculty, alumni and staff will spend almost two weeks soaking up the cultures of Thailand and Vietnam. With destinations such as Bangkok, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, students will have

ample opportunity to not only sightsee but to learn more about the rich tradition and history that infuses each country. Specific attractions include the Grand Palace and Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaeo) in Thailand and Halong Bay and the Chu Chi Tunnels in Vietnam. Dr. Jayati Ghosh believes that by visiting Thailand and Vietnam, travelers will "get a first-hand experience about the countries which they cannot get from books, lectures, and videos."

Classes have been held to familiarize travelers with various facets each land's culture. One such session on February 1st included a talk given by Dr. Luís Calingo, Dean of the School of Business and Leadership, on "survival tips" for each country. Advice included appropriate topics of conversation, the state of each country's economy, and whether or not to change your money into local currency.

- Tasha Kahn

Winter in Appalachia

During winter break, students Amy Fagan, Kira Maffett, and Elizabeth Campi traveled to Appalachia, Kentucky to participate in a service learning experience called the Glenmary Group Volunteer Program. The service took place at Glenmary Farm, which is a "cooperating community" of the Glenmary Home Mission Sisters, a society dedicated since 1939 to serving the "spiritual and material" needs of rural America.

Sophomore Elizabeth Campi spoke with Sister Kovack about organizing the trip. Elizabeth had previously participated in the same service at Glenmary Farm in high school and had "an amazing experience." Junior Kira Maffett also commented on her motivation for the trip: "I wanted to go...to meet all dif-

ferent kinds of people. I am a nursing student and I feel it's important to experience different lifestyles so that I am able to empathize with people that have different backgrounds from my own."

Glenmary Farm exercises a lifestyle called the "ministry of presence," encouraging individuals to "live in the moment." Watches and cellphones were prohibited in favor of the bare necessities. Service activities included time at an adult day care and rehabilitation center helping with daily tasks and talking with the residents. Students also caroled in town and helped build homes for individuals and families less fortunate. For the students, the experience was most rewarding.

- Elisabeth Schiffbauer



BERLIN & PRAGUE

SPRING 2009 (March 5-15)

Reichstag, Prague Castle, Brandenburg Gate, the Jewish War Memorial, the remnants of the Berlin Wall...and much more!



Students may register for 1-3 units.

Pick up a flyer in Guzman or Bertand.

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By the way...

If you are interested in joining the Angel staff, please contact Dr. Jayati Ghosh. Writers are always welcome!

Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.

—John F. Kennedy

For every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you think you're too small to have an impact try going to bed with a mosquito in the room.

—Anita Koddick