



The International Educator

UW-Eau Claire study abroad information for advisers, faculty, and staff

Volume 4, Issue 3

February 2007

Study Abroad Program Earns National Recognition

UW-Eau Claire's study abroad program was one of four programs nationwide to be recognized with a 2007 Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education. The Heiskell awards are managed by the Institute for International Education, and were established in 2001 "to promote and honor the most outstanding initiatives being conducted in international higher education."

UW-Eau Claire received an Honorable Mention in the Study Abroad: Best Practices category. The 2007 theme was providing innovative programs and services and making study abroad more accessible to a broader student population. The UW-Eau Claire project, Removing Barriers and Extending the Reach, refers to a CIE project initiated in 2002, to determine barriers to study abroad for traditionally underrepresented groups, including students of color and students majoring in education and nursing. This on-going effort to extend the reach of UW-Eau Claire study abroad to these students, has resulted in four new programs being offered. The program in Thailand was designed to allow Hmong American students to explore Hmong heritage in Asia and to familiarize education and nursing students with the history and cultural heritage of future students and patients they will serve. Since the program began in 2004, 64% of the students have been Hmong & Hmong-American and 17% have been education or nursing majors. That same year, two new partnerships were created, one in South Africa and another global program to facilitate student teaching abroad. Of the 43 students who have studied in South Africa, 21% have been nursing or education majors and all students from those majors have participated in the on-site service-learning course, giving them significant interaction with the host community. Last summer saw the start of a 6-week program in Costa Rica specifically for nursing and health care students; that program will expand to 8 weeks in summer 2007.

Third Student Wins Gilman Scholarship for Spring 2007!

Rachel Berg, a junior Latin American Studies teaching major, has won a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for spring 2007. Rachel was awarded \$3,000 to use for her semester-long program in Costa Rica, where she will take Spanish language and Latin American studies courses. This is the fourth Gilman awarded to a UW-Eau Claire student in the 2006-2007 academic year. The Gilman program supports students who have been traditionally underrepresented in study abroad. It is a Congressionally funded program, administered by the Institute of International Education. Find out more at <http://www.iie.org/programs/gilman/index.html>.

Spelling Report Calls for Emphasis on Study Abroad

According to the NAFSA website: "The final report of Secretary of Education Spellings' Commission on the Future of Higher Education (FHEC) recommends "increased federal investment in areas critical to our nation's global competitiveness and a renewed commitment to attract the best and brightest minds from across the nation and around the world to lead the next wave of American innovation."

The commission also recommends "greater emphasis on international education including foreign language instruction and study abroad in order to ensure graduates have the skills necessary to function effectively in the global workforce." Read the entire report at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hiedfuture/reports/pre-pub-report.pdf>.



Academic Year/ Fall/Summer 2007 Update

We have accepted 104 students for 19 fall or academic year programs, and 121 students for 8 summer programs.

We will be sending the first students to sites in China, Ghana, Scotland (Glasgow & Stirling), and Thailand (Chiang Mai-semester option).

International Classroom Speakers

Each semester past participants of study abroad programs become part of our International Classroom (IC) speaker program. Twenty IC speakers gave more than 100 classroom presentations during fall semester.

All IC speakers attend a 2-hour training, where they prepare a 10-minute presentation about study abroad. IC speakers talk about UW-Eau Claire study abroad in general, while sharing specific experiences from their own study abroad program.

You may be contacted directly by an IC speaker, requesting 10 minutes of your class time. We are also happy to facilitate the process. Just send an e-mail to Erin Polnaszek (polnasee@uwec.edu) with the following information: class name, class location, meeting time/days. She will share this information with potential speakers, and one of them will contact you to set up a specific presentation date. The IC speakers are also available to talk to campus organizations or to residence hall wing meetings.



Erin Roberson studied in Durban, South Africa in summer 2006.

She is an elementary education major and a language arts minor.

"The Bagaces/Granada program has taught me lessons about poverty, the importance of family and the excitement of learning a language that I could have never imagined."

-Sarah Holm, Social Work Major

Fall 2006 Nicaragua/Costa Rica program

Spring 2008 Study Abroad Application Deadlines

We began accepting applications on January 16, 2007 for **spring semester programs**. The application deadlines are:

March 1 for: Harlaxton/England

April 2 for: Lismore & Perth/Australia; Graz/Austria; Guangzhou/China; San Jose/Costa Rica; Global Student Teaching; Lancaster & Winchester/England; France; Wittenberg & Hessen/Germany; Limerick/Ireland; ISEP-Direct; Kansai Gaidai/Japan; ITESM/Mexico; Study in Scotland; Valladolid/Spain; Växjö/Sweden & Chiang Mai/Thailand.