

- The annual **VSU Study Abroad Fair** was on Thursday, September 23rd, 2010 from 11:00 am to 3:00pm, Blazers Pedestrian Walkway ([click](#)).
- **VSU Society of International Students (SIS)** took first place in the 2009 Homecoming Parade. For pictures from the Homecoming Parade and other related international education events click [here](#).
- *The International Education Week* at VSU during the week of *November 16 - 20, 2009* was a blast. Hundreds of VSU students took this opportunity to celebrate international education, exchanges, study abroad, global understanding and peace initiatives. CIP is working on a schedule for the 2010 event. For more information on this national forum visit the [dedicated site](#) of the U.S. Department of State. To view country presentations and the SIS interview on campus about international awareness, click [here](#).
- Four VSU students - **Ashley Hartt** (Political Science), **Michael Johnson** (Accounting), **Jenna Mulvey** (Spanish), and **Jay Prosser** (History & French) finished a paid Department of State internships for Summer 2009. Our students worked in different State Department offices in Washington D.C. This is our first program of this kind, and what a wonderful achievement
- **VSU Study Abroad** program in Guadalajara, Mexico won the 2007 [Heiskell Best Practices Award](#) , *organized by the Institute of International Education in New York*. The program, directed by **Dr. Soady**, *Chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages (MCL)*, prepares teachers of Spanish and ESL from the VSU region.
- Valdosta State University's former students **Vincent Mack** (Political Science) and **Kathleen Steffen** (Business) participated in the 2008 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals! They are part of nationally selected group of 75 winners from thousands of applicants. [Read Katie's letters from Europe on our Study Abroad page](#). Currently Kathleen is a **Fulbright** exchange visitor in Mexico!

## People

- **Dr. Oleg Gabrielian**, Dean of Humanities at [Tavridia National and State University N. Vernadsky - Simferopol](#), Ukraine completed his IREX grant with VSU. Dr. James Peterson, Chair of Political Science was the program Coordinator and co-director, jointly with Dr. Ivan Nikolov. The program delivery got the highest marks from IREX, the U.S. national academic exchange organization.
- **Dr. Abdulameer Al-Aasam**, former Dean of Humanities and Professor of Philosophy from the **University of Bagdad, Iraq**, joined the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at VSU in a joint VSU initiative with the U.S. Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund. Dr. Al-Aasam is a prominent Islamic Studies scholar. He will be with us until December of 2010.
- **Dr. Jane Zahner** from the Dewar College of Education finished her teaching as a visiting professor at Ezsterhazy Karoly College in Eger, a VSU partner institution in Hungary . Dr. Zahner has received a lot of local coverage from the Hungarian press. This is a great opportunity to strengthen the bridge between U.S. and Hungarian students and faculty.
- **The Honorable Patrick Faber**, Minister of Education of Belize [and 1998 VSU (*Economics*) graduate], visited Valdosta on July 28 - 30, 2009. Accompanied by Dr. Ivan Nikolov from CIP, he met with

Drs. *Philip Gunter* and *Brian Gerber*, Dewar College of Education, Dr. *Louis Levy*, VPAA, Dr. *Wayne Plumly*, interim Dean of the Langdale College of Business (and Mr. Faber's advisor during his studies at VSU). Mr. Faber met also with Dr. *Mathew Richard* to discuss past and future study abroad programs in Belize. VSU, with the help of the local community and churches has been assisting the educational system of Belize for close to 20 years. The discussions were focused on furthering and expanding of the collaboration with focus on teacher education, professional and community development.