Study Abroad Fair

February 9, 2011 from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. in the Walb Student Union Ballroom. Meet IPFW faculty and student leaders of study abroad program providers representing an array of countries and program types from internships to service learning projects will be in attendance from International Studies Abroad to Semester at Sea to AustraLearn. The study abroad fair is comprehensive information event for anyone interested in learning more about the many exciting study abroad opportunities available at IPFW. Come and enjoy the displays, incredible videos, and interesting artifacts.

Greetings from the OIE

The Office of International Education is pleased to bring you Mastodon Travels, the study abroad newsletter. Our purpose in creating this instrument is to share with IPFW students, staff, and faculty, as well as the larger community, information about the many exciting international events and programs on campus. We hope you find the information useful and informative. We welcome your feedback and suggestions and are looking for stories and photos from the IPFW community to include in future issues. There are a lot of exciting things in the works to globalize the campus. The OIE is working to develop a study abroad packet that will make overseas study as seamless as possible. We have recently renovated its website by revising the format and adding additional resources for students planning on studying abroad, those currently overseas, and for students upon return. Likewise, the University will hold its first study abroad fair February 9, 2011 in Walb Student Union Ballroom from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. The OIE would like to encourage IPFW students to include overseas study as apart of your academic curriculum.

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Written by Ashley T. Simmons, Assistant Director for International Programs
New Office of International Education Staff

The Office of International Education is pleased to announce the addition of Ms. Ashley T. Simmons as the Assistant Director for International Programs. Ms. Simmons brings a wealth of experience in the field of international education. Previously, she served as the Program Development Officer and Grant Analyst at Delaware State University. Additionally, Simmons received her Master of Arts in International Relations from Syracuse University and her Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science with an emphasis in International Studies from Tougaloo College. Internationally, Simmons studied overseas at the Dhvanyaloka Centre for Indian Studies in India and the University of London in England. She also served as an English as a Second Language instructor in Mexico and Principal Investigator of the Pierna Project at CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital in India. Ms. Simmons is an active member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the Comparative and International Education Society, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. “I am eager to work at IPFW and assist in advancing the mission of the University by expanding global opportunities and helping our student’s make their mark on the world.”

Program Spotlight—Bahrom International Program, South Korea

The 13th Annual Bahrom International Program in 2011 will provide international students with a unique opportunity to achieve a better understanding about the amazing East Asian country, South Korea.

Participants will learn about the various aspects of Korean culture step by step. Starting from the historical and religious background of South Korea and proceeding onto a detailed look through Korean tradition, the program concludes with a powerful analysis of the current economic and political status of South Korea. Outstanding lectures will be accompanied by educational excursions to related sites. This hands-on, live in experience provides participants with the opportunity to enjoy a close interaction of cultures. Participants will live in international student housing with other international students at Seoul Women’s University. For more information, visit the Office of International Education in Kettler 269.

Upcoming Events

Study Abroad Fair
Date: Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011
Time: 10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Location: Walb Union Ballroom

Internationalizing Your Resume
Date: Wednesday, Mar. 23, 2011
Time: 12 p.m.
Location: Kettler 101

Study Abroad First Step Sessions
Date: Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011
Time: 12 p.m.
Location: Walb 608

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Walb 114

Date: Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: Walb 121

Date: Wednesday, Mar. 30, 2011
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Walb 114

Date: Thursday, Apr. 7, 2011
Time: 4 p.m.
Location: Kettler G51
How will studying abroad benefit my career?

Not only does the study abroad experience allow you to see another part of the world, it also impacts your future. A survey conducted by The Institute of International Education found that many students’ future career plans are impacted by their experience abroad.

Many employers are looking for more culturally aware individuals who can work competently in an increasingly global workplace. As the world becomes more interconnected, skills gained from studying abroad are increasingly important in the workplace. However, you need to learn how to showcase the skills learned abroad and how they relate to the position for which you are applying. Some examples of skills learned abroad are:

- Awareness of global economic and political issues
- Understanding of others’ cultural views of America
- Practiced ability to problem solve and handle difficult situations.

When explaining the skills you gained through study abroad, remember to always support your statements with concrete examples. Anyone can say they understand other cultural views, you need to explain HOW you acquired understanding.

So while your time overseas is flying by, take a moment to reflect on the experience and what skills you are gaining while overseas.

What will you bring back?

There are plenty of ways to bring your experience back when you return to IPFW. You can help out with one of the study abroad first step sessions, the pre-departure orientation for departing students, or the annual study abroad fair in February. In addition, you could write an article for Mastodon Travels, blog about your experience on the student section of the Office of International Education website, and serve as a study abroad peer advisor. You could also enter the University’s photo contest in the spring semester, apply for a Fulbright, Rhodes, or Marshall scholarship, or continue your experience with an international internship. For more details on how to further your study abroad experience when you return, to submit articles, photos, or advice for publication in the next edition of Mastodon Travels, or to share your suggestions on how to make this newsletter better, please send an email to simmons@ipfw.edu. We cannot wait to hear from you!
Wanted Bloggers!!!

Our study abroad website will feature a new page entitled “Student Perspectives.” Within this page, students will have the opportunity to blog about their experiences abroad. For more information about sharing your blog on our website, email simmons@ipfw.edu.