



UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

International Connection

International Students Help Migrant Children

By Becky Peterson, International Student Advisor

For the last three summers, the Region X Migrant Education Program of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has provided a free, educational summer camp at USC for the 12 – 14 year old children (grades 6 – 8) of area migrant farm workers. Migrant workers and their families travel thousands of miles each year in the U.S. to plant, harvest, and weed crops. The pay is substandard and the work days harsh. Most migrant children are raised under the weight of the reality of incredible economic pressures regarding family support and day-to-day living. Hence, many do not finish high school and even the idea of going to college or planning a career is rarely discussed since, due to the high poverty rate, immediate income through working is needed for the family.

The mission of the LACOE summer camp, called CyberCamp, is to give migrant children opportunities, through technology that they wouldn't normally have access to, with the underlying vision of encouraging them to consider college as a viable option. For 2006, the specific focus of CyberCamp was two-fold:

(1) To learn how to create a

website through researching topics, creating blogs and pod casts, writing music and learning graphic tools.

(2) To understand a larger global community with all its rich diversity and possibilities.

With the help of OIS, CyberCamp brought together six USC international students and 60 migrant children with the ambitious goal of creating an extensive website in only four weeks that would teach about countries of the world. Our USC students included: Avi Mathur from India, M.S. Engineering; Wei Chen from China, Ph.D Chemical Engineering; Tasha Kanokkul from Thailand, B.A. Business; Shirin Eghtesadi from Iran, M.S. Engineering; Fiona Torrance of South Africa, B.A. Business; Gui De Araujo Silva of Brazil, Ph.D International Relations.



CyberCamp students on USC campus

Each USC student was paired with 10 migrant children and they formed groups that were named, respectively, Team India, Team China, etc. The children began learning web and computer-based technology, such as pod casting, creating media and music and even on-line video editing, as well as researching and learning about their assigned country. Interviews with the USC students were written, filmed and edited entirely by the children and a great deal of time was spent questioning

See CYBERCAMP, p.10.

In This Issue

<i>Visit LA's Many FREE Museums.....</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Turn Holiday Trash into Treasures.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Meet Stem Cell Scholar Jung Mook Lyu...</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Our Reviews on Some of 2006's Movies.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Taste LA with the OIS' Diners' Club.....</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>OIS Wishes YOU a Happy New Year.....</i>	<i>12</i>

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Guide to Los Angeles' Museums

By Laurie Cox, Associate Director

There are many museums located near the USC campus, even just across the street! So, take a break from your studies and visit one of these unique museums!

California African-American Museum

The California African-American Museum of History and Culture is located at 600 State Drive in Exposition Park, directly behind the IMAX Theater. It features both ancient artifacts and modern art created by African-American artists. The current exhibit is *Orphans of the Rwanda Genocide: Portraits of Survival and Hope*. It is showing through March 6, 2007. The California African American Museum (CAAM) and the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture collaborated to display this important photo exhibition of haunting first person testimonies and insightful images of human tragedy and

survival in Rwanda. Powerful photographs taken by Jerry Berndt portray genocide memorial sites contrasted with hopeful images of the orphans of Rwanda rebuilding their lives through marriages, birth, and healing.

The museum is open 10 a.m.—5 p.m., Tues. through Sun. Admission is always free. For more information, please visit: www.caamuseum.org

California Science Center

The California Science Center is right next door, at 700 State Drive, Exposition Park. This complex of museums is most famous for its display of air and space crafts located inside the Aerospace Building. This is the West Coast's largest interactive Science Center. The exhibit runs from February 11—April 29, 2007.

The museum is open seven days a week, from 10 a.m.—5 p.m. Admission is always free. For more information, please visit:

See MUSEUMS, p. 7.

International Connection

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The University of Southern California International Connection is published four times a year by the Office of International Services.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please contact us at ois@usc.edu.

Meet Neural Stem Cell Scholar Jung Mook Lyu

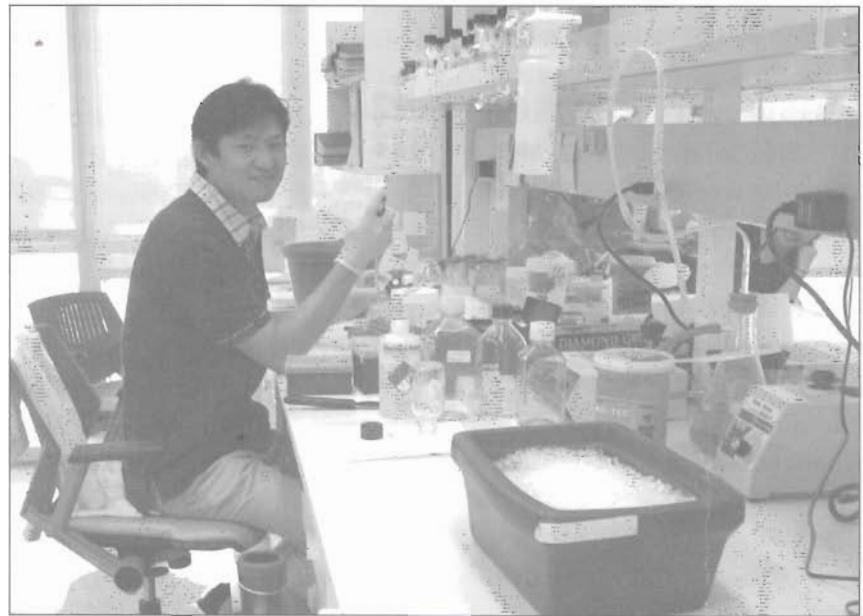
An interview with Dr. Jung Mook Lyu by Nancy Weiner, Publications Editor

Jung Mook Lyu is a post-doctoral scholar from Korea studying neural stem cell research at USC. Neural stem cell research holds the hope of treating, if not curing, diseases or injuries to the brain or spinal cord. Dr. Lyu's work at the Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute at the Keck School of Medicine of USC began on April 1, 2006 and he plans to continue this work here for the next three years.

Dr. Lyu obtained his Ph.D in Medical Sciences in Korea, with a focus on brain development. He was working on brain and cornea stem cell research in Korea when he read an article on brain development and neural stem cell research written by USC professor Dr. Wange Lu. Impressed with the article, Dr. Lyu contacted the author, who arranged for Lyu to do research with him at USC.

Stem cells offer the possibility of regenerating new human cells to treat a wide range of cell-based diseases or injuries, such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, spinal cord injury, stroke, burns, heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and more. The therapy could also be used to grow human tissue that can be used for transplantation purposes. Replacing faulty cells with healthy ones can save lives and repair the damage caused by many incurable diseases.

There is current religious



Scholar Jung Mook Lyu in the lab at USC's Zilkha Neurogenetic Institute

and political controversy, however, that opposes stem cell research, which derives cells from fertilized embryos less than a week old. While scientists have developed a new method of taking a single embryonic stem cell in a manner that they say will not harm the developing embryo, the controversy remains. Dr. Lyu's work, therefore, is confined to working with adult stem cells, though embryonic stem cells are much more promising to stem cell therapy because of their versatility to develop into virtually any other cell made by the human body. For example, to treat someone with diabetes, the stem cells used must develop into new insulin-producing islet cells, not heart tissue or other cells of the body. This assignment, or specialization, of stem cells is called differentiation. Differentiation of

adult stem cells is much more difficult than that of embryonic stem cells, particularly in the brain.

In fact, Dr. Lyu says, "The greatest obstacles to neural stem cell research are the proliferation or multiplication of the cells in the affected area, as many cells die off, and the differentiation of these cells, or getting these unspecialized cells to acquire the features of neurons, or brain cells."

Dr. Lyu explains, "The challenge of differentiation has been less of an obstacle in the advancement of stem cell therapy for the treatment of diseases of the bone marrow, spine and retina. Here, the new cells are injected into the local damaged area. However, just getting the new cells to differentiate to the

See *SCHOLAR*, p. 6.

Travel LA with the International Diners' Club

By Becky Peterson, International Student Advisor

Join the International Diners' Club program, organized by the Office of International Services, for a sampling of new and traditional dishes from around the world at local authentic ethnic restaurants in Los Angeles. Not only do we focus on the different flavors of such international cuisine, but also on what we can learn from each dish. Each event is led by a "cuisine guide," a student from the country of interest. He or she will introduce the traditional dishes of that country and use them as a vehicle for further discussion and understanding of that country, through background information on the food and its significance to members of that culture.

Many students consider participation in International Diners' Club programs a major contributing factor in creating a memorable experience at USC and in Southern California. Lifelong friendships have even developed among participants.

The International Diners' Club takes great pride in introducing students to different cuisines from all over the world, so we only choose the most authentic ethnic restaurants in the Los Angeles area. Please come join us at our next gathering and together we can live to eat, not just eat to live.

Students meet in front of Leavey Library for dinner outings at local L.A. restaurants. The

cost for each dinner is usually between \$15-\$20, plus gratuity and beverage.

Who doesn't love tamales? The Office of International Services Diners' Club is excited to introduce you to this delicious food that is found in the majority of countries in South, Central and Latin America. Please join us for our next event, **"Exploring the Diversity within Latino Culture: Mama's Hot Tamales,"** date and time to be announced. Please check the OIS website for updates to this and other IPA Programs.

Tamales are an ancient Latin American food, made throughout the continent for over 5,000 years, and they show an incredible diversity between countries in how they are prepared and served. Your Diners' Club experience will be at Mama's Hot Tamales Café, an apprentice-operated business with a strong community justice focus. It provides hands-on and classroom instruction to train low-and-moderate-income residents to be cooks, servers and small business owners.

Your experience will begin with a hands-on cooking course on how to create your own tamales followed by the chance to sample tamales of an exciting variety: tamales from Acapulco to Mexico City, from Lima to Huehutenango, and wrapped in avocado or banana leaves, or in corn husks, spicy or mild. Other

delicious dishes will be sampled as well. So join us to explore the amazing diversity within Latino food while at the same time investing in the surrounding USC community.

Additional information on Mama's Tamales at: <http://www.iurd.org/mamasHotTamales/>

Sawatdee Kaa! This means "hello" in Thai. Are you a lover of exotic herbs and spices? If you are, you will definitely not want to miss our first event of 2007. Help us kick start the new year with **"Amazing Thailand,"** an exciting event guided by the Thai Student Club here at USC.

A cuisine like no other, Thai meals burst with an intoxicating array of flavors guaranteed to dazzle all your taste buds. Join us, and expose yourself to authentic Thai food like you've never had before. We will cap off this unique dining experience with a captivating exploration of a culture as rich and diverse as its cuisine.

The date and time is to be announced, and the cost is approximately \$20 per person. Transportation will be provided. Space is limited space for both Diners' Club events, so please RSVP as soon as possible to reserve your spot by sending an e-mail to oisdinersclub@gmail.com, calling (213) 740-9742, or simply come by the OIS office at STU 300 to sign-up.

Turn That Holiday Trash into Holiday Treasures

By Nancy Weiner, Publications Editor

We here at the Office of International Services hope you enjoyed the holiday season. While for many the holiday season is the most joyous time of year, it is also the time of year that produces the most trash! Now that the holiday season is over, all that remains is the scattered litter of leftovers, decorations, gift wrapping, cards and trees. On average, Americans throw away an extra 1 MILLION tons of waste each week from Thanksgiving to New Year's—that's 25% more trash than the rest of the year. That's more than 5 million tons of extra trash JUST FROM THE HOLIDAY SEASON—10 billion pounds of gift wrap, cards, packing materials, boxes, plastic ribbons, product packaging, discarded decorations, cut trees and more. And that's not to mention all the energy and chemicals that are used in the manufacturing of all those items and in their transportation from factories to stores to homes and finally to trash dumping sites. And every year, as the population grows, the amount of energy use, toxic waste and trash increases. Pretty depressing, huh? Well, not to worry, there is plenty that each of you can do in your own home to cut down on holiday waste.

Make "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" the motto of your holidays. While recycling does divert the amount of garbage going to landfills, the real key to a major change is to Reduce and Reuse. While you may be making your

New Year's resolution to reduce the amount of waste or electricity you use in next year's celebration, you can take actions RIGHT NOW to Reuse this year's waste!

Here are some great ways to cut down on your holiday trash, save money on gifts for next year, and have fun while you're at it! So, grab some friends, grab all those holiday or greeting cards, bows, ribbons, gift boxes and gift bags, used wrapping paper and other "trash" and have a Trash to Treasure party to fill the post-holiday void!

KEEP THOSE CARDS

Do you know that each year 2.65 billion holiday cards are produced. That's enough to fill a football field 10 stories high. This year, instead of throwing out your old holiday cards, consider some of the following easy projects that can save waste, save you money and be fun to do!

Postcards. Cut off the backs of used cards and use the fronts as postcards.

New Cards. Cut and paste parts of used cards onto new blank cards. Create your own card by cutting and pasting parts of old cards onto a new blank card. You can find packages of blank cards at most arts and crafts stores.

Gift Tags. Use old holiday cards as gift tags by cutting them into square or rectangular shapes and punching holes in the corners for string or ribbon.

Placemats. Make placemats out of holiday cards instead of buying new ones. Cut out pictures or shapes from the old cards, place them between two pieces of clear contact paper and press together to create placemats.

Bookmarks. Used cards can also be recycled as bookmarks. Cut a strip from the posterboard or thin cardboard, about 8 inches x 2 inches. Cut out the picture on the front of a greeting card. Glue the picture at the top of the strip. Allow the glue to dry. Write a message on the strip if you want. If the bookmark is a gift, you can simply write "To:" and "From:". You can also write a holiday message on your bookmark. To make your bookmark more durable, cover it with clear contact paper or laminate it. Holiday Card Box. Give new life to old holiday cards by turning them into boxes for treasures, gifts, candies, jewelry and anything you can think of! Visit www.kinderart.com/recycle/cardbox.shtml for detailed instructions and a template to create your holiday card box.

Screensaver/wallpaper. Scan your favorite cards into the computer along with your favorite messages from inside the cards, and make them into a Christmas wallpaper or screensaver with a photo program.

Index cards. Make studying fun! Cut off the back of the card and use holiday card fronts (that are

See TREASURES, p. 6.

Stem Cell Research Holds Promise for A Cure

Continued from p.3.

affected region is only half of the solution. Once there, many new cells die or are rejected by the patient's immune system."

Dr. Lyu describes his work at USC as being divided between two fields of research. "The first is trying to find a solution to the challenge of neural stem cell differentiation—to get the stem cells to become neurons or nerve cells, the core components of the brain and spinal cord. The second part of Dr. Lyu's work is studying the complex innate human mechanism of allocating cells to certain regions that the therapy is ultimately trying to

imitate to get the stem cells to approach the disease.

During the recent elections actor Michael J. Fox, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, addressed a nationwide television audience to speak out in support of stem cell research.

Parkinson's disease affects 5 million people worldwide over the age of 50. Stem cell therapy holds much promise for these 5 million people, and Dr. Lyu is hoping it will help one of these 5 million in particular—his father.

Dr. Lyu believes the differentiation of neural stem cell therapy will be developed in the next four to five years, and hopes

stem cell therapy will be a viable treatment in another 15 years. In fact, Dr. Lyu says, "Stem cell research will work best alongside gene or protein therapy, which is still in its infancy as well. Stem cell therapy will treat damaged cells, but gene or protein therapy will help correct the underlying disease."

No doubt, when it arrives, stem cell therapy will be the most advanced medical treatment since the discovery of penicillin and will save lives. Dr. Lyu is one of 200 scholars doing medical research at USC. His work at the Keck School of Medicine is at the frontier of stem cell research.

Make Reuse, Recycle, Reduce Your Motto for 2007

Continued from p.5.

blank on the inside) for flash cards to study for your next exam.

REUSE THAT WRAPPING PAPER!

Make collages. Use scraps of used wrapping paper and glue onto a cardboard backing. You can even cut it into strips, wind it around old toilet paper tubes/paper towel tubes and fill it with candy.

Use as packaging. Shred nice wrapping paper and use it as filler in gift packages.

Bookmarks. Go back to the bookmark instructions above, but this time wrap a strip of cardboard with your favorite holiday wrapping paper from this year.

Decoupage. Take a clear plate and several pieces of wrapping paper. Turn the plate over and arrange the pieces of wrapping paper in a design—face down (we want to see the design through the top of the plate.) Once you have decided on a design, brush the clear decoupage onto the front of the paper and affix it to the bottom of the plate. Next, apply a piece of rice paper to the back of the platter and brush the finish onto the entire back of the dish. Add another piece of rice paper and more decoupage. Trim the rice paper to fit the platter and let dry. Voila! You'll have a new serving platter. Consider this for gift ideas for next year!

Holiday cards. Save on holiday cards and gift tags for next year, but using this year's used wrapping paper. Just glue the wrapping paper onto cardboard, and write your message inside.

Book covers. If someone's been kind enough to get you a particularly large gift this year, then you can use the left over wrapping paper from the present to make a book cover, or use it as bookbinding. You can also laminate the gift wrap to strengthen it.

So, save that holiday trash for arts and crafts throughout the year. Consider volunteering your time to work on these projects with children—you'll be sure to brighten up their day. What other projects can you think of?

Did we Mention These Great Museums Are Free?

Continued from p.2.

www.californiasciencecenter.org

IMAX Theater

The IMAX Theater is located at the California Science Center. IMAX is a movie theater with a screen 70 feet wide and six-channel surround sound. Currently four shows are offered at different times during the day. Admission is \$5.75 for the student price (with college I.D.) and \$8.00 for those 18 and older without a college I.D. Call (213)744-2014 for show information. For more information, please visit:

www.californiasciencecenter.org/Imax/Features/Features.php

Museum of Natural History

The Museum of Natural History, at 900 Exposition Blvd., is a museum all Trojans should visit. This is the third-largest natural history museum in the United States with more than 35 halls & galleries. It attracts more visitors than any other museum in California. The building in which the museum is housed is quite interesting in itself; it's a very good example of Spanish Renaissance architecture. The exhibitions span the age of the dinosaurs to contemporary issues like the plight of whales and the rain forests. It also sponsors many lectures and offers student discounts.

The historic 1913 building is now closed for renovation until Summer 2010. To enable the restoration, some of the galleries will be temporarily closed, includ-

ing the Discovery Center and Insect Zoo, which will re-open on the Ground Floor of the Museum in April 2007, the Native American Cultures gallery and one room of a dinosaur gallery.

The museum is open 10 a.m.—5p.m., 7 days a week. Admission is free for USC students with I.D. cards. For more information, please visit: www.nhm.org.

La Brea Tar Pits

A short drive from campus, at 5801 Wilshire Blvd., are the La Brea Tar Pits, the world-famous source of fossils. This natural deposit of prehistoric coagulated oil produced the largest collection of Pleistocene fossils ever found in one location. Over 100 tons of fossil bones have been removed in over 70 years of excavation. At the Tar Pits you may visit the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries. This museum containing the life-like skeletons of mammoths, wolves, sloths, eagles, and condors is open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tues. through Sun. Admission is \$4.50 for students with I.D. cards and free the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, please visit: www.tarpits.org.

Griffith Observatory

The Griffith Observatory is a Los Angeles icon, a national leader in public astronomy, a beloved civic gathering place, and one of southern California's most popular attractions. It is located on the

southern slope of Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park, just above the Los Feliz neighborhood. It is 1,134 feet above sea level and is visible from many parts of the Los Angeles basin.

Griffith Observatory is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks. The observatory has recently reopened after being closed for four years for much needed restoration and renovation. With a new dome, star projector, laser digital projection system, seats, sound system, and theatrical lighting, the 300-seat Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater is now considered the finest planetarium in the world. The opening show — “Centered in the Universe” — takes visitors on a cosmic journey of exploration and discovery; live presentations are scheduled every hour.

During the months since reopening, all visitors must have a timed-entry reservation to be admitted to the Observatory. Visitors now take an Observatory shuttle to the museum from the Griffith Observatory Satellite parking lot, just south of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, in eastern Griffith Park.

There is no charge to visit the Griffith Observatory, but there is an \$8 charge (roundtrip) to ride the Observatory shuttle.

For more information and to make your tram reservation, please visit: <http://www.lacity.org/rap/observatory/vshuttle.html>

A Selection of Movies from 2006 Reviewed

While the holidays and the USC football seasons are over, we are now officially entering into Oscar season. Here is a look at some of the movies of 2006 that are generating Oscar buzz.



Mirren as Elizabeth in "The Queen"

"The Queen"

Directed by Stephen Frears
Starring Helen Mirren

Well, if you're interested in how good an impression of Queen Elizabeth Helen Mirren can manage, or how well Michael Sheen can mimic Tony Blair, and if you have significant voyeuristic longings to satisfy in terms of the supposed everyday lives of Britain's royals, then this film might be for you. Otherwise, skip it. And I say this being an admirer of Ms. Mirren's work and a person with an interest in British history. However, the film really is just a replay of everything the media showed again and again about the period immediately following Lady Diana Spencer's death in an automobile accident in Paris.

There is no particularly interesting "take" on these events and no

hints of anything new. It's a bit difficult to concentrate on the character of the Queen, because you just can't cut off your awareness that it's Helen Mirren playing the Queen (though she does do a splendid job). On the other hand, you can't really appreciate the work of Michael Sheen as Tony Blair because he seems to be putting so much energy into "acting like" Tony Blair. This was not a problem I had with Philip Seymour Hoffman in "Capote" nor Ben Kingsley in "Gandhi"—so the problem is not endemic to actors portraying well-known figures.

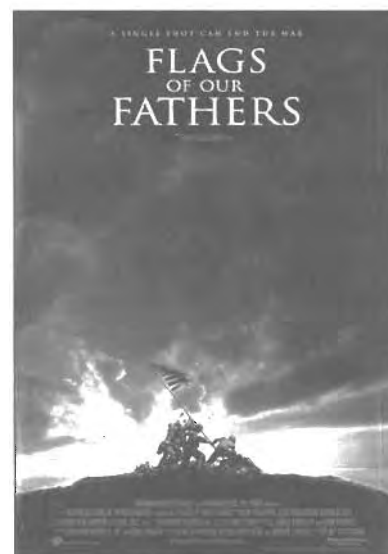
The scenes shot in Balmoral, the royal family's beautiful Scottish estate, and James Cromwell's portrayal of Prince Phillip, are about the only delights in the whole film. I did become more interested in the history of the British monarchy as a result of seeing the film and I am certainly not suggesting that the film is a waste of time. It's, perhaps, just not the wisest expenditure of time given the other films released at the year's end. I hope to hear from those who disagree with me and have a different perspective.

—Judy Hartwich, Senior Associate Director

"Flags of our Fathers"

Directed by Clint Eastwood
Starring Ryan Phillippe

"Flags of our Fathers" begins not on the battlefield, but on a stage, as the historic flag raising at Iwo Jima during World War II is recreated before a stadium of thrilled Americans. The setting is no coincidence, as the metaphor of war as theater is the principal theme of this film.



Still from "Flags of Our Fathers"

Three of the flag raisers are enlisted to go on tour around the U.S., using the patriotic spirit engendered by the famous picture of the flag raising to generate war bond sales. We join these men at being anywhere from amused to horrified at the hypocrisy of the publicity stunt, as, "Doc" Bradley (Ryan Phillippe), Ira Hayes (Adam Beach) and Rene Gagnon (Jesse Bradford) are presented as heroes to an adoring public for raising a flag while their comrades died by the score participating in much more dangerous combat operations. This hypocrisy becomes even more pronounced when we learn that the flag raising in the picture is itself a recreation, and not the original event.

In particular, the trials of Hayes, a native American descending into alcoholism who cannot come to grips with being called a hero just for trying to stay alive, and Gagnon, who proves to be far better suited to public relations than he had been to

See *REVIEWS*, p. 9.

A Review of Some Noteworthy Films of 2006

Continued from p. 8.

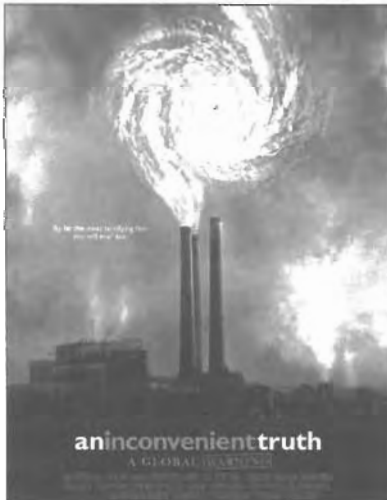
soldiering, forces the viewer to think long and hard about how propaganda affects our perceptions of war and heroism.

—Craig Berger is a copywriter and graduate of the Professional Writing Program at USC.

“An Inconvenient Truth”

Directed by Davis Guggenheim
Starring Al Gore

This documentary tracks former Vice President Al Gore’s inspirational crusade to stop global warming in its tracks. Gore has traveled the world with a visual presentation designed to convince even skeptics that CO2 emissions are linked to exponentially rising



Poster from “An Inconvenient Truth”

temperatures, resulting in climactic shifts from droughts to melting ice-caps, and subsequent rising sea levels.

In this Sundance Film Festival hit, director Guggenheim has placed this multimedia lecture at the center, but Gore himself is at the heart. The film is as much an honest portrait of the threat to our planet, as it is of

Gore himself. Here, Gore resembles nothing of the stiff and seemingly arrogant politician who lost the 2000 Presidential election, but is rather witty, engaging, and often humorous as he journeys on his “traveling global warming show.”

Gore has been fighting against global warming for the last 30 years, which gives him a credible and reliable voice here. Gore delivers cold, hard facts tempered by a necessary humor and searing intelligence. He speaks frankly about this dire situation, but with the certainty that there is still time to make a difference.

Finally, the film’s true message is the need for activism. Gore proves that inaction is no longer an option, and outlines crucial steps we must take to avert impending disaster on the film’s website:

www.climatecrisis.net.

—Nancy Weiner, Publications Editor

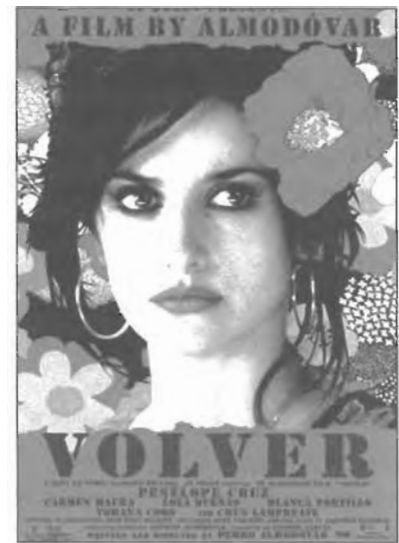
“Volver”

Directed by Pedro Almodóvar
Starring Penélope Cruz

Volver is another triumph for Spanish the director, following “All About My Mother,” “Talk to Her” and “Bad Education.” Volver (in Spanish “coming back”) is said to be Almodóvar’s most linear and subdued work, despite the plot that delves into the supernatural.

Following her break-out role in “All About My Mother,” Cruz has made one American flop after another. Here, however, fluid in her native language, she reminds us that she really can act and is a force on the screen.

The plot seems simple, though



Cruz in poster for “Volver”

is played out with several surprises and twists. After her death, a mother returns to her home town in order to fix the situations she could not resolve during her life, she slowly becomes a comfort to her daughters and grandchild.

Often, when watching Almodóvar films, I enjoy the colorful cinematography, the music, the witty banter, the tender moments, but I am usually left with little to connect with, little to take home. Volver is not such a film. All of Almodóvar’s trademark style is here, but this is his most accessible, most universal film. For, it is a tribute to the community of women who nurtured him; women we all knew or longed for in our lives.

Part noir, part ghost story, and marked with Almodóvar’s signature light-hearted comedy, Volver is really a story about how where we come from shapes who we are, and how we only see that when we’ve been away for a long, long time. Definitely one not to miss.

—Nancy Weiner, Publications Editor

Cybercamp Students Make a Difference

Continued from p.1.

their USC student about his/her country and doing research on-line.

While on campus, the children had the chance to tour USC, visit El Centro (USC's Latino Student Affairs Department) and learn about going to college. Fiona observed, "I think it was a very valuable experience for them and one of the girls said she was even thinking about pursuing her education at USC. That was really nice to hear because with the mindset they had, they probably never believed or thought they could go to a place like USC, but coming here, and seeing the environment... learning about the countries and learning the technical part [of website technology] gave them this vision which I don't think they really had realized before." Tasha agreed, "Some kids might not be able to afford college, the parent of one kid also told me how much she wanted [her child] to go to school.



Tasha

This made me realize how lucky I am to have a chance to attend college... They also made me realize that I should work hard and gain the most from the opportunity I have at school."

Each morning, the children were bused in from all over LA County and every day was packed full with instructional learning, group projects and individual tasks in the Mac Instructional Lab in upstairs KOH. Shirin said, "[CyberCamp] was really perfect for their age and really well-designed... there was a lot of thought behind it and it was engineered so well. The organizers of the camp had a passion for teaching [which] made it a real teaching experience for the children... you could see how dedicated they were." Avi agrees, "The camp was a great and successful attempt at reaching middle school students about technology and the world at the same time."

During CyberCamp, our USC internationals were interviewed and met with their country groups several times. Fiona said, "I definitely noticed as the camp progressed this rising inspiration. I think it was a sense of achievement that they really could achieve something significant." It was easy to be impressed with what the students were able to grasp and their level of understanding, along with the skill-set level which developed over the course of the camp. Gui noticed, "It is not that they aren't talented but they don't have the opportunity to shine.



Fiona

[CyberCamp] gave them the opportunity to shine and to realize that, yeah, we're just as capable as anyone else to do things in life." Shirin added, "Especially, the belief in what they can do... It was really amazing to give them a belief like that."

There was a personal impact for our USC internationals, as well. Fiona said, "I think I have really come to feel the value of community involvement and I didn't realize by sharing my experience of growing-up in a country such as South Africa and my cultural experience... I didn't realize the impact it would have on children of that age and what it would mean to them. It meant a lot to me to see it." Shirin agreed on the value of getting involved outside her studies, "I think that children are a very valuable and even priceless asset that we have and it was so nice to have so many different ways we can invest in them. I am also interested in community work and

See CYBERCAMP, p. 11.

Visit the Finished Cybercamp website!

Continued from p.10.

it reminded me of how much I enjoyed it." Avi and Wei both felt they learned about the United States in a new way. Avi said, "It helped me interact with school students, and see the differences and similarities of my own schooling years, which gave me a better insight to this country's next generation...it gave me a better perspective on children and culture on the whole." Wei shared, "It was a great opportunity for the children and myself...to explore what is outside the domain of our daily life. I believe it was a very interactive learning environment for them...[and an] interesting cultural experience for me."



Shirin

Overall, Tasha thought, "I think CyberCamp was a great program for the migrant children. It gave an opportunity for those children to spend their summer learning about other cultures and, also, how to use a computer. It was also a good program for the parents...because everyone gets to

learn something from one another." Shirin saw a "potential being put on a right path and being able to bloom" and Gui shared, "For me, it was a pleasure, it was wonderful to me to give this little contribution and to instill in them more curiosity to say, 'Hey, besides your home country here in the U.S. there is a whole big world out there and it's wonderful to know what happens there and what might be different.' I think it is important, especially in the days we are living in...to give this contribution and plant this seed of curiosity about the world out there."

On the final day of CyberCamp, all the children's parents were bused here to USC for the closing ceremony and luncheon, during which the final website was unveiled. The abundant pride of the parents was evident in what had been accomplished in such a short amount of time by their children. Our first view of the completed website stopped us short...it was truly impressive and incredibly well done. In regards to my involvement on behalf of OIS, I witnessed much meaningful learning happening for everyone involved, both for the children and our USC internationals. The children had a new vista opened for them technologically and culturally in which a whole world of diversity and complexity was introduced. For our internationals, they made a "world of difference" in the lives of children from an economically challenged background and may



Avi

have helped to set them and their families on a course where college could be a really possibility. Many thanks to Fiona, Shirin, Wei, Tasha, Gui and Avi for the time they invested in CyberCamp and I encourage all of our USC internationals to consider how, even in small ways, they can invest in the world around them during their time here at USC. Education and growth is more than just what happens in the classroom and you never know whose life you are going to touch.

To see the finished CyberCamp website please go to: http://web.mae.com/migrant_cybercamp/iWeb/cybercamp2006/Cybercamp_2006.html

You will need the latest version of QuickTime on your computer in order to view the pod casts. And, if you are interested in exploring ways to connect and contribute in new ways here at USC, please contact me at rebeccjp@usc.edu.

OIS Wishes You a Happy New Year!



*(Top:) Aviral, Becky, Dixon, Laurie, Esther, Nancy G., Tina, Sam
(Middle:) Dileep, Chen Chen, Judy, Nancy W., Lien, Dolores, Cheryl, Sumaiya
(Front:) Zach, Trevin, Nancy Jo (alum), Gwen*

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