



FEBRUARY 2007

A Look at Beyond Borders...

International Center

The International Center provides a wide range of programs and services to international students, scholars and their families to help them transition to FSU and provide opportunities to experience American culture.

International Center Programs:

- Coffee Hour
- English Conversation Club
- Global Ambassador Program
- Global Café
- Global Gatherings
- IC Art Gallery
- International Bazaar
- International Friends Program
- International Women's Group
- Semi-Annual Welcome Dinners

Beyond Borders is Florida State University's award winning international cultural exchange program with three partner universities in Jamaica, Costa Rica and Germany. The program, coordinated by the International Center, received the Best Practices in International Exchange Award given by the International Knowledge Community of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) in 2005.

This unique exchange program offers an alternative to traditional academic study abroad programs and provides students with rich, short-term cultural learning experiences through immersion in the target cultures. Small groups of 10-12 students choose from the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Kingston, Jamaica; the Technical University in Dresden, Germany; or the University of Costa Rica (UCR) branch campus in Turrialba, Costa Rica.



In exchange, FSU students host groups of students and

administrators from the three partner schools on the FSU campus as they learn about American university life and culture. FSU students and students from partner universities complete evaluations and provide feedback on their experiences during the exchanges.



Students on all three exchanges indicated that the experience impacted their knowledge of the other country's history, culture, and the people of that country. All participants indicated being satisfied with their participation in the program. One student commented, "I did not set out with personal goals, but in Jamaica I was challenged to think outside of

my American mind, my American or European centered identity." From its inception in 1991 and the first exchange with the University of Costa Rica, over 776 students from FSU and the partner universities have participated in the cultural exchange.

Beyond Borders -- Technical University of Dresden, Germany

For three weeks FSU students learn about and experience the profound changes taking place in the historical, former East German city of Dresden, located in the state of Saxony. Students visit historical and cultural sites and participate in several social service projects in schools and institutions near Dresden.

"My experience in Germany was one that I will never forget. The culture, the people and the history were all absolutely amazing; I was constantly enamored by it all. The knowledge that I gained in Dresden will follow me the rest of my life."

***–Christopher LaPrade, Junior,
International Affairs***

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Beyond Borders – University of Costa Rica, Turrialba

This unique experience provides students an opportunity to learn about a developing Latin American country. Students live with host families and experience first hand the importance of family and friendship in the Costa Rican culture. Students learn about university life by visiting classes with the UCR students and perform some volunteer activities in public schools or daycare centers.

Beyond Borders -- University of West Indies

FSU students spend one week at the UWI Mona Campus, located in a suburb of the capital city of Kingston. Students have a variety of opportunities to learn about Jamaican society, culture, environment, and academics.



“What I valued most from my experience were the human connections. That is what makes Beyond Borders such a unique program, because the experience of those connections cannot be recreated by any vacation or trip.” - Caroline Kaufmann, Junior, History – Participant on UWI Exchange 2006



Available in Alternative Format. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Division of Student Affairs at (850) 644-5590.

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