



International Kerner

Center for International Social Work Studies

Written by Abigail Amorim

Student Profile

Mika Fugimoto is a 1st year student from Japan. Her undergraduate study was in American Literature, which she finished in 1999. She decided to come to the U.S. and to the UConn School of Social work to gain knowledge about diverse perspectives within the social work practice. She says: "where I come from is very homogenous" therefore she finds the need to learn about different people and cultures. Her only experience with different ideas and cultures was when she volunteered in Hiroshima at a culture exchange program. Mika says she is enjoying her stay but is struggling to learn new things every day.

Do you know that...

While retaining its time-honored culture, Japan rapidly absorbed Western technology during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After its devastating defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become the second most powerful economy in the world and a staunch ally of the US. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, actual power rests in networks of powerful politicians, bureaucrats, and business executives. The economy experienced a major slowdown in the 1990s following three decades of unprecedented growth (World Fact Book).

Lunch and Learn Series

Is going to show the **Armenia Project Video** on **Tuesday, October 15 at 1:00 P.M.** A Tom Felke's production with interviews by Cari Carter, Ashley Testa and Tom Felke.

Trip to Boston

The UConn Storrs International Center is organizing a trip to Boston on Saturday, November 30th. Bus leaves Storrs at 10:00 A.M and returns at 7:00 P.M. If you are interested, please give your name to Abigail Amorim no later than October 30th.

Here are some International news...

Argentina

The International Monetary Fund is edging closer to a deal on stretching out payments on nearly \$11 billion in loans to **Argentina**, according to officials at the fund as well as in the Argentine government. Argentina's finance minister, Guillermo Nielsen, is scheduled to fly back to Buenos Aires on Friday with the draft of a letter of intent for extending the government's payments.

Brazil

Brazil may have its first president to be a member of the labor party. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the left-wing Workers' Party won twice as many votes as José Serra in the first round of Brazil's presidential election last Sunday. So the logic of numbers would seem simple and irrefutable: Mr. da Silva will coast to victory in the runoff scheduled for Oct. 27. Mr. da Silva, a 56-year-old former labor leader known as **Lula** captivated the Brazilian people with his promises of social justice and equality.

Kenya

Kenya's Leader to Step Down but Not Out. Daniel Arap Moi is one of the last of Africa's big men, the domineering leaders the continent has long been known for, who tend to mix themselves up with the countries they preside over. Even on his personal national holiday, virtually all Kenyans agree that the country Mr. Moi will leave behind is both deeply flawed and inextricably linked to the man who has run it since 1978.

Pakistan

Ehsan Ijaz, a 20-year-old junior at Georgia Tech, explained this afternoon why other members of the Pakistani elite have turned against the United States. While anti-Americanism has long had deep roots here, Western diplomats and Pakistani analysts all insisted that there was no great cause for concern because Pakistan's wealthy elite and urban middle class would never support the country's Islamic religious parties. That changed on Thursday, when residents of Islamabad, with the richest and most well-educated population in Pakistan, backed the local candidate of a coalition of religious parties bent on expelling American forces from Pakistan, ending corruption and imposing Taliban-style Islamic law.

(Texts extracted from the New York Times International News)