Greetings from the OIE

As the spring 2012 semester draws to a close, I would like to encourage you to consider participating in an overseas study program. That program could be a traditional study abroad, internship, or service learning project. Information regarding available overseas study programs is available in the new Office of International Education location, Walb 145, or online at www.ipfw.edu/iss. This newsletter will highlight the experiences of students presently abroad and the internationally themed activities on campus such as our Cinco de Mayo celebration scheduled for May 2 and the language courses offered by the Department of International Language and Culture Studies.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter informative and useful and it encourages you to study abroad.

Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship Program

The IIPP (Institute for International Public Policy) Fellowship Program gives students from underrepresented minority groups with intentionally designed education and training experiences critical to entry and advancement in international affairs careers. IIPP is a comprehensive program of summer policy institutes (fully funded), overseas study (provides 1/2 of funding), intensive language training (fully funded), internships, graduate study (up to $15,000 matching funds) and student services, including mentoring and career development. Additionally, the program provides students with the education and training necessary to enter successfully, advance within, and lead international affairs careers.

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Sophomore at the time of application
- Are enrolled full time at an accredited four year baccalaureate granting institution
- Are U. S. citizen or legal resident (documentary support required)
- Have a minimum 3.2 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)

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Written & Edited by Ashley T. Simmons, assistant director for International Programs
There are a number of reasons for you to study a foreign language from it enhancing your career and travel opportunities to enriching your appreciation of your native language and culture to cultivating your intellect and sharpening your thinking skills. IPFW offers language courses in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish. Courses in Spanish, French, and German are offered at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels while those in Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese are offered at the beginner and intermediate levels.

Students have opportunities to utilize their foreign language skills by participating in the various on-campus language clubs and studying overseas. A list highlighting the internationally themed clubs on campus can be found on the Office of Student Life’s website at www.ipfw.edu/stulife. Information regarding available study abroad programs can be found in the Office of International Education in Walb 145 or online at www.ipfw.edu/iss.

The Department of International Language and Culture Studies’ multi-cultural faculty is fully trained in assessing skill level. Their teaching will broaden your horizons. The Foreign Language laboratory is available to assist you in practicing their language skills. The lab is a space where students can listen to music, read books, and magazines, study, play games, converse, and use other multimedia resources. It is open Monday—Thursday from 8 a.m.—10 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.—8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon—5 p.m.

Learning a foreign language takes time and dedication. Competence in a foreign language will enhance your career potential, no matter which career you are planning. Whether it be business, sciences, communications, advertising, banking, teaching, travel/tourism, government service, or overseas employment, knowledge of a foreign language is often the extra selling point needed to land that perfect job. Travel, study, enrichment, and employment opportunities await IPFW language students.

Possess excellent critical analysis and leadership skills
• Have an interest in global affairs, public policy, and language training
• Are an underrepresented minority (African American, Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander)
• Plan to seek admission to a two year master’s degree program in international affairs

It is strongly recommended applicants complete at least one of the following courses before starting the IIPP Fellowship: international affairs, foreign policy, a foreign language, political science, sociology, macro/micro economics, statistics, or a course in journalism. The online application, as well as instructions for completing it, can be found at www.uncfsp.org/iipp.

For specific questions about the program itself or the application process contact:
Nicholas M. Bassey, deputy director, Institute for International Public Policy at Nicholas.bassey@uncfsp.org or (703)205-8141.
Hal Tatakallamu Alloghah Alarabiah: the Mystery Behind Arabic

There is a growing demand from global employers’ for individuals fluent in critical needs languages such as Arabic. Here are a few reasons why you should consider taking Arabic as your language requirement.

Arabic speakers are in great demand. The United States Department of State has created scholarships for language study in the U. S. and abroad for this critical needs language such as the FLAS and Boren fellowships. Being fluent in Arabic will give you an advantage in fields such as diplomacy, intelligence, business, engineering, international development, and academia.

Under the leadership of Farah Combs, Continuing Lecturer, the program emphasizes all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). As a beginner, you will start by learning to write the letters and distinguish the sounds of the Arabic alphabet. As you progress, you will learn the grammar and vocabulary you need to maintain an interesting college level conversation in Arabic.

Tiffany Jackson said she studies Arabic because “it is a beautiful language that has not been fully discovered yet. If you have the opportunity to take an Arabic class, take advantage of it.” Amnesty Byrd said that “Arabic is a tough language, but so rewarding. Job offers really do pour in as you advance in the language.”

The Department of International Language and Culture Studies will be offering three courses during the fall 2012 semester. There are two sessions for Elementary Arabic I: Monday—Thursday from 1:30 p.m.—2:20 p.m. and Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 p.m.—6:20 p.m. Intermediate Arabic I will be offered Monday and Wednesday from 3 p.m.—4:15 p.m. For more information about Arabic language and culture, contact Farah Combs at combsf@ipfw.edu.

Willkommen in Deutschland by Tyler Bowers

I am presently studying overseas at Free Best University in Berlin, Germany. I am studying German language and culture. This by far is one of the most amazing experiences of my life. It is very humbling, yet an eye opening endeavor that I wish will never end.

Berlin is, at first, not at all what I expected. I have studied German for four years already, but what you read in textbooks does not prepare you for the real Germany; that’s something you just have to experience first hand.

The program is absolutely exhausting both mentally and physically, but the intensity of the cultural and language emersion allows me to learn so much more than if I had studied in a traditional classroom setting. Hearing nothing but German for the last three months has improved my comprehension one hundred percent and my confidence in speaking, especially to strangers with no knowledge of the English language to fall back on. This program allows me to reach heights I had never imagined. Upon completion of this program, I will complete my German minor. Furthermore, I am confident the language skills and cultural experiences gained in Germany will allow me to stand out in my field when looking for a job.
We Have Moved!!!

The International Programs unit within the Office of International Education has moved to Walb 145 across from the International Ballroom.