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Four IWU Juniors Headed to Oxford for 1999-2000 School Year

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Four Illinois Wesleyan University students will head to England next fall to study at Pembroke College, a 375-year-old unit of Oxford University, one of Britain's most historic and prestigious campuses.

The four students, who will study at Pembroke as part of a three-year-old program linking IWU and the fabled English campus, are:

- Josh Butts, a junior majoring in history and English from Mt. Zion, Ill. He is a 1997 Mt. Zion High School graduate.
- Kathryn Eissfeldt, a junior majoring in history from Peoria, Ill. She is a 1997 graduate of Peoria's Richwoods High School.
- Josip Glaurdic, a junior majoring in international business and political science, from Split, Croatia. He is a 1997 Galena (Ill.) High School graduate.
- Shanna Shipman, a junior political science major from Pekin, Ill. She is a 1997 graduate of Pekin Community High School.

"Studying at Oxford," IWU President Minor Myers said, "gives our students an adventure they will remember for a lifetime. It also broadens their perspective, living in another country, studying at a fabled college steeped in tradition, and studying under the British tutorial system."

Classes at Pembroke run from October to June.

Tutorial vs. Lecture-Based System

Oxford's approach to education focuses on independent study rather than the traditional classroom approach used in the United States. Students pick their focus of study and meet with a tutor in their division once or twice weekly in a "tutorial" session. American higher education is a lecture-based system, where students and faculty meet in groups, or classes, and exams test objective knowledge.

At Oxford, the core of the work takes place in the tutorial, with much emphasis placed on personal thoughts rather than tests. Most Oxford students take only two tests in their academic career. At the end of a student's first year, an initial test is given which the student must pass in order to continue attendance. The other exam is taken as a graduation requirement.

IWU-Pembroke Link

The IWU-Pembroke program is an outgrowth of a bus trip in Japan. Myers sat beside Ken Mayhew—Pembroke's administrator, tutor of economics, and former tutor of admissions—on a trip to a wedding.

As a result of that chance meeting, 13 IWU students will have studied at Pembroke by the end of the 1999-2000 academic year.

Jaynanne Calaway—a 1999 IWU graduate who majored in economics and international studies with a concentration in diplomatic studies—studied at Pembroke for the 1997-98 school year, where she was enrolled in the Honour School of Political Science, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE).

"The British," Calaway said, "consider this program the most prestigious and challenging course you can take at Oxford.

"The 'Oxford experience,'" Calaway added, "certainly has no rival and by far was the most incredible experience of my life. I grew in many ways beyond academics—personally, emotionally, and certainly socially."

Josh Butts

When Butts leaves for Pembroke, he will face his biggest challenge yet.

"It will be my first time overseas," Butts explained. "I'll be 4,000 miles from home—now I'm just an hour away from home—so distance will be my biggest challenge.

"When I get there," Butts added, "I'm planning to jump right in and make friends quickly."

Butts was lured to Pembroke because of the challenge of the tutorial system—a different method of study—and the chance to meet people from different backgrounds, countries, and colleges.

"The tutorial system," Butts said, "will force me to be more organized and stay on top of things since I'll be studying independently. I'll have a reading list with numerous books on it and I'll have to compile a paper."

Butts' primary study focus will be history with a secondary emphasis on English. He'll meet with his history tutor weekly and his English tutor every two weeks. He plans on concentrating on modern British history and Victorian literature.

This broad liberal-arts background, Butts explains, will be useful as he prepares for a career in broadcast journalism because history and English emphasize writing. Asked

about his career goals, Butts quips: "I want Matt Lauer's job," referring to the anchor of NBC's "Today Show." "I can get up early. And, it's great talking to world leaders, celebrities, and all kinds of people every day."

Butts also is looking forward to five-week study breaks at Christmas and in March, 2000. He's planning to come home for Christmas but traveling around Europe by rail on spring break, visiting as many countries as possible.

Kathryn Eissfeldt

For Kathryn Eissfeldt, the chance to study at Pembroke combines two college goals: the chance to study abroad and the opportunity to explore a pet subject, the history of science.

Eissfeldt already has satisfied her wanderlust with travels to England, France, Germany, Austria, the Caribbean, and Latin America. And, last Christmas her passport was stamped . . . Antarctica.

Her trip to Antarctica—aboard a 210-foot-long ship with 86 passengers and a crew of 30—satisfied her twin interests in travel and science, particularly biology.

"Antarctica was fascinating to me," Eissfeldt explained. "It was so other worldly. There's so little life there, it's easier to see how life adapted to this fascinating ecosystem, with its stark beauty and feeling of immensity."

Eissfeldt was in the Antarctic about three and a half days. The journey took her to St. Louis, Miami, Buenos Aires, and Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world at the tip of Argentina. She was at sea two days both ways.

Her enduring impression of Antarctica was isolation.

"It felt like being on another world," Eissfeldt explained. "There was so much beauty and so little life to transform it. There were three colors—black, white, and blue." Among Eissfeldt's visual impressions of Antarctica are penguins, seals, and barren icebergs, hundreds of thousands of years old.

"There was little sign of life," she said, "but sometimes you'd see penguin tracks on an iceberg."

At Pembroke, Eissfeldt will nurture her interest in the history of science by exploring the history of scientific instruments. Pembroke also will take her closer to the roots of her scientific hero, Sir Isaac Newton.

"Newton," she said, "represents everything that was going on in the Enlightenment. Newton shaped the outlook we have today."

Eissfeldt sees several advantages to spending a year studying in England.

"I will be able to broaden my horizons," she said, "living in a different situation. That's equally important in college as studying."

She's also ready for the academic challenges of Pembroke.

"I'll be studying," she said, "with some of the most distinguished scholars in the world. It's an honor and a challenge to study along side them."

Eissfeldt also hopes Pembroke will be a launch point for additional travels in the British Isles and European continent.

Eissfeldt is undecided about her post-college career plans. However, she expects to attend graduate school in history.

Josip Glaurdic

Josip Glaurdic came to the United States from Croatia in 1996 for his senior year of high school. Now, he's readying for another international educational experience--a year at Pembroke College, Oxford, in England.

"You can never have enough international experience," Glaurdic said. "I want to broaden my views in all areas—especially intellectually and academically—and Oxford is the most perfect place for that in the world."

Glaurdic is looking forward to Pembroke for another reason: He'll be closer to home and is eyeing the prospect of seeing his family for longer periods of time, especially at Christmas and Easter.

Reflecting on his two majors—international business and political science—Glaurdic said they mirror both parts of his personality: the realist and the idealist. International business, he said, offers a wide range of career opportunities, hence, security. However, political science, his primary interest, gives him the skills and knowledge to perhaps return home some day and work for political justice.

Glaurdic's focus at Pembroke will be the Political Science, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) program and an exploration of Eastern Europe in the post-communist era.

He also is excited about the tutorial system, adding: "The benefits are so immense in terms of mopping up the experience and knowledge of my tutor and exploring them one-on-one."

During the summer of 2000, Glaurdic is looking forward to a family vacation in Germany, where he has cousins near Cologne. He also wants to explore England, Scotland, and Wales.

Glaurdic's post-Pembroke and IWU plans include going to a top graduate school in political science, perhaps in England. His career plans remain flexible, however, his options include teaching in the U.S. or England, and returning to Croatia to participate in the country's political life. A dream position for Glaurdic would be serving as Croatia's United Nations ambassador.

Shanna Shipman

As a prelude to attending Pembroke, Shanna Shipman took part of her college education on the road during the spring of 1999, attending the Washington Semester Program at American University in Washington, D.C.

The wide-ranging program gave Shipman, a political science major, the chance to blend the academics of American politics with practical experience as an intern in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she worked for the Republican Policy Committee headed by Rep. Christopher Cox (R-Calif.).

Shipman had a tough time choosing a major since her interests are many and varied. She settled on political science as a practical application of her other social science interests—interests she would like to pursue in a public service-oriented career.

"The Washington Semester program," Shipman explained, "gave me the opportunity to learn from political professionals and professors." One "professional" she learned from was Anthony Kennedy, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Among Shipman's other teachers were elected officials, journalists, business leaders, and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

"My internship working for the House leadership," Shipman said, "was incredible. I met important 'players' in person and worked with them."

Her focus was international affairs. Information she gathered through research was brought to various policy meetings for use by the GOP leadership. She attended weekly committee meetings on Wednesday with the Speaker of the House. One of those sessions featured former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and a discussion of the ethnic-cleansing crisis in Kosovo.

Shipman wanted to study abroad in college to bring more diversity to her educational experience. Pembroke was attractive to her because of Oxford's academic reputation, which she characterized as "striking."

Shipman's focus at Pembroke will be comparative politics, especially the tough transition from communism experienced by several Eastern European states.

"This is a work in progress," Shipman explained, "and I want to see its different social ramifications."

The Pembroke challenge for Shipman is to combine study of advanced material with a totally new system--the tutorial system.

"I'm looking forward to the new system," Shipman said, "because it will force me to develop discipline. I'll have to set off on my own to gather information, sort it out, develop key concepts, and summarize them for my tutor."

Shipman's career plans are unclear at this time. Law might be an option, she said, as well as combining teaching on the college level with public service.

About Pembroke

Pembroke College, founded in 1624, admits just under 100 undergraduates each year from schools throughout Great Britain together with a small number of students from overseas, for a total enrollment of around 400 students. Pembroke is one of 32 colleges that make up Oxford University, which had its beginnings in the early 12th century with groups of young scholars who gathered around the town's learned monks and teachers.

Pembroke College is named for William Herbert Pembroke (1580-1630), an English courtier and patron of letters. He was tutored by poet Samuel Daniel and succeeded his father to an earldom in 1601. Prominent at court, he became a privy councilor in 1611, served as lord chamberlain of the royal household from 1615-25, and lord steward from 1626-30.

Pembroke furthered the exploration and colonization of America. William Shakespeare's first folio in 1623 was dedicated to Pembroke and his brother. Pembroke College, Oxford, was named in his honor while he was university chancellor, 1617-30.

About IWU

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium.

