**Mastodon Travels**

**Greetings from the Office of International Education**

The goal of the International Programs unit within the Office of International Education is to facilitate global knowledge exchange through academic work in other countries and develop cross cultural understanding via cultural immersion—whether on campus or abroad.

In keeping with this goal, the overseas study programs enable students to study and earn IPFW credits applicable toward their degrees and for IPFW faculty members to teach, develop new courses, and conduct research while abroad.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to present this issue of *Mastodon Travels*. It seeks to highlight the stories of those who have studied overseas, introduce you to new study abroad programs, and inform you of the campus cultural programs. I hope you find this newsletter informative and it pushes you to study and/or intern abroad.

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**My Time in Spain by Jessica Riley**

My name is Jessica Riley and I spent my fall 2011 semester abroad in Seville, Spain. Seville is a lovely and welcoming town with its own Main Street and historical background. After the application process, months of preparation, and an eight hour flight, my long awaited trip had finally arrived. Little did I know that it was going to go by quicker than I expected.

Classes were Monday through Thursday. My favorite class was Spanish Literature. This course opened my eyes to the differences between the United States and Spain’s jargon and fostered a deeper appreciation of Spain’s culture and history.

No classes on Fridays allowed me and the other people in the program to explore Seville, Spain, and Europe. I visited Casa de Pilatos, Alcazar, and Plaza de Espana. I also attended a bull fight and took flamenco dance lessons. In addition, my friends and I traveled to England, France, Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands, and Morocco.

Sadly all great things must come to an end. At the end of my semester abroad, I made more memories and friends than I could ever ask for. Pictures now cover my room and scrapbooks of the unforgettable time in Spain with friends I will never forget.

Jessica Riley is a senior, English major.
International Education Makes a Difference by Douglas H. Draft

Mr. Draft spoke to the Institute of International Education (IIE) about the benefits of international education in 2008. This article is reprinted with permission from IIE and the University of Southern California’s Center for Global Education.

International education ignites a passion for understanding other people and their perspectives. That’s one important benefit to working or studying abroad—and it’s essential to success in our increasingly diverse world. Students with international exposure come to understand the value of dialogue between people from different cultures and between people with different points of view. They also gain an understanding of the importance of relationships. Relationships are the foundation for meaning and success in life. They are also the foundation for strong businesses, especially businesses that care about creating mutual benefit.

For almost three decades of my career at The Coca-Cola Company, I lived and worked in Asia. From Singapore to Tokyo to Beijing, I learned about different local cultures by living and working in those cultures. It gave me a profound respect for how people are different, and also for how we are the same.

Those experiences shaped my career in a powerful way—by shaping an appreciation for the cultural and intellectual diversity in our world. I’m fortunate today to have the opportunity to lead a company that is one of the most internationally diverse organizations on earth. We operate in nearly 200 countries, do business in some 125 languages, and employ people from over 215 different nationalities. Respecting and understanding the fundamental value of diversity is vital to who we are and the way we do business. Understanding and valuing different cultures has shaped my ability to lead our business, and it’s an absolute imperative for anyone who works at The Coca-Cola Company.

IIE: What do you see as the most important benefits of an international educational experience for college students getting ready to begin their careers?

Mr. Draft: Regardless of the path you choose, you must pursue your goals and aspirations with a sense of purpose and passion. International education ignites a passion for understanding other people and their perspectives. That’s one benefit to working or studying abroad—and it’s essential to success in our increasingly diverse world. Students with international exposure come to understand the value of dialogue between people from different cultures and between people with different points of view. They also gain an understanding of the importance of relationships.

Some students will be corporate and chief executive officers, or government officials, or educators one day, while others will choose different leadership roles and lives. Regardless of the path they take, students will benefit from exposure to international education. I think they will be more likely to engage in the issues our world community faces. International education instills concern about how to improve economic and social development.

Mr. Daft is the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Coca-Cola Company.
Program Spotlight: Southwest University in China

The summer Chinese language and culture program at Chongqing University offers four weeks of intensive language study. Students will live in one of China’s most vibrant and rapidly growing city. An undeniably modern city, Chongqing preserves the legacy of its strong colonial past.

The core curriculum centers around 15 to 20 hours each week of language instruction, emphasizing grammar, oral comprehension, and speaking. Courses are augmented by a five-day educational excursion to historic places in Chongqing such as the Great Hall of the People, Xueyu Cave, and the Dazu Rock Carvings.

The program is open to students with no prior coursework in Chinese and to those who have completed beginning and intermediate levels. The program cost is $350 plus airfare, visa, and food. Cost includes tuition, housing, books, field trips, and health insurance. However, there are scholarships available such as the David Starr Jordan and Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarships. Your financial aid can be used for the program as well. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

The application deadline is Thursday, March 1 and must be received in Kettler 269. For more information, contact Ashley Simmons at (260)481-6494 or simmonsa@ipfw.edu.

Study Abroad Fair

The Office of International Education and IPSGA hosted the second annual study abroad fair Wednesday, February 8. A record 246 individuals attended.

The purpose of the fair was to showcase study, work, internship, and volunteer abroad opportunities. The Office of International Education offers programs in four countries. Information was available on nearly 400 programs in over 60 countries managed by other organizations. More than twenty exhibitors were at the fair, making it the largest event of its kind in Northeast Indiana. Study abroad is a great opportunity for one to expand his/her horizons and earn academic credit towards his/her major, minor, or general education requirements. It challenges students personally, helps them in the job market, and promotes proficiency in another language. Plus, employers value people who exhibit cross-cultural professionalism and studying abroad helps students understand differences among people and themselves.

Upcoming Programs

Information Session
February 23 @ 4 p.m.—Walb 114
February 29 @ Noon—Walb 116
March 20 @ 2 p.m.—Walb 116
March 26 @ 11 a.m.—Walb 116
April 2 @ Noon—Walb 116

April 11 @ Noon—Walb 223

Campus Programs
Internationalize your Resume
Wednesday, Mar. 21 @ Noon
Kettler 101

WorldFest
Japanese Taiko Drummers
Tuesday, Apr. 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
Walb Ballroom

A Taste of the Middle East
Wednesday, Apr. 4 @ Noon
Walb 68

French Poetry Contest
Wednesday, Apr. 4 @ 6 p.m.
Walb 222