

International Programs

Canadian American Studies turns 40

The WWU Center for Canadian-American Studies celebrated its 40th Anniversary in April with two events drawing regional U.S. and Canadian government officials, business leaders, educators, students and others interested in cross-border relations. Phillip Chicola, U.S. Consul General to Canada, was the keynote speaker at the April 28 gala dinner at the Bellwether Hotel Ballroom. The next day, April 29, a conference on Canada-U.S. relations, "Bridging Distances: Past and Future Perspectives on Canada-U.S. Relations," was held on Western's campus, with a luncheon talk by David Emerson, a former Canadian minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Through research and outreach, CAS has promoted greater understanding between our two countries and impacted education policy and border policy in the region and nation.

New exchange programs with German universities

Western has signed agreements to begin new direct exchange programs with three German universities: RWTH Aachen University in Aachen, Georg-August University in Gottingen, and Mercator School of Management at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Duisburg. The three new German exchange partnerships bring Western's total to 32, offering new opportu-

nities for students to enroll in the universities and study German language and business, as well as participate in summer internships. The agreements also allow for student exchanges with German students coming to Western to study and participate in internships. About five WWU students are expected to head to Germany and take advantage of the new programs next fall.

U.S. ambassador to Canada visits Western

U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Jacobson made a stop on a tour of the West Coast to visit the Center for Canadian-American Studies at Western in June. Ambassador Jacobson spoke to a group of 40 Western students and faculty and to a group of Bellingham community leaders that included Mayor Dan Pike. Jacobson highlighted the special relationship between the United States and Canada and noted the shared set of values held in common by both countries. The ambassador's remarks were followed by a lively question and answer session with students and professors. The visit by the American ambassador was particularly special—it marked the first time that the U.S. Ambassador to Canada has paid Western a visit.

More Western students are studying abroad

The total number of Western students who study

***More students study abroad
and more faculty create
global travel courses –
Western provides more
opportunities than ever to
gain a global perspective.***

International students came to Western from 36 countries, including Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and Canada.

abroad continues to grow each year. The total number of students who studied abroad in 2010-11 was 538, an 11-percent increase from the previous year. Top five destinations were Japan, Mexico, Greece, Costa Rica and Italy. The top five majors were from humanities, foreign languages, business management, physical science and fine arts. For 2010-11, there were more female students studying abroad (66 percent) than males, which is consistent with nationwide trends.

International students come from 36 countries

Western hosted a total of 269 international students from 36 countries in fall 2010, including undergraduate and graduate matriculating students and students in intensive English language programs. Top five countries of origin were Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Canada. The students' top five fields of study were Business Administration & Management, Biology, Communication Sciences & Disorders, Computer Science and Psychology.

Western's STUDY CANADA takes K-12 teachers to Ottawa and Montreal for a 'Capital View'

In July, Canadian-American Studies held its 2011 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators in Ottawa and Montreal, marking the first time this nationally-recognized professional development program was held in Canada's national capital. Using the theme "A Capital View of Canada: Nations within a Nation" the six-day workshop enrolled 22 teachers from 13 U.S. states. The curriculum involved faculty from the University of Ottawa, University of Quebec at Montreal,

Carleton University, as well as Western. In addition, participants attended sessions led by the U.S. Ambassador to Canada, a Canadian Member of Parliament, political leaders from Quebec and Aboriginal leaders in education and the arts and culture.

Carney receives International Education Award

Laura Carney, a lecturer in Western's Asia University America Program, is the recipient of the 2010 Inter-

national Education Award from WWU's Center for International Studies. Carney, who joined the AUAP in 2000, has worked to raise awareness of language learning and intercultural understanding both at Western and in the Bellingham community. She organized AUAP's Classroom Volunteer Program and WWU's Japanese Conversation Club,



Laura Carney

as well as numerous visits to Bellingham-area elementary schools as part of her sustained commitment to international education at the grassroots level. She also helps coordinate over 100 Western students who volunteer in AUAP classes, giving Japanese students an opportunity to interact with native speakers of English while providing experience for the Western students in working with international students.

Center for Canadian-American Studies nets \$180,000 in new grants for international programs

Five grants totaling more than \$180,000 supported

several Canadian-American Studies programs in 2010-2011, including a French immersion program in New Brunswick for Western students, new courses in Canadian business and Geography, the STUDY CANADA in Ottawa Summer Institute, a conference on Canada-U.S. Relations to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Canadian studies at Western, professional development for faculty, and funds for the Wilson Library. The grants included the first year of a four-year federal grant that will total more than \$500,000 at its completion.

Chernobyl, sustainable development are among the topics in Center for International Studies lectures

The Center for International Studies sponsors lectures and presentations by Western faculty as well as visiting scholars throughout the academic year. This year's lectures included those by:

- Modern and Classical Languages Professor **Edward Vajda**, on "The Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster – 25 Years Later" and "The Russian Fairy Tale: Ancient Culture in a Modern Context."
- Environmental Studies Associate Professor **Nicholas Zaferatos** on "Designing and Sustainable Development International Curriculum in Ithaca, Greece."
- Student **Michael Downey** on "Egypt in Revolution: A Personal Account."
- Modern and Classical Languages Assistant Professor **Hugo Garcia** on "Cuba in Film: The Transformations of a Nation."

State Department scholarship funds Dana Rafter's study of Arabic language and culture in Tunisia

Dana Edward Rafter, a spring 2011 graduate, received a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State to study Arabic language and culture in Tunisia from May 30-Aug. 1. The scholarship paid for all expenses for Rafter's trip, including airfare, accommodation and language courses. The 2011 Outstanding Graduate in Western's Modern and Classical Languages Department, Rafter majored in German and minored in Arabic and Islamic Studies. After graduating, Rafter will work toward his master's degree in International Relations at the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where he has received a \$30,000 Founder's Scholarship to fund his studies there.

Western hosts discussion on immigration reform

Western's Anthropology Department and Border Policy Research Institute co-hosted a free community forum, "Envisioning Immigration Reform: Views from Both Borders," in April, drawing an international panel of experts. Panel members included Diane Austin of the Bureau of Applied Research in



U.S. Ambassador to Canada David Jacobson visited Western's Center for Canadian-American Studies in June.

Anthropology at the University of Arizona; Bellingham immigration attorney and community advocate Hannah Stone; Kerry Preibisch of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Guelph, Ontario; Manpreet Grewal of Abbotsford Community Services; and **James Loucky**, WWU professor of Anthropology.



Western students and recent alumni collaborated with a group from Bucknell University to devise an original play to perform at Scotland's Fringe Festival in August 2011.

Western student wins fellowship to study in Germany for a year

Western senior and Bellingham resident **Carla Widman** was selected as one of 75 participants in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals, a year-long, federally funded fellowship for study and work in Germany. The program includes a two-month intensive German language course, studying at a German university or professional school for four months, and completing a five-month internship with a company in Widman's career field of Linguistics and German. Participants are placed throughout Germany and have the opportunity to learn about everyday German life.

WWU Theatre students heading to Scotland to perform their original play in the Fringe Festival

WWU Theatre Professor **Rich Brown** collaborated with a small group of Western Theatre students and alumni, and a group from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, to create an original group called the "East/West Project." Members of the project will be traveling to Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2011 to perform the project's original production, "The American Family," at the world-famous Fringe Festival.

Students explore diplomatic career options

In April the Center for Canadian-American Studies, International Programs and Exchanges, the Center for International Studies and the Career Services Center teamed with the U.S. State Department to host a seminar luncheon for about 30 students interested in diplomatic careers. Officials from the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver, B.C. offered perspective to interested students on how to succeed when taking the Foreign Service Exam and how to prepare for a career representing American interests abroad.

International speakers visit campus to share insights on border issues, Cascadia

This year's Border Policy Research Institute colloquium series included several distinguished speakers and international scholars. Ana Marleney Bustamante introduced Western students and faculty to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by the Colombia-Venezuela border region. Patrick Smith of Simon Fraser University offered a comparative examination exploring

the “Cascadia” effect on Vancouver, B.C., Seattle and Portland. And Marie Vautier of the University of Victoria offered a provocative point of view on neologisms, the imaginary, and the border, suggesting that new names for regional geographies, such as the Salish Sea are in fact American colonialism.

The world is a classroom for Western faculty

Western offered many opportunities to travel the world with faculty while earning WWU credit in 2010-11. And interest in these courses is growing: The number of students participating in faculty-led programs increased by 79 percent in 2010-11 from the previous year.

Courses on five continents explored topics such as race and gender in contemporary art in Dominican Republic, sustainability in Greece, conservation in Costa Rica and ecotourism in Peru. Here’s a full list of international course offerings from 2010-2011:

- Vietnam: “Vietnam and America” with History Professor **Mart Stewart**.
- South Africa: “Nongovernmental Organizations in Development,” with Political Science Professor **Vernon Johnson**.
- Thailand and India: “Field Course in Northern Thailand and India,” with Fairhaven Senior Instructor **Shirley Osterhaus**.
- London: “British/New York Tour,” with Theatre Assistant Professor **Rich Brown**.
- Dominican Republic: “Latin Caribbean Art: Exploring Race and Gender in Contemporary Art,” with Fairhaven Associate Professor **Tanis S’eilin**.
- Kenya: “Field Studies and Collaborative International

Service-Learning” with **Timothy Costello**, director of the Center for Service Learning, Anthropology Professor **James Loucky**, and Sociology Assistant Professor **Liz Mogford**.

- Study Canada Summer Institute for K-12 Educators: “A Capital View of Canada: Nations within a Nation” with **Tina Storer**, curriculum specialist for the Center for Canadian-American Studies.
- Beijing and Kunming, China: “Immerse yourself in Chinese Language and Cultural Studies” with Modern and Classical Languages Professor **Janet Xing** and lecturer **Lilly Yang**.
- Costa Rica: “Rainforest Immersion and Conservation Action” with Environmental Studies Associate Professor **Troy Abel**.
- Athens, Greece: “Myth and History,” with Modern and Classical Languages Associate Professor **Diane Johnson**.
- Ithaca, Greece: “Sustainable Ithaca: Applied Studies in Mediterranean Sustainable Development” with Environmental Studies Associate Professor **Nicholas Zaferatos**.
- Florence, Siena, Sant’Anna, Venice and Padua, Italy: “Art Workshop in Italy” by Art Associate Professor **Cara Jaye** and Assistant Professor **Cynthia Camlin**.
- Siena, Italy: “Tuscan Summer



Western students visit a sidewalk cafe in Ho Chi Minh City while visiting and studying Vietnam with History Professor Mart Stewart.

More than 3,500 Asia University students have come to Western through the Asia University America Program, one of the most successful study abroad programs in the world.

of Language and Culture” with Modern and Classical Languages Professor **Massimiliano Tomasi**.

- Queretaro, Mexico: “Immerse Yourself in the Field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages” with TESOL Director **Trish Skillman** and TESOL Instructor **Carmen Avila**.
- Peru: “The Potential and Pitfalls of Tourism in Peru: Ecotourism as a Cultural Survival and Conservation Strategy” with Environmental Studies Assistant Professor **Wendy Walker**.
- Switzerland and Italy: “Study Food this Summer in Europe” with Environmental Studies Professor **Gigi Berardi** and Huxley College Adjunct Professor **Henning Sehmsdorf**.

Western hosts Tuvan Fulbright scholar

Western hosted **Sayzana Tovuu**, director of International Affairs at Tuva State University in the Republic of Tuva, in 2011. Tovuu came to Western as a Fulbright Russian International Education Administrator’s fellow and spent the practicum portion of her program in International Programs and Exchanges. She also visited several Western classes, made presentations about Russia and Tuva State University, and visited Whatcom Community College and Wade King Elementary School. The Republic of Tuva, part of the Russian Federation, is located in southern Siberia.



Sayzana Tovuu

Mongolian Fulbright Scholar visits Western

Western hosted Fulbright Scholar **Erdenetuya (Tuya) Erdenebaatar** from the National University of Mongolia during the 2010-11 academic year. Erdenebaatar made presentations on “Mining boom in Mongolia: Will Mongolia benefit from Mining projects?” for the World Issues Forum and a presentation on Mongolian culture for the Center for International Studies Lecture Series. Erdenebaatar teaches courses on TESOL and English language at the National University of Mongolia’s Foreign Language Training Center.

Western student Kirk Capron heads to Mongolia

Kirk Capron was the first Western student to enroll in the National University of Mongolia, for the 2010-11 academic year. Capron studied language and culture in the Mongolian Language Programme and worked part time in the department of Foreign Language & Cultures, teaching English. He continues to teach English in Mongolia.

International Student Scholarship recipients share their cultures with the Western community

Students who receive the International Student Scholarship develop a project that provides exposure of their home country and culture to the Western community. A sample of activities from 2010-11 included:

- A pen pal exchange between fifth-grade students in Blaine and Slave Lake, Alberta, by **Crystal Collinge**, a Canadian graduate student Speech-Language Pathology.
- A celebration of Ramadan during Islamic Week

Awareness, by **Ismail Haggag**, a Business major from Egypt.

- A presentation about the Eurovision Song Contest at the Global Gatherings meeting by **Elin Jike**, a Business major from Sweden.
- A student group trip to Croatia Fest 2010 in Seattle, organized by **Michaella Latkovic**, a Biology major from Canada and Croatia.
- A celebration of the Tet Holiday by **Dung Pham**, a Business major from Vietnam.
- A presentation about China at the Global Gatherings meeting by **Yi-Ying Wang**, a student in the MBA program, from China.

Long-running Asia University America Program brings intercultural opportunities to campus

The Asia University America Program has grown out of Western's longstanding relationship with Asia University in Tokyo, beginning in the late 1970s, and has been developed cooperatively with Asia University, Central Washington University, and Eastern Washington University. More than 3,500 Asia University students have come to Western and 11,000 to the Pacific Northwest through one of the most successful study abroad programs in the world. A few highlights from 2010-11:

- More than 120 Western students participated in the Campus Friends program, which partners students from AUAP and Western for language and culture exchange. Western students also had the opportunity to interact with AUAP students on a daily basis in their dorms and their dining halls.
- AUAP has consistently employed more than 30 West-

ern students per year as International Peer Advisors, Curriculum Assistants and Classroom Volunteers.

- AUAP staff facilitated exchanges with Western classes in Japanese language, Intercultural Communication, International Business, Anthropology, East Asian Studies, and Teaching English as a Second Language. For TESOL students, the AUAP served as a learning laboratory, offering opportunities for ESL classroom observations and practicums.

Art professor's mixed-media collaboration crosses international boundaries

Cara Jaye, Associate Professor of Art, coordinated an experimental art project with five artists across the U.S. and Mexico. The project, titled "Crossover Two – a collaborative Mixed Media Art Exchange," involved one of the collaborators creating a work on paper and then sending it on to the next artist to be added to. The mixed-media pieces used layers and multiple viewpoints to create dialogue about crossing borders and nationalities, and bridging differences while sending work across actual borders.



Western student Kirk Capron, right, joined a Mongolian family to carve ice for use in a celebration of the lunar new year. Capron is the first Western student to enroll in the National University of Mongolia and remains there, teaching English.

International Service Learning program has students learn about Kenya, give back to the community

Western's Kenya International Service Learning program is a model study abroad program that provides a rich experiential learning opportunity highlighting the culture and politics of this region while exploring the challenges that rural Kenyans face. Students prepare for the trip by enrolling in a course titled "Global Citizenship and Ethical Travel," followed by a six-week immersion in Kenyan culture that includes meaningful

service projects and co-learning with indigenous partners. Upon returning to the U.S. students are required to complete a social action project utilizing their new skills to benefit a community of their choice. As an example, one student raised enough money to send six deserving Kenyan girls to high school for one year.



Ombogo Girls Academy student Sally Ninismia, center, is surrounded by classmates and Western student McCall Kosareff during a game of "the human knot." Kosareff and other Western students, staff and faculty spent six weeks in Kenya for Western's International Service Learning Program. During the group's stay at the Ombogo Girls Academy, Kosareff met with the girls twice a week to discuss cultural issues and issues relating to secondary-school girls.