

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
APRIL 4, 2005**

Members in Attendance:

Dr. David P. Ayers, Director, International Programs
Dr. J. Christopher Eustis, Department Chair, Modern Languages
Mr. Jamal Feerasta, Assistant Professor, Hospitality Management
Mr. Richman W. Haire, Acting Director, School of Art
Dr. Subramaniya I. Hariharan, Associate Dean, Engineering
Dr. Karla T. Mugler, Dean, University College, and Associate Provost for Student Academic Success
Dr. Patricia A. Nelson, Dean, Education
Mr. A. Samuel Oddi, Professor of Law
Dr. Mark B. Tausig, Associate Dean, Graduate School
Ms. Kathleen Tusaie, Assistant Professor, Nursing
Dr. Paul B. Weinstein, Professor, History – Wayne College
Dr. Timothy J. Wilkinson, Associate Professor, Marketing and International Business

Members not in Attendance:

Dr. Frank Kelley, Dean, Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering
Dr. Chand Midha, Associate Provost, Academic and Financial Affairs; Chair, Statistics

Guests in Attendance:

Ms. Linda E. Marx, Coordinator, International Programs

The co-chairs Ayers and Nelson opened the meeting shortly after 1 p.m. Ayers distributed copies of the agenda, the minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2005, and an article entitled "They Come From Afar" from *Kent State Magazine*, Volume 4, Issue 3 (Spring 2005). He noted that the minutes of the last meeting were posted on the Provost's web site. Eustis moved to approve the minutes and Feerasta seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Nelson said that the Committee would be ending up with a task force report that represents the overall findings of the group. This could be sent to the provost, the president and possibly the board. The American Council on Education reports on what we need to be doing at the university level. Currently a very small percentage of U. S. students go abroad. The Lincoln Commission on International Education and Study Abroad is a bipartisan commission appointed by Congress and President Bush. The Commission is charged with developing and recommending a program to greatly expand the opportunity for students at United States higher education institutions to study abroad, with special emphasis on studying in developing nations. Global competence is an issue. The supporters are trying to get funding for up to one million students per year.

The sub-committee chairs were called upon to report the status of the sub-committees.

Mission: Eustis distributed a copy of the report of the Mission Sub-committee (Attachment A). He said that the report tells what transpired in the meeting. The mission is a part of the framework of the University and includes the guiding principles. These are a slightly edited version from the meeting and should be treated as a draft.

Nelson mentioned that this should be a progressive discussion where, at the end, we have a document where everybody has had input. The next step would be to invite the other sub-committees to meet with the Mission Sub-committee and comment. It was decided that the Program Review Sub-committee would meet with the Mission Sub-committee prior to the next meeting of the full group in May.

Inventory: Tausig said that the Inventory Sub-committee has been using a template and assembling data, mostly communicating by e-mail. They have compiled data and digested it. They are continuing to accumulate information on existing internationalization efforts. They are going through the UA catalog. Each dean was asked for recruiting materials. They are checking with the Research Office and with the library. They also received good, solid information from the Office of International Programs on programming from the last three years.

Alumni Relations indicated that there was a legal block to providing information. Feerasta asked them to give numbers only but has not yet received a response. It was noted that Alumni Relations could be a great source of contacts. Ayers indicated that there were UA Alumni Associations overseas. Weinstein asked if *Akron Magazine* was sent overseas and no one was sure about this. This sub-committee was planning to meet prior to the next full committee meeting.

Program Review: Oddi reported that the Program Review Sub-committee met at the School of Art and discussed, in general, a review process. The proposals are ad hoc right now. The sub-committee is awaiting a brief discussion as to what kinds of programs are being proposed and have been conducted or are in transit? A structure and guidelines could be proposed. It is believed that the programs range from full-blown overseas programs to individual faculty traveling during spring break. What is being done? Once we have this information, we can consider a unitary process for review. One unit needs to know where and why people are going abroad, whether it is a tourist group or an academic program.

Ayers said that the University of Louisville has a fairly informative protocol. What this group comes up with will be unique to this institution.

Hariharan thought that the group should arrive at goals. Currently UA is losing top students from science and engineering to Great Britain and Australia. It is difficult to compete.

Ayers mentioned that there were a number of programs currently in the Provost's office. Some of those are:

College of Education – Proposal for the People's Republic of China
Master of Public Administration – Proposal for the People's Republic of China
Law School – Proposal for a short-term study abroad program (joint with Widener University School of Law)

One proposal for the Nursing Program has already been approved.

Nelson moved that an ad hoc sub-committee called the "International Proposal Review Committee" be established to approve the current proposals. The ad hoc committee could provide guidance for these immediate needs. Oddi agreed to assist with the process and to identify types or models that should be handled by the ad hoc committee. These would include risk management and curriculum guidelines. A template would be needed for signatures. There are universities that have models and Nelson said that she has the resources to get models.

Oddi seconded the motion. During discussion it was noted that the Law School proposal was a non-controversial program that just had timing issues. That is why we need to think who is to approve and what information is needed. Ayers said that whenever an agreement is to be signed, general counsel needed to get involved.

Nelson said that the Committee needs to develop some financial models. Eustis said that he submitted a proposal for a unique funding process whereby the money that students pay here would be sent almost exclusively to the other school where the faculty would teach. Students would sign up for one credit of coursework here. Oddi will assist with preparing a protocol for current proposals.

The names of those who would serve on the ad hoc committee were reviewed:

Dr. Nancy Stokes, Associate Provost, Academic Policy, Process and Review
Dr. David Ayers – Representing International Programs
Dr. Patricia Nelson – Representing Academic Deans
Christine Bates – Assistant General Counsel
Graduate School Representative (only if the proposal involved the Graduate School)
Controller's Office Representative (possible James Karas, Senior Accountant)
Dr. A. Samuel Oddi – IPAC Protocol Subcommittee
Key faculty bringing forth the proposal

The call for the vote was made (with a friendly amendment to include the above-named members on the ad hoc committee) and it was approved unanimously (subject to the Provost's approval).

Ayers reported on the Brookings Institution Symposium that he attended in conjunction with a NAFSA: Association of International Educators "Day on the Hill" in March. The Brookings Institution, one of Washington's oldest think tanks, is an independent, nonpartisan organization devoted to research, analysis, and public education with an emphasis on economics, foreign policy, governance, and metropolitan policy (see www.brook.edu/). He passed around two books that were discussed at the symposium entitled Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics by Joseph S. Nye, Jr., published by Public Affairs, NY, 2004; and The Coming Democracy: New Rules for Running a New World, by Ann Florini, published by Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 2005. He observed that the late Pope John Paul II used "soft power." He was an intellectual and an activist on the global stage, who inspired the end of communism in Poland (and elsewhere).

Ayers mentioned that the U. S. is moving towards a national policy on internationalization. Former President Clinton had approved an international education policy agenda prior to leaving office (see www.nafsa.org/content/PublicPolicy/USIntlEdPolicy/041900.htm). Some recent, positive appointments for improving U. S. relations abroad have been Dr. Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State and Karen Hughes as Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

A discussion followed about the visit of Sherrod Brown to campus and making connections with UA's Director of Corporation and Government Relations, Charles Clark. Ayers said that the visa acquisition process of incoming international students has been proceeding with the presumption of immigration. That policy is being challenged and all were encouraged to talk with legislators about the issue.

Nelson said that the current disposition in Washington is to deal with international issues and especially with study abroad. She identified the book, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference, by Malcolm Gladwell, published by Little, Brown and Company, NY, 2000. She speculated that this may be the "tipping point" for the U.S., in that we may begin to send out students overseas because of business needs.

Ayers pointed out that the Committee needs to address the issue of international student recruitment. In reference to the article from *Kent State Magazine*, Ayers said that he estimated that Kent State was about three years ahead of UA in internationalizing. They designated a Dean of International Education and made budget commitments. Nelson said that the single-most important factor is relationship building. Mugler recalled that a few years ago the faculty who were going abroad to international conferences were encouraged to visit overseas advising offices. Ayers distributed copies of the new international student recruitment brochure from UA's Office of International Programs. He believes that there are a number of ways to recruit but currently there is no mission to do so and no budget designated. Some suggestions for recruitment were:

1. Send UA packets of information to USIA offices overseas. These cost nearly \$40 per packet.
2. Recruitment tours with Linden Educational Services.
3. Providing faculty members with overseas contacts with a plane ticket to recruit.
4. Advertising.

A discussion was had concerning possibly meeting with each college dean to see if there is an interest and a programmatic need. It was informally decided that the Committee would need to recommend recruitment efforts that would be productive, and a sustainable budget would be required. The Committee will wait to work with the deans until after more definitive answers or vision can be provided. A business model needs to be designed, and then the Committee can request the endorsement of the University as a whole.

Ayers said that inquiries have been made about other possible members of the Committee. Those included Debra Deane, Director of the English Language Institute; Dr. Dale Mugler, Director of the University Honors Program; perhaps another member of the International Business faculty; and a person from Wayne College who had contacted Ayers. It was informally decided that this should be discussed at the May meeting for possibly bringing others to the Committee in the Fall.

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Ayers stated the importance of making regular visits to our partner institutions as an integral part of the evaluation process for study abroad programs. He distributed the "Executive Summary" and "Trip Report for Linda E. Marx" describing site visits to seven institutions in Europe in Fall, 2004. There are a number of opportunities mentioned. The report is Attachment B to these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the full Committee is set for Monday, May 9, at 1 p.m. in Room 304 of the Goodyear Polymer Center.

LEM – 4/8/05

ATTACHMENT A

Report of IPAC Mission Subcommittee meeting of 20 March, 2005:

Present: D. Ayers, C. Eustis, S. Hariharan, C. Midha, P. Nelson, F. Kelley

Discussion of the subcommittee's charge led to the articulation of several suggested guiding principles for IPAC's focus in addressing the nature and scope of internationalization at UA. The proposed principles relate directly to the UA Academic Plan, which in turn reflects the vision embodied in Charting the Course that is linked to the Balanced Scorecard. The principles also encompass the "six major components of the international dimension of a college or university" posited by the AIEA document entitled *Guidelines for International Education at U.S. Colleges and Universities*:

- Administration
- Faculty and the curriculum
- Foreign study and international exchanges
- Foreign students and scholars
- Technical cooperation and international development
- Public service

Internationalization at The University of Akron should respond to and demonstrate a commitment to the following GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Support an institutional climate throughout the university that promotes internationalization and the correlative cultural and intellectual enrichment that is crucial to an enlightened member of contemporary society.
2. Foster awareness and understanding of our multicultural world environment to better prepare students to live and contribute meaningfully in a diverse national culture and an interdependent global community.
3. Encourage, support and value the presence and contributions of international students and faculty, and actively work to attract them to campus to enrich the learning environment.
4. Expand and provide support for educational opportunities abroad for students and faculty using a variety of models, including distance learning, exchanges, short- and long-term study programs, and collaborative activities, in a strategically directed manner.
5. Facilitate an understanding of our international mission within the university, the community, the region, the state, the nation, and abroad.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Eustis, Chair
April 4, 2005

ATTACHMENT B

The University of Akron Office of International Programs

Executive Summary of the Trip Report for Linda E. Marx October 29 – November 16, 2004

Copenhagen Business School (CBS) –

- CBS is interested in continuing our exchange relationship and having more UA students come to Copenhagen. They are willing to have two UA students in the summer program and have it be equal to one UA student for a semester for exchange purposes.
- CBS invites UA Business and Communication faculty to teach and bring students in the summer.
- CBS has a graduate student intern program during the fall term.

Hanze University Groningen (Hanze) -

- Hanze is interested in continuing our partnerships and having more UA students come to Groningen. Courses in English include international business and management studies, international facility management, international communication, music and fine arts. Graduate courses are offered in English in some disciplines.
- Team Manager for the International Business School suggested the possibility of a joint degree program in business.

University of Wolverhampton (UW) –

- UW is interested in continuing our partnership and having more UA students come to Wolverhampton.
- Students from all fields are welcome, including science students.

Huron University USA in London (Huron) –

- Formal exchange agreement was signed (Marx brought back from Europe).
- Graduate student was interested in coming to UA for business as part of the exchange.
- New residence hall to be renovated at Russell Square.

Catholic University of the West (CIDEF) –

- New lodging service established for homestays.
- Psychological services now available for students.
- Off-campus residence hall rooms may be pre-arranged.

Eur-Am Center/l'Abbaye de Pontlevoy (EURAM) –

- Program is isolated from the day-to-day interaction with the people of the town.
- Academic program is operated by The University of Southern Mississippi and is *not* for honors students only.
- Decisions about courses and faculty are not made shortly before the academic year.
- There are fees and academic commitments required to become members of the consortium.
- Marx does not recommend that UA to become a member of the consortium.

Konstanz University (Konstanz) –

- Integration problems of UA student at Konstanz have been resolved.
- Konstanz wants to continue our exchange and wishes to receive more UA students.
- Some courses in English are being offered every term.
- Stipends are being given to select UA students on the exchange.

**The University of Akron
Office of International Programs**

**Trip Report
for Linda E. Marx
October 29 – November 16, 2004**

Copenhagen Business School – Copenhagen, Denmark - Monday, November 1, 2004

Copenhagen is a beautiful city. There is a pedestrian walking area downtown with shops and restaurants. Copenhagen Business School (CBS) is a short train ride from Central Station to the Lindevang Station on the S-Train.

Neils Henrik Larsen met me at the front lobby of the all-white building housing the International Office. There are 12 staff members in the International Office. Larsen showed me around briefly and introduced me to Helle Mikkelsen, the International Summer Program Coordinator.

CBS is interested in having more UA students come as exchange students during the regular year and also for the summer. They advised that they would be willing to have two UA students in the summer program and have it be equal to one UA student for a semester for exchange purposes. CBS has an excellent summer program of five weeks, with two class meetings each week. The sixth week is for exams. The official opening and orientation will be held this year on June 25, 2005, and classes will end on August 5, 2005. The program usually costs DKK 5,000 (approximately US\$865) per course. There is a social program as well that usually includes two trips.

CBS would like to invite UA faculty in Business and Communication to teach and bring students in the summer. Arrangements would need to be negotiated, but they might be willing to pay the faculty member's airfare and some housing. The testing is all subjective.

During the fall term only, CBS has a graduate student intern program for 25 to 30 students. There is a competitive process through individual application. Class is held for three weeks and students receive 30 ECTS credits and a paid internship for the rest of the term. Students are informed of their acceptances by the end of May.

Anne Stoltenberg, Housing Coordinator, advised that housing and food at CBS usually costs US\$800 - \$1,000 per month or an estimation of around DKK 30,000 (approximately US\$5,200) for the term. This would be around US\$500 per month for just the room. If students have a financial need, we can write a letter requesting assistance. Internet and telephone charges are included with housing. Students live in international residence halls or shared apartments with access to a kitchen. There is a student cafeteria available for hot meals.

The Faculty of Economics and Business Administration is housed in a separate building (new and a short walk from the International Office and the building where language classes are held). The new building (Solbjerg Plads) also houses the Economics Library and Learning Resource Center.

Hanze University Groningen – Groningen, The Netherlands - Wednesday, November 3, 2004

The city of Groningen is an intimate canal town with bicycles serving as the main mode of transportation for students. I did not have any difficulty in the city, despite the fact that I do not speak any Dutch. English is widely spoken. The town has a large student population and Hanze University has more than 18,000 students.

Though my visit was short, I had a chance to have dinner (Tuesday night) with colleagues and to look around downtown prior to arriving at one of the international residence halls on Wednesday. The hall that I visited was clean and inviting. Costs for accommodation, insurance, meals and other daily expenses average between €600 (approximately US\$785) and €900 (approximately US\$1,177) per month. Kitchens are assigned by room groupings and there is a canteen in the Zernike Complex at the University for inexpensive, hot meals. Sport facilities are available for students of Hanze University.

Andries Rodenboog, Language Chair and Area Manager for the International Business School, was my host. We toured the International Business Complex and the UA students may study a variety of programs in English at Hanze University. These include international business and management studies (including marketing, international management, finance & accounting, and international travel & tourism); international facility management, international communication, music and fine arts. Graduate courses are offered in English in some disciplines as well.

I also met with Janine Brons and Corine Venema from the International Student Office in the Faculty of Economics. They were extremely friendly and helpful. There is a mandatory orientation for international students prior to the beginning of classes. Rodenboog introduced me to his boss, Sandra Paire, Team Manager for the International Business School. Paire advised that IBS at Hanze University is most interested in continuing our partnership. She suggested the possibility of looking into creating a joint degree program in business.

University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton, England – Friday, November 5, 2004

The University of Wolverhampton has four campuses. The main campus is the Wolverhampton City Campus, where the International Office is located. Gil Fletcher, International Administrator, introduced me to the staff of the International Office at the University of Wolverhampton and gave me a tour of the City campus, halls of residence and the Student Union. I had a chance to meet with Dr. Christopher Young, International Tutor and Lecturer in Geography. He is interested in encouraging more UA science students to come to Wolverhampton.

Martin Durham, who is Subject Coordinator of the American Studies area, has been at UA before. We discussed the Wolverhampton students who were studying at Akron during the Fall of 2004, and I advised him about UA's new buildings.

Dominique Nield, Senior Education Guidance Officer, met with me and Gil Fletcher to discuss various issues relative to the details of inbound and outbound students.

Rob Haynes, Director of Marketing and External Relations, has been to UA. We talked about the numerous changes on our two campuses. The last time that I was in Wolverhampton, all of the exchange students were expected to live on the Dudley Campus. Now the Dudley Campus is no longer a part of the University! Rob said that Wolverhampton was in the process of updating some of their brochures, and he would keep me informed as to any changes in their programs. They would like to continue our arrangements and were interested in receiving more students from UA.

Huron University USA in London, England – Monday, November 8, 2004

Alan Hertz, Director of the Visiting Students Program, was in charge of my visit and arranged for me to meet him and Ellie Nenecheva, Residence Life Manager, at 3 Collingham Place. We visited the residence hall there and had a chance to see Kyle Whitacre (UA alum) who was in London for the weekend. This particular residence hall appeared to be very comfortable.

Alan took me on a little tour of the neighborhood near the University and pointed out the facilities of the University of London. Huron has obtained a new space for a residence hall next to a church and across Russell Square. There is a lot of politicking required to get the renovations finished.

I met with Robert Lillicrapp, Finance & Commercial Director, and Judy Malek, Senior Management Accountant, concerning financial issues for our students. Saw Arvind Vepa, Deputy Director of Admissions briefly. I had lunch with Ellie Nenecheva and Ray Hilditch, Provost. Hilditch gave me the new, signed exchange agreement between The University of Akron and Huron University USA in London. He asked me to carry it back to UA. I asked Hilditch about the possibility of sending Ohio International Consortium students through our program to Huron. He approved this.

After lunch I met with Hertz again, with Tony Judge, Academic Dean; Richard Kirby, Registrar; and Hannah Daniels, Dean of Students. I also met with Alben Shehov, a graduate student who was considering coming to UA for Spring 2005. Shehov is from Bulgaria so we talked about the process of obtaining his visa and the timeline that he would need in order to apply for our exchange program. He was a little concerned about our calendar, as he wanted to be back in time for his commencement program at Huron and it did not look like it would work out for him to do so. He planned to discuss this more with the folks at Huron.

I attended a Globalization class that was taught by Andrew Wright. The class was very small (six or so students) but they seemed to be engaged. The classroom was small but the faculty member did use some audio visuals effectively.

Last of all I met with Emily Menyes and Andrea Diaconu, both UA students who were studying at Huron for the semester. I invited them to dinner and we had very interesting conversations about their experiences in London. They were both extremely pleased that UA took an interest in them. They did not express any particular concerns and were very much enjoying their experiences at Huron.

Catholic University of the West, Angers, France – Wednesday, November 10, 2004

It was great to be back in beautiful, bustling Angers. Marc Melin, the Director of the International Center for French Studies had advised me that he would be in Japan during my visit. He made arrangements for me to meet with his colleagues, Mrs. Sandrine Beaudoux, Administrative Director, and Mrs. Isabel Marechal, Pedagogy Director. Both were very helpful. They both spoke English extremely well but said that they do not speak English to the students unless there is a dire emergency. They want the CIDEF students to speak French at all times during their time in Angers.

After our initial meeting, Beaudoux took me on a tour of the campus and reacquainted me with the town. Angers is a university town with more than 30,000 students. They also have centers for plant and medical research. Numerous cycle paths encircle the town and the local waterways.

We talked about concerns that I had with off-campus housing (UA students had complained about host family issues). I was advised that their lodging service has changed and seems to be more proactive. Also, they now had a nurse on campus in the new Health and Housing Service office. Another new component was the addition of the availability of on-campus psychological services that were added after the 9/11 disaster in the U.S. During the time following the disaster, the administrators realized that the students needed help and the counseling service was initiated.

Female students may arrange for residence halls if they are planning to go to CIDEF for an academic year. Fall semester is not available but sometimes there are spaces during the spring term. Students would need to contact the residence halls directly in June of the year before they were planning to attend at foyer.merici@wanadoo.fr or foyer.esviere@wanadoo.fr. Additional residence halls are available for men and women and requests for those would be made directly in writing via airmail.

I was quite impressed, as usual, with the academics at CIDEF, which is a French language and culture program that includes beginning French speakers through very advanced-level French teacher training. The language laboratory has been newly renovated and includes computerized written and oral training. Each student has a computer and can be monitored individually or the group as a whole by the teacher at a central console. The students seemed happy and adjusted. They were certainly enjoying the classes that I saw in progress. Library facilities are available for students with French students on the campus. Excursions are offered each term and choices are available for students to participate in theatre, international chorale, student newspaper, sporting activities, and club activities organized by French students. There is a restaurant on campus that is open from 9 am. to 4 p.m. each day. Students may request a "friendly family" from the town as well.

I had a chance to meet with the director of the Notre Dame University program at CIDEF. Notre Dame sends a resident director for a term of two years to study and oversee their students. He was at the end of his term and regretted that he would be leaving to return to the U.S.

Eur-Am Center/l'Abbaye de Pontlevoy, Pontlevoy, France – Thursday, November 11, 2004

I arrived just before Noon in Onzain, about 30 minutes by car from Pontlevoy, as there is not a train stop in Pontlevoy. The other nearby stop was in Montrichard (also about 30 minutes by car). I was met at the train station by an intern from the Abbey and the administrator of La Cure Chambres d'hôtes (the bed and breakfast that is directly across the street from the Abbey). We dropped off my suitcase at La Cure and went directly to Le Commerce, a local restaurant that was right next door to La Cure. This is the small restaurant/bar where the Abbey students took their luncheon meal each weekday as a part of the program. The students and staff in the restaurant at the time seemed to be slightly estranged from the locals.

After lunch I had a chance to visit The Abbey and to attend a class on "The Holocaust." I had arrived in Pontlevoy on purpose so that I could attend a class, as there are no classes held on Fridays at The Abbey. The class was very small (only four students) and the students did not seem engaged. Some of them had not done the readings and they were all hesitant to reply to questions posed by the instructor. The instructor (James Renton) did not seem threatening at all and was very knowledgeable on the topic. After the class we had a chance to talk a bit. He said that he was doing research while he was in Pontlevoy and that his family was living with him.

I had a chance to meet the staff of The Abbey, including some of the interns. One of the non-traditional interns invited me to join her for dinner at a creperie in Montrichard. She was given access to a van to drive, which she was not familiar with, on the dark roads. She was a bit afraid. Before we left, we had to check to see if we had gas, as the gas gauge was broken. We had a chance to talk in Montrichard and she mentioned that she did not like living at The Abbey and wanted to find a French family or single person in the village where she could pay to stay for a room and some kitchen privileges. She did not have any response from the folks at The Abbey who were not encouraging her, and she was planning to post a sign somewhere in town.

On Friday I met up with some students who were waiting for a cab outside The Abbey. They wanted to travel to Paris for the weekend but did not have any other way to get to the train station. I asked them if they were enjoying their time at The Abbey. They seemed a bit reluctant to talk to me about their experiences but said that it was "okay." They indicated that they had a lot of homework!

I met with Amy Cameron who is the Resident Manager of The Abbey Program for The University of Southern Mississippi (USM). I was surprised that her office was completely separate from The Abbey office. USM staff is in charge of the program itself, while The Abbey staff is in charge of the facilities. Amy gave me quite a bit of material and said that the Director of the program, Dr. Douglas MacKaman, was not currently in the country. All of the rest of the staff is located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Cameron gave me the Faculty Directory for Fall 2004, which included five faculty members. It appears that the program is very small. All students had to purchase their books in the U.S. and bring them or ship them to The Abbey in advance of their arrivals.

All of the students are required to take the Ambassador Series Colloquium that included nine mandatory sessions and ten optional sessions, with one more not marked mandatory or optional. Some of the optional sessions required a supplemental fee. Cameron said that these sessions were designed to get the

students together with the locals. However, most of the sessions, other than the first one of "Chapel Night and Town Welcome," seemed to have no component of meeting the locals in Pontlevoy. Quite a few were excursions.

Since it was my understanding from meetings at UA with Murray Wikol (owner of The Abbey and the Cure Chambres d'hôtes) that The Abbey Program was for "Honors Students Only," and that was how UA was presenting it to students, I asked Cameron about the honors components of the program. She told me that it was not only for honors students but could include any students in good standing at their schools. There is quite a differential fee structure, with Southern Mississippi students paying US\$3,000 less than non-consortium students and US\$1,000 less than consortium students.

Then I met with a student who gave me a tour of The Abbey. It was very interesting with The Abbey having a rich religious history. There is a beautiful chapel in a separate building within the compound. The Abbey was established in 1034 and has served as an educational facility for more than 950 years. There is a garden and separate housing building for the staff (including the interns). Other structures included spaces for the summer programs that are operated at The Abbey. During the 2004 summer there was an International Music Academy and a Theatre Festival on the grounds that I was told were quite popular with the locals. The classroom/office/residence structure had been completely renovated. There was a computer lab (but no printer), a lounge with a big-screen TV and sound equipment. I did not see a library room in the facility but there were some books in the lounge. The student residences looked quite comfortable. There is a kitchenette for the students to use. The front gate of The Abbey compound was locked at night and the students were given keys to let themselves in and out.

After my tour of The Abbey grounds, I had time to walk around the town. It was lunchtime, and I did not see any residents at all, even though there is a population of 1,600. There is a walking tour of the town with placards pointing out the important places in English. Pontlevoy was an occupied territory during World War II and was liberated by the Americans. There is a monument and garden commemorating the liberation.

I visited the Chateau of Chenonceau with two of the interns (I had been there on a previous vacation visit to France) and had dinner with some of the staff from The Abbey. The next day I went to Paris by train. When I arrived in Paris, I saw one of the faculty members from the program and asked him for his impressions. He asked that he not be named and indicated that the members of the faculty were not notified until the last minute that they would be teaching in France and what courses they would be teaching. They had to scramble to get there and the schedule was put together at the very last minute. He asked me if I had spoken to any of the students and indicated that they were, for the most part, unhappy with the situation and particularly for the isolation of the program.

All in all, I felt that the program should not be recommended for UA to become a part of the consortium for the following reasons:

1. The isolation of the program. I acknowledge that there are some planned interactive activities with the townspeople, but the actual day-to-day interaction in Pontlevoy is minimal. The Abbey

is a unique and beautiful facility, but it is cloistered. Pontlevoy is 20 to 30 minutes away from the train stations and there is no public transportation available to the train.

2. The program was thought to be an Honors Program only. However, the Resident Manager on site from The University of Southern Mississippi advised me that it was not for honors students only. The Honors Colloquia is required of all participants.
3. It is hard to advise students on courses that will be offered, as decisions concerning the course content of the program each semester are not made until shortly before the term begins. UA recruits students a year or more in advance and students clear their courses early in the process of planning their programs abroad.

Konstanz University, Konstanz, Germany – Sunday and Monday, November 14-15, 2004

Julia Krampe (former exchange student to UA) and Liza Zimmerman (current UA student studying in Konstanz) met me on Sunday and gave me a walking tour of historic old town Konstanz. It was great to reacquaint myself with the beautiful city that is nestled between Lake Constance and the Rhine River. We visited the Rosgarten Museum of the city and learned quite a lot about the prehistoric times as well as the historical medieval origins of the area. Both students seemed quite happy and Krampe had become an ambassador for The University of Akron.

On Monday I met with Dr. Gerhild Framhein, Director of the Foreign Study Office, whom I have known for many years. We talked about the long-term relationship between our universities. She had been recommending UA students for the past couple of years for special stipends that covered student housing while in Konstanz. She mentioned that she may have a scholarship for one UA student next year as well. I inquired for our student Ted Popesco if the March intensive German class would be held. There is typically a September class but the March class is only held if there are enough students for the program. Framhein said that she would let me know early in the year. Framhein said that the school was increasing the number of classes offered in English and a listing would appear on the web site each term. This is helpful for UA students who are not proficient enough in German to take all classes with German students.

Framhein and I discussed the integration issues that one of our students had at the beginning of the term. Part of this was certainly culture shock and part was due to the housing situation in Konstanz. Housing is in short supply due to the number of students looking for places. The Housing Office of the University was not in any way under the control of the International Office. Unless there was a huge problem, they tended not to make special requests. Our student was able to eventually sort out her problem directly with the Housing Office when she found out about an opening at EuropaHaus. After moving to this residence hall, she was much happier.

A graduate assistant from the office took me on a tour of the campus, including the nearby athletic facilities and water sports area. There is a fee to participate in the athletic facilities but many students were involved there. Konstanz has excellent bus transportation but most students appeared to own bicycles.

I had a late lunch with the staff of the International Office, and I worked with an intern in the office who was trying to make the Konstanz website more user friendly for English speakers. It was a painful process!

The University of Konstanz covered my hotel expenses and transportation costs from the train and to the airport in Zurich.

Final Note

All in all, I believe that this was a very worthwhile trip, as I was able to get acquainted with some institutions that I had never visited, and re-acquaint myself with some institutions that I had not visited in many years. Students from UA will benefit the most from my ability to better advise them on UA's programs abroad.

Exchange rate calculations estimated as of 11/24/04.