International Education Week (IEW)
November 14 – 18, 2011
Join us in celebrating the world!

SUNY Potsdam will celebrate International Education Week during the week of November 14 – 18. International Education Week began in 2000 and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the U.S. Department of Education. This important week is observed all across the United States and in more than 100 countries overseas. IEW is celebrated in November each year during the week before the American holiday of Thanksgiving.

IEW is an opportunity for exchange students worldwide to share with their host communities their cultures and highlight the benefits of international education exchange programs.

The worldwide celebration of IEW offers a unique opportunity to reach out to people in every nation, to develop a broader understanding of world cultures and languages, and to reiterate the conviction that enduring friendships and partnerships created through international education and exchange are important for a secure future for all countries.

We are encouraging all members of the SUNY Potsdam community to make a difference by sharing your culture with others – your history, government, language, food, holidays, school system and traditions.

A series of events are being planned for students, faculty and staff during IEW, and so we encourage you to participate in the opportunities that are most meaningful to you. An agenda of events and workshops follows on page 2 of this newsletter.
International Education Week Events Calendar

Monday November 14
1PM – IEW Opening Celebration – Student Union Lobby
  • Join us for cake & refreshments from 1 – 3PM
  • Winner of the student photo contest announced

Tuesday November 15
12PM – 1:45PM – Overseas Crisis Response Workshop
  LTEC Classroom

Wednesday November 16
Time TBA – Potsdam International Student Organization (PIO) Interest Meeting – Student Union
6PM – 8PM – Annual Iroquois Social Dance – Sponsored by PANA – Barrington Student Union MPR

Thursday November 17
12PM – 1:45PM – Planning Short-term, Faculty-led Overseas Courses – LTEC Classroom
4PM – 5PM – Study Abroad 101 Session for Students – 142 Sisson Hall

All week long
- Student Study Abroad Interest Table in the Student Union Lobby
- Representative for the SUNY Potsdam sponsored Jamaica Field Service Abroad Program available to speak to interested students

Tastes from Around the World – PACES Dining Units
PACES will feature internationally inspired dishes at several campus dining areas. Saguarros, Mediterranos, Firehouse and Tomassitos in the Student Union Dining Court will indicate a featured special each day. Becky’s Place will feature hearth oven specials as well as a feature sauté item. Lehman Dining Hall will feature dishes from a different country each day of the week. Bon appetité, ¡Buen apetito!, Dobrou chuť, bi-shifaa’!

International Opportunities for Faculty & Staff

Fulbright Scholar’s Program for U.S. Scholars - These programs offer U.S. faculty, administrators and professionals, grants to lecture and/or conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields or to participate in international seminars. Short-term and long-term opportunities are available with varying application deadlines depending on the program. More information at: http://www.cies.org/us_scholars/

Short-term, Faculty-led Overseas Experiences - Develop and teach a short-term course (that could take place in either Winterim, spring break or summer sessions) to teach abroad. For more information about this process we encourage you to attend the upcoming LTEC session during International Education Week – see agenda above for time and location. International Education staff will support you in planning for all aspects of the experience - everything from the course approval process, budget planning, and building your travel itinerary to assistance in recruiting students and ensuring the health and safety of all participants.

Exchange opportunities with SUNY Potsdam International Partner Institutions – Make use of existing links with our partner universities abroad. One-way and reciprocal faculty exchanges have recently occurred with:

- Liverpool Hope University in Liverpool England
- York St. John University in York England
- Universität Potsdam in Potsdam Germany

This kind of exchange is most successful if faculty can trade places, teaching some of the courses normally offered and sometimes even trading houses, cars, and pets!

Need more info? Contact Krista LaVack: lavackkm@potsdam.edu

Need more info? Email: international@potsdam.edu
Phone: 267-2507
Advising F-1 International Students

There are certain regulations set forth by the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) for all F-1 international students. F-1 means that they hold a “student” visa. These regulations determine the types of activities that they may engage in while studying in the United States.

While international students are responsible for maintaining their immigration status, we thought it would be helpful to provide a general overview of what international students must do to stay in compliance with F-1 Immigration regulations:

1. Register full-time each academic term throughout the year. For graduate students, this is nine (9) credit hours per semester and for undergraduate students, this is twelve (12) credit hours per semester.

2. Students may take only one online course per semester towards the full-time status load.

3. Students must report U.S. residential address changes to the Office of International Education & Programs within 10 days of moving.

4. Students must have their I-20 document (issued for U.S. study) signed prior to traveling outside the U.S.

5. Students must attend the school that issued their I-20 and obtain approvals to extend their program of study or transfer to another school in the U.S.

6. Students cannot work off-campus without prior authorization. They may work on campus for up to 20 hours per week while classes are in session or full-time during official school break periods.

Advising Students to Study Abroad

There are many reasons for students to consider studying abroad. Here are a few reasons to share with your students:

- They can see the world and broaden their own experiences;
- They will gain new perspectives on their own country and their place in it;
- They can explore their heritage;
- They can learn a language in a country where it is spoken;
- They can improve their professional and financial potential;
- They can fight stereotypes by educating others and dispelling their own stereotypes;
- They will gain new insights and relationships;
- And they will take control of their future.

Faculty play a vital role in the study abroad advising process – oftentimes serving as the first point of contact for students who have an interest in going abroad. To prepare your advisees consider doing the following:

- During regular meetings with advisees, ask if they intend on studying abroad. This is particularly important when advising freshmen, as early planning makes it easier to identify appropriate programs and credits that will meet graduation requirements. Students with double majors or highly specialized majors (Education, Music Education/Performance) need as much pre-planning time as possible to ensure that studying abroad is an option for them.

- Look at the student’s record and see which courses remain to be taken. These courses may provide a framework for seeking out a program that is a good academic match and would allow the student to continue regular progress toward his or her degree.

- Be a supportive advocate and encouraging mentor. Reinforce that study abroad is both possible and worth pursuing.
Inside the International Education & Programs Office – An Introduction to Our Services and Staff

The International Education & Programs Office (IE&P), located in the Student Success Center in Sisson Hall, sponsors study abroad programs for SUNY Potsdam students wishing to spend part of their academic career abroad, serves as host to international students who come to study at SUNY Potsdam, and provides advice and assistance to students, faculty and staff who are interested in an international dimension to their study, teaching or research.

Services Offered

**Overseas Academic Programs:**
- One-on-one study abroad advising for students. There are over 400 study abroad programs offered through the SUNY system in over 50 countries worldwide. SUNY Potsdam administers exchange agreements with institutions in the following countries: Mexico, England, France, Germany, Sweden, Ukraine, Taiwan and Philippines

**Support for Faculty/Staff International Initiatives:**
- Advisement for teaching faculty in leading faculty-led overseas experiences for students. Short-term experiences are offered during Winterim, spring break and summer semesters. Upcoming experiences will be offered in Vietnam, Tunisia, France, Jamaica and China
- Advisement for faculty wishing to spend sabbatical periods abroad through faculty exchange, one-way initiatives and Fulbright programs to conduct research and/or include international components in their campus curricula
- Support to departments wishing to host international scholars

**International Student Services:**
- Advisement on students’ personal, cultural, health, academic and immigration transitions to the SUNY

Potsdam community
- Information to international students about changes in immigration regulations and upcoming events via email and the IEP website
- Coordination of initial and ongoing orientation programs for new international students

**International Education Staff**

Krista LaVack, Director – provides support for faculty/staff international initiatives, oversees international agreements, and coordinates the international student health insurance program – lavackkm@potsdam.edu

Bethany Parker-Goeke, Coordinator, Student Study Abroad Programs – supports students who want to pursue an international study experience – goekeba@potsdam.edu

Sara Trimm, International Student Advisor – supports international students through orientation and immigration advisement – trimmsl@potsdam.edu

Heidi Crump, IE&P Department Secretary – sets up student appointments, collects application materials and acts as first point of contact with the office – crumphr@potsdam.edu

**Contact Us!**

International Education & Programs, 136 Sisson Hall

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http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/international