In this issue

Meeting Malaysia:
WMU President celebrates Sunway University’s 25th, hosts alumni reunions and forges four new partnerships

Ancient Nepalese Caves Attract WMU researcher
Dear Friends,

We hope you will enjoy the new format we are launching with the fall 2012 issue of WMU International News—an ezine published by Western Michigan University’s Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education three times each academic year.

As in previous editions, you’ll find on the following pages feature stories about students, faculty, staff and alumni who are contributing to the University’s internationalization efforts in Kalamazoo and around the world.

In this issue, read about a WMU professor and international researcher who backpacks two-and-a-half weeks in the Himalayans to reach a cliff cave research site for a project partially funded by the National Geographic Society; our new Buddy Abroad program that welcomes incoming exchange and Study Abroad @ WMU students; our full-service Immigration Services team; and much more.

We appreciate your interest in Western Michigan University and the Haenicke Institute and we welcome your comments about WMU International News.

Please write us at: wmu-international@wmich.edu

Best regards,
Bassam Harik
Interim Vice Provost
Haenicke Institute for Global Education
Veteran WMU Administrator Tapped as Haenicke Institute Transitional Leader
Dr. Bassam Harik, 34-year WMU professor and administrator, leads WMU’s international initiatives

Manchester Native Finds Home on WMU Pitch
U.K.’s Nicole Hatcliffe secures midfield for Bronco Soccer

Ancient Nepal Caves Capture Attention of WMU Researcher
Dr. Jacqueline Eng examines bones for project funded partially by National Geographic Society

Full-service Immigration Services Team Supports WMU’s Global Engagement
Navigate your way to WMU with Immigration Services

New Buddy Abroad Program Rolls Out the Welcome Mat
Pairs incoming exchange and Study Abroad @ WMU students with WMU study abroad alumni or global studies major

Refugee Service Internship Gels Career Path for ESL Administrator
CELCIS assistant director’s overseas travels lead to satisfying work

Studying with the Dalai Lama
Global studies alumna explores mind and body sciences in Tibet

Ethnic Restaurants and Markets Plentiful in Kalamazoo
Western Michigan University delegation, including President John M. Dunn, traveled to Malaysia in June to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Sunway University, participate in two alumni reunions and to sign new articulation agreements with four private schools.

It was Dunn’s first visit to Kuala Lumpur and Sunway University, which was founded as Sunway College in 1987 and which launched a “twinning program” with WMU in that same year that has brought thousands of students to Kalamazoo. The WMU delegation included Dunn’s wife, Linda, Juan Tavares, director of international admissions and services, and Kaitlyn Carr, student recruitment outreach officer.

Dunn said the collaboration has been credited with helping Malaysia emerge as a Southeast Asia regional center for education.

“Our long and very strong relationship with Sunway and the impact it has had on global higher education is a source of great pride for Western Michigan University,” Dunn said. “Our connections to Malaysia go back to the late-1960s and 1970s, when large numbers of Malaysian government scholarship students were enrolled at WMU. Together these programs have meant that we now have an alumni community in Malaysia of about 2,500 strong. We enjoyed celebrating this significant anniversary and meeting with alumni and our colleagues in Malaysia who made this relationship a reality.”

While in Malaysia, Dunn also signed four new articulation agreements with KDU University College, INTI International University, HELP University and Nilai University College, which will bring additional Malaysian students to WMU.
The 2+2 model WMU and Sunway developed continues to bring new students to WMU and has also opened up study abroad opportunities, faculty exchange and research initiatives. One WMU faculty member, finance Professor Christopher Korth, recently completed a three-month teaching stint at Sunway. The model's success has resulted in the proliferation of similar programs now used to educate thousands of Malaysian students at more than 60 American colleges and universities and at universities in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and other countries. Western has established similar twinning programs in Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bolivia and Kenya.

More than 160 Malaysian Broncos turned out for an alumni reception on June 12 at the Renaissance Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, many of whom had graduated during the 1980s and had not seen each other in more than 30 years. The group received an audio/visual presentation depicting how the University has grown in recent decades and heard speeches by WMU alumnus Azidy Daud (BBA, 1986, MBA, 1988) president of the Malaysian Alumni Association, and Dunn, including a reminder about the Diether H. Haenicke Scholarship, a renewable merit undergraduate scholarship with awards up to $16,000 per year.

Daud, treasurer of Asian Finance Bank Berhad in Kuala Lumpur, said the group enjoyed reminiscing at the reunion about their WMU days, singing the WMU alma mater and fight songs, as well as having the chance to see recent photos of WMU's campus and the Kalamazoo community.

"Kalamazoo is a great town, where you can find everything you need nearby and you're close to Detroit and Chicago," Daud said. "I had the opportunity to study with students from all over the world at WMU and I enhanced my leadership skills by participating in student organizations. I enjoyed the latest technology available in the computer labs and access to an enormous amount of information through Waldo and the business libraries. The lecturers and professors were friendly and very attentive to students from different backgrounds."

On Friday, June 15, the delegation was welcomed at Sunway University by Elizabeth Lee, executive director, and Vice President John Dunn.
WMU’s international initiatives.

“I am extremely pleased that Dr. Harik has agreed to postpone retirement and serve as interim vice provost for the Haenicke Institute,” said WMU Provost Dr. Timothy Greene. “He brings extensive University and global experience to the position and will lead the institute while we complete the search for a permanent leader.”

Harik replaces Dr. Donald G. McCloud, who was honored for his service as the institute’s dean at a campus-wide reception held on September 28.

Harik joined the WMU economics faculty in 1979. Over the course of his 34-year career at the University, he has served as department chair, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, interim provost, and vice provost for budget and personnel. Harik earned a bachelor’s degree from the American University of Beirut in 1970 and master’s and doctoral degrees from Wayne State University in 1973 and 1978, respectively.

“Looking at WMU’s student profile and demographics, we draw students from rural areas, small towns and big cities, many who have not had much exposure to international travel or cultures,” Harik said. “It is an important part of the education of our students to provide them this international component. We do that by having a campus that actively recruits students from all over the world and we have been doing that throughout our history. We also achieve this through our study abroad activities and exchange opportunities for faculty and students. That is a great asset for Kalamazoo and the region to have this exposure to international students and faculty as well as visitors.”

A native of Lebanon, Harik gained first-hand experiences as an international student when he came to the United States in 1970 to attend Wayne State University to earn his master’s and doctoral degrees.

“In Lebanon, the opportunities for graduate education were limited unless you went into professional degrees like medicine and law; opportunities to earn a Ph.D. in the arts and sciences and the humanities were quite limited,” he said. “For those of us who wanted to pursue doctoral degrees, like I did in economics, the only way to do that beyond the master’s was to study abroad. It was not very difficult for me to travel and study abroad. I was brought up in a multi-language culture—learning French and English, in addition to Arabic, was part of my primary education. Attending the American University in Beirut, I was familiar with the American university setting, so it was not hard for me to transfer here and dive into graduate education.”

Harik said he is pleased to serve the institute during this transition period.

“There is a great variety and complexity of activities and initiatives handled by the Haenicke Institute,” he said. “I was aware of most of them, but when I began looking at the D
When you’re hometown is Manchester, England, it’s standard practice to grow up with a soccer ball between your feet, as did Nicole Hatcliffe, a Western Michigan University sophomore majoring in communication and a member of the varsity women’s soccer squad.

“I feel so privileged to be at WMU,” Hatcliffe said. “We are treated like professionals and being on the team feels like having another family. You would never find a campus like WMU’s in England—our professional soccer teams play in stadiums and on fields that are not even as big as Waldo Stadium. I am grateful for this opportunity to play at the highest level on a college team with scholarship support.

There is no such thing as athletic scholarships to attend college in England.”

Hatcliffe can’t remember a time in her life when she wasn’t playing soccer regularly. When she was just 12 years old, her talents on the pitch were recognized when she was selected to play for the Blackburn Rovers Soccer Club, one of England’s premier youth clubs, in addition to her school-based teams.

Looking ahead while attending Elton High School for an opportunity to play college-level soccer, Hatcliffe set her sights on attending a college in the United States that had a Division I women’s soccer program and scholarship support.

With close family members living in Chicago, Hatcliffe said she narrowed her search to colleges in the Midwest. With the help of her father, Tim, she identified Western Michigan University as an ideal place to earn a degree and a place on the varsity squad.

The 5’ 5” midfielder was a top goal scorer for England’s Bury College in 2010 and 2011 and she was named Player of the Match in an England Colleges vs. Australia tournament played in 2010. In her first season at WMU in fall 2011 she played in 16 matches and played in every match of the fall 2012 season.

Living in WMU’s Ernest/Smith Burnhams residence hall, where many Bronco athletes live, helped Hatcliffe make an easy transition to studying at an American university and living in the Midwest.

“I made so many friends right away because I was surrounded by people who I had something in common with,” she said. “We support each other by going to each other’s games and cheering each other on. One of my best friends is a girl on the tennis team.”

Other things that have favorably impressed Hatcliffe about living in the U.S. are the wide variety of foods that are available and the abundance of lakes near Kalamazoo and throughout Michigan.

“The food supermarkets are at least twice as big here as they are at home and they offer an extensive amount of food choices,” Hatcliffe said. “I also love all the lakes and all the activities you can do in and on the water here; there are only a couple places in England that are similar. I look forward to traveling more outside of Michigan while I’m working on my degree. Last summer I was able to visit California for a week and I’ve also
Evidence of what might be an ancient funerary defleshing ritual found in human-made caves in the Upper Mustang region of Nepal has been discovered by WMU bioarchaeologist Jacqueline Eng as a member of a research team that is funded in part by the National Geographic Society.

The team includes archaeologists, historians, linguists, and other specialists participating in an anthropological exploration of the settlement history of the Upper Mustang region lead by Dr. Mark Aldenderfer, dean and professor of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at the University of California, Merced. The team’s work has been featured on National Geographic’s website, in a society documentary, “Cave People of the Himalaya,” that aired on PBS in February 2012, and in the October 2012 issue of the society’s magazine.

Eng’s research interests are in the health of ancient human populations as revealed by their skeletal and dental remains. Through this bioarchaeological perspective, she has conducted osteological research on hunter-gatherer populations in California, Viking Age and Conversion Age inhabitants of Iceland, post-medieval peasants from Transylvania, nomadic pastoralists of Mongolia, and numerous societies from China’s northern frontier that date from the Neolithic age to the Mongolian Dynasty. Through the Transylvania project, Eng was a contributor to the Global History of Health Project, a NSF-NIH-funded investigation of the history of human health over the past 10,000 years.

“I am interested in how humans have adapted over time, as seen through their bones,” said Eng, an assistant professor of anthropology at WMU since 2008. “In 2010 I was contacted by Dr. Mark Aldenderfer, who has been working in higher-altitude population areas of the Andes and more recently in Tibet. He started looking at the caves in Mustang in 2008—an intriguing area situated on what previously had been the region’s salt route. You can see a lot of caves up high on the cliff faces that were used for living, defense and funerary purposes. What Mark was interested in was the movement of people into this region and where they were coming from. To help with that, he needed someone to look at the bones.”

The skeletal remains of ancient people can shed light on cultures that existed thousands of years ago, Eng says. By examining isotope signatures, for example, researchers can tell whether people migrated to a region or grew up there. Researchers can also use skeletal and archaeological evidence to reconstruct the type of community a person lived in, the historical context in which they died—such as whether it was a time of war or a time of peace and prosperity—their general health, and clues about funerary traditions.

“Bones are the people themselves, and they record information of what the people experienced in life,” Eng says, “whether it was stress in childhood, dietary insufficiency, trauma, arthritis or growth disturbances. All of these kinds of things might leave markers in the bones. They tell the story of what these people experienced.”
Eng became interested in examining skeletal remains as an undergraduate student at the University of California Davis, and did her honor’s thesis looking at the health of individuals from three different periods to see if it had changed or if there were gender differences. She completed her dissertation examining the health of ancient pastoralists of northern China. That work put her on Aldenderfer’s radar and led to the invitation to join his Mustang expeditions.

Aldenderfer and his team made their first trek to the Mustang caves located about 13,800 feet above sea level in 2008, where they discovered Buddhist cave art, possible meditation chambers for monks, and skeletons dating back to 200 to 700 AD. The team determined that the caves were likely accessed in ancient times via rock outcrops and some kind of ladders. Erosion, including the splitting off of a large section of vertical cliff face, made it necessary for the team’s climbers to access the caves by rappelling down from the top of the mountain. Eng was part of the team’s 2010 and 2011 expeditions, hiking about two-and-a-half weeks each time to reach the caves.

“As soon as we reached the site, we saw human bones below the caves that had fallen from the eroded cliff face,” she said. “By the time we had been there a week I had identified a minimum of 27 individuals. We set up a large tent and I used tape to make sections to sort the bones by the cave they came from. All ages of humans were represented, so the shaft tombs may have served as a place for a communal burial. As I was cleaning the bones, I noticed that they seemed to have cut marks on them. These cuts seem to be in similar areas—localized in certain regions of the bones—so it looks like they might have been de-fleshed. That’s a whole new mortuary tradition that we had not seen before in that region. We found animal bones, too, that had obviously been used in some mortuary context.”

The team compared their findings in Katmandu with bones and remains that were found earlier in the southern Mustang region by a Nepali-German team. Eng said some had gone through natural desiccation (drying) or were mummified—evidence that even in this tiny pocket of Nepal there had been several mortuary traditions.

She returned to the Mustang site and a site with shaft tombs located near the village of Samdzong in May 2011. The team collected the bones of seven more individuals, for a total of 34. She said nearly 67 percent of all the bones had been de-fleshed, most likely with a metal knife, which the team believes is evidence that these people observed a funerary tradition that is similar to one known as a Tibetan “sky burial,” a practice which did not enter into the region until centuries later. In that tradition, the deceased’s body is cut up and left on a mountaintop, exposing the remains to the elements and predatory animals and birds.

“In Tomb 5 in Samdzong, we found evidence of an elaborate mortuary treatment, including the remnants of box that had a picture of a man riding a horse on it depicted in red and white,” she said. “Under a boulder, remains of an adult male and a child about 10 years old were discovered. From our viewpoint, we could tell that the adult received an elaborate treatment, including a mask made from gold leaf that might have been placed like a shroud. Lots of beads from different areas such as Pakistan, India, and Iran, and iron daggers were also collected. These discoveries, and ones made earlier, are evidence that this region was the nexus of a lot of trade, because elements of many cultures were collected.”

All the bones collected from the shaft tombs were taken to Samdzong, where Aldenderfer’s team met with representatives of the village, who will decide what to do with the remains, including possibly creating a museum for local history. “Being a bioarcheologist is not just looking at the bones,” Eng said. “You can learn some history from the bones, but there is also the process of talking with the people I meet on a daily basis about their cultural history and experiencing all the different landscapes.”

Though conditions were grueling—hiking at high elevations and working with limited light in the cold—Eng
Helping internationals navigate the necessary United States’ immigration law and visa processes to welcome them to Kalamazoo and Western Michigan University is the focus of WMU’s Immigration Services office.

Lee Ryder, WMU immigration officer, provides leadership to WMU’s Diether H. Haenicke Institute for Global Education to develop and maintain a dynamic, intercultural environment by facilitating the presence of international students, scholars, faculty and staff on campus through immigration and visa sponsorship.

The Immigration Services staff includes two immigration advisors, Debbie Uldriks and Tara Severino, and a coordinator of immigration records, Shona Drake. Additionally, Kimberly Cho, an international student admissions counselor, is responsible for providing immigration advice and services to students in WMU’s ESL program, CELCIS—Center for English Language and Culture for International Students.

“Whether you are a student or a scholar, throughout your entire time at WMU a highly-competent advisor will be available to you who is trained in servicing your specific visa type,” said Ryder, who holds a Juris Doctor degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. “We offer walk-in advising three afternoons each week, in addition to individual one-hour appointments with an advisor.”

The Immigration Services staff advises internationals coming to WMU on U.S. visa application processes, maintenance of legal immigration status, and they also provide immigration advice to college offices and departments that admit, host, sponsor, or work with internationals. Additionally, Ryder’s unit is responsible for ensuring institutional compliance with government regulations relating to the admission or hiring of internationals, including management of the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) data tracking and reporting.

“We are experiencing an increasing interest from scholars to come to WMU for research, collaboration and employment within sponsoring departments,” she said. “These people often run into roadblocks because of complicated immigration regulations when they want to come to WMU to study, research or accept employment. My office helps
people find the appropriate solutions for these objectives.”

With nearly 1,600 international students on campus, Ryder’s team spends much time advising students coming to the United States on J-1 and F-1 visas, which have some available provisions for limited work authorization. Two major options for these visa types are Curricular Practical Training (CPT), which is typically an internship related to the field of study; or, Optional Practical Training (OPT) for work authorization post-graduation. Immigration Services staff help international students understand these opportunities through CPT and OPT workshops held several times a semester. An employment workshop for international students that Ryder co-hosts each semester with WMU’s Career and Student Employment office provides a comprehensive overview of all options and introduces students to employment-seeking assistance available on campus.

“We guide students through the process to obtain practical training and to gain experience in their relevant specialty field,” she said. “We work in conjunction with WMU’s career office to serve and promote international students seeking internship opportunities in the community, both while they are studying at WMU and for a certain duration after graduation. We utilize various lawful benefits to assist students to work in related internships and jobs.”

Ryder was hired by WMU in October 2008 for the position of immigration officer, through which she serves as both the Responsible Officer for the WMU Exchange Visitor Program designated by the U.S. Department of State, and as the Principal Designated School Official for WMU, a university certified by the U.S. Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) to enroll international students. She holds a law license and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the State Bar of Michigan and, in 2012, was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court. She said her interest in immigration developed in college.

“I had a genuine interest in diversity and different cultures. I became interested in immigration while in law school, so I studied immigration law. I followed that passion to the position at WMU.”

Immigration Services is conveniently located with all functional units of the Haenicke Institute in Ellsworth Hall, including International Admissions and Services, CELCIS and Study Abroad.
A unique effort to match up incoming exchange and Study Abroad @ WMU students with a Western Michigan University student to welcome them to campus was launched in fall 2012—the Buddy Abroad program.

The program pairs a WMU student who has studied abroad in a particular country with an incoming international student from that country for the duration of their enrollment at WMU; WMU students majoring in global and international studies are also eligible to serve as a WMU Buddy. Thirty four international students representing seven countries and 17 universities were matched up with WMU “buddies” for the program’s launch.

“The goal is to help new students make a smooth transition to studying and living at Western and in the United States by connecting them with a WMU buddy before they arrive,” said Dr. Jane Blyth, WMU study abroad director. “The WMU buddy benefits from the opportunity to serve as a University ambassador, to practice their foreign language skills and to engage in cross-cultural exchanges beyond their study abroad experience.”

Sandra Dahlmann, a senior majoring in English from the Universität Paderborn in Paderborn, Germany, said her first contact from her WMU buddy occurred in July, well before she arrived in Kalamazoo to begin classes in late August. She was matched up with WMU senior Kelsey McClure, who studied abroad in Bonn, Germany.

“It was a nice feeling to know I had a person at WMU who could answer my questions and who would be at WMU when I arrived,” Dahlmann said. “When I go home, I plan to offer the same opportunity to other internationals at
Features of the Study Abroad @ WMU program:

- A short-term opportunity to study at WMU for one or two (concurrent) semesters
- Study in English
- Select courses not available at your home university from 140 undergraduate programs or select graduate programs
- Study ESL in WMU’s Center for English Language and Culture for International Students
- Reasonable tuition
- Travel to the United States on a J-1 visa (sponsored student)
- Free airport pickup from the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport
- On-campus housing with WMU students
- WMU is conveniently located in Kalamazoo, halfway between Chicago and Detroit
- Learn more at [www.wmich.edu/studyabroad](http://www.wmich.edu/studyabroad)

Incoming students receive information about the buddy program with their application materials. Study abroad staff members match incoming students with domestic students based on study abroad experience, age, gender and other criteria. The WMU buddy initially reaches out to their international buddy via email about a month before they are due to arrive in Kalamazoo. Some pairs connected in person for the first time during WMU’s international student orientation, and many buddies met for the first time at an ice cream social study abroad staff hosted on September 6.

Each pair of buddies decides how often they will meet in addition to organized program activities, which are planned occasionally throughout the semester. “I went bowling with my buddy and it was a blast!” said Alison Sprague, a WMU buddy, who studied in Chile.

Blyth hopes all the students participating in the program will be inspired, like McClure, to be welcoming to international guests at home and eager to engage in cross-cultural exchange. “Many WMU students serving as buddies experienced this kind of
Serving refugees from all over the world as an intern at St. Vincent Catholic Charities Refugee Services in Lansing, Mich. was a key factor in Christie Gates’ decision to prepare for a career in international education. “The internship helped me discover that I really enjoyed meeting people from other countries and that I wanted to pursue a career with an international focus,” said Gates, assistant director of WMU’s ESL program—CELCIS—Center for English Language and Culture for International Students. “At the same time, I was also working at Lansing Community College in the admissions/registrar’s office, which provided me an introduction to working in a higher education environment. When a position opened up at the college’s international center I jumped on it.”

A 2004 study abroad experience in Mali, a landlocked country in northeast Africa, completed while she was working on her undergraduate degree, followed by two, six-week trips—one backpacking around Europe and a tour of southeast Asia—provided Gates with a broader worldview and understanding of what it feels like to be away from home in a foreign land and culture. With all these experiences under her belt and a WMU master’s degree in public administration/nonprofit leadership in hand, Gates was well prepared to join WMU’s CELCIS staff in August 2011.

Gates’ primary responsibilities in the CELCIS program are advising students on academic and adjustment issues, developing class schedules, managing the administrative support staff, managing data collected and assisting with program development.

“The international student population at WMU is quite different from what I was used to at LCC, which was mainly students from South Korea,” she said. “At WMU, the majority of students are from Saudi Arabia or other Middle Eastern countries—about 60-70 percent. I greatly enjoy the cultural and ethnic diversity of the students, faculty and staff I get to interact with in the CELCIS office and across campus. I am always learning something new.”

After graduating from Dewitt High School in Dewitt, Mich. in 2002, Gates completed a bachelor’s degree in social work and peace and justice studies at Michigan State University. She left the United States for the first time during her sophomore year to study abroad in Mali.

“Mali faces a number of challenges as they try to reduce hunger, improve education, and maintain their relatively new democracy, but it has an incredibly rich history of art and music that is admired across the world,” she said. “I chose a program that would take me someplace that I wouldn’t likely travel to on my own. I
studied ethics and development for six weeks. Part of the program was based in the capital city of Bamako at the University of Bamako. The other part of the program was spent visiting other parts of the country, including Ségu, Mopti, Djenne, and Dogon Country. The experience was incredible."

Just 19 years old when she entered this pilot program that enrolled only eight students, Gates said she learned some basic phrases of the native language, Bambara, interacted with local students, and slept in mud huts when she toured the country. That tour included a visit to the Great Mosque of Djenné, the largest mud-brick building in the world.

“That trip offered me such a broad range of experiences,” she said. “I had the honor of meeting Nakunte Diarra in the village of Kolokani. She is well known for creating bogolan, a mud-dyed cloth; her work is on permanent display in the Smithsonian Institution. We had the opportunity to create our own pieces under her instruction. We also met with and heard the perspectives of female activists who have been shunned by their villages for speaking out about female genital mutilation.”

Gates picked up experience in a new region of the world on her first recruitment trip for CELCIS, when she visited Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in spring 2012 to meet with prospective students at a recruitment fair.

“It was evident that education is extremely valued there,” she said. “The people I met were wonderful and eager to share their culture. Meeting students in their home country helped me to understand them a little better. Once they get to WMU, I really enjoy helping students navigate the new culture and to accomplish their educational goals.”
Not many people can say after their first overseas trip that they met someone as famous as the Dalai Lama.

Kaley Shumake, a 2012 graduate of Western Michigan University’s global and international studies program, met the head monk of the Gelug sect of Tibetan Buddhism in a four-week Tibetan mind and body sciences study abroad program in May 2012 offered by Emory University. Half of the program’s curriculum was focused on the mind, medicine and healing and half on Tibetan Buddhist culture.

Shumake stayed in Dharmasala at the Institute of Buddhist Dialect’s Sarah Campus, which is located outside the bustling city center. She lived with monks who were taking western science classes from Emory professors traveling with her group, and she quickly learned what it is like to live where electric and water service are sporadic and air conditioning is nonexistent.

“It was 125 degrees when we landed at 11 at night,” said Shumake, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich. “We spent one night in Delhi, and then took a 12-hour car ride to Dharmasala on some very bad roads. Once we got into the mountains, it was continual switchbacks at a steep incline, and lots of people got motion sickness.”

Living like a monk was one important lesson Shumake learned. Each day of the program began with a 5:30 a.m. wake-up call followed by an hour of meditation at 6:30 a.m. The group had two-hour classes in the morning and afternoon and held debate sessions with the resident monks on various topics two evenings a week.

“We had a lot of interaction with the monks in the classroom and at meals,” she said. “They’d ask us questions about western science and we asked them questions about Buddhism. The courses I took perfectly complemented the studying I did at WMU in political science and religion.”

Her study abroad experience, which was partially funded by a couple scholarships, including the Z.D. Schelling award from WMU’s Department of Political Science, also featured a three-day session taught by the Dalai Lama at the Tibetan Children’s Village. Lectures were
presented in Tibetan and translated for Shumake and her fellow students.

"One of the most important lessons I learned in Dharamsala was that things don’t always go as planned, and how important it is to have patience," she said. "We also had a private audience with the Dalai Lama, who is a huge proponent of compassion and secular ethics, so those are other things I learned a lot about during my program. Meeting His Holiness the Dalai Lama in person was a very powerful experience, which helped me recognize how fortunate I have been in my life and to look forward and consider how I can help improve human rights in the world."

As a double-major at WMU in international and comparative politics and global and international studies, Shumake said it was imperative that she study abroad.

Her interest in Tibet was fostered by her father, who had also taught her about Buddhism, and Dr. Thomas Kostrzewa, professor of the global studies introductory course. "Dr. K’s course got me very interested in global studies as a complement to my work in international comparative politics," she said.

Shumake graduated from WMU in August 2012 and immediately returned to Dharamsala to teach English at a Tibetan medical school for a few months. She is hoping to land a teaching assistantship for Emory’s spring semester program in Dharamsala, and then return to the United States to enter law or graduate school.

"I was set coming in as a freshman to go into public law, but the global studies major pointed me to international law," she said. "I am currently applying to Emory and Columbia to focus on Tibetan studies. I hope to get involved in..."
Discover Kalamazoo

--International cuisine close to campus

Downtown Kalamazoo and other areas within a short walk or bus ride from WMU’s campus offer a broad range of ethnic eateries.

Fandangos Tapas Bistro, located on the south end of Kalamazoo’s Downtown Mall, offers food and wine influenced by villages along Spain’s Mediterranean coast. Fandangos guests enjoy a full menu of small-plate entrees and signature drinks amid Mediterranean ambiance and vibrant Spanish music. Dining times are limited to after 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

On Kalamazoo’s near west side, which is easily accessible by public bus from campus, is Saffron. This authentic Indian restaurant is a favorite of faculty, students and staff, offering a daily lunch buffet including curried dishes and fresh-baked tandoori bread. Evening diners select from an extensive menu featuring traditional Indian food and many specialties.

SushiYa, located in the heart of downtown, offers Japanese-style dishes, including sushi, sashimi, a large variety of rolls and green tea ice cream. Traditional seating on the floor is available, or reserve a party room for larger groups. “SushiYa’s atmosphere is hip, modern, comfortable and outwardly Asian inspired,” said WMU alumna Leah DeBuc, from Howell, Michigan. “You can also sit at the traditional Japanese sushi bar and watch the chefs prepare the sushi rolls.”

Chicken Udon at SushiYa

Saffron offers a lunch buffet daily
vegetarian options. Most items are also available for take-out.

For a taste of Mexican cuisine, La Pinata restaurant sets the bar high with authentic Mexican dishes, such as the Ranchero Burrito and free chips and salsa. La Pinata, with its festive Mexican décor including piñatas is a favorite for college students living on a tight budget who still want quality food and attentive service. Every WMU student receives ten percent off the total bill by showing a WMU student ID.

La Pinata

Other favorite ethnic restaurants near campus:

- **Mid-Eastern**
  
  Shawarma House  
  1441 S. Drake Rd.  
  (269) 375-3900  
  http://www.kzooshawarmaking.com/

- **Greek**
  
  Blue Dolphin  
  Kalamazoo Mall  
  (269) 343-4993  

- **Chinese/Asian**
  
  Hunan Gardens  
  5059 West Main  
  (269) 373-1188  
  http://chineserestaurantkalamazoo.com/

- **United Kingdom**
  
  London Grill  
  214 E. Michigan Ave.  
  (269) 381-9212  
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  1514 West Michigan Avenue  
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