



Washburn's International Accent

November, 2002

Volume II, Issue 2

International Accent, published by the Office of International Programs, strives to inform the university community of all things international and to foster the awareness of international education at Washburn. You can also view it at <http://www.washburn.edu/iip/newsletters>

Calendar of Events (November 1-December 11, 2002)

Nov. 1, 7:00 p.m. Shoestring Film Series, "Memento", Stoffer 103.

Nov. 6, noon, i-House, Brown Bag Lecture presented by Teresita Leyell. Call 231-1051 for more information.

Nov. 11, 7:00 p.m., i-House, International Week Film "Vacas" (Cows). Film will be moderated by Dr. Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas. Free popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.

Nov. 12, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Open House at the i-House, international food and cultural displays.

Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m., i-House, International Week Film "Monsoon Wedding". Film will be moderated by Vikas (Ricky) Khullar. Free popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.

Nov. 13, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Study Abroad Fair, Union Lobby, across from Corner Store. Ten departments will be represented and provide materials and applications for various Study Abroad programs.

Nov. 13, 2:30-4:00 p.m., Henderson 204, School of Business International Summer Study Presentations. Students will share their experiences in Spain, London and South Africa.

Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m., i-House, International Week Film "Amelie". Film will be moderated by Dr. Marie-Luce Parker. Free popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.

Nov. 14, 7:00 p.m., i-House, International Week Film "Jenseits der Stille" (Beyond Silence). Film will be moderated by Dr. Mary Hoak. Free popcorn and soft drinks will be provided.

Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m. Shoestring Film Series, "Jakob the Liar", Stoffer 103.

Nov. 15, Deadline for applications for Study Abroad programs.

Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., i-House, International Center of Topeka meeting.

Nov. 29, Deadline for applications for Faculty Abroad assistance.

Dec. 6, 7:00 p.m., Shoestring Film Series, "East is East", Stoffer 103.

Dec. 7, 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., i-House, "Treasures of the Bazaar", International Center of Topeka Sale (fundraiser for WU scholarships).

Dec. 8, 4:00 p.m., Vespers, White Concert Hall.

Dec. 9-16, WU guest Maria Popova, Carnegie Scholar from Veronish, Russia will be on campus.

Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m., International Center of Topeka's Gala Holiday Celebration at the Capitol Plaza. For more information, call Frank Taff at 272-4108.



International Relations Briefs

International Programs has had the pleasure of welcoming the following international visitors to campus thus far during the fall semester.

* **Dr. Walter Schludermann**, Departmental Coordinator for ERASMUS exchange programs at the *University of Klagenfurt* (Austria), and *his wife Elfi* visited the campus September 12-14. This was their first visit to our campus and although it was a brief one, they enjoyed it thoroughly. While here, Dr. Schludermann met with Dr. Gordon McQuere, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. Marie-Luce Parker, chair of Modern Languages, to build stronger ties between the two universities.

* A delegation from *Tongji University* (China), led by *Yu Xiao*, dean of the International School, was on campus September 21-25. While here, members of the five-person delegation met with President Farley, Vice-Presidents Wasserstein and Hill, Dean McQuere and Dr. Smith, Interim Dean of the School of Business. The purpose of the delegation's visit was primarily to discuss the details of the "Four Plus One" program in which Japanese students from Tongji would complete one year of study here after completing 4 years at Tongji. The first students in this program are expected to arrive in the fall of 2004. In addition to working on the "Four Plus One" program, the delegation explored the possibility of other areas of exchange and cooperation between Tongji and Washburn.



* **Dietrich Hillebrand and Barbara Cordes**, accomplished musicians from Germany, were here September 28 - October 5. Mr. Hillebrand and Ms. Cordes have visited our campus each fall for the last few years to provide Master Classes for Washburn vocal students. On Friday, October 4, those involved in the Master Classes, along with German students who had prepared texts by Heinrich Heine, celebrated Heine's works with a *Liederabend* held in the south gallery of the Mulvane Art Museum.

International Center of Topeka Executive Board Reorganized

In recent month, Francine Hines resigned as president of ICT in order to devote more time to her family. Jean Mann also turned in her resignation as secretary. Frank Taff, vice president, now is directing the organization as acting president until the next general election in May, 2003. William Langdon, the former executive secretary, is now secretary. Baili Zhang, director, Washburn's Office of International Programs is executive secretary.

Study Abroad Fair

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., International Programs will host a Study Abroad Fair in the Memorial Student Union - first floor lobby, across from Corner Store. Representatives from approximately 10 departments/programs will be on hand to answer questions about the Study Abroad programs from their areas. Current students here on a study abroad program will be available as well. Stop by to review materials from programs in Austria, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, UK and others. Visit with students who are currently here on study abroad or exchange programs as well as students and staff who are back from recent experiences overseas. The deadline to apply for Study Abroad for Spring 2003 is November 15, 2002.





BODS ABROAD

Special Edition, Washburn's International Accent

November 1, 2002

Published by International Programs

Two Fun Summers in Austria

by Karen Chacey

I have been lucky enough to spend two consecutive summers studying German at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria. As a German major, I can now say from personal experience, that immersion in another language and culture is by far the best way to learn the language. I noticed a great deal of improvement in my German right after I came home...while I was in Austria, I did not see how much I had improved throughout the month.

I knew I would meet people from all over western Europe and from elsewhere in the US, but I never expected some of my best friends to be from Italy, Hungary, Turkey, Argentina, and Slovakia. Everybody got to be very close friends. No one was ever without someone else to hang out with; everyone was part of their own large group, but no one was ever excluded. I still keep very close contact with about 6 or 7 people by email.

The best thing about my trip (other than the local cuisine) was how I felt about myself when I came home. I was scared to be by myself when we were traveling from Frankfurt to Klagenfurt at the beginning of the trip. But after a month, I got myself from Vienna to Prague to Frankfurt and home again, using nothing but German (English is not at all common in the Czech Republic) and without incident. I gained a new confidence in myself, and I feel more independent as well. In every aspect, it was a wonderful experience.

All the Way to ... China

by Christal Whelchel

I never thought I would travel all the way to China. Not only did I go, I stayed there for 10 months! It was a very valuable experience.

Chinese people are very friendly. They are very hospitable to people they hardly know, and would open up their hearts and homes. I remember countless times when a stranger would walk up to me on the street and invite me to their home for dinner. They were also very eager to give and receive gifts. I have made many close friends in China and continue to communicate through email. I hope to return to China one day to meet them again.

As a 5 foot 6 inch blonde haired, green eyed American, I often felt like I was a superstar. With only 18 foreign students in Jinhua, I stuck out like a sore thumb. People would approach me and ask for autographs, pictures, interviews.

And, as an English speaking foreigner, I was "used" a lot for Chinese students to practice English with.

I feel that my study abroad experience has changed me as a person. I feel that I am more open-minded about different cultures and governments. I think I have definitely become more adaptable to



Brad Wilmoth and Christal Whelchel in front of Shaoxing Pagoda, China photo by CW

changes, I mean, what better way to adapt oneself than to immerse oneself in the culture for 10 months. I feel that I have greatly improved my communication skills, both in English and in Chinese. I greatly appreciate the chance to study abroad, and would gladly recommend China to anyone as an excellent place to study and visit.

Studying Abroad: Going to a Third Country, or Fourth...

by Ingrid Bego

I am an international student from Albania, but I spent last year "studying abroad" back in Europe. I started my journey in Klagenfurt, Austria, and ended it in Santander, Spain, where we just established a program with the University of Cantabria. As soon as I arrived in Klagenfurt, I fell in love with the city. The Austrian nature was unbelievably beautiful. I had always dreamed of speaking German fluently, and in Klagenfurt I was making my dream come true. I got to know so many other students from different countries, experienced the Austrian culture and in the mean time I mastered the language. I lived in the dorms where I was introduced to the real Austrian student life. I enjoyed the opportunity I was given to study in Klagenfurt and I saw it as a window to a world different from mine.

My next stop was Santander, which is located in northern Spain. Even though it was my second semester abroad, I looked forward to it. I was excited for a fresh, brand new semester. The Spanish culture amazed me. I embraced it and very soon it became part of me. The Spanish language itself is full of emotions, which explains a lot about the Spaniards. Santander sits right on the coast and it is a city where you feel privileged to live. The Spanish classes were all about learning the language as much as they were about getting to learn the culture and enjoying the Spanish fun. I finished the semester in Spain after I explored the language, the culture, and the wonderful Spanish cuisine. Studying abroad for a year was a growing

experience more than anything else. I learned more about the world, the others, and most of all, about myself. I realized that I was given an opportunity of a lifetime, so I did not waste any time. I embraced it, and enjoyed every minute of it. It is experiences like these that make a difference in our lives, transform us into people of great integrity and deep understanding. It is experiences like these that make us better people for a better future.

In Their Own Words...

"It's hard to fully grasp the concept of a culture and language without actually experiencing it in person. Studying in Klagenfurt allowed me to experience an entirely new culture, while at the same time advancing my German language abilities. The time that was not spent in class we spent doing many extracurricular activities including hiking, biking, white-water rafting, museums, concerts, and a variety of culture events. The teachers and activities directors were very helpful and willing to give extra help. My experience in Klagenfurt has helped me to appreciate people from different cultures and backgrounds." ---**James Hill studied at Klagenfurt University, Austria**

"Studying abroad proves to be the most effective way of learning a foreign language and allows students to truly appreciate the language they are studying. In many cases, depending on the language, a culture's language is viewed as an art more than simply a form of communication. I honestly feel that studying abroad should be mandatory for foreign language major because it really "forces" students to attempt speaking another language, reducing one of the most important parts of learning a language--having confidence in yourself." ---**Ryan Winrick studied in Salamanca, Spain**

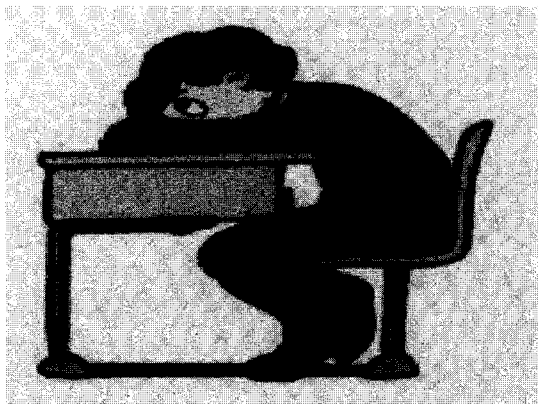
"My trip to Cambridge, England, was absolutely an amazing learning experience for me. I thoroughly enjoyed attending Cambridge University. The campus had a divine aura

surrounding it. The buildings were so beautiful they almost seemed as though they had been lifted from an antique painting, placed on a valley of vibrant green grass, and set in the centre of a historic city. The classes at Cambridge were also very interesting. I learned a lot about the United Kingdom.

I loved my encounters studying abroad. I am already planning my trip back next summer. This time I am going to stay for six weeks and backpack. I hope to see all of the things I didn't have a chance to last summer. I definitely reveled in the presence of diversity and culture in the UK and in Europe." ---**Jessica Fardella, studied at Cambridge University, England**

"This summer I spent six weeks in the mysterious country of China. The experience was different than anything I could have guessed. China is very safe to travel for tourists. If you get real homesick, you can even be timely comforted at the local McDonald's, KFC, Starbucks, or Pizza Hut. The experience was life-changing. It is well worth it." ---**Emily Kessler studied in Hangzhou, China**

"Studying in France was an amazing experience. I met students from all over the world, and made memories that will last a lifetime. Living in a foreign country doesn't just teach you new language skills... it teaches you new life skills. I highly encourage anyone who has the chance to study abroad to go for it! See new places and have an unforgettable time!" — **Sarah Drobek studied in Clermont-Ferrand, France**



Bored?? Study Abroad!!



From the Other Side: *Exchange Students talk about Study Abroad*

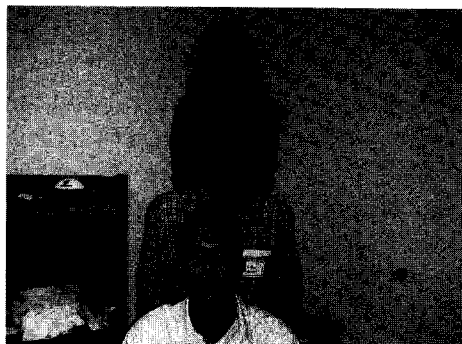
"I always intended to study for a semester in the US. Now that I am actually here, I can't believe how well everything turned out to be. My experiences with the Americans so far have been extremely positive and I appreciate the sense of community at Washburn. Spending a semester here is a great experience and will enrich my study and my personal life. I like Kansas, not only because it is scenic and pretty, also because it is the complete opposite of my home country of Austria. I love the vast land here. But my little country also has a beautiful landscape and lots of interesting spots to offer that I can only recommend for you to visit."

---**Verena Jantschgi, University of Klagenfurt, Austria**

"I have already studied one year in Sweden, and now I am on the Kansas prairie! 'Going abroad broadens your horizons' may be a cliché, but it's simply true. No general formula exists which will tell you how going abroad will work out, that's the best part! It's an adventure and a challenge for yourself and all your skills. Consequently, you will not just overcome borders of different countries, but also your personal boundaries. I have discovered an entirely new side of myself, and what I appreciate the most: You become aware of so many things and develop a greater consciousness. To me, every day is like opening a present when I'm abroad." ---**Gabbi Hochsteiner, University of Klagenfurt, Austria**

"I have always wanted to live and study abroad, and I am very glad that I took the opportunity to come to Washburn. Going to another country is a perfect way to experience new cultures, not only of the country you go to, but also the cultures of the other international students. It is a way to meet many new friends from all over the world and to gain new perspectives on things. It is so much more than just going on a vacation somewhere.

When you study abroad, you experience the society and you get an insight into how people in other parts of the world think. It is also interesting to observe new holidays and traditions. To study in a foreign country is very inspiring and you gain important experience. So, do not hesitate, take the chance to change your life! ” ---**Malin, Lindqvist, Orebro University, Sweden**



*Malin
Lindqvist*

*Sebastien
Kellen*

*Romain
Pirenne*

*photo by
SK&RP*

“Studying abroad is such a great opportunity that I have never thought I could miss. It has always been my goal to discover other countries, other cultures, and other peoples. I think that studying in another part of the world is the best way to achieve these goals. And, as a result, you grow, become more open-minded and more tolerant. You learn to understand others better, their thoughts, their beliefs and values. Furthermore, it’s so fun to discover a new country, learn a new language and make new friends. For this and many other reasons, do not hesitate: study abroad! You will not regret it!” ---**Romain Pirenne, Magellan Exchange, Belgium**

“I LOVE to travel and I do it as often as I can. But there is only so much you can learn about a country, a culture, or a language when you are there for two weeks. The only way you can begin to understand is by staying longer. The way I have done that is by studying abroad. This is the second time I have studied abroad. The first time I went to Cambridge, England, and now I’m at Washburn. I think that I have grown as a person because of the time spent abroad. When I went to England at the age of 19, I had never been away from my family and friends for so long. It was the first time I was forced to really take care of myself. That may sound scary, and it was, but the friends I made that year remain some of my best friends.

I realize that a trip abroad isn’t for everyone, but I do encourage people to go (especially to Orebro, Sweden). You’ll learn so much and will have so much fun.” ---**Anna Frejd, University of Orebro, Sweden**

“My semester at Washburn will always stay in my memory. Since I was 12 years old, my dream was to come to the USA. Now that I am here, I really enjoy every single day. The life in the dormitories is an incredible experience. I have met a lot of people, and participated in a lot of activities. The people are very nice and really willing to make you feel comfortable. Furthermore, there are many new and exiting activities on campus, it’s almost impossible to stay inactive. It is also a great opportunity to open your mind to different cultures since there are a lot of people coming from all around the world to Washburn.” ---**Sebastien Kellen, Magellan Exchange, Belgium**

WU’s Sister Universities

Fukuoka University, Japan
 University of Costa Rica, Costa Rica
 Blaise Pascal University, France
 Klagenfurt University, Austria
 Örebro University, Sweden
 University of Nottingham, England
 Cambridge University (summer), England
 Maynooth University, Ireland
 University of Zagreb, Croatia
 Tongji University, China
 Zhejiang Normal University, China
 Tunghai University, Taiwan
 University of Pretoria, South Africa
 University of Cantabria, Spain
 Magellan Exchange Schools, Europe

*You may go to study in any one of them.
 Contact International Programs or call
 231-1051 for more information.*



Study Abroad Fair
 Nov. 13, 11am -1pm, Union

International Week Scheduled

International Week begins Monday, November 11, with the kick off of the International Film Series, at 7:00 p.m. A different film will be shown Monday - Thursday evenings (see calendar of events for details). On Tuesday, International Programs will host its first Open House at the i-House from 11-1. Drop in to try foods prepared by our international students, test your knowledge of cultural trivia and facts, enjoy music and displays from various countries and visit with our international students in native dress - and take a tour of the i-House. On Wednesday, a campus-wide Study Abroad Fair will be held in the union from 11-1 across from the Corner Store.

Ongoing Renovations of the i-House

Several renovation projects for the i-House have been completed and many more are in the planning stages. The office space has been reconfigured to provided area for the Office of International Programs. All the windows and doors have been replaced throughout the house and the two upstairs bedrooms have been renovated, remodeled and are currently available for international visitors stays. Other improvements include a wheelchair assessable ramp (added to the northwest entrance), and rewiring for cable, netstations and phone systems. Signage for the building and entrances have been ordered and both interior and exterior painting projects are next on the agenda. The rules and regulations for the use and booking of the rooms in i-house have been updated and are available in the International Programs office. To book the i-House call, Christine Winchester at x1051.

International Enrollment Numbers In

The official results for the fall 2002 semester are in: international enrollment at Washburn is consistent with the spring 2002 semester, with 160 international students enrolled. Fifty-four countries are represented on our campus, with the following having the strongest

representation: Kenya, Korea, China/Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. In addition to those enrolled, fourteen international student graduates are currently working in the U.S. under the Post-Completion Practical Training program, which allows them to gain valuable work experience in their undergraduate/graduate area of study.

International Education Committee Formed

The International Education Committee (IEC) has been reorganized with a mixture of veteran members and fresh blood. The members are: Cindy Hornberger (Nursing), Jim Eck (Business), Oscar Plaza (Applied Studies), Ron Griffin (Law), Marie-Luce Parker (Modern Languages), Bob Beatty (Political Science), Ursula Jander (Biology), Reinhild Janzen (Art), and Baili Zhang (International Programs).

WUAAA Experiences the World

How can you see the world without even leaving campus? Members of the Washburn University Administrative Assistant Association found out on September 10 when their monthly luncheon series got off to an excellent start with the theme of "Experience the World." Vicki Baer, Jo Ann Brown, Kelli Clevenger, Marva Early, Heidi Kraus and Sharon Urban worked to put together a program which would give those present a taste of the world which is represented here on our campus. The entertainment was provided by the following WU international students: Nadia Li (China), who played a few piano duets with Clara Zhang (China), who also demonstrated a traditional Chinese New Year's dance; Yoshie Hadano and Riyo Kusazumi (both from Japan), who demonstrated the Japanese art of origami by showing how to fold a paper crane; and Joyce Yee (Colombia) and Arnoldo Alegria (Mexico), who made everyone's feet tap to the Latin beat as they demonstrated how to dance salsa. The festive, international decorations and door prizes added an educational and fun touch to the event. Many thanks to our international students who made it possible to help others appreciate how internationally rich our campus is!

Tracking the Tracking System- SEVIS

After many twists and turns, it now appears evident that SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System), the system to track the movement and information of international students and visitors, will go live on January 30, 2003. By that time, all schools wishing to continue hosting international students must be re-certified by INS and must comply with new federal regulations. Washburn was last authorized to admit international students in 1954. Like many schools waiting for more specific regulations, Washburn chose not to go through pre-registration, which ended on September 24, but applied for regular re-certification at the end of October. In the meantime, an interim tracking system, ISEAS (Interim Student and Exchange Authentication System) is already in use. Under ISEAS, before issuing the travel paper (I-20 form), the school must "register" each admitted student in the data- base for State Department and INS agencies to access to determine visa eligibility.

Once SEVIS goes live, more responsibility will be placed on international students, reporting to the school such changes as address, telephone number, major and level of study, with the university reporting all those changes to the INS. As all the SEVIS compliant schools are experiencing, the reporting duties will increase significantly. Moreover, there will be a period during which the currently attending students will have to be converted to the SEVIS I-20 as well. So, patience and cooperation are appreciated during that period.

Congratulations

The Downtown Topeka Rotary Club awarded four WU international students \$400 scholarships; Ovokeraye Achinike, Nigeria; Amia Noisaengsri, Thailand; Kyungho Min, Korea; and Christian Domaryd, Sweden. The scholarships were awarded at a formal luncheon at the Topeka Country Club on September 25. For more information on how to apply for these scholarships call International Programs x1051.

International Bazaar To Hold Liquidation Sale

The ICT board has decided to give the annual Christmas Bazaar a rest. In order to liquidate the items left from last years sale they will be sponsoring a "Treasures of the Bazaar" sale on December 7 at the i-House, 9-5. Stop by and take advantage of the sell-out of some extraordinary items at special discount prices.

Brown Bag Lectures Draw Large Crowds

Brown Bag International Lecture Series has undergone a major face lift: new promotional flyer, new topics, new dynamic speakers, and refreshments, just to name a few. The result? Tremendous success! The four lectures so far have attracted an average of 30 people. The series provides a forum for faculty and community members to report on their international activities. If you are interested in presenting, please contact International Programs at 231-1051.

International Student Talent

This poem was written on the board of Bobbie Anderson's Intensive English class on the morning of September 11, 2002 in response to the first annual Remembrance Day of 9/11/01.

God bless our homeland;
and make or nation great,
and strong to defend forever
the cause of freedom and of right.
May God fill forever our heart with humility and
honesty.

by Komlan Assiobo

(Articles and information for this issue are contributed and edited by the IP staff.)

