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News from the Dean for International & Border Programs

The Future of Study Abroad

In my October 2008 column, I summarized the first part of a two-part presentation I made on a panel entitled “Emerging Trends in International Higher Education in the U.S.” at the 20th Annual Conference of the European Association of International Education (EAIE) in Antwerp, Belgium in September. As I wrote at the beginning of that column, my role on the panel was twofold: “First, to provide an overview of internationalization of U.S. higher education and second, to analyze the current and anticipated growth in study abroad in U.S. colleges and universities.” My column this month looks at the second part of my Antwerp presentation: Study abroad.

The U.S. Senate proposed and Congress passed legislation in November 2005 (U.S. Senate Resolution 308) that officially designated 2006 as the Year of Study Abroad in the United States. This ground-breaking legislation did three things:

- Recognized the important role that study abroad plays in shaping U.S. education and global leadership
- Encouraged all U.S. citizens, higher education institutions, secondary schools, businesses, and government programs to promote and expand study abroad opportunities
- Study abroad was given a national prominence that previously had been lacking



The Institute of International Education (IIE), with financial support from the U.S. Department of State, conducts an annual survey on various aspects of internationalization on U.S. colleges and universities. Virtually all U.S. colleges and universities, including NMSU, participate in this annual survey. The survey results are published annually, most often in December, in a report known as *Open Doors*. The most recent *Open Doors* report was published in December 2007 with the following conclusions:

- Recognition by students, parents and educators that an international experience is important to students’ future careers
- In the last decade, from 1995/96 to 2005/06, the number of American students receiving academic credit for their study abroad has increased 150% (from fewer than 90,000 students in 1995/96 to 223,534 in 2005/06)
- Growth can be explained by the wider range of study abroad opportunities in addition to the extremely valuable semester and academic year programs
 - Programs that offer study abroad for shorter lengths of time allow for more non-traditional and financially challenged students to participate

- Full semester study abroad now attracts 37% of those students studying abroad
- Short-term programs now attract more than half (52%) of U.S. students (summer, January term, programs of less than 8 weeks)
- Only 5.5% of those who study abroad spend a full academic or calendar year abroad

The trend in study abroad participation is clear—growing rapidly with the promise of continued growth in the future. Despite this trend, however, the vast majority of U.S. students still graduate without any study abroad experience. And that is certainly the case here at NMSU where somewhat less than 2% of our undergraduates, annually, take advantage of the vast array of study abroad opportunities we provide. That figure, however, does amount to approximately 8% of our undergraduate study body participating in a study abroad experience during their years at NMSU (a better than twofold increase in the last five years), making us the lead institution for undergraduate study abroad student participation in New Mexico.

Despite these gains nationally and here at NMSU, the vast majority of U.S. students still graduate without any study abroad experience—approximately 90%. Yet, according to a recent study by the American Council on Education, the College Board, and the Arts and Science Group, college-bound students' interest in study abroad and other international learning activities remains very high. Among the study's findings:

- College-bound students demonstrate high levels of global awareness
- Significant proportions of college-bound students anticipate international learning experiences in college
 - 55% indicated that they are certain or fairly certain they will participate in study abroad
 - An additional 26% indicated a strong desire to study abroad
 - 35% expect an international internship
 - 37% indicated they were interested in acquiring career related work experience in another country
 - Of those planning to study abroad, more than 70% plan to become either proficient in or comfortable enough to converse with people in that non-English speaking country.

As I stated, here at NMSU we have made significant strides toward growing our study abroad participation. And perhaps the national survey cited above does not accurately reflect the views of NMSU's incoming students. Nonetheless, I do not think survey data from our incoming students would be completely at odds with this national survey, and I would further surmise that far more incoming students, along with their parents, would welcome, indeed expect, a study abroad experience during their undergraduate years at NMSU. My feeling is that if we at NMSU fail to encourage and expand international learning experiences for our students, we might indeed find ourselves at a significant disadvantage in future recruitment.

Lucretia Egginton

Transboundary Water Conference

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI) and the International Relations Institute (IRI) is sponsoring the *Transboundary Water Crises: Learning from our Neighbors in the Rio Grande (Bravo) and Jordan River Watersheds*, January 22 and 23, 2009. The Rio Grande and Jordan River basins have many similarities, although they are located in different hemispheres. Both have mostly arid and semi-arid landscapes where water is scarce. Both support large human populations. Both rivers are international boundaries and are used by various human cultures. Both are associated with political tensions and controversies.

With common problems and physical limitations, can knowledge be shared to find solutions? What has been tried, worked, and failed in the past that can be applied to resolutions for the future? This one and a half day conference features experts of both watersheds who will share knowledge and recommendations for future development of natural and human resources in both watersheds.

The conference will be held in Corbett Center, on the NMSU main campus. The conference starts at 8 am on January 22 and ends at noon on January 23. Conference registration is required and can be done on-line at <http://wrri.nmsu.edu/conf/rgrj/conf.html>. For further information on the conference, please contact WRRI at 646-4337.

International Student Services (ISS)

International Student Services has moved to the Educational Services Building sharing space with Graduate Student Services in the former Graduate School offices. The phone number for ISS remains the same. For questions regarding international admissions, call 646-5483. For questions regarding current international students or for immigration questions, call 646-2017 and the fax number is now 646-7721.

Globalization Awards

The Office of International and Border Programs (OIBP) is now accepting Globalization Award nominations. OIBP provides up to three awards per academic year to NMSU faculty, staff, students, and individuals from the community. The award recognizes individuals whose actions and deeds promote international understanding, cooperation involvement, and development. For more information about the awards call 646-4528 or to submit nominations, please contact Ida Baca at MSC 3567 or at ibaca@nmsu.edu, indicating who you want to nominate and describing in one or two pages what the person has done and/or is doing internationally to warrant the award and include a copy of their CV. Nominations will be accepted through March 15, 2007. If you would like to review the list of past recipients, please go to our web site at: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~ip/pages/GlobalizationAward.html>.

Center for Latin American and Border Studies (CLAB) Activities

For further information on any of these events, please contact Neil Harvey, 646-6816, nharvey@nmsu.edu or Megan Shannon, 646-6814 or mshannon@nmsu.edu.

Tuesday December 2, 6 pm, Hardman Hall 106

CLABS and the American Civil Liberties Union will show the documentary film "Sentenced Home" (2008) regarding immigration policy and deportation of refugees to Cambodia, with panel speakers regarding detention and deportation in the border region. Event is to commemorate 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Wednesday, December 3, 6 pm, CLABS (Nason House, 1200 University Ave, directly across from FedEx Kinko's): "Food and Culture in Michoacan, Mexico" - presentations by three graduate students from NMSU Department of Sociology/Anthropology, under direction of Dr. Lois Stanford, on research conducted in the past two years regarding foodways and cultural identity in the Meseta Purhepecha of Michoacan, Mexico. Information will also be provided about student scholarships for similar research projects in Latin America.

Thursday, December 4, 4.30 pm; CLABS (Nason House, 1200 University Ave, directly across from FedEx Kinko's): "Latin American Social Movements: Redefining Power Struggles" - public lecture by Dr. Richard Stahler-Sholk, Professor of Political Science, Eastern Michigan University. Lecture will draw on over a year's field work in Zapatista communities in Chiapas, Mexico, and research on new forms of social movement organizing in Latin America.



EDITORIAL NOTE:

THIS NEWSLETTER IS RELEASED THE BEGINNING OF EACH MONTH. THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NEWS ITEMS IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH. PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS WHICH ARE PLANNED AND/OR ARE SCHEDULED FOR SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. THIS NEWSLETTER IS INTENDED TO SHARE INFORMATION AND TO INFORM OTHERS ON CAMPUS OF UPCOMING AND PENDING ACTIVITIES, TRAVEL, VISITORS ON CAMPUS, ETC. FOR THIS REASON, ITEMS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED FOR ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE WILL ONLY BE UTILIZED IF THEY HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO FUTURE ACTIVITIES. PLEASE MAKE SUBMISSIONS TO CIP-ADM@NMSU.EDU. IF YOU WISH TO REVIEW OLD ISSUES OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS ISSUES FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS CAN BE FOUND ON THIS SITE.

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