Photographer shares French experiences

Lawrence Bates
Capital Times Staff

An American perspective featuring French culture was the topic of the Lunch With An International Flavor program held on March 20.

Darrell Peterson, Penn State Harrisburg's senior photographic technician, hosted the one-hour program, "An American in Albertville," focused on an American's reactions to experiencing a different culture. Peterson gained his perceptions of France during his trip to Albertiville, site of the Winter Olympics.

He and his wife Debra, who won the trip from VISA, were part of a group of winners that spent five days touring the Albertville area, skiing and watching the Winter Olympics. The tour also gave the Petersons a chance to experience French food and culture.

Peterson told the audience about his experiences while the crowd viewed photographs and brochures of France. Unfortunately, French food was not served, but "pretend" French cookies were enjoyed by the audience during the presentation.

"There was a different taste and style," Peterson said of the French food he sampled on the trip.

Over the five days, Peterson said he also noticed several differences between American and French culture. He said there were some similarities between the newer homes in France and homes here, but like several European towns, there were buildings several hundred years older than most buildings in America.

Peterson also commented on the several families he noticed growing their own vegetables, as well as the size of French towns. He said most towns do not have large shopping centers or malls, and that in small towns, one small store may provide the town's citizens with one-stop shopping. Peterson also commented on financial differences between France and America.

"In the U.S. we take so much for granted, such as the price of gas," he said. "Gas prices in France are up to $3.80 per gallon."

While observing the Olympic competition, Peterson said he noticed spectators from many nations spoke both English and French. He even ran into someone from Hershey while on the trip. Peterson said he and his wife enjoyed meeting and socializing with many people, including some from France and Europe.

Peterson said he also observed many visual expressions of patriotism from the athletes and spectators, particularly during the medal ceremonies. Pin trading among fans also provided an outlet for patriotic expression and communication through trading pins, he said.

Peterson recommended anyone having a chance to travel to different countries to make the most of it.

Workshop teaches how to resolve conflict

Matt Hunt
Capital Times Staff

Solving a potential conflict was the topic of a seminar offered by the Student Assistance Center March 3.

Debbie Jackson, a student affairs assistant, introduced a student and faculty audience to five different strategies for dealing with conflicts in their lives.

At the beginning of the session, audience members were given a test to see what strategies they currently use for handling conflict.

After discussing the test results, Jackson began focusing on the five strategies and their uses in different situations. She emphasized that there is no one "right" way to deal with conflict.

"They are all perfectly good strategies," she said. "Which one is used depends on the situation."

Jackson said the five basic strategies for dealing with conflict are: withdrawing from the conflict, forcing your position, smoothing over the conflict, confronting the other party, and compromising.

According to Jackson, before using any of the five strategies, a person must first identify their conflict. After pinpointing the conflict, the person can better determine how to approach it.

Jackson said a two-step process is all that is needed to resolve most conflicts. The first step is identifying the conflict, and step two is resolving it.

"You must initiate ideas on how to approach the conflict," she said. "Ask yourself, 'What do I need to do to alleviate the conflict."

Jackson said the last step in problem solving involves both parties discussing the conflict.

"The two parties involved in the conflict have to sit down and generate ideas on how to rectify the situation," she said. "You need to consider and evaluate methods which are acceptable to both parties."

Photo by Elin Marcel

The Harbor Lights, a barbershop quartet, harmonizes in the lobby of the Olmsted Building. Quartet members, from left to right, are Carlo Masciulli (tenor), Chuck Dowell (lead), Al Ranieri (bass) and Barney Margolis (baritone).

Barbershop quartet strikes the right chords on campus

You don't have to go to a barbershop to hear some good old-fashioned, four-part harmony these days.

The Harbor Lights, a men's barbershop quartet, sang to about 20 students, faculty and staff in the Olmsted Building lobby March 18.

The quartet presented a 45-minute program of songs, patter and jokes.

Old chestnuts like "Goodbye My Coney Island Baby," and "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie" and more recent tunes like "Jukebox Saturday Night Medley" and "Somewhere," from the Broadway hit "West Side Story," rounded out the 45-minute program.

The men are members of the Keystone Capital Chorus in Harrisburg. The chorus is part of the international organization, called the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, or SPEBSQSA.

The chorus rehearses Tuesday evenings at the Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill.

For information about performances or membership, contact Carlo Masciulli at 652-6808.