

Warmest wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Study Abroad Experience in New Zealand Inspires Student to Reconnect with Author of "Whale Rider"

In July 2003, Matthew Smith left his home school of Lycoming College to spend a semester abroad through Arcadia at the University of Auckland. Matt took a course in New Zealand literature and one of his lecturers was Witi Ihimaera, the author of "Whale Rider", a book that was later turned into a successful film.

Matt returned to his home school at the end of 2003 and continued corresponding with Witi who was busy developing a Masters in Creative Writing program at the University of Auckland. After graduation, Matt realized that what he really wanted to do was complete a novel. In 2005 he applied to the Master of Creative Writing program at the University of Auckland and was accepted to the program. Matt found himself once again studying in Auckland, but this time he was writing a book. Matt's nearly completed novel is titled "The Bottom of the Sea Smells like Strawberries."



DAVID LARSEN & WITI IHIMAERA

Recently, Matt Smith and Witi Ihimaera met with Arcadia President Jerry Greiner, David Larsen, Director of the Center for Education Abroad, the Arcadia NZ staff, students presently studying at Auckland University, and members of the Arcadia Board of Trustees. Matt read the first chapter of his book to the group and talked about his experience in New Zealand. Witi, a soft-spoken and eloquent speaker, discussed the role of mentors - people like himself and the Arcadia staff -- whose role is to help students like Matt be open to new and challenging horizons. Witi then honored the group by presenting President Greiner with three of his books, including "Whale Rider."

Program Options at Trinity College in Dublin

In response to many questions from advisors regarding Arcadia's position on Trinity's new start-up option, we share the following:

The Arcadia University Center for Education Abroad has a strong relationship with Trinity College, Dublin, where we have had a solid group of students participating on the full-year program for nearly thirty years. Recently, Trinity announced a new offering, the Semester Start-Up Program (SSP) in the School of Histories and Humanities. This four-week pre-session program is intended to allow participating students to follow a month-long course of study in September with courses offered for the fall term (finishing before Christmas) to achieve a semester's worth of credit. Arcadia supports Trinity's ongoing efforts toward institutional calendar change; indeed, we have been working with the Office of International Student Affairs and various faculties and schools to provide our perspective and suggestions on this topic. However, we believe that the institution as a whole is not yet prepared to offer a smooth and coherent program of study on a less than full-year basis. We think that more work is required in such areas as: uniform weeks of instruction, consistent approaches to examination and assessment, and clear identification of those Trinity College courses and departments that function on a true semester basis. As a result, we are not yet willing to endorse study abroad student participation on a less than full-year basis. In the interests of offering Arcadia program students the most academically rigorous and substantive experience, one which allows for full participation across the curriculum, we will continue to offer students who attend Trinity College through Arcadia the full year option only.

We are encouraged by the conversations about calendar revision and academic structures that are taking place at Trinity and look forward to their results.

New Program Offerings Available through the Umbra Institute in Perugia

The Umbra Institute will begin to offer four curricular options effective this spring. These additional program options reinforce Umbra's commitment to academic excellence and curricular innovation. Whether a student is looking to take several elective credits, a full course load of Italian language and culture, or for an opportunity to study a specific topic at an advanced level, the program options offered by the Umbra Institute are designed to meet the needs of a diverse student body.



1. *General Studies Program*

- Open to students from all academic majors.
- Traditional liberal arts program with broad curricular choices, including honors courses in selected disciplines each semester.

2. *Independent Research Program*

- Intensive research project working closely with an individual faculty mentor in the chosen field of study.
- Program designed to provide the opportunity to engage in original research and to introduce students to formal scholarship.

3. *Italian Language & Culture Program*

- True Immersion experience - exclusively in Italian
- Taught at the *Universita per Stranieri di Perugia*
- Housing with an Italian family, university students, or other international students whose common language is Italian.

4. *Direct Enrollment at the Universita degli Studi di Perugia*

- For students with an advanced-level of proficiency in Italian language
- Students use the Umbra Institute as a home base and enroll in one or more classes with Italian students at the

Universita degli Studi di Perugia

For the most up-to-date information, please contact Chris Callas, Program Coordinator for Italy at callasc@arcadia.edu .

Scottish Program Students Experience Nature, Culture, and Ceilidh!

Participants on Arcadia's programs in Scotland have the exceptional opportunity to visit the Scottish Highlands in the company of expert guides from the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Sport and Exercise. Each semester, Alison Dick, Resident Director for Scotland, arranges to take students to Firbush, an outdoor activities center situated in the Southern Highlands, on the shores of Loch Tay and affording stunning views of the Ben Lawers mountain range. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves by participating in an array of activities including rowing, kayaking, hill-walking, and mountain biking while meeting local residents and sampling the delicacies of the Highlands. One of the highlights of the weekend is the ceilidh (pronounced Ka-lee), an informal gathering with singing, dancing (to the tune of bagpipes!), and storytelling. Students agree that the weekend at Firbush is one of their favorite excursions and provides an excellent escape to the countryside from city life. For more information on this and other cultural programs offered in Scotland, please contact Traci Chupik, Program Coordinator for Scotland at chupikt@arcadia.edu or visit our website at www.arcadia.edu/cea/scotland.



Open Phone Night for Parents of Arcadia Program Students

In an effort to cater to the needs of those students and parents for whom calling during the day is inconvenient, our program coordinating team, led by Director of Student Services, David Rudd, extended our hours and hosted an "Open Phone Night" on November 2 from 7 pm to 10 pm. Parents and students were encouraged to call in and speak with our staff about student housing, visas, fees and payments, orientation and cultural program, health and safety, flight and travel plans, and other topics related to their son/daughter's impending study abroad experience. Over the course of the evening, we offered students the opportunity to enter into a drawing to win a flight scholarship to their study abroad destination. Lucas Flores-Piran of La Salle University was our flight scholarship recipient. Lucas will be studying on the Arcadia program in Barcelona this coming spring semester.

We had an overwhelming response from parents to our "Open Phone Night" and are already planning to host a pre-departure webinar for parents and students in early December. We will keep you informed of the details as they develop - stay tuned!