Six Degrees of Francis Bacon app wins NEH grant

The Academic Library of the Humanities has recently been awarded a $35,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for the Six Degrees of Francis Bacon project. Developed by Carnegie Mellon University’s Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Six Degrees of Francis Bacon is an app that allows users to explore connections between notable people from the British early modern era.

The app received the Digital Humanities Award of $35,000, which is one of 102 grant awards bestowed by the NEH. With this grant, the already successful network will have the potential to grow even further and become more successful as the grant will hopefully allow more connections to be uncovered.

The app was created by Christopher Warren, an assistant professor in Carnegie Mellon’s English department. Jessica Ooi, a faculty member in Carnegie Mellon’s University Libraries-Research department, and Daniel Shore, an associate professor of English at Georgetown University. They received this award after being selected as the recipient of the NEH Digital Humanities Award for establishing relationships between notable people of the British early modern period.

The project, as it stands, consists of a giant web of names that connect back to Francis Bacon. For example, if you need to know if June Austin knew Martin, the app would show you the acquaintance they had in common and how those people were connected.

Grey and red nodes on the graph represent the roller coaster of who knew who and the blue nodes sprout several connections. The common connections are appostioned to the position of dean in the Mellon College of Science, a role that plays a vital role in the advancement of the Mellon College of Carnegie University. Six Degrees of Francis Bacon’s focus on educating the public about how the social networks of notable people continued throughout the British early modern period.

Dr. Jacobsen, an associate professor in Carnegie Mellon’s statistics department, and others from the department of statistics and others from the documentation department have also contributed. Their contributions allow users to add information to the app in a way that resembles the information that is available on Wikipedia.

The very next day Philando Castile, another black man, was fatally shot in Minneapolis, Minnesota, near the city’s police station. Louisiana as well as sniper attacks that targeted police officers in Dallas, TX. Spanning over the course of the three days, these events have taken the lives of and injured many of those involved.

Aware of the toll this has taken on the country and the world, Carnegie Mellon released a statement over the influence of this event on society and the university’s stance on the surrounding conflict.

“Carnegie Mellon University has invested over recent shoot- ings of several major events, including Alton Sterling, Louisi- na, and Baton Rouge,” the president continued. “Hearts are out to the vic- tims and their loved ones, and all those touched by violence.”

The events of the summer add to the big natures conversations of race tensions and gun violence that have been highly publi- cized recently in the media between black civilians and police officers.

These recent events follow the shootings of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and Eric Garner to name only a few. The names of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, another black man, were recently added to the list after being pulled over by police.

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FEATURE PHOTO
Community donates at blood drive

Carnegie Mellon's football team in action. The team is already beginning to prepare for the upcoming season in the hopes of making and exceeding last year's record.

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar alumna Nada Araki made history again this summer at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 4.

In 2012, as a first-year student, Araki traveled to London and became the first female to represent Qatar, competing in the 50-meter freestyle. This year, returning to show how she could compete in the 100-meter butterfly race, she has officially become the only woman in Qatar’s history to compete in Olympic Games.

According to CMU-Q News Araki was praised and happy “to make history in 2012, but the thing is, she wanted to continue training and competing, while continuing to defend their own record.”

Bruney said in an interview and wrote in CMU-Q News that as soon the competition continues to be perfect, all mistakes could and should be made in the water. The competitions are also good opportunities for Carnegie Mellon to hone their computer security skills in order to become more qualified to reach out to more organizations and institutions in the country’s future.

Carnegie Mellon News third World Series of Hacking competition

This August, Carnegie Mellon’s competitive cyber-security team, the Plaid Parliament of Penning, earned its third title in four years at the “World Series of Hacking,” the DefCon Capture-the-Flag competition.

The team, led by electrical and computer engineering faculty and director of Cyber Security and Privacy Institute, Danny Bui, traveled to Las Vegas, Nev., for the competition Aug. 6-8.

The Plaid Parliament of Penning was just one of 15 teams from around the country to compete at DefCon. At the Capture the Flag competition, teams had to break into each other’s networks, compete against each other, while continuing to defend their own servers.

Bui expressed that the team is excited about their victory and about being able to compete against the best teams in the world. The competition was also a good opportunity for Carnegie Mellon to hone their computer security skills in order to become more qualified to reach out to more organizations and institutions in the country’s future.

Australia plans to close refugee detention center

SYDNEY — On Wednesday, Australia and Papua New Guinea reported an agreement to close an Australian-funded detention center located on Manus Island that currently holds 902 refugee and asylum seekers who attempted to reach Australia by boat. The camp has been criticized by the United Nations Human Rights groups, with reports of rampant abuse and self-harm among detainees, including children.

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At least 12 dead in India from tainted liquor

PONTA — On Wednesday, Police in the eastern Indian state of Bihar reported at least twelve deaths and five illnesses following the consumption of illegally brewed liquor, a common occurrence in India due to the expense of licensed liquor. Chemicals such as methanol are often added to illegally brewed alcohol to increase its potency.

Turkey to release 38,000 prisoners to free jail space

ANKARA — Turkey is releasing dozens of prisoners as part of a bid to ease pressure on the country’s overcrowded prisons. In recent weeks, tens of thousands of people have been released from prison, but 38,000 prisoners remains in jail.

WHO begins vaccinations for yellow fever

DARAJ — In an attempt to prevent the spread of the yellow fever following a spike in the global outbreak, the World Health Organization will begin a massive vaccination campaign this week in the Congo and Angola. Aid groups soon started to vaccinate residents.

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Chinese swimmer discusses her period in interview

BEIJING — On Saturday night at the Olympic Games, Chinese swimmer Fu Yuanhui captured the attention and affection of fans for her candor toward her menstrual cycle. She shared that she was on her period, which could soon spread globally. The virus is transmitted by the same mosquito species responsible for spreading Zika and dengue.

Russia uses military force base for Syria campaign

MOSCOW — On Tuesday, Russia launched an air strike from an airstrip in Syria from an Atlantic plane. The first time the Russian air force launched an air strike against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the move showed Moscow’s growing influence in the Middle East.

The interview went viral and prompted a flood of comments online, with many expressing their support for her openness.

The Tartan • August 19, 2016

Compiled by SARAH GUTEKUNST

81° / 60°

Source: weather.com

55° / 67°

Source: thetartan.org/news

78° / 65°

80° / 57°

86° / 62°

83° / 67°

80° / 57°

WEDNESDAY
SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY

Weather

Corrections & Clarifications

If you would like to submit a correction or clarification, please email The Tartan at news@thetartan.org or call the editor who assigned your inquiry, as well as the date of the issue and the name of the article. We will print the correction or clarification in the most recent issue and publish it online.
Hunt Institute appoints new director

Rebecca Doerge is the new dean of the Mellon College of Sciences.

The University Press

Six Degrees of Francis Bacon app receives NEH grant

Elizabeth Smith

Anthony Bacon

CMU responds to recent shootings

RESPONSE, from A1

The university acknowledged the pain of the victims and their families in a statement released through the university press. "We are deeply saddened by their loss and the loss of human life," the statement read. "This tragedy is a reminder that we must never become complacent about violence or the loss of human life."

The statement also urged the Carnegie Mellon community to come together and support each other. "As we join the nation in support and shock, we can become more conscious of the role of digital tools in our lives," the press release stated. "The use of digital tools by us and others is without question that the future of the university is being shaped by digital tools." The statement also urged the Carnegie Mellon community to come together and support each other.

"As an institution and as a community, Carnegie Mellon does not tolerate violence. We stand together to end violence and work to end the human condition." The Carnegie Mellon statement on recent shootings

"An institution and as a community, Carnegie Mellon does not tolerate violence. We continue to stand for inclusion, compassion and respect. We reassert the belief in the power of bringing together people of all backgrounds and identifications to live and work together to enrich the human condition."
Manufacturing has always been a mainstay in American politics. The reasons politicians love manufacturers are obvious. Manufacturing jobs need to be broadly unionized and tended to pay well with some benefits all without requiring a college degree like many similarly paying jobs do. This made the factory favorably favorably due to the perception that the activity is well-known of families who might otherwise struggle. Furthermore, manufacturing the produces these jobs is in far more expensive than shipping them, so politicians could reliably push for manufacturers to get all sorts of goodies for bringing manufacturing to their district, which in turn made the politicians’ constituents happy.

Manufacturing’s role in the economy, however, is a different story. From the 1950s until recent-ly, manufacturing has been steadily becoming a smaller and smaller part of the American economy. After the 1990 entry of China into the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the 2000-01 recession, American manufacturing took a particularly vicious blow. The 2001 entry of China into the WTO has had an effect on manufacturing even after it had already begun to be affected by outsourcing. Other countries, like Mexico, have taken advantage of the manufacturing in the US with labor costs being far cheaper. China has also enjoyed the opportunity to fill the void left by American manufacturing. And, with manufacturing jobs now making up a smaller part of the American economy, the reason politicians love manufacturers is far more expensive than shipping them, so politicians could reliably push for manufacturers to get all sorts of goodies for bringing manufacturing to their district, which in turn made the politicians’ constituents happy.

With manufacturing seemingly offering nothing to anyone, it’s time politicians turn their focus to our continuously growing service sector. Since no political blood is spilled over the service sector, it’s generally vitiated as a continuous churn of low-paying jobs, but it doesn’t have to be.

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PA automated voter registration bill should be implemented

In this incredibly tense election year, the Pennsylvania Legislature is trying hard to get something done. Pennsylvania is one of the states that the Latino Student Alliance of Pennsylvania has labeled as a key state to influence. Both campaigns are looking at Pennsylvania as a pivotal state. The results of the election will have implications for the future of America, education and the dogma of the Republican National Convention.

The Pennsylvania Legislature is trying to pass a novel idea: an automatic voter registration bill. This bill would require that any person who gets a driver’s license in Pennsylvania, or who gets a state ID, be automatically registered to vote. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation would then send the information to the respective county voter registrars. This would allow the Pennsylvania Legislature to register new voters and remove old voters from the rolls, and would save the state millions of dollars. The Pennsylvania Legislature is trying to pass this bill in time for the November election.

The bill is designed to work in a similar fashion to the automatic voter registration systems used in several other states. If passed, the bill would require that the Department of Transportation send a notice of registration to the county voter registrar for each new person who gets a driver’s license or state ID. The county voter registrar would then send a notice of registration to the person, who would have 30 days to confirm or decline their registration.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation would also be required to send a notice of registration to the county voter registrar for each person who dies or moves out of state. This would help to ensure that the voter rolls are up-to-date and accurate.

The Pennsylvania Legislature is hoping to pass this bill by the end of the year, so that it can be implemented in time for the November election. If passed, the bill would be a major step forward in making voting more accessible and efficient. The Pennsylvania Legislature is hoping that this bill will help to increase voter turnout in Pennsylvania, and that it will make voting more accessible for all Pennsylvanians.
A6 • thetartan.org/scitech The Tartan • August 19, 2016

Brain function follows specific patterns while doing math

Some insects like fire won't sense gravity

Insects known for flying in damaged patterns at high speeds, such as dungbeetles and hoverflies, have to overcome turns with great precision, but scientists have never understood whether or not they can control them. Now, researchers at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom have found how and if these insects are influenced by gravity. Geometrical simulations revealed gravity

Identical twins are far less alike in their genes than fraternal twins

According to a recent study by the National Academy of Sciences, identical twins live longer than fraternal twins, which is the first of its kind to analyze differences between full and fraternal twins for life expectancy. Local au-

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Science + technology

Chemical and physical science explains changes of fireworks

The discovery of fireworks dates back more than 2,000 years. It is thought to have been a byproduct of two groundbreaking discoveries: the use of gunpowder, which we know today as dynamite, and in China. It is hypothesized that a cook accidentally mixed together charcoal, gunpowder and saltpeter, creating the first explosive powder. When this powder was injected into a bamboo shoot and tossed in a fire, the pressure inside the tube caused the bamboo shoot to burst open, causing the shower of color.

From this we can see that the discovery of fireworks involved creative thinking. The researchers recently published a new report in Psychological and Cognitive Sciences by the Na-

3D molecules are formed from new and improved way

Researches at the Depart-

Eating turns off nausea and anxiety

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology andvozung are developing a解散 type of "display" for molecules that have new and scales-sensitive attributes of molecules that have been difficult to describe. This new display can provide information about molecules that were not possible to characterize before. This model is useful for studying the molecules inside what are called protein frameworks, or "MOFs." The researchers introduced new molecules that were chemi-

Created a new and unique form of light

The researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology andvozung have created a new and unique form of light, which is a light display that can help reveal structural details about molecules. This new display can be used to look at the shapes of molecules in the middle of the brain, and understand its function.

New species of fish within human reach

After spending decades in a remote region of the southwestern United States, historic documents have identified a new species of fish, A. vanderbilti, which has been on the endangered species list since 1967.

Stanford researchers use supercomputer to find poor areas

A team of researchers at Stanford University used a supercomputer to identify the areas of the world that are most in need of 

Using a new method to create a new form of light, the researchers have created a new and unique form of light, which is a light display that can help reveal structural details about molecules. This new display can be used to look at the shapes of molecules in the middle of the brain, and understand its function.
The Carnegie Mellon football team entered last season with high spirits, winning their first ten regular season games.

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The American basketball teams have dominated the Olympics throughout most of their history. This hegemony can be explained by two main factors. First, it is due to the better and bigger league in America, the National Basketball Association (NBA). This league is the most successful and important in the world, providing a platform for the best players from the United States and around the world. Second, it is because of the high level of competition within the league. The NBA has a salary cap and a draft system that ensures a level playing field, which makes it difficult for teams from other countries to compete with the NBA. As a result, the American teams have a significant advantage in terms of the talent and experience they bring to the table. The players who play in the NBA are usually the best players in the world, and they bring that level of talent to the Olympic games. Therefore, it is no surprise that the American teams have consistently performed well in the Olympic basketball tournaments.
Tales from Abroad — Rio

A Letter from the HOCs

CMU Survival Guide

08.19.16 Volume 111, Issue 1
3  CMU Survival Guide
An honest and thorough look at what there is to come.

6  Letters from the HOCs
Each head orientation counselor thinks back to their own orientation experiences.

4  Tales from Rio
An Olympic spectator tells about her experiences with expectations and reality.

5  Tales from Canada
A composer studying abroad gets inspired by diversity and natural beauty.

8  Tales from SoCal
An intern reflects on the differences in pace between east and west coast.

9  Comics
Bring a little light to your life.

11  Orientation Highlights
All orientation events are not created equal. Get the scoop on the best ones.
Orientation Week is a ton of fun, but don’t let it fool you into thinking that Carnegie Mellon is always this great. Things can get busy. Very very busy. When the work hits, you’ve got to be prepared to be running from class to meetings to the library and back to class with barely enough time to breathe. Most of the people here are amazing — passionate and ambitious yet warm and helpful. But I guarantee you’ll meet at least one selfish schmuck who’ll drive you nuts or let you down at the worst possible time. The majority of your professors and classes will be so amazing as to inspire you to do better than you ever thought possible. That said, no work in the world is fun at three in the morning when you’re running on four hours of sleep.

I’ve made more than my fair share of mistakes in my three years here so far. Here are a bunch of suggestions that can help you survive and thrive in the parts of Carnegie Mellon you read about in admissions brochures, as well as the dark underbelly you want to, but will never quite be able to avoid. Some of the suggestions listed below are what you might call typical college advice, and some of them are decidedly more Carnegie Mellon specific.

1. Learn to slowly let go: High School is over. Like everyone else here, you’ve left a ton behind to come here — whether that is your parents, your closest friends, or a significant other you’re hoping to keep things going with (good luck with that). Deal with it. Don’t forget about them, but acknowledge that they now all belong in a compartment in your mind. You have got to make space for new things. New people and new priorities. Get out and talk to everyone you can — men, women, athletes, nerds and artists. I guarantee you’ll find at least one person you’ll be surprised you met along with.

2. Friday nights: Frat parties are great, but most of the time there are way cooler things to do with your time. Go out on the town. Pittsburgh is an amazing city with a ton of stuff to do. Downtown Pittsburgh in particular is absolutely stunning at night. Go for long long walks around campus and the general area. Find a favorite spot. You’ll find yourself repeatedly returning to it in your next four or five years here. A personal favorite of mine is Panther Hollow — a little forest with trails and a lake just five minutes from campus. At night, the place is pitch dark, pretty scary and probably even a little dangerous. Carry a torch, and I don’t mean the one that comes in an app on your phone.

3. Food & Beverage: You’ve probably heard this a bunch of times already, but I’m going to repeat it again. Get off the meal plan as soon as you can. Off campus food is, as a thumb rule, cheaper, healthier and tastier than on campus stuff. Craig Street in particular should be your best friend. If you go to Sushi Fuku, be sure to ask Jose to make you a ‘Salmon on the Beach’. It isn’t on the menu, but he’ll know what you’re talking about! Sunday brunch should, by law, be at Crepes Parisienne. The place’s crepes and croissants are to die for. Also while on campus food may not be too great, on campus coffee is a surprising exception. La Prima Espresso, on the 5th floor of Wean Hall, makes the best Cappuccinos and Mochas that I have ever had. Tazza D’Oro on the 3rd floor of the Gates Hillman Centre isn’t too bad either.

4. Find yourself: College isn’t so much about figuring out what you want to be as it is figuring out who you want to be. Be spontaneous. Take risks that you wouldn’t dare take if you still lived with your folks. This could be taking a class in Middle Eastern History because why not, or it could be an impromptu road trip in a rental car to a place you’ve never even heard of. It is only when you step outside your comfort zone that you can learn new things about yourself.

5. Take it easy: This, in my opinion, is the hardest thing to do at Carnegie Mellon. Everyone is always in such a hurry and everyone is always so focused on their priorities that it becomes easy to forget that college is anything more than a resume building exercise. It is important to have a goal and move towards it. But don’t put on a pair of blinders and look so far straight ahead that you’re not willing to risk a sideward glance and appreciate where you are.

6. Keep it local: Whatever you want to do, whether its just visit the roofs, or some underage drinking, or even a little bit of pot, you’re probably much safer doing it on campus. Your RAs, housefellows and even Carnegie Mellon police will usually be much more tolerant and understanding than the Pittsburgh cops. Downtown, I’ve heard of people getting taken to lockup and shut away for carrying a fake ID. Closer to campus, you’re likely to get a citation at worst.

7. Don’t get caught.

| Abhishek Tayal | Pillbox Editor |

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**Advice for awkward people**

**About breaking down barriers**

**Dear Sarah,**

I’m an incoming first-year and I’m anxious about a lot of things, but what really frightens me are certain invasions of privacy that come with group living.

I don’t like the idea of breathing the same air as another person while I poop. Feeling my most vulnerable, skivies around my ankles, and separated by another human at their most vulnerable by a short wall. I can’t plan what kind of noises and smells they’ll be subjected to, and that just makes me feel impolite.

It’s not like I can just stop pooping because I will never stop eating Chipotle, but I don’t know how to get over my fears.

I’ve heard stories about “poop stalemates” where two people try to poop at the same time, both trying to wait the other out to poop in peace. This sounds like a nightmare, and I don’t want to leave something so important to my happiness up to a game of nerve.

I’m very attached to my morning routine — poop, shower, brush teeth, poop, rinse, get dressed, do make-up, eat breakfast. Without it the whole day won’t feel right.

**How do I poop in college?**

Anxiously,

Seriously, Please Help

Happy pooping,

Sarah Gutekunst

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**Dear SPHINCTER,**

This is a concern I too, had as a first-year student, clinging to my modesty. But fear not, because there is hope. There are ways to make this dilemma easier to face.

I became well-known on my floor for my “poop bag,” that I kept stocked with flushable wipes and a can of Febreeze. Going in equipped with more creature comforts can make being a creature more comfortable.

Plus, stalls aren’t the only option, depending on how far you’re willing to walk. Many of the dorm lobbies have one-room bathrooms that you can lock up and shut away from the world.

And on campus during the day, there are a few one-room spots I prefer, and I’ll let you in on my secret: the third floor of Baker Hall at the top of the spiral, the fourth floor of Gates down the hallways next to Rashid auditorium, and the third floor of the Cohon auditorium next to the elevator.

But truly, when it comes down to it, you can’t keep screening nature’s calls or you’ll have to call the doctor. This is part of being human and the sooner you get comfortable with it, the better life is.
It’s 7 a.m., and you are standing on the terrace of the nicest apartment you have ever, or probably will ever, be in — all big windows and white leather and glass. You are looking out over the sprawling city of Rio de Janeiro below you, the mountains dramatically rising up beyond the buildings, and the beautiful beach and ocean sweeping out to your left. You don’t think you’ve ever seen a city so breathtaking before.

It’s 12 p.m., and you are standing next to an open sewer in the heart of Rocinha, the largest favela in Brazil, looking at the houses that have been built directly over the sewer on stilts, accepting the stench as the price for finding a bit of open ground to build on. Your guide, Alberto, has lived in the favela for 50 years and seems to genuinely love the place. Turning somber, he says, “What you can’t see are the rats, this is hell.”

It’s 8 p.m., and you are sitting in Maracanã Stadium, waiting for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony to start. The lights of the stadium go out, and are replaced by thousands of cellphone lights that seem to fill the stands with stars. The music starts, and billions of people across the globe turn their eyes to Rio.

These are moments from my first day at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro this summer. A family friend, Kat Holmes, qualified as an épée fencer for the U.S. Olympic team. Excited and proud, my family rushed to get tickets for the games so we could support her achievement. When we arrived in Rio, we found a kaleidoscopic city that was almost impossible to make sense of and was made even more unfathomable by the Olympics.

Before heading to the Olympics, I knew a few things about Rio. I knew that Rio had a huge problem with income inequality, witnessed by the gorgeous high-rise apartments along the beaches and desperately poor favelas clinging to the surrounding hills. I knew that crime, corruption, and political instability in the city had the Olympic committee on edge, wondering if these problems would affect the games. And I knew that almost everyone I mentioned the trip to made some sort of quip about stocking up on bug spray to combat Zika.

Most of these things turned out to be true, to some extent. (Except for the comments about Zika. I didn’t see a single mosquito the whole time I was there, and gave up on the bug spray two days in.) However, all of these aspects of the city were infinitely more layered and complicated than how they were portrayed to me back in the U.S. For example, I had heard that the favelas are slums that are wracked with violence and whose inhabitants live in fear of the drug lords that control them. When Alberto showed us around Rocinha I saw a vibrant, close knit, desperately poor community that was hardworking, hopeful, and friendly, yet distrustful of outsiders, and most surprising of all, that trusted the drug lords more with their protection than the police.

Even when I was in Rio, I continued to experience this strange dissonance with what I heard from friends and the media at home in the states and what I was experiencing on the ground. I saw countless posts and articles about how unprepared Rio was for the Olympics, how shoddy the construction was, how tense and difficult it was to set up the games due to the current political climate, how the International Olympic Committee was doubting the ability of developing countries to host future Olympic games because of how much of a disaster Rio had been.

For my part, I saw a city full of people facing enormous difficulties in the form of economic recession and political corruption who had decided to put aside their struggles for a few weeks to host the games as beautifully as they could. They did not let the Olympics distract or divert them from their fight to root out political corruption, but decided to go back to it after the games so they as a city could come together and put their best foot forward. Sure, the Rio games were not as shiny and perfect as a games hosted by a more prosperous nation, but that begs the question, should they have to be? The people of Rio made enormous sacrifices to host the games, but despite these costs they greeted the games with an electric energy that made these Olympics truly one of a kind.

In the end, the truth of these situations is probably somewhere in between what I saw during my time there and what is widely known and reported in the United States. After all, I was only in Rio for two weeks, and it is a city that would take decades to understand. Still, my trip to Rio taught me to consume information about other countries with a more critical eye. The depictions we find in the newspaper are a mere shadow of the reality, and the truth is more complicated, confusing, vibrant, and simply more beautiful than we expect.

Sinead Foley | Forum Editor
Tales from abroad: Composing in Canada

Exposure to different people and ideas in Montreal expands composer’s creative potential

Canadians:

“Yeah, I wasn’t really too sure what to expect, but I was surprised, you and the other Americans are so nice and normal!”

Me:

“Ummm, thank you? Hahaha”

That was on day three of my time in Montreal. Well, not in Montreal, but about an hour outside at the Orford Music Center in Orford National Park. I was there for a music composition festival for two weeks with a population of students from around Canada, France, and America. In total I spent 30 hours in Montreal itself (including my hour and a half trek trying to find the Gare d’autocars to catch my bus to Orford on the first day. Oh, and I got on the wrong bus).

Montreal itself was fantastic! This city is one of the most beautiful, dynamic, and culturally rich cities I have been to and I will definitely be coming back (maybe for the Université de Montréal) even with the 9-months of complete ice age. But my most impactful experiences were in the middle of the Quebec forest-land with all of these people I had barely just met.

My roommate and I were the youngest composers there; we are both twenty, but he is six days older. We think we got put together because we were the two young composer dudes with long hair so they thought we’d get along. They were right. And I think it was only about 30 percent the hair. He was from Alberta, but goes to school at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. Apparently, Winnipeg is a very cool trendy city. I had no idea. I had to have one of the other composers explain to me what the differences between Saskatchewan and Manitoba were. He’s from Saskatchewan, but apparently there’s pretty much nothing there. Quite a few composers were from Montreal, one from British Columbia, one from Toronto, one from New York, one from Iran, one from Taiwan, and others.

The composers would all eat together in packs and chill in the pub, “Le Garage” (it was in fact a garage), in between running off to practice rooms to work out some sections of pieces they were frantically trying to finish. However, from the beginning I was of the mindset that I was there to make as much music and learn as much as I possibly could, not to make friends. Besides meals and seminars, I isolated myself to work. And work. And work. But somehow I noticed I was slowly being absorbed into this tight-knit group; all the composers would sit together at meals and concerts or to write music (or to watch X-Files, which the Canadians were weirdly in to). As I progressed through my cycles of inspiration and crippling self-doubt of music writing, I found that I was, in fact, making friends, even though I had specifically planned to avoid that. It was unfortunate for that original plan that all these people turned out to be really interesting and inspiring and challenging and irresistible as friends. We watched the shooting stars in a meadow in the forest, sung Karaoke of ABBA and Queen at “Le Garage,” ping ponged with the professors, and celebrated hard after the concert we had all been working for. As we were studying everyone’s music I found myself understanding more about what it meant to be human; and as we were hanging out I found myself understanding more about what it meant to make music.

When I told the Canadians that I was writing an article about my travels to the exotic land of Canada they instantly began suggesting that I had to tell everyone about how they all ride polar bears to get places and only eat mooseflesh for every meal, I mean, that and poutine and maple syrup. Well, actually, the last two are pretty accurate: we were given a pitcher of maple syrup with every meal. A pitcher! And every fast food shop served poutine (it’s fries with cheese curds and gravy and it’s fantastic). Instead, I decided to write about what I learned from all these different personalities and varying cultural experiences about what it meant to be a composer (and sometimes being a composer means being attacked by moose if you’re Canadian).

My last day in Orford national park it was raining, but I had decided at the beginning of my weeks there that I would climb up Mont Orford once I was finally done with all the hours and existential self-doubt of the music and workshops and seminars and concerts and feedback sessions. It wasn’t just raining, it was pouring. And I also didn’t have a car. And the base of the mountain was seven miles away.

I rented a bike and trekked up the winding road to the mountain base and began the journey up the mountain already soaked. As I reached the top, emerging through the clouds of fog, I stood there in the damp grass barefoot and shirtless in the rain.

After all was said and done, I was here overlooking the grey and green landscape in this moment and I thought. I had grown immensely as a composer and had made friends with all of these French speaking, polar bear riding, maple drinking Canadians and was thrilled to see what music everyone would make next. And hopefully I’d be returning to this moose filled tundra in the near future to see more amazing works by all these new-found friends and colleagues.

Teddy Teichman | Photo Editor

The view from the top of Mount Orford, after a rainy bike ride through the self.
Head Orientation Counselors welcome first years with fond memories.

The following are excerpts from letters written by each of the Head Orientation Counselors describing what orientation week means to them. They range from informative and exciting to deeply personal and heart warming and all offer insight into the best part of orientation week.

Orientation was the first thing that opened me and integrated me into this school and city. Orientation made me feel comfortable and it introduced me to friends I would hold close throughout my time here. I hope this year’s orientation week can do the same for all of you! You will be challenged both socially and academically, meet many people from different cultures and backgrounds, and create memories that will last for the rest of your life. Get excited for orientation!

Keep your hearts and minds open to new and unfamiliar situations. Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone once in a while. You never know what interesting opportunities await you.

Mya Snyder — Morewood E-Tower

Orientation was the first thing that opened me up and integrated me into this school and city. Orientation made me feel comfortable and it introduced me to friends I would hold close throughout my time here. I hope this year’s orientation week can do the same for all of you! You will be challenged both socially and academically, meet many people from different cultures and backgrounds, and create memories that will last for the rest of your life. Get excited for orientation!

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David Ott — Stever House

If you’re feeling a bit scared about life away from home, I can tell you that I was feeling the exact same way four years ago. I was a nervous wreck coming to college. I was terrified of never finding friends, never fitting in, never finding a major I was passionate about, and almost everything else that comes with going away to college. However, I can honestly say that buying into orientation was the best decision I made. Putting myself out there and being myself openly in front of everyone I met that week helped me learn to never underestimate the importance and the great reward that comes with allowing everyone who I was. Carnegie Mellon is a beautifully diverse place, and coming here with an open mind will take you farther than you could imagine. Be open-minded with yourself and everyone you meet in order to get the most out of your orientation and college experiences.

Mia Snyder — Morewood E-Tower

Carnegie Mellon is a place where you can challenge yourself in so many ways. Not only do we have world-class academic programs, we are surrounded by a community of different people with different interests who are all heading down different paths, but we have one thing in common: that university. We (including you!) students have the freedom to pursue our passions and discover what really gets us excited about life alongside some truly amazing classmates. For me, one of those passions has been Orientation, so I cannot wait for you to all experience it with me.

As someone who has dedicated more time and heart to Orientation than any other program on campus, I would like to tell you that it is a time of self-discovery and clarity. If you truly allow yourself to step out of your comfort zone, you are going to meet so many new people and I can assure you that you will be inspired by the unparalleled passion of your peers. Orientation gave me the feeling of support and community that has driven me to make the most of my time here at Carnegie Mellon. I hope you will allow it to do that for you as well.

Josh Zaki — Residence on Fifth

So here you are, fresh-faced and bouncy-tailed — and unsure, no doubt — ready to embark on a journey that no one, maybe not even you, knows where it leads. But if I may allow you to give you some tips for the road ahead that I wish I had when I began my adventure. One, be fearless. You’ll hear it over and over again, but college is a time when you should be tearing down walls, not putting them up; college is a time when your comfort zone triples and quadruples in size; college is a time when you realize the full potential of what living in this world means, so embrace the challenge and push yourself to explore and experience. Two, don’t forget the details. Put your heart, mind, and soul into even the smallest acts. It’s those small acts that remind us why it’s important to stay healthy, be happy and reach for success. And third, laugh. Every day. Take pride in what you do and where you are and never forget that a smile is one of the most powerful gestures. It can provide comfort, deal forgiveness, lift spirits, and start relationships.

But perhaps most importantly, prepare yourself for a whirlwind first week at Carnegie Mellon. Orientation is the launch pad for all your college careers, and, no make mistakes, by the end of this week you will all be ready to lift off.

Nikhil Nakkiran — Residence on the Hill

I grew up about 45 minutes away from Carnegie Mellon, which made it seem like moving a relatively short distance wouldn’t be a big change. However, leaving home is leaving home no matter how short or long the distance, so it’s a huge adjustment for everyone. My fears began to ease after my first night of Orientation as I started to feel comfortable in my new “home,” and the week turned out to be one of my most defining Carnegie Mellon experiences.

Orientation is the perfect environment to take a first step out of your comfort zone and become part of the unique and very welcoming Carnegie Mellon community!

Laurel Beatty — Mudge House

I remember when I first moved in and all of the anxiety I had about what college would bring for me. I was nervous that I would be too far away from home, or that I would be overwhelmed with everything. I was worried that my transition to college wouldn’t be smooth, and I wasn’t even sure if Carnegie Mellon was the right school for me. Although I had all those apprehensions, I quickly learned that almost everyone else had similar feelings, and that I was not alone in my thoughts. I even became a part of an incredible campus community that reached me out in just the same as I valued it. Through all of the people that I interacted with and experienced that I had during Orientation and my first year here, I realized that I had developed an amazing support system and network that I hold on my campus and in my city.

Niko Tresca — Residence on the Hill

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Nikhil Nakkiran — Residence on the Hill
I landed at LAX all alone three months ago with way too little planning, way too much stuff, and no idea what to expect. I was more nervous than I ever remember being — going into my first ‘real’ job in a city I knew nothing about and staying with people I had never met before. I remember waiting fifteen minutes for my Uber to navigate the moronathon that is LAX traffic and trying to keep all the things that could possibly go wrong out of my mind. In the end, nothing went wrong. Instead, I think I had the coolest, most enlightening, and most downright crazy summer of my life.

I stayed and worked in Irvine, a small city just outside LA with perfect, wide roads, gleaming towers, and an almost creepy standard of cleanliness and organization. Eventually, I found out that a private company, creatively named Irvine Company, owns most of the city and keeps everything in perfect shape so that they can charge their tenants astronomical rents. This is all the more jarring when contrasted with the rest of SoCal — wild and messy, but with a swagger that brings a certain charm to the chaos.

At first glance, it can seem like everything is king size in SoCal. The malls are so big it can take thirty minutes to walk from corner to corner. The distances between places are so vast you can forget about walking or cycling anywhere. Pretty much everyone I met had a car and spent around an hour in it everyday. Speaking of people, everyone works out a lot, eats even more, and perfect bodies (much to my chagrin) are more the norm than the exception.

And yet, the greatest pleasures are had in the little things that you find. I visited more beaches, bars, and bowling alleys in my two and a half months in SoCal than I have in my time at college so far — and the best ones were tucked away in little corners, only discoverable by recommendation. The really interesting bars are dark, tiny, noisy, and with the kind of live blues music that makes you want to dance on the tables. As for the beaches, there are plenty of iconic beaches in the region, from Venice to Santa Monica to Newport. But the truly great ones, with perfect white sand, clear blue water and waves that are just high enough to be fun yet safe, are less well known. A personal favorite was Crescent Bay. It is a little out of the way, but if you happen to visit the area, I couldn’t recommend it enough.

I was surprised by how different the ‘west coast’ mindset can be from Pittsburgh and New York, the two U.S. cities that I’ve spent time in. There really is no other way to say it, people are just more fun in SoCal. There’s a certain spontaneity in the air that makes everyone more suggestible to the sort of crazy ideas that become the stuff of memories. This one Sunday night, a bunch of friends and I decided to sample every In-N-Out Burger in a fifteen mile radius to gauge the ‘consistency of their offerings.’ I got home eight burgers and five thousand calories later at 2 a.m. I regretted it the next day at work, but I haven’t regretted it since.

Another weekend that really stands out is this one time a bunch of us decided to go camping and trekking at Ortega Oaks, a forest about a hundred miles outside the city. For most of us it was our first time camping, and what ensued was a comedy of errors that somehow managed to come together into an incredible adventure. The first day that we went trekking, we thoroughly underestimated the amount of water a twelve mile trek through the arid California wilderness requires. As a result, we ran out when we had about eight miles left on our way back. By the time we got back to our campsite, I was so exhausted and dehydrated I must’ve taken about a gallon of water from a stream nearby. Later that evening, we did the most cliched campsite activity of all — lit a fire and sat around making s’mores and telling horror stories. That night, I slept on a hammock for the first time in my life. It was uncomfortable and noisy, and I didn’t sleep much. But the view was absolutely worth it. The night sky, as seen from the forest, away from all the pollution, is a sight to behold. The night was cloudless and it seemed like every star in the galaxy was fighting for my attention, if only to remind me of all of our insignificance in the universe.

Leaving all this last week was much more difficult than I would have ever expected it to be. The friends I made, the things I did, and the places I visited have changed me for good and for the better. You can take me out of SoCal, but I doubt you’ll ever take the SoCal out of me.

Abhishek Tayal | Pillbox Editor

The beautiful white sand of Crescent Bay, Laguna Beach, Calif. is second only to the crystal blue waters, and a must for a SoCal soujourn.
Hey, do you have any important goals for the future?

I think about it a lot.

Do you have... BETTER goals?

to become a fisherman!

so I could catch salmon, then use them as bait for a bear, then punch it right in the face!

or to hold the world record for the most consecutive bears punched in their stupid faces

hours later:
or to eat a REALLY good sandwich
Orientation and Semester Highlights

Monday 8/22/16

Community Collage.
Baker Lawn Tent. 4-5:30 p.m.
This event will open your eyes to all the diversity that Carnegie Mellon has to offer. You’ll hear from students of all cultural and academic backgrounds, and you won’t believe the kind of talent you’ll be sharing a campus with for the next four years. It will encourage you to reflect on your personal experiences and aspirations.

Playfair.
The Cut. 8-10 p.m.
Don’t forget to wear your Class of 2020+ t-shirt for this unforgettable welcome event. The night will begin with the biggest, best Facebook cover photo you’ve ever had. Then you’ll get to know your classmates better than you could imagine. Leave your inhibitions in your dorm room and get ready to move.

Tuesday 8/23/16

Greek Gala.
Kir Commons, Rangos, McKenna Peter Wright Room, Cohon Center. 10 p.m.-midnight.
If you’ve ever considered Greek life, get all your questions answered by members of all of Carnegie Mellon’s Greek organizations. Also enjoy free food, entertainment, and giveaways. This is a great opportunity to try new things and meet new people.

Thursday 8/25/16

Convocation.
Baker Lawn Tent. 5 p.m.
Convocation is your first official welcome into the Carnegie Mellon academic community. You get to dress up and line up with the other students in your college, hear inspiring words from President Suresh and members of the community, and show off your college pride. Convocation is an important symbolic event that you will look back on fondly during your years as a Tartan.

Friday 8/26/16

PACE Orientation Day of Service: Make an Impact.
Wiegand Gym, Cohon Center. 8 a.m.-noon.
Get up early for a good cause! Join student organization Partners Allied in Civic Engagement (PACE) for an opportunity to give back to your new community. Bring sensible shoes, long pants, a water bottle, and a positive attitude, and get ready to be assigned to anything from neighborhood clean-up to stuffing education packets.
On top of the reward of giving back, it will be a great opportunity to bond with team members and see more of the city.

Understanding Campus Dining and Your Meal Plan.
Danforth Conference Room. 3:30-4:30 p.m.
One of the most confusing parts of the first year experience is figuring out how your meal plan works. Take the mystery out of it. Learn where to get your meals and snacks, and get the scoop on how to eat nutritiously on campus.

House Wars.
The Cut. 7:30-9:30 p.m.
House wars will be the pinnacle of your orientation experience. Compete for absolute, unconditional, unending dorm pride in a series of reasonably difficult team events. Let your competitive side shine, wear your colors, and get ready to fight for your honor.

Saturday 8/27/16

Multicultural Barbecue.
Merson Courtyard, Cohon Center. 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Learn about Carnegie Mellon’s multicultural organizations and enjoy free food and tunes. Representatives from the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), SPIRIT, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Spanish and Latin American Student Association (SALSA), The Omicron Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Black Graduate Student Organization (BGSO), Latin Graduate Student Association (LGSA) and various other groups will all be in attendance.

First-Year Showcase.
Baker Lawn Tent. 8:30-10 p.m.
After rounds of auditions and rehearsals, show support for your classmates and their individual talents. It will be a great opportunity to appreciate the talent in your class and guess who’ll one day have a star in front of Purnell. The showcase will be followed by a slideshow of presentation of photos from the week.

Compiled by Sarah Gutekunst | Publisher
Want your event here?
Email calendar@thetartan.org.
Head orientation counselors gathered to post a selfie for Facebook to express their anticipation of move-in day. Pictured above from left to right from the back are: David Ott, Nikhil Nilakantan, Josh Zak, Evans Hauser, Laurel Beatty, Niko Torres, and Mya Snyder.