

**Language in Motion: Facilitating Study Abroad Re-entry Through A Community Program**  
**NAFSA: Association of International Educators**  
**2010 Regional Conference, Corvallis, Oregon**

Willamette University is utilizing the Language in Motion (LiM) program to send study abroad returnees and international students into the local public schools to share language and culture. The inclusion of study abroad returnees in the program has helped ease re-entry issues and given students an outlet to share their experiences and a chance to interact specifically around culture topics with international students.

<p><b>Partner Schools:</b></p> <p>Juniata College (Founder), Pennsylvania  <a href="http://www.language-in-motion.net/">http://www.language-in-motion.net/</a>          Deborah W. Roney, Ph.D.          Director, Language in Motion          Assistant Professor of English          814-641-3493          RONEYD@juniata.edu</p>	<p>Willamette University, Oregon  <a href="http://www.willamette.edu/go/lim">http://www.willamette.edu/go/lim</a></p> <p>Nomi Pearce, LiM Coordinator          503-370-6566          limprogram@willamette.edu</p> <p>Chris Andresen, LiM Supervisor          503-375-5404          limprogram@willamette.edu</p>
<p>Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania          Dartmouth College, New Hampshire          Drew University, New Jersey          Iowa State University, Iowa          Johnson &amp; Wales University, Rhode Island          Loras College, Iowa          Vassar College, New York          Westminster College, Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Beth Kowal, Former LiM Coordinator and OIE          Intern          Program Assistant, IE3 Global Internships          Oregon State University          541-737-3100          beth.kowal@ous.edu</p>

**Reasons study abroad returnees have participated and/or found LiM to be valuable:**

- Study abroad returnee requirement
- Mission or Passion of the students
- Nostalgia/Reminiscing
- Audience for Sharing Re-entry Experiences (individuals and groups)
- Challenge to produce (developing presentation or activity creation skills)
- Fun

**Benefits of consortium membership:**

- Access to LiM materials/programs developed at Juniata College and partner institutions
- Shared resources
- Collective grant activities
- Support from a variety of colleagues (faculty and administrative arrangements)

## Language in Motion – Study Abroad Returnee Presenters Quotes

### **Study abroad returnee requirement**

It sounded like a great way to get my study abroad requirements done and to share a little bit about my time abroad with other people. I really enjoy sharing my experiences with other people and discussing cultural differences.

### **Audience for Sharing Re-entry Experiences**

When you come back from abroad you are still really passionate about where you've been for the last five months. It's hard transitioning back, it was a personal experience, and it was really hard to communicate that with other people. And most people don't want to talk to you about your time abroad. So to have a captive audience where I can say, "No really, I learned things, and it's important, let's do this" I mean, even if they are sixth graders, that is fine with me. You know, I had no idea what I was getting into when I went to South Africa. So hopefully it sparks something in somebody else to go try and do things equally odd and adventurous.

### **Fun**

It's a lot of fun once you get into it. It was hard for me to take time to do the powerpoint and presentation because it took time to organize my thoughts. But, once I did it, I really liked doing it. It's kind of a time commitment, but it's a lot of fun.

### **Nostalgia**

The students got the most out of me talking about the food and culture of Chile, easily the most memorable moment for them was when I told them about the completo- a hot dog covered in tomatoes, avocado, and mayo which is a Chilean staple.

### **Mission or Passion of the student presenters**

I decided to participate in LiM because I wanted to share my experience with others, and especially with kids. I had such an amazing experience abroad and would love to inspire younger kids to start thinking about the world, and traveling as well. Ecuador is so rarely talked about, and I want to share something that they won't learn about in class.

### **Skills gained**

It taught me how to speak in front of a crowd too. It made me step back and think about what little kids would want to hear and was going to interest them and what's not. And how to communicate things about culture or what to leave out and what they are going to remember at all. There's a lot of thinking about that, which I hadn't done before.