FOREIGN EXCHANGE/STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS FOR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Muskegon Community College students and faculty will travel to Stuttgart, Germany May 8-20, 2012.

Each May, students and faculty from MCC participate in an exchange program with the technical college, Kaufmännische Schule Stuttgart Nord, in Stuttgart, Germany. The Exchange includes visits to cultural and historical sites as well as local businesses such as Daimler, Porsche and Ritter Sport. Spend eight days in Germany with host families hiking in the Alps, floating down the Neckar River and experiencing Germany. The 2012 group includes the following students: Devyn Crane, Susan Eyler, Anita Fox, Alyssa Guarnaccia, Kelsey Holwerda, Lindsay Lee, Carl Wobser, and Xiaoji Zhou. Accompanying the group will be faculty members Tom Donahue, Bill Scarbrough and Kathy Tosa.

Travel to Belize….Now accepting applications!

The Social Sciences Department is now accepting applications for the 2013 Belize Field Studies ICS 101 BEL / BIOL 101 BEL. This will be our second trip to Belize and it will take place the first week in January 2013! Students will study Mayan culture and history as well as Mayan past and current interaction with the rain forest ecosystem. This hybrid course contains online and on-campus components which include a seven-day visit to Belize in January 2013. For more information contact KATHY TOSA.
Weather in Belize in January - January in Belize is characterized by mild temperatures and varying amounts of rainfall. January is technically the dry season in Belize, and it is true that the northern part of the country will see very little rain, but the southern part and the Mayan Mountains will still see moderate amounts of rain. January is very popular among vacationers wishing to enjoy the sun during the cold winter months. January temperatures in Belize range from an average low of 70.0 degrees to an average high of 80.0 degrees.

AN INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE AT THE MIDWEST INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MARCH 30-31, 2012....by Irene Church

“Effective Globalizing of Communication and Writing Courses”, offers students the opportunity to explore what they believe, ask for justice or recompense for an event in which they are still unsatisfied, and address a situation which has “damaged emotions”, such as abandonment, domestic violence, race, etc. These are the tough uncomfortable subjects, often avoided, filed back in the mind (usually unsuccessfully).

Students learn by taking action. They may not receive applause for expressing what they believe but the experience will force them to support their idea. A student may not receive justice as a result of asking for it, but the asking is still important. We learn to stick up for ourselves and we allow others to right a wrong. Someone or some institution may not be aware of our dissatisfaction. I’ve assigned students a similar task in BCOM101 and they are often surprised when they receive compensation or an apology.

Finally, students will address a situation where damaged emotions linger. The incident could involve discrimination, divorce, or perhaps an absentee parent. Denying the event does not make it go away, expressing feelings may help. Assignments such as

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these are particularly relevant to our students and encourage them to be actively engaged in their education. Some would call it life skills training, effective communication writing, or conflict management training. I think it addresses all three areas for our students. College is more than theories and formulas.

This conference taught me not only how globalized we are but how we can prepare our students for the future. We can make our classes relevant no matter what the subject matter. Kathy Tosa and I hope you can join us next year in Ohio! Irene Church is a member of the MCC Business Faculty.

Faculty workshops this summer in Kalamazoo

Good News! The Board of the Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIIE) decided to reduce the registration fees for the August 2012 workshops to make it easier for our colleges & faculty to participate.

Benefits provided by the Midwest Institute & External Funding: For participating in a summer workshop, develop a module and do a presentation at a future conference, six nights lodging during the summer workshops, five morning and afternoon refreshments, continental breakfasts, luncheons, and five ethnic dinners during the summer workshops. In addition equipment, materials, stipend, and mentoring are also provided during the summer workshops.

Obligations by the Faculty and/or his/her College: Transportation to Kalamazoo, faculty must participate in a summer workshop and develop a curriculum module, a registration fee for the summer workshops, faculty must do a presentation on his/her module at a future conference of the MIIIE and college must be a member of the Midwest Institute consortium. The workshops will be offered at Kalamazoo Valley CC, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Summer 2012
Global Trade, Finance and Globalization, Monday-Friday, August 6-10, 2012.
International Conflict and Cooperation, Monday-Friday, August 13-17, 2012.
Middle East and Central Asia, Monday-Friday, August 20-24, 2012.

Summer 2013
Human Rights, Monday-Friday, August 5-9, 2013.
East Asia or Southeast Asia, Monday-Friday, August 19-23, 2013.

Summer 2014
Food, Water and Global Development, Monday-Friday, August 4-8, 2014.
Europe or Latin America, Monday-Friday, August 18-22, 2014.
**Summer 2015**
Global Values, Stewardship and Leadership, Monday-Friday, August 3-7, 2015.
Transnational Movements and Networks, Monday-Friday, August 10-14, 2015.
Africa or Russia & Eastern Europe, Monday-Friday, August 17-21, 2015.

The Midwest Institute for International/Intercultural Education (MIIIE) is a self-funded consortium of two-year colleges located in the Midwest region. Its primary objective is to support curriculum and professional development by organizing curriculum workshops, fall and spring conferences, overseas projects for faculty and students, assistance with grant development, provide faculty mentoring and professional networking.

For more information please contact Theo Sypris, Director Midwest Institute
P.O. Box 325 Oshtemo, MI 49077 Ph: 269-488-4283 or 269-488-4534 Fax: 269-488-4458 eMail: tsypris@kvcc.edu or visit their website at:  [http://miiie.org/](http://miiie.org/)

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**MCC CAMPUS HAPPENINGS**

**The Genesis of Chinese Writing and the Art of Calligraphy (December 2012 – January 2013)**

This exhibition on *The Genesis of Chinese Writing and the Art of Calligraphy* is coming to MCC and is presented by the Midwest Institute for International and Intercultural Education to promote appreciation for and understanding of the arts and culture of China. On the subject of Chinese writing, there is deceptively more than meets the eye. Although a mature form of Chinese writing has been in existence for at least 3500 years, many, if not most of its cognitive, philosophical, and artistic underpinnings are not easily apparent or may be presented as shrouded in myth. The relationship between Chinese writing and calligraphy is like that of form and shadow—one cannot be separated from the other without detracting from its meaning. The versatility of the Chinese written character and its ability to express poetry and philosophy, as well as conveying emotion and a strong sense of beauty in visual artistry are considered by many to be unparalleled. Undoubtedly Chinese writing is one of the world’s most unique heritages as an art form for human communication. This event will feature an exhibition of 12 panels depicting the very long history of Chinese writing. These displays will aim to open the door to a broader understanding of the significance of Chinese writing and to a deeper appreciation of its calligraphy.
UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

World Trade Week 2012 in West Michigan- May 7- 9, 2012

World Trade Week is observed throughout the country in recognition of the importance of international trade to the U.S. economy. West Michigan has been supporting World Trade Week since 1985. All events take place in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Schedule of events

Monday, May 7, 2012 - The Economics Club of Grand Rapids Luncheon

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 - World Trade Week Business Conference ‘Achieving Export Growth’

Thursday, May 9, 2012 - World Affairs Council WorldQuest™ 2012

Registration now open: http://www.gvsu.edu/wtw/wtw_event.htm

Have a great………

We welcome your input! Send us your travel stories with pictures to the editor: Tom.Schurino@muskegoncc.edu Also, visit our new website at: http://www.muskegoncc.edu/pages/301.asp.