By Debra Picchi

The last time I talked to Alison McNeaney 2010 was right before she graduated this past May. She was remarkably relaxed as she faced Commencement. She was undaunted by the prospect of leaving her Pierce home to sail off into an economy that was in the middle of The Great Recession.

I asked her what her plans were, and she answered vaguely that she was going to see what turned up. She didn’t want to rush into anything. I was a bit worried.

I need not have been. Just this past week, Alison emailed me from Passports, a business that arranges for groups to travel overseas. She reports that she loves her job. She said, “I talked to one woman who is turning 82 years old next week who wants to plan a trip...She told me the most amazing stories of all the places she had already traveled.”

I asked Alison how good of a job she thought we did at Pierce (and I told her she could be honest). She responded, “I think that going abroad was the biggest thing that happened to me, but having a place to discuss current events and the world as a whole was something I got from the Global Citizens Seminar.”

Alison studied in Vienna, Austria, with Professor Heather Tullio in the spring of 2009. She was an Anthropology major and also completed the Global Citizens certificate program. This powerful combination of achievements may well have made her attractive to a business such as Passports which specializes in educational travel tours for high school and college students as well as adult groups.

Check them out at http://www.passports.com/ And how about some applause for Alison! Well done!!

FPU Global Citizen Croteau Travels to Belize for Forensic Anthropology

“I felt almost like Indiana Jones,” confessed Nicole Croteau 2010. Excavating in caves in the Mesoamerican country of Belize may not seem like everyone’s idea of a good time.

However, Global Citizens and Anthropology graduates like Nicole cannot seem to get enough of things like traveling internationally and excavating ruins. So right after graduating this past spring, off Nicole flew to Belize City. Then she traveled to San Ignacio, a town in the western hills, where Galen University is located. This university offers summer forensic anthropology programs.

Check them out at: http://www.galen.edu.bz/
Dual Citizenship for Global Citizens

An unnoticed phenomenon that has been growing in popularity these past few years has to do with the number of college-aged students who are applying for dual citizenship.

The Global Citizen movement has identified this trend as important because it suggests that some students do not see themselves as belonging to any one nation-state. Rather they see themselves as citizens of at least two countries. And the cognitive jump from two to many, or to the entire globe, is only a step away.

Megan Dingle 2010 will have dual citizenship with the United Kingdom and the United States. Her mother is originally from England, and she and Megan regularly travel there to visit aunts, uncles, and cousins. Although Megan sees dual citizenship “as a way to connect to [my] family,” she says, “I do believe that it is a positive way to grow the ‘Global Village.’”

Taylor (Hamid) Hamzy 2012 has dual citizenship with Lebanon and the United States. His grandparents live in Lebanon, and Hamid visits them frequently. He feels that “dual citizenship should be encouraged to create a closer global community.”

Caitlin Carroll 2011 is working on her application for dual citizenship with Ireland. In 2008 she visited Ireland while studying abroad in Vienna. She reported feeling very much at home there and plans to return soon.

Interested in finding out more? Go to http://travel.state.gov which is the US State Department web page.

Next time you travel abroad, who knows what passport you’ll be carrying?

Four Capital Cities Pledge to Cut their Carbon Emissions

The mayors of four major cities have joined forces to pledge reducing their carbon emissions by a significant percentage by next year.

What is called the 10:10 campaign is supported by 40 countries, thousands of businesses, and over 100,000 individuals.

Mexico City, which is among the four, is the largest urban center in the Americas. It has a population of over 21 million people.

Mayor Marcelo Ebrard plans on introducing a new line of Metrobuses, replacing the city’s cab system, and building new more sustainable homes.

He is urging his people to consider using bikes and walking to get to work and to go shopping.

Paris is also planning on revitalizing its public transportation system. In addition, it is exploring the possibility of using geothermal power to provide services to over 10,000 homes.

The 10:10 movement was started by Franny Armstrong, who directed the environmental film, “The Age of Stupid.” The goal is to get people to reduce their carbon emissions by 10 percent by the end of 2010. This is considered an achievable and straightforward goal.

Samantha Bizon’s Back from Vienna—With a Lot to Say!

“Brugge, a small town near the coast of Belgium, was a fairy-tale place. It was my favorite city in Europe,” Samantha Bizon 2012 said. The newest student representative to the International Studies Committee sat in the Map Room of Peterson Hall waiting for a meeting to begin.

Sam studied abroad in Vienna, Austria, this past spring semester. Her faculty leader was Professor Carl Bresovec, a mathematics professor. Why did she go abroad? “I had never been anywhere,” Sam confided. In the end she saw how big the world is, but, paradoxically, she also saw how small it is. For example, in Belgium she ran into an old high school buddy, something she really did not expect to do.

Sam hopes to make meaningful contributions to the International Studies Committee. This group advises the Provost of the University, the Dean of the Rindge Campus, and the Director of International Studies about the direction and content of the study-abroad program.

As a student who experienced the program first hand, she will have a lot to say.

If you plan to go abroad and want to ask Sam questions, feel free to email her at bizons@franklinpierce.edu.
Looking for a Job Where You’re Never Bored? Meet Susan Oehlschlaeger

By Jeannette Morrison 2014

“I have a great job. I get to meet people from all over the world, and I’ve never been bored,” explained Susan Oehlschlaeger, Director of International Students’ Services.

How did she create such a career for herself? For starters, she studied abroad in France twice. Once she studied in Paris, living in university-style housing and hanging out with Americans. But then she studied in the south of France where she lived with a family who involved her in everything. This was a “much more full experience,” Susan told me.

Susan also traveled to Quebec City and Montreal where she did a research project on bilingual language programs. And later she became interested in ESL (English as a second language).

The importance of language when people travel, work, and study abroad fascinates her. Although she hesitates to call herself bilingual, she admits she has a “very good command of French.”

At this time Susan is busy preparing for International Education Week which takes place between November 15-19.

Some of the activities she is planning include lunch discussions for foreign-born faculty and staff, panels for students who have studied abroad, and international music programs.

Susan is also planning to make use of the University’s list of faculty and staff who speak foreign languages. Who would predict that in little Rindge one would find people who speak fluent Arabic, Dutch, Gaelic, and Portuguese?

Buying Euros Miraculously Cures Math Anxiety with FPU Study-Abroad Students

By Debra Picchi

How many of us “tune out” every time that numbers are mentioned? How many of us say (almost proudly) that we have “math anxiety”?

In the fall of 2008 I spent a semester in Vienna, Austria, with a group of students. I was amazed how quickly math anxiety disappeared.

All of a sudden, numbers-shy students were sounding like they worked for the Bloomberg Business and Financial News station. What happened?

Well, it is quite simple.

Students quickly learned to track the cost of the Euro, the European currency that FPU students need to buy while they are abroad in Vienna, Athens, or Lyon.

At the beginning of June 2010, Euros were cheap; it only cost $1.19 to buy one. If the students who are in Athens this semester bought a lot of Euros this past summer, they would be feeling pretty rich.

Now it costs $1.41 to buy a Euro. That is 22 cents more than this past summer. And cents add up.

If students took as much as $5,000 for personal expenses, and they bought Euros this past summer at $1.19, then they would have 4,202 Euros, while if they bought them this fall at $1.41, they would have only $3,546 Euros.

And that, my friends, is a difference of 656 Euros! Even if you have math anxiety, you know that 656 Euros is a quite a bit of change.

Brazilian Soccer Player Survives Culture Shock in Rindge

By Jeannette Morrison 2014

Victor Goncalves 2012 could not help but laugh as he explained to me how he ended up studying in New Hampshire.

A soccer player from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he was offered admission to two universities, one in North Carolina and one in New Hampshire. Victor asked a friend which place was the warmer of the two, and his friend said New Hampshire.

Looking back on his first year in Rindge, Victor told me that culture shock from the weather was not his only problem.

He did not speak English very well, so he felt a bit isolated. However, being an outgoing, friendly guy, he soon was speaking the language fluently.

Victor still misses Rio from time-to-time. The gorgeous beaches, night life, music, and cuisine draw hundreds of thousands of tourists from Europe and the U.S. each year. So he cannot help but be homesick in Rindge from time-to-time.

However, Victor explained that, since he first came here, the students, staff, and faculty at Franklin Pierce were all so welcoming and friendly that he was made to feel at home immediately.

That, and playing soccer, have made going through culture shock worth it.
Mission of the Global Citizenship Certificate Program:

Global citizenship involves understanding the forces that affect cross-cultural connections and being committed to a global community based on human interdependence, equality, and justice. The Global Citizenship program at Franklin Pierce provides students with real information about the people of the world in which they live. It also provides opportunities for students to practice citizenship and leadership skills in a variety of settings. Vital to practicing being a Global Citizen is either studying abroad for a semester or completing an internship with an international dimension in one’s major.

Austrian Wiener Schnitzel: The Humble Viennese Cutlet

Many of the students who study abroad in Vienna come home pining for Wiener Schnitzel. Caitlin Carroll 2011 found all the ingredients she needed in Rindge to successfully put together “real” Wiener Schnitzel. Give it a try!

- 4 veal cutlets pounded to 1/4 in thickness
- 1/4 c. flour
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. bread crumbs
- 2 eggs
- Lard for frying

After pounding the meat, dredge the cutlet in flour and salt, dip in beaten egg mixture, and roll in bread crumbs. Fry in hot lard 3-4 minutes per side. Remove from pan and place on a plate with lemon slices, potato salad, and/or stuffed eggs, as you see below in the photo. Always prepare fresh and eat immediately. This does not get better the next day!