

Eye On Campus

Take A Trip To Higher Education

Commentary by Jessie Rowland

Imagine.

You have a three-day weekend and you decide to go snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef. Or, your roommates call and ask where you would like to have dinner, and you choose Paris. Or, you pack a bag on Friday, hike up the Alps for the weekend, and return for your Monday morning class.

All of these can be possible if you were studying through one of Penn State's Study Abroad programs.

Penn State offers over 150 programs in 46 different countries on continents including Africa, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

As a former study abroad student, I can't recommend it enough.

I left for New Zealand on Jan. 30, 2005. Ten Penn State students, including myself, made a stop in Fiji for a week on our way. (Set up by STA travel, which I highly recommend using for booking flights) and prepared ourselves for five months away from home.

Adjusting to the New Zealand lifestyle was very easy because the Kiwi's (The name given to New Zealand's inhabitants) were so welcoming and friendly.

Going to school, which they called, "attending university," took the most getting used to because they treat their classrooms differently. All of my classes were lecture-based and my grade for the whole semester came from one final exam.

The greatest part of the university, however, was that I did not have class on Fridays. Just about every weekend, my friends and I traveled all around the country. I joined a hiking club and went on weekend-long trips, sleeping under the stars, rock climbing and sand boarding down huge sand dunes.

During my two-week spring break, I traveled the country from top to bottom. This was the most fascinating experience of the whole trip. I went paragliding off the side of a mountain, took a day cruise in a gorgeous bay, hiked up a glacier, and visited the native Maori ceremonies.

I could go on about my experience in New Zealand for days, and I could share some of the 1,300 pictures that I

took while I was there. There are so many different places that students from Penn State can travel to, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Students who complete a Penn State sponsored program abroad will remain registered as a PSU student, earn Penn State credits and receive a grade for the courses taken while abroad.

The first step towards an amazing semester abroad is to visit the Penn State International Website: www.international.psu.edu.

After browsing around and getting an idea of where you might like to study, contact the Office of Peer Advising either by calling (814) 865-7681 or e-mailing peeradviser@ip.psu.edu. Let the peer adviser know that you are from a Commonwealth campus and are interested in learning more about studying abroad.

I had the time of my life while studying abroad, and there are so many opportunities out there. I learned so much about a different culture and got to experience a completely different lifestyle. I highly recommend spending a semester of your Penn State career in a beautiful country of your choice.

Delco Community Update

BSL Sponsors Annual Soul Food Fest

The Black Student League will host its annual Soul Food Fest Tuesday, February 28 at 11:30 in the Classroom Building Lounge.

Delco Spring Break Trip

Take an all expenses paid three day trip with Penn State Delco on March 7-9, 2006. An informational meeting will be held Monday, February 27 at 12:30 in the Commons Club Room. Contact Dava Murray at dwm16@psu.edu with any questions.

Penn In Hand Accepting Submission for Spring 2006 Semester

Penn in hand is accepting submissions for the Spring 2006 edition of the literary magazine. Any student, faculty, or staff member of the Delco community can submit poems, short stories, essays, artwork (preferably black-line drawings) and photography. Send your submissions to Maria at mx111@psu.edu by the March 3rd deadline.

Talk All Night With PSU Delco OWL

By NEIL O'CONNOR

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Even the professional writer who plies his trade daily is known to occasionally experience writer's block, and may need their associates' aid, or editor's insights to work their way around the problem.

Not surprisingly, college students, who may or may not have learned all the fundamentals of the language, but seldom have had sufficient practice in its application to warrant expertise standing, may need the guidance of a skilled educator.

This reality has given rise at Penn State-Delaware County to the Writing Center and its spin-off, the OWL, a web-based service. OWL is the acronym for On-Line Writing Lab /Virtual Writing Center. Professional tutors, many of whom work regularly in the Writing Center, staff the OWL.

Pamela Main, head of the Writing Center and OWL director, recently conducted an assessment of the OWL through an e-mail survey of users.

Of those surveyed, a majority said the OWL helped them become better writers and perform better in classes that required writing.

The following are some of the comments from students when asked what they liked about the OWL:

- "I only have time to work on my papers at night and rarely have the time to make it to the Writing Center during the day, so the OWL helped me a lot to have people look at my work."

"I only have time to work on my papers at night and rarely have the time to make it...during the day"

-"(How) I could chat with the instructor, just like we were having a conversation."

-"It helped me fix my grammar

errors in my paper and gave me time after school hours to work on my paper."

-"The easy way of communicating between instructor and student. It's almost as if (I was) using AIM, which it seems everyone is proficient in."

The OWL is currently open four evenings a week, generally from 6 to 11 p.m. Students must log in by 9:30 p.m. in order to get a response that same evening

The online sessions with OWL tutors can last from 30 to 40 minutes, depending on use by other students. Following completion of the project, students must download and save the papers within two days, or the work is lost in cyberspace.

Contact the Writing Center on the second floor of the Main Building to learn more.

Lion's Eye Girl Scouts "Why I Want To Be a Scientist" Essay Winner

Ms. Adrian Aldrich

Troop 218
Age 12

Having been on the community "Y Marlins" swim team for three years, I am very interested in water. I think that being a hydrologist would help my swimming career progress even further.

I would like to help the water get cleaner and safer for everyone. If I could do this, perhaps it would trigger an interest in other people. Plus, it is a fun career and a lot of people would enjoy it.

If the water were cleaner, more people would swim or do other things in rivers, streams, and the ocean.

I would enjoy this job because I love the water and I love the rain. Being a hydrologist would certainly be a good job for me.



Science At PSU Delco

By Shana Goldson

Two significant events were celebrated by Penn State Delco in October 2005 to highlight and promote awareness in the geosciences. World Water Monitoring Day was established to help preserve the purity of our water resources, while Earth Science Week highlighted how geoscientists explore the Earth. Penn State Delco provided a one-day positive scientific environment of learning about water issues and geoscience careers for Junior Girl Scouts. They were shown a video introducing several geoscience-oriented careers as well as hands-on analyses of the physical properties of water samples. The girls also participated in an essay-writing contest that required the girls to write an essay describing a geo-science career they were interested in exploring. Their motivation for participating in the contest was that the chosen winner would have their essay appear in the Lion's Eye campus newspaper. At the conclusion of the program, the girls gleamed with enthusiasm as they left PSUDE that afternoon knowing they would soon be awarded with their science badge.