Educational Travel: It’s much more than just a trip!

Study abroad for a week or a semester. The experience is likely to change you forever! So has been the outcome for two General Studies students who left their comfort zones to pursue education down roads less traveled.

Melissa Richardson, who studies Spanish, had always expected to explore new places. “I had classmates who blew me away with their Spanish skills and their stories of going to places like Spain and Chile, and I realized I really wanted to do the same thing.”

But it wasn’t until she saw a poster on campus promoting a spring break course studying sea turtles in Costa Rica that she realized the dream could become a reality.

“I was completely excited about the possibility of going abroad where I could use my Spanish and take a science class that would be extraordinary. I had been pushing back taking a hard science course, not quite feeling like the right class had come along for me. So at the sight of a marine biology class at IPFW with a week-long trip to Costa Rica to work with sea turtles, I knew I had to take that course.”

Richardson applied for the David Starr Jordan Scholarship for Study Abroad Programs. She sought help from the Writing Center to complete the required essay, was accepted and awarded $500 to apply to her travel expenses.

“Costa Rica was not only fantastic and radiant, but even working long hours looking for baby sea turtles in the sand was well worth the cost and effort to get out in the world. The first night’s walk on the beach looking for turtles coming in to nest and for babies going out to sea was truly awe-inspiring. The view of the stars without a moon, clear skies, and being so close to the equator was sensational.

“I used my Spanish to speak not only with Costa Ricans, but also with biologists from all over the world. My every-day Spanish was slightly rusty, but after a couple of days, my confidence grew and I found it easy to slip into Spanish more and more.”

Richardson, who earned 3 credits in BIOL 140 during her week-long adventure, says she would love to study abroad again and to return to Costa Rica.

“I don’t think my college experience would have been as whole if I had not gone,” Richardson says.

Diane Zimmanck already was a seasoned traveler when she opted to spend her final semester in Shanghai with the Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE) “China in a Global Context” program. She had spent an earlier stint as an ESL teacher in southeast China before coming to IPFW in 2008 to complete her degree in General Studies.

At East China Normal University, Zimmanck earned 6 credits in Chinese language that could be applied to her B.G.S. She also took a course on Chinese Political Development focused on the effects of globalization and its future implications for China, as well as a course that explored the role of women in Chinese history and culture. She completed the B.G.S. in May.

“I think it is fair to say that the experience studying in China has only reinforced my interest in China. I am in China now working for a company focused on helping young people prepare to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. These are kids who want to study in the U.S. I know first-hand the importance of a college education. Having the opportunity to study in a foreign country will change their lives — it has changed mine! I am excited everyday knowing that I am helping these kids because I know just what is waiting for them when they get to the U.S.”

“I love the idea that I am in one of the most dynamic countries in the world. I can see and feel the urgency this nation has as it grows and attempts to assert itself as a credible world power. I can also see the extremes of a modern, cosmetically manufactured China and the reality of daily life and the contradictions and obstacles people face when dealing with the tight fist of the government.”

Zimmanck plans to stay in China for another year, then perhaps attend graduate school.

“China is a pretty cool place to be, so I’ll just have to wait and see what develops,” she says.

IPFW offers an exciting list of educational travel opportunities for 2011. (See sidebar.) Details of trips are available at www.ipfw.edu/dcs/trips. If you are interested in study abroad for college credit, see your academic advisor to verify that credits will transfer.

“...the world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” – St. Augustine

Educational Travel Options 2011:

Culinary Traditions of Tuscany
June 4–18, 2011
3 credits in CFS 399 (noncredit option)
Linda J. Lolkus, instructor

Art of Ireland and England
June 14–29, 2011
3 credits FINA P490 (noncredit option)
Dana A. Goodman, instructor

Peru: Fieldwork in Bioanthropology
June 29–Aug. 5, 2011
6 credits in ANTH B405 (credit only)
Richard C. Sutter, instructor

Art and Architecture of Rome, Italy
June 24–July 6, 2011
3 credits INTR 220 (noncredit option)
Matthew Kubik, instructor

Belize Archeological Field School
TBD, 2011
3 credits ANTH [course no. TBD] (credit only)
Christopher R. Andres, instructor

Human Rights Institute: Strasbourg, France
TBD, 2011
6 credits in PHIL 580 and POLS Y371 (credit only)
Clark W. Butler, instructor

Practicum in China
TBD, 2011
1 credit in LING L690 or ENG W398 (credit only)
Hao Sun, instructor

Summer I 2011 (May and June departures)
Applications and deposits are due to Continuing Studies by Jan. 1, 2011. Travel fee balance is due to Continuing Studies by March 1, 2011.

Summer II 2011 (July and August departures) Applications and deposits are due to Continuing Studies by Feb. 1, 2011. Travel fee balance is due to Continuing Studies by April 1, 2011.

Visit www.ipfw.edu/dcs/trips for additional details or call 260-481-6620.
**NEWS** you need to know!

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**Attention:** Students on academic probation

General Studies students who received notice of probationary status are required to take part in a series of support workshops and faculty intervention during critical weeks of the semester. Included in the notice of probationary status was a form that must be returned to the Academic Student Achievement Program (ASAP) Office in the Walb Student Union, Room 118. General Studies advisors will be calling to follow up with students who fail to act on this opportunity.

If you have received a notice of probationary status, you are expected to take the following steps now:

- Complete and submit the form you received with your notice of probationary status to the ASAP! Office, Room 118 in the Walb Student Union.
- Register to participate in the “Degree Possible” fall workshops (see list below) by calling 260-481-6608 to reserve your place. Free lunch will be provided and seating will be limited.

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**IPFW fee doubles for “official” transcripts**

On July 1, 2010, the fee for an “official” Indiana University or Purdue University transcript at IPFW was increased from $4 to $8. The fee increase reflects the cost of an official transcript at other Indiana University campuses. Purdue University students who do not wish to pay a fee for an official transcript will be directed to the West Lafayette campus. There will continue to be no charge for unofficial transcripts from either university.

**Quota limits pages printed in campus computer labs**

The campus has instituted a new policy limiting printing from on-campus computer labs to 800 pages per semester for all students, faculty, and staff members. The new policy was made in response to the large number of unclaimed pages left at printer stations. With a print quota in effect, unnecessary printing will be discouraged, which is expected to have a positive impact on the environment as well as saving the university money in printing costs. For more details about the policy, go to www.its.ipfw.edu/printquotas.

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**New procedure for graduating students**

General Studies will be starting a new procedure this fall for all graduating students. The semester before you graduate, (Are you graduating in May?) you will meet with an advisor and complete a degree audit. This will be a mandatory meeting. If you are one of our “at a distance” students, we will make other arrangements. Watch for e-mail information regarding this new procedure.

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**IPFW students now have the option of renting textbooks for the academic term rather than purchasing them. Renting instead of buying can save more than 50 percent of the purchase price of a new textbook.**

To rent a textbook, you must be 18 years or older, and have a valid driver’s license/state ID, credit card, and e-mail address. You will need to fill out a rental agreement where you are renting the book—either in-store or online. Whether you rent from the campus bookstore, efollett.com (www.efollett.com), or a Follett virtual bookstore, all forms of payment, from cash, to credit, campus cards, and financial aid, are accepted.

Rented books must be returned to the bookstore where they were rented by the return date on the rental receipt. Otherwise, a non-return fee as well as a processing fee will be charged to your credit card. You have the option of buying rented textbooks at any time during the semester. If you drop a course, you may return a rented textbook for a refund during the normal refund period.

For more information about textbook rental, visit Follett’s IPFW Bookstore in Kettler Hall or go to www.efollett.com or www.rent-a-text.com.

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**Freshmen encouraged to complete MAP-Works survey**

MAP-Works is a survey for IPFW freshmen designed to enhance success by providing customized strategies to help students get the most out of their first year of college.

After completing the survey, MAP-Works will provide students with an extensive, personalized report about:

- How to meet their expectations
- What their peers are thinking
- How to be more successful in college
- What campus resources are available to help

All students who complete the survey will receive a $2 coupon to Higher Grounds and will automatically be entered into a random drawing to win one of 300 stuffed Mastodons. One lucky student will win an iPad.

To take the survey:
1. Log into myIPFW.
2. Go to the First Year tab.
3. Click MAP-Works and take the survey.
4. The Higher Grounds coupon will print with the 3-page student report.
Alumni and students encouraged to attend eMentoring event Nov. 9

The General Studies staff invites alumni and current junior- and senior-level General Studies students to participate in the seventh annual eMentoring event on Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Walb Student Union Ballroom.

The goal of the eMentoring program is to network students with alumni mentors who successfully apply their General Studies degrees in the business and professional world. The evening’s schedule includes dinner followed by an activity designed to match mentors with student mentees who have similar career ambitions. Mentors and mentees are encouraged to continue their conversations online after the initial match-up.

If you would like to participate as a mentor or a mentee, call the General Studies office at 260-481-6828. For more information about eMentoring, visit www.ipfw.edu/dcs/gsdp/ementor.

After initial eMentoring connections are made, participants are encouraged to keep the conversation going online (the “e” factor).
The following General Studies students have been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society: Pamela Cook, Sheri Crawford, and Sherri Drake. Membership is by invitation only. Juniors must rank in the top 7.5 percent of their class and seniors in the top 10 percent.

General Studies students Jessica Bryson and Anthony Decker have been recognized for Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities representing IPFW for 2010. Eleanor A. Bieberich scholarship for the 2010–2011 academic year. In one-year appointments, AmbassADONS are awarded through the General Studies Web site www.ipfw.edu/dcs/gsdp/ and are eligible for General Studies scholarships.

Scholarship applications are on the General Studies Web site and are awarded through the Office of Financial Aid. Students must complete the FASFA form by the March 1, 2011 to be eligible for General Studies scholarships.

Rebecca Goetz is serving as an IPFW AmbassADON for the 2010–2011 academic year. In one-year appointments, AmbassADONS represent IPFW by serving at high-profile events, accompanying the Chancellor to high-level meetings, and participating in service projects among other leadership development activities.

Alumni Recognition and Admission Activities

Alumni Events

Alumni Events:
- Sept. 29...Nearly Naked Mile
- Oct. 12...11th Annual Mastodon Roast
- Oct. 20...Legislative Action Lunch
- Nov. 9...General Studies e-Mentoring Event
- Nov. 10...Economic Outlook Luncheon
- Dec. 4...Alumni Recognition and Homecoming

For more information, call 260-481-6807 or e-mail alumni@ipfw.edu

Alumni Recognition and Admission Activities

Alumni in the news

Doug Olsen, B.G.S. '03, Linda Neuchterlein B.G.S. ‘10, and Breck Geeting, B.G.S. ‘10, were featured in a PBS ad on local station PBS 39 promoting the General Studies Degree Program.

IPFW administrators and staff were recognized for years of service at a luncheon in April: Julie Hook, General Studies Program director (30 years), Sandy McMurtrie, General Studies academic advisor (20 years), Bernard Lohmuller (30 years), Sandra Pedroza (30 years), Dennis Graf (20 years), Penny Pereira (10 years), Jane Markin (10 years), and Lyna Weaver (5 years).

Rita Bennett-Sheirbon, B.G.S. ’84, received the YWCA Northeast Indiana Peggy Hobbs Service Award. The award honors a woman of outstanding personal development, achievement, and dedication as a volunteer. Bennett-Sheirbon currently volunteers as a peer group facilitator at Erin’s House for Grieving Children.

Shaun VanDriessche, B.G.S. ’09, was named to the All-Summit League second team and set an IPFW single-season record with 18 home runs and an IPFW career total of 38, also a school record. He is pursuing a master’s degree in organizational leadership.

LoriAnn Cammillarie, B.G.S. ’10, Matthew S. DeMeritt, B.G.S. ’10, and Diane K. Zimmanck, B.G.S. ’10, were featured in a Celebrating Our Graduates insert in Fort Wayne Business Weekly.

Generally Speaking...

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