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Illinois Wesleyan University

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We’ll Always Have Casablanca

In June 2009, five faculty and 2 staff members of the Illinois Wesleyan community will travel to Morocco for a weeklong development seminar.

Participating in the seminar will be Academic Outreach Librarian and Associate Professor Lynda Duke, Environmental Studies Chair and Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Abigail Jahiel, Hispanic Studies Chair and Professor Carolyn Nadeau, Associate Professor of Economics Ilaria Ossella-Durba, Associate Professor of Economics Diego Mendez-Carbajo, University of Communications Staff Writer Rachel Hatch and Staff Counselor Robyn Walter.

Participants in the Morocco seminar will prepare for the trip during the spring semester, meeting regularly to discuss readings in their areas of interest. In June, the group will travel to Al Akhawayn University (AUI) in Ifrane, Morocco, to meet with faculty/staff counterparts, attend presentations, and engage in discussions about their research topics. The seminar will also include excursions to such locations as Fez, Rabat, or Marrakech.

The Morocco seminar is part of the University’s ongoing effort to promote international understanding and opportunities. The idea for such a seminar grew out of the Globalizing the IWU Campus workshop held in June 2008, at which keynote speaker Uliana Gabbara described a similar program at the University of Richmond.

The partnership with AUI emerged from a 2007 Grant from the Hollings Center to allow IWU to begin exploring partnerships with three institutions in Morocco and Jordan. The Hollings center is an nongovernmental organization promoting dialogue between citizens of the United States and predominantly Muslim countries.

In the fall of 2009, Illinois Wesleyan will also welcome a Fulbright Visiting Scholar from Al Akhawayn University. Professor Driss Maghraoui will teach courses in history and Middle Eastern politics. “Al Akhawayn is very similar to Illinois Wesleyan,” said Boyd of the university nestled in the Middle Atlas Mountains of North Africa. “Our faculty are working in many of the same areas, and instruction for all university curricula at Al Akhawayn is English.”
Featured Program

Arcadia-MCAS in Syracuse, Italy

Arcadia University has recently opened a new program in Syracuse, on the island of Sicily.

The new program operated in cooperation with the Mediterranean Center for Arts and Sciences (MCAS), offers course work in classical studies, environmental studies, history and political science, Italian studies, and studio and fine arts, and many of the classes involve fieldwork that takes advantage of the program’s site.

All classes, except Italian language courses, are taught in English at the MCAS central building, Palazzo Ardizzone. The Palazzo Ardizzone is a completely restored, 17th-century Spanish palace in the historical center of the ancient city of Syracuse, and it houses classrooms, a library, photography lab, art studio, student lounge, and computer lab.

Students in archaeology and certain other classics options, art history, and environmental science classes should expect to be required to attend at least two to three Friday fieldtrips over the course of the semester. Academic fieldtrips examine the following sites: Agrigento; Piazza Armerina and Morgantina; Taormina and Castelmolo; Ragusa, Modica, Noto, and Scicli; Pantalica and Anapo Valley; and Mount Etna.

Housing is guaranteed, and students are placed in student apartments with other American or international students. Apartments house 2–8 students, and offer shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. The MCAS is about 15-30 minutes by foot from most student accommodations.

Arcadia Syracuse

Sample Classes

- Italian—beginning, intermediate, advanced, intensive
- Latin—beginning, intermediate, advanced
- European Union Politics
- Greek and Roman Political Theory
- Mafia: Politics & History
- Medieval Art History: Byzantine, Arabic, & Norman Art in Sicily
- Mediterranean Ecosystems: An Introduction to Terrestrial and Marine Environments
- Roman Archaeology and Art
- Roman History: From Republic to Empire
- Sicily Sketchbook
- Sustainability & Human Development: Learning from the Mediterranean Landscapes
- Traditions & Techniques of Italian Painting
- Travel Journal: Creative Writing
- Volcanology: Etna

IWU Student to Represent U.S. as Young Leader in Berlin

[From the IWU News Site]

October 15, 2008

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Cassie Stachniw, a junior German and Russian and Eastern European Studies double major from Galesburg, Ill. has been selected to participate in “The United States Meets Germany: A Forum for Young Leaders.” The event will take place from Nov. 10-14 in Berlin.

Stachniw, who is currently studying abroad in Berlin through the Institute for International Education of Students (IES) program, applied to participate in the conference. The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD), which sponsors the forum, seeks students from the United States and Germany, as well as the wider international community to participate in “The United States Meets Germany: A Forum for Young Leaders.” The event will take place from Nov. 10-14 in Berlin.

According to the ICD, the forum is designed to bring together young, influential people from both sides of the Atlantic in order for them to gain insight into cultural diplomacy, exchange ideas, and experiences and learn from influential players already working in the field. Participants will develop contacts on both a social and professional level and participate in challenging discussions.

The ICD’s Web site states that the forum is designed to bring together young, influential people from both sides of the Atlantic in order for them to gain insight into cultural diplomacy, exchange ideas, and experiences and learn from influential players already working in the field. Participants will develop contacts on both a social and professional level and participate in challenging discussions.

According to the ICD, the forum seeks to produce a dynamic, informed group of Young Leaders who are aware of the potential for cultural diplomacy and have the necessary resources to organize their own initiatives. Ultimately, the forum hopes to improve understanding between the U.S. and Germany and improve future cooperation and exchange between the two countries.

For additional information, please visit the ICD Web site at www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/item/2008/0709/an_usmeetsgermany.html.

Contact: Jessica Block ’09, (309) 556-3181
Study Abroad Numbers up in National Ranking

January 14, 2009

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan University has once again drawn national attention for its Study Abroad Program.

The University moved up six spots on the latest Institute of International Education’s (IIE) Open Doors report, ranking 31st in the nation among baccalaureate institutions for the total number of students studying abroad.

IIE calculates the percentage of students studying abroad during an academic year to the number of students who are conferred degrees that same year. The most recent IIE report, which covers the 2006-2007 academic year, records 313 Illinois Wesleyan students traveling for their studies, whether for a semester, a year or May Term.

When looking at May Term alone, which IIE considers “short-term duration study abroad,” Illinois Wesleyan ranks 20th in the nation among baccalaureate institutions.

“These numbers are a confirmation of the continued effort on the part of the University to provide international opportunities for our students,” said Illinois Wesleyan Director of the International Office Stacey Shimizu. “We have incredible students, and we want them to be prepared to take their place as global citizens. Study abroad programs are an important part of that.”

The number of students taking advantage of study abroad opportunities is increasing, said Shimizu. She noted this spring 85 students are taking part in study programs abroad, a record for a single semester at Illinois Wesleyan.

Contact: Rachel Hatch, (309) 556-3960

Study Abroad Scholarships

Eight IWU students received over $16,000 in external funding for their spring 2009 study abroad experiences. The average award size was $1000, but one student received $4500 from the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship program and another $5000 from the Freeman Asia Foundation.

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships

The Hart Career Center is hosting an information session on the Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship Program in Thursday, January 15, at 4:00.

The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship is a grant of $25,000 for one year’s study abroad. These scholarships are awarded for study, often graduate study, in a field related to Rotary’s objectives. Applicants for the full year scholarship must pass a language proficiency exam in the language of the proposed country.

Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships offer $12,000-$17,000 for 3-6 month intensive study of language and culture at one of a number of institutions which The Rotary Foundation designates. Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships may be awarded to undergraduates who have demonstrated a potential for furthering the objectives of Rotary, but many applicants are graduates.

Think it’s unlikely you’d qualify? Think again! Illinois Wesleyan University has had several Rotary scholars in recent years, and two—Patrick Beary (2007) and Martin Ciesl (2009)—will be on-hand to talk with you.

Over winter break, a group of IWU International students, accompanied by adjunct Professor of History Douglas Cutter and International Student/Advisor Reenie Bradley, visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Lincoln Home in Springfield, Illinois. Here, the group poses with President Lincoln and his family.
Comings …

The International Office offers returning study abroad students a warm welcome back to frigid central Illinois.


And Goings

We as a campus look forward to hearing about your studies and your experiences. And keep your eyes open for announcements about our spring photo contest and workshops for returned study abroaders.

Bon Voyage!

Far Left: Joey Schmitt and Jeremy Pease in Ireland (IES Ireland, IES Vienna)
Left: Ann Chang (CIEE Seville)
Right: Anne Marquette (Pembroke College)