



The Baylor **Global**
CONNECTION

Newsletter for the Center for International Education
Sept. 1, 2008 Vol. 1, No. 1

Coming to the
United States of
America... or not.

by Melanie Crowson

To even attempt to delve into what is the complicated monster such as immigration can be compared to trying to view a submerged rock two feet below the surface of Waco Creek.

The visibility lasts for a short time, and one is usually shocked by the results, or lack thereof.

With the United States' Office of Homeland Security tightening the country's borders, it is becoming more difficult for foreigners to immigrate to 'the land of the free and home of the brave.'

The costs of immigrating to the United States- whether as a temporary or permanent resident- are not even in the price range of an average, blue collar American citizen.

Fees for documents can range from \$50-\$100, depending on how they are obtained. One can access documents such as student visa, work visa, tourist visa, permanent visa and others via the government Web site, www.uscis.gov, via postal services or other Web sites that function to help make the complicated process of immigrating to the United States easier.

When added up, the cost to immigrate to the United States is just under \$1000 - for now.

"Coming to America was tough," said international Baylor junior Rafael Silva.

"There were so many fees with lots and lots of paper work - and I was only applying for a student visa." Silva said.

Continued on page 12

New program
is in the works of
being approved

by Rachael Riehl

The Cologne Business School (CBS) is an international campus which allows a variety of students to study in a different culture while earning course credit in the business field.

CBS is accredited by the foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation and is the official business school of the European University of Applied Sciences.

The school is located in Cologne, the fourth largest city in Germany. This location is convenient for travel and sight seeing as it is in the heart of Europe.

A few academic programs offered through the CBS study abroad program are: Asian Pacific Management, Tourism Event Hospitality Management and Import and Export Management

Dr. Steve Gardner discovered the program and is heading up the process of organizing approval for the study abroad program. It is hopeful that the Cologne study abroad choice will be available for both summer and regular semester sessions.

Although Baylor currently offers several programs in Germany, the CBS program is unique in that there is no German language prerequisite. This program also benefits business majors by offering a variety of career services. These services include business fairs, contacts with European business firms, professional job coaching, research techniques and training for swift employment upon graduation.

The CBS study abroad program will be an asset to Baylor.



**Discover
Within:**

Director's Letter	2
Photo Contest	3-4
People Around the World Sharing	5
Popular study abroad programs	6-7
International Rec Social	8
Story behind the story	9
Meet the CIE staff	10-11
Lock of Love	12

The Chief's Chit-Chat

A Letter from the Jo Murphy Chair and Director of International Education

Baylor goes global through Center for International Education

Gaining cultural awareness for education is main goal

While it isn't possible to recount in any real detail all the events of our office, the following summary may convey some sense of our activity:

For the academic year 2006-2007, 788 students studied in programs outside of the United States. Of those that studied abroad, 268 studied in semester or year-long programs with 520 studying in short-term summer programs. During this academic year, 36 semester or year-long programs were offered in 21 different countries. Twenty-nine summer programs were offered in 14 different countries. The Center for International Education inaugurated a new program, Baylor Theatre in Paris, with several programs in the final stages of approval.



Morrison

Our office provided orientation and immigration services to 393 international students and 27 scholars from 71 different countries. The top fields of study were business, information systems, engineering, Chemistry, Biology, and Physics.

In this, the fourth year of awarding the Goodrich Scholarship, collectively, 44 students received \$99,750 in scholarship assistance. Soon, we should be able to distribute additional funding from the James Vardaman International Study Scholarship and the Phi Beta Kappa University Scholars International Scholarship.

We continue to work on establishing a Global Living and Learning Center. This will comprise suites accommodating 4 to 6 students who will exchange language expertise and cultural awareness. At least one student per suite will be a native speaker and cultural representative of the focal language and culture. The desired outcome is to better prepare students to function intellectually, professionally, socially and spiritually in a world of diversity, both domestically and abroad.

The Center for International Education will continue to pursue the vision of its mission, which instructs to emphasize global education by "sending Baylor to the world," and "bringing the world to Baylor." Please stop by and visit.

Cordially,

Professor Michael Morrison
Professor and William Boswell Chair of Law



Editors:

Melanie Crowson
Janna Quinn
Rachael Riehl

Contributing Writers:

Kiki Gao
Katie Gulley
Kirsten Schunk
Rafael Silva
Dr. Charles Weaver
Fangfang Zhang

Photographers:

Thomas Cerny
Kiki Gao
Kirsten Schunk
Gretchen Musgrave
Janna Quinn

Contact Info:

Located on second floor of W.R.
Poage Legislative Library
Hours: 8 a.m to noon, 1-5 p.m.

Global Learning brings story home

Winning photograph is solid as a rock

A story captured,
solidified in stone

By Rachael Riehl

An event that has gained momentum in the popularity department in which the study abroad students participate is the Study Abroad Photo Contest.

The contest is held once every fall. Three categories that make up the contest are: landscape/cityscape, art and architecture and people.

As students trek to foreign lands to further their education, adding an assortment of stamps to their passports and gaining new cultural experiences, many pictures are snapped along the way. To each student, these photographs represent much more than what meets the eye.

This is the very reason why the international photo contest is so unique, it showcases a myriad of memories that live so animatedly in the traveler's mind, and allow those memories to have life breathed into them and burst into action for the viewers who did not embark on the educational journey.

The 2007 winning photo, entitled "Etched in Stone" was captured in Barcelona, Spain, by Houston Baylor senior Gregory Valentine. While

studying abroad for the 2006 fall semester with the Baylor in Maastricht program, he successfully captured the essence of what a prize winning photo should be—moving, powerful, poetic and breathtaking, all in one.

While traveling with peers, Valentine spotted "La Sagrada Familia" (trans-



Struck by the unique architecture, Valentine is inspired to snap the award-winning photo, "La Sagrada Familia."

lated, "The Sacred Family"). He recalls that this particular architecture caught his eye because, "it was a modern type of gothic which has been under construction for a century; it is very unique."

This piece of architecture struck him as brilliant due to the fact that it had more than one story. As explained by Valentine, the figures which are etched in the stone depict a literal

meaning as they illustrate the different segments of the story of Jesus' betrayal, death and resurrection.

However, the pillars stretching upward toward the heavens, with vast windows opening to the world in between, take on a more figurative meaning. Both the literal and figurative meaning are

held together by one thing, the stone, which is likened much with the fact that every area of human life is held together by one greater than we, God.

Valentine, who although has an eclectic interest in photography, has never taken a single photography class, submitted his photo and anxiously waited out the month long process of judging. When he arrived at the long awaited award ceremony, he was announced as the overall winner and recalled being speechless.

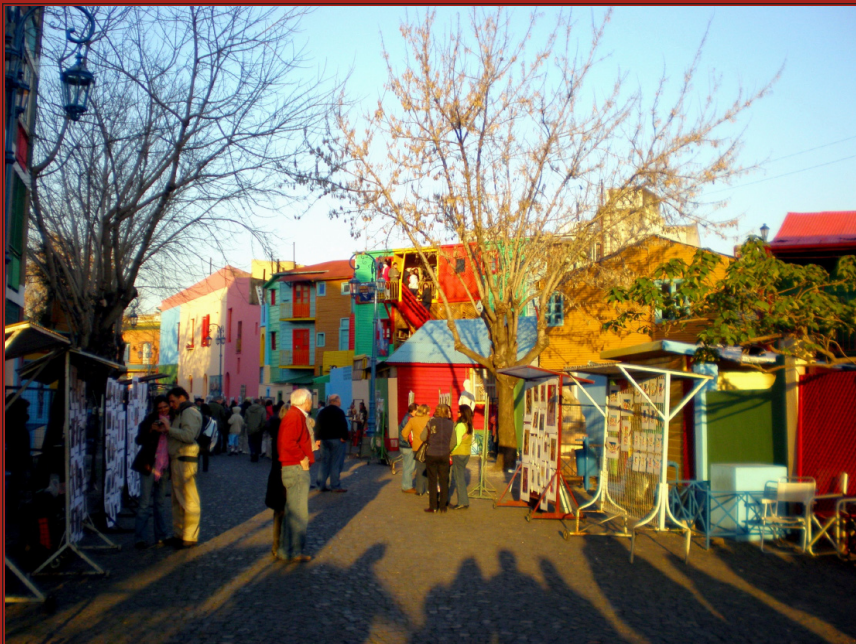
"I didn't know how to react at first. I was elated."

It is a result of the International Study Abroad Program by which the annual photo contest is made possible. As Valentine so eloquently stated, "Photos allow you to remember things you once did in a much more vivid way. You will always have memories, but photos speak volumes louder."

"It was a modern type of gothic... it is very unique."

-Gregory Valentine

Additional Contest Entries





People Around the World Sharing



Friendship
without borders
Making connections
across the world

by Janna Quinn

Intercultural learning. Budding friendships. Lasting relationships. These are phrases that come to mind when one hears about People Around the World Sharing (PAWS).

In short, PAWS gives the opportunity for international students to teach their culture to American students, while American students share time showing U.S. ways.

However, the real focus is that one-on-one friendships will blossom, and lasting relationships will form.

This starts when both U.S. and international students send their application to be a PAWS partner. Then the American student is matched with an international student. Campus and Community Involvement advisor Beth Walker tries to match partners by majors, hobbies or interests. Sometimes she will also honor a partner request.

For example, an American student at George W. Truett Theological Seminary wrote on her application that she wanted to pair with someone from Venezuela. Walker knew there was a Venezuelan at Baylor who had not applied to be a PAWS partner, but she sent an email asking if they would be interested becoming one.

The international student was a chemistry major, and when she received the email, she replied, "I don't see what a chemist and a theologian could have in common, but ok!" The two ended up having more in common than they thought



Courtesy photo

PAWS partners Ashwini Kachaspeswaran and CJ Wood find lasting friendships as Wood travels to India to be in Kachaspeswaran's wedding.

they would.

PAWS is a great growth experience for both, Walker said. Her favorite part as coordinator is hearing stories that reveal lasting relationships. Some stories involve the partners seeing each other again after the international student has left, and some involve the American student visiting his or her partner's home country. One U.S. student even traveled to India to be in her partner's wedding party.

Walker finds there are several ripple effects of PAWS. First, the partners meet each other through the program. Then the American student introduces the international student to more U.S. students.

Many American students are also willing to help with transportation when international students need to go to the store or run an errand. "When they do that, it's quite a gift to the international student," Walker said. "They expect nothing in return."

Finally, many PAWS partners have

taken their international student home with them for weekends and some holidays. Most international students are unable to go back home until winter break or even summer, so it is a privilege to spend time with an actual family.

"It is rewarding to make friends with people from all over," Walker said. "It is a neat connection to meet people like that."

If you want to make friends from other countries, the Methodist Student Center holds international student lunches Tuesdays at 12:30 and Fridays at noon. Everyone is welcome.

Want to become
a PAWS partner?

Visit: <http://www.baylor.edu/cie/index.php?id=8534>

From Italy to UK to the Netherlands

A look inside the most popular study abroad programs

Tasting the flavor of Florence

A year in the Life

by Kiki Gao

Attending the Florence University of the Arts for the 2006-2007 school year was one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life.

Living in another country, speaking another language and learning how to cook from scratch are things one can only imagine but when one lives through it - it is another thing. It was an enriching experience because it taught me to be much more independent.

I put to use some of the skills I already had but being abroad gave me the opportunity to develop these skills to their maximum capability and acquire new ones along the way.

The classes at FUA were so fun because of the excellent teachers we had. These were teachers who had important positions in their companies and they teach in their extra time. Therefore, some classes only met once a week. My marketing teacher was the Marketing director of Code of Florence, an Italian apparel brand which is mostly known for its sponsorship for Europe's golf tournaments. My fashion design teacher worked for Ferragamo, Moschino and Franco Ferré. The interior design teachers had their work published in Architectural Digest and the secretaries at FUA gave their all in order to help me in anyway they could.

Every time I walked through the small yet cozy streets of Florence, I felt so lucky. When I saw all of the tourists trying to absorb this city's history and architecture in just a couple of days, I could not help but feel lucky; because I had a year to gasp this amazing city and what was even better, this city was my

home. The city and its people made my experience abroad unforgettable.

I believe everyone should study abroad and I cannot say that enough; because even the most outrageous adjectives are an understatement to what I actually experienced in Florence.

Kiki Gao is a senior accounting major at Baylor.

“Every time I walked through the small yet cozy streets of Florence, I felt so lucky.”



courtesy photo

Kiki Gao enjoys a day in Florence



A glimpse of authentic daily Italian life

Q&A
with Dr. Charles Weaver,
codirector of BU in
Great Britain

In an interview via email, Dr. Charles Weaver answered the many questions that the editors of the Baylor Global Connection had about why, statistically, the program is the most popular summer study abroad program.

Global Connection: Why is the program as popular as it is?

Charles Weaver: Partly, we're successful because some very good people worked hard to put a quality program in place years ago, and we are still benefitting from their hard work and good planning.

GC: Who began the program?

CW: Dr. Jim Vardaman, Emeritus professor of History (now), and one of the more remarkable individuals I have ever met, put the first program together 30 years ago.

We limit the number of students we take, so that the program never gets too large. We are based in one of the world's greatest cities, and we stay in a fabulous location. Finally, the faculty that participate work very hard to provide a good experience for the students.

GC: What is the dominant major of the students who attend?

CW: We are roughly-evenly divided between business and arts & sciences majors.

GC: What is your favorite thing about the program?

CW: Being in the city of London. Just marvelous.

GC: How is the culture in Great Britain different from American culture?

CW: They are much more integrated, both ethnically and culturally. It's not uncommon to be on a bus with 25 other people and to hear conversations going on in six different languages - mostly by citizens of the UK, not tourists.

GC: What about the education that you have found to be most interesting?

CW: I really enjoy being able to see students grow into the independence that travel abroad demands. Much of the educational benefit comes from being in the culture, seeing things you would never see, eating food you would never eat in the States, but also from getting lost in a place like London and discovering that you can figure it out after all.

“The faculty that participate work very hard to provide a good experience for the students.”



Gretchen Musgrave

The red telephone booths are typical attire for the London streets.

Comprehending
history the Dutch
way
by Katie Gulley

Before attending a Baylor study abroad fair, I had never heard of the Dutch city of Maastricht. I could not even point to the Netherlands on a map.

Living in Maastricht for three incredible months gave me a new perspective

on the world and life. Instead of depending on my car, I walked, biked or rode a bus. I did not spend my weekends watching movies, but traveling and sightseeing across Europe.

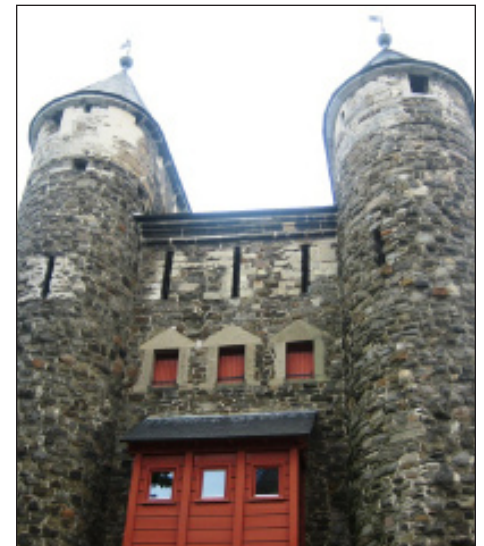
Walking through a city and seeing cathedrals that are centuries old gave me a completely new comprehension of history.

While I love America dearly, I realized that it is a very young country that might do well to observe and learn from the Dutch culture. Americans often stay too busy to enjoy simple pleasures such as relaxing at an outdoor café. Our desire for open space discourages the compact, multi-functional buildings that allow the city of Maastricht to be accessible for bikes and pedestrians.

For me, Maastricht is not a city of windmills, waterways or wooden shoes. Maastricht is a city of historical beauty and efficient culture.

Strangely, one of the things I miss the most is the cobblestones of streets and sidewalks of the Netherlands. Asphalt and concrete just do not have the same charm.

Katie Gulley is a senior journalism PR and political science major.



Janna Quinn

Hellpoort is the oldest still-existing gate in the Netherlands.



International Rec-Social

The New Kid on the International Circuit scene at Baylor

Far from home but
close to friends
A student's account

by Rafael Silva

I first came to the United States from Brazil in January. I came to study biology at Baylor and was immediately drawn to the International Rec-Social because of the presentaion given to the international students.

Everyone was excited about it because recreation is so important. I received a Baylor T-Shirt from Rec-Social and I wear it very proudly. I participated in most of the activities that Rec-Social had to offer to us including the Spring '08 barbecue, the San Antonio trip (which was my favorite activity) and a few other social events and parties.

Not only did I get integrated in American culture (Wendy's burgers!), but I was given the Baylor Experience. Rec-Social began last semester, and there are many participants from all over the world - China, France, Romania, Mexico - and we all get along despite the language and cultural differences.

When we hang out and speak English, our accents are sometimes difficult to understand but it has made us laugh a lot. I have made some friends I will never forget, all because of our interest in recreation and getting involved with

"I have made some friends that I will never forget."

Baylor and campus life.

Shopping trips were always fun, especially whenever I first came to Baylor. We (the other Brazilian students and I) had nothing in our apartment! No plates, no forks, not even cleaning supplies! So, we took the Wednesday Shuttle that Rec-Social runs and went to Wal-Mart to buy everything we needed. International students have to save their money for when

roads and bright lights.

Baylor has been a window of great opportunity that I have been proud to take during my time here.

I cannot wait to come back someday.

Rafael Silva is a senior biology major at Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil.



Thomas Cerny

Rec-Social students from left to right: Silva, Sakari Ylonen, Ashley Shion, Ygor Rajao and Lev Rodionov enjoy the Spring 2008 barbecue.

we take trips with Rec-Social, such as to Austin or San Antonio; but also for when we go home with other Baylor students. Over spring break, I went to Houston! That city was beautiful to me because it reminded me of home - which is, by the way, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Contrary to American views, I think that downtown Houston is beautiful, and whenever I first saw it I said, "Yes! THIS is America!"

Waco just does not have the buildings or busy highways like Houston or Dallas do.

When foreigners think of America, we think of the tallest skyscrapers, large



A journey of more than luck

A story behind a story

An Adventure a World
Away in the Land of
Green and Gold

By: Fangfang Zhang

To some, Baylor University is seen as a place of higher education. To others it is a place of rich tradition where they've come in order to gain the same experience as family members who have walked the halls of Burleson, Draper and Carroll Science. Then there are those who set out on a quest across the seas that carries them far from all things familiar—family, friends and culture, in order to gain more than just a degree, but a life-changing experience.

I am one who falls into the latter category. My name is Fangfang Zhang. I call Jinzhong, China home. Jinzhong is five hours southwest of Beijing and is close to the same size as Waco.

Growing up, I was like every other little girl in Jinzhong. Daily I spent a lot of time with my parents as that is our culture to be tight knit with family. I took school seriously and loved to play the piano and venture outdoors when I was not in school.

In elementary school, I was in a classroom of 80 children. The education atmosphere encouraged rigorous studying as everyone, even at such a young age, wanted to be number one in the class. This intense competition in the scholastic world carried over to high school

where I started class at 7 a.m. and did not finish until 5 p.m. followed by mandatory study hall until 10 p.m.

Following high school, I went to Northeastern University in Qinhuangdao, China, where I majored in English. Students who get to the top of the Chinese educational system want to come to the United States to further their learning.

After working two years in Shanghai, I knew that I wanted to get my master's degree, thus the beginning of my search for a college in the U.S. that had a prestigious journalism program. Baylor had just that; my decision was made.

The process of applying for a visa is long and somewhat based on luck. I made an appointment with an American ambassador visa officer, told him the reason why I wished to receive a visa,

crossed my fingers and hoped for the best. It was completely out of my hands as to whether my wish would be granted.

I started three months before I would actually need my visa. For some reason, I found favor with this particular visa officer, and I arrived in Waco in Aug. 2007.

I am now a first-year graduate student, working toward my Master's of International Journalism.

My experience here at Baylor has been pleasant as I am learning more and more about what I love, journalism. The professors are extremely kind and helpful. They have encouraged me and helped me develop my critical thinking skills, something I was never introduced to in China. The student body at Baylor is quite diverse and has allowed me to feel comfortable in this new setting.

Once I graduate from Baylor, I plan to stay in the U.S. for some time to be immersed in "real" American media as my desire is to pursue a career in TV



Zhang

news production. Eventually I would like to return to China and use the gift of knowledge with which I have been equipped and contribute to the Chinese media.

Sadly, the Chinese media is tightly controlled by the government, so as of now, there is not much room for growth and creativity. However, I am hopeful of the future of China and have learned while in the United States. That if journalists back home would have the same ambition as those here, there would be great change. I am ready to be that



Meet the Staff of CIE



Professor Michael Morrison
Joe Murphy Chair and Director
Has tasted eel, sea cucumber and chicken feet soup in China



Alexine Burke
International Student Advisor
Speaks Czech
Enjoys koi and goldfish ponds



Treva Hall
SEVIS Coordinator
From Olympia, Washington
Enjoys Vietnamese food



Karen Connors
Maastricht & Program Coordinator
Would love to see the Greek Isles and enjoys seeing shows in London

“Work is hard, stressful, never a free minute, but we have an incredible staff.”

-Alexine Burke



Katie Erickson
Study Abroad & Exchange Program Advisor
Favorite countries: Wales and Japan. Really wants to see Egypt’s pyramids and the Taj Mahal



Lexi English
Administrative Assistant
From Houston
Wants to go to Thailand. Also an advisor for Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir

To contact any of the staff, visit:

<http://www.baylor.edu/cie/index.php?id=5968>

International Student and Scholar services is located on the second floor of the W.R. Poage Legislative Library.

Meet the Staff of CIE



Helen Miller
Office Manager

Wants to visit France because of interest in Impressionist art. Favorite international food is Italian



Beth Walker
Advisor for Campus & Community Involvement

Enjoys Chinese dumplings, Pad Thai and Thai yellow curry. Wants to visit Beijing, China



Leslie Hicks
Administrative Assistant

Has been to Russia, Czech Republic and Poland. Tried octopus on an Italian ship

Suggestions for when abroad

- Download Skype, and buy a headset. Save on international charges, and talk for free internet to internet.
- Bring shower shoes for hostels.
- Bring deodorant.
- Bring a lot of hand sanitizer. It is good when traveling.
- Take travel-size items with you wherever you go.
- Bring a journal. You WILL forget your experiences later on in life.

North America. South America.



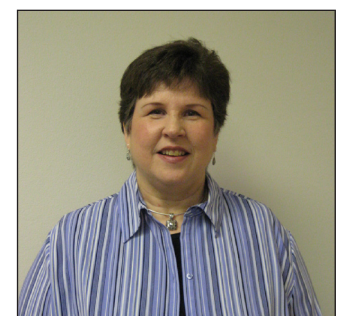
Asia. Europe. Africa.

“The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.”
-St. Augustine



Lynae Jordan
Budget Associate

Loves Orange Beef. Enjoys crocheting and motorcycling with her husband. Wants to visit Scotland



Lamona Martin
Administrative Assistant

Tasted fishhead soup and fishtail soup in Russia. Favorite countries are Scotland and Slavic & East European countries.

Issues at home and abroad: immigration and students

Continued from page 1

Silva cited the United States' caution of terrorism as one of the sources for acute awareness towards foreigners seeking to immigrate to its borders.

Second year Baylor Spanish graduate student, Tara Murray, would agree.

"When I was returning to America from studying abroad in Mexico, the officials at the border treated me like I was a criminal - and I had my passport," Murray said.

"One of them took me aside and questioned me for five minutes, asking, 'Where were you studying?', 'How long have you been in Mexico?' and 'Let me see your student visa.'"

From the viewpoint of an American student, coming back to the United States should not be as complicated as officials make it.

"To immigrate legally over the border takes at least six or eight hours." Murray

said.

"Immigrants [to the United States] who are Mexican or Middle Eastern are highly monitored because of terrorism," said second year Baylor Spanish graduate student Faith Rice-Mills.

"But that fear of terrorism has turned into racism."

The culture clashes between international students and American students can be eye-opening.

"I have found that Americans are more concerned with race and ethnicity than where I am from," Silva said.

"Race is not even an issue in Brazil - we are all mixed, and we all get along."

The issue of immigration gets even more complicated when looking past student concerns.

"Many see immigration as a 'problem,' but it really is not," Rice-Mills said.

"If the United States invested in oth-

er countries, the alleged 'problem' would not be as controversial. Ask, 'How can we make their economy better so that they'll stay over there?' A lot of families who do come here miss their home countries. They want to be home, but the fact is, the economy where they are from is not as good," Rice-Mills said.

Murray thinks it is a cultural dynamic.

"The United States is afraid of something different - and that can turn to racism. Instead of embracing them [the immigrants] and their cultures, most Americans penalize them," Murray said.

Students aware of the issues concerning immigration will find it can be hard to navigate through. Yet, there is hope. For example, the student activities within Baylor work to further incorporate students of different cultures.

Cultural unity may just be the key to a future of clarity.

A Last Glimpse: "Lock of Love" by Kirsten Schunk

This photo was taken on the trail, Via del'Amore, in Cinque Terre. Via del'Amore is a path that connects all five towns of Cinque Terre. Long ago, before the path was made, the villages were not connected and because the villages were built on cliffs along the coast, it was very difficult for the locals to go to their neighboring village. If there were lovers from different villages, they could not see each other

path, the voyage was dangerous. As I walked along the Path a fairy tale. The breathtaking out of the cliffs with most surreal sight my eyes the path there was a tunnel on love. There were images hearts with their names for all the ages to see their of the bridge were covered shapes and sizes. The locks destined souls that wanted to be together forever. of affection and a testimony to come. I view this trail with collages of feeling emotion: love. Although they were contributing to leaves behind a work of genius.



Kirsten Schunk

often because, without a path was finally a century ago, and lovers ever they wished, which named the "Path of Love." of Love, I felt like I was in ing panorama of the towns the sea below me was the had ever perceived. Along nel filled with graffiti based of lovers holding hands or inside of them, displayed undying love. The railings in numerous locks of all represented the love of two ed to lock their love away The path became a symbol ny for future generations as a path of artwork filled centered on a true human some couples did not know a masterpiece, their legacy