Mastodon Travels

International Education: the Possibilities

According to “Bridging the Gap between Multicultural Education and Internationalization,” the fact “that we live in a global village has become a truism.” Yet many Americans do not realize how their security, health, and incomes depend on international organizations. Due to a rise in immigration, rapid and cheaper transport between countries, the development of computer and other communication technologies, the frontiers between nations are becoming permeable and thinner. As each day passes, the world becomes a much smaller place, making the challenges that used to be local or national, global. The real question is: are we prepared to face the challenges of cultural diversity at home and abroad? Do we understand how others in Europe, Latin America, Asia, Africa, or in the Middle East think or conduct their business? Do we or can we understand their cultures and how they view the United States? How can we ensure that Americans are prepared for these and future challenges?

As the world endures substantial and far-reaching geographic, political, and technological transformations, investing in international education is of high importance. In my view, our state’s future economic, social and cultural well-being depends upon our ability to develop a citizen base that is globally competent. That development is best achieved through the expansion of overseas study programs, International Studies majors, and the exchange of people at every college/university across the United States, including Indiana University—Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW).

IPFW’s full scope of international activities are coordinated by the Office of International Education (OIE). The mission of the OIE is to encourage international and intercultural understanding and to enrich the academic and cultural environment of the University by facilitating the exchange of people and ideas. To accomplish this mission, OIE operates within the field of international education by bring international students and scholars to the campus and sending IPFW students and faculty abroad. OIE also serves as a resource to (continued on page 3)

The Land Down Under: the Study Abroad Experience of Kiley Miller

“Studying abroad in Australia is an experience that is changing my life” says Kiley Miller, senior French major and Biology minor. Ms. Miller decided to study overseas in this country because she has always envisioned traveling here and wanted to learn about the country’s history and animal life. “At first I was a bit apprehensive to be so far away from home for such a long period of time, but when I arrived I have easily adjusted to the local culture. I was given the option to live in the apartments with other American students, but I opted to live in the college dormitories my with Australian peers.” By doing this, Ms. Miller has the opportunity to develop unique experiences and develop friendships with people from all over the country. Kiley Miller describes the experiences she has had thus far as amazing. You can follow Kiley’s experiences with her blog (http://kileykatey.blogspot.com/2011/07/o-what-week.html). “I recommend studying abroad to any person that is interested. It is a great way to expand your horizons and meet people from all over the world.”
Ten countries in 104 days! Your classroom: the world! Sailing around the word—that is the general idea of Semester at Sea. Our itinerary for Spring 2011 included the Bahamas, Cuba, Brazil, South Africa, Tanzania, India, Vietnam, China, Korea, and Japan. The stay in each country varied between four to six days, and the sailing time between each nation varied as well. The longest was 12 days and the shortest was a single day. There were approximately 1,000 people on our ship: 635 students, 17 senior adult passengers, 35 faculty members, usually two or three “interport” lecturers and students from the country we were headed to next, and crew members on the ship.

We attended classes while at sea and then were let loose in each country to experience it in any way we wanted, be that with Semester at Sea organized trips or independent travel. Every student is required to take a core class called Global Studies, where we were taught about the countries’ history, customs, geography, politics, and current issues before we arrived. The other classes had assignments that required research, interviews, or visits in countries that pertained to what we were studying; however, the entire focus of the program was to allow the students to flourish under their own learning experiences and reflections while in the countries, so the course work was designed to be a supplement rather than the core focus.

The Bahamas—Spent a few days at Atlantis before boarding the ship.

Cuba—Went to Varadero Beach on an oceanography field practicum, toured Havana and saw Fidel Castro when he addressed Semester at Students.

Brazil—Toured around Salvador, watched a capoiera demonstration (a dancing/martial arts form) and traveled into Lencois, a tiny village surrounded by jungle, waterfalls, and natural granite water slides.

South Africa—Explored Cape Town before taking a tour down to Cape Point, saw the jackass penguin colony, traveled to Stellenbosch, the famous vineyard region of South Africa, and did a wine tasting tour at several wineries. I also went diving with great white sharks off of Cape Agulhas, went to a township and watched a Xhosa music presentation, and climbed Table Mountain outside of Cape Town.

Tanzania—Traveled into the interior of the country for a safari at Mikumi National Park (spent three days doing game drives where we saw elephants, gazelle, giraffes, lions, warthogs, hippos, crocodiles, jackals, wildebeest, water buffalo, baboons, monkeys, and many different bird species). I also went to Udzungwa Mountains National Park and climbed to the waterfall pools near the summit, and then took a ferry to Zanzibar where I went to a spice plantation, the former slave holding complex, and the local markets.

India—Explored Chennai by rickshaw and went to the Mother Teresa Orphanage to play with the children. Then I flew to New Delhi and saw the Gandhi Museum, the Qutub Minar, and Peace Arch before taking a train to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal, the tomb of Saleem Christie, and the Agra Fort.

It would be impossible to sum up all of the experiences from this semester, but it made me re-evaluate the things that I considered important in life and helped me determine where exactly I fit in the global scheme of things. I would do it over again in a second!
Upcoming International Programs

Tour the African & African American Museum
Friday, Oct. 21
Kettler Lobby, 11:30 a.m.

Passport Drive
Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012
Walb 222—224, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012
Walb Ballroom, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Internationalize your Resume
Wednesday, Mar. 21, 2012
Kettler 101, Noon

International Education Week
Tai Chi class
Monday, Nov. 14
Fireside Lounge, Cole Commons, Noon

English Conversation Game Night
Monday, Nov. 14
Kettler 101, 6 p.m.

“Terrorism & the Future of U. S. Foreign Policy” featuring Dr. James Lutz
Tuesday, Nov. 15
Walb 114, Noon

Tales from Abroad & Luncheon
Wednesday, Nov. 16
Kettler 227, Noon —1:30 p.m.

Tea Time feat. the IPFW Model United Nations Team
Wednesday, Nov. 16
Walb 121, 3 p.m.

The Beat of Africa
Thursday, Nov. 17
Walb Ballroom, 6 p.m.

International Movie Night
Friday, Nov. 18
Fireside Lounge, 5 p.m.

Study Abroad Information Sessions

- Friday, Sept. 9
  Walb 116, Noon
- Tuesday, Sept. 13
  Walb 116, 11 a.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 22
  Kettler 148, Noon
- Wednesday, Oct. 5
  Fireside Lounge, Cole Commons, Noon
- Monday, Oct. 10
  Fireside Lounge, Cole Commons, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 18
  Walb 116, 3 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 2
  Fireside Lounge, Cole Commons, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 17
  Walb 116, Noon
- Monday, Nov. 28
  Walb 116, Noon
- Friday, Sept. 9
  Walb 116, Noon
- Tuesday, Sept. 13
  Walb 116, 11 a.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 22
  Kettler 148, Noon

International Education: the Possibilities

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IPFW academic departments and other campus units seeking to increase and diversify student recruitment, internationalize their teaching curriculum and course offerings, expand their collaborative research agendas, and identify overseas opportunities. To carry out its goals and responsibilities, the OIE provides support for international scholarships, including the research, teaching, and service efforts of faculty and other professionals on campus.

- Provides students with first-hand experiences in global affairs by creating overseas study programs.
- Facilitates cultural programs to increase awareness of global cultures and promote diversity and inclusion on campus.
- To be effective, OIE cannot operate or expand in all directions without a clear recognition of the areas of greatest need and importance to the University. All involved have a critical role to play, both individually and collectively: the success of what we do in international education depends greatly on our reliance on everyone throughout the university community to provide meaningful input. The Office of International Education welcomes input and invites you to attend any of our events.
Reflections of Europe

The IPFW Department of Fine Arts is featuring the art works of students who participated in the Study Abroad program to Ireland, England, and France under the direction of Dana Goodman, Chair and Associate Professor of Fine Arts. The featured artists are Tylar Allison, Teri Fuller-O’Brien, Dana Goodman, John Hrehov, Janak Narayan, Barbara Nohinek Zee-Chen, Jenna Wall, and Christopher Zee-Chen. The exhibition, “Reflections of Europe,” can be viewed in the Visual Arts Gallery from 8 a.m.—9 p.m. Monday—Friday and 10 a.m.—5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday along with the works of John Hrehov entitled “Charcoal.”