

April 1, 2010

New EHHS Student Cohort in the Bahamas

Students in the picture (below) are standing in front of a bank of bougainvillea flowers outside their classroom on the campus of the *College of The Bahamas* in Nassau. The 25 students come to the campus two week-ends per month during the spring semester from five of the myriad of islands that make up the nation of The Bahamas. They are the fourth cohort of students registered in the school counseling program offered through EHHS and the Counseling and Human Development Services program.

This term, Dr. Don Bubenzer from Kent State and Dr. Christine Curtis from the Ministry of Education of The Bahamas assisted by Anne Smith of the Ministry are offering courses. The students will attend classes in Kent during the summer of 2011. Students are employed as teachers, counselors, police officers, school nurses and agency workers in The Bahamas. Over the past ten years seven cohorts of students have participated in degree offerings in counseling, special education, and educational administration. The programs are offered through a partnership with The College of The Bahamas and are part of an effort to assist the College of The Bahamas to develop graduate coursework. Sonya Wisdom a faculty member at The College of The Bahamas and a Doctoral Candidate in Curriculum and Instruction at Kent State serves as the liaison for the effort.

EHHS has been present in The Bahamas since 1994 when student-teacher initiatives were established for Kent State's undergraduates.



EHHS new counseling student cohort in The Bahamas

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Get Students Involved in International Activities

Can't get your students engaged in international activities? Try what assistant professor Debra Clark did. Her students are required to earn 30 *professionalism points* each semester. One of the ways students can earn these points is by attending events on campus and then writing a one page reflection on the experience. Dr. Clark announces international activities in her class and encourages her students to attend. Thus, students in her courses have enjoyed CIIE's cultural brown bags given by ILEP scholars from ten different countries as well as distinguished lectures presented by visiting scholars from four countries.



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Alumna and Student Share Study Abroad Experience

Sarah Simpson, from Stow, OH, graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's in *Interior Design* from Kent State's College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

After spending time in Europe, I came to the realization that I needed to be more educated in not only our political system but international politics, and pay more attention to current events. While I was there, for the first time since Communism's beginning, there were no elected officials in the Italian government representing the Communist party. What was and is such a great milestone for Italy was news to me. I had no idea that communism was still a part of their government.

After I got back, I would always say I was on "Italian Time" when I was taking my time with a project or just skipping out on some homework to enjoy the day. I saw that for many Italians, work wasn't a priority like it is here. No workaholics, just a laid-back mentality which helps them to enjoy the finer things in life. I took that away with me and try to mix it in with my already established work ethic. I suppose our work mentality and spirit are part of the reason that America is what it is.

My life has changed immensely through the study abroad program from all the amazing places I was able to see and travel to within a certain distance. The proximity of places in Europe is much greater than in the U.S. Traveling from country to country is like going from state to state for us. However, instead of the usual accent change from different states, in Europe you experience a very unique lifestyle, even language within each country. It offers more variety in less area than in the U.S. one has more opportunity to experience and learn about different cultures through the people of each country and other travelers. I have more ambition to travel in my life than I ever had before. I hope that one day I get to embark on another adventure.

By Sarah Simpson

"I realized the world is a very, very big place..."



KSU students after a soccer game with the people in Bigodi, Uganda. Photo by Katharine Jefferies

Katharine Jefferies: native of Pittsburg, PA; junior majoring in Park Management at KSU; studied abroad in Uganda in the summer of 2009.

Why Uganda? It is unique, different, and off the beaten path. Very few people have a chance to study abroad to such a location, and every aspect of the culture, people, and landscape makes for an unforgettable experience.

I really fell in love with the friendly culture and lifestyle. It also made me realize how much Uganda has to offer in the park and tourism industry and how much potential they have.

Was it worth going? Definitely. If I had the money, I would go again in a heartbeat.



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Study Abroad with EHHS

UGANDA: Once again the *Recreation, Park and Tourism Management* program is preparing to lead students to Uganda, Africa for a two week experiential learning program in May. This year 17 students from a variety of majors will be participating. The program has been successfully offered each of the last four years and seems to grow more popular each year. Dr. Andrew Lepp, who leads the program, attributes its growing popularity to the many benefits the participants receive. Throughout the program, participants challenge themselves in a variety of ways – through participation in outdoor activities and communing with nature, by learning about new cultures and interacting with Ugandan people in meaningful ways, by contemplating critical issues related to natural resource conservation, and by confronting global inequalities. Students meet these challenges together and in the process become more complex individuals. The students gain self confidence, sophistication, intercultural communication skills, new world views, and often an inspiration to undertake greater challenges in the future. Although the May 2010 program is already filled, students can reserve a place in the 2011 trip today. For more information contact Dr. Lepp at alepp1@kent.edu or swing by Room 215, White Hall.



Dr. Andrew Lepp with a Ugandan family



Photo by Richard Wehrenberg

IRELAND: The course, *Education in a Democratic Society*, will run from May 17 - June 4 with travel in Ireland from May 17 - 29. Twelve undergraduate students and one graduate student will participate this year. This course is an inquiry into the challenges facing Ireland today, and the ways in which schools are attempting to address these challenges. The group will visit primary, secondary and special schools, while meeting with teachers, professors, educational administrators and government officials in Dublin, the village of Sneem, and Galway. Students will also have opportunities to conduct micro-teaching in classrooms. The host throughout the trip is Batt Burns, a long-time friend and colleague of KSU. Batt is a former school principal of the National School of Sneem, professional story-teller, and placement coordinator for U. S. student teachers through the COST program. He and his wife Maura, conduct story-telling and traditional music programs in schools and public venues across the United States and elsewhere, and have just performed at the Kennedy Center on St. Patrick's Day.



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TRAVEL2KNOW 2010 Programs

Travel with CIIE this summer and fall to learn about fascinating corners of the world, to enjoy cultures other than your own, and to meet new people. CIIE's 2010 TRAVEL2KNOW programs will be taking travelers to Ireland and Morocco.

In August, enjoy Ireland with a celebrated Irish storyteller Batt Burns and his wife Maura, a successful Irish musician. This tour is a wonderful way to see the magnificent scenery of Ireland, learn about its history, culture and music.



Batt Burns and Oscar Wilde in Dublin



The sculpted sand peaks of Erg Chebbi mark the western fringe of the Sahara and are a popular place for camel treks. Photo by Simeone Huber.

Place Mohammed V in the heart of Casablanca. Photo by Scott Barbour.



Been to Ireland? Make Morocco your next destination! Experience unique Moroccan hospitality, enjoy Casablanca, the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara sand dunes.

Contact us at 330-672-0564, email ronders@kent.edu, or visit www.ehhs.kent.edu/ciie/travel for detailed itineraries.



Association of International Students in Education, Health and Human Services (AIS EHHS) Elect Officers

Both international and U.S. graduate students interested in international activities are encouraged to join AIS. The 2009-2010 officers include **Sabina Uzakova** (Kyrgyzstan), President; **Robyn Hieman** (U.S.), Vice President, **Ajisa Fukudenji** (Japan), Public Relations; **Joe Lin** (Taiwan), Treasurer, **Shujuan Luo** (China), Secretary; and **Jing-Yi Chan** (Taiwan), Representative at the Graduate Senate. The association's mission is to *promote communication, awareness, and understanding among people of various cultures and strive to become more knowledgeable about the host culture of the United States*. AIS offers activities that advocate cultural understanding, peace, religious harmony and educational opportunities. If you would like to be part of this dynamic group, consider becoming an officer. We ask EHHS faculty to encourage their graduate students to join AIS. An email containing description of officer responsibilities and dates for submitting statements of interest for elections was sent out to all members through the AIS listserv. The voting will begin on April 23 and continue through April 30, 2010. Information on voting is forthcoming.

The Read Review is an in-house publication distributed ten times a year. The April 2010 issue was developed by Sabina Uzakova. Editor-in-chief: Linda Robertson, Ph.D., Director, CIIE. lfrobert@kent.edu.