

Two UO professors will be sent to teach overseas

■ **NCSA:** Randall McGowan and Ian Duncan were picked for their enthusiasm and the class evaluations they got

By Daniel Pearson
Higher Education Reporter

Two University professors have been selected to represent Pacific Northwest universities by the Northwest Council on Study Abroad (NCSA) and will spend fall term teaching in London and Italy.

Associate Professor of History Randall McGowan and Associate Professor of English Ian Duncan will direct courses in their respective fields and provide assistance with cultural and language transitions to American students.

"I am gratified and pleased to have been selected," McGowan said. "In some ways this is the realization of a dream."

NCSA consists of 11 colleges and universities in Oregon, Washington and Alaska that to-

gether sponsor study programs in London, Angers, France and Siena, Italy. Professors are nominated by other faculty members and are chosen based on their enthusiasm for working with students and course evaluation transcripts.

Both McGowan and Duncan have spent time in London and Italy, respectively, and are excited at the prospect of not only returning, but being able to teach students in areas of the world surrounded by such a long history.

"The last time I went to Italy, there was a strong sense of coming home in a sort of primal way," Duncan said. "It's not a question of the architecture or art but rather it's the way the city inhabits the landscape — the harmonies between human society and the land — that provide such an intimate setting. It's an amazing place, and in some ways it's the perfect setting to teach."

Courses are tailored to Ameri-

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Randall McGowan
Associate History Professor

can students and are designed to take advantage of each country's setting. Field trips and academic excursions allow students the opportunity to experience the culture of England and Italy beyond their textbooks, as well as providing a chance to get to know their professors on a personal basis, McGowan said.

"It will be such a wonderful teaching experience," he said. "I'm really looking forward to

getting to know my students, which is something that isn't quite as easy to do here [at the University] because of the size of classes. We will all be traveling together as Americans in a strange place."

Students in London will stay with a host family and those in Italy will share an apartment with other students.

McGowan and Duncan will each retain their current salary. NCSA also guarantees both professors all-expenses-paid, round-trip transportation and a free apartment in their respective cities.

"It won't be just an extended holiday, though," Duncan said. "Teaching is a very serious part of it. My students are not going to have access to libraries or computers, and that presents a challenge for myself on guiding the class."

University overseas program coordinator Melanie Williams

studied abroad as an undergraduate and said the experience can benefit current students, as well as graduating seniors who have not yet found a job.

"Studying abroad gives you a step up when looking for a job because it takes a lot of energy and commitment," she said. "You'll be dealing with an entirely different group of people and a foreign language. It really helps to build communication skills."

NCSA was founded 30 years ago as a joint effort between the University of Washington and Portland State University to promote study abroad and spread quickly to other higher education institutions in the Pacific Northwest. Today, NCSA sends more than 5,500 students abroad each year.

Students interested in participating in NCSA or other international study programs can contact the Office of International Education and Exchange in room 330 of Oregon Hall.

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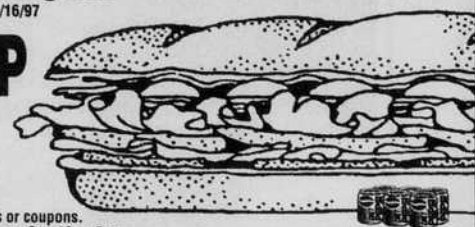
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