Broaden horizons: travel to places unknown
by Zoe Benjamin

Sometimes students who feel tired of their usual surroundings need a change in scenery. For these students, a study abroad may be just what the doctor ordered. Imagine flying halfway across the world to a place unknown. The language is difficult to understand, the food is different, the people are different, it’s all just...different. Differences can be both nerve-wracking and exciting at the same time. There are so many new things to see and do that one may never have. Sometimes the best way for a person to find out who they really are is to see how they react in a different setting. The study abroad department at UW-Marshfield/Wood County can provide students with the experience of a lifetime. There’s a whole list of places for students to explore, including Nicaragua, Scotland, Japan and Ghana.

To get a better perspective of what all study abroad is all about, Julia Tharp, professor of English, gives her outlook on the opportunity. Tharp is not only the designated go-to person for the Wisconsin in Scotland Program, but she will also be teaching at the program. Students are able to travel to Scotland, for either a whole semester or just the summer. While earning credit for school, UW students from any campus get the chance to stay in Dalkeith Palace, an 18th century manor house and learn from Scottish professors. The program intends to familiarize students with British culture by including field trips and the chance to travel around Scotland or Europe independently.

After doing quite a bit of traveling on her own, Tharp maintains a strong belief that traveling abroad allows people to “think more globally and not just from an American perspective. You can appreciate that there are many different ways to live. That can range from what you eat to types of transportation.” For example, Tharp recalls living in Singapore, “At first I was really taken aback at how emotionally restrained everybody was. If I was upset people would look at me like I was an animal.”

Students of UW-M/WC should consider the possibility of studying abroad in the upcoming spring or summer semesters. Financial aid is available to those in need. Traveling to another country can be very enticing. It’s like taking a vacation while going to school. Students interested in finding out more can visit the school website’s Study Abroad section.

Islamic truth
by Kaylyn Speeth

What do Americans understand about Islam? Not much, which is why Associate Dean Iddi Adam, associate professor of geography and geology, gave a lecture, “Muslim Journeys: Understanding Islam in the age of Terrorism” on Sept. 18. Adam debunked several misconceptions Americans have about Islam, such as the meaning of the word “Jihad.”

Adam explained that Jihad describes any act that furthers the cause of Islam, but the word is often used to describe only the violent actions by Muslims who kill in the name of their religion. The Qur’an, Islam’s sacred text, emphasizes “that there is no compulsion in religion.” It does not endorse the violent actions of Muslim radicals.

The rights of Muslim women sparked the most debate in the audience. At its beginning in the 7th century, Islam was light years ahead of its time when it came to giving women basic rights. These rights included the right to education, property and divorce. While some have argued that these guaranteed rights have not kept pace with modern ones, Adam explains that politics in the Middle East, not Islamic practices, have been responsible for the mistreatment of women. “[Political leaders] use Islam as a tool to oppress their people,” he said, “We confuse Islam with politics.”

The rest of the lecture comprised of the history of Islam and its core beliefs. Traditional Muslim food was served buffet-style before the event, which attendees enjoyed as Adam spoke about the importance of learning more about Islam in a post 9/11 society. “If you find out what that ‘bad’ thing is, you will find that it is not so bad,” he said of Islam.

A horror story
by Jordan Galeles and Amy Greenwald

It’s midnight. You’re driving down central, your knuckles white from gripping the wheel so tightly. You reassure yourself, saying, “I just need one.” You can feel it coming on. You're at the drive-thru. You relieve the pressure by ordering. “I just need one.”

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It’s midnight. You’re driving down central, your knuckles white from gripping the wheel so tightly. You reassure yourself, saying, “I just need one.” You can feel it calling your name. The Double Quarter Pounder. Your eyes see the golden arches; your pulse quickens. Wait, something’s wrong. You park to get a better look. “Here we grow again,” reads the sign. Devastated, you consider your options. Culver’s? Too expensive. Arby’s? No. Burger King? No. How will you survive?

This is the story of many Marshfield residents, but surprisingly, not all. Though some students on campus are craving greasy golden fries, others say they are indifferent. Mitchell Biesen, sophomore at UW-Marshfield/Wood County, says, “When I don’t feel like cooking, it’s convenient to go to McDonald’s.” Fast and cheap, McDonald’s is an obvious choice for many. However, others insist they never eat there in the first place and the torn down site is an eye sore rather than a depressing reminder.

For those who miss the fast food restaurant, other options are available. One Biggby Coffee employee noted a rise in customers who are willing to pay five times more to get their coffee fix. Many other restaurants are benefiting from McDonald’s absence. With Burger King right across the street, it’s no surprise that their parking lot seems fuller. But these options are no substitute. For those who feel they must have McDonald’s, the closest one is in Abbotsford, about 20 miles away. But at that distance, it stops being “fast food.”

McDonald’s last day was Aug. 18. They hope to re-open before Thanksgiving. Ideally, it will only be closed for three months. Jeff Kleiman, UW-M/WC history professor, jokes that “ever since McDonalds closed, many folks in Marshfield have been able to lose weight. Most have lost five pounds.” Diane Wolf, UW-M/WC business/economics lecturer, says that the new McDonald’s is going to be a prototype, the first one in Wisconsin to have three drive-thrus.
The beginning of the rest of your life

by Molly Schecklman

Attending college is a lot of fun whether someone is fresh out of high school or coming back after some time off, but it also requires discipline and hard work. Here is a bit of advice to help get through the college experience:

1.) When the teacher gives an assignment to read, that actually means read. Students cannot skip the reading and still receive a decent test grade.

2.) Study, study, study. Cramming the night before an exam is not going to cut it. Study a little bit each night to avoid feeling overwhelmed and experiencing information overload.

3.) Network. Make friends. No one cares who the “shy guy” in high school was. College is much more fun when experienced with others. It’s also easier to study with someone else.

4.) Take advantage of resources. Professors are here to help. The campus also provides places to study and have people review essays, such as the Learning Center, a room on campus dedicated to helping students with their studies.

All freshmen can take advantage of this advice, including nontraditional students. Seeing that I cannot speak for nontraditional students, I spoke with Julie Kramer, a nontraditional sophomore here at UW-M/WC. Kramer decided to take time off from school because her life became too busy and she couldn’t seem to find a good time to go back. Even though she was out of school for 25 years, she pushed past her fears to return.

With perseverance and the support of her family and friends, she will have her associate’s degree by the end of the semester.

Kramer said her transition was tough. Her advice to all the nontraditional students would be to “go for it.” She said when things became difficult for her she went to The Learning Center, and it made all of the difference. She also said that the workers in the school’s library were very friendly and helpful.

I know I was nervous when I came to UW-M/WC fresh from high school. I didn’t know if I would have to attempt to survive the “freshman horrors” all over again. I learned freshmen have some fun advantages, such as being anonymous. They can completely reinvent themselves by dyeing their hair, getting a tattoo, or changing their style. One of the best parts about campus is it has tons of events students can attend for free, whether they are theatrical events or sporting events!
Vox rocks
by Jordan Galeles

Students at the Wood might never have believed they could find great music, right on their own doorstep. The Vox Concert Series is a music movement that features emerging and label signed musicians to enhance the existing music scene by exposing people in central Wisconsin to music that’s featured in more metropolitan areas. Brian Sauer, booking agent for Vox emphasizes, “The music industry has changed with the Internet and musicians no longer need record labels to be heard. ‘Vox’ is Latin for ‘voice.’ Vox acts as their voice within central Wisconsin, by offering them a place to play and be heard. It features the music and the musician above all else.”

According to Sauer it is a music movement “working to establish a culture for original music to be enjoyed in the listening room setting of our main venue.” Vox initially had about 15 events a year, but has expanded to 40 events in 2013 alone. Vox celebrated its 200th event in early May with Rolling Stones magazine’s songwriter of the year Freedy Johnston and Grammy winner and multi-platinum songwriter Kevin Bowe.

Originally from Marshfield, Sauer went on to get a bachelor’s degree in psychology from St. Mary’s University of Minnesota. He holds master’s degrees in adult education and business administration and marketing. Sauer says he’s always loved music, but lacked the patience needed to learn an instrument.

Sauer insists he was once in students’ shoes, complaining there’s nothing to do in Marshfield. He often found himself driving to Milwaukee, Madison, Minneapolis and Chicago to see bands. Of his excursions, Sauer recalls, “I would often drag my friends with me for company. One day, a friend made a comment about wishing there was entertainment like those bands in Marshfield and that sparked the idea for Vox 10 years ago. I decided to take the energy that I was putting into complaining about the problem toward a solution and started bringing emerging artists to Marshfield.”

There are many talented musicians coming to Marshfield this fall including The Giving Tree Band, Sammy Llanas (formerly of The BoDeans), Todd Carey, Curtis People, Tony Furtado, The Ragbirds, The Spring Standards, Jenn Bostic, Michael Shynes and Victoria Vox. Sauer says, if he could have any group perform as a part of Vox he would choose his favorite band, U2. He explains, “I think it would be great to feature Bono and The Edge as an acoustic duo. There is something to be said about experiencing music in an acoustic setting where the songwriting and musicianship is the focus more than glitzy lighting and pyrotechnics. This is the basic premise that drives Vox: feature the music and the musicians above all else.”

These Shining Lives
by Jordan Flewellen

Damian Ernest, assistant professor of communication and theatre art, planned to produce the play The Metal Children this fall, but low audition turnout caused him to alter those plans. Instead, Ernest will produce These Shining Lives, a play with a smaller cast. This documentary/drama, based on a true story, deals with women’s strength in adversity during the 1920s as they started working outside the home. The play is to run from Nov 7-9.

Fitness fanatic returns
by Kayleigh Mengel

“Of my friends and I would always play the ‘Cha Cha Slide’ before the game, I don’t know why we started it, but every once in a while we would get a couple of the other teammates to join, or even sometimes a coach,” recalls alum Brent Ystad, the new UW-Marshfield/Wood County fitness center director. He loves being a part of sports again. He says he was attracted to the director position because he enjoys being in a college atmosphere and this campus in particular. Originally from Greenwood, Ystad now resides in Marshfield. He attended the Wood for his two-year associates degree then transferred to UW-Superior. While at Superior, he graduated with a degree in exercise science and a minor in business.

The fitness center is open from 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Thursday and 7 am to 4 pm on Friday. The fitness center has no fee for students and staff, although there is a special fee for non-students.
by Amy Greenwald

**Healthy and delicious**

World Vegetarian Day made its way into the lunches of students at the Wood on Oct. 1. English professor Julie Tharp gave out bowls of chili, made by herself, and chicken salad. While both of these dishes normally have meat, other ingredients simulated the meat's taste and texture and students could hardly tell the difference.

**Ask Gershwald**

by Brian Greenwald and Sam Gershman

Brian Greenwald and Sam Gershman are both students here at UW-Marshfield/Wood County. They are each offering to solve the world's problems through this advice column, despite the fact that neither of them have any experience or qualifications, and openly admit they have no real answers.

**Shiver me timbers**

by Amy Greenwald

The oft-forgotten holiday, International Talk Like a Pirate Day blew through the Wood Sept. 19 like a great white whale. Being the Marauders, this day was highly promoted as students were encouraged to come in Marauder or pirate attire. During the lunch hour, Julie Tharp, professor of English and Steve Kaiser, student affairs coordinator, had pirate booty for students, christened students with new “pirate names” and handed out free pirate hats and eye patches.

**No such thing as a stupid question**

“Do I have to go to class? What is the meaning of Christmas? Do I have to ask a stupid question to get a brownie?” These are only some of the questions Julie Tharp, professor of English, was asked on Sept. 26, also Ask a Stupid Question Day. Students were able to ask any stupid question they wanted to gain an answer, and, more importantly, a brownie.

**Horoscopes**

by David Carey

**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)**

You’re in for a bout of bad luck. Watch out for falling bricks because you just never know. Your lucky color is black and your lucky item is a no. 3 pencil.

**Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)**

Be wary of deals that seem too good. Your lucky color is crimson and your lucky item is a turtle.

**Gemini (May 22-June 21)**

Make sure to look up, or rather sideways. Your lucky color is purple and your lucky item is an eye-patch.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)**

If you run enough, something good may happen, it may not, so you better run. Your lucky color is pink and your lucky item is a sweatband.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 21)**

Make sure to watch out for black cats, they’ll be likely to sharpen their claws on your leg. Your lucky color is yellow and your lucky item is a feather pen.

**Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 23)**

If you’re looking for love try looking at your friends of the opposite sex instead of people you don’t really know. Your lucky color is brown and your lucky item is a can of SPAM.

**Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)**

Visit your local library and find a good book, it’s the most excitement you’re going to get for a while. Your lucky color is violet and your lucky item is a magnifying glass.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)**

Why don’t you just stop, relax and watch an episode of your favorite TV show, you deserve a break. Your lucky color is crimson and your lucky item is an eye-patch.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)**

I hope you study for your tests; you’re going to need to. Your lucky color is white and your lucky item is a white glove.

**Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 20)**

Be careful when using your umbrella, if you’re not you might need to buy a new one. Your lucky color is silver and your lucky item is a trench coat.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)**

Make sure to double check the condition of your boat if you go fishing. Your lucky color is turquoise and your lucky item is water bottle.

**Pisces (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)**

Be wary of deals that seem too good to be true because they just might be. Your lucky color is red and your lucky item is a potato peeler.