International Office News, Fall 2009

Illinois Wesleyan University

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**International Office News**

**“Bringing the world to IWU”**

**Upcoming Events**

- **September 1** — Study Abroad Fair, 4:00–6:00, the Dug Out
- **September 10** — Welcome Back Picnic for International Studies majors and minors, international students, and International Studies faculty associates
- **September 14** — Career Center Workshop: Bringing It Home: Making Study Abroad work for You, 4:00, Welcome Center auditorium
- **October 1** — Deadline for Spring 2009 study abroad applications, 4:00, International Office
- **October 1** — International Studies Colloquium, 4:00, Beckman Auditorium, The Ames Library
- **October 8** — Pembroke Program information session, 4:00, CLA 205
- **October 15** — Study Abroad Photo Contest deadline, 4:00, International Office
- **November 8** — Mandatory Study Abroad Pre-Departure Meeting, 4:30–7:00, CNS C102

**International Office News**

**Welcome**

Illinois Wesleyan welcomes 26 new international students from 11 countries to campus.

The students began arriving in mid-August, well before the other first-year students, to give them a chance to settle in and to undergo an orientation to life in the United States and in Bloomington-Normal before diving into "Turning Titan" activities with IWU’s other new students.

Please join us in welcoming the following students to campus.

- Raúl Alvarez Gonzalez, Spain
- Mengyuang "Echo" Chen, China
- Hyung Joon "Clark" Choi, Korea
- Yulin "Philip" Deng, China
- Qing "Sunny" Ding, China
- Hao "Elvis" Ge, China
- Patista "Nice"Jiratipayabood, Thailand
- Yuhok Kinakuma, Japan
- Yelei "Matt" Kong, China
- Qingsyu "Sunny" Ding, China
- Sicheng Liu, China
- Luyuan "Cathy" Liu, China
- Ammar Malik, Pakistan
- Tung Pham, Vietnam

**Please join us in also welcoming our new international faculty and staff members:**

- Ingrid Ilincic (Romania), Adjunct Instructor of French
- Edgar Lehr (Germany), Assistant Professor of Biology
- Driss Maghraoui (Morocco), Adjunct Associate Professor in History
- Sascha Vitzthum (Germany), Assistant Professor of Business Administration
- Saloua Zerhouni (Morocco), Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in Political Science

**Working Overseas: International Internships**

Each year, several students from Illinois Wesleyan participate in overseas internships. Juniors Lukasz Sewera and Susan Powałowski spent much of this past summer in Germany. Lukasz in Essen and Susan in Bamberg.

**How did you find out about the internship program and what made you decide to apply?**

LS: I found the internship during winter break on a database that I was using to create a list of places to apply to for the summer. This program [RISE: Research Internships in Science and Engineering] caught my eye because it was one of two programs listed that were outside of the US. The program I applied to matches undergraduates from the US, Canada, and the UK with PhD students in Germany. Since I am studying abroad in the fall, I thought that it would be fun to do an international internship before.

SP: After an intense and nerve-wracking six-month wait, I couldn’t have been luckier or happier to find myself in Bamberg, Germany for the summer.

As suggested by my German professors at IWU, I applied for an internship abroad with the CDS International organization. It began with resumes in English and German, a trans-national phone interview in both languages, and weeks of waiting, but ended with the opportunity and experience of a lifetime.

**Where did you work?**

SP: CDS (Culture | Diversity | Success) was looking to place me around Berlin, but they also encourage their participants to search on their own for internships.

I was lucky enough to have a family friend put me in contact with the European Forum for Migration Studies (EFMS) at the University of Bamberg. I was accepted into their office as an intern, and left for Germany a mere three days after my last final examination at IWU.
Featured Program

IFSA Butler's New Study in Egypt Programs

Butler University’s Institute for Foreign Studies will be opening a series of new programs in Egypt in Spring 2010.

Based at four preeminent public universities in Cairo and Alexandria, the IFSA Study in Egypt Programs offer intensive Arabic language instruction as well as university courses taught in English with Egyptian students. No previous study in Arabic is required, and all programs are open to students in any major.

The programs are organized around an academic concentration, with elective courses offered at affiliated universities. Each concentration features a curriculum of core courses, language study, and optional electives, independent study and/or additional university courses.

Concentrations include:

- **Arabic Language**—suitable for students from any major who are interested in Arabic language study
- **Arabic Language, Arts, and Culture**—suitable for students interested in Egyptology and the humanities, especially history, anthropology, art history, and literature
- **Egyptian Music, Arabic Art, and Architecture**—suitable for students interested in fine arts, including applied art and music, and ethnomusicology
- **Political Economy of the Middle East**—suitable for students interested in international relations, economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, statistics, or pre-law

Whether students choose to study in bustling Cairo or the more low-key, culturally rich Alexandria, they will have the support of a Butler resident director.

Program Highlights

**Locations:** Cairo and Alexandria

**Program Concentrations:**
- Arabic Language Program
- Arabic Language, Arts, and Culture Program
- Egyptian Music, Arabic Art, and Architecture Program
- Political Economy of the Middle East

**Partner Universities:**
- Alexandria University
- Ain Shams University, Faculty of Languages and Faculty of Arts
- Cairo University, Faculty of Economics/Political Science and Faculty of Law
- Helwan University, Colleges of Music and Art

**Housing:** In Alexandria, students will live in single-gender residence halls on campus. In Cairo, students may choose to live with a host family or in student apartments.

**Prerequisites:** No prior Arabic language study required.

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International Internships (Cont.)

**LS:** I was placed at the University of Duisburg-Essen on the Essen campus with the Institute for Applied Zoology and Hydrobiology. The project concerns an introduced parasite of eels, and life cycle studies on it.

My first impression of the university was not that great because it is a converted factory, so the campus looks very industrial. That was easy to get over when I met my lab group.

Tell us about your work responsibilities.

**LS:** I had a broad range of responsibilities; including taking care of the eels, infecting copepods, and a lot of random tasks helping out the other people in my lab. Overall, I learned a lot during this summer, especially as a result of having so many opportunities to work with multiple projects. I also learned a lot of techniques in parasitology, which I am certain will be useful for future work.

**SP:** At EMFS I did minor jobs around the office. My major assignment, however, was to assist the EFMS director, Dr. Prof. Fredrich Heckmann, in his research to write a new textbook on the topic of Race and Ethnicity in Sociology. I spent most of my weeks at the University library looking up books previously written on this subject and analyzing their approach at organization.

I was also fortunate enough to be enrolled as a student and took free classes at the University.

What was the best part of your internship?

**SP:** I made friends from every corner of the globe including, but by no means limited to, France, Finland, Argentina, Serbia, Korea, Italy, Ireland, and the ever-foreign South of America (Louisiana and Texas, that is). We became a family and faced the difficulties of living far away from the comfort of home together.

**LS:** I lived in a student apartment that my supervisor organized for me. This was a great place to live because it was very easy to meet new people. There were a lot international students living on my floor. There were also several other RISE students living in Essen, so I spent a lot of time with them.

I had many opportunities to travel outside of Essen. I was able to get a student ID from the University, which allowed me to have unlimited use of public trains throughout North Rhine Westphalia. This was great because I could see a lot different places on weekends, and I took several trips to Cologne.

What was the best part of your experience? Do you have any regrets?

**LS:** One of the best parts of my experience was the opportunity to meet a diverse group of people. I have made a lot of new friends here and I have enjoyed some great times with people in my working group.

I am considering coming back to Germany for another internship next summer because this experience has been great overall.

**SP:** This summer was my first real experience at living on my own. If I were to take but one lesson away from my three months in Germany, it would be that I am stronger than I thought. It is as if I can handle whatever life should decide to throw at me or in this case what I decide to throw at it.

If I were to have any regrets, it is that I didn’t have time to do more. There was so much that my life in Bamberg had to offer that when the time came to leave, it was like saying goodbye to home.

And yes, in case you were wondering, beer and sausage were a fundamental part of daily life just as water is to fish and air to humans.

**Susan Powalowski** will spend the fall semester in England as part of the IWU London Program.

**Łukasz Sewera** will pursue his science interests this fall through the DIS program in Copenhagen.
As our new international students were preparing to come to Illinois Wesleyan, IWU study abroad students were preparing for their own education abroad.

This fall sees 62 students setting out for a semester or year of study abroad. Fourteen will be living and studying in London with Professor Chris Prendergast as part of the IWU London Program. Two more will spend the year as Visiting Students at Oxford University.

The others will be studying with our affiliates in 19 countries around the world, including our first student in Jordan and only our second ever in Cameroon.

We wish them all bon voyage!

Emily Akins  England
Amelia Anderson  England
Sang Joon Bae  England
Aaron Ball  New Zealand
Amy Bannon  England
Hannah Becker  France
Jason Bothwell  Denmark
Karley Bridgewater  England
Michael Burgess  Japan
Bradley Campbell  Ireland
Amy Chang  England
Michael Chau  England
Emily Coles  Denmark
Andra Cupp  England
Elizabeth Daniels  England
Andrew Dorkin  England
Brandon Dorn  England
Noah Dunham  Tanzania
Sandra Gonzalez  Spain
Karina Grace  Ecuador
Emily Grace  Ecuador
Danielle Grewe  Austria
Robert Heston  Spain
Emily Hopkins  Spain
Mujtaba Isani  The EU
Jenna Johnson  Italy
Claire Jolicoeur  England
Hannah Jones  Ireland
Rosa Kleiman  Russia
Laura Larson  Spain
Sarah Latshaw  England
Queenie Li  England
Lily Lowell  England
Gloria Mensah  Switzerland
Alex Miller  Jordan
Britany Morrison  England
Evyne Neumeister  England
Uchenna Nwaiwu  Italy
Adebola Olayinka  Chile
Margaret Olson  Denmark
Nicholas Patti  England
Susan Powalowski  England
Chao Ren  England
Jason Roeschley  Mexico
Janelle Santos  S. Korea
Abigale Schramm-Davis  Ireland
Lukasz Sewera  Denmark
John Simonelli  England
Monica Simonin  Cameroon
Henry Song  Denmark
Christine Spees  Ireland
Nicholas Stuber  France
Jayne Thomas  New Zealand
Fred Thompson  England
Erinn Tobin  Denmark
Brooke Trantor  England
Julie Tucker  England
Marlee Turim  Ireland
Megan Winkeler  Scotland
Yujie Wu  Scotland
Xiaoxiao Zhang  Scotland
Eric Zielinski  Denmark

We wish them all bon voyage!

Financing Study Abroad
For Fall 2009, IWU students were awarded 14 outside scholarships totaling over $24,000 to study abroad.

Awards ranged in size from $500 to $5000, with more than half of the scholarships providing over $1000 to offset the costs of spending a semester overseas.

Moreover, every IWU student who currently receives financial aid can apply that aid to a semester of study abroad—and in some cases to a full year abroad.

So, studying abroad can be affordable! For more information, please contact the International Office.

International Opportunities for Faculty
IES Familiarization Trip
Global Cities: London & Berlin in Perspective
This trip affords faculty the opportunity to learn more about the IES London Center and IES Berlin Metropolitan Studies Program through visiting the IES facilities, touring local partner universities, attending classes, visiting student accommodations, and meeting IES Abroad students, staff, and faculty.

For more information, please contact the International Office.

CIEE International Faculty Development Seminars
The IFDS programs offer short 1-2 week intensive educational experiences designed to help faculty deepen their subject knowledge and explore a variety of issues shaping the world today.

Seminars feature lectures given by local faculty or experts coupled with co-curricular site visits to academic, economic, educational, environmental, historic, political, religious, and social institutions.

For more information, visit the CIEE website (ciee.org/IFDS) or contact the International Office.

IES Visiting Scholars Program
Provides grants to U.S. faculty members for week-long participation in a structured activity at an IES Abroad Center. Grants range from $500 to $1000 and provide participants with the opportunity to enrich current research or teaching practices and gain a better understanding of study abroad.

For more information, please visit iesabroad.org or contact the International Office.

Studienforum Berlin Seminars
The Studienforum Berlin is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization that promotes better understanding of the people, society, culture, and institutions of Germany and Europe.

Studienforum Berlin annually offers faculty development programs and conducts research on political and economic developments in Germany and Europe.

For more information on upcoming Studienforum faculty programs, please visit the Studienforum website (www.studienforum-berlin.de).

International Returns
Rejoining us are 91 study abroaders, a record-breaking 83 of whom studied abroad during the Spring semester.

They studied in 25 countries on 5 continents—from Argentina to Uganda, Ghana to Greece, Madrid to Morocco.

Welcome back to Illinois Wesleyan!
Spring Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to Teddy Petrova (IES EU) for her winning photo, "Love Locks," and to Katie Bayles (IWU London) for her second-place image, "The Gondolier.”

Of her image, which shows a recently married couple in Riga, Latvia, Teddy writes,

Just-married Latvian couples follow the tradition of "locking" their love on bridges of Riga’s main park. The superstition is that [by doing so] their love will hold, the way the locks stay on the bridge. On the bridge, you can also see smaller locks locked onto the larger ones. These are the "love locks" of the children of married couples.

Katie’s photo was taken in Venice, where 2008 IWU London students spent their mid-term break with the program director, Professor Scott Sheridan.

To see some of the other stunning pictures submitted to the spring Study Abroad Photo Contest as well as past winning photos, please visit the International Office website [www2.iwu.edu/intloffice/].

Morocco Initiative Update

“We came to Morocco to learn, to experience, and to share,” said Associate Dean of Curriculum Zahia Drici of the Summer 2009 Morocco Initiative.

As part of the initiative, Drici traveled with 8 faculty and staff colleagues to Morocco for 8 days in June. While in Morocco, participants met with counterparts at universities in Rabat and Ifrane to learn more about their disciplines and to explore potential cooperative projects and collaborations.

For additional details on the seminar and the participants’ experiences, you may also visit the following items on the IWU website:

- Faculty, Staff Chosen for Morocco Initiative ([www.iwu.edu/CurrentNews/newsreleases09/])

Participants will also host a Non-Org at noon on September 28 in the Davidson Room to discuss their experiences and the benefits of the Initiative. All faculty and staff are invited to attend.