



# CIE NEWS

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A Newsletter for the Center for International Education at Rider University

## International Faculty Highlight: Maria Villalobos-Buehner



I am a World Language, ESL, Bilingual Education and Spanish professor at Rider University from Colombia, South America. I arrived to the United States 16 years ago, and I have been a language teacher for 26 years in different countries such as Colombia, England, and the U.S. I have a master's degree in

Linguistics from England and a Ph.D. in Education from Michigan State University. My research explores issues of language learning motivation and language identity in abroad programs and in regular language classrooms.

My first experience abroad was during a home stay program in Michigan and since then, I have been traveling the world. Study abroad sojourns are valuable experiences in my life because they not only opened a myriad of opportunities at academic and professional levels, but they also took me through a journey of meaningful personal transformation and discoveries. I was able to more clearly explore my identity as a Colombian.

I am a full supporter of abroad experiences and I am always looking for opportunities to be part of new programs. At the moment, I am working on an initiative together with CIE to offer a Spanish 101 course with a week abroad component in Costa Rica. This course will allow the students to learn the language and apply their knowledge in real life scenarios. It will also have a social component during which students will be able to support literacy in a school in San José. I am very excited about this opportunity and I cannot wait to be part of future life transforming events.

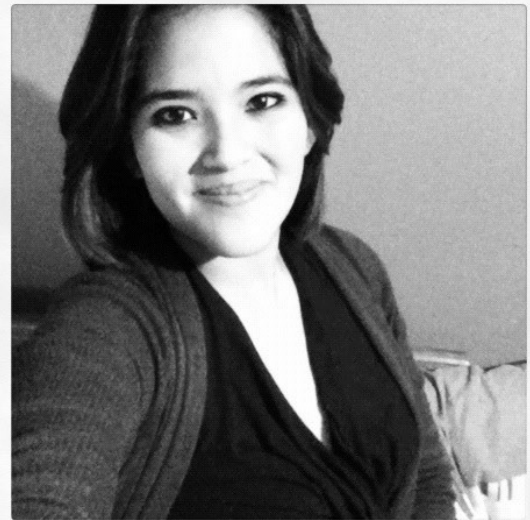
## International Student Highlight: Andrea Salazar – Ecuador

This spring is my second semester at Rider University. Last semester I studied English in the English Language Institute program. I am currently studying voice and opera at Westminster Choir College. It is really exciting.

The best part of studying at Rider is being part of Chapel Choir. Singing with all of the students at the same time while feeling the movement of the music is definitely the best thing that Rider affords me.

Ecuador is a small South American country. The capital of Ecuador is Quito. Here one can find the monument for the equator line, called "La Mitad Del Mundo," which means "The Middle of the World." Quito is bordered by mountains and volcanoes. Sometimes when the sky is cloudless people can see all of the mountains and the volcanoes from their houses.

Ecuador has four regions: The Coast, The Highlands, The East and The Gálapagos Islands. In all of the regions you can find a variety of animals, plants and food. Every region has many beautiful landscapes and some extreme sports if one likes adventures. One of the things that characterizes my country are the various fruits and vegetables that grow there.



## International Student Events

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Feb. 22  | Chinese New Year Festival<br>5 to 8 p.m., Cavalla Room              |
| April 2  | Int'l Student/Alumni Networking Event<br>6:30 to 8:30 p.m., NAB 202 |
| April 15 | International Day   |



## Student Highlight – Milvian Prieto



Traveling to the Galápagos Islands during J-term was probably one of the most unique trips I have ever been on. Being able to travel with four professors who are experts in their field and gain insight from tour guides who have lived on the islands almost all of their lives enhanced my experience in the Galápagos. Each day we

would hike and snorkel in different islands. We stayed in the island of Santa Cruz, but visited Baltra, Santa Fe, South Plazas, North Seymour, Floreana, Santiago and Bartolomé.

Before departing on this trip, course participants had to attend three pre-departure classes in the fall semester which consisted of conducting presentations, learning about eco-tourism, endangered species and wildlife, and the culture. So when it was finally time to visit the Galápagos islands, it was pretty surreal to see everything I had learned in the classroom and be able to experience the islands first-hand.

## Study Abroad Events

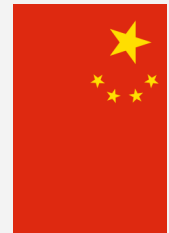
- March 1 Summer Application Deadline
- March 15-22 Service Learning: Dominican Republic
- March 25 Scholarship Session for Fall Students  
Noon to 1 p.m., BLC 14

## CIE has New Programs!



We are proud to announce the addition of three new study abroad programs! Effective summer 2014, we will now be offering study abroad experiences in Cuba and Sweden. We will also have a summer internship program in Shanghai, China.

For more information about our new programs, visit:  
<http://rider.studioabroad.com/>



## Region Highlight – South America



Students interested in studying abroad will find there is plenty to do and see in South America.

The countries of South America are perfect for students looking to spice up their learning experiences. They offer a dynamic culture rich with distinct architecture, cuisine and dance.

From kayaking down the Amazon to skiing the Andes to climbing Machu Picchu, South America provides students with plenty of activities and excursions.

Rider offers programs all over South America, including Argentina, Peru, Chile, Colombia, and Brazil.

### Top 10 Reasons to Study Abroad in South America

1. Travel and eat inexpensively
2. Learn or improve your Spanish
3. Visit the land of the Incas
4. Climb Machu Picchu
5. Kayak the Amazon
6. Ski the Andes
7. Enjoy the warm weather
8. Learn to tango in Argentina
9. Relax on beautiful beaches
10. Experience a real futbol match

