

# Cultural Connection



## Cornell College

December, 2009

### Let it Snow!

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**Office of Intercultural Life Wishes you Happy Holidays!!!**

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By: Diego Verdugo '12

Many first year students, including international students have never experienced rough winters like those of the Midwest, but will soon have their first snow encounter. On that note, the Office of Intercultural Life has decided to supply you with useful tips, precautions and recommendations to make this winter season special.

Making the transition from a warm climate to the Iowa climate is not an easy task, especially if you don't have any previous experience.

There are several things that you can do to prevent being surprised by this winter season. First you have to make sure that you have the right clothes. The key to fighting rough winters is to be layered; however you have to figure out the right amount in order to avoid sweating. Thermal/long underwear and shirts are incredible and keep you constantly warm. Wool socks

keep your feet warm although layering cotton socks is also useful. A pair or two of weather resistant gloves are crucial and remember to keep a good stock of hats. Having a weather resistant jacket or coat is very important; I would recommend those with sweaters inside. Once snow comes around, you will need a pair of snow



boots. With these, you have to make sure you don't go cheap because the salt or sand will mess them up. In general, make staying dry a priority and avoid going out during severe ice or snow storms.

Having certain type of food also makes surviving winter somewhat easier. I tend to keep a vast supply of soups and noodles. An electric water kettle is a good investment for the

winter as you can make noodles, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, etc. Drinking plenty of liquids along with Vitamin C will protect you from common bacteria, viruses, and respiratory infections. Getting a flu shot from our Health Center will help you stay healthy throughout winter.

As a resident at Cornell students need to have a

warm attitude toward winter to have fun. Deep snow? Nothing better than snowshoeing! Icy Snow? Sledging! Don't have snowshoes or sleds? Grab a piece of plastic or cardboard and pick one of the many slopes at Cornell and slide, slide, slide! Winter is around for most of the

time we are here, so why not enjoy it as much as we enjoy the summer? Most importantly, stay positive and try to appreciate nature as it is!

#### Friendly Reminder:

Students please note that residence halls close for Winter Break! They close Saturday, December 19th at 11 AM and will open January 3rd at 9 AM.

## Winter Holidays & Gift Giving Traditions

By: Genae Ewing '11

There is something about winter that brings families and friends together and puts everyone in a loving mood. The concept of gift giving and togetherness is an idea celebrated all around the world. Christmas while considered a Christian holiday is celebrated by many people from all around the world. Here are a few winter holidays that also embrace unity and gift giving.

### Chanukah

Chanukah is a Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. It is celebrated over eight nights in which a ceremony of lights.

**Gifting Traditions:** Chanukah gelt (money) is given. In some cases chocolate gelt is given out

### Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a weeklong American holiday celebrating African culture and heritage. Each day a candle is lit

to symbolize one of seven principles, each of which is considered to be a part of the foundation of African culture.

**Gifting Traditions:** 7 days of handmade gifts which may include food, trinkets, toys, and in some instances money

### Las Posadas

A religious procession that reenacts the search for shelter by Joseph and Mary before the birth of Jesus. During the procession, the celebrants go from house to house carrying the images of Mary and Joseph looking for shelter

**Gifting Traditions:** Children take turns trying to break open a piñata full of candy and toys.

### Dong Zhi

Eastern Asian celebration recognizing the Winter Solstice and the end of the harvest festival. It usually begins in mid-December and continues into early January.

**Gifting Traditions:** Though formal

gifts are not given, there is a large festival of food and sweets including Tāngyuán (sweet dumplings)

### Eid ul-Adha

"Festival of Sacrifice" or "Greater Eid" is a holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide to commemorate the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God.

**Gifting Traditions:** Well of families will donate some of their livestock to other families. In some countries, families that do not own livestock can make a contribution to a charity to provide food to those who are in need.



## Alumni Profile: Catherine Quehl-Engel

**Interests:** Belly laughter. Wonder. Love. Long runs out in the country to savor the beauty of life/flowing fields/big sky/all of it as God's Being. Family time. Spiritual writing. Reading (mostly contemplative/mystical theology in Christian and Eastern traditions i.e. Bhagavad-Gita). Meditation practice. Sacred travel. Gardening. Church--even it's flaws (show me a family or organization that isn't messy). Interfaith



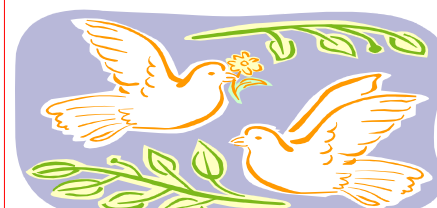
& cross cultural bridge building. Watching my daughter grow into an awesome young woman. Attempting to glimpse the Sacred in the seemingly secular (an Incarnational lens for life; God as the root of my being and all being, thus the oneness of all life amid our plurality).

### Where is your home town?

Mostly Monroe, Wisconsin though I was born in Ohio, lived there for 9 days and lived in a variety of places after that..

**What do you like about Cornell?** People are gracious, loving, and earnest.

**What are your future plans?** Objective: "Not I but God in me." Translation: Thin ego mind until I'm translucent, and all that is left of me is Light, Divine laughter, and love.



## Student Profile: Lisa Wang

**Hometown:** Taichung, Taiwan/  
Cerritos, California

**Major:** Ethnic Studies & Psychology

**Year:** Junior

**Hobbies/Interests:** dance, playing the piano, listening to music, drawing, watching cartoons, spending time with my wonderful friends, eating, and sleeping.

**Cornell Activities:** Over the years I have done the following

Cornell dance team, Eyes of the World, being a resident assistant,

Dance Troupe, PALS, Lunch buddies, Relay for Life

**What she likes about Cornell:** The squirrels, OCAAT, the people, and the many opportunities that Cornell has to offer.

**Future Plans:** Attend graduate school at one point for the health/psychology field... Open an orphanage for children anywhere in the world...make a difference in someone else's life.

**What ICL means to you:** ICL has always meant a lot to me since day 1 of my freshman year. It is an important

asset for what it does and brings to this school. I value culture and diversity and ICL has enabled me to embrace everything I am passionate about. It is my second home on campus.



## Organization Profile: Eyes of the World

By: Kasun Wijegunawardana '10

In 2004 Cornell saw the rise of one of the most engaging organizations on campus, it was called Eyes of the World. Created with a threefold purpose. Eyes of the World was created to be a support group for international students here on campus, act as a nexus for Cornell students who wished to share cultural paradigms and host cultural programs designed to raise awareness regarding the different worldly cultures that call Cornell home.

All students are welcome to join Eyes of the World, international and domestic students alike. Every year Eyes of the World follows a simple yet engaging schedule. The year begins with a welcome dinner, which is designed to be a welcome ceremony for international students and their host

families. Eyes of the World then holds one of their most notable programs, a favorite among the Cornell campus, it



*Students at Culture Show 2009*

is their Cultural Show. The cultural show aside from being immensely entertaining is intended to present the customs and traditions of different cultures that reside on campus; it is a "...fun way to discover information about other countries, their traditions and some of their secrets" (Eyes of the World Website).

The next event the Eyes of the World hosts is the international dinner. The international dinner is a potluck of sort that introduces the Cornell community to the culinary traditions of the different cultures on campus. It is a way for the Cornell community to develop an appreciation for other cultures. Next on the agenda of the Eyes of the World is the cultural trip. The cultural trip is intended to let international student and students from the greater Cornell community take trip outside Mount Vernon and learn about the American way of life in a different town and setting.

The year for Eyes of the World ends with a farewell reception. The farewell reception is a program designed to help members of Eyes of the World to reflect on the year and the things they have gained during their time at Cornell.



## Highlights of November Events

**Rock the Box** This showcase of Hip-Hop performances gave Cornell a taste of music and culture. Artists were featured from Iowa City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Cornell's very own campus. The student organized concert, created a supportive atmosphere for performers and was an incredible way to end the class week.

**Tiempo Libre** The 12<sup>th</sup> season Music Monday's brought the unique fusion of Latin and Jazz to King Chapel. It was one of the most energetic musical displays I've seen within the walls of King Chapel. They literally had the crowd dancing up and down the aisles and in the pews.

**Culture Show** Eyes of the World's annual Culture Show brought the campus together once again for a showcase of diverse cultural performances. This year featured new acts such as praise and belly dancing. The show performed to a full house, what a lovely way to begin family weekend!



Students at  
Rock the Box



Students at  
Culture Show



Tiempo Libre Band

## December Events

**Friday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> –**

**Theatre Production: "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown": Armstrong Hall ~ 7:30 pm.**

Based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz. Directed by Jim VanValen. Dec. 4, 11, 12 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13 at 2 p.m. Box Office: 895-4293. This family-friendly production journeys through the innocence of childhood crushes to the great anticipation of baseball season. The 1999 revision of the show adds several songs to the original score, and offers performers an opportunity to celebrate some of the dimensions of storytelling while warming the hearts of its audiences.

**Comedian "Rob O'Reilly": OC ~ 8:00 pm.**

With appearances on Comedy Central's Live at Gotham, NBC's America's Got Talent, and on the Tonight Show as Jay Leno's correspondent, Rob is quickly gaining a reputation as an up and coming comedian to watch!

**Saturday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> –**

**"Holiday Choral Concert": King Chapel ~ 7:30 pm.**

**Monday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> –**

**"Jorge Zeballos Lecutre": Commons ~ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm.**

As part of Privilege Week, the Organization for Latino Awareness presents Jorge Zeballos. As the Latino population has become the largest population of color in the country, there is increased scrutiny of how they define themselves racially. This is evident by the number of articles published in the national media and a study by the Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Research. How do they see themselves? As white? As indigenous? As black? As mixed? This event examines the historical and contemporary forces that shape that identity. After setting the historical context, participants are led through an honest dialogue on the tensions created by this issue.

**Thursday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> –**

**"Tim Wise Lecutre": King Chapel ~ 7:00 pm.**

As part of Privilege Week, Black Awareness and Cultural Organization presents Tim Wise. Wise is among the most prominent anti-racist writers and activists in the U.S., and has been called, "One of the most brilliant, articulate and courageous critics of white privilege in the nation." Wise has spoken in 48 states, and on over 400 college campuses, including Harvard, Stanford, and the Law Schools at Yale and Columbia, and has spoken to community groups around the nation. Wise has provided anti-racism training to teachers nationwide, and has trained physicians and medical industry professionals on how to combat racial inequities in health care. He has also trained corporate, government, entertainment, military and law enforcement officials on methods for dismantling racism in their institutions, and has served as a consultant for plaintiff's attorneys in federal discrimination cases in New York and Washington State.

Organization for Latino Awareness Presents:

# Jorge Zeballos

Lecture:  
"An Exploration of Latino Racial Identity"



**OLA brings Jorge Zeballos as part of Privilege Week.**

**As the Latino population has become the largest population of color in the country, there is increased scrutiny of how they define themselves racially. How do they see themselves? As white? As indigenous? As black? As mixed?**

**This presentation examines the historical and contemporary forces that shape that identity. After setting the historical context, participants are led through an honest dialogue on the tensions created by this issue.**

**December 7th**

**Hedges**

**7:00 pm**

**?s: DVerdugo12**

*"Jorge Zeballos is doing unique, creative, and important work in looking at the complexity of the Latino community and the complicated issues of internal and external racism it faces. Most organizations will greatly benefit from his work."*

**Paul Kivel**, educator, trainer, and author of *Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work For Racial Justice*

*"Brother Jorge Zeballos was awesome! His presentation was challenging, informational, and energetic. He was able to relate to students, staff and faculty. You need to get him on campus!"*

**Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr.**, creator of the White Privilege Conference and Director of Intercultural Life at Central College, Pella, IA