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Two decades of twinning success celebrated in Malaysia

A dual 20th anniversary celebration was held Oct. 22 in Kuala Lumpur to mark the founding of Sunway University College and its collaboration with Western Michigan University to create a twinning program.

The 20th anniversary ceremony kicked off “American Week” at Sunway, a celebration of all things American through a full slate of activities that included a product fair, book display, lecture series, 3-on-3 basketball competition and a Halloween costume night. “American Week” was organized by the American Degree Transfer Program at Sunway to be celebrated in conjunction with the 20th anniversary festivities to increase understanding about United States’ culture.

Representing WMU at the opening ceremonies in Malaysia were Dr. Timothy Greene, dean of WMU’s College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Bill Woods, associate dean of the Haenicke Institute. They presented a plaque to Sunway officials sent by WMU President John Dunn honoring the 20-year relationship. Dr. Greene also delivered a guest lecture on the advantages of a career in engineering and the many benefits of studying on Western’s engineering campus.

What began as just a dream by Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr. Jeffrey Cheah in the 1980s has been realized, surpassing its humble beginnings. Demand for higher education from a growing middle class had surpassed the capacity of university classrooms in Malaysia. The Malaysian government appealed to the private sector to create private colleges that could offer additional access to higher education. Sunway College was born in response to that demand in 1987 and found temporary quarters in Petaling Jaya. In partnership with WMU, Sunway’s announced goal was to someday become a “world-class institution and the leader in private education in Malaysia.”

WMU was the sole American partner, signing a contract with Sunway College in 1987 to develop twinning programs in business administration, communications and computer science. Twinning programs with two British universities, four Australian universities, and one in New Zealand were added during Sunway’s first five years. Generally speaking, twinning students complete about half of their degree in their homeland and the other half at an overseas institution.
In 1993, the SungeiWay Group opened a purpose-built, 22-acre campus in Bandar Sunway, a satellite city developed ten miles west of Kuala Lumpur. That campus now offers more than 60 classrooms; several lecture halls, laboratories for languages, computers, engineering, and the sciences, a library, a bookstore, recreational facilities and a full-time security service. With student housing available for more than 1,150 students, Sunway became the first private college in Malaysia to offer students the ability to study and live in a campus environment, rather than having long commutes to campus.

Woods has traveled extensively in Asia, and has for 20 years been responsible for negotiating contracts on three continents and directing international grants and contracts. He was part of the delegation that traveled to Malaysia when the partnership was begun that led to Sunway’s founding.

“It was an honor to represent Western at the ceremony,” Woods said. “Sunway is now looking ahead to the next 20 years and advancing its goal of becoming a world-class institution offering superior teaching and up-to-date facilities in a university campus environment. As one of its original partners, WMU is committed to further academic support as Sunway University College continues its journey to excellence in higher education.”

For more information about the Sunway University College—Western Michigan University Twinning Program, contact Cat Fuller, director of overseas programs for the Haenicke Institute at: fullerc@wmich.edu
$8,000 SCHOLARSHIPS ease tuition costs for international students

Winning a WMU Presidential Scholarship and the quality of the University's imaging program were key factors in Nayibe Tavares' decision to move to Kalamazoo from the Dominican Republic in fall 2007.

The scholarship offers $8,000 per year for up to four years (eight semesters) or the completion of the first undergraduate degree—whichever occurs first.

"For now, I just want to learn as much as possible about the printing industry," Tavares said. "I am passionate about it and I want to take as much advantage as possible of the opportunities that WMU is giving me."

Adapting to life in a city several hundred miles north of her homeland has not been too much of a problem for Tavares, who has found plenty of fun outdoor and indoor activities to enjoy in her free time. "I like the Broadway musicals at Miller Auditorium, watching the Bronco football games with my friends and working out at the recreation center," she said.

First offered by the University for students enrolling for the 2007 fall semester, a limited number of scholarships will be awarded this academic year for up to four years (eight semesters) or the completion of the first undergraduate degree—whichever occurs first.

Samson Ondego Kedenge, a native of Kenya and transnational education student from Egerton University, is another recipient of the scholarship. He began his study at WMU in September.

"The engineering courses offered through the transnational education program meant I could pursue my career option," Kedenge said. "Completing the first two years of transferable work at Egerton made the cost of a degree in aeronautical engineering more affordable. Kalamazoo and the area surrounding WMU are conducive to my studies."

All international students applying to WMU will be considered for the scholarship. Application review will begin November 1, 2007 and end April 1, 2008, or when all scholarships have been awarded.

The WMU Presidential Scholarship will be awarded based on the criteria below. These scholarships require full-time enrollment (12+ credit hours per semester).

**Eligibility Criteria**

Access WMU's international student application online at:

https://bssp3.cc.wmich.edu/PLS/BPROD/wskissa.wskissa_menu
Tailgate party and parade

Tailgate party and parade an international celebration at WMU's Homecoming

Surrounded by mature oaks in full autumn glory, about 50 students and staff gathered for a tailgate party preceding the Parade of Nations at WMU's Homecoming game versus Ball State University October 20.

Kimberly Ritter, Haenicke Institute coordinator of international student activities, said the tailgaters enjoyed hot chocolate and Lee's fried chicken with all the fixin's before staging the flag bearers for the parade at 1:45 p.m.

Students carrying their homeland flags and other flag-bearing participants represented more than 60 countries in the parade. The group marched into Waldo Stadium just prior to kick off and fronted the WMU Marching Band on the student side of the football field. The colorful display was visible from all corners of the stadium.

Alper Gondiken, an exchange student from Turkey, carried his country's bright red flag, which includes a white crescent moon and a 5-point star.

"It was a great feeling to carry my country's flag in front of so many people, especially in those sorrowful days my country is going through," Gondiken said. "It was also very educational getting to know how other nations' flags look."

The students took to the stands after the parade to cheer on the Broncos. Unfortunately, a 79-yard drive in the final minutes of the game helped Ball State squeak past Western Michigan, 27-23, spoiling the Broncos' hope for a Homecoming victory.

The Parade of Nations is an annual WMU Homecoming event organized by International Services and Student Affairs in WMU's Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Affairs.
WMU professors perform in prestigious Russian festival, foster student exchanges

WMU Professors Igor Fedotov and Dr. David Colson, director of the School of Music, recently returned from Russia, where they attended and performed at the prestigious Rimsky Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory of Music International Festival. The professors also met with faculty, students, and government officials in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Cherepovets and Vologda to strengthen ties between WMU and Russian institutions of higher education.

photo: Professor Igor Fedotov and Dr. David Colson, director of WMU’s School of Music with Russian students

Fedotov, a WMU associate professor of viola, has worked tirelessly to develop relations with Russian institutions, including bringing performers from Pushkin, Kalamazoo's sister city, to the annual Russian Festival. In 2005, the Haenicke Institute for Global Education established a formal partnership with the prestigious Rimsky Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory of Music. The rector of the conservatory, a grandson of Tchaikovsky, invited WMU’s School of Music to participate in the International Week of Conservatories conference. Fedotov, who conducted research in Russia last year as a Fulbright Scholar, didn't want this opportunity to slip away.

The question was, with whom would he perform?

The invitation stipulated that he perform a piece written by an American composer. Fedotov knew several American compositions, but wanted to perform something new and give it its Russian premiere.

Fedotov went to the Internet search site, Google. He hoped to find a composer and performer who had written a piece to be played in collaboration with a violist.

The name at the top of the search list was Dr. David J. Colson. The name sounded familiar. According to the Web, Colson had written a piece titled "Quiet Places" for viola and vibraphone. Fedotov was intrigued. He had never met Colson, but was sure he'd heard the name. But where?
Fedotov had been in Russia on his Fulbright award when Colson was appointed the new director of WMU's School of Music. After looking through some information about Colson on the Web, Fedotov quickly realized who he was.

“When I realized that this was the same person who was now the director of the WMU School of Music, I couldn't believe it,” Fedotov says, with a hearty laugh.

He approached Colson with the idea of traveling to Russia, not only to perform, but to try to bring about exchanges of faculty and students with conservatories and music schools there. Having the music school's director travel with him would be perfect.

Having just assumed the reins of the music school officially on July 1, Colson was totally immersed in his new job. What's more, he'd never been outside the United States and had planned a trip to India before he applied for the director's job at WMU.

"It all happened so quick," Colson says. "I had just come to WMU and I was just trying to figure out the job and learn the culture of the University. But Igor was so passionate about this. And from my limited knowledge about the School of Music, it was my understanding that this had been an ongoing effort and was important. I wanted to be supportive of all the hard work Igor had done."

The trip to India could wait.

Colson came to WMU from California State University, Chico, where he was chair of the Department of Music and held the David and Helen Lantis University Chair, the university's first endowed professorship. Fedotov joined the WMU
School of Music faculty in 1998 and is principal violist with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. In October, while he was traveling to Russia, the University announced he had won WMU's Emerging Scholar Award.

Pooling their extensive experience and knowledge, they set off for Russia with much bigger things in mind than to just perform. They visited Herzen State Pedagogical University, with whom WMU is developing a summer program of intensive Russian language and culture, under the direction of Dr. Dasha Nisula, WMU professor of foreign languages. They attended and performed at the international festival that brings together music educators from institutions of higher learning from across the globe. WMU was one of only two U.S. institutions invited to perform. The festival annually attracts representatives from such famous international music schools and the Royal Welsh and England conservatories, Paris Conservatory and many more.

The gala concert in which the pair performed is dedicated to celebrating 200 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Russia and involved artists from both countries. In addition to Colson's piece, Fedotov performed a sonata he discovered by a Russian composer during his recent Fulbright research and was accompanied by Dimitri Chassovitin, professor of piano from the St. Petersburg Conservatory and a recording partner of Fedotov's.

After five days in St. Petersburg, meeting with faculty, lecturing and working with students, the pair set off for Cherepovets for a visit at the Cherepovets Region College of Arts and Handicrafts. Six guests from Cherepovets, including three student musicians, traveled to Kalamazoo just a couple weeks later to perform in Russian Festival 2007 at the Fetzer Center.
Cherepovets students entertained Fedotov and Colson with a dance performance

The WMU ambassadors also took a side trip to Vologda to meet with regional government representatives. The next day, they traveled to Moscow, where they met with the director and faculty of the Moscow State Institute of Music and the U.S. Embassy's cultural attaché.

"It was a fabulous trip," Colson says. "Igor went out of his way to make this an experience for me. I came away with a different understanding of the country and the people, an understanding I never would have acquired simply as a tourist."

Three Cherepovets' students performed in WMU's Russian Festival November 10. Left to right: Oleg Nazarenko on the balalaika, Ksenia Kozmenko singing, and Pavel Kokotov on the accordion

Now the two are trying to build on the many connections they made on the trip, hoping to start cultural and student exchanges that will grow and stretch far into the future. A contingent of six people from Cherepovets traveled to Kalamazoo in early November, including three students who participated in WMU's Russian Festival.

Colson is optimistic that WMU's Russia connection will grow.

"The potential there is very rich," he says. "We need to pull the trigger on this. It's important for WMU to showcase and demonstrate what this school really is and what it has to offer."
Colson (seated, second from left) enjoyed a visit with family and friends in the home of Dr. Pokotilov (seated on far right), dean of the Cherepovets College of Fine Arts and Handicrafts.

Story courtesy of WMU News, published by the Office of University Relations.
Japanese interests compels a major switch to global and international studies

Engineering-bound when he entered Western Michigan University in fall 2003, David Ashworth's keen interest in Japan's language and culture prompted a switch near the end of his sophomore year to a major in global and international studies.

David Ashworth on right with former WMU Japan exchange students Sakiko Masuda, far left, and Yumi Sakaguchi, center.

"The Japanese influence came both from the classroom and from past experiences, in particular meeting an exchange student from Japan during high school and becoming close friends," Ashworth said. "At WMU I got involved by chance with the International Student Orientation and Registration Program, which submerged me in a culturally mixed environment and gave me a small taste of what I might be able to expect from a focus on international and global studies. Because the major is flexible and designed to give students a wide variety to choose from, I had the freedom of customizing my major to suit my interests. This includes a focus on Japanese language, life, and culture, as well as other studies in comparative religion and world literature."

The Haenicke Institute, in collaboration with the WMU College of Arts and Sciences, coordinates a family of interdisciplinary programs and courses devoted to the study of global and international issues, including an undergraduate major and minor program in global and international studies. About 70 students are currently enrolled in the major. University degree programs include an international general education requirement and WMU was the first American university to require all students to include study of the non-Western World.

Ashworth was the recipient of a full-ride scholarship to attend Keio University in Tokyo for the 2006-2007 academic year, where he studied Japanese language and psychology and intercultural communication. He also was awarded a $500 scholarship from the Foreign Languages Department.

"Studying abroad allowed me to obtain the credits needed for a Japanese minor, as well as fulfill some requirements for my major, which focuses particularly on Japan," said the Chesterfield Township, Mich. native. "My abilities in the language have increased a great deal, and my level of understanding of Japanese culture and society has been
enlightened. My stay there has made my academic interests in Japan a more complete package, and has inspired me to further pursue and explore those interests beyond graduation."

The daily challenges of learning to survive in a foreign land have also enhanced Ashworth's personal development and perspectives. He learned how to overcome the stress that resulted from not speaking the language well enough when he first arrived to express his thoughts and needs. His eyes were opened to new landscapes and new methods for doing ordinary things, like cooking.

"Studying in Japan has been a life-changing experience," he said. "The world seems much bigger now, yet so much easier to travel than it did one year ago. I've learned how to smile at strangers, how to stop and really see how people are doing and how to appreciate and enjoy the world around me, whatever the circumstances."

This fall, Dr. Donald McCloud, dean of the Haenicke Institute and a higher education veteran with broad international experience, is teaching the program’s entry level class, INTL 2000 Introduction to Global and International Studies, which has an enrollment of nearly 90 students.

The internationalization of the WMU learning experience is a priority in the University’s international agenda. Dean McCloud will spearhead the Institute's efforts in this area in collaboration with WMU faculty and staff, in particular with the International Education Council of the Faculty Senate. Comprehensive information about WMU's global and international studies program is accessible online at: http://international.wmich.edu/content/view/41/57/

WMU offers more than 60 study abroad programs to 30-plus countries. Program profiles are accessible online at: www.wmich.edu/studyabroad
WMU and Hispanic American Council collaborate to expand community ESL classes

Thirty years of teaching English as a second language courses at Western Michigan University has not quenched Mary Lu Light's passion to help international students and visitors learn to speak and read English. She now also spends many hours of her out-of-the-office time helping area Hispanic-Americans learn English.

As ESL Coordinator for the Hispanic American Council of Kalamazoo, Light has helped the HAC develop a comprehensive ESL curriculum and a training program for volunteer teachers that was implemented for the 2006/2007 school year. Her work was supported by Western Michigan University's Haenicke Institute for Global Education, which gave her some release time from her full-time position as a master faculty specialist in the Career English Language Center for International Students to coordinate the Council's ESL program. In October 2007, the program received a grant from the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation.

"Many of the people who enroll have low literacy in their native language," Light said. "Essentially we are training them in literacy by teaching them to read and write, perhaps for the first time in their lives. The Hispanic population has become the largest minority in the United States due to a recent increase in immigration from Latin American countries. The Wall Street Journal predicts that these immigrants will account for a large part of the growth in the U.S. workforce in the next 20 years. The need for this population to speak, understand, read, and write English to be able to contribute to growth and security of the country is obvious."
The HAC is a non-profit corporation established in 1981 to assist and advocate for the well-being of the Hispanic community in Southwest Michigan, which is located in St. Joseph’s School at 930 Lake St. in Kalamazoo. To help fulfill its mission, several years ago the HAC developed a program to teach English as a second language to adults (ESL) and a program to foster bilingualism and bi-literacy in children, the Family Reading Program (FRP). These two programs operate together to serve the educational needs of the entire family unit.

Although the ESL and FRP had been in existence for many years, the programs lacked a comprehensive curriculum and volunteer teacher-training program until Light was contacted by the HAC in 2005. The council was looking for professional guidance in revising the ESL program to meet national standards and to incorporate the most innovative approaches to learning English language skills.

Light approached Dr. Ron Davis, WMU former vice provost for international programs, to sponsor her involvement with the HAC by giving her release time from her normal full-load of CELCIS courses, which are taught year round. Her summer semester loads were decreased in 2005 to get planning underway; this support from the institute continues.

She worked with HAC’s former Executive Director Anna Light, the board of directors and Volunteer Coordinator Janet Nykaza to roll out the new program. Light said enrollment has increased nearly five-fold and that it now takes many volunteers to satisfy demand for ESL courses and spaces for children in the FRP program.

The volunteer staff includes WMU students, faculty and staff from many departments, including Spanish, speech pathology, geography, anthropology, and family and consumer sciences, and WMU Libraries and the Office of Information Technology. Youth from Portage Northern High School’s Spanish Department, Youth United Way of Kalamazoo, and Kalamazoo Christian High School also serve as volunteers.
"Enrollment increased from 35 students in the 2005/2006 academic year to 150 students in the 2006/2007, an increase of more than 400 percent," Light said. "In addition, the program was able to expand the number of proficiency levels of instruction from two to four, thus providing more appropriate instruction for students at each proficiency level."

The classes are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. over 7-week sessions that run from September through April. Class size is limited to about 15 students and the cost is $15 per session. Scholarships are available.

"This year we are trying to get students to be more consistent in attending classes by moving away from open enrollment," Light said. "For a variety of reasons, some students have to drop in and out of the program. To be more flexible, we are now offering four, 7-week enrollment sessions and four entry points for the four levels of instruction over the year. To help motivate students, we give those with 90-percent attendance during a session a full-ride scholarship for the next session."

A conversation club that began in early 2007 meets twice a month on Thursdays, providing students and community members the opportunity to engage in Spanish or English conversation groups. Light said the club attracts native English speakers from the community who are interested in speaking Spanish and Hispanic-Americans who want to practice their English skills.

"This is a good chance for our ESL students to meet and speak English with educated community members that they might not otherwise have the chance to meet," Light said. "Some people come who aren't taking classes but want to practice their English. The benefits are both linguistic and cultural interaction through community exchange. It is a chance for disparate groups of people to spend an hour together and interact."

A lending library has also been launched that includes bi-lingual and English books for adults and children participating in ESL classes and FRP.
"We wanted to have the library because the types of books our students need aren't necessarily available at the public libraries," she said. "Some people are intimidated to visit a library. Having the lending library helps us introduce the concept of a library and picking out books."

The Family Reading Program volunteer squad is headed up by WMU Junior Francisca Martinez-Danner (pictured at left), who is majoring in English education and minoring in Spanish Education. Light said the program is partially a daycare service for children of the adults attending ESL classes, as well as a literacy development program for the kids.

Under Light's tutelage, the HAC ESL program has been reorganized in accordance with the Standards for Adult Education ESL Programs published by the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Inc. in the text "Standards for Adult Education ESL Programs" (2003).

For more information about the council and its ESL courses call (269) 385-6279. Those interested in volunteering as classroom aides, as teachers or working with children may contact Mary Lu at (269) 387-4811 or marylu.light@wmich.edu.

Visit WMU's Career English Language Center for International students online at: http://international.wmich.edu
WMU's Japan liaison officer finds many parallels between life in Kalamazoo and Tokyo

Although Jin Abe now lives in Tokyo Japan, his lifestyle has remained remarkably similar to the days he was working as an international student advisor at Western Michigan University in 1998.

“For instance, it used to take 20 minutes from my home in Portage to my WMU office” Abe said. “Now my drive from home takes 15 minutes to Hitotsubashi University. I would have never expected that I would be driving a shorter distance from home to work in Tokyo.”

Abe is the Japan liaison officer for WMU, marketing the University in Japan, recruiting Japanese students to attend Western, maintaining relationships with Japanese exchange schools and study-abroad institutions, as well as coordinating WMU alumni activities in Tokyo and other Japanese metro areas.

He first came to the United States after nearly failing a Japanese high school in the 1980s. The United States’ education system resurrected Abe and he eventually earned a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota. After graduation, he went to work as a marketing specialist for IBM in Japan, where he was making good money but was unfulfilled in his work. Searching for a career that was more meaningful, Abe came to realize that what fulfilled him was helping people grow, not companies.

A ruptured Achilles tendon from playing flag football and three months of sick leave from the high-powered job in the mid-1990s amounted to a reality check for Abe. He landed at Western Michigan University as a master’s student in 1996. He became an advisor in the Office of International Student Services in 1998, where he worked until 2005, and earned a master’s degree in counselor education in 1999.

His current home, an international residence hall for students and families from four universities, also reminds him of WMU; he lives there with with his wife, Mami, and daughters, Jun, 9, and Mei, 7.

“Our kids are interacting in school daily with children from China, Mongolia, Korea, and Malaysia,” he said. “It’s very much like the days when I was living in the Stadium Drive Apartments, except my kids do not have to speak in a foreign language.”

But there are more parallels. “There is a long nature trail that extends for 13 miles right next to my residence hall. It’s like living next to the Kal-Haven Trail in the middle of Tokyo. And my apartment is a minute away from a sport gym that the university owns, so I might as well say I live next to Student Recreation Center as well,” Abe said.

Most importantly, he continues to officiate at American football games in Japan, a passion he discovered in 2001 in Michigan working high school games.

“When I started, I bet there were a few people who doubted whether I knew football well enough to officiate—how often do you see Asian-looking football refs in Michigan?” Abe joked. “But by 2005 I pretty much got to know most of the coaches and athletic directors and fellow officials in southwest Michigan.”
Back in Japan where American football is as rare as seeing a cricket match in the United States, Jin feared that this could be the end of his hobby, but he is now serving as an official at college and semi-pro football games every fall in Tokyo.

“Again, my perception about living in Tokyo proved to be wrong,” he said. “Just as in study abroad, you never know until you experience life in a foreign land first-hand.”

Up until 2005, Abe’s main profession was providing advising and counseling to WMU international students on career, personal, and social development, as well as concerns related to U.S. immigration regulations. Now, as an assistant professor with their College of Business at Hitotsubashi University, he is still helping international students in Japan.

“I advise international students and Japanese students, supervise student activities in international residence halls, teach intercultural adjustment and understanding, and coordinate short-term study abroad programs,” he said. “That pretty much parallels what I have done at WMU and/or at professional associations.”

When Jin went back to Japan in 2005 for family reasons he treated himself to a one-year retreat to allow time to adjust to his new life, then one of his professional colleagues in Japan introduced him to his current position.

“At first I did not think it would be a good fit,” he said. “A national university and the teaching position—the image just did not fit my personality. But I went in for an interview and found the university and the living environment to be very compatible with his lifestyle. I learned national universities can offer a wide variety of campus cultures. My perception of Hitotsubashi faculty and staff members is that they are very laid back and approachable. Again, this reminds so much of my interactions with WMU folks.”

Being able to retain a WMU affiliation allows Abe to meet a wide variety of people that he might otherwise not see, including WMU alumni in Japan.

“Last March, we had a big get-together of WMU alumni in Tokyo,” he said. “It attracted our graduates from the 1960s all the way to 2006. It was a big reunion for many of us. I got to renew ties with some of our old students. In fact, some of them are now helping to recruit students at study-abroad fairs in Tokyo and Osaka. I am very thankful to be able to retain my association with WMU.”
Abe’s role as WMU Japan alumni liaison extends far beyond his everyday work. “I am going to Malaysia in December because a former student invited me to her wedding,” he said. “I will be seeing former student workers in my office and get to experience an intercultural wedding. The personal relationships I develop through my work are the reasons I continue to be involved in the field of international education.”

Summer study abroad is a short-term affair

Language and cultural immersion for students unable to be overseas for a semester or academic year is readily available through the 25 summer semester, short-term, study abroad programs offered through Western Michigan University’s Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

Students can travel with a WMU professor to study art in France, engineering in China and Korea, Russian language and culture, business in Norway, creative writing in Prague or take a Grand Tour of Europe, to name just a few of the options. Most summer semester programs are open to non-WMU students and to adults interested in travel and learning who are not currently attending college.

Some programs offer classes in a broad range of disciplines and a few offer scholarship opportunities. Programs run from 2 to 8 weeks, offer varying levels of academic credit and are eligible for financial aid funding.

April 2007 WMU graduate Brittany Husted participated in the Grand Tour of Europe program for a month in May 2007 with 17 fellow students led by Dr. Larry ten Harmsel, dean emeritus of the Lee Honors College. She said the five-country tour was a good way to visit Europe for the first time to learn which cities she would like to visit for a longer period in the future.
“The best part was we had such a good group,” said Husted, who now works for a newspaper in Three Rivers. “I didn’t know anyone when we left Michigan and now some of them are my best friends. I am now more understanding of people I meet here who don’t speak English and I am more willing to help them.”

Art, architecture, and history are the main topics Dr. ten Harmsel expounds on in daily lectures while the group spends two or three days in each location, before traveling to the next destination via train. Stops included Amsterdam, Paris, Vienna, Rome, Florence, Venice and Vienna.

“Paris and Florence were my favorite cities,” said Husted, a native of Suttons Bay, Michigan. “The Eiffel Tower was amazing—it is a lot bigger than I thought it would be. From Florence I toured some of the Tuscany region. We went horseback riding in a vineyard and sampled some wine. It was nice to get away from the city for a change.”

WMU junior Jacob Tardani of Muskegon, Mich., completed his work in Arabic language study at the University of Alexandria in Egypt with the help of a $4,500 scholarship from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program in the 2007 Spring semester. It was his second stint in Egypt, which followed a short-term program he completed at Alexandria Center for Languages through WMU in 2006.
“Studying abroad in Egypt during the summer of 2006 was the perfect choice for me at the time,” Tardani said. “Since it was a short-term, one-month program I was able to get away and see the life and culture of Egypt as it really is, not as learned from some textbook. The weekend excursions to the pyramids, King Ramses’ Tomb, and to all ends of the country really made it a once-in-a-lifetime experience and left me eager to discover more about the culture, history, and language of Egypt.”

Tardani was fortunate enough to do just that, when he returned to the Alexandria Center in 2007 for a semester-long program.

“After acquiring a taste for the country, language, and people, I felt even more confident that I could fully benefit from a semester-long program,” he said. “I already knew what to expect and the situation didn’t seem too foreign to me.”
The deadline to apply for most summer semester programs is February 15. For application information, visit Study Abroad on the second floor of Ellsworth Hall (next to the Bernhard Center, east side) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Information sessions and walk-in advising offered daily. The Study Abroad office may be reached by phone at 269-387-5890, by e-mail at study-abroad@wmich.edu, or visit Study Abroad on the web at: www.wmich.edu/studyabroad
A program list follows that includes links to the program profile. Please consult with your academic advisor/s to learn how these courses may be applied to your degree. Some summer programs qualify for general education credit.

2008 Summer I & II HIGE Study Abroad Programs (chronological)
A link to an online program profile follows each program listing

**Business Relationships in London and Paris**
London, United Kingdom; Paris, France  
April 27 – May 11  
Business seminar  
Dr. Bret Wagner and Dr. Steve Newell

**Tropical Biology in Belize**
Field research station in Belize  
April 28 – May 16  
Biology, ecology, geography  
Dr. Steve Malcolm

**The Grand Tour of Europe**
Multiple Cities, Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany  
April 28 – May 26  
European arts and cultures  
Dr. Larry ten Harmsel

**Universite Laval—Summer**
Quebec, Canada  
July 7 – August 8 (approx.)  
French, Quebec history and culture  
Dr. Vincent Desroches
Modern and Contemporary Art in Paris
Paris, France
May 4 – May 22
Art history
Dr. Jeffrey Thompson

Engineering in Germany
Multiple Locations in Germany
May 4 – May 24 (approx.)
Global engineering, German culture
Dr. Betsy Aller and Dr. Andrew Kline

Engineering in China/South Korea
Beijing and Shanghai, China; Seoul, Korea
May 8 – May 25
Chemical, mechanical, electrical, computer, biological, industrial, or manufacturing engineering
Dr. Dewei Qi and Dr. Kapseong Ro

Business in China
Beijing and Shanghai, China
May 10 – May 22 (May 10 – May 26 with Hong Kong excursion)
Business
Dr. Roger Tang

Mexico Immersion in Health Care
Patzcuaro, Mexico
May 10 - June 21, 2008
Spanish language, health care systems in Mexico, Mexican culture, and immigration to U.S.
Professor Kathi Fuller

Studio Art Center International (SACI) Summer I
Florence, Italy
May 15 – June 21
Studio art, art history, Italian language
Professor Caroline Gore

Nihon University
Tokyo, Japan
Japanese language and culture
Dr. Jeffrey Angles

Japan Religion and Culture
Tokyo and Nikko, Japan
June 2 – June 14 (Approximate Dates)
Religious practice, history, and culture
Dr. Stephen Covell

American Intercontinental University
London, United Kingdom
June 5 – August 15
Fashion merchandising, business, media production, visual communication, interior design, engineering
Universidad de Cantabria
Santander, Spain
June 9 – July 31
Spanish language and culture
Dr. Mariola Perez de la Cruz

Russian Language and Culture
St. Petersburg, Russia
June 16 – July 2
Russian language and culture
Dr. Dasha Nisula

Norwegian School of Management (BI)
Oslo, Norway
June 23 – July 13
Business, intercultural management

Queretaro Graduate Program
Queretaro, Mexico
June 23 – August 7
Spanish graduate courses (school teachers encouraged to apply)
Dr. Irma Lopez and Dr. Antonio Isea (instructor)

Studio Art Center International (SACI) Summer II
Florence, Italy
June 26 – July 26
Studio art, art history, Italian
Professor Caroline Gore

Prague Summer Program
Prague, Czech Republic
June 28 – July 25
Creative writing, American and Czech literature, Jewish Studies, photography
Professor Richard Katrovas

Alexandria Center for Languages
Alexandria, Egypt
June 29 – July 31 (Summer 2006 dates, Summer 2008 dates TBD)
Arabic language and culture
Dr. Mustafa Mughazy

Nanotechnology Research in Brazil
Sao Carlos and Sao Paulo Region, Brazil
July 1 – September 1 (*Summer 2007 Dates*; Summer 2008 Dates TBD)
Materials, chemical, mechanical, environmental, electrical engineering
Dr. Pnina Ari-Gur

University of Cambridge Summer School
Cambridge, United Kingdom
July 7 – August 1
Various fields of study, including history, political science, English literature, architecture, sociology, natural science, the arts, British life and culture
**Veritas University**
San Jose, Costa Rica
July 7 – August 8
Intensive Spanish language, various electives

**Universiteit Maastricht**
Maastricht, Netherlands
July 7 – August 15
Business, economics, intercultural communication

**Chinese Language and Culture**
Beijing, China
August 15 – August 31 (approx., Summer 2008 dates TBD)
Chinese language and culture
Dr. Xiaojun Wang