

INTERNATIONALIZING THE CAMPUS

New Study Abroad programs for EMU students are exciting, affordable

Many students find that between a packed curriculum, work, and outside activities, they can't spare a semester, or a few weeks in the summer, for study abroad. Longer programs also can be too costly.

Therefore, winter break programs — those that spend a week or so abroad — can provide the answer. They take place during a time when Florida's beaches or those in Cancun provide a welcome change to students' hectic schedules.

But, why not go to an exciting place, learn about another culture and earn credit at the same time? This is the reasoning behind the creation of a number of new study abroad programs for EMU students.

Of course, a winter break program does not compare to a semester-long immersion at a university in a foreign country. But it does take students out of their comfort zone, broadens their horizons and gives them an opportunity to explore and get a taste of another culture.

During winter break 2004, students will have five new programs to choose from:

■ **"Power, Place and Image in Florence and Rome,"** led by Ron Delph, associate professor, history and philosophy.

■ **"Art in Mexico City,"** Benita Goldman, Academic Programs Abroad

■ **"Cultural Geography in Puerto**

Rico," Andrew Nazzaro, professor, geography and geology.

■ **"Literature in London,"** David Geherin, professor, English language and literature.

■ **"Hospitality Management in London,"** Susan Gregory, associate professor, hotel and restaurant management.

In addition, there are two other new short-term programs:

■ **"International Business and French Language & Culture,"** at our partner school ESIDEC in Metz, France (June).

■ **"Aviation in England,"** Tim Doyle, instructor, aviation management (July).

We hope that by creating more affordable programs we will be able to attract more EMU students to study abroad. The Business/Culture program at ESIDEC in Metz, France is an economical one-month program that would be suitable for a business, economics, or political science major, or any student who would like to learn everything about France and the European Union in a nutshell.

The exciting new aviation program will take students to the famous aviation

exhibition in Farnborough, England. Hopefully, next year, we will run a similar aviation program to France, where the students will attend the aviation show and exhibition at le Bourget in Paris.

As always, we have a number of one-for-one exchanges for students who would like to spend a semester or a year abroad. For example, these are in England, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Canada and the Netherlands.

We also have recently added semester programs in Brazil, Spain, the Czech Republic, Ghana and South Africa. For those students who prefer to go on study tours, we still have the three-week, five-week and 10-week versions of the Cultural History Tours.

In time, as we spread the word to EMU students about the necessity of studying abroad and learning about other cultures, their global competence level will rise and they will become more prepared to live in our multi-faceted world both at home and abroad.



O'Connell

Margaret O'Connell

Margaret O'Connell
Director,
World College

Student studies film at Curtin University in Australia

By Jean Vidican and Jennifer Armstrong

Jean Vidican, a telecommunications and film major, was a sophomore when she studied film and television at the Curtin University of Technology in Perth, an EMU partner, in Western Australia.

This program allows EMU students to attend a foreign institution and receive EMU credit. Students are allowed to use their EMU financial aid to study abroad. Vidican said that her time in the land down under from February-July 2003 was an important part of her education and life experience.

"The style of learning is entirely different in Australia," Vidican said. "It is much more individualized and students meet for lectures only

once or twice a week with tutorials for smaller group work."

While at Curtin, Vidican took three courses — "Mass Communication Information," "Documentary Film Theory" and "Script Writing" — that are part of her telecommunications and film program.

Vidican said that she grew as a student in her field of study. The classes at Curtin are very international and students working on group projects were intentionally paired with



IN THE LAND DOWN UNDER: EMU student Jean Vidican studied film at the Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia.

students from other countries. "International coursework was integrated into their system of teaching," Vidican said.

In her scriptwriting class, Vidican worked with students from Singapore, Swe-

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Professor Knutson retires after many travels

By Jennifer Armstrong and Margareta O'Connell

Gordon Knutson, who has directed the EMU Cultural History Tours for many years, retired January 31, 2004.

He has worn many hats in his roles as a professor of history and political science and Cultural History Tour administrator since 1984. Due to his flexible and comprehensive teaching style and management, he has had a tremendously positive impact on students who participated in the tours.

George Klein, director of Academic Programs Abroad (APA), said that Knutson as a teacher is, "someone who really works with examples and a participatory approach...It's not flashy. He's always steady, reliable, and knows what to do."

Knutson's job involved both planning and leading tours. During an academic year, Knutson often would spend one full semester leading the European or Asian tour after which he would return home for administrative work before leading a

summer Cultural History Tour. Leading two tours would mean that Knutson was away from home for up to six months in a single year.

Jeremy Baldwin, EMU study abroad coordinator, said having Knutson as a professor on two semester-long tours (Europe in 1993 and Asia in 1996) showed Knutson's methodical, understanding and flexible teaching style.

"He has incredible vision in coming up with the programs," Baldwin said. "He is a pioneer in terms of study abroad because he would do things that others wouldn't dream of doing."

Knutson tried to inspire confidence in his students to make them flexible and poised world travelers, Baldwin said.

Knutson led the last semester-long European Cultural History Tour in the fall 2003 semester. He demonstrated his ability as a teacher and administrator yet again when the tour suddenly had to change itinerary due to a travel advisory warning for Turkey.

With help from the APA staff at EMU, Knutson was able to change the tour ac-

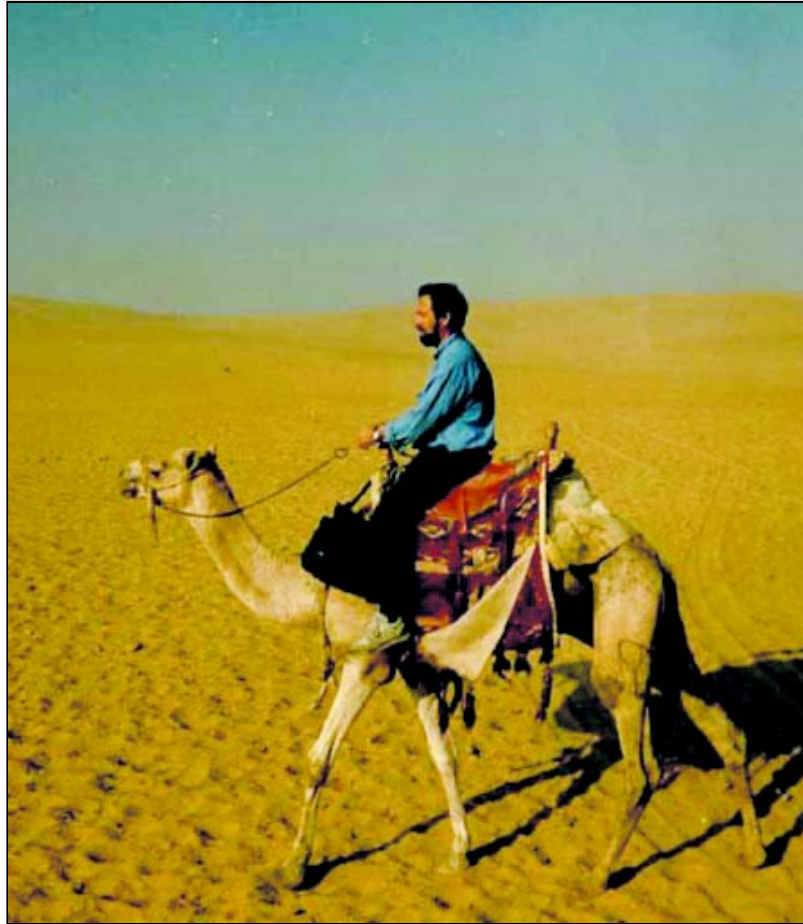


Photo courtesy of Benita Goldman

DESERT DESTINATION: Gordon Knutson has been Eastern Michigan University's Cultural History Tour director since 1984.

Knutson's job involved both planning and leading tours. During an academic year, Knutson often would spend one full semester leading the European or Asian tour after which he would return home for administrative work before leading a summer Cultural History Tour. Here, he is pictured riding a camel on a trip to Egypt. Knutson retired Jan. 31, 2004.

commodations and curriculum from Turkey to Greece with no advance notice. This is something that only an experienced tour director who knows both countries well can

do.

Though Knutson has officially retired, World College Director Margareta O'Connell said she would welcome his expertise and

wisdom if he chooses to lead a summer tour in the future. Knutson is a very special professor who has profoundly influenced many lives during his career, she said.

Academic advisor travels to University of Derby in England

By Pat Williams

Adventure, education, and opportunity await our EMU students, faculty and staff who dare to avail themselves of the wonderful experiences offered through Academic Programs Abroad.

The world is becoming a more dynamic and smaller place and now, more than ever, it is critical that we who are committed to education encourage our students and one another to learn about the world through those with whom we share it.

I have long been a supporter of international education; my children have studied overseas. They returned more mature, more intellectually engaged, and with a better understanding of the world and themselves. I want this for our EMU students.

That is why, on Sept. 14, 2003, I packed an "as-light-as-possible" bag and joined a group of EMU students as they set out on the adventure of a lifetime, studying abroad at the University of Derby in Derby, England. I was headed to International Welcome Week, September 15-20.

Their international office staff did an exceptional job during Welcome Week. The programs included vital

information on health and safety, local tours, theatre, dancing, an international dinner in the stadium "Pride Park," a day trip to the city of York, and, of course, academic advising.

EMU students attending Derby are

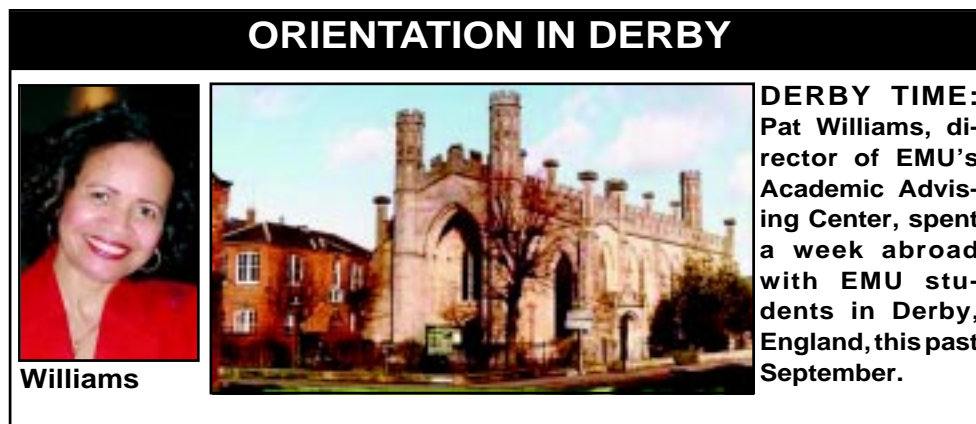
professor Simon Philo, of the American Studies Department in the School of Education, meets with each student and helps them select courses and can act as an advocate or liaison between students and faculty or staff. Philo,

We accompanied the American students through the registration process and resolved difficulties as they arose.

The experience heightened my sensitivity to the very particular needs of international students and the value of having quality support staff and programming to help them make the transition to a new academic and cultural environment.

I have spent countless hours listening to students recount their experiences and misadventures, and have come to appreciate the special people who helped them safely navigate the physical, emotional and educational aspects of studying abroad.

As I departed Derby, England, to return to the U.S., I started to reflect back on our arrival day. After just one week of being in a different country — thousands of miles away from home — the EMU students were adjusting extremely well. I felt secure and confident on leaving our students in the care of the faculty and staff at the University of Derby. It was truly an insightful and rewarding experience for me.



participating in a direct exchange program; they pay the same tuition and housing as our on-campus students and they receive full academic credit. It is important that students take classes that will transfer back to EMU and keep them on track, so advising is a critical element of studying abroad.

The American students have a faculty advisor dedicated to them. Pro-

the EMU study abroad advisor, and I worked together with our EMU students to design a course schedule that would keep them on track at EMU and still allow them to explore unique academic offerings.

When we met with the students, Philo was familiar with each student, their course of study, and any special academic interest they had expressed.

EMU students have opportunities for adventure abroad

By Jennifer Armstrong

EMU's Academic Programs Abroad is constantly looking for new and exciting programs to offer EMU students. Over the last two years, a new and exciting format — Adventures Abroad — has been offered. Students have two options, a 17-day trip in Great Britain and France or a 17-day trip in the Mediterranean.

Sheila Most, professor of English language and literature, is a veteran of the study abroad programs, having led many such programs in her career at EMU. Most was a natural choice to teach the first Adventures Abroad in 2002. Working with students on Adventures Abroad is an opportunity that most professors haven't had in the classroom, Most said.

"You get close to your students in a way that you can't otherwise," Most said.

During Adventures Abroad, Most taught two literature classes. Reading materials from Virgil, Keats, Homer, Twain and Aeschylus were used to complement the Mediterranean sites, including Rome, Florence, and Venice.

"Choosing literature that is 'site appropriate' is more important than choosing what is considered 'great' literature," Most said.

Teaching literature in an historical sequence is not easy to do, if not impossible due to the tour schedule. So, teachers must be on top of their subjects and be very flexible.

Adventures Abroad helps her teach



LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN

CATCHING THE SIGHTS: (above) A group of EMU students take time out in front of Virgil's Tomb in Naples, Italy. They are: (from left) Sarah Hogan, Luke Hoorelbeke, Teresa Williams, Professor Sheila Most, Kristin Harris, Maria Gikas, Elisa Hernandez, Vanessa McLean, Melissa Meredith and Kelly Clark (right) EMU student DaQuawna Culpepper enjoys her visit to the Coliseum in Rome.

Photo courtesy of Sheila Most

Photo courtesy of DaQuawna Culpepper

in an interdisciplinary fashion, said Most, who talks about study abroad opportunities in each of her classes every semester.

"I learn so much I can bring back to

my classes. The experiences are worth everything," she tells her students. "Studying abroad is fun for more than just the students. Teaching abroad is the highlight of my life."

DaQuawna Culpepper, an EMU senior studying political science and public law and government, has always wanted to study abroad and the Adventures Abroad program was the ideal length for her needs and schedule. As a part of the program, Culpepper took a literature course. She read Dickens's description of the Coliseum in "Pictures From Italy" and then was able to visit the Coliseum itself.

"The literature was really potent for the spot we were in," Culpepper said.

After the daily, scheduled activities were finished, Culpepper explored on her own in the evenings. She was glad she had learned some Italian before her trip because it helped her interact with the local people.

Both the professor and the student agree on the importance of study abroad. Culpepper says that her experiences in EMU Adventures Abroad brought her a great appreciation for learning outside of a traditional classroom.

"Take advantage of study abroad," Culpepper said. "Being a student is more than being in a classroom or a library. It's necessary to have an awareness of the world around you"

Most tells her students to "just go!"

For more information, go to www.emich.edu/abroad/Adventures/index.html.

Students study Spanish in Querétaro, Mexico

By Jennifer Armstrong

The EMU Spanish Intensive Language Program is a seven-week program that teaches Spanish language to students as it immerses them in Mexican life and culture.

The program begins with a one-week tour of historical Mexican sites. In the past, the tour has visited such historical places as Oaxaca, Puebla and Guadalajara. The historical tour is part of the larger seven-week program with six weeks spent in the city of Querétaro, where students are taught Spanish by Mexican professors.

The city of Querétaro is the place where the current Mexican constitution was drafted and signed, and it has many beautiful neoclassical and baroque buildings. Few Americans visit the area, so the environment for learning to speak Spanish is excellent.

Pedro Gomez, a lecturer in the Spanish language department, and Renaldo Ruiz, a professor in the Spanish language department, have shared the re-



HISTORICAL QUÉRETARO: Eastern Michigan University students are taught Spanish in the city of Querétaro (above) as part of the EMU Spanish Intensive Language Program.

sponsibilities of the Spanish Intensive Language program for more than 15 years. During this time, they have created several unique curriculums that utilize song, writing and drama to immerse students into the Spanish language and Mexican culture. The students are what make this program really special, Gomez said. He said that the Summer 2003 program was superb and that "the students made a program that was very rare."

While in Querétaro, students live with host families and these families often become very close to the students. Students frequently stay in contact with their host families for years after the program is over. Students' relationships with the friends and host families are crucial to the experience Gomez said.

"They bring Mexican life into the group," he said.

The interdisciplinary nature of the program helps

students learn Spanish in ways that most language students do not have the opportunity to do. Students learn to sing traditional Mexican folk songs, which helps their Spanish pronunciation, Gomez said. Several years ago, a choir was formed to sing for the host families and friends of the program.

The Summer 2003 Spanish Intensive Language program instituted a new curriculum for Spanish Creative Writing for advanced students. Gomez says that the new Spanish Creative Writing program will attract students from other universities to the EMU Spanish Program. While the EMU program has been developed for EMU students, each year 6-8 students from other universities go on the EMU Spanish Intensive Language Program. Eastern Michigan students learn from working with these other students who have had different professors and styles of education, Gomez said.

The Summer 2004 program will include a new component — Spanish theater — in the curriculum to expand the cultural and linguistic sophistication for students. This program will include American students in the EMU program and local Querétaro people who have worked with EMU in the past. At the end of the program, there will be a performance for friends, host families and the Querétaro community.

Educational restructuring in European Union offers partnership opportunities with U.S. universities

By Elizabeth A. Edwards

European Union countries have recently declared that all of their institutions of higher education will restructure to a bachelors/masters/PhD. model of education similar to what we provide in the United States.

The Bologna Declaration has created a mind-shift on the part of colleges and universities in Europe that has opened the doors to universities

world-wide for partnerships in joint degree programs and study abroad. EU coun-

tries have now placed a priority on "internationalizing" their programs.

Having just paid a visit to three of EMU's partner institutions in Germany and France, I have returned with a better understanding of what this new agenda for those institutions means to our university.

There are many new venues for study abroad for our students. For those without language skills, many European institutions are offering entire tracks of courses taught entirely in English. Our partners are eager to develop customized courses that we suggest. They will offer short summer programs and one-to-two-week blocks of courses that our working students will be better able to fit in to their busy lives. All of these institutions are interested in joint, masters-level programs where students would receive degrees from EMU as well as the foreign university.

I spent time on three campuses in Europe: at the Fachhochschule Reutlingen in Reutlingen, Germany; at the Ecole Supérieure Internationale de Commerce (ESIDEC) in Metz, France; and at the Fachhochschule Karlsruhe (FHK) in Karlsruhe, Germany.

In Karlsruhe, I attended the university's 125th anniversary celebration and was fortunate to meet many of their international partners, many who expressed an interest in a potential partnership with EMU.

At the Fachhochschule Karlsruhe, I toured the FHK campus and Karlsruhe and attended dinners, receptions, a presentation about the university, and the main celebratory

event. Our primary partnerships with FHK are in the area of computer science – we have joint masters programs in information systems and in computer science. The school is very well connected to German industry and is almost entirely funded by its industry supporters. Their programs are heavily application-oriented and provide students with numerous hands-on experiences with their industry partners.

"All of these institutions are interested in joint, masters-level programs where students would receive degrees from EMU as well as foreign universities."

Elizabeth Edwards, Head Department of Marketing

The Export Academy in Reutlingen, part of the European School of Business at the Fachhochschule Reutlingen, teaches courses in short blocks,

many in English, and has a highly international student body. One new opportunity for our students at Reutlingen involves a management simulation course using INTOP 2000, a computer-based management game that focuses on the management of a multinational firm. It requires the formulation of long-term business policy and decision making for solving specific problems faced by multinational corporations during their global business activities.

ESIDEC in Metz, France, is in a unique location, surrounded by many high-tech companies adjacent to the campus. Like the universities in Germany, ESIDEC has strong partnerships with most of these corporations and can provide our students with unique internship experiences in addition to studying abroad. The newest offering for our students is a four-week summer program scheduled in June 2004.

During this time, these students will study with many other international students from around the world. They will learn about subjects such as French culture and history, European economics, European negotiation, and European law.

In addition to study, our students will visit chateaus, battlefields and other historical venues. They also will spend two weeks visiting companies in other cities including Brussels, Caen, Bayeux, Mont-saint-Michel, Versailles and Paris. The program is well organized and will be shepherded by Bertrand Agostini, ESIDEC's international relations director, and myself for one week.

Brown Bag Lunch Series proves to be successful

Each year, the World College sponsors an International Brown Bag Lunchtime Series, in which educators on campus provide a perspective on a topic or issue of international significance.

The winter term lineup is as follows:

■ Gary Evans, communications and theatre arts, presents, "**Intercultural Relations**," Feb. 18, noon-1 p.m., Alumni Room, McKenny Union.

■ Dibya Choudhuri, leadership and counseling, presents, "**Death and Dying: Cultural Perspectives**," March 17, noon-1 p.m., Alumni Room, McKenny Union.

■ Tsu-Yin Wu presents, "**Collaboration of Research in Taiwan**," April 14, noon-1 p.m., Alumni Room, McKenny Union.



MEET THE APA TEAM



APA TEAM: This group composes the Academic Programs Abroad team. They are (back row, from left) Jeremy Baldwin, coordinator; George Klein, director; and Justin Meilgaard, coordinator. (front row, from left) Benita Goldman, coordinator; and Cheryl Guerra, senior secretary. For information, go to www.emich.edu/abroad/

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den and Australia. The group wrote a screenplay for a drama.

"Working with students whose second language was English made the experience unique," she said. "It was exciting to write and learn the film theory from a new perspective."

Vidican also took a class entitled "*Introduction to Aboriginal Studies*." She was grateful to have the opportunity to take a class that was not widely available in the United States.

In this class, her professor and her tutorial instructor had aboriginal roots and their perspective made the class a very rewarding experience. Vidican said she appreciated the different learning environment in which her professor would bring

in guest speakers for different lessons. When the class was learning about aboriginal music or art, aboriginal musicians and artists gave the lectures on those days.

"I would definitely suggest an American student take a class like this if they were going abroad to study," Vidican said.

Studying abroad in today's world is vitally important because everyone needs a broader perspective on life, Vidican said. Since the United States is isolated from the rest of the world and Americans receive filtered news on what happens around the world, it is important to venture out to better understand it, she said. Studying abroad made Vidican realize the importance of seeing the world in a new light.