Foreign-born professors come and stay at CMU

by James Tetlow
Staffwriter

Carnegie Mellon University draws its pool of talent from all over the world. Many of the most well-known and respected professors at the University are originally from a foreign country. These professors have been drawn to CMU and stay here in pursuit of a career in America's academic community.

According to Rupert Croft, an assistant professor of physics who specializes in astrophysics, what made him leave the U.K. was a job offer in America.

"I came to the U.S. about eight years ago. I didn't come straight to CMU. At first, I came because there were more jobs here than in the UK," he said. "I applied everywhere in the world, and received two job offers: one in Copenhagen, and one from Ohio State. I came here because I thought the U.S. would be more fun."

Croft said that one of the greatest advantages to teaching at CMU was that it was easier for him to feel accepted here than in many European countries, and that job advancement and salaries were different here.

Croft talked about the professional differences between universities in Europe and in the U.S. He said that the universities in England judge people more on what they know rather than on their hard work and accomplishments. He also related a difference in the job market.

"There are more jobs available here because more people go to universities here than in the U.K.," said Croft. "Also, salaries here are about 50 percent higher than their equivalent in the U.K."

Croft also said there was a difference in the way CMU students acted compared to universities in the U.K.

"Students [here] take things very seriously — in CMU and in the U.S. in general. In the U.K., students go drinking a lot, stuff like that... when I was a student, we used to do a lot of stupid things," he said. Croft also appreciated the diversity on campus.

"I also like the variety of students in my classes — you have people with purple hair sitting next to the typical computer geeks," he said.

Croft, who plans to stay here and hire a post-doctoral student, also enjoys the grant money he receives from the University. When he first arrived, Croft received a grant to build a Beowulf cluster, which has the computing capability approaching that of a supercomputer but is cheaper. He now uses the cluster for his research in astrophysics.

"In the U.S., you have everything

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ft revealed

and legend has it that there was a
time when they loaded the water
tanks and opened up the hoses on
unsuspecting bystanders. PIKA
brothers went into the garage one
day last year to discover that the bell
was missing from the top of the
truck. They had no idea who could
have taken it, or how the perpe-
trators could have gotten in. They filed
a report with campus police, and
somehow Sigma Nu became a sus-
psect in the investigation. This claim
led to an illegal search of the fra-
ternity by Campus Police. According
to Sigma Nu brother and Eminent
Commander (president) Ian Kash,
"They believed we had the bell,
which wasn't the case.... Basically,
our fire alarm was pulled as a pre-
text to look for the bell."

The search came up empty and
the bell is still missing.

University Archivist Jennie Benford
contributed to this report.

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AMERICA, from page A1

you need to succeed—you have all the
resources," said Coty Gonzalez, a pro-
fessor specializing in information sys-
tems and dynamic decision making
from Leon, Mexico.

"In Mexico, each professor had a
limit on the copies they could make
each month. Here, we have all the
resources we need. That might actu-
ally be a disadvantage, though: we're
not forced to think more creatively," she said. Gonzalez first came to
America for her PhD at Texas Tech
University, where she met her future
husband. Her decision to stay in the
U.S. was not entirely based on the
economic opportunities found in the
country.

"We decided to stay in the U.S.
because for him, Mexico wasn't fair,
and for me, Jordan wouldn't be fair," she said. Gonzalez came to CMU for
her post-doctorate studies which led to
an offer to become a professor at the
University three years ago.

"I am where I want to be—this is a
place where I've wanted to be for a
really long time," she said. Gonzalez
described the biggest difference be-
tween teaching at CMU and Mexico
as being less formal.

"It's not particular of the campus—
it's a cultural thing. People in Mexico
are more personal—it has been my
experience that this isn't the case in
the States. After my PhD I went back
to Mexico, and felt very uncomfor-
table at first. You can talk to the janitor
the same way you can to the president
of the university," she said. Gonzalez
plans on staying at the University.

Professor of social and decision
sciences Sylvia Borutzky, who left Chile
in 1972 to live in the United States
with her husband, said the greatest
difference between Chilean and
American campuses was that, in her
time, there was a lot of political discus-
sion on Chilean campuses. "Especially
Vietnam in the 1960s—even though we
were in Chile, we felt very involved in
it. Things at CMU have changed too,
and students are much more engaged
in politics, which is great," said
Borutzky. She won the Elliot Dunlap
Smith Award for Distinguished
Teaching and Educational Service in
the College of Humanities and Social
Sciences last year and has taught at
CMU for 14 years. She also believes in
allowing students to discuss their
thoughts in class.

"I think in order to be a good
teacher, one has to be able to listen to
one's students. For that reason, I
always conduct my classes as part
lecture and part discussion. Discussions
allow me to know what my students are
thinking, their concerns, and
allows them to express their ideas."

Borutzky was concerned about the
recent changes to immigration policy
that make it more difficult for foreign
students, especially those from the
Middle East, to come here.

"It's a problem for the University,
because these students bring in new
ideas, new resources, and make a
great contribution to the University," she said.

Town meeting held

PITTSBURGH, from page A1

But unless the city and county
governments can provide incentives
for suburban communities to pour their
tax dollars into the roiling communal
pot, we may never achieve a working
definition of regionalism, he said.

Pittsburgh has come along way
towards becoming an ideal place to
live, said panelist Doris Carson
Williams, president and CEO of the
African American Chamber of
Commerce of western Pennsylvania.
Without the efficiency to make good
use of resources and keep our city

vegetarian fare, but has branched
out to include more food for omni-
vores.

"I think it would be real hard to go
head-to-head with Starbucks," he said. He said that Craig Street
Coffee needs to sell better sand-
wiches and soup, and exploit its
competitors' weaknesses.

"Competition keeps you strong," he
said.

The Craig Street Starbucks is slated
to open in late winter.

these, as many cities around the coun-
try have had," said Williams.

Pittsburghers have a lot of catching
up to do, said panelist John Craig, a
retired editor at the Post-Gazette, who
recounted many of the other panelists'
remarks.

Pittsburghers are clinging to the per-
ceived intimacy and democracy of
local government, he said, because
they do not realize that with the status
quo, that intimacy is already gone.
Craig added that better organization
would also help.

"We have an inefficient resource dis-
tribution system... and we need to

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