Arcadia at NAFSA

2008 is a very big year for Arcadia’s Center for Education Abroad. The center will recognize David Larsen’s retirement (and celebrate his tenure), will mark its 60th anniversary, and will welcome a new executive director. In addition to bringing many of its U.S.-based staff to the NAFSA conference, the center will host its overseas resident directors, who welcome the opportunity to meet with everyone who receives Arcadia’s updates. To facilitate this, the center will host country-specific sessions, which will provide the opportunity to get to know the resident directors, hear about the programs from their in-country perspectives, and ask questions of specific concern to students and institutions. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet the people who work directly with your students who go abroad!

The center will send out a schedule of our country-specific sessions in early May.

SAVE THE DATE: On Wednesday evening, May 28th, Arcadia will host a reception from 5-7 pm at the Columbus Room, Union Square Station, to celebrate all of the upcoming invitations to come, but please mark your calendars now!

Dean’s Corner

Italy: Serving Its Students

Dr. Dennis Dutschke, Academic Dean, Arcadia University Center for Education Abroad

Dennis Dutschke is currently attending the AACRAO Conference in Orlando, Florida, where he is presenting a session entitled “Campus Internationalization Initiatives and Study Abroad.”

The IE Open Doors Data on Americans studying abroad shows continued, steady growth in students choosing to study in Italy. In 2004-05 and 2005-06, only England, the top host country, hosted more students. In second place, Italy hosted 24,858 students in 2004-05 and 26,078 in 2005-06, and remained well ahead of the other top twenty countries: Spain, France, Australia, Mexico, China, Germany, Costa Rica, Ireland, Japan, Greece, Argentina, Czech Republic, Austria, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, and Ecuador.

As I recently visited all of the our center’s Italian programs, I was acutely aware of the responsibility that study abroad providers have to establish academically rigorous and culturally enriching programs for students choosing to study in Italy. I am confident that we do provide just such quality programs in Florence, Perugia, Rome, Lecce, and Syracuse (our new program at the Mediterranean Center for History and Language in Siracusa, Sicily.)

All of the courses in these programs are approved for academic credit by the Arcadia University Undergraduate Academic Programs Committee, and are included in the university’s undergraduate catalogue. Our center posts syllabi for the courses on our website. All of faculty of these courses are highly qualified and overwhelmingly dedicated to their field of expertise, as well as students. As someone with more than thirty years of experience as a university professor of Italian language and literature, I am impressed with the variety, uniqueness, and academic integrity of the courses taught to students on Arcadia programs at these locations. For example, what better opportunity to engage in studio art as well as an History than at the Accademia Italiana in Florence, Italian studies and History at the Spectacular Mediterranean Center!

Imagining studying 100 feet from the ancient sea walls of the city of Syracuse, gazing across the bay and reflecting on the Mediterranean from the window of a 17th century palazzo on the island of Ortigia – your study abroad center – and immediately on the other side of ornamented walls, majestic, medieval lanes of the island of Ortigia, the romantic and Baroque heart of the city of Syracuse, connected by three bridges to the mainland.

Students in Arcadia’s new Mediterranean program can immerse themselves in the study of Italian language and culture at the historic academic center of the legendary city of Syracuse, as they will earn both their academic credit at a renowned international institute, with classes taught in English. Find out more about Arcadia’s new program at the Mediterranean Center for History and Language!

Memory Book Request:

History and Language at the Spectacular Mediterranean Center!

Submission Request: Memory Book for David Larsen

In honor of David Larsen’s 20-year career with the Arcadia University Center for Education Abroad, and to help him celebrate his upcoming retirement in June, the center would like to prepare a memory book to be presented to him at the NAFSA conference. Please share your memories, poems, limericks, humorous stories, and thoughts on David’s career, so that the center can include them in the book. Your entry does not need to be long, just heartfelt. Please feel free to send your submissions to Arlene Snyder (snydera@arcadia.edu) by April 20th.

New Assistant Directors Announced for the Central Region

The Center for Education Abroad is pleased to welcome two new assistant directors to its Institutional Relations team:

Todd Karr comes to Arcadia from Indiana University, where he served as a study abroad advisor for three years. Todd will work with schools in the South Central Region – Minn., Wis., Ind., N.D., S.D., and Neb.

Amy Greely also brings significant experience in international-education administration, most recently at Augsburg College as director of Augsburg Abroad. Amy will work closely with schools in the Central Region – Minn., Wis., Ind., N.D., S.D., and Neb.

Both Amy and Todd will start their positions at the end of May and will look forward to meeting Arcadia friends and associates at NAFSA. For further information, please contact Lorna Stern, Director of Institutional Relations, at sternl@arcadia.edu

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Arcadia Appoints New Executive Director for the Center for Education Abroad

Nicolette DeVille Christensen, PhD, will become the new Vice President and Executive Director of Arcadia’s Center for Education Abroad effective July 1, 2008. Nikki, who succeeds David Larsen, PhD, is currently the Executive Director of Global Academic Management at New York University (NYU). She previously served as Chair of the Business Management Department and Chair of Study Abroad Programs at Guilford College in Greensboro.
business at the Accademia Italiana in Rome, Italian language and culture studies at the Università del Salento in Lecce, and everything from Greek & Roman archaeology to vulcanology at the Mediterranean Center for Arts and Sciences in Sicily.

Students are required to study Italian language and culture on all Arcadia programs in Italy, and instruction is based on the Common European Framework for languages (to ensure quality and transparency for students transferring credit back to home schools).

We also have direct enrollment programs, for qualified students, at the Università degli Studi di Perugia and the Università del Salento (Lecce), and are working on a similar arrangement through the Mediterranean Center and the Università di Catania (Sicily).

As always, student services are a major part of all the Arcadia programs in Italy. Our resident director, Tina Rocchio, and her staff make sure that students are able to maximize their experience, through their living and studying arrangements, and though participating in co- and extra-curricular activities.

I do not think we fully understand why so many American students are choosing to study in Italy, but they are certainly making a wonderful choice. In turn, it’s our duty to provide them with first-rate programs. Students and the sending schools must have confidence that study abroad programs in extremely popular countries like Italy are fundamentally sound in both academics and student services. Arcadia’s Italy programs serve as an example of that promise.

Comings and Goings

Staff arrivals and departures are always both welcome and bittersweet, respectively – happy and sad, at the same time – as they signal growth and the acceptance of new professional challenges on the part of colleagues, but also the inevitable changes on an already exceptional staff. Michelle Brito, a committed and conscientious member of the center’s Institutional Relations team for the past 2½ years, has accepted an appointment to work at Temple University in the International Programs Office. Filling her stylish and very capable shoes will be Jessica Madoll, a friendly and expeditious member of the center’s Operations Team for the past year. Many of you may know Jess’ voice from Arcadia’s front desk. Jess’ promotion from Office Assistant to Institutional Relations Coordinator means she will assume all of Michelle’s many duties in the coming weeks. Michelle and Jess have been working together to ensure a smooth transition. Jess can be contacted at madollj@arcadia.edu.

The Arcadia staff congratulates Jess on stepping into her new position and wishes Michelle all the best in her new position in the study abroad field.

Application Deadlines

Summer applications are being accepted through Monday (March 31st)!

Spaces are still available in most fall, southern hemisphere programs! We are still accepting applications for all programs through April 20th in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Catalog Requests

Catalogs are available for order through our online request form. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Madoll at madollj@arcadia.edu.