the essential
Office of International Programs / annual report 2010–2011
the essential

photograph by Chelsea Smith
The Office of International Programs at James Madison University is committed to the principle that international experiences and perspectives are essential to any undergraduate and graduate education. The mission of the OIP is to promote and encourage a critical awareness of world issues; a knowledge of and appreciation for other cultures, languages and belief systems; a sense of global community; and a commitment to engagement at the international level, that we may educate active and responsible global citizens. To this end, the OIP is committed to providing, supporting and facilitating international experiences for students, faculty and staff at JMU and abroad.
Message from the Executive Director

Last year gave us the opportunity to look back on thirty years of study abroad at JMU. At the same time, we were looking forward – exploring new study abroad destinations, making space for ever-increasing numbers of international students on our own campus, and finding innovative ways to support faculty and staff as they add an international focus to their classes and research.

This year we want to display on these pages the essential OIP: what we – and our students and faculty and staff – do best, both here and abroad. Rather than merely recite details and statistics, we want to give you a glimpse of what they have seen and done. We want you to savor the sights and imagine the feelings. We want to inspire you to embrace another part of the world in whatever way you can.

Join me in seeing where we’ve just been and in considering where we still can venture.

Lee Sternberger
Executive Director, Office of International Programs
From the opening ceremony filled with the excitement of New Zealand Maori dancers to the closing luau’s tempting grilled shrimp and fruit on the Commons, I-Week 2010 offered the JMU and greater Harrisonburg communities another view of the world. The varied events offered a chance to participate in the Study Abroad Fair, the international photo contest and the panel discussion on “Oceania Through Our Eyes.” Spectators could learn the art of boat building, watch a sheep shearing demonstration, view the film *Whale Rider*, visit the Oceania photo exhibit in PRISM Gallery and enjoy “Reflecting Australia,” a Forbes Center Concert Hall performance. Everyone I-Week touched came away with a deeper appreciation of cultural diversity at JMU and the world elsewhere.
In thematic keeping with International Week, the OIP has established an ongoing partnership with the Madison Art Collection’s PRISM Gallery in the Festival Conference and Student Center. Each fall, drawing heavily upon shots taken by study abroad participants and faculty directors, PRISM Gallery mounts a photo exhibit featuring images from I-Week’s focus area. The display can range from the whimsical to the sublime – but always offers a broader and deeper view.
No wonder JMU students have dotted the map with their journeys in nearly every part of the world. In addition to OIP semester programs in London, Florence, Salamanca, Antwerp and Beijing; graduate programs in Florence and Malta; more than 40 short-term programs around the globe; exchange opportunities with a dozen universities abroad; and the freedom to enroll with other programs or directly at a foreign institution, JMU students enjoy literally a world of possibilities. No matter where they go, our students — ably prepared by their professors — take with them a spirit of curiosity, a sense of wonder and a goodness of heart. They bring back to campus new points of view, a richer understanding and a self-confidence that will continue to inform their lives.

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photograph by Chad Greiter
Costa Rica Times Three

During the summer of 2011, the OIP offered three quite different opportunities in Costa Rica: Energy Issues and Experience in Costa Rica (an ISAT program), Health and Human Services: Interprofessional Perspective (a nursing program) and Pura Vida: A Costa Rican Adventure (a geographic science program). What they all had in common was the varied beauty of the country itself, filled with rain forests, beaches, volcanoes and 5% of the plant and animal species of the earth – remarkable for a place the size of West Virginia. Karim Altaii and his students toured renewable energy projects and installations. Merle Mast and her group explored the health care needs and the health and human services delivery system. Jack Gentile and his students focused on sustainability issues in a country where economic growth and preservation of natural lands may be at odds. In varying ways, these rigorous academic programs kept our students grounded and also let them soar.
photograph by Katie George
London Bound

London, where JMU’s study abroad began in 1979, remains a central component of the OIP’s programs. Semester in London operates during fall, spring and summer. Several short-term programs are centered there each year, and students studying in our Oxford, Cambridge or St. Andrews program inevitably spend time in London. In 1979 ESPN had its debut; today London is preparing for the 2012 Olympics. During all those years in between, JMU students have continued to live, learn and love London.
Taking advantage of newer offerings in Africa, audiology students, under the direction of Brenda Ryals, embarked on a two-week journey to Kenya, East Africa, to provide audiological services to children at the Nyumbani Children’s Home and clinics. On the other side of the continent, Joshua Linder’s anthropology students went to Cameroon to study the biological, social and cultural complexity of biodiversity conservation in the tropics. And on the island of Madagascar, off the east coast of South Africa, biology students followed Roshna Wunderlich through forests and villages as they studied biodiversity and learned about forest management and agroforestry as a sustainable alternative to slash and burn agriculture. The Kenya Field School, Summer in Ghana and two programs in South Africa – Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Comparative Study of Primary Education – are old favorites and continue to attract students year after year.
Students in the Semester in Salamanca program have many opportunities to travel, both independently and as part of their academic program. They still take delight in this centuries-old town, whose university dates to 1218. Brittany Suit, who studied there in the summer of 2011, explains the graffiti on a Salamanca wall: “It translates to a popular fable about a mother hawk and her chicks. ‘Go to the edge,’ she told them. ‘We are afraid; we might fall.’ ‘Go to the edge,’ she told them. They went. She pushed them... and they flew.”
European Union Policy Studies

JMU’s master’s degree program in Florence has just completed its fourth year. In that brief time, the graduate students and their program have made a name for themselves. Cultural events at JMU’s 16th-century Palazzo Capponi attract world-class performers and appreciative visitors. Lectures and symposia, some held in the city’s esteemed Palazzo Vecchio, bring together JMU’s own EUPS students with renowned speakers and with students from other institutions. As good scholars, our graduate students have considered the new Lisbon Treaty and represented ministers in a European Union simulation. As good neighbors, they have participated in the anti-graffiti campaign of the Associazione Via Maggio in the area near Santo Spirito.
beautiful
Expansive View

While a course entitled “Painting and Drawing in the South of France” naturally conjures images of beautiful vistas, a farm internship near Harrisonburg might bring to mind only the hard work of hands-on farming. Wherever JMU students roam, however, they have a clear eye for the beauty of their surroundings. The OIP’s continued sponsorship of the JMU Farm Internship Program is one of the ways the office supports President Rose’s Commission on Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.
Study Abroad Statistics 2010-2011

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the OIP once again sent a record number of students abroad. The 1,100 participants, representing every class, program type and college, continued to spread JMU’s name far and wide. The economy continued to be challenging, but faculty worked to keep costs down. With OIP outreach starting at CHOICES and orientation, students were able to plan ahead to make study abroad an affordable reality.
Though charts and graphs can tell us – and various reporting bodies, like the Institute of International Education and its Open Doors – how we are progressing as an office, another measure of our success is the support we give to the internationalization process all across campus. This spring the African Student Organization presented “Taste of Africa,” which gave JMU and the greater Harrisonburg community a night of African music and rhythms, storytelling, fashion, dance and cuisine.
China Perspectives

In April, a varied contingent of JMU faculty and administrators visited China on a multi-purpose journey: to participate in a Creative Education Conference in Beijing and to engage in formal talks leading to an agreement with Wuhan Technical University. Semester in Beijing program assistant Jenny Qin Chen facilitated the trip for Mark Warner (Student Affairs and University Planning), Sarah Cheverton (Center for Instructional Technology) and Randy Mitchell (Student Success Programs). They experienced first-hand the challenges of presenting workshops and giving papers to an audience with thoroughly different cultural expectations. They saw the contrast between the informality of question-and-answer sessions and the strictly formal official meetings with university officials. And they returned to JMU with great enthusiasm for continuing these collaborations, remarking: “We’d go back in a heartbeat.”
This summer’s month-long journey to Jordan focused on Arabic language and culture. Director Karim Altaii and instructor Israa Alhassani set a demanding schedule for students following any one of three academic tracks. As students in all of JMU’s study abroad programs discover, out-of-classroom activities also played a significant role. With sites as varied as Wadi Rum and the Roman city of Jerash – not to mention a chance to float in the Dead Sea – the JMU in Jordan program offered a multi-faceted view of the Middle East from a home base at the University of Jordan in Amman.
SAGE Grant Recipients

This past year saw the re-introduction of Study Abroad General Education (SAGE) grants to expand general education offerings in international settings. SAGE grants, co-sponsored by the OIP and General Education: The Human Community, support the redesigning of an existing general education course as a short-term summer study abroad program. Recipients Edward Yang (political science) for “Global Politics in China” and Tony Hartshorn (geology and environmental science) for “Elements of the Valle Central” in Costa Rica both undertook grant-supported planning trips this summer in anticipation of offering their programs in 2012. For Yang, China is the perfect setting for GPOSC 2200, “because it is a microcosm of globalization and its impacts.” And Hartshorn finds that students studying GSCI 101 in Costa Rica will “have those smells of fresh mango, the infectiousness of salsa, the sounds of howler monkeys reinforce the physics and chemistry of the Valle Central’s elements.”
In the earliest years of the Semester in London program, Helene Cecile “Nina” Gallagher was an enthusiastic participant. After her untimely death just a year later on the Harrisonburg campus, her friends established a fund to help other students have the same sort of enriching experience Nina enjoyed. In recent years, her family’s substantial contribution created the Gallagher Scholarship Endowment to ensure that the scholarship will continue in perpetuity. In February the Gallagher family received Nina’s posthumous degree in a presentation by Marilou Johnson, associate dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.
This year’s International Student Leadership Conference, held on March 18 and 19, had as its theme, “Courage to Engage.” Friday’s highlight for the 183 participants from 17 institutions was a discussion on difficult conversations that leaders must sometimes have. Greg Meyer, assistant director for Civic Learning in the Office of Judicial Affairs, helped students explore their own beliefs and values and then have a dialogue with others whose views were often very different. Saturday’s keynote speaker was filmmaker Arnd Wächter, whose documentary *Crossing Borders* served as a starting point for addressing cross-cultural conflicts and having the Courage to Engage with others to meet the challenge of resolving those issues.
International Student Center

In September, as part of International Week, President Linwood Rose, together with College of Education and Study Group administrators, celebrated the opening of JMU’s new International Student Center at Memorial Hall. For international students whose academic qualifications meet the entry requirements, but whose English level is not yet proficient, JMU, in partnership with Study Group, offers a unique English Language Foundation Program at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The program is housed at the ISC and combines academic credit classes with study skills, cultural integration and English as a Second Language training to help fully prepare international students for degree-level study at JMU.
324 International Students (students on non-immigrant or temporary visas) from 76 countries. Top six countries represented:

- China .................................... 45 students
- Korea .................................... 43 students
- Vietnam .................................. 23 students
- Saudi Arabia .............................. 20 students
- India ...................................... 17 students
- United Kingdom ............................ 11 students

Regional Representation by Percentage:

- East and South East Asia 43.7%
- Central and South Asia 5.3%
- Africa 9.4%
- Middle East 12.5%
- Latin America and Caribbean 7.5%
- Western Europe 11.6%
- Eastern Europe 6.2%
- Australia 1.6%
- Canada 2.2%
In spite of economic and political hurdles, the ISSS team has seen a steady increase in the number of students they assist from abroad. After several days of orientation especially tailored to meet their needs, these new arrivals are ready to enter the JMU community, not simply as classroom students but as active participants in the broader life of the university. For faculty, staff and scholars as well, ISSS continued to enlarge the scope of its service. Once again this year that help included visa assistance for 19 senior mine action managers (from 13 countries affected by explosive remnants of war) so they could attend JMU’s Center for International Stabilization and Recovery’s annual course on demining.
In its second year, JMU’s partnership with Study Group continued to succeed in preparing international students to become degree-seeking members of the university community. The program has grown from an initial class of five in 2009 to its current group of 66 and has added a summer term. More than 25 students from the spring and summer terms will enter JMU in the fall as regular undergraduates, and, at the same time, the OIP’s International Student and Scholar Services team expects to welcome 100 new Study Group students. Underscoring the importance of a growing international population at JMU, President and Mrs. Rose greeted Study Group participants at a reception in their home in April.
International Leaders in Education

An OIP-administered Department of State grant for $153,000 brought 16 international scholars to JMU for spring semester. These International Leaders in Education (ILEP) fellows, who represented seven countries, immersed themselves in American teaching methods and traditions. At the same time, they introduced their U.S. hosts and counterparts to their own varied cultures. Their stay here included classes at JMU, internships with local public schools and cultural excursions throughout the Valley and Washington, DC, areas. The application for a second ILEP grant was successful and will bring another diverse group of teachers to add cultural richness to the campus.
International Photo Contest
2010

The photo contest has become a cherished part of International Week. Each year the number of entries grows, as does their quality. These winners of the 11th annual contest testify to the difficult task the judges faced.

ARCHITECTURE

First Place, Jeno Pizarro Italy
Second Place, Architecture Seana Sears England

Third Place, Architecture Lauren Cummings England
Honorable Mention, Architecture Jasmyne Rogers Ghana

Honorable Mention, Architecture YounJae Christins Yoo France
NATURE
First Place, Shuoda Wang China
Second Place, Nature Verena Bethke Tanzania

Third Place, Nature Michelle Rudman China
Honorable Mention, Nature Brittany Corn South Africa

Honorable Mention, Nature Julienne Jones Kenya
PEOPLE

First Place. Fiona Colquhoun, Kenya
Second Place, People Joseph Han Peru

Third Place, People Shuoda Wang China
Honorable Mention, People Grace Milbourne Italy

Honorable Mention, People Sarah Derr Dominican Republic
MISCELLANY

First Place, Kaitlyn Haynal Egypt
Second Place, Miscellany **Blair Parks** Italy

Third Place, Miscellany **Jeno Pizarro** England
Honorable Mention, Miscellany Robert McCoy Scotland

Honorable Mention, Miscellany Samantha Tomfohr Egypt
New Challenges in Store

Some Major Initiatives for 2011-12

• Executive director’s leadership for JMU’s Quality Enhancement Plan as part of the reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) as it progresses to full development and implementation

• The 2011 International Week, September 26-30, with the theme, What Is the Middle East?

• Expansion of ISSS staff to support Study Group students

• Celebration of the 25th anniversary of Semester in Florence with a November reunion on campus

• Launching of the new OIP Web site

• Executive director’s assumption of the lead in JMU’s three-year presidency of the International Network of Universities

Sustainability matters at James Madison University. This publication is printed on paper and produced by a print vendor that are both certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

photograph by Kathy Lam