

Announcements

(continued page 7)

early hours of Sunday morning 7th March 2010, people living in three villages in a community near Jos were shot and butchered in cold blood. Casualties were mostly women and children; women were hacked down as they tried to cover and protect their children with their bodies. Little babies were snatched from their mothers and thrown into the burning flames set by these monstrous attackers.

These were defenceless, unprotected people who died without knowing why or how. Some were butchered in their beds while many more were killed while trying to flee from the attackers, people who feel their victims do not deserve to live and do not deserve the lives they have.

In a nation where its democracy is very fragile, calling for a military state of emergency in yet another federal state in the country has the effect of increasing scepticism towards the future of Nigeria remaining a democratic nation. In three years, three similar killings have taken place, but no one has been prosecuted.

This recent killing have left some unanswered questions in the minds of the Nigerian citizens. Who killed them? Why? What motive? Accusing fingers are pointing towards the military, the politicians, community leaders, and religious extremist groups.

McDaniel Prize research and writing contest

-Deadline: April 30-

-Announcement of three finalists: May 5-

-Oral presentation round: May 12-

-Non-fiction essays, analyses, and research papers-

-2,500-3,000 words-

First prize includes opportunity to publish paper, and dinner at Budapest's famous Rosenstein restaurant.

For more information, please see Dr. Adamson.

Check out The Messenger's new blog!

<http://mcdanielmessengeronline.blogspot.com/>

Messenger meetings

Every Tuesday
12:00-12:25
Room 224

The Messenger welcomes all sorts of submissions, ranging from articles, essays, and editorials, to poetry, updates, and photos. Send your material to Editor Tom Fried at santorno@hotmail.com.

Rugby Team in Budapest

Want to keep fit this summer? Want to play mixed sport in a friendly, social environment? Come and experience Touch Rugby, a fast growing sport in Hungary, with regular tournaments and teams competing in the Hungarian Touch League.

Minimal contact. Males and Females of all ages and abilities welcome for Men, Women and Mixed teams.

No previous experience necessary, just enthusiasm and a willingness to get fit.

Trainings once or twice a week, and games on some weekends.

For more information and a copy of rules, contact:

Ben Giles +36 30 6622608 (in English)
Gabriella Fodor +36 70 9784821 (in Hungarian) or
bjg747@hotmail.com



Staff Writers:

Gabrielle Hollows
Mona Monsefi
Cynthia Nwaiwu
Ruth Odusami
João Salviano Carmo
David Van Tassell

Editor:

Tom Fried

Copy Editor:

Sylvia Ubah

Advisor:

Dr. Matthew Adamson



THE MESSENGER

McDaniel College Budapest

For Those With a Taste for Adventure, Hungary is a Delight

by David Van Tassell

As a law abiding American citizen, I have been encouraged by my teenage predecessors (mainly in American college movies) to take up the mantle that represents a youth's sense of adventure and discovery. That mantle is portrayed in my trip to Europe.

When I was offered the opportunity to study abroad here I took it immediately. No, I did not know that much about Hungary, but my general train of thought was that this country could be a base of operations for my jumping around the countries within the European Union and serve as a very good place to do so since my wallet would be going on an extreme diet in order to get here. Well this is all true.

However as time passed I started to realize that while trips to Barcelona, Venice, Athens, and Paris would still be amazing, there is also a lot to find right under our feet. Hungary has a long history, and because of this there are great opportunities for us to explore a deep history and culture in our own backyard.

Just this past weekend I went to Pécs, the European Cultural Capital of 2010. There were a plethora of different sights to see during my two days there including the Early Christian tombs dating from the Roman Empire and a mosque turned into a cathedral at the end of the Turkish Occupation in the late 17th century. This summer when tourist season starts I am sure that this small city will be bustling with people wanting to see all that I saw. **(Pictured below: a street in Pécs.)**

Of other opportunities available for countryside travel, faculty member Margo Kovacs recommends a trip to Lake Balaton when the weather gets better. Besides swimming, boating, and fishing, the Siófok resort is also known as "The Party Capital of Hungary".

Even within Budapest there are numerous festivals and other events celebrating and showcasing Hungarian Culture. Travel guides and online resources provide major tourist locations to visit, but some of the best exploring can be done with you and your friends, Budapest offers many hidden treasures for adventurers.

The proximity of all these locations not only allows us the ability to make quick weekend trips, but these trips are also less taxing on our wallet than traveling to other countries. While a normal one-way ticket from Budapest to Lake Balaton costs 3000HUF, those of us with a student card can benefit from a 50% discount on their ticket.

Adding a room at a hostel totals round trip travel and room to about 6700HUF! Considering what activities were previously mentioned, this is definitely an ideal weekend trip for any student.

Needless to say, while in Europe definitely try to travel to other countries, but keep in mind that Hungary has just as much to offer.



Around Campus

Know Your Professor: An Interview with Professor Cristina M. Kiss

by Nwaiwu Chinyere Cynthia

It was a delight spending time with an economics as well as ESL professor who also has the capability of occupying the position of a course advisor. It wouldn't be wrong to say that professor Kiss is very energetic and has the high teaching qualities because she happens to teach in another school outside McDaniel College. Kind-hearted and strict she would describe herself, and it seems there are a whole lot of interesting things we don't know about her. What else could she possibly tell us? Let's see!

M: Please, kindly give a brief description of yourself

CMK: I come from the sunny side of the world, the Philippines. I got my undergraduate degree in economics, magna cum laude, from the University of the Philippines, where I also did my graduate studies in economics. After short stints at a research institute and a private bank, I joined the Department of Economic Research of the Central Bank of the Philippines. The pivotal point in my life was when I attended an IMF training course in Washington, D.C. An economist from Hungary also happened to be there, and he could somehow later convince me to change my surname and make Hungary my home.

In terms of character, I'd say that I'm both outgoing and reflective. I like being with people but I also love silence and reflection. I believe in always trying to do one's best: seize the day, bloom where you are planted.

M: What is it like to teach three courses and still be a course advisor?

CMK: I guess all these tasks and roles call for a desire to help the students develop their potential, and make choices compatible with their goals. And I do care about the students, so it all just flows from there

M: Can you say that upon waking up in the morning, you have a great desire to get into the classroom? Has teaching been that fulfilling in your life?

CMK: Well, I am indeed very passionate about teaching. I find it a very rewarding job. But equations, graphs or neologisms are not exactly the first things that I think about when I wake up in the morning. Maybe, after a good cup of coffee. (Laughs).

M: What do you do to motivate your students to study and get really involved in your course work?

CMK: First of all, I believe that every student is different, that every student has potential, and it is the teacher's job to unlock that potential, to draw out that capability to do better. That's what education means: educate, to draw, lead out. And to be able to do that, the teacher has to create the proper environment, to provide the right inputs – in just the right measure, to encourage, to challenge. I do give a lot of thought to each lesson. I try to anticipate when the students might need to understand the concepts better, to analyze, and work them out on their own. I also encourage questions. Overall, the twin recipes of rigor and kindness seem to have produced quite good results.

M: How do you think higher education has changed since you have been teaching? Why do you think it has changed?

CMK: I've not really been teaching for that long to discern any major changes in higher education here. But I'd say, and this about education in general, an important ongoing change would be the ever-increasing availability of online resources, which I consider to be both a boon and a bane. (continued on page 3)



Around The World

Missing: To Be or Not To Be in Nigeria

by Nwosu Chinelo Sylvia

President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua is the democratic elected head of state, commander in chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He was flown to Saudi Arabia on Nov. 23 2009 for the treatment of a heart condition subsequent to two other prior trips to same country, for the same reason. Only this time it was prolonged.

Whenever he travelled abroad rumors of his death made the rounds back home, as was the case in the three occasions in the past three years. The news was also reported by the foreign media across the

world. And the saga begins:

November 23 2009: Yar'Adua goes to Saudi Arabia for medical checks. Three days later officials say the 58-year-old president is suffering from the heart condition acute Pericarditis and it is unclear when he will return.

December 2 2009: Yar'Adua's cabinet unanimously agrees there are no grounds to seek the president's resignation, rejecting calls for him to quit. This is on grounds that he's human and can be ill, so he cannot quit because he is ill.

December 19 2009: Niger Delta rebel group Mend (crisis prone south-south oil rich region in Nigeria) say they have carried out their first attack on an oil pipeline since an amnesty offer, as the absence of the president was delaying talks.

But the greater beam on the president's health on the global level since then was caused by the **December 25, 2009** attempted bombing of a US passenger plane by Umar Farouk AbdulMutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian graduate of Engineering. The president did not speak, nor was he seen addressing the international world about Nigeria's stance on terrorism.

January 12 2010: President Yar'Adua makes his first public comments after seven weeks, saying in a radio interview that he is recovering from illness and hopes to return home soon. What's public about a faceless interview done behind closed doors?

February 9 2010: Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan assumes presidential powers after much ado within the president's cabinet. The Cabinet has twice

passed resolutions that there are no grounds to declare the president unfit to govern but splits emerge between the president's loyalists and ministers who feel he should step aside. Parliament earlier had recognized Jonathan as acting head of state in an effort to end uncertainty. The Senate resolution states that Jonathan will cease to be acting president once President Yar'Adua states in writing to the leaders of both houses of Parliament that he has returned from "medical vacation".

February 10 2010: Jonathan chairs first Cabinet meeting as acting head of state, seeking to revive government business after more than two months of stagnation. He removes the Justice Minister and the Attorney General who had been among the ministers who were holding out against formally transferring power to him in the president's absence.

February 12 2010: Vice President Jonathan approves the disbursement of \$2 billion from windfall oil savings to the country's 36 states and government agencies to kick off government business despite the billions lost during the two month's policy standstill in the country.

February 17 2010: The Cabinet rejects a motion to declare Yar'Adua unfit to govern, deciding instead to send a delegation to Saudi Arabia for an update on his health. However, the trip proved abortive as they are denied access to him.

February 24 2010: Finally: the president's dramatic return back to Nigeria after three months in a Saudi Arabian hospital. So he has now returned, and of course it is good news overall for Nigerian politics. Since his return he has not addressed the nation or being seen in public. What we need to see is a president attending to his duties.

"Seeing is believing. He's our president, he should appear on television" said a Nigerian business major student (McDaniel). Many Nigerians were skeptical he would resume office, whereas his loyalist thinks otherwise. Even as uncertainty still looms in Africa's most populous nation over its presidency, bloody crises cloud over the northern region of this fragile democratic nation.

A Nation in Turmoil

by Nwosu Chinelo Sylvia

It is hard to live in a society where being an indigene matters more than being a citizen when it comes to your rights to enjoy certain privileges at the local, state and federal levels. Jos is the capital of Plateau, a state in the Northern region of Nigeria.

Since the January 2010 episode of a religious crisis, which resulted in the loss of many lives, the army has been in charge of security in Jos and other parts of Plateau State. Unfortunately, in the (continued page 8)



Sports and Fitness

World Celebration

by João Salviano Carmo

In this issue of the Messenger we will continue to introduce you to the World Cup groups and to the teams that compose them. This time we will visit group C and group D as we continue our countdown to the great party. Less than 100 days to go till the ball rolls again!

Group C (FIFA, 2010)

- England
- United States of America
- Algeria
- Slovenia

The 1966's World Champions, when England hosted the tournament, have failed to repeat the feat ever since. This time around they come to the World Cup as clear favorites after an amazing qualifying phase where they won 9 out of the 10 games played. Wayne Rooney is also at his top shape ever, performing wonderfully lately and is surely looking forward to be one of the main stars this summer.

The USA will be competing in the world's biggest tournament for the sixth time in a row. After reaching the final eight in 2002 they want to show that they can do it again, especially after their display in 2009 in the Confederations Cup. Can they go back into the quarter finalists' elite?

Twenty four years later Algeria is once again back in the World Cup. After knocking out Egypt in a play-off (who shortly after became the African Champions) there is great expectation to see what they can do now in the grandest stage of them all.

Playing their second World Cup since becoming an independent nation, Slovenia goes to South Africa as the least experienced team in the group. Will their players overcome the lack of experience and surprise the most frequent customers of the World Cup?

England is by far the main favorite in group C. They are expected to go through to the next round with ease and lots of goals but the USA team has been improving and displaying some nice football lately and are entitled to dream about the top spot in the group. Algeria and Slovenia are hoping to use their outsider status to squeeze past the favorites and get an unexpected pass to the final 16.

Group D (FIFA, 2010)

- Germany
- Australia
- Serbia
- Ghana

"Football is a game played by 22 players.

And in the end Germany wins." (Gary Lineker) The three-time World Champions and 2006 third place finalists, besides having been in four other finals (the most recent one in 2002), can never be discounted from anyone's top favorites in any tournament. With players like Ballack, Klose and company we can expect a strong Teutonic team once again.

Australia's Socceroos come to this Summer's competition in great style. After moving from Oceania to the more competitive Asia qualifying zone, Australia surprised everyone by winning it with great ease. After impressing with their beautiful football in 2006 under the guidance of the great manager Guus Hiddink, will they be able to go one step further and reach the quarter-finals this time around?

Serbia's White Eagles made an impressive campaign in their qualifying group to South Africa. Beating France to reach the top of the group, Serbia reaches its first final phase as an independent nation and with players like Vidic and Stankovic they will surely be looking forward to impress and to qualify for the next round.

Ghana's Black Stars, after qualifying at the top of the African zone, and after reaching the Africa Nations Cup final earlier this year, reach their second World Cup looking forward to continue their great performance in Germany 2006. In the first ever African World Cup Ghana will aim at going at least one step further and reach the final eight, cementing their impressive form of lately.

This will be a tough group. Even if Germany appear to be the main favorites nothing is guaranteed in a World Cup. All four teams have what it takes to move to the phase of 16 and will surely battle on the pitch for their right to keep their dream of winning this year's tournament alive!

For more information on the World Cup 2010 please visit <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/index.html> (Below: the USA soccer team)



http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/more_sports/2009/10/09/2009-10-09_us_soccer_team_heading_to_honduras.html

Around Campus

(continued page 2)

A boon because the internet has really opened up a whole new world of learning opportunities for students, and teachers as well. A bane because the deluge of 'data-on-demand' can also somehow drown concentration, conscientiousness and creativity.

M: Hypothetically, if you could travel in time to teach - long ago, or the recent past, or the future - which of them would you choose? Why this choice?

CMK: I would love to go back the time of Socrates, the age of bare-knuckled quest for truth and enlightenment. But then, I would most certainly, and happily, be a student rather than a teacher. (Smiles)

M: Besides being an excellent professor, what else do you consider yourself to be an expert at, moderately good at, a total mess at?

CMK: Thanks. People say I'm quite good at organizing. I like looking at the big picture, as well as ironing out the details, and then putting everything together. It seems I had the knack for this early on. As a high school sophomore, I organized a field trip for the entire bunch. I guess I'm moderately good at cooking, and decidedly miserable at winter sports. *Nem olyan szeretem a hideget!* (Laughs)

M: During your vacations, do you completely put away the books and take a breathing space from the whole education business?

CMK: Well, I normally don't fill my valise with Macro, Micro or TOEFL textbooks. (Laughs) But I do make sure there's a book or two in my traveling bag – historical, inspirational or fiction plus the latest issue of *The Economist*. So it may be said that I don't leave teaching-related stuff behind altogether when I go on holiday. Education is an ongoing process, for teachers too.

M: How do you think your career as being a college professor has/will influence(d) your children educationally.

CMK: I guess every new mother becomes, or is re-born as, a teacher. So, my profession wouldn't change the equation that much, I think, when the time comes. My Mom isn't a teacher by profession, but how she has taught us about life!

Move Away From the Entrance

By Gabrielle Hollows

Getting past the front doors into the college is like trying to navigate through a misty jungle. You find yourself filling up with anxiety every time you get to the school gate. Not only do people stare intensely at the passers by but also they refuse to move out of the way. There is absolutely no reason for the entrance to be blocked the way it is, and it is down right rude that there is no acknowledgement of the people trying to make it through the doors. It is not just people trying to take cover from the rain that block the entrance but it is also used by students who want to smoke in a sheltered area.

"Why is it so difficult for a person to move out of the way?" I ask. One student, a smoker, replies, "Because there is nowhere else to go when it is raining". This is so; there is nowhere, with cover, for students to go and have a cigarette. But this is a matter for smokers to take up, and it is no excuse for blocking the entrance, which leaves students and faculty members no option but to elbow their way into the building. Even with a polite, "excuse me", there is no budging a person from the entrance. It is not an outrageous request to ask a person to move out of the way so another can get through. To make matters worse you not only have to fight to get in but also you will get a gust of several peoples cigarette smoke in your face. This is not a pleasant trip to be done everyday and is about time that there was a change. (Continued page 5)



(Right: The college entrance)

http://www.myhomebudapest.com/images/promo_pic02.jpg

Around Campus

A Complete Story of the International Dinner Party and Talent Show

by Mona Monsefi

The international dinner party started at six o'clock Thursday evening. It was well attended with few students from McDaniel but some faculty members graced the occasion with their presence. Everyone in the school was invited and the hosts from different countries entertained guests with variety of delicacy. They all were impressive.

The gorgeous Hungarian table was decorated by paprikás szalámi place on top of creamy cheese souse and bread and sweet Vargabéles des-



sert made of layers of past—tempting.

The Spanish table with Tortilla de Patatas, Arroz car leche, Gazpacho and especially an absolutely beautiful and colorful Sangria was irresistible. A Spanish host spoke about their dishes: "These are typical Spanish dishes and they are quite easy to make."

The simplicity of the Norwegian table was sweet. They offered waffles served with jam, sour cream and also Norwegian goat cheese. The Norwegian students said: "They usually eat waffles after dinner as dessert with coffee in Norway".

An amazing part of this party was Japanese boys and girls who were wearing kimonos. They worked together like a trained team. Each part of the work was carefully shared. Hidenobu a pre-med student said: "We started to prepare everything from last night and everything is homemade". He introduced udon, kind of noodle which is very similar to the noodle they serve on their new year. They were amazingly polite, and that is a characteristic of their culture.

Reut and Omer, from Israel, were proud of their humus and falafel, which were made at home. According to Reut they are healthy foods and they

prefer them to fatty foods of restaurants.

Hospitable and friendly American and Portuguese students also offered their traditional foods and sweets to introduce them to their friends.

Nigerian students' beautiful traditional clothes and hats were eye catching. They served their traditional dishes; one of them was delicious spicy fried rice with chicken thighs.

Iranian students brought a traditional slow cooked stew spread on rice, and sholezard, a pudding made of saffron, rice, rose water and almond garnished with cinnamon.

Everyone was enjoying the party and the foods when Vahideh, an art student from Iran said: "I will graduate this semester and I'm happy that I could come to this party for the last time." She added: "Trying these international dishes should have effects on my cooking; at least I can learn how to make new salads and sandwiches". Sylvia, an Eco/bus student from Nigeria, also believed that this party should have an effect on her cooking while she was enjoying a piece of Norwegian waffle.

The talent show started right after dinner party. It was directed by Lili Mesterházy from Hungary and well presented by David Wassermann from Germany. Students who performed are from Israel, Iran, China, Spain, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Hungary and Cyprus.

The show was opened by Koichi Sotoma from Japan, who played trumpet. He was followed by Gadi Massasa from Israel. He was a multi-task artist who played guitar and harmonica and sang a song nicely. Arad Tahaei from Iran and Marco Bello from Spain played a piece of J.S.Bach by violin and piano. It was amazing to see how art could bring two artists from different sides of the world together to play a pleasant piece of music in harmony. This is the miracle of art.

Georgia Efthymiou and Timis Solomi from Cyprus performed a traditional dance called Strong & Hard Men which was adorable; charming dancers from Hungarian State Opera and Matilda Sassani from Italy also performed beautifully and professionally.

Song Siyue from China sang a Chinese song with her velvety voice. She won third place in a competition in China when she was sixteen. Kazuhiro and Joji from Japan played guitar and sang Japanese songs enthusiastically. Listening to Portuguese singers was also entertaining.

These kinds of dinners in a multicultural school like McDaniel College are one of the best ways to introduce different cultures to students and is also a good opportunity for the students to present some of the things that they have in their countries.

News From Westminster

Comic -Strip Comes in June to Visit Budapest Campus

by Tom Fried

Comics, despite their popularity and age, haven't received the same attention in Europe as in the United States. It might be because of their unrealistic stories and heroes or their colorful draws. But people who think comics have no depth and are mainly used to entertain kids can discover during the June term taught by Professor Robert Lemieux this year at the Budapest campus that comics have under the surface more than they show.

"Comics are for children": that is by far the most common reaction I got from people whenever I asked them about their opinion on comics. So it occurred to me, if many people believe comics are for children, then what can students learn from this course?

"The primary focus of the course will be on the historical and cultural impact of comic strips, specifically how they reflect culture by presenting issues of romance, gender, race, work, politics, relationships, war, family, etc" says Lemieux. Professor Lemieux is from the Communication Department on the main campus.

In Europe, comics are not as popular as they are in the United States. I am not sure how many universities and colleges around Europe would really provide courses about comic strips. Professor Lemieux has his own opinion about this fact: "Before there was the internet, television, and Hollywood, there were comic strips. At one point, comic strips were a primary source of entertainment (particularly in the U.S) but have subsided. However, in the U.S, the Sunday comics section of the newspaper remains a cultural artifact that virtually everyone can relate to. I think this is what differentiates Europe from the U.S."

Today, luckily in order to make comics, people don't need to be experts in drawing. Besides reviewing classical comic strips from the 20th century, part of the June term will consist of students creating their own comics, not necessarily by draw-

ing. Comics can be created from other images like photographs. Professor Lemieux will also introduce the class to a special software program called Comic Life. "Student shouldn't be concerned about their artistic ability. Some of the best comic strips are simple in their design"

The course will start from June 7th until June 15th 2010 in the Budapest Campus. For more information please see advertisement or ask at the administration office.

Move Away From the Entrance

(continued page 3)

This is not only a matter of getting into the building but also one of health and safety. It would be a disaster waiting to happen if there were a fire in the building, and people continue to linger in the doorway. They would hold an onrushing crowd in the foyer and this could have serious consequences for people trying to escape. It would be inexcusable if people couldn't exit the building because other students, selfishly, were blocking the door.

This letter should not be taken as the opening salvo of an anti-smoking campaign because it is anybody's right to smoke. However, it is also everyone's right to walk in a smoke-free environment. Second-hand smoke causes many health problems just as well as firsthand smoke. According to the National Cancer Institute "Approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths occur each year among adult non-smokers in the United States as a result of exposure to second-hand smoke" (www.cancer.gov). Second-hand smokers are not the only ones who should keep this statistic in their heads; so should the smokers. By just moving you can help your fellow classmates and other occupants of the building who are second-hand smokers everyday just because people are unwilling to move.

From an aesthetic point of view, the front entrance does not look attractive with crowds of people surrounding the doorway smoking in the faces of others. We are very fortunate to be using a beautiful building that has survived wars and revolutions over the years. We should not spoil its appeal by clouding up prospective students' views on choosing this college over others just because it looks like an ashtray.

There are designated areas for people to smoke and there have been bins provided to snuff the cigarettes out in. It is about time that students start using these areas instead of blocking the entrance. Spring is on its way and soon it will be summer, so the benches and the tables around the front of the building are perfect places for a social smoke. Be aware of people around you—if someone looks like they are having trouble entering the building, don't just ignore them. Kindly move out of the way.

