Mexico

Program offers study, fun

Drawing by JoAnne Fahlgren

Editor's note: This is the second in a series on student opportunities to study abroad. Today's story deals with studies in Mexico.

"There is no substitute for the kind of first-hand experience this program will offer."

So says David Hudson, director of the 1976 summer workshop in Cuernavaca, Mexico, being offered by the romance languages department. "It's a lot of work," he says, "but it's a good way to spend the summer."

The "work" includes studying four weeks at Cuauhnahuac, a specialized language school in Cuernavaca. Hudson says the instruction offered there is intensive and at different levels according to each student's preparation. Besides classroom work, excursions and conversation hours are part of the curriculum. Grades will be assigned by the director of the program based on information from Cuauhnahuac and a personal evaluation.

By WALLY BENSON
Of the Emerald

The basic program, for which the student earns six undergraduate credit hours, lasts from July 1 to August 1, excluding travel time. More credit is available if the student wishes to stay longer, as he can earn nine hours credit for six weeks of study, and 12 hours credit for eight weeks.

Eligibility requirements are rather easy to meet, according to Hudson. "A student needs to have successfully completed one year of college Spanish and, if he wants University credit, he must be enrolled in the summer session," he says.

The total cost for the four-week program, including transportation, tuition and room and board, approaches $800. "However," says Hudson, "if a student doesn't wish to get University credit, he doesn't have to pay our tuition."

The costs of the program need not be borne entirely by the student, as a limited number of $100 Stickles scholarships are available from the romance languages department. And, says Hudson, Cuauhnahuac is offering two full tuition scholarships—one to a chicano and the other to a student in extreme financial need. "The University's Office of Financial Aid may possibly be of service, too," he says.

Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation, and Hudson says it's about a four-day trip by bus. Living arrangements will also be left up to the students, although information on lodging in Mexico can be obtained from Cuauhnahuac. Hotels, motels, apartments and some lodging with Mexican families will be available.

Hudson says this program is done every year and has been very successful. If more than the expected 30 students sign up, Hudson says he will be able to accommodate them through the use of another school in Mexico.

"The program allows the student to improve both his mastery of Spanish in a formalized context," says Hudson, "and to develop personal preferences in a freer study of both the Spanish language and the Mexican culture."

Besides the academic benefits, Hudson points out that the weather is great. "There is a perpetual springtime climate there. It never gets too hot or too cold."

Interested students should contact Hudson in the Department of Romance Languages, 686-4021.

Groups pledge hunger strike support

The Iranian Student Organization's (ISO) hunger strike got a shot in the arm Wednesday when several groups in the University community pledged support.

The strike is being held to protest the planned execution of 10 political prisoners in Iran by the Shah's government. They were sentenced by a military tribunal and will be shot by firing squads. The ISO calls the political prisoners "patriotic revolutionaries," and claims that the government uses these tactics "to get rid of people the Shah doesn't like."

Announcing their pledges in a press conference in front of the EMU, the ISO was joined by the Friends of the Farmworkers, the Arab Student Association, the Third World Solidarity Committee, the Moslem Student Association, the Turkish Association, Eugene Coalition, and Gulf Solidarity.

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