Fall 2008

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THREE NEW STAFF MEMBERS JOIN CIE

by Michelle Giguere, Study Abroad Program Assistant

One would expect an office with the name Center for International Education to include staff members of varied backgrounds and cultural interests. How true this is at UNH’s own CIE, and I feel so privileged to add my own experiences as a new staff member. I am joined by two other new colleagues this year, Beth Rascoe Kilinc and Ben Cole, who are both incredibly well-versed in international education and relations.

I grew up moving every couple of years, as my dad was in the Coast Guard. From Alaska to Texas to Cape Cod, Massachusetts – we hit numerous military bases around the country. As a UNH student, I spent my four years here working toward an English/Journalism and International Affairs dual degree. Thus, Hood House is a familiar building! While a student, I had the great opportunity to study in Granada, Spain for two semesters. As a 2006 UNH and International Affairs alum, I am extremely excited to be back on campus as the Study Abroad Program Assistant, encouraging other students to expand their views to a more global level and to take advantage of the international opportunities offered by UNH.

Beth, CIE’s Administrative Director for Study Abroad, came to UNH from the Council on International Educational Exchange where she managed international faculty and experiential programs. She has also been the Associate Director of Study Abroad at Northeastern University and the Manager of Programs and Education for Hostelling International. Besides her work experience lending itself well to the CIE office, Beth has traveled, studied and worked in Africa, Asia, Asia-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and South America.

She was drawn to the CIE because “it’s interesting and exciting to be a part of a knowledgeable team that comprises a diverse portfolio of programs.” Beth also found the support for international education by UNH science and technology departments appealing because, she said, this is a rarity among universities. Over the past few months, Beth has been part of the UNH Center for the Humanities’ Ghana initiative, which has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the job so far.

“I am very committed to expanding partnerships between the U.S. and African institutions and increasing opportunities for U.S.
students in Africa,” said Beth, “and I am very excited to be a part of this program.”

Hood House Lecturer Ben Cole is the newest member of the International Affairs faculty, currently teaching IA 401 and 501 this semester. He brings with him two years of study in Japan. Ben received a B.A. and M.A. from UNH in political science and is now working toward a doctorate from George Mason University’s School of Public Policy, researching comparative democratic transition and political participation.

Ben is thoroughly enjoying teaching the IA core classes and advising students participating in the dual major.