Faculty invited to teach a course abroad in 2008 - ‘09

Western faculty are invited to apply to teach a course in their respective academic fields for a term in Europe or Latin America in 2008 – ’09, through the Office of International Programs and Exchanges (IPE) and Northwest Council on Study Abroad (NCSA).

Teaching positions are available in Angers, France; Kefalonia and Athens, Greece; London, England; Macerata and Siena, Italy; Morelia, Mexico; Oviedo, Spain; Rosario, Argentina; Valdivia, Chile; and Vienna, Austria.

Applicants can propose new courses or ones similar to those they already teach, as long as the course has a regional,

“Honky” is Western Reads’ selection for 2007 – ‘08

The Western Reads program is delighted to announce “Honky,” a memoir by award-winning sociologist Dalton Conley, as its selection for 2007.

It is anticipated that Conley, now teaching at New York University, will visit campus in early November to discuss the book and meet with students.

“Honky” recounts Conley’s childhood growing up as a white kid in a mostly black and Puerto Rican neighborhood on Manhattan’s Lower East side. Conley combines compelling narrative and comedy with a subtle analysis of the ways in which differences such as race and class shaped his life experience as a child.

The San Francisco Chronicle says of “Honky,” “With precision and poetry, this...absorbing volume...gives...readers a rare opportunity for insight into the complexities of race in America.” Jonathon Lethem, author of Motherless Brooklyn calls, it “A wonderful book...A triumph.”

If you are interested in obtaining a free copy of the book for review for your classes or other Western programs, or participating in public discussions of “Honky” or other Western Reads programs, please contact Mary Janell Metzger, Director of Western Reads, at Mary.Metzger@wwu.edu or x/3238.

New Fall ’07 course examines America and Vietnam

America and Vietnam (History 417), is a 6-credit course open to all WWU students that will be offered in Fall 2007. Developed by History professor Mart Stewart, the course examines many facets of American-Vietnamese evolving relations and culture, the Vietnam war, immigration, and—at the conclusion of fall quarter— includes an 18-day trip to Vietnam. Learning there will include lectures by specialists, visits to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) and Hanoi, and study tours in the Mekong Delta. Students must pre-register for the course this spring quarter. Faculty should refer students who want more information on the course, associated costs, and pre-registration, to: Mart Stewart, (Mart.Stewart@wwu.edu), and International Programs & Exchanges, College Hall 104, x/3298, or ipe@wwu.edu.

Events

“First Thursdays” workshops for faculty:

Handling Student Feedback
Thursday, April 5
4—5 PM, College Hall 135
Students provide feedback to faculty in many ways: end-of-course evaluations, midterm assessments, and online surveys. This interactive workshop, led by Western faculty and staff, will give you strategies for using this valuable information from students to improve your own classroom performance, understand its use in tenure and promotion, and use it to improve student learning. Contact: Karen.Perry@wwu.edu

Creating First-Year Curricula
Thursday, May 3
4—5 PM, College Hall 135
Join Western faculty who have created first-year courses, and learn about some of the innovative ways they challenge first-year students to learn best. This interactive and informative workshop is designed to help faculty create first-year seminars that engage students more deeply with content, as well as meet the criteria set under the new general education requirements for a “first-year experience.” Contact: Ann.Carlson@wwu.edu

>>MORE SPRING QTR EVENTS INSIDE
Tim Costello has been hired as The Center for Service-Learning’s (CSL) Campus Director. He worked at the Center on an interim basis for a year prior to his hiring in March.

Costello has 12 years experience as a community organizer in the local nonprofit sector, including founding an international grassroots nonprofit organization, Slum Doctor Programme. In his new position, he will work with CSL Community Director Lisa Moulds, WWU faculty, and community partners to provide meaningful service learning experiences for students.

“I am enthusiastic about having the opportunity to engage students in the idea of social responsibility and, through service-learning, open their eyes to the possibility of improving lives in the community, including their own,” Costello said.

Harwood, CSL will explore Kenya service learning options

Angela Harwood (Woodring Secondary Education) and Tim Costello from the Center for Service-Learning (CSL) will be traveling to Kenya this summer to explore potential national service-learning projects for Western students. Harwood and CSL hope to create a model for international service-learning that could generalize to many disciplines. The trip is in partnership with Slum Doctor Programme (SDP), a local grassroots organization with project sites in both Kenya and Uganda.

If you are interested in participating in International Service-Learning, please contact Tim Costello at X/2503 or Timothy.Costello@wwu.edu

Accreditation ‘08 update

Western’s 2008 accreditation self-study is on schedule, according to Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Kris Bulcroft, whose office is overseeing the process.

Most departments and programs have submitted their reports that mark overall progress on a number of standards. These reports will be edited into an in-depth draft self-study that will be made available to the campus community for public comment and revision sometime next fall. The final version of the self-study report will be made available to NWCCU evaluators prior to their site visit here April 7-9, 2008.

Accreditation Contact Info:

Brenda Miller (self-study editor)
Phone: x/4350  Office: College Hall 237
Email: accreditation@wwu.edu or Brenda.Miller@wwu.edu

American Democracy Project  UPDATE

Democratic partnership builds with Ukraine university

Western is continuing to build a new and innovative exchange with Ivan Franko National University in the city of L’viv, in western Ukraine. This fall, three Ivan Franko students came to WWU as part of the exchange. It is hoped that one or two WWU students will go there in Fall 2007, and that eventually, Western faculty will teach courses there. Independent from the Soviet Union since 1991, Ukraine is a transitional democracy with a fascinating history. Its location between Europe and Russia gives this country a pivotal role in East-West politics.

Mark your calendars for these ADP Events!

ETHAN BRONNER, The New York Times Deputy Foreign Editor
Tuesday, April 10 at 4 PM, CF 110
Bronner is a respected journalist, Middle East expert and frequent essayist on Arab-Israeli issues. His talk is open to the campus community and his visit is courtesy of The New York Times (and campus readership program) and ADP at WWU.

JEFF COHEN, Media critic & founder of FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting)
Tuesday, May 1 (time & location TBA)

For more details on these events: go to ADP on the web: www.wwu.edu/depts/adp/
CII’s Innovative Teaching Showcase Highlights Faculty Teaching for a Sustainable Future

Justina Brown, Center for Instructional Innovation

Each year, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans throw away 100 billion polyethylene plastic bags. Of that, less than one percent are recycled.

The issue with plastic bags illustrate that what may be socially acceptable behavior can ultimately be counter-productive to doing what’s right as citizens to preserve our world. The role of educators to promote sustainable concepts and solutions to students is essential, and it is these instructional practices that the Center for Instructional Innovation will spotlight in its 2006-07 Innovative Teaching Showcase.

According to the WWU Sustainability Committee, “A sustainable WWU protects local and global ecology, upholds social equity, creates economic vitality, and maintains human health.”

This is enacted on campus in many ways. After a student initiative in 1984, Western purchased all its electricity from renewable sources, and has received national awards and accolades. Likewise, many of Western’s instructors embrace these concepts and put them at the heart of countless projects, assignments, and lessons throughout the academy.

This year’s Innovative Teaching Showcase theme, “Teaching for a Sustainable Future,” involves a trifecta of sustainability concepts: economics and finance; industrial design and society; and ecology and policy—each incorporated into courses in ways that encourage students to look at their world from new perspectives and inspire them to take action in future endeavors. These areas are promoted in the teaching and scholarship of each of this year’s showcases:

- **Julie Lockhart**, professor and chair of the Department of Accounting, focuses her research on social justice and environmental tax policy. With her innovative inclusion of sustainability in accounting practices, she challenges her students to address environmental impact reporting, initiatives, and stewardship.
- **Arunas Oslapas**, associate professor of industrial design in the Department of Engineering Technology, infuses his passion for design principles and sustainability into his courses, projects for his students, and his own pursuit of recycled garbage art.
- **Grace Wang**, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Studies, inspires her students with her research and involvement in the human dimensions of managing natural, community-based, and cultural resources and her drive to affect federal policy.

**Innovative Teaching Showcase Open House**
Thursday, June 7
Noon—2 PM
At the CII, College Hall 310
Time to celebrate excellence! This spring, watch for the CII’s open invitation to faculty and staff to view the new online multimedia publication at the Innovative Teaching Showcase Open House. Meet the directors and staff of the CII, enjoy refreshments, learn more about the Showcase, and meet this year’s featured instructors. See the Innovative Teaching Showcase—and past showcases—online: http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/cii/showcase/

**SOME TUESDAYS: A Dialogue Series on Writing Instruction**

Looking for some teaching writing colleagues and some new ideas for using writing in your courses? Come join the “Some Tuesdays” conversation. Formerly “Some Fridays,” this noon-time brown bag series aims to bring together people from across campus engaged with writing instruction to swap successful approaches, practices, and classroom activities.

For Spring Quarter 2007, the overall theme is “The Hardest Part: Assessing Writing.” Each Tuesday session will focus on a feature of this larger theme:

- **April 17 – Fostering a Critical Stance AND a Will to Live: Responding to Writing**—Will emphasize multiple modes for providing responses to student writing, ones that will encourage writers to keep on keeping on and to refine their reasoning.
- **May 1 – What’s a Rubric Got to do With it? Grading Writing**—Will focus on the value of carefully constructed criteria sheets for evaluating writing, along with ways to use them most effectively.
- **May 15 – Tricks of the Trade: How to Grade Writing and Survive**—Will invite a potpourri of strategies others have found useful for grading student writing.

While each session has an announced topic, the sessions are informal and open to talking about whatever issues participants want to discuss. Some Tuesdays sessions will be held Noon-1 PM in College Hall 9 (Writing Center’s new location). For more details, contact Writing Instruction Support Director, Carmen Werder, x/7329 or carmen.werder@wwu.edu
Teaching-Learning Academy Advances Positive Learning Culture

Kari Painter, Program Assistant, Teaching-Learning Academy

Each year, the Teaching-Learning Academy works from a BIG learning question that is generated by TLA members. Our overarching question for 2006-2007 is:

How do we create a positive learning culture at Western

- Motivated by hope,
- Marked by a sense of shared humanity, and
- Made possible by the active engagement of many?

The TLA examines this question through dialogue in small groups of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members. Students from Comm. 322, a Civil Discourse class, facilitate discussion in these mini-dialogue groups.

During fall quarter, the TLA created a legacy quilt depicting responses to the BIG question. Visual depictions include Breaking Bonds of Misperceptions, Helping Hands Effecting Change, Revolution from Within, and Shared by Hope from Others.

Responses to the BIG question also highlighted common themes and values, which developed into four action items that the TLA then refined during winter quarter. These actions are: creating a best teaching practices manual, implementing an upper-class mentoring program, recording learning stories of hope, and developing a teaching and learning online forum.

For more information, see the TLA archives at www.wwu.edu/depts/tla/resources.shtml#Archives

In addition to advancing the action items, the TLA will also develop next year’s study question during spring quarter. Join us as we continue to explore these ideas and apply our findings to Western’s community!

It’s not too late to join in the TLA Conversation!

All faculty, staff, and students are invited to join the ongoing TLA dialogue. We offer four study group options: Wednesday or Thursday, noon or 3 PM. All groups meet in the Canada House Fireplace Room every other week beginning April 11. If you’re interested in participating, contact Carmen Werder at x7329 or Carmen.werder@wwu.edu

We’ve moved!
Center for Instructional Innovation, The Writing Center now in College Hall

As of March 22, the Center for Instructional Innovation (CII) re-located to the top floor of College Hall.

In CH 310 you will find the conference area and student work space. Karen Casto’s office is CH 303, and Justina Brown is now in CH 301. The new space is highly conducive to creating instructional innovations! Please swing by the new space any time!

The Writing Center has also moved from the library to its new space in College Hall 09. The ground-floor location allows easier accessibility for writing conferences, workshops, and campus tours as well as the use of our computer lab. If you are interested in partnering with the Writing Center’s support services or would like to arrange a tour, please contact Roberta Kjesrud at x/4566 or Roberta.Kjesrud@wwu.edu. For more details on the Writing Center’s services, please see the website at www.acadweb.wwu.edu/writingcenter

CII Staff Karen Casto and Justina Brown