FALL 2004

Volume 3, Issue 2

DIRECTOR OF UNIT FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES SEEKS TO ESTABLISH NEW CENTER

Academic research activities can be insular in nature, and illuminating the relevance of such activities to the general public can pose a challenge. The results of an archaeological dig in Ireland, for instance, may seem of little consequence to residents of central Illinois. However, to Dr. Charles Orser, Director of the Unit for European Studies, the connection between the past he is researching in Ireland and the heritage of many current Illinois residents is well established. With his plans to establish a Center for the Study of Irish and Irish American Heritage through the College of Arts and Sciences, he hopes to help others see the connection as well.

For ten years, Dr. Orser has been the faculty director of ISU's popular field school and study abroad program in Ireland, the Archaeology of Irish Rural Life Project. The field school is the main activity of the Centre for Study of Rural Ireland, which has had an informal presence through the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The Project has involved excavations on three tenant village sites in Ireland's County Roscommon, the most recent of which has been the excavation of a home owned by Edward Nary. (More information regarding the field school may be found at http://www.ilstu.edu/~ceorser/field_school.htm) Dr. Orser just recently discovered the startling coincidence that when Edward Nary and his family immigrated to the United States in 1848, he settled near the city of Ottawa, Illinois.

According to the 2000 census, people with Irish heritage are the second largest ethnic group of European heritage in the state of Illinois, comprising 12% of the population. The Edward Narry story illustrates the human connections in those statistics, and Dr. Orser is hoping that public interest in such stories and genealogy

Students working at the archaeological dig in County Sligo, Ireland

in general will bolster his efforts to transform the Centre for the Study of Rural Ireland into an officially recognized Center for the Study of Irish and Irish American Heritage.

His vision for the Center includes public outreach, particularly toward adult education opportunities, producing a web site called "Irish in Illinois", and possibly starting an excavation at the site of the Narry's former home in LaSalle County, Illinois. In the past, adults have occasionally participated in the field school, but Dr. Orser would like to initiate an additional, special program that is geared toward adults and teachers in particular. The web site, while containing scholarly content, will be aimed toward the general public and serve as a focal point for Irish-American Illinoisans with an interest in their heritage. By raising public awareness of his activities, Dr. Orser hopes to attract outside funding and sponsors of excavation and/or research activities in LaSalle County.

These efforts will juxtapose nicely with the newly established Master's Program in Historical Archaeology. The program, developed by Dr. Orser, is "focused specifically on the study of cultures that either have inhabited the world since the beginning of modern history or which have a long literate tradition". Now that the archaeological site in Ireland has been linked to Illinois, Dr. Orser is optimistic that the Master's program will attract graduate students who are interested in local and state-focused research.

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Editor: Elizabeth Kosuth

American Studies Programs Thrive

What could a student at the Universitaet Paderborn in Paderborn, Germany and a student studying at Hokkaido University in Asahikawa, Japan have in common? Each of them could have visited Bloomington-Normal as participants in an OISP American Studies program. Each year, OISP conducts two separate short-term programs for students from these two universities. Students who participate in the programs are looking for an immersion experience in American culture and language. The programs are structured to deliver this experience by offering class visits, planned lectures and sociocultural activities both locally and state-wide. Outside of the classroom, perhaps the most important factor in their cultural experience, though, is their living arrangements—the students live with an American family for the duration of their program (see related article). Becoming a temporary member of an American family gives them a very personal glimpse of an American lifestyle.

Paderborn students take a break while visiting Springfield, Illinois

The popular Paderborn program was initiated in 1987, and has had an average of 23 students per year. The students who participate are typically studying English, economics or international business, and most are competent in speaking English. The coordinator of the program, OISP staff member Marilyn Boyd, schedules selected faculty to deliver lectures to the students that focus on an American component of their field. For example, the students who visited this September heard Communication professor Jeffrey Courtright's presentation of "The Church of Scientology: A Comparison of American and European Legal Developments", as well as English professor Nancy Tolson's lecture on "The African American Experience through Children's Literature". Various faculty in Politics & Government, History, Sociology, Marketing, Goegraphy/Geology, and Music also shared their insights with the German students. In addition, the students are treated to local field visits, such as a lecture introducing the McLean County circuit court by Judge Donald Bernardi and an opportunity to observe the proceedings in various courtrooms.

An average of eight Hokkaido University students per year have taken advantage of our program since it began in 1997. The students, who visit in February and March, are all studying education. Each student's schedule of classroom visits is tailored to their particular area of interest, complemented by visits to local schools. These students also come here to learn English, and the campus English Language Institute obliges by providing instruction in the English language.

Participants in both programs enjoy sociocultural activities, such as a day trip to Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site and Springfield and a weekend in Chicago. Homestay families and new acquaintances often

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American Host Families: Sharing and Learning

Students participating in the American Studies programs are looking for an experience that is more than academically enriching—they want to learn about the culture of the United States. Homestay families are central to providing students with a personalized glimpse of American culture, and while their daily interaction lasts only for a brief time, the relationships and impressions that culminate as a result among both homestay families and students last much longer.

The Office of International Studies and Programs has a pool of local families who have expressed interest in hosting a visiting student. Families are asked to provide their visitor with a place to stay and two meals per day, plus arrange for daily transportation to campus. Participants are matched with their families through their answers to a questionnaire regarding both their own lifestyle habits (smoking, vegetarian, etc.) as well as their preferences in a homestay family (children, pets, etc.)

Many of the homestay families have been hosting American Studies students for years. John and Linda Berger of Bloomington, who have hosted students since 1997, were inspired to open their home to visiting students after their own two sons enjoyed the hospitality of families as they traveled abroad. Don and Marilyn Kammler's interest in intercultural experiences and travel spurred their interest in becoming a homestay family about ten years ago. Both families agree that getting to know the students is the best part of being a homestay family. Many families maintain relationships with former students and both the Bergers and the Kammlers agree that their lives have been enriched by the experiences they have had as homestay families. Ms. Kammler says that it is "amazing how close we are." She also notes that "you get the feeling that the world is getting smaller when you know someone abroad." Her interest in and awareness of world affairs has been heightened by knowing people who are directly impacted by events abroad. While Ms. Kammler admits that being a homestay family entails a commitment, she feels that the benefits far exceed the investment in time and effort.

Those interested in becoming a homestay family for American Studies students should contact Marilyn Boyd at 436-1651.

New Summer Study Abroad to Paris a Resounding Success

Paris has long been a magnet for those drawn to art, fine dining or romance, but this famous city also has much to offer in the way of academics. This past summer, seven students took advantage of OISP's new four week program to study at NEGOCIA, a state-of-the-art business school located in Paris. The school was founded by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which represents 295,000 companies in the greater Paris region. NEGOCIA has established international links with 25 partner universities in 15 countries, including China, Paraguay, Nigeria and the U.S.; of their U.S. partnerships, the University of Kansas and the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee are two examples. In striving toward its mission to prepare students for professional positions in a global environment, the school provides education and training in marketing, sales, world trade, and business negotiations to 1500 students and 3000 professionals annually.

The students who participate in this program earn six hours of credit toward Communication with courses in intercultural management, and global marketing and communication. As the courses are taught in English, this program has wide appeal among students with a major or minor in Communication. This year the students were housed in a renovated hotel, but subsequent participants will be housed in student residences provided by ACCENT, the international education organization that our study abroad works with to provide high quality study abroad experiences for our students.

ACCENT also provides an orientation, cultural activities, excursions and access to academic facilities such as a computer lab and library. "This program offers a nice balance of structured and free time," notes Jimmy Brazelton, the OISP graduate assistant who accompanied the students as a participant and assistant coordinator of this program. Students had classes in the morning, but were free in the evening to either explore or work on their academic projects. Weekends were filled with various excursions, including trips to Versailles, Normandy/Brittany, and Giverny. Students were also treated to guided tours of Paris and the Seine River.

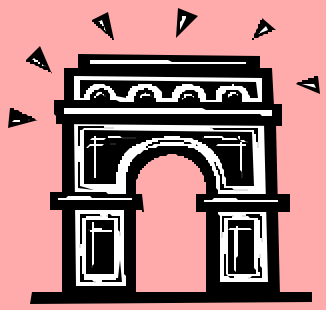
Brazelton reports that while the program is not designed to be a cultural immersion, the classes utilized the students' common experience of French culture as an example to launch class discussion of communication in the global business environment. In this way, students gained a greater understanding of French culture than normally experienced when students are taught in their home language among their cultural peers. Students unanimously felt that the courses were intense yet very rewarding and informative.

A visit from a NEGOCIA representative is tentatively scheduled for November 17th. The representative will be familiarizing herself with our campus in preparation for sending NEGOCIA students to ISU to study during an upcoming semester. She will also spend time recruiting ISU students for our summer 2005 program to Paris.

OISP is pleased to offer such a rich study abroad program to ISU students, and the enthusiastic response of this year's participants is sure to inspire more participants for this coming year.

"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast."

—Ernest Hemingway



American Studies

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provide further opportunities for sightseeing and intercultural experiences.

These programs certainly help to achieve OISP's mission to advance the understanding of international and cross-cultural issues across campus and for the community at large. The success of each program hinges upon the cooperation and accommodation of both the campus and Bloomington-Normal communities. The consistent and continued interest of students in both Paderborn and Asahikawa are evidence of the spirit of hospitality, both academically and locally, that exists in our community. OISP is pleased to be a catalyst of that spirit and will continue to strive toward maintaining the quality of these important programs.

MDI Reports Another Successful Summer of Training Programs

Management Development International (MDI) conducted several training programs this summer, including two that were administered abroad. As part of OISP, MDI offers training programs that are geared to provide participants the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed in a challenging and continuously changing global environment. Since its creation in 2002, MDI has conducted dozens of training programs, either on campus or on-site abroad.

When hosting participants on campus, MDI partners with the Department of Communication in an effort to provide a high quality learning environment. The Department of Communication is instrumental in assisting MDI with logistical needs such as classroom space, equipment and technical support, and is a major factor in MDI's success. Our choice of overseas partners when conducting programs abroad is an important factor in the success of on-site training programs, as their logistical support is an essential element in providing a high quality program.

Madame Sarr of WAMP, and OISP's Unit for African Studies Director Dr. Agbenyega Adedze at the graduation ceremony

Participant interest continues to grow as MDI builds an excellent reputation for quality programming. Most of the trainings utilize a variety of methodologies, including demonstrations, lectures, field trips, simulations, discussions and presentations by the participants.

Campus Training Programs. During the months of July and August, MDI hosted 28 international professionals. The 11 women and 17 men are government officials in their home countries, which include Nepal, the Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Haiti, Bahrain, Albania, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Zambia and India. Participation in the programs is sponsored by various international development and government agencies; for example, the eleven participants from Tanzania have been sent by the office of the Tanzanian president. Other sponsors include Bahrain's Ministry of Health, Haiti's Ministry of Environment, the United National Development Program, the United States Agency for International Development, Gambia Telecom and the West African Museums Program.

The four training programs, Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Projects; Decentralization, Governance and Democratization; Human Resource

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Study Abroad to Taxco, Mexico: Fifteen Years and Going Strong

The summer study abroad program to Taxco, Mexico marked its 15th anniversary this year. The director of the seven week program, Dr. James Alstrum of the Department of Foreign Languages, initiated the program in 1990, and has served as faculty director for the life of the program. During the one week in 1989 that Alstrum was in Mexico City conducting research for a grant, he investigated the possibility of a linkage between Illinois State University and the National University of Mexico. The positive results of his inquiry led him to follow up on the idea upon his return to ISU.

For its first two years, the program was conducted in Mexico City. In 1992, it was moved to the Universidad Nacional Antonoma of Mexico in Taxco, which was then the newest satellite of the National University of Mexico. Fourteen of the 18 students who attended that first year were ISU students. Taxco is a city with a rich history in silver mining, and its current population numbers approximately 100,000. Stationed 6,000 feet above sea level, the weather is ideal, hovering around 80 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the summer. ISU students experiences are not limited to the cross-cultural in this picturesque city—the terraced nature of the city is a big change from the flat land of Illinois. Taxco's location makes a variety of field trips possible—from Morelia to Tlascala to Oaxca, the program has given students through the years many opportunities to experience the rich diversity of Mexican cities.

Attracted by the safe, clean and reputable campus, students come to the Universidad Nacional Antonoma de Mexico (UNAM) in Taxco from all corners of the world. The school teaches five levels of Spanish language, but most ISU student participants take classes at the third, or intermediate, level. The quality of students attracted by this program,

The Santa Prisca at the Zocolo in Taxco

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Summer Training Programs

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Management; and Financial Management, cover a variety of topics that are tailored to the needs of the participants. As senior government officials, the participants are interested in learning new approaches to the development of infrastructure, education, and healthcare systems in their home countries.

Educational field visits are an integral part of the programs' curriculum, and offer an opportunity for the participants and community leaders to gain a new perspective on each other's work and culture. This summer's group visited city officials in Bloomington and Normal, as well as managers of human resources and finance at State Farm Insurance, AFNI and Bromenn Regional Medical Center. The visitors were also introduced to Central Illinois' farm culture during visits to the ISU Farm and Evergreen F.S., a tri-county cooperative that provides resources for farm operators.

On-site Training Programs. In collaboration with the West African Museums Program (WAMP), MDI conducted two two-week training programs for museum managers in West Africa. The programs—one taught in French, the other in English—were offered simultaneously in Dakar, Senegal from May 31 through June 12, 2004. Offering the training in both English and French opened participation to museum managers from both Francophone and Anglophone countries. Of the total of 30 participants who attended the program, 12 were Anglophone and 18 were Francophone.

WAMP is an independent international non-government organization that acts as a service provider and a catalyst to museums and related institutions and communities in West Africa. Founded as a project of the International African Institute in 1982, WAMP's mission is to develop the museums and cultural institutions in West Africa. In fulfilling its mission, WAMP seeks to build the skills of museum staff in order to meet institutional needs such as facilitating communication and professional exchanges, providing consultant services, technical assistance and program development, and securing financial support.

MDI's training program focused on developing participants'expertise in effective and sustainable management of museums. The program's objectives were to improve the capability of museum staff in selected areas of museum management and to develop a core of trainers for subsequent design and implementation of future training programs. To achieve these objectives, two modules were presented: training of trainers, and project management training. WAMP's selection of the participants was based on their potential ability to design and manage the delivery of training programs. Consequently, those who completed the program serve as Core of Regional Trainers for WAMP, designing and managing regional training programs for WAMP and their own museums.

The training program was very successful. The participants reported that they achieved their objectives in attending the training, and that they were very pleased with the training's delivery, course content, facilities and logistical support.

By participating in MDI programs, alumni not only gain knowledge and skills, they often experience a change in perspective that helps them to look at the challenges of development with a new lens. Interaction with other participants often involves sharing success stories; for example, a Tanzanian citizen's success in solving a problem regarding potable water in a remote village may prove to be helpful to someone from Mali who is faced with a similar challenge. An opportunity to meet with local city officials also offers an opportunity to see a democratic government in practice. As participants meet with local practitioners within their field of interest, they are able to actually see how the models about which they learn in class are put into effective action. Often these connections result in the establishment of mutually beneficial relationships among the participants themselves as well as the community members they meet.

The Office of International Studies and Programs views all of these programs as important building blocks in enhancing the reputation of Illinois State University here and abroad, as well as an excellent recruitment tool for international students.

Beware: Deadlines Approaching!

OISP counts faculty and support staff among the most important of our recruitment tools. Please remind your students of the opportunities our office provides. Students interested in studying abroad either for the fall semester or during the summer should start preparing now by meeting with a study abroad advisor and obtaining an application. Applications for fall semester study abroad is February 7, 2005; summer study abroad deadlines vary, but range from mid-February through mid-March. Students wishing to participate in the National Student Exchange during the 2005-2006 academic year must submit an application by February 11, 2005. While the deadline for Fulbright Scholarship applications is not until October, interested students are best served by meeting with the Fulbright Program advisor before the spring semester ends. Students may schedule an appointment with an advisor for any of these programs by calling 438-5365.

Taxco, Mexico

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though, is evident in that most years have included students who are competent to study at the fourth (advanced) or fifth (native speaker fluency) levels. One of the factors that has helped this program to pass the test of time is the built-in flexibility of curriculum offered by the director. While most credit earned through the program is through language classes taught by instructors at UNAM, Dr. Alstrum offers his classes only to his own students, and often includes a graduate course or two. This way courses offered beyond the standardized language curriculum are always consistent with the changing requirements of the Department of Foreign Languages. Students who take Dr. Alstrum's course on Spanish literature and culture in Taxco enjoy a cultural context not replicable when taken on the ISU campus.

The program's emphasis on language proficiency, cultural literacy and sensitivity makes it particularly valuable to students searching for an opportunity to improve both their language ability and their understanding of Latin American culture. Students are housed with host families, giving students a depth of experience not possible with campus housing.

The longevity and quality of the Taxco program has garnered a growing national reputation. Participants are drawn from all over the nation, including Washington, Connecticut, Alabama and California. Roughly 25% of the participants are not regularly enrolled ISU students, enriching the experiences of our own students even further.

Dr. Alstrum's own first experience in international travel was as a Peace Corps volunteer, as the opportunity to study abroad had been out of his financial reach as an undergraduate. Establishing this program and working to keep its cost as low as possible has been his way to help his students benefit from the full range of educational opportunities. Fifteen years later, the 251 students who have participated in the Taxco program can attest to the success of his efforts.

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