Internationalization at Western

*Dr. John H. Petersen*
*Director of International Programs*

The goal of strengthening the international dimension of programs and activities at Western Kentucky University has emerged as an important institutional priority in the vision statements and strategic plans found in Western XXI and "Moving to a New Level While Keeping Old Traditions." The Western XXI document includes emphasis on the critical value of global education in preparing students for the future. "New Level" calls for much broader student participation in study abroad and other cross-cultural experiences and for more mutually beneficial interaction between international and American students on campus.

Western has in place a good basic international education program that is reflected in a solid international and area studies curriculum, a number of inter-university exchange agreements, various study abroad program opportunities, and a small, but diverse, international student population. The goal that the university has set for itself is to build substantially on that base through further globalization of the curriculum, much broader student participation in study abroad experiences, and an international student population that is both larger and more fully integrated into the overall student body.

Achieving this ambitious and important goal will require a major effort by many people along with the commitment of necessary university resources. The staff of the Office of International Programs and the membership of the university's International Education Committee can and will provide leadership, but it will take the active participation of colleges, departments, faculty, and staff from all areas of the university for the internationalization process to really succeed at Western. In order to make a real difference, every academic department will need to look for ways and means to incorporate an international dimension into what they do, from faculty and curriculum development and evaluation to encouraging their students to take advantage of opportunities for international experiences.

The internationalization of Western is certainly one way to enable the university to move to a "New Level" and it is a goal worthy of all of our efforts to try to achieve. This newsletter is dedicated to these efforts.

International Visitors at WKU

Each year Western hosts a variety of international guests. During the past academic year WKU hosted the following international visitors:

**Russia**
During the Fall 1995 semester, a delegation from the Rostov region of Russia visited WKU. The delegation was made up of educational administrators participating in the ECO-BRIDGE Global School Program. The delegation was sponsored by the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Environmental Education (CMSEE) at WKU and the Citizen Exchange Council (CEC) International Partners. Funding was provided by the United States Information Agency (USIA).

Another delegation from Rostov-on-Don will visit Western in October 1996. This group will include faculty.

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INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT WKU

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INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS AT WKU

Each year Western Kentucky University invites scholars from around the world to be Exchange Visitors on our campus. During the 1995/96 academic year, WKU hosted thirteen exchange visitors. Mr. Guoqi Gu (People's Education Press - P.R. China); Mr. Dong Li (Hualai Coal Mining Administration - P.R. China); Mr. Binghong Li (Hunan Mining Institution - P.R. China); Mr. Jiji Li (University of Science & Technology - P.R. China); Ms. Meiling Yao (Beijing County International Festival will be held on the square downtown from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The week will feature many activities for all ages. Please join your neighbors and friends to help us celebrate the diversity that makes up our city and campus.

New Middle East Studies Certificate

The recently established Middle East Studies Certificate will be offered to students majoring in the arts and humanities. The certificate will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 18 credit hours of approved coursework. Students must take courses in the following disciplines: History of the Middle East, Government, Sociology, Economics, Geography, and International Relations. A student must take at least 9 credit hours in history and sociology, and at least 3 credit hours in economics and geography. The remaining coursework may be chosen from any discipline where courses are offered in the certificate. Students may choose from a variety of courses in each discipline, and the course titles are listed below.

Fall/Winter Up-coming Events

The week of October 7-12, 1996 will be the "International Week" in Bowling Green. The week will feature international films at the Caped Arts Center on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 11 is the date for WKU's International Day with activities beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. The culmination of the week's events will be on Saturday, October 12 when the Bowling Green-Warren County International Festival will be held on the square downtown from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The week will feature many activities for all ages. Please join your neighbors and friends to help us celebrate the diversity that makes up our city and campus.

Western Faculty & Staff Abroad

any faculty and staff at Western have an active interest in research, teaching, and traveling to other countries, and have also assisted the university and the region to address the needs of individuals abroad.

Department of Agriculture

Dr. David Coffey led a group of eight graduate students and faculty to Sichuan, China, in June 1996. The group visited Sichuan Agricultural University and Sichuan University, and held discussions on agricultural science and technology.

Department of Biology

Dr. Rody Prins led a group of students on his annual Reef Ecology study abroad program on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas during May 1996.

Department of Chemistry

Dr. John Chamberlin spent five weeks in Austria as a participant in the Institute for International Education (IIE) program.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT WKU

(Continued from page 2)

Studies' (KIK) Bregenz, Austria program.

Department of Communication & Broadcast

Dr. Randy Capps taught the "Seminar in Organizational Communication" in Canada during July, 1996.

Department of English

Dr. Jim Flynn taught a two-week class, "Irish Literature: Poetry, Politics, and Protest," during the CSKA's 1996 Summer Program located in Dublin and Galway, Ireland.

Dr. Pat Taylor was the lead professor on the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad's (CCSA) 1995 Fall Semester Program in Cambridge, England.

Department of Geography & Geology

Dr. David Keeling received a Kentucky Council for International Education (KCKE) grant to travel to Mexico to develop a long-range cooperative research and exchange program between WKU and the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

Dr. Keeling also completed research on the impact of NAFTA on both Mexico and the state of Kentucky during his time in Mexico.

Other members of the department who traveled abroad are: Dr. Mark Lowry, Dr. Michael Trappaso, and Dr. James Davis.

Department of Government

Dr. Steve Bollard spent five weeks in Austria in July 1995 teaching two classes in the KIK program in Bregenz. After completing the KIK program, Dr. Bollard had a grant to pursue his research on Eastern European governmental systems.

Department of History

Dr. James Baker taught a three-week course on the CSKA's 1996
Austrian Exchange - WKU EXPERIENCES ABROAD

A Year in Mainz

Dr. Thomas Baldwin, Professor and Chairman, Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies

We are very pleased to have an exchange agreement with the State College of Education in Vienna, Austria. This is the largest institution in Austria for the training of elementary, middle school, and special education teachers. The agreement provides for both short- and long-term exchanges of faculty and students.

The initial contact arose out of a visit by a group of 25 elementary, middle school, and high school teachers from Austria to Bowling Green and Warren County Schools in February, 1995. The leader of that group, Karl Preis, is acquainted with a group of 25 elementary, middle school, and high school teachers from Austria to Bowling Green and Warren County Schools in February, 1995. The leader of that group, Karl Preis, is acquainted with Karl Heinz Schmidt from Vienna who had been a faculty member in the State College of Education in Vienna, and the Director had asked Mr. Preis to contact the appropriate people at Western about a possible exchange.

After initial discussions and subsequent correspondence seemed promising, I visited the Austrian campus in February 1996. Karl Preis and Karl Heinz Schmidt from Vienna visited Western's campus in July of this year.

This fall there are three Austrian students studying at Western for the semester. In addition to the other subjects they are studying, all three are musicians. Two are playing in Western's Jazz Band, and one is accompanying various groups on the keyboard.

Two Western students are studying in Vienna this semester. Carl Ballard, an English major, and Jennifer Hothcot, a sociology major. Also, faculty from Western's College of Education are planning to make a visit to Vienna in June 1997. For further information, please contact the Office of International Programs, 5334 Office of International Programs.

A Fulbright Experience - WKU EXPERIENCES ABROAD

Donna K. Chesire, Assistant Director of International Programs

When I first learned that I had been selected for the Mainz Exchange Lectureship to teach American literature at a German university for a year, I panicked. How would I survive on brutatwest and sauerkraut speaking a language that sounds like you're gargling? How would I fit a year's worth of belongings into two manageable suitcases? The heavy teaching load (six courses each semester) didn't worry me half as much as the dreadful loneliness that would surely meet me at the Frankfurt airport and possibly linger for the entire year. I accepted the appointment despite my misgivings and had, as a result, one of the best years of my life.

My year abroad opened my mind to another country and culture. The first few months of my stay involved regular grupee sessions with a fellow American about various German customs and values that we couldn't understand. By the end of the year, our list of grupees was awarded by a list of all that we would miss about Germany. Foremost on my list of what I would miss was the experience of community I had there. Whether in the city, where people gather in the marketplace and around the many fountains and statues, or in the countryside, where the houses are arranged community-oriented, the experience of living and interacting in another country, with its cultural and linguistic differences, was the more illuminating experience. Never having traveled in Germany, I experienced first-hand what students from another country feel when they come to the U.S. Being in the position of "foreigner" has enabled me to interact more effectively with the international community at Western and to be a better advisor to American students who plan to study abroad.

In 1994, I was chosen to participate in the Fulbright German Seminar for U.S. Administrators in International Education. This program is specifically designed to acquaint international education administrators with the language and educational system of their host country. The program also sends German international education administrators to the U.S.

The four weeks I spent in Germany not only gave me a greater understanding of the German educational system, but brought me in contact with German administrators, faculty, and students, and with other international education professionals from the United States.

During the program, our group of 25 administrators traveled throughout central and eastern Germany. We were the first Fulbright group to visit the former East German states of Thuringia and Sachsen. The week's itinerary was designed to be led by Dr. Ulrich Littmann who was director of the German Fulbright Commission for over 25 years.

The knowledge I gained about the German education system has served me very well in my position here at Western. I have an important role as the director in the experience of living and interacting in another country, with its cultural and linguistic differences, was the more illuminating experience. Never having traveled in Germany, I experienced first-hand what students from another country feel when they come to the U.S. Being in the position of "foreigner" has enabled me to interact more effectively with the international community here at Western and to be a better advisor to American students who plan to study abroad.

Dr. Richard Pace - Mexico. Dr. Pace was instrumental in developing an exchange agreement between WKU and The Autonomous University of Chapingo.

Ms. Valerie Haskins - Honduras. Ms. Haskins led a group of Western students on the Taloga Archaeological Project.

Dr. Thomas Baldwin - Austria and Germany. Dr. Baldwin assisted the Office of International Programs in developing an exchange agreement with the Pedagogische Akademie des Bundes (State College of Education) in Vienna, Austria.

Dr. Melissa Stewart - Spain. Dr. Stewart was the Director of the KISS summer program in Spain.

Dr. Danielson - Sweden, Spain

Dr. Karin Edgof - France, Holland

Dr. Kastell - Venezuela

Dr. JAK Njoku - Nigeria

Dr. Michael Ann Williams - Northern Ireland

Dr. Regina Seitz - Germany

Department of Physics & Astronomy

Dr. Dudley Bryant conducted collaborative research with the University of Plymouth in England.

Dr. George Vourvopoulos and Doug Humphrey attended an international conference in Greece on Neutrons and Molecules.

Dr. Donnella Chesire served as Assistant Director of the CCSSA's five-week London Summer Program. The conference was composed of 130 students from around the United States and nine faculty from consortium-member schools.

Office of Training & Technical Services

Ms. Colleen Bell Mendel traveled to Vienna, China, Hong Kong, and Macau this past summer. While in Vienna, Dr. Mendel visited the Vietnamese Ministry of Commerce.

Department of Psychology

Dr. Ray Mendel traveled to Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, and Macau this past summer. While in Vietnam, Dr. Mendel visited the Vietnamese Ministry of Commerce.

Dr. Anthony Nunn traveled to Greece and Italy during July/August 1995, and spent May 1996 in Mexico. Dr. collection is currently hosting the fourth high school exchange student (Switzerland) and acts as a Host Family to WKU international students.

Department of Sociology

Mr. Craig Taylor taught in the CCSSA 1995 Fall Semester Program in Cambridge, England.

Department of Education

Dr. Barbara Kacer and John Kiraly accompanied American students to the Rostov-on-Don region of Russia to attend a three-week international summer camp at the Autonomous University of Chapingo. The program was designed primarily to provide English language training for the students to the Rostov-on-Don region of Russia.

Dr. John Baldwin - Austria and Germany. Dr. Baldwin has a summer program in western Germany that is sponsored by the Center for Gifted Studies (CGS) at WKU and the CEC International Partners.

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WESTERN STUDENTS ABROAD

Semester and Year-Long Exchanges

One of the features of Western's exchange agreements with universities abroad is the opportunity for WKU students to spend either one semester or one academic year abroad at one of our partner institutions. Students who do not find a study abroad experience that matches their requirements among our exchange partners can study at any accredited higher education institution abroad. WKU also offers summer study abroad programs through two consortia. The following students took advantage of these programs during the past year:

Jacqueline Granese spent the Spring 1996 semester at Macquarie University in Australia.

John Van Stone was Western's exchange student for the 1995/96 academic year at Trent University in Peterbourough, Ontario, Canada.

Chad Gesser was WKU's graduate exchange student during the Spring 1996 semester at the Autonomous University of Chapingo in Mexico.

Jennifer Browning, Janey Carree, Rosemary Cundiff, Dana Dalrymple, Christine DeLesso, Terri Evitts, Derek Farley, Amy Foos, Jennifer French, Kelly Guenther, Jennifer Hardy, Jennifer Hargan, Rhonda Jenkins, Katherine Litchfield, Amanda Moore, Wesley Parade, Elaine Poston, Valerie Siciliano, Stacey Symson, Krista Tanner, and Nancy Weber spent the Fall 1995 semester at the Cooperative Center For Study Abroad's (CCSA) Semester in Cambridge program.

Summer Study Abroad

Western students who do not wish to study abroad for a full academic year or semester may take advantage of various summer study abroad programs offered through the university.

Bahamas -- Reef Ecology on San Salvador Island. Students who participated in the


Cooperative Center For Study Abroad (CCSA) -- The CCSA offers programs during the winter break, summer and fall semester in England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, and Hong Kong. WKU's participants for the 1995/96 academic year included:

- London Winter Program -- Brittany Hatcher and Tammy Tomberlin.
- Ireland Program -- Laura Bartlett, Amanda Elliott, Kim Rufra, James Starks, Ginger Turner, and Diana Werkman.
- Ireland/Scotland Program -- John Hayden and Shannon Martin.
- Gardens of Britain Program -- Sarah Berry, Tanen Bradley, Clayton Clark, Charles Harnist, Tim Lee, Bill Payne, Lillian Scoggin, and Steve Tuck.
- London Summer Program -- Jennifer Coomes, Deborah DeHart, Lee Hunt, and Amanda Thurmond.

Guatemala Nursing Program -- Tim Adame, Susan Bracey, Sharon Dickson, and Cristy Fuqua.

Honduras Talgua Archaeological Program
David Anderson, Adrienne Asbell, Martha Brown, Virginia Burch, Greg Cooper, Paul Dixon, Tamara Gynn, Shirley Grace, Jennifer Hamon, Wendell Holmes, Derek Howard, Martha Kieffer, Scott Knobler, Michele Martz, Pamela McQuinn, Jon Murphy, Bruce Newland, Flora Painter, Rachel Regan, Amy Royse, Martin Schenck, Alice Templeton, and Joe Williams.

Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) -- KIIS offers programs in Austria, Ecuador, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, and Spain. Western's participants for 1995/96 included:

- Bregenz, Austria Program -- Kerry Basham, James Hannah, LuAnn Johnson, and Dave Wooden. Dr. & Mrs. John Chamberlin also participated in the program.
- France Program -- Shane Beliles and Mary-Louise Graham.
- Italy Program -- Shands Greenlee.
- Mexico Program -- Jennifer Buckland, Jon Gruver, Susan Lawrence, Meg Lechman, and Jon Murphy.
- Spain Program -- Krista Everly, Sheri Girdler, and Casey Watson.

International Outlook is a publication of the Office of International Programs at Western Kentucky University, 1 Big Red Way, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. All correspondence and news items should be sent to the editor, Donna K. Cheshire, at the above address; FAX to 502-745-6144; or e-mail: donna.cheshire@wku.edu.