

# New group of international students enjoying their studies

by Edith Marly Pereda

For the second consecutive year, Cape Cod Community College welcomes eight international students. This year the students are from Egypt, South Africa, Ghana, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

There are five men and three women. Hesham Abdel-Hay, Abdelrahman Abdelaziz, Mina Basily Erian and Hend Elkordy are from Egypt. Douglas Alvarado is from El Salvador, Anthony Gutierrez is from Costa Rica, Mercy Mtoko is from South Africa, and Mildred Quaye is from Ghana.

On Oct. 21, during the activity hour on campus from 1-2 p.m., there will be a "Meet the New International Students" pizza party in the Upper Commons. The students will give short 5 minute presentations about their countries and there will be pizza and drinks for all students, faculty and staff who would like to attend. This year the team is motivated and eager to learn about our culture and to share their cultures with us.

Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) is in partnership with the U.S Department of State and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is a program dedicated to building global relationships that strengthen educational programs and promote development.

The students arrived Aug. 6, and they will be here for one year studying in the field of hospitality. Thanks to CCID, these students are enjoying many benefits that the CCCC campus has to offer to them. They have enjoyed field trips to Boston, Plymouth Plantation, the Barnstable Country Courthouse, the Cape Cod Museum of National History, a Whale Watch and a trip to the National Seashore. Their experiences will strengthen cultural ties and enrich their perspectives for the future.

This year approximately 5000 students applied for the scholarship and only 400 were chosen. They have been placed in community colleges around the U.S.

Hend Elkordy is a 23-year old Egyptian student. Her goal is become a Hotel Manager when she goes back home. She expects this experience will be "an amazing advance to my future". She is excited to learn English.

"To be here was a big challenge to me,

learning English will give me better skills to be more competitive, and I think am doing very good," said Elkordy.

Dean Lore Loftfield Debower is the liaison between CCCC and the CCID Program, and ESL Professor Martha Holden is the Project Coordinator.

Holden emphasized the great opportunity which this program offers the students to realize their dream of pursuing their studies abroad.

"This experience will enrich their vocational training for the future as well as enrich our campus while they are here. The college is fortunate to have a grant in place to support the students while they are here," she said.

"I miss my family so much, but I am happy," said Mildred Quaye. "Here I have met new friends, and I am busy all the time. I have to do many things at the college. When I go back home I would like to do something for my country."

"Maybe I will share my experiences with other young students in Ghana," said Quaye, who speaks six different languages and dialects from her country.

"I feel I am performing my English and meeting people from many cultures. It is very exciting for me. I will have better opportunities for myself when I go back home. My career is in Tourism Management and my English knowledge are going to help me to be better able to meet these new challenges," said Anthony Gutierrez.

For these students the experience of living with people of different cultures proves to be interesting.

"Learning to live together is something new to me and sometimes it is not easy because of our different customs. But I am enjoying it. When I go back home I would like to become a business woman, and the English that I am learning is going to help to me to be very successful," said Mercy Mtoko, who also speaks three languages.

The CCID main objective is that when the students return home they will have new friends from around the world, and an understanding of US culture, a new knowledge and new skills in their field of study, the ability to improve their home communities and, a better understanding of themselves and their culture.

# Mid-semester guitar class offered to all CCCC students

by Britni Ketchen

The Cape Cod Community College music department will be offering a mid-semester Guitar II course taught by Professor Jerry Skelley.

Guitar II meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 to 11:50 a.m. The class starts on Oct. 9 and runs until Dec. 23.

"It is a continuation of Guitar I or with permission of instructor," said Skelley.

The CCCC catalog describes MUS 124-01 Guitar II as follows: This continuation of Beginning Guitar course involves study, rehearsal and performance of music in a class of up to 12 guitars. Emphasis is placed on expanding the students' abilities to read and perform for standard musical notation in treble clef and chord symbols. Repertoire varies from one semester to the next. Performances on campus are part of

class activities. Students are expected to provide their own instrument.

"We plan on having a public performance at the end of the semester," said Skelley.

Guitar II is a one credit class which teaches songs from the class text and other outside music.

"We incorporate some popular or well known tunes such as 'Mission Impossible'," said Skelley. "We want it to be fun."

Students interested in registering for this class can do so by calling the CCCC registration office at ext. 4711. Additional information can be found on the campus website, [www.capecod.edu](http://www.capecod.edu) or by contacting Professor Skelley at [jskelley@capecod.edu](mailto:jskelley@capecod.edu).



NESPI members: top— Bill Martin, Mike Medeiros. Bottom— Mike Astin, Colleen Quinn-Beltramini

# Paranormal experts to give presentation before Halloween

by Nathaniel Manni

On Friday, Oct. 30 the New England Society of Paranormal Investigators will be hosting a presentation titled "Voices From Beyond" at the Cape Cod Community College Tilden Arts Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The presentation will cover various aspects of paranormal investigation such as basic terminology and the investigation process.

The NESPI is a non-profit organization that travels around New England investigating reports of paranormal activity. These locations include both historical landmarks and private residences.

"We basically go in and debunk any type of haunting," said Mike Medeiros, NESPI vice president.

NESPI was started about two years ago by Extreme Audio owner Mike Astin and Medeiros. The events that led up to the creation of NESPI are as chilling as some of the audio and video clips on their website. One Halloween, Astin and Medeiros decided to go looking for a haunted house to check out. They ended up choosing the notorious Foxboro State Hospital, well known for being haunted. After traveling around the town for some time trying to find directions to the hospital, they eventually found someone who was willing to point them in the right direction. Once there, the two were able to talk a guard into showing them around, and as they were walking through the site, they heard whispering and doors slamming. Although interesting to them, it proved too much for the security guard, who quickly ended the tour. Since then Astin and Medeiros have turned their curiosity into a thriving non-profit organization that conducts two or three investigations per month.

The process for investigating a haunting begins in one of two ways. Either someone contacts NESPI, requesting them to investigate a potential haunting, or they choose a historical location that is rumored to be haunted. Once this has happened, the case manager, Colleen Quinn-Beltramini, will conduct a preliminary interview, and based upon her findings, will inform the rest of the group about the situation. NESPI will then go to the location, and begin to set up shop.

The primary method for detecting paranormal activity is through Electronic Voice Phenomenon, also known as EVP.

"I would say 75-80% of our investigation do turn up EVP's," Medeiros said.

"The rest we are usually able to debunk. Most residential homes we end up debunking and helping the home owners overcome the issues they are having." Although the EVP method is the most effective means of detection, both cameras and digital thermometers are used. NESPI claims to be one of the most successful in using this method, and has recorded numerous EVPs during their tenure.

The steps involved in setting up an investigation on-site include interviewing the home/business owner, walking around the property and determining where to place various pieces of equipment. Once everything is set up, the team will either split up into two person groups, or work together to detect any paranormal activity. To ensure that all of the information that is being collected is accurate the owners and pets must leave the premises, unless they believe that the owner has some connection to the paranormal activity, and all non-essential electronic equipment (cell phones, computers, light) must be turned off. Although most of these investigations take place from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., the majority of the EVP information is detected around midnight, and when the group is preparing to leave.

When asked what the scariest thing he's ever encountered was Astin said, "The scariest thing I've encountered was a hot and sudden gust of air in my ear while I was trying to provoke a spirit. It scared me so much I had to run out of the house. When I came back in to apologize to the owners, I also tried to apologize to the spirit. When we reviewed the EVP material later, the spirit could clearly be heard saying, 'It's alright.' Later when we were leaving the spirit could be heard saying 'Got Ya.'"

When the group is finished with the field investigation, they will then begin to analyze all of the collected data to determine if the location is indeed haunted. This can be quite a lengthy process, and it takes about one hour for them to review 20 minutes of recording. Once a verdict has been reached, the owner/institution will be given the results based upon the team's findings.

Anyone interested in attending the NESPI presentation can obtain tickets for \$20 at Extreme Audio in Hyannis, or on their website at [www.nespi.net](http://www.nespi.net).