

The WKU
Office of Study Abroad & Global Learning
in collaboration with the
International Education Council
presents the



April 29, 2010

*Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility
Garrett Conference Center*

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“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.” – Henry Miller



Erin Greunke, WKU Faculty-Led Study Abroad (Dr. David Keeling), Tanzania 2006

The benefits of study abroad are as numerous and varied as the students who engage in the courses. The purpose of the Study Abroad Symposium is to afford students the opportunity to reflect on a higher level, and in a public forum, their academic gains from participating in a study abroad program.

The 2010 Study Abroad Symposium was created to enable students to contribute to the academic life of the university by documenting the impact of a study abroad experience. Erin Greunke, Geosciences master's candidate (Ogden College of Science & Engineering), developed the Symposium as a supplement to thesis research and in partial fulfillment of the Leadership Certificate.

The Study Abroad Symposium was made possible through the support of Jerry Barnaby and the Office of Study Abroad and Global Learning with support of Hayley Farmer, SAGL graduate assistant.

Special thanks to President Gary Ransdell, Provost Barbara Burch, Dr. James Flynn, the International Education Council, and the Institute for Citizenship and Social Responsibility for making the Symposium possible.

And, congratulations to each student presenter and thank you for sharing your study abroad experience.

OPENING REMARKS - 1:00 PM

Dr. Gary Ransdell, WKU President

Dr. Barbara Burch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Mr. Jerry Barnaby, Director of Study Abroad and Global Learning

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Presentation 1 - Moderators: Dr. Roger Murphy and Dr. Laura McGee

1:20 PM Mendy Freeland and Jason Fraim

"A Global Perspective on a Globalizing World"

Presentation 2 - Moderators: Ms. Amy Eckhardt and Dr. Ron Ramsing

1:50 PM Aric Johnson

"Partners in Caring: A Medical Service-Learning Opportunity for WKU Undergraduates in Kenya"

Presentation 3 - Moderators: Dr. Cecile Garmon and Dr. William Pfohl

2:20 PM Heather Williams and Courtney Elder

"Geology of the Bahamas"

Presentation 4 - Moderators: Dr. David Keeling and Dr. Haiwang Yuan

2:50 PM Jordan Norris and Molly Calico

"Belize as a Classroom"

Presentation 5 - Moderators: Dr. Dan Myers and Dr. James Flynn

3:20 PM Rachel Reetzke

"Experiences in China: A Continued Growth in Knowledge of the Chinese Language and Culture"

Presentation 6 - Moderators: Ms. Jean Nehm and Dr. David Coffey

3:50 PM Kathryn Dillinger

"Study Abroad in Germany: Preparation for the Future"

CLOSING REMARKS AND PRESENTATION - 4:20 PM

Mr. Jerry Barnaby, Director of Study Abroad and Global Learning

Mendy Freeland
Jason Fraim

Graduate Students, Masters of Business Administration
Gordon Ford College of Business
Symposium Sponsor: Dr. Bob Hatfield

Bowling Green, KY
Scottsville, KY

A Global Perspective on a Globalizing World

Our courses, while taken in Canada, were vital to our graduate degree program. Being our first semester, these courses provided the basis for our MBA education. Learning while immersed in the culture of Atlantic Canada was not only far more exciting than being at home in Kentucky, but it was advantageous from a professional perspective. Being in the business field with the rapidly growing global economy that we are experiencing today, we felt that studying business strategies and practices in another country provided us with an immense, competitive advantage in the job market. We were awarded the opportunity to take part in business tours which reflected the differing business culture of Canada. Through immersing ourselves in the culture, we gained invaluable knowledge that benefited us professionally and personally. We were exposed to new ways of doing business and gained a better appreciation for other cultures. In Atlantic Canada, we were surrounded by people who spoke both English and French, and the dynamics of the culture were shaped by this unique aspect. We found these study abroad courses to be limitless in their benefits, and although the program is new, we would encourage anyone to participate. Studying abroad means opening yourself up to new experiences and ways of thinking. While doing so, you receive so much more than classroom education. WKU prepared us for this by providing all the pertinent information beforehand and also enabling us exposure to talk to previous students about their experiences in this program. The unique aspect about this program is the students we were studying alongside in Canada would then turn around and join us in Kentucky. Traveling together allowed us to feel more prepared and teach each other about one another's culture at the same time.

Aric Johnson

Bowling Green, KY

Undergraduate, Biology, Ogden College of Science & Engineering

Symposium Sponsor: Dr. Nancy Rice

Partners in Caring: A Medical Service-Learning Opportunity for WKU Undergraduates in Kenya

Through an international service learning course targeted at stimulating global awareness, pre-medical students from WKU assisted three Bowling Green physicians providing care to villagers in the impoverished area of Kasigau, Kenya. Currently, half of Kenya's 15 million population is comprised of the very poor, who are surviving on less than \$1 a day with very limited access to health care. Students prepared for the trip through an intensive, semester long, seminar course which focused on Kenyan culture, history, and geography; epidemiology of prevalent and tropical disease; and the structure of the Kenyan healthcare system. Students also learned basic, medical triage skills to be applied during the two-week field course in January 2010. During the course students participated in a seven day clinic in which they, along with the U.S. Physicians and local Kenyan healthcare practitioners, attended over 1000 patients in the villages of Rukanga, Bhuguta, and Makwasinyi. In addition to direct healthcare administration, students also conducted a physical therapy workshop for the Kasigau residents in order to relieve and/or prevent chronic back pain, a common medical complaint resulting from a physically taxing lifestyle. In conclusion, the Partners in Caring program is a unique opportunity for WKU pre-medical students to gain hands-on international medical experience at the undergraduate level while simultaneously developing an awareness of global healthcare disparity and fostering a sense of social responsibility for all people.

Heather Williams

Courtney Elder

Undergraduate, Geography & Geology, Ogden College of Science & Engineering
Symposium Sponsor: Dr. Fred Siewers

Elkton, KY

Owensboro, KY

Geology of the Bahamas

“The Geology of the Bahamas,” a 10-day field course, took place in January 2010 in the beautiful island of San Salvador, Bahamas. The course not only introduced the geology of the island, but the biology, history, and culture as well. During the day, we did intense field work, followed by lab or lectures in the evening. We were able to experience firsthand the carbonate geology on the island including a variety of caves, epikarst, and blue holes. Locally, we were able to study Mississippian aged limestone. However, on San Salvador, limestone is currently being formed and is millions of years younger compared to Kentucky limestone. Working in the field in San Salvador provided context for petrogenic processes we are taught in class at WKU. Also, we were able to experience the culture of the Bahamians and gain some insight into their lifestyle. The challenges of life on a desert island, facing water and energy supply issues was something we never contemplated seriously until this class. We’re thankful the residents graciously allowed us to study there. The history of the island was also explored revealing archaeological remnants of Bahamian ancestors and others who left their mark on the island. The ruins of old plantation houses are still partly standing today, giving us a glimpse into the historical culture and way of life. Majors-level geology classes such as Field Techniques, Earth History, and Analytical Techniques, were significant in preparing us for this study abroad field course. On San Salvador, we were able to utilize field techniques we have been taught in class, as well as collaborate with our classmates on various projects, further enhancing our teamwork skills.

Jordan Norris

Molly Calico

Graduate Students, Public Health, College of Health & Human Services

Symposium Sponsor: Dr. Ritchie Taylor

Bowling Green, KY

Hamilton, OH

Belize as a Classroom

During the week of January 7th – 14th 2010, Molly Calico and Jordan Norris participated in the Impact Belize program through the College of Health & Human Services. This program took place in Gales Point, a rural, underserved community in Belize. Impact students provided medical, dental, and public health services to the community in an interdisciplinary, service-learning format. As Master of Public Health students, Molly and Jordan directed health education initiatives and served on the Leadership Team for the program. Having participated in January 2009 as well, Molly and Jordan were well prepared to conduct public health research and to assume leadership roles within the program. By immersing themselves in the Belizean culture, they saw first-hand the relevance and application of health behavior theory and were able to recognize the importance of tailoring interventions to fit the needs of a particular community. Because Molly and Jordan had previously participated in the program, they were able to build upon the relationships they had made in the community, allowing them to successfully accomplish their research objectives. As leaders in the program, Molly and Jordan participated in meetings WKU faculty, the Ministry of Health and community representatives. They were able to develop a deeper, more meaningful understanding of public health and its relationship to politics, economics, and international affairs. Their experiences in Belize have enriched their education and have helped shape their personal and career goals.

Rachel Reetzke

Bowling Green, KY

Undergraduate, Communication Disorders, College of Health & Human Services

Symposium Sponsor: Dr. Amy Eckhardt

Experiences in China: A Continued Growth in Knowledge of the Chinese Language and Culture

In Spring 2009, my university offered a six-week China Field Studies program. Along with an intensive Chinese language study, I had the opportunity to complete three weeks of research and volunteer work at the Chengdu Autism Training Center. This research contributed to my undergraduate research at WKU. I fell in love with the Chinese children, who were fascinated to have a foreigner join in on their daily routine. The instructors of the center were very eager to learn about American methods of therapy and research. But, despite the fact that I was concurrently studying Chinese, the language barrier made communication almost impossible. By the end of the trip, I realized that in order for me to be an effective advocate and researcher in China, I would have to continue studying the language intensively. Upon returning to the states, I enrolled in the new Chinese Flagship Program at WKU. During the Chinese Flagship Winter practicum, I was able to further develop my language skills. Myself and other students had the ability to navigate and explore the cities of Tianjin and Beijing on our own. One really neat way I was able to utilize my new language skills was to plan a Peking Opera outing for President Ransdell. The Winter language practicum was a great transition into this semester of studying Chinese intensively and is very beneficial to my future academic plans. The combination of continued language skills and knowledge of China, paired with the network of individuals that continues to grow, will further contribute to my future academic goal of obtaining a PhD in Speech and Hearing science and working as a teacher, researcher, and advocate in the area of autism spectrum disorder with a focus on international and comparative work.

Kathryn Dillinger

Leesburg, FL

Graduate Student, History, Potter College of Arts & Letters

Symposium Sponsor: Dr. Laura McGee

Study Abroad in Germany: Preparation for the Future

Upon deciding to pursue a Masters Degree in History from WKU, I learned that I was required to pass a language proficiency test to complete my degree. I chose German as my research language and began German 101 with Dr. McGee Fall 2008. I needed to reach a high level of proficiency in a short period of time. Dr. McGee accepted me into her May Term Study Abroad Program in Germany and helped me to organize an extended stay taking intensive German at a language institute. The program design provided a gentle entry into German culture, training in the use of public transit and increasing independence with regard to individual mobility. A two week stay with a host family helped improve my communication skills and awareness of German culture. We took "City Walks" that trained me to be a more careful observer and helped me to make intercultural comparisons. The course design encouraged critical inquiry, including an individual, professional interest project. This helped me to step outside my language comfort zone and use my communication skills to do research. The following fall, I advanced beyond Intermediate German to German 330 and I am currently taken German 430. For my History Master's thesis, I have recently translated six documents from 17th century German to English. Without being exposed to German in its native environment, I would not have been able to advance at the rate I did to achieve my academic goals. I was selected as the Program Assistant for the 2010 May Term in Germany. Some of my duties for this position are budgeting, flight and hostel bookings, and organizing activities for new participants to experience. These experiences have added an international dimension to my studies and will help me to lead my own programs someday.

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