Newly Endowed Scholarship Supports Study Abroad at IWU

Through the generosity of Betty Ritchie-Birrer (’47), IWU now has an endowed scholarship fund to support study abroad. Raised on farm in Maroa, Illinois, Betty Ritchie-Birrer now lives in Springfield, with her husband Ivan Birrer. Together, they share a love for travel and learning—a passion she wants to share with IWU students now and in the future.

The competitive, need-based scholarships will range from $1000 to $5000, and students receiving an award commit to documenting and sharing their study abroad experience during and/or after participation.

Applications for the IWU Study Abroad Scholarship can be found on the Study Abroad website (iwu.edu/studyabroad) or in the International Office.

Deadlines are October 1 for spring study abroad, November 1 for May Term travel courses, and March 1 for fall, year-long, and summer programs.

Congratulations to Jessica Beringer (’15) and Taylor Sharp (’15), who have been awarded the first IWU Study Abroad Scholarships!

Jessica will be studying in Seville, Spain, this fall on CIEE’s Teaching Development program.

Taylor sets out later this month for a year in Tokyo, Japan, at IWU exchange partner Keio University.

As recipients of the award, Jessica and Taylor will be documenting their experiences abroad for the IWU community.

Follow Taylor at tmjsharp.blogspot.com, and learn about her year at Keio University. Keep and track of Jess in Sevilla at jessicaleeberinger.blogspot.com.

Meet Jacquelyn LaMaire

Say hello to Jacquelyn LaMaire, IWU’s new Study Abroad Advisor. Jackie joins the International Office this fall to fill in while director Stacey Shimizu is in England with the London Program.

Prior to joining the IWU community, Jackie, a Michigan native, attended Central Michigan University and completed graduate studies at Arizona State University. Jackie has studied in Florence and Macerata, Italy, and also worked abroad, teaching English in Busan, South Korea.

Stop by and see Jackie on the 3rd floor of the CLA, or send her an email at jlamaire@iwu.edu to get the answers to all of your study abroad questions.
Program Highlight

Arcadia in Cuba

American study abroad students can study in Cuba again!

In 2004, the Bush administration put into place regulations that restricted study abroad in Cuba, effectively closing almost all US study abroad programs there. Now, as a result of changes made in 2011 by the Obama administration, US programs are beginning to reopen in Cuba.

Among them is Arcadia University’s program in Havana. Offered in partnership with the University of Havana, the program involves full Spanish immersion, with US students taking courses alongside Cuban students.

The core course, “Cuban-American Relations: Past and Present,” is taught by faculty of the Centro de Estudios Hemisféricos y sobre Estados Unidos and provides an introduction into the historic and socio-cultural background of Cuba.

In addition to the core course and a course in the Spanish language, students choose two elective courses from the vast array offered by the University of Havana.

Tips on Volunteering Abroad

Why volunteer abroad?

Of course, those who volunteer are interested in service—in using their skills and talents to help others. So, the question might be, “Why volunteer abroad?”

For some, particularly those who have studied abroad, volunteering overseas is a way to build on that experience. For others (those for whom a semester abroad is difficult to fit into an academic schedule), volunteering abroad provides a flexible way to gain international experience.

For all volunteers, though, engaging in some sort of service activity abroad is an incredible learning experience—one that helps you better understand international issues and the challenges facing people in other countries and cultures, but that also helps you learn more about yourself.

Here, then are some things to consider if you think you might want to volunteer abroad. They are adapted from the International Volunteer Programs Association (IVPA) website (www.volunteerinternational.org).

1. Consider your reasons for wanting to become an international volunteer.
   - What people, events, and experiences have led to your interest in volunteering abroad?
   - What do you hope to get out of the experience?
   - What do you hope to contribute?
   - How do you see international volunteering affecting your life?

While there is not just one “right” reason to volunteer abroad, it is important to realize that different motivations can lead to different types of service. Be careful about wanting to “solve other people’s problems” or “fix things”; this attitude can negatively affect communities and disempower local people.

2. Think about the type of volunteer organization with which you want to work. Is it a government agency, a for-profit tourist agency, a non-profit or non-governmental organization (NGO), a religious group?

In some cases, government programs are intimately tied to a government’s foreign policy initiatives, so you would need to decide whether you can stand behind these policies.

A for-profit agency might or might not contribute part of their profits to the long-term sustainability of a community and its resources. It would be important to find out who benefits the most from the for-profit agency—the volunteer, the local community, or agency staff.

3. Consider the cost of volunteering abroad.
   - What are your budget constraints?
   - Would you be willing to fundraise if you were given some support by an organization?
   - If there is a program fee, what does it cover?

Most of organizations that offer international volunteer opportunities charge volunteers a fee, in order to cover their year-round coordinating and operational costs. Many also need to raise funds to contribute materials and other resources to the overseas project.

A host community generally will not have the extra resources to house and feed you. If they had the funds to pay a stipend, they would probably hire a local person instead, someone who speaks the language, understands the community and culture, and is more inclined to stick around.

These are just a few suggestions. For more, visit the IVPA website. And remember: for many people, volunteering abroad is only the first act in a lifelong commitment to working for social justice and seeking to end poverty and hunger.
Study Abroad: “There and Back Again”

Bilbo Baggins’ memoir title provides an apt way for us to welcome home the 67 students who studied abroad last spring/summer and to wish our departing study abroad students a hearty bon voyage as they set off for their time abroad.

So, wishing safe travels to:

Kemi Adeleye Madagascar
Alyssa Aiello England
Meridith Beird Morocco
Jessica Beringer Spain
Helen Brandt France
Stephanie Carlson England
John Cordan England
Dung Do France
Patrick Domke Ireland
Annika Ewaldz Germany
Josephine Fairall Denmark
Rebecca Fiedler England
Lauren Henry Denmark
Kara Hogan England
Jordan Hosier Chile
Eric Hyla England
Britta Jacob Scotland
Malika Kavadi England
Amanda King Australia
Michael Kistner Scotland
Kristen Kupstys UAE
Anna Leeson England
Anastasia Lowenthal England
Justice Macklin England
Corinne Martin Scotland
Grace McCarten England
Nickolas Miller England
Chloe Morris England
Sydney Muchnik England
Ngoc Giao Nguyen Germany
Mary Nicholas Austria
Annette Rauch Spain
Gavin Schroeder New Zealand
Taylor Sharp Japan
Charlotte Silver South Korea
Wade Steinke England
Lorraine Tezak England
Kyla Thomas England
Andrea Tucci Austria
Victoria Viola Italy
Michelle Wong England
Genevieve Alexander Germany
David Allen Spain
Emily Bailey Ireland
Graham Boden Japan
Rachel Branson Russia
Rae Brattin South Africa
Elise Brubaker England
Lauren Burke Ireland
Chris Caliva New Zealand
Kathryn Cannon Argentina
Dominique Castle Spain
Patrick Cavanaugh Netherlands
Jake Clemens England
Ellen Cornelius New Zealand
Manh Dao Uganda
Ashleen Davey France
Nicholas Desideri Mexico
Megan Dickey Spain
Kristina Dolak Czech Republic
Jeremiah Douglass Spain
Jeremy Duffee England
Ryan Dyer Scotland
Rebecca Erickson Denmark
Nathan Evans Morocco
Dylan Fischer England
Kate Fitzgerald England
Katherine Ford Spain
Christine Gawron Bolivia
Christopher Grills Austria
Erica Hoey England
Bradley Jenisch Spain
Antonia Jurkovic Russia
Erin Kelley Denmark
Melissa Kinsella Spain
Alexander Lang New Zealand
Jennifer LeRose Denmark
Gisel Lopez Spain
Rachel Marquardt Austria
Shanen McCreary New Zealand
Isabel Moon Australia
Jason Murphy New Zealand
David Myers Spain
Grace Nafziger Ecuador
Robert Norman Spain
Alison Novakow Spain
Samantha Olson Italy
Victoria Palacios Italy
Kristyn Paradis Spain
Katherine Pavin Spain
Callie Phipps Spain
Ian Powers Australia
Megan Rogers France
Dana Rotz New Zealand
Michal Roy Austria
Angela Ruggles England
Stephanie Schwingle Germany
Tara Simpson Italy
Ariel Smith Belgium
Zachary Smith Spain
Emily Steele Belgium
Connor Stevenson Italy
Ethian Szpara Spain
Caitlyn Trevor Czech Republic
Erin Wachtel Spain
Veronica Watson Switzerland
Molly Whitaker France
Xinlin Xu England

International Fast Facts
(Courtesy of IIE’s Open Doors report)

• New international student enrollments nationwide have increased by close to 40% over the past 5 years, with 228,467 international students starting their studies in the US in 2011–12.

• The total number of international students studying in the US has hit a record high of 764,495.

• In the US, the number of students studying abroad has tripled in the past two decades, with just under 274,000 studying abroad in 2010–11, the most recent year for which data are available.

• And yet only 14% of BA students currently study abroad during their undergraduate programs.

IWU Fast Facts

• This year’s entering class of international students (49) is more than double the number that entered five years ago.

• IWU now has 106 international students on campus from 21 different countries.

• Over the past 5 academic years, 1156 IWU students have studied abroad on a semester, year-long, or May Term program.

• In 1995–96 (the first year for which we have numbers), only 28 students studied abroad for a semester or year. Now, an average of 130 students spend a semester or year overseas.

• Close to half of all IWU students study abroad, either on a semester/full-year program or through a May Term travel course.
International Arrivals

IWU welcomed its largest class of international students this fall—49 students from 14 countries—bringing the total number of international students to over 100.

Please join us in making these new students part of the IWU family.

Emmanuel Ahonkhai  Nigeria
Moyoninuoluwau Ajayi  Nigeria
Amine Bajeddi  Morocco
Alexandros Borodimos  Germany
Hansheng “Jason” Chen  China
Yige “Eric” Chen  China
Samuel Davies  UK
Phuong Anh Dinh  Vietnam
Minh Doan  Vietnam
Audrey Fontaine  France
Osamu Fujita  Japan
Sin Ting “Polly” Ho  Hong Kong
Brigitta Jakob  Indonesia
Rui Jiang  China
Shiyi “Suki” Jiang  China
Tiancong “Laurel” Jiang  China
Toan Le  Vietnam
Cancan “Air” Li  China
Jiangcong “Selina” Liang  China
Lu Liao  China
Lunjun “Simon” Liu  China
Yaling “Alexis” Liu  China
Yizi “Pixie” Liu  China
Hi Yan “Renee” Lo  Hong Kong
Zhiyuan Meng  China
Duc Minh Nguyen  Vietnam
Huong Nguyen  Vietnam
Minh Nguyen  Vietnam
Tung Nguyen  Vietnam
Clara Pardo Diaz  Spain
Mi Pham  Vietnam
Long Phan Tran  Vietnam
Hang “Jade” Phung  Vietnam
Najun “Nancy” Qu  China
Arham Sattar  Pakistan
Yuka Sekine  Japan
Srishti Sinha  India
Ruqing “Regine” Sun  China
Kha Tran  Vietnam
Martijn Van Dooren  Netherlands
Cong Vu  Vietnam
Thanh “Nick” Vu  Vietnam
Keyuan Wan  China
Xiaoqian “Caroline” Wang  China
Di “Wendy” Wu  China
Sakino Yamate  Japan
Kairui “Keny” Zhang  China
Ruomeng Zhang  China
J unu “Joanna” Zhao  China
Jinze “Chris” Zheng  China

Above: (Top) At a host family dinner, new international students Martijn Van Dooren, left, and Ruomeng Zhang, center, helped clean sweet corn for dinner with alumnus Jim Mullins ’03 and his family.
(Middle) A panel of current students answered questions for new students during International Student Orientation.
(Bottom) International and MALANA students at the pre-orientation Karaoke Night

Below: Iyin Ajayi ’14 with owl pillows made as welcome gifts for new international students.

(All photos by Marc Featherly)