

Study abroad fails to attract

Study abroad programs offered at Clackamas are in danger of being shut down due to a decrease in student interest and the current economic state in the U.S.

By Kitty Suydam
The Clackamas Print

Year participation in study abroad programs has been dwindling. Sign ups for study abroad in Barcelona are down until April 21; there is one spot left for that trip.

David Miller, foreign language department chair is recruiting students for the German exchange program. Now there are only two spots signed up.

"The Germans are really disappointed because they were expecting to meet more American students and form long lasting friendships with them," said

Miller. He is a member of the International Education Consortium along with many other community colleges in the area. The colleges often get together to sign up for exchange programs, generally 15 to 20 students will go on a program, though the numbers have reached peak numbers as high as 70 in the past.

"I think that this is a marvelous opportunity to pursue. When you go abroad it is a life changing opportunity, and I think that once you are there there is no summer that you want to stay home," said Bjerre, a Spanish instructor at Clackamas Community College.

If you do not know any other languages besides English, you will still study abroad. CCC offers programs in London and other study abroad programs

have no minimum language efficiency standards. You can put your fears of being ineligible behind you. Clackamas study abroad programs are open to all CCC students, teachers and the public.

CCC offers study abroad programs to many countries. Programs this year include London, Barcelona, Florence, Guanajuato, Costa Rica and Stadhagen, Germany.

Classes offered for these programs change every year but most programs offer language and culture classes, history classes, and the program in Costa Rica even offers a two week intensive course in biology. Study abroad programs are an excellent way to become fluent in foreign languages, as immersing yourself in the culture and hearing the language spoken by locals helps students refine their language skills.

The costs to study abroad can be high but there are scholarships available for students. A good resource for finding such scholarships is FastWeb.com, where the profile you build will help you find scholarships that fit your future plans, including studying abroad.

The program in Stadhagen is unique in the fact that it is an exchange program. Students or community members interested should be willing to host a German student for two weeks. The students participating in this trip will stay in Stadhagen, which is close to Hannover, for two weeks. Because the student will be staying with a German family, they will not have to pay for room and board, just the costs included in travel expenses. This makes the German exchange program one of the most cost effective choices for a student that is interested in German language and culture.

If you are interested in participating in a study abroad program, contact Bjerre at irmab@clackamas.edu, or if you are interested in the German exchange program contact Miller at millerd@clackamas.edu.



Contributed by Irma Bjerre

This Gaudi architecture is one of the examples of beautiful buildings you might see on a study abroad trip to Spain. Barcelona, Guanajuato, and Costa Rica are some of your options.

Phi Theta Kappa struggles with leaders leaving, low student activity

By Erik Andersen
News Editor

The Clackamas Community College Alpha Xi Zeta, the Phi Theta Kappa chapter, may have a problem even they can't solve. With most of the active PTK members getting ready to graduate, their main goal is to bring in more members.

PTK is an international honor society for two-year colleges that recognizes students that show academic excellence and provides a range of benefits such as scholarships and more. The only problem that PTK chapters all over the country face as well as CCC's own chapter is that it's only for two years; eventually members begin to graduate to four-year schools.

"Membership is always turning over in a two-year system. It is hard for many

students to devote time to an organization because of classroom, work and family commitments," Mindy Brown, the Department Chair of Student Leadership and Outreach and Testing, stated in an e-mail.

Brown continued to explain that some of the ways they are trying to fix the problem is by sending out letters to all of those who qualify. The letter goes into detail about what some of the benefits are for joining as well as what PTK is all about.

"Students are eligible if they carry a 3.5 GPA, have accumulated at least 12 credits with CCC, and are currently enrolled carrying at least 3 credits. The cost of membership is \$65 and payment can be made online or by application in the Student Activities Office," said Brown.

"Phi Theta Kappa is a fantastic organization," said Greg Stein, the chapter presi-

dent. Stein, who is graduating after this term and going to Portland State University, confirmed the worry on bringing in new members and said that they are doing a variety of things, such as community projects to get the students who qualify interested.

There will be an orientation meeting held in Barlow on May 6 from noon to 1 p.m. and again from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Fireside Lounge in the Community Center for those who are interested.

The purpose of this meeting is to answer any and all questions anyone may have about Phi Theta Kappa. There will also be the induction ceremony on May 17 in the Gregory Forum, more formal than the last. To attend the induction ceremony reservations must be made. For more information you can contact Michelle Baker at 503-594-3040 or at mbaker@clackamas.edu.

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