

Nationality and Heritage Rooms News

Fall 2019 | Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs at the University of Pittsburgh | nationalityrooms.pitt.edu

Philippine Nationality Room

Dedicated June 9, 2019

Read more on page 4.





University of Pittsburgh

Nationality and Heritage Rooms News

EDITOR:

Maryann H. Sivak

WRITERS:

Cristina Lagnese

Michael Walter

Shanning Wan

University of Pittsburgh

Nationality Rooms and
Intercultural Exchange Programs

1209 Cathedral of Learning

4200 Fifth Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Our newsletter is available online at
nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/news-events.

Message from the Director

Dear Friends,

I came to the University of Pittsburgh in June 1965, hired as the two-day-a-week executive secretary of the Cultural and Educational Exchange Committee. The Nationality Rooms were considered complete, but some felt that the project had been badly neglected. The room committees were demoralized, and there were only two scholarships available for study abroad.

With the wise counsel and strong support of Ruth Crawford Mitchell, who obtained a \$5,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation for my salary, I set about saving the program. For more than 54 years I have dedicated my efforts to developing, expanding, and securing the future of the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs.

My sense of mission and vision for the program extended decades into the new century. Overseeing the planning, development, and expansion of this program, I was responsible for the creation of 12 new rooms: African Heritage, Armenian, Austrian, Indian, Israel Heritage, Japanese, Korean Heritage, Philippine, Swiss, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Welsh. Today, more than 33 ethnic communities are affiliated with our program. These rooms are among the cultural pearls of Pittsburgh and are of international importance. They provide a unique atmosphere of cultural history, grace, and beauty while connecting our past with the future.

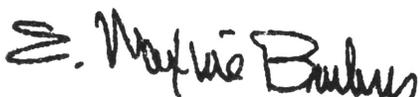
Along with the new rooms, a vibrant Summer Study Abroad Scholarship program was created. Our scholarships and faculty grants enrich the lives of more than 50 awardees each year. To date, we have awarded scholarships to more than 4,000 students, amounting to approximately \$3.6 million. I also initiated a program to bring scholars to Pitt each year. The very first program, the Ruth Crawford Mitchell Fellowship, was named after my predecessor. This award for Czech/Slovak scholars is made annually to an individual from the Czech or Slovak republics' academic, medical, governmental, or commercial sector. The award brings the scholar to the University of Pittsburgh for the fall term to conduct research that will enhance the scholar's career and contribute to the body of knowledge of the Czech and Slovak republics. Based on this model, the Armenian Nationality Room Fellowship was established to bring an Armenian scholar to conduct research at Pitt.

In 1977, I established our information and gift center on the first floor of the Cathedral of Learning. Through this venue, we share our Nationality Rooms and the cultures they represent with thousands of guests through information and tours. We also offer merchandise from around the world for sale. We attract more than 25,000 paying tour guests every year, not including casual visitors and the thousands of students who attend classes in the rooms.

Recently, my health has suffered a series of setbacks that will prevent me from continuing as director. I have decided, therefore, to retire at the end of this calendar year. I have always considered myself the luckiest person in Pittsburgh. After I was married, my husband's work with refugee resettlement took us to countries throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia. In 15 years, we never stayed more than two years in any one place. I survived all of these different moves with no tragedies and learning not to hate but always appreciating the culture in which I was living. I brought that back with me and found this marvelous job where I used those experiences to establish a legacy that will continue beyond my time with you. These rooms and programs that are so dear to me will remain my greatest accomplishment.

Thank you for your support and for always being there for me. I wish all of you the very best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



E. Maxine Bruhns



Message from the Vice Provost for Global Affairs

Dear Friends,

As we know, our beloved E. Maxine Bruhns is stepping down from her role as director to focus on her health.

It has been an honor to work with Maxine these many years. Her leadership of the Nationality Rooms has truly been a gift to the University of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh region, and the world. For many years, her exceptional leadership of the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs has moved hundreds of community members to action in service of the University and has funded numerous students' first cross-cultural experiences abroad. Throughout her career at Pitt, Maxine has made extraordinary efforts in advancing the University's global reputation by hosting international leaders; fundraising for new classrooms and scholarships; and connecting with artists, architects, and intellectuals from around the world. She has certainly set the bar extremely high for those of us who aspire to lead comprehensive internationalization efforts in the future.

Please know that my door is open to you in this time of transition. You also can speak anytime with Belkys Torres, our executive director of global engagement, including during her regular office hours at the Nationality Rooms offices, where you can typically find her Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and by appointment. Her e-mail is btorres@pitt.edu.

It was a pleasure seeing many of you at the Nationality Rooms Council meeting in October. Until we all see each other at the Holiday Open House, please accept my thanks for everything that you do for the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs.

Best,



Ariel C. Armony
Vice Provost for Global Affairs
Director, University Center for International Studies

Message from the Nationality Rooms Council Chair



Thank you to everyone who attended the Nationality Rooms Summer Study Abroad showcase in October. We had a great showing of Nationality Rooms Council and Nationality Rooms Committee members in support of the students. Attendees agreed that poster presentations allowed the students to produce excellent summaries of their studies and that the new format

promoted strong interaction between the students and committee members.

I extend the Nationality Rooms Council's special thanks to Jennie-Lynn Knox for her many years of service as Nationality Rooms Council president. She has been elected Nationality Rooms Council secretary, and I wish her success in her new role.

I also extend a warm welcome to all of the newly elected and returning members of the Nationality Rooms Council. I look forward to working with all of you during the next two years of our terms. It will be an interesting and exciting time!

Sincerely,
Joseph Bielecki



E. Maxine Bruhns receives the University Center for International Studies' inaugural Embrace the World Award in October 2018 from Ariel Armony, vice provost for global affairs, and Belkys Torres, executive director of global engagement. The award recognizes Bruhns' more than 50 years of dedicated service to the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh.

Philippine Nationality Room

by Michael Walter

The Philippine Nationality Room reflects a mix of Eastern and Western traditions in its design and decoration. The architecture is in the manner of a *bahay na bato*, or stone foundation structure, with a second story in wood and other materials. An earlier example of native Filipino architecture was the *bahay kubo* or *nipa hut*—a bamboo and thatch building raised on wooden piles. After Spanish introduction to the region in the 1500s, the *bahay kubo* became the sturdier *bahay na bato*, with four tree trunks for structural support, a stone foundation, wooden walls and ceilings, and capiz shell windows or *ventanillas*. The specific inspiration for some of the decoration was the Quema House, Ilocos Sur. Many generations of the Quema family have lived in their *bahay na bato*, and similar houses throughout the Philippines are treated with respect and family reverence, though the Quema House is not a museum.

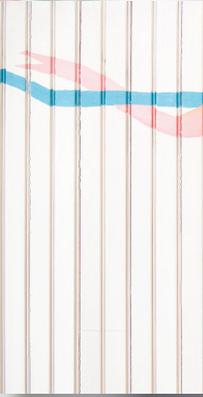
The student chairs resemble *solihaya* chairs, or cane and reed chairs. These chairs feature a woven cane back and African mahogany wood. The floor is of the same wood, and the whitewashed beadboard walls and ceiling feature murals depicting items and creatures from various regions of the archipelago. Sliding lattice windows are inset with capiz shell panels. The use of capiz, or windowpane oyster shells, is closely identified with architecture in the Philippines.

The framed paintings are replicas of Filipino masterworks done in a *miniaturismo* style. The mestiza of Manila in Gala Raiment shows various far-flung influences coalescing in female costume: She wears a blouse of native *sinamay* (a non-edible banana palm), skirt and apron of Indian or Chinese silk, handkerchief that is English, and *zapatillas* (shoes) of Chinese felt. The man is a student at Santo Thomas University and wears his *barong tagalog* (the untucked shirt), which recalls the Indo-Malay costume with a European decorative restraint. The architectural scenes show a *bahay kubo*, while the “Quartermaster’s House” painting shows a typical *bahay na bato* exterior.

The ceiling murals feature three mythical creatures: the *Kinnari*, a woman/swan hybrid that symbolizes feminine beauty, grace and accomplishment; the *Bakunawa*, a serpentine dragon that represents natural meteorological forces; and the *Sarimanok* above the chalkboard, which is a messenger and symbol of prestige. The *Sarimanok* trails behind it a banner that translates to “Long Live the Philippines!”

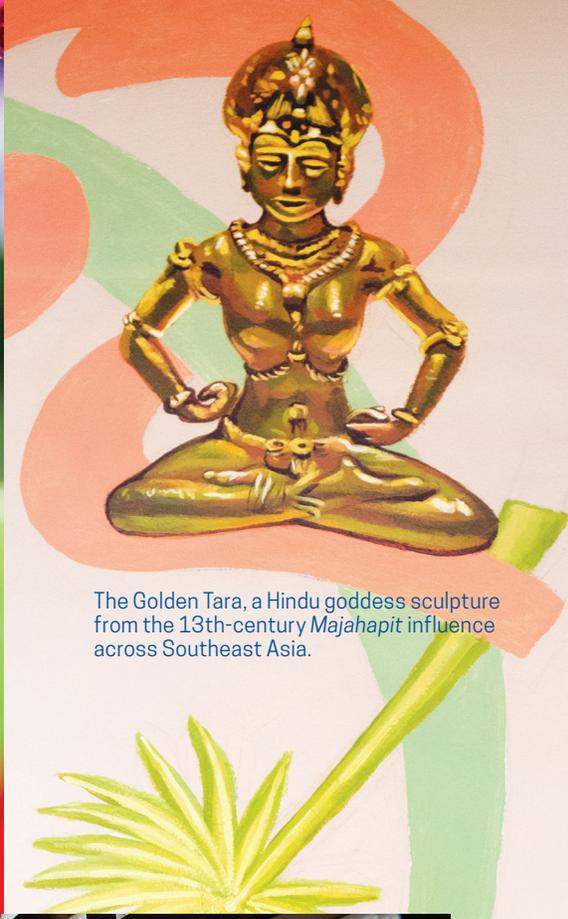
Plants include hibiscus, tamarind, and native *ampalaya* gourds. An ancient vessel (the *Manunggul* jar, c. 890-710 BCE), the Golden Tara (a Hindu goddess sculpture from the 13th-century *Majahapit* influence across Southeast Asia), and the *Laguna* copperplate of 900 CE (the earliest known written document in the Philippines) also are shown. Above the alcove, the *Baybayin*, the native ancient Philippine alphabet consisting of three vowels and 14 consonants, is shown.

Finally, the seals of the University of San Carlos (1595), University of Santo Tomas (1611), Colegio de San Juan Lateran (1620), and Colegio de Santa Isabel (1632) are attached to the chalkboard doors. ■





The Sarimanok trails behind it a banner that translates to "Long Live the Philippines!"



The Golden Tara, a Hindu goddess sculpture from the 13th-century Majahapit influence across Southeast Asia.



Sliding lattice windows are inset with capiz shell panels.



News from the Nationality and Heritage Room Committees



Austrian Nationality Room with murals by Celeste Parendo

Austrian Nationality Room

Edgar Braun, Chair

The Austrian Nationality Room Scholarship Awardees Reception was held on September 29, 2019. The scholarships were awarded this year in memory of Joseph and Heidi Novak. This year's awardees were Danielle Schomer, an undergraduate psychology major, and Manasi Thirumoorthi, a Pitt Nursing graduate.

Celeste Parendo painted the beautiful murals in the Austrian Room. She described how the Novaks took her and her father to Eisenstadt, Austria, to view the ceiling murals in the music room of the Esterhazy Palace. These murals were the inspiration for Parendo's magnificent work.

Schomer studied the psychology of prejudice and discrimination in relation to music and culture in Vienna. Thirumoorthi compared the Austrian health care system to that of the United States at the Pitt Panther Program in Graz.

Biology professor Orin James, director of the Pitt Panther Program in Graz, gave a wonderful explanation of the program and described some of the differences between the health care systems in Austria and the United States. We are pleased that he is a member of the Austrian Nationality Room Committee. ■

Czechoslovak Nationality Room

Maryann Sivak

We welcome the Philippine Nationality Room to our family of nationality and heritage rooms. Czechs, in fact, have a special connection with the Philippines.

José Rizal (1861–96) was an ophthalmologist, poet, novelist, and one of the most important personalities in the Philippine freedom movement. He spoke nine languages and studied medical sciences in four different countries. He was fascinated by philosophy and ethnography. His advocacy of political unification and reforms for the Philippines, however, made him anathema to the Spanish colonial authorities.

Ferdinand Blumentritt (1853–1919) was a professor of history and geography at the Technical School in Litoměřice, now in the Czech Republic. He was internationally recognized for his research and publications on the Philippines. Blumentritt's work on ethnography and sociology attracted the attention of Rizal. Sensing a kindred spirit, Blumentritt provided him with introductions to several of his international colleagues. The two finally met in Litoměřice in May 1887, while Rizal was on an extensive European tour. Blumentritt introduced him to the mayor and local intellectuals. Their three-day visit began a lasting friendship, with correspondence continuing until Rizal's death. Over the years, Rizal would dedicate several works to his friend. His last letter before his execution in Manila was sent to Blumentritt.

Today, the places Rizal visited in the Czech Republic are on the Rizal Heritage Trail. This has inspired many Filipinos as well as Germans and Americans to visit Prague; Brno; and, of course, Litoměřice.

Much of the Rizal-Blumentritt correspondence is preserved in the South Bohemian Museum in České Budějovice. The Blumentritt house in Litoměřice has a Philippine room filled with costumes and artifacts. A newly restored bastion in the Litoměřice city wall has been named for Blumentritt and Rizal and contains biographical materials, photographs, and artifacts of the two friends. ■

Philippine Room in Litoměřice, Czech Republic. Photo taken by: Jana Váchová



English Nationality Room

Kimberly Szczypinski, Chair

During the first half of 2019, the English Nationality Room hosted several cultural and historical events and launched a scholarship appeal in the form of a letter-writing campaign to British corporations with a U.S. presence.

To Try and Do Some Good: The Remarkable Life of Heiress-Philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts

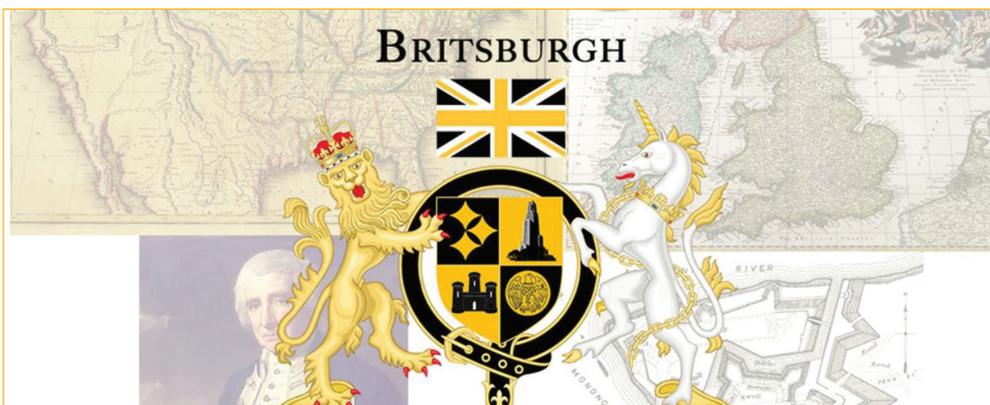
I presented at this event on May 21 in partnership with Britsburgh (British-American Connections Pittsburgh). The event addressed the unconventional life and philanthropy of 19th century British banking heiress Angela Burdett-Coutts (1840–1906). The First Baroness Burdett-Coutts was affiliated with some of the giants of her day: Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington; Florence Nightingale; Charles Dickens; David Livingstone; and Sir James Brooke, among others. At age 23, Burdett-Coutts became one of the wealthiest women in England when she inherited her banking family's enormous £1.8 million fortune (equivalent to about £160 million or \$211 million today). Unconventional, self-willed, and determined throughout her long life, Burdett-Coutts set her own course from the beginning, defying Victorian precepts regarding both marriage and the treatment of the poor and marginalized. She was among the most generous and committed of Victorian philanthropists. She allied herself with Dickens, with whom she founded Urania Cottage to give "fallen women" a new start by transforming them into literate and respectable women eligible for marriage and capable of domestic management or otherwise able to maintain a decent life. Her many philanthropic interests reached as far as Africa, Asia, and Australia. Late in life, she entered into a marriage that shocked her countrymen: Her new husband was 40 years her junior, her secretary, and an American! In spite of this, Queen Victoria's son and successor, King Edward VII, called Burdett-Coutts "after my mother, the most remarkable woman in the Kingdom."

Overpaid, Overfed, Oversexed, and Over Here!

In partnership with Britsburgh, I presented this humorous program on June 5 to discuss the mutual culture shock experienced by Britons and the American service personnel stationed in the United Kingdom during World War II. By the spring of 1944, Americans constituted the vast majority of the nearly 1.5 million foreign troops posted in Great Britain in preparation for the D-Day invasion. Up until this time, relatively few Britons had engaged with Americans to any great degree, gaining their impressions of the American culture largely from the movies. Similarly, many of the American soldiers were young men from small towns who had not previously traveled abroad. This program explored the so-called special relationship between these two nations that has endured to the present day. The event had a room-capacity turnout of 40 people, among them two women who had served during World War II, one in the Royal Air Force Fighter Command and another in Britain's agricultural Land Army. The audience included those helping the war effort via food production and several descendants of American GIs stationed in Britain who married British women and shared their reminiscences.

Trooping the Colour

On June 9, the committee held *Trooping the Colour* in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room in partnership with Britsburgh. On the actual day the Trooping is held in London, David Frankowski, member of the Britsburgh History Society, explained the history and protocol of the ceremony and used an extensive British toy soldier display to illustrate the ceremony. ■



Hungarian Nationality Room

Jonathan Naser, Chair



Mark Fulep



Helga Scheiber

On October 28, the Hungarian Nationality Room hosted a concert of Hungarian classical and folk music in the Frick Fine Arts Building. The evening featured Hungarian flutist Mark Fulep and Romanian pianist Helga Scheiber in a wonderful two-hour concert. ■

Indian Nationality Room

Rashmi Ravindra, Chair

The Indian Nationality Room celebrated India Day on Sunday, August 18. In spite of construction taking place in the Commons Room, we managed to have a good turnout! This year, the theme was Dances of India. The dances were from different regions of the country. The reviews we heard from various people were humbling. We honored a dance teacher who has been teaching dance for more than 30 years and E. Maxine Bruhns for her service to the Nationality Rooms.

Participants included Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald (who danced the entire parade distance around the Cathedral), Vice Provost for Global Affairs Ariel Armony, and Asian Studies Center Director Joe Alter. The vendors and food sales did very well during the special day. After the cultural program, the much-anticipated kite flying was a success, too.

The committee offers special thanks to the Nationality Rooms office staff for their contributions to planning and arranging this major annual event. ■



Vanan Kekre, E. Maxine Bruhns, Rashmi Ravindra, India Day at Pitt.

Irish Nationality Room

Jack Webber, Chair

On June 16, new members and 13 notable friends made a reading trek through 61 pages of James Joyce's 748-page novel *Ulysses*. The selection was *Bloomsday*, where the novel treks throughout Dublin, Ireland, on its way to finding true love for the hero.

On August 25, during orientation week at Pitt, the Irish Room welcomed new students visiting the room during the European Studies Center's EuroFest 2019.

In September, more than 3,500 attendees to the Pittsburgh Irish Festival viewed or visited the Irish Nationality Room's information table. And more than 70 Pitt students requested information about the Irish Nationality Room's two scholarships, one undergraduate and one graduate, for summer study in Ireland.

On October 27, the Irish, Welsh, and Scottish rooms joined together to present a Celtic cultural program with prose, poetry, stories, entertainment, food, and scholarship reports. The event was free and open to the public.

For the Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House, our committee members are gearing up to decorate the Irish Room with holly and welcome friends old and new. ■



Irish Festival at the Waterfront, Homestead, Pa.

Japanese Nationality Room

Sono Hayes, Vice Chair



Yoko Sando

The Nationality Council honored the memory of Yoko Sando during a special time of reflection at its October meeting.

Sando was a long-time Japanese Nationality Room member and leader of the Japanese community in Pittsburgh, as was her deceased husband, Dr. Isamu Sando. Yoko, who passed away on August 14 at the age of 84, was born and raised in Japan, and after marrying her husband, followed him to the

United States. In time, the couple moved to Pittsburgh, where they became fixtures of the local Japanese community.

Sando's life was filled with energy, laughter, and happiness. She supported her husband's goals with strong conviction and love for her family. She rose to every challenge and adventure and devoted herself to helping her husband's Japanese interns and researchers as well as any Japanese individuals she encountered.

Yoko often told the story of arriving in Boston, Mass., on St. Patrick's Day in 1962 with her baby daughter, Mariko, to join her husband and wondering if Americans spent every day dressed in green and drinking beer. This is a glimpse of how her positive attitude kept everyone laughing; how witty she was; and how her infectious laughter kept her own, and her family's, difficulties at bay.

Sando was an expert in Japan's cultural traditions, with teacher-level proficiency in traditional Japanese dance and song, and she quickly fell in love with Pittsburgh Opera and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

On a personal note, Sando taught me how to enjoy my time with my aging parents when they moved to Pittsburgh from Japan. She showed us all how to be trailblazers, and she will be missed by us all. ■

Polish Nationality Room

Leszek Wajler, Chair

The Polish Nationality Room committee participated in the Eastern European Folk Festival on September 29 and will host the 35th annual Polishfest on Sunday, November 10, from noon to 5 p.m. in the Commons Room. An Old-Fashioned Christmas will include a variety of Polish music; song; dance; folk crafts; foods; and folk-dance performances of Polish, Carpatho-Rusyn and Lithuanian folk songs. We will have workshops on creating a variety of folk crafts, including paper cutting, pierogi making, and honey cake ornaments, and a variety Polish, Carpatho-Rusyn, and Lithuanian crafts. In past years, more than 3,000 guests have enjoyed our afternoon of cultural fun.

Our sixth annual Spring Festival of the Egg is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2020, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Alumni Hall J.W. Connelly Ballroom. The event features a free egg-decorating workshop. You can create your own hand-decorated *Pisanki* (Easter egg) to adorn your Easter basket. A variety of Easter displays, ethnic sweets, hand decorated Easter eggs, Easter basket covers, woven Easter palm, kids' Easter craft activities, and imported Easter gifts will be available.

For more than 80 years, the Polish Nationality Room and its committee members have proudly celebrated the culture of the Poles who settled in Western Pennsylvania. ■



Lajkoniki dancers from Holy Family Catholic Church perform traditional Polish dances during Polishfest in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room.

Philippine Nationality Room Dedication

Maryann Sivak

On June 9, Pitt welcomed the 31st addition to the family of Nationality and Heritage Rooms, the Philippine Nationality Room. University and community groups came together to celebrate the dedication.

The official ceremony took place in Heinz Memorial Chapel, where Ariel Armony, vice provost for global affairs and director of the University Center for International Studies, gave an inspiring speech about the importance of the University's engagement both internationally and locally. Armony also formally thanked the task force and the Filipino community for their hard work to create the room, which he called a "true labor of love."

Provost Ann E. Cudd called the Philippine Nationality Room a "truly meaningful addition" to the University. Claro Suarez Cristobal, consul general of the Philippines, gave an impassioned speech about the hard work that the Filipino community had undertaken to create the room and show the richness of Filipino culture. Task Force Chair Father Manny Gelido then presented a ceremonial key to Chancellor Patrick Gallagher, formally gifting the room to the University.

Following the dedication, the 400 attendees were introduced to the melodious sounds of traditional Filipino gong music and a *Santacruzán* procession to the Cathedral of

Learning Commons Room. *Santacruzán* is a popular religious-historical pageant often held in May in the Philippines.

The task force selected the dedication date to align with Pagdiriwang, the annual celebration of the Philippines' independence from Spain (June 12, 1898).

In the Commons Room, guests gathered to experience the Filipinos' warm hospitality and entertainment. Specially prepared food like *biko* (sweet rice cake cooked in coconut milk), *lumpia* (meat-filled dumplings), and delicious cantaloupe drink were free to the public. Musicians and dancers performed traditional Filipino music and dance. Guests admired Filipino artwork and artifacts lining the Commons Room walls. Of course, the Philippine Nationality Room was open, and hundreds of guests took the opportunity to admire the beautiful room.

A formal banquet that evening included speeches, entertainment, a fashion show, and dancing to conclude the celebration.

International, national, and regional media covered the dedication, including Manila's *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. The University estimated a total audience reach of approximately 2 million through the many social media accounts sharing event information and photos. ■



Swiss Nationality Room

Nancy Carlson, Chair

We are more than 97 percent of the way to endowing our scholarship fund, and we anticipate that the Swiss Nationality Room Scholarship Fund will be fully endowed by the end of the calendar year. After a final outreach to past donors, and if year-end gifts following the appeal are in line with those of previous years, we believe that our \$100,000 target will be reached. We thank all of our generous donors who have funded this endowment since the Swiss Nationality Room was dedicated in 2012.

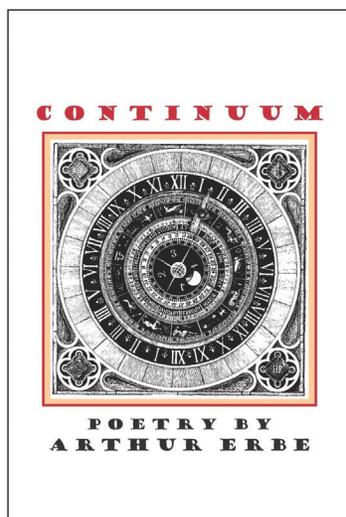
The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh (SASP) will hold its Christmas Luncheon on December 7 in the ratskeller of the Teutonia Männerchor on Phineas Street on the North Side. The annual celebration typically includes Swiss foods, performances by the Teutonia Kinderchor (children's chorus), and songs and *jodeling* by the Swiss Männerchor Helvetia.

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee works closely with SASP (swisspittsburgh.org) to promote Swiss culture and events. This year SASP sponsored a *Fasnacht* party on March 9 at the Hofbräuhaus in Pittsburgh. In Basel, *Fasnacht* is an important celebration that starts before the sun rises on the Monday after Ash Wednesday, when drummers and piccolo players begin marching through the streets in costume.

On July 27, we celebrated Swiss Nationality Day at the Richland Township Community Barn. Swiss Nationality Day is officially on August 1 each year. It was on that date that the Federal Charter of 1291 documented the eternal alliance of the original three Swiss cantons. We enjoyed a picnic of traditional Swiss foods, heard the beautiful singing and *jodeling* of the Schweizer Männerchor, and played games. One of our games is the traditional Swiss *steinstossen*, or stone throwing, in which individuals compete to see who can throw a heavy stone the farthest distance from a standing position.

The Swiss Nationality Room Committee's vice chair Arthur Erbe, has authored a new book of poetry titled *Continuum*. Published by the Poet's Press in Pittsburgh, the book is available from Amazon.

Continuum illustrates the ways time affects our lives. The poems explore how each month, day, moment, and memory shapes how we think about the passing of the hours. Coincidentally, Erbe was the first professor to hold a class in the Swiss Nationality Room. ■



Yugoslav Nationality Room

Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, Chair

The Yugoslav Nationality Room committee cosponsored Tea and Talk on March 16 featuring two authors, Melita Barabash Gardner and Natasha Garrett, who described their arrival in America after living in Croatia (Gardner) and Macedonia (Garrett). The event was very well attended by Yugoslav room members and the community.

On March 21 and 22, the committee cosponsored a cross-cultural symposium, the Eastern European, Balkan, and Middle Eastern Female Artists: Finding Their Own Voices in Writing, Cinema, and Art.

Also in March, the committee cosponsored the Serbian Movie Festival in Room 232 of the Cathedral of Learning. Three movies were featured along with a book discussion and a performance by the St. Nicholas Tamburitizens. Following the festival, the Yugoslav Room committee discussed future film selections for the 2020 film festival as well as possible sponsorship and sent the recommendations to the Serb National Federation.

The committee met in May to discuss future speaker events and planned for the possibility of three events for the 2019–20 year. And in June, the committee held a happy hour on the Rooftop Terrace of the University Club. ■

Rooms in Process

Finnish Nationality Room

Seija Cohen, Chair

The Finnish Room Committee is hopeful that a Finnish Nationality Room soon will join the other Nationality and Heritage Rooms in presenting the distinctive cultural features of its home country. The committee continues to seek funding for the construction of the room and is confident that when realized, the room will join the classrooms of neighboring northern European countries, such as Sweden, Norway, and Russia, in depicting and preserving the unique national character of the nations in that part of the world.

The architectural design for the Finnish Nationality Room will depict a log farmhouse of the type where children were taught before school buildings became available. Log construction is the heritage of the Finnish people. Since the 1600s, Finnish immigrants have been bringing this building art to America. Many of their original log structures are still standing. The Finnish log farmhouse evokes this heritage and the contributions Finns have made in the fields of education, architecture, art, and technology.

The committee is planning a series of exciting events, so please stay tuned. ■

2019 Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs (NRIEP) Scholarship Report

Shanning Wan

The 2019 NRIEP scholarships are listed alphabetically by the last name of the recipient(s).

David L. Lawrence Scholarship, Uganda

Zeinab Abbas saw harsh local conditions during a trip to the impoverished of Katwe. “The trip made me, and many other students, much more open to how amazing our own lives were. We all immediately knew how lucky and grateful we were for our upbringing,” Abbas said.

John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship, Taiwan

Alex Anthony-Williams studied Chinese at an accelerated level and completed an internship in at a nongovernmental organization to benefit his future career. Among the many sights and sounds that stood out from his time in Taiwan, Anthony-Williams said that the “fast, affordable, and convenient public transportation” was a highlight.

African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship, Namibia

Funto Babalola saw many parallels to life in the U.S. in his travels in Namibia: “Conversations really showed that nothing and nowhere is perfect. A different health care system comes with its own issues. You really have to think about how to improve where you are and the small things that you can do to make an impact and improve patient care.”

Savina S. Skewis Memorial Grant, England

Silvia Bononi explored London’s diversity: “The culture in England—London specifically—was extremely diverse. I am not used to that level of diversity where I am from. Because of my time abroad, I now fully realize the benefits of diversity and working in cross-cultural teams.”

Japanese Nationality Room Scholarship, Japan

Michael Boroch realized that some of his favorite moments during his term abroad came during time spent with his new Japanese friends: “With them, I was able to step outside of my comfort zone. Being with local people my age made my time in Tokyo all the more authentic and showed me the ‘real’ Japan.”

Dr. and Mrs. Ryonosuke Shiono Award, Nepal

Mary Braza conducted fieldwork collecting samples and measurements with a team, at times in remote areas. “Many of the villages we came across had never had tourists visit them, and in some places, the entire village came out to greet us. The most exciting and challenging day we had was while hiking to the 4 km pass heading towards Sisnegoan. We were forced to

pass through a field full of bees. And as we continued hiking, the trail became buried under a landslide.”

Helen Pool Rush Scholarship, Tanzania

Carolyn Brodie visited clinics and Tanzanian homes to meet families and orphans of the AIDS epidemic. She says that she will always remember the people as well as the unforgettable locations and trips. “The safari we took at sunrise I will never forget, nor the Isimila Stone Age site visit.”

Polish Room Graduate Award, Poland

Kelly Chastain visited the Birkenau concentration camp and said that she understood in a split second the scale of the Nazi regime’s move to exterminate: “The sheer vastness of the complex was devastating in a wholly unexpected way.”

John H. Tsui Memorial Scholarship, Taiwan

Sarina Chow said that one of her main goals for her scholarship trip was to gain a better understanding of Taiwan’s position in the global business industry and to consider her career options. “My time abroad reinforced my goals to pursue a career in international business, with a particular focus on Taiwan and East Asia.”

Helen Pool Rush Scholarship, South Africa

Anna Coleman’s work conducting research surveys reinforced her commitment to studying statistics and sustainability, reflecting on the historical injustice in South Africa, and considering similarities in American society. She says that she now has “a deeper commitment within myself to living consciously; ensuring I am doing my part to help the fractions of society that have not been given the same opportunities as me; and most importantly not giving my time, attention, and money to oppressive aspects of society.”

Frances and Sully Nesta Memorial Grant, Italy

Jacob Eisensmith, a third-year PhD student in history of art and architecture at the University of Pittsburgh, conducted independent research in Puglia, Italy, and visited a wide array of historical sites “to study and better understand the cultural heritage of the area.”

African Heritage Room Scholarship, Ghana

Lindsay Ejoh says that her work abroad made her realize that interdisciplinary approaches are necessary to solve scientific problems. “After returning from Ghana, I worked in my neuroscience lab for the rest of the summer, and I realized

that I now think about complex scientific topics in a completely different way. I am working on continuing to approach science in this way and honestly think that this mind-set will lead to my success in my field.”

Womens International Club Scholarship, Madagascar

Emily Fjeldstad was ready to learn about integrating Western and traditional medicine. What she didn't realize was the unexpected career lessons that were to follow. “One major but unexpected lesson was the importance of exposing oneself to as much diversity as possible, especially as a future health care provider.”

Czechoslovak Nationality Room Scholarship, Czech Republic

Mark Garger toured old cobbled streets in historic Prague; visited Vysehrad and Prague castles; and says that he “ventured as far as Mikulov in Moravia, Cesky Krumlov in the south, Berlin in the north, and Kutna Hora in the heart of Bohemia.”

James W. Knox Memorial Scholarship, Peru

Chloe O. Glover had a memorable experience doing work in the lowland and found that a large section of the Peruvian geologic map was incorrect. “After remapping this section, I was able to hypothesize different cross-section solutions that I had not thought of before.”

Herbert Lieberkind Scholarship, Denmark

Seana Gysling plans to become a dentist. During her time studying in Denmark, she learned not only about the public health system in Denmark and Sweden but also “how isolated dental care is from the rest of their health care system.”

Italian Room Committee Scholarship, Italy

Michael Hayden found that the study abroad experience confirmed his interest in working abroad. “I spoke with many people in computer engineering and related fields while in Italy, and they gave me a lot to think about when it comes to making a decision like working in Italy. The experience definitely allowed me to link with people who might provide me a stepping stone into a career abroad.”

Turkish Nationality Scholarship, Turkey

Victoria Hoang obtained firsthand experience in refugee settlement issues in Gaziantep. “I was lucky to work with monitoring and evaluation team members who were very close and supportive of one another.” Representing a number of nationalities, including Filipino, French, Syrian, Iraqi, Colombian, and Indian, Hoang said, “We challenged one another to become a better unit and better individuals.”

Chinese Room Committee Scholarship, China

Lindsay Hopewell originally intended to pursue a career with the United Nations. During her time studying abroad however, she learned that she loves to talk to natives about their

experiences and opinions on government, life, and education. She now desires to pursue a career in diplomacy through the U.S. Department of State. “I want to focus more effort in bridging cultural divides and advancing foreign policy. Going to China and working with the Chinese government in the heat of the U.S.-China trade war gave me a new perspective on international relationships.”

African Heritage Room Committee Grant, Tanzania

Mica House's mission was to get a full understanding of the health care system in Tanzania. “Prior to traveling abroad, I knew that I wanted a career where I could use my knowledge in the health sciences and the French language. However, spending six weeks in Tanzania reinforced my passion for health and language. I loved learning Swahili and being able to practice with the locals.”

Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Grant, Ecuador

Seohyun Janice Im found that the major difference between South Korea and Ecuador was time: “In the Amazon, time seemed to move much more slowly, and people took time to enjoy things and not rush life.” She says that she learned to go with the flow and not be obsessed with perfection. Coming from two different cultural backgrounds (South Korean and American,), Im says that she also learned that while America values individual success, in Ecuador, “success seemed to matter less to people, and instead close family ties and relationships with friends seemed to make up the largest parts of their lives.”

Helen Pool Rush Award, Thailand

Rosemary Iwuanyanwu noted similarities between Thailand and her home country of Nigeria, including a lack of development. An important difference, she noted, was that “Thai people are very nonconfrontational and collectivist.” A difference between Thailand and the United States as countries is that Thailand has universal health coverage. “Everyone has access to basic medical aid in order to eliminate financially catastrophic events brought on by illness.”

Indian Room Nationality Scholarship, India

Anupama Jayachandran found that the experiences of impoverished people and their presence were much more visible in the region of India where she was studying than in the Pittsburgh region. “The labor people undertook in Mussoorie was a shock for me to see, particularly for the first time, when I saw an old, frail-looking man carrying an entire refrigerator up a steep hill by himself, strapping the box to his head.”

Italian Nationality Room/Frances and Scully Nesta Scholarship, Italy

Eliza Jermyn conducted original research to identify key moments across translation drafts that indicate unconscious or conscious ideological indecision. “The morning I first went to the Corriere Della Sera archives and got to work with Pivano's

2019 NRIEP Scholarship Report *(continued)*

drafts, it was exhilarating and validating to have my hands on these old typewritten pages and to find what I was looking for.”

Stanley Prostrednik Health Sciences Grant, Philippines

Sana Kagalwalla plans to incorporate in her future health care practice something she saw firsthand in the Philippines: providers taking into account their patients’ specific lifestyles and abilities in a way that often doesn’t happen in the United States. “I feel that my worldview and perceptions changed mostly with regard to medicine and health care based on the interactions I had with people in the community while conducting my research.”

Dr. and Mrs. Ryonosuke Shiono Award, Indonesia

Marin Kheng left Indonesia with a greater appreciation for the importance of community and an atmosphere of tolerance necessary in a culturally diverse country. “Mobile clinics were held in the homes of various villagers. When the physicians saw patients, the visit would occur in a living room with the patient surrounded by other waiting patients, the residents of that home, and whoever else happened to be passing by. When the patient recounted his or her history, neighbors would sometimes interject to offer an opinion or provide additional information.”

Polish Room Scholarship, Poland

Noah Kotzin learned to be empathetic to people learning a second language and getting by in a new country. “Everyone in Poland was kind and patient if I couldn’t articulate something in Polish. They all gave me time to let me sound out sentences and would fill it in in English if I couldn’t recall a Polish word.”

German Nationality Room Scholarship, Germany

Jacob Kuzy was able to discover small nuances between American and German culture: “Germans are more direct in personal conversations and less likely to delay a point with small talk.”

Josephine and John McCloskey Scholarship, Mongolia

Emma Lamberton learned much while caring for her interpreter’s baby while the interpreter went through surveys with interviewees. “I was glad to be able to allow this mother to work while also keeping her child safe, as many mothers have to choose between working or the safety of their children, often leaving babies unsupervised.”

Josephine and John McCloskey Memorial Grant, Norway

Adam Lee’s experience in Norway gave him significant insight into the impact of the Norwegian government’s arts funding on the development of the Norwegian jazz scene. Lee said that he developed “meaningful friendships with many Norwegian people from the music and the swing dance communities,”

which will benefit him with professional opportunities upon his completion of the program at Pitt.

Women’s International Club Scholarship, Tanzania

Julia Lynch was long inspired by her aunt and uncle, who “coordinated trips to Africa to help build wheelchairs for those who are impaired as well as teaching medical students.” While in Tanzania, she visited several health care facilities, such as dispensaries, which are “the lowest level of health care in Tanzania.” One dispensary was run solely by one doctor, one nurse, and one medical assistant. “The doctor ... was doing nearly everything in the clinic, from testing someone with HIV to helping multiple women give birth at the same time.”

Helen Pool Rush Scholarship, South Africa

Madeline Hobbs’ internship in Cape Town focused on tutoring math and doing STEM outreach. She also found time to coach soccer in an after-school program. “Through my engineering outreach, I was able to learn a lot about the South African education system. I was also able to coordinate with the facilitators of the different programs and allow some of the girls to try soccer.”

Dorothy Bradley Brown Physical Therapy Scholarship, Belgium

Andrew McCarthy wanted to experience a different type of physical therapy as he continued to plan his career. “The professional culture that I experienced was far more similar than I expected to the culture in the United States. The biggest change in my perception of the world was realizing that people are more similar than you think.”

Robert and Helen A. Sette Scholarship, Cuba

Breanne McDermott went to Cuba intending to improve her Spanish in order to better serve a diverse patient population as a physician in the future. She learned about health care functions in Cuba through history and culture courses. She says that she benefited greatly by learning about the Cuban health care system firsthand as a patient for strep throat in a hospital. “I was able to observe how difficult it would be to obtain treatment at a hospital if the physician was unable to effectively communicate with the patient due to language barriers.”

John F. Kennedy Scholarship in Memory of

Daniel Milton Rooney, Ireland

Megan McKenzie was able to shadow two speech therapists and a physical therapist while working at St. James Hospital. “I met with a patient who recently had an operation to remove a benign tumor in the jaw that was predicted to grow, and I had an opportunity to listen later to how their speech was affected postoperation.” While creating a set of questions on cultural differences for an interview project, McKenzie says that the trip also allowed her to explore the nuances of people’s

experiences in Ireland and Northern Ireland and their opinions on politics, religion, and social mannerisms.

African Heritage Room Committee Scholarship, Uganda

Samantha Monks says that she gained hard skills in data collection and data analysis while improving her soft skills in interpersonal communication and problem solving. “To witness the hardships and yet opportunities in a developing country inspired me to pursue a degree in international development. Seeing corruption in government inspired me to take my own political activism more seriously back home. Finally, witnessing people’s positivity despite the destruction caused by war inspired me to live my own life with more positivity and optimism and to help postconflict communities as best I can with the privileges I’ve been afforded.”

Women’s International Club Scholarship in Honor of Cynthia G. Maleski, Esq., England

Benedicta Olonilua is interested in becoming a researcher and physician who serves the deaf community. During her study abroad, she says that she was able to engage with members of the British deaf community directly and to explore the work of Ericsson Media, a company making media accessible to deaf people. Olonilua says that she also learned about the current flaws existing in deaf education and the many mental health issues affecting deaf people. Olonilua says that she is now strongly considering becoming a psychiatrist.

Ivan Santa-Cruz Memorial Award, Chile

Prathyusha Pandu traveled to Chile to improve her Spanish language skills, including speaking in a medical context, which she was able to do as a volunteer worker in a public health organization in Chile. Pandu says that she found the culture to be a little more conservative than in the United States, but that globalization has made life there similar to life in America. “There were Starbucks, Subways, and other corporate international food places. Also, the very popular grocery stores were a Walmart company, so the products were very similar. Things like trains, buses, and hospitals seemed very similar to that of America.”

Nationality Room Scholarship for Quo Vadis Guides, Germany

Kayla Paterini interned at a start-up in Berlin, which proved to be a strong fit for her educational background in business information systems and supply chain management and her future career goals. Paterini says that she found herself “quickly feeling at home” and enjoying the convenient location of Berlin for traveling to other European destinations, including to Bergamo, Italy, the birthplace of her great-grandfather who immigrated to the United States.

Polish Room Committee Scholarship in Memory of Gertrude Jakubowski Long, Poland

Tyler Rabiger had already accepted an offer to work after graduation at a company that focuses on economics and finance when he was awarded the study abroad scholarship. “Talking to researchers from around the world during my time abroad, however, definitely made me think more about attending graduate school for a PhD.” While having interned in both the United States and Canada increased numerous skills, Rabiger says that interning in Poland “expanded my worldview, allowing me to believe that I could accomplish a task anywhere in the world. It has also allowed me to believe that I was capable of going to graduate school and completing higher-level research.”

Indian Nationality Room Scholarship, India

Salena Ringenbach has long been interested in global health and wilderness first aid, yet her study abroad experience made her realize that osteopathic medicine may provide the best career focus. “Osteopathic medicine focuses on a more holistic and patient care-centric approach that aligns more with Eastern practices of medicine that I learned a lot about in India. I came to appreciate the profound impact daily life and the surrounding environment can have on health and illness and the importance of exploring every avenue of possible treatment before prescribing just another pill.”

Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Grant, Dominican Republic

Aaron Ross says that he had a great first day working at his internship at the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. “As I walked into my office, I was overwhelmed with the welcoming and familial environment of the organization. There was a welcome sign above my desk, and each person took their time to introduce themselves to me and say kind words of how thankful they were that I was going to be a part of the organization for the summer.”

Savina S. Skewis Memorial Scholarship, Bolivia

Julia Rossetti worked with mentally and physically disabled patients to understand the experience of diverse populations in Bolivia’s health care system. Through sharing chocolate and soda with the residents, she says that she realized that “Bolivian people have a much more collectivist view of society compared to the individualistic ideals in the United States.” Spending time at local coffee shops and markets around Cochabamba allowed Rossetti to practice her Spanish and “blend in with the local people.”

Austrian Room Scholarship, Austria

Danielle Schomer completed psychology courses in Vienna with professors and students from all over the world. She says that she had the opportunity to speak German every day and take many tours, including one of Sigmund Freud’s house.

2019 NRIEP Scholarship Report *(continued)*

“It is a much different experience learning about so many great psychologists in the place where they actually lived.” Schomer also completed research on discrimination in symphony orchestras that she found rewarding. “As a trumpet player, it was cool for me to study the Vienna Philharmonic and connect symphony issues to psychology.”

Ruth Crawford Mitchell Memorial Award, El Salvador

Tanya Shirazi spent time in San Salvador to study the impact of the Salvadoran Civil War on migration patterns to the U.S. and the life conditions of women who stayed in the country. Shirazi says that the research will be essential for her novel in the works. The story, she says, “spans a total of 30 years and engages themes of immigration, grief, resiliency, identity, and generational trauma.”

Fred Bruhns Nationality Room Scholarship, Jordan

Heather Solomon worked with Collateral Repair Project, a nonprofit organization in Jordan, where her primary responsibilities included interviewing beneficiaries for blog posts and public relations projects, and teaching English, marketing, and fundraising. In retrospect, Solomon says that the moments that stood out were “the little interactions that I had with people around Jordan, both at work and randomly.” Most everyone, she says, wanted to help and was always so excited that she was working in Jordan and learning Arabic. “They are proud of their language and heritage, and it was really a beautiful experience to be able to be a part of.”

Austrian Room Committee Scholarship, Austria

Manasi Thirumoorthi says that she intends to become a nurse practitioner and her study abroad experience enabled her to compare and contrast the role of a nurse in the health care system and more generally health care in a global context. “I realized that the [nurse practitioner] role does not exist in Austria as well as many European Union countries. There are no intermediate roles between a doctor and a nurse, which causes many issues like the doctor shortage.” She also noticed that cigarette smoking was prevalent among adolescents as well as the elderly and that free will in a health care context was prioritized. “Members in retirement homes were permitted to smoke and drink alcohol freely and even provided with these products.”

Rachel McMasters Miller-Hunt Scholarship, Spain

Ciera Thomas participated in a video production and media internship at a school in Madrid. “I was able to create content for various social media platforms, and it made me a stronger and faster editor as well as helped me enhance my photography and photo editing skills.” Thomas says that she experienced the collectivist Spanish culture and as a result feels much more open to exploring other cultures now. “I used to be a bit intimidated when I thought about going to other

countries, but they are full of people just like us. I used to think people of other cultures were so different than me, but they only live differently.”

Stanley Prostrednik Memorial Scholarship, United Kingdom

Chie Togami says that he used the summer study abroad fieldwork opportunity to gather data as the basis of both his dissertation project and several planned academic articles. “Publications based on original research will be invaluable when I eventually enter the academic job market.” During the summer, Togami also participated in marches in central London to experience “the collective feeling of power as citizens occupying public space in the name of the all-important cause of climate change.”

Chinese Room Committee Scholarship, China

Azure Wilson traveled around Beijing, Nanjing, and Shanghai; worked in a voice center; and delivered lectures at the Shanghai International Voice Conference. “Chinese culture is different from American culture in many ways, but I think what stood out the most is how wasteful we as Americans can be. During our experiments at Xiamen University, three of us shared a single pair of gloves and switched depending on who was working. Practically speaking, I don’t think that was a good idea, but it was the incident that brought into sharpest focus on how disposable everything is in the United States.”

David L. Lawrence Scholarship, Netherlands

Sam Winderman’s studies in Amsterdam allowed him to reflect more on urban planning in the United States. “After the flood of 1953, the Dutch created an integrated network of canals to regulate water levels. They created beaches and dunes that have become popular tourist destinations, and they introduced pumps to prevent storm surges.” The Dutch, he says, “have turned their issues into attractions.” ■

Programs and Activities

Maryann Sivak

On June 9, 2019, we welcomed the Philippine Nationality Room to our Nationality and Heritage Room family. The Philippine Nationality Room demonstrates the adoption of foreign influences into Filipino architecture. It is a multicultural amalgam of foreign influences. The Philippines itself, though, is multicultural even within its own boundaries, with languages, religions, customs, and cuisine varying from one region to another. Yet the people learned to forge a distinctly unique Filipino identity that is recognizable around the world.

The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,100 islands. The three major island chains are Luzon, Visayan Island and Mindanao. In 1600, the galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco began, and this is characterized as the start of globalized trade.

The Philippine Republic is considered to have some of the best beaches in the world, making it one of the top tourist destinations. It is among the 17 most diverse countries, with 228 recognized key biodiversity areas and 855 globally important species of flora and fauna.

The Philippines is a republic with a government structure patterned after that of the United States. Because of the history of foreign influences, today's Filipinos reflect the different peoples and cultures that have touched the islands. It makes them difficult to categorize as either Pacific Islanders or Asians. Recent discoveries disclose the presence of archaic humans as far back as 709,000 years ago on the island of Luzon. Today's Filipinos are descended primarily from Austronesian people believed to have come from southern China. ■



The bombing of the British House of Commons in 1941 made several items available for inclusion in the English Nationality Room. To accommodate them, the requirement that room décor reflect the period before the University's founding in 1787 was waived. Acquisitions included a stone fireplace with surrounding Minton tiles, oak paneling, doorframe and lintel, four stone corbels, chairs, and fragments of stained glass windows. According to Member of Parliament Alfred C. Bossom, the room contains "more of the original materials from the old House of Commons than exists anywhere else in the world."

When designing the room, Victorian Pseudo Gothic and Tudor Gothic styles were both under consideration. The stone fireplace had been designed by A.W.N. Pugin (1812–52) originally for the Palace of Westminster (House of Commons). His fascination with Gothic art and architecture inspired its revival, and he is considered the finest practitioner of the movement.

As time progressed, it became clear that most of the elements obtained were Tudor Gothic. This, therefore, was the style chosen. As a result, a fireback depicting the defeat of the Spanish Armada was substituted for the Minton tile fireplace cover. For some time, the whereabouts of these tiles were unknown. In 2015, Michael Walter and I discovered them hidden away in a closet in the English Nationality Room. ■

Programs and Activities

(continued)

On October 6, 1926, Mont Robertson Gabbert, who was, at that time, head of the Department of Philosophy, delivered an address from the University of Pittsburgh Studio. His subject was the Greek philosopher Epicurus. Recently, a copy of his text was discovered during renovation of classrooms on the ground floor of the Cathedral of Learning. We thought you would be interested in knowing what students were learning in 1926. The following is a paraphrase of that text:

Greek philosophers of the classic period had found that every proposed solution to making life worth living was unrealizable. Epicurus developed his own solution to this problem. He concluded that life is worth living insofar as it may be lived pleasantly. How is life to be lived pleasantly? The answer has two parts: First, do not think too highly of the world, and second, do not ask too much from the world.

The first part of his answer depends on forgetting the religious notions of his time. Even if the gods did make the world, which is doubtful, they've forgotten all about it. Expect nothing from them, but look to yourself to find the good things that make life pleasant.

The second part is to realize that pleasure is the only good thing that life offers. Pleasure is the result of the satisfaction of some desire. Some desires are natural and necessary, some are conventional, and some are intermediate between the two. For example, the desire for food is natural and necessary. That the food be served at formal banquets is conventional. That it be tasty and well cooked is intermediate.

If the satisfaction of desire brings pleasure, the disappointment of desire brings pain. It is, therefore, the business of the wise man to discover which desires he has a chance to satisfy. Of those, he denies himself nothing. But he refuses to desire such things as he has small chance of obtaining.

The pleasures of friendship, of art, of duty, and of literature are more attainable and long lasting than those of the body. These, therefore, are the great pleasures in which the wise man finds his joys. ■

Committee Happenings, Events, News, and Scholarships

Cristina Lagnese

We are enjoying a beautiful and hectic fall with many exciting events that have become Nationality Room traditions, including the Celtic Culture Afternoon with the Welsh, Irish, and Scottish room committees; the Polish Festival; and the Korean Music Festival. Other interesting happenings include a lecture on Vlad the Impaler presented by the Romanian Room Committee, and many more events are being planned for the spring.

The Nationality Council meeting on October 10 offered council members the opportunity to hear Ariel Armony, vice provost for global affairs and director of the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), and Belkys Torres, executive director of global engagement, discuss how much UCIS and the University as a whole value the importance of the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program (NRIEP).

Immediately after the business portion of the meeting, the council gathered in the J. W. Connolly Ballroom of Alumni Hall for the first-ever NRIEP showcase, which featured poster presentations by the undergraduate and graduate scholarship recipients for 2019. All of the students worked incredibly hard on their posters, and the results showed.

Thank you to all who participated or attended the showcase. We plan to continue this format in future years.

Here are some reminders for upcoming events:

1. Please turn in your Holiday Open House participation form.
2. Please ask your committee members who will be decorating your Nationality Room for Decorating Day.
3. Please consider signing up to be on the planning committee for the NRIEP's 95th anniversary. ■

TOURS AND INFORMATION CENTER

Michael Walter

As the Nationality Rooms tour coordinator and Quo Vadis advisor, I attended the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership's Night Market with five Quo Vadis guides on September 13. Sharing a table with Asian Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies, the Nationality Rooms representatives spoke with people about the superstitious beliefs reflected in some of the decorations of the Nationality Rooms and about tours in general. The guides also showed *Jezyks* (Polish paper ornaments) crafted for the event.

Quo Vadis now has a special place and time scheduled at the Pitt Global Hub in Wesley W. Posvar Hall. Every Monday from 11 a.m. to noon during the academic year, Quo Vadis guides or the advisor will be available to speak with students and faculty members interested in learning more about the Nationality Rooms, the role of the guides, and current exhibitions of artifacts.

On most Wednesdays in October in the Pitt Global Hub, the Nationality Rooms offered free presentations and

demonstrations of art materials used in or alluded to in the Nationality Rooms. The themes included materials used in medieval drawing and illumination, papers of the world and printmaking, and oil paint technology and pigments. To learn more about the demonstrations or to volunteer to participate in the future, e-mail mpw14@pitt.edu.

Quo Vadis invited the Pittsburgh Recorder Society to perform on November 18 at the Pitt Global Hub as a tie-in to a season marked by musical expression. It also is to be a tie-in to the newest Pitt Global Hub artifacts exhibition, which features musical instruments from the collection.

Quo Vadis and the Nationality Rooms have partnered with the Jewish Healthcare Foundation to offer Nationality Rooms presentations to the elderly county population who cannot physically attend a tour. The Virtual Senior Academy is free to join and meant to give meaningful intellectual stimulation to senior citizens via their computers in a live meeting format. The Virtual Senior Academy can be accessed at virtualsenioracademy.org.

In other news, the Nationality Rooms tour coordinator led two sessions of a five-week Osher Lifelong Learning Institute class. The program was designed to teach older adults about all the Nationality Rooms and was organized by themes such as nation building, educational virtues and achievements, lifestyle, religion, and archaeology. More than 70 people enjoyed the class, held from May through late July. ■



Pitt Global Hub in
Wesley W. Posvar Hall

DONATIONS OF ARTIFACTS

Many Hungarian books; textiles; and items from the Hortobagy Puszta (the plains of Hungary), such as a cowboy's whip and side flask, were donated by John and Pat Suto of Clearwater, Fla.

An early 20th century Lithuanian prayer book was donated by Kimberley Renee Morgan of Coal Center, Pa. ■

TECHNOLOGY

The Henderson Language Lab digitized many old video and audio recordings of Nationality Rooms' dedications and interviews with E. Maxine Bruhns. We now have the digital versions now available for future outreach and research purposes.

The audiovisual upgrades to the African Heritage and Israel Heritage rooms were completed in mid-August, and the rooms are back in use for the fall term. ■

GIFT SHOP

The Nationality Rooms Gift Shop continues to undergo changes with the August retirement of Coordinator Phil Johnson.

In preparation for the new academic year, the Gift Center received new cases for storage and displays. Stop by soon to see the changes as they occur.

Shop for the coming festivals and holidays soon, as items will be for sale on a rotating basis. ■



2019 Ruth Crawford Mitchell Czech/Slovak Fellowship

Maryann Sivak



Eduard Bakoš

The Ruth Crawford Mitchell Fellowship is awarded annually to an individual from the Czech or Slovak Republic's academic, medical, governmental, or commercial sector to bring the awardee to the University of Pittsburgh. The recipient will participate in a fall term of nondegree research designed to enhance the applicant's career and contribute to the body of knowledge of the Czech and Slovak Republics.

This year's awardee is Eduard Bakoš, assistant professor in the Department of Public Economics, Faculty of Economics and Administrations, at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. His research focuses on intermunicipal cooperation in Allegheny County.

While intermunicipal cooperation has been the subject of considerable scholarship internationally and in the United States, studies of this phenomenon in Central and Eastern Europe, and in the Czech Republic in particular, are rare. His research will examine intermunicipal cooperation in Pennsylvania (specifically in Allegheny County) and consider ways to apply this experience to Central and Eastern Europe.

The Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) brings together the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities to identify common public policy challenges and advocates for collective change. The Center for Metropolitan Studies at University of Pittsburgh played an irreplaceable role increasing that network. Representative areas for cooperation are water/sewer management and regionalization, emergency medical services and funding, transportation, energy efficiency, blight and abandonment, infrastructure repair coordination, and health and wellness.

While Pittsburgh and Brno are comparable cities from the perspective of core and suburban population sizes, this is a unique opportunity to explore the possibilities of mutual learning to support and develop metropolitan cooperation. ■

DISPLAY CASES

The University Center for International Studies created a large area for Nationality Rooms changing exhibits as a key part of the new Pitt Global Hub in Wesley W. Posvar Hall. The two new display cases now feature a fascinating display of musical instruments, masks, and other artifacts from the Nationality Rooms' collections.

The cases also are currently home to a small display of photos and memorabilia related to the construction of the Cathedral of Learning, home to the Nationality Rooms.

The new cabinets are located in the hub outside the two nooks where students meet with advisors and student ambassadors, giving the changing exhibits wide visibility.

Stop by the University's newest student resource center, the Pitt Global Hub, on the first floor of Posvar Hall soon to view these special display cases. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Maryann Sivak

Virginia Niemela passed away on March 15, 2019. Niemela; her husband, Everett; and Everett's sister Eva were founding members of the Finnish Room Committee and also members of the Scandinavian Society. Niemela was a well-loved teacher with expertise in many subjects, from math to music, literacy, and history. She taught students from grades 1 through 12 throughout the four decades of her career in education.

Miroslav Klain, MD, passed away on May 18, 2019. Klain had been active in the Czechoslovak Nationality Room since 1972. He and his family immigrated to America in 1968 from Czechoslovakia. Klain directed artificial heart development at the Cleveland Clinic before joining the University of Pittsburgh Departments of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. Most notable among Klain's contributions to medicine were his early work with high-frequency ventilation and his collaboration as a coinventor on seven U.S. patents related to portable cardiopulmonary bypass apparatuses and aortic balloon catheters.

Yoko Sando passed away on August 14, 2019. In addition to being active on the Japanese Room Committee, she was very active with Pittsburgh Opera, the Japanese Society, and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. For more than three decades, she opened her home and was a surrogate mother to 45 research fellows from Japan at UPMC. ■





University of
Pittsburgh

Nationality Rooms and
Intercultural Exchange Programs
University Center for International Studies

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 511

1209 Cathedral of Learning
4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

412-624-6001

nationalityrooms.pitt.edu

Calendar of Events

Oct. 10	Nationality Rooms Council Meeting and Student Scholarship Showcase 5 p.m. Alumni Hall, J.W. Connolly Ballroom	Nov. 10	Polish Festival Noon–5 p.m. Cathedral of Learning, Commons Room
Oct. 26	Irish Samhain Cathedral of Learning, Commons Room	Nov. 16	Korean Music Festival Frick Fine Arts Auditorium
Oct. 27	Irish/Welsh/Scottish Celtic Cultures 7 p.m. Frick Fine Arts Auditorium	Nov. 16	Balmoral Classic Featuring: Eabhal from Scotland 8 p.m. Carnegie Lecture Hall
Oct. 28	Hungarian Classical and Folk Music Concert 7 p.m. Frick Fine Arts Auditorium	Dec. 8	Holiday Open House Noon–4 p.m. Cathedral of Learning, Commons Room
Nov. 3	Slovak Heritage Festival Noon–4 p.m. Cathedral of Learning, Commons Room	Save the Date	
Nov. 9	Decorating of the Nationality and Heritage Rooms for the Holidays	Jan. 12, 2020	Chinese New Year 2–6 p.m. Alumni Hall, J.W. Connolly Ballroom
		March 22	Festival of the Egg Noon–5 p.m. Alumni Hall