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International Students at Commencement 2009: David Zafrai, Zeinab Khater, Young Bo- Kim, & Muma Takwi



Letter from the President: About a month ago, along with about 150 colleagues, I attended a seminar for Higher Education Leaders. In one of the sessions, noted author John Zogby reported on his recent survey of college students regarding their career expect-

tations. He stated that for the first time in his memory, a majority of college students expected to hold at least one position in an international setting, giving rise to "The Globals," his nickname for the upcoming college generation.

Fortunately for Madonna students, we have created an environment on campus which provides a host of opportunities in the global arena. If I may, I'd like to describe a few. The most obvious, of course, is the presence of students from almost 40 countries each year who interact with our American students. At commencement, the graduates inevitably comment about the positive value of sharing ideas and opinions with these diverse classmates. Our faculty in business, however, travel to Jinan, China to teach about 50 MBA students, and in the
(Continued on page 6.)



Mike Ujkic (r.) and a teammate from Zeta FK.

“I am so glad that Madonna University offers study abroad. The individuals in the Center for International Relations helped me accomplish things I never dreamed I could do.”

Studying Abroad in Montenegro: Letter from Student Michael Ujkic

My name is Michael Ujkic. I'm a Madonna University student who just returned from studying in Montenegro. Although I was born in Southfield, Michigan, my parents belonged to the Albanian community in Montenegro. They came to the USA in their teens and have lived here since. From my point of view, I still have a sizable family in Montenegro that I love to visit. I've actually been there for several short vacations during the past summers and met all my relatives. My uncle wanted me to stay with him if I decided to go to school there. Fortunately, I was able to go to their leading school, the University of Montenegro Economics. I was accepted by the school. In addition, because of my experience in football [soccer], I was invited to play on their number one team.

I went to the University of Montenegro for the second semester of my freshman year. The school is really the best rated school in this small country for all majors. I was excited, as were my parents. After all, they were born there and my relatives welcomed me as a member of their family. My uncle is especially well known since he has a five-star restaurant. Naturally, that was the first place I wanted to visit. the food was indeed five-star, and the service was especially good since all the waiters knew

who I was.

The next place I went was the University. It is located in Podgorica, the capital city. There, I meet with the Dean, the Assistant Dean and the Director of International Studies for the University. We discussed which classes I would take and which were open to me. Naturally I signed up for a class in Montenegrin since I was not really fluent. Actually, the most interesting classes for me turned out to be business and political science. Those are the areas I am specializing in at Madonna University as I continue my studies. At the University of Montenegro, I found that the structure of the classes in business was unique. Every class period had a speaker who was the owner or manager of a business in Podgorica or another area of the country. Class methods seemed to be quite different from the American way. The course I liked the most was political science. I liked it most of all because the students were given special opportunities to meet significant individuals from the many political groups around the area. The class was what I would call a “hands on” class. I was very lucky because I was coached by the Dean of the Political Science Department, Dr. Srden Darmanovic. He is, in fact, the political analyst for the country. The result is that I

have learned an enormous amount about the Balkans, the politicians, and the political problems stemming from the history of the geopolitical areas.

I cannot forget, however, that I was able to train with a first rate professional soccer team—the Zeta FK. The team is ranked number one coming into the new season because it won the championship last year. I trained with the team for about six months. I never trained as hard or as much anywhere else. The Zeta FK has a great program and has great individuals playing on it. That was obviously my favorite thing to do while I was at the University of Montenegro.

I am so glad that Madonna University offers study abroad. The individuals in the center for International relations helped me accomplish things I never dreamed could do. I was given all the information I needed to contact and apply for admission to the University of Montenegro. At this point in my life, a whole new world is opening up for me in different countries of the globe.



Presidential Scholar from Northern Ireland: Oliver James (Jamie) Mudge

I was born on the 17th of December, 1987, to John and Karen Mudge in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Although christened Oliver James, I quickly became known as Jamie to members of my family. I'm not too sure why this happened but it stuck and I still go by Jamie today.

My parents lived in England at this time where my father was born and worked. They had come to Belfast so my mother could give birth to me in her home city with the help of my grandparents. Shortly after my birth we returned to England.

I lived in England during my infant years and attended a military nursery school there until my fathers' job took him to the Middle East, a dangerous place to raise a young child. My mother, therefore, decided to move home to Northern Ireland, where we lived with my grandparents until my father got a new job there.

From the age of 5 until I was 11, I attended White-abbey Primary School where I met my first friends and developed a love for football [soccer]. At the age of 11, pupils in the UK take an exam known as the 11+ to determine the secondary school they go to. I achieved an A grade and choose to go to a large school in the city, Belfast Royal Academy.

I attended Belfast Royal Academy for 7 years until I was 18 years old. As the school didn't offer a football team, I started to play rugby and soon fell in love with the sport. I did well at the sport and represented my school for 6 of my years spent there. Unfortunately in my penultimate year, I suffered a serious knee injury, tearing my ACL, and was unable to play in my final year.

I did well academically throughout my school years despite my focus being on a sports field rather than in the classroom. I achieved 3 A's, 5 A's and 3 B's in my GSCE exams aged 16 and 2 A's and a B in my A-level exams in my final year. Based on these results and a range of extra curricular activities I was accepted to Queens



University Belfast, where I choose to study business management. After 2 years of studying at Queens, the opportunity to study in the USA was mentioned to me.

Having visited the US a number of times on holiday, I knew that this was too good an opportunity to pass up. So, after a number of interviews, I was awarded a year's scholarship to an American university through a scheme called the British Education Initiative which is run by the British Council. After a matching interview I was placed at Madonna University, where I am currently in my second semester.

"I was awarded a year's scholarship to an American university through a scheme called the British Education Initiative, which is run by the British Council."



Jamie Mudge playing rugby in Northern Ireland.

From Our Correspondent in Tehran: Journalist Syma Sayya

Iranians are still allies of America and Americans, as we were before the revolution. We can be again. The people of the two nations do not have any problems with each other; it is only because of our governments and their short-term vision that conflict exists.



Recent protester in Tehran

The current wave of international politics, and the extremely controlled and biased role of international media has made the understanding the truth and getting the facts about Iran rather difficult; yet, despite it all, I am prompted to write another piece for the *Madonna University International Newsletter*. I believe that peace and cooperation is the essence of progress and the path to a better world. We must all hope that the welfare of the people will win out in the end, and that the people of every nation will be allowed to live in peace and harmony wherever we are. The way things are now in Iran, this dream seems far fetched; yet, as a global citizen, I feel compelled to do whatever I can in my little insignificant way to help make this happen.

I live in Tehran, Iran, a country that is, in the eyes of the United States, part of what former President Bush called "Axis of Evil." I grew up liking and respecting America and what it stood for. I desperately wish this were still true. America is a great nation and its international and moral standing is most vital to the world, but due to the arrogance and the tone of its policies, America had lost most credibility not only in Afghanistan or in Iraq but in the whole world and especially among the Europeans. America no longer has the international credibility or political legitimacy it once had as it fundamentally lacks the strategic vision to support its military might. Policies were, by past administrators based on willful ignorance and self delusion while the advice of the experts was dismissed totally.

I don't have any illusions about Iran. I live in an orthodox religious state. Yet I have tried not to allow anything here discourage me despite the many shortcomings. Many people who, like me, are western educated, left Iran a long time ago, but some are coming back because there is something about the Persian heritage and culture, the moth-

Living in your motherland or homeland. The democracy that is practiced in Iran, like most other things, has been greatly modified. There are elections, but there is normally only a choice between those who are very religious and those who accept the status quo for their own gain, candidates who are secular and independent have very little chance of being elected. However, this is the only way that we can make our presence acknowledged even if we do not get through all the process of being selected to become a candidate let alone have the resources to win.

It may seem from afar that Iranians and Americans don't have much in common. I personally have many good American friends, real and internet-based, to whom I feel very close. I may be too western, but if you conduct a survey, 60-72% of all Iranians, irrespective of background, would like to go to the USA to visit, study and even live. Iranians are still allies of America and Americans, as we were before the revolution. We can be again. The people of the two nations do not have any problems with each other; it is only because of our governments and their short-term vision that conflict exists.

I invite you to come to Iran to see for yourself how biased the reportage about Iran has been by the international news agencies. Almost no good comes from Iran. Come to Iran as a tourist and spend time with us Iranians. You will learn why we want you to reduce your dependency on energy, which supports warmongers wherever they are. We also ask you to consider joining WTI [World Tribunal on Iraq] to end the war.

Let's help to build a bridge of understanding between the two peoples who, as global villagers, believe in peace and harmony. Let us all work to be global citizens!

Study and Travel to France with Madonna University

The European American Center (The Abbey) is a collaborative community of artists and scholars gathered to explore the deeply rich cultural heritage of central France while fostering individual artistic, intellectual, and personal growth.

The Abbey offers a unique three-week opportunity to discover the historic chateaux of the Loire Valley and beauty of the city of Paris, focusing primarily on its many works of art. The program is a perfect match for anyone who seeks a

study abroad experience with courses taught in English.

While some course work will take place in the classroom, the majority of experiences will involve the local country side and the city. Professors lead students through museums and monuments, relating what the students encounter to Western history and culture. Students will also have the opportunity to their own creativity through the written word, historical and cultural studies, and the applied arts. No

courses have prerequisites and all are open to all students. Students have the option of applying for three credit hours upon completion of the program.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Da Vinci Museum Trip
- Historic Chateaux and Garden Tours
- Wine Tasting
- Cycling Tour
- Weekend in Paris

Madonna Student Wins Emmy Award in Best Student Production-Program Category

On June 6, 2009, at the 31st Annual Michigan Emmy Awards Gala held at the Sound Board Theatre in the Motor City Casino, MU student Christy Derry won the student Emmy Award in student production. Her piece, "The Dexter Cider Mill" won "Best Student Production - Program Category. Students from colleges and universities all over the state compete for the award, which is judged by professionals in the television industry from across the United States and Puerto Rico, and all of whom are from outside of Michigan so the judging is unbiased. These Emmy awards stand for exactly the same "outstanding achievement in television" as those seen on network television each fall

on the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy Awards and the work is recognized on a national level. To be nominated for the award is an honor in itself. Entries must meet high criteria using national professional standards, and the Emmy is the highest honor given by the National Academy (NATAS)

in the television industry for production. This marks the 3rd year in a row that students from Madonna University have won the NATAS Michigan Chapter Student Emmy Award. Chuck Derry, program director remarks, "Needless to say, I am very proud of our BCA students, and faculty."

These Emmy awards stand for exactly the same "outstanding achievement in television" as [other] National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Emmy Awards.



(l. to r.) Chuck Derry, Christy Derry, and Patricia Derry

Madonna University Establishes a Chapter of Lions International



Members of local Lions Clubs pin MU's charter members: (l. to r.) Kevin West, Cheryl Johnson, Dean Adkins, and Michael Meldrum.

The chartering process is complete and the Madonna University Chapter of Lions International was made official at a recent luncheon. The event was attended by the Lion's Club members from the local community, charter officers and members, the Club's District Governor, and community officials, including Livonia Major Jack Kirksey. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to join the Lions Club, where they

can support various charities through activities and events. For more information or to join, contact Mike Meldrum, Madonna University Lions club membership coordinator, at 734-432-5641.



Letter from the President *(Continued from page 1.)*

the process are enriched and transformed by their interactions with people whose language, culture, and ethnicity are markedly different than our own. On the lighter side, we are pleased to have athletes on our teams from Latvia, Columbia, Northern Ireland, Cameroon and other countries. We have also had Presidential Scholars from Lebanon, and in fact, boast of graduating the current president of Notre Dame University in Louaize, Father Walid Moussa. This summer we were most fortunate to host accomplished musician Ridha Ibrahim from Italy, who in turn will perform at our first "Concert at the Pond."

Indeed, we are surrounded by people who have come from other countries to join our Franciscan higher learning community, and we have been ennobled by their search for peace, love of education, and desire to create a better world. Our Center for International Relations, headed by Dr. Jonathan Swift, continues to "widen the tent" so that we can expand our hospitality to peoples of all countries and in turn share our Franciscan values with them.

In this newsletter, you will find intriguing stories of our American and international students who spread their wings for learning and thus have been enriched by God's peoples around the world.

I hope you enjoy these articles and will consider submitting your insights regarding all things international.

Peace and all good!*

**Sister Rose Marie Kujawa CSSF, Ph.D.
President, Madonna University**

*(*A greeting used regularly by St. Francis of Assisi to everyone he met. By the way, St. Francis received his name after his father, a cloth merchant, traveled from Italy to France to increase his trade. He loved France so much that he named his son after this country.)*



Video, Anyone?: PAH-fest Motown

Madonna University will once again host the third annual Project Accessible Hollywood (PAH-fest) Motown in July 2009. This unique, entirely free, digital media festival travels to cities throughout the U.S. and internationally, engaging everyday people in the art of movie-making and digital storytelling. Competitions and events will take place on Madonna's Livonia campus.

The Mobiflicks competition is the festival's main event. Throughout the week, pre-selected teams, whose members represent diverse backgrounds, create short films. The teams are provided with professional coaching and equipment as they write, produce, shoot and edit, turning their story into a six-minute movie. The competition is open to all.

Last year's winning film, entitled "Espranza," told the story of a Detroit native who

founded the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation (DHDC), which provides a fun, safe environment for local youth.

The PAH-fest will also highlight the Franciscan Center, MU's new "green" building, which will provide state-of-the-art production facilities that meet the highly technical demands of the broadcast and cinema arts program. At nearly 60,000 square feet, the building houses the media center as well as instructional laboratories in the physical and biological sciences, classrooms, seminar rooms, and a 175-seat lecture hall.

In the new building, broadcast and cinema arts students will create movies and commercials with the latest digital production equipment, so that as graduates they will be well-equipped to make their mark on the burgeoning film industry in Michigan

and beyond. In addition, the science laboratories will facilitate undergraduate student/faculty research and prepare nursing, education, pre-med and other pre-professional students to meet employers' requirements for graduates with strong science backgrounds.

The PAH-fest is open to the public at no cost. It allows everyone an opportunity to take part in movie making. Metro-Detroiters from all walks of life will have access to digital equipment and professional coaching, enabling them to create their own short digital films. PAH-fest is the brainchild of Christopher Coppola, nephew to director Francis Coppola and brother to actor Nicholas Cage. Coppola will be on campus for the event. For more information to register or to volunteer, contact Sue Boyd at sboyd@madonna.edu or 734-432-5578.



PAH-FEST MOTOWN
THINK IT * SHOOT IT * SHARE IT

Visit Austria and Germany and Attend the Oberammergau Passion Play

For \$2,999 Your 8 Day Tour Includes:

- Round-trip Airfare from New York to Munich
- Passion Play Ticket and souvenir text book (tickets are in various sections)
- One night accommodation in a village in the vicinity of Oberammergau
- 5 nights' accommodation in a beautiful Alpine Resort, Hotel Post in Seefeld, Austria (www.hotel-post.com)
- Daily continental breakfast buffet
- Daily dinners in hotel and restaurants
- Lunch in Oberammergau
- English speaking European tour escort
- Private luxury coach for all transfers in Europe according to the itinerary
- Local guides: half day in Munich and Salzburg
- Entrance fees: Swarovski Crystal World and Mozart House
- Daily Mass Arrangements



Innsbruck, Austria

Dates: May 15th – 22nd, 2009

More information? Contact Dr. Swift at-734-432-5669

Studying in Poland: Recollections by Andrew Walawender



Throughout my childhood, I was fortunate enough to travel to Europe on a few different occasions to visit relatives and vacation in different countries. I have been pressured throughout my college career to attend a study abroad program during a summer, but I was never really interested. I did not want to waste a whole summer away from my friends and the lifestyle I am used to in order to live in a foreign country. The language barrier was intimidating, and I did not have anyone to go with me. However, after hearing more great things about the study abroad programs and the experience that students receive from it, I sat down with my parents, discussed the matter, and in less than two months, I was on my way to one of the most memorable experiences in my life.

Being 100% Polish, it was really a no-brainer for me to decide where I was going to go. After getting information on a few schools in Poland, one University really stood out—Jagiellonian University in the city of Krakow. This prestigious university, historically the oldest in Poland, has a great summer study program and classes that would apply toward my business major at MU. I sent my application in and in less than two months, I was off to experience study abroad.

Jagiellonian University offers three different summer study programs. These programs consist of three-, four-, and six-week programs. I chose the four-week program, as I was very nervous about being there for even that long. The programs offer various types of classes to take, but one class, Polish, is re-

quired in all of the programs. I spoke zero Polish at the time so I was put into the beginner level. Along with that, I chose to take the history and geography of Poland. Except for Polish lessons, these classes met three times a week, which really was perfect.

After an eight-hour flight from Detroit and a layover in Amsterdam, I finally arrived at the University. I really did not know what to expect when I arrived, but the program was impressively organized, and all the staff spoke English very well. This was a huge relief for me as the language barrier was a big concern. I received my schedule for the summer session and was given my room key. Already I could tell that this was going to be the experience of a lifetime.

The dormitory rooms were actually suites divided among four students, two in each room. The four students shared a bathroom and also shared a balcony. The students attending the program were from various countries around the world, but the majority of them were from the United States. My roommate was from Estonia, and our suite mates were from France and Grosse Pointe, Michigan! It was quite a surprise for me to know that someone was from the same area as I, but, as the summer session progressed, I actually met over ten individuals from Michigan. Even though I was in a foreign country, the staff and students made me feel very welcome, and I almost felt as though I was right at home.

After the first week of classes, we were ready to take our first trip. On the weekends, students were able to go on guided tours of historical places throughout the country. These destinations included a scenic mountain range, medieval castles, and even Auschwitz, the famous Nazi concentration camp. All these destinations proved to be a learning experience for everyone, but I think taking the trip to Auschwitz really affected everybody. As for myself, this destination made me appreciate where I

came from and how even members of my own family fought for the freedom and for the freedom of others.

The social aspect of my study abroad program was incredible. The University is located minutes away from one of the most lively and student-friendly cities in Poland, Krakow. The city is filled with dance clubs, live concerts, piano bars, jazz bars, and various restaurants with food that was just amazing. Shows were being put on right in the middle of the town square every night, and there is really never a dull moment in the city. Plus, after a night at the clubs, I did not need to worry about driving home, since public transportation ran from the dorm directly to the center of the town.

While being away from home for over a month, one concern of mine was the money situation. However, I used less than half the amount of money that I thought I was going to need. The program included three meals a day in the cafeteria, which proved to save a tremendous amount of money for me. Never once during the week did we have the same meal offered, and almost every meal offered was excellent! I ate better in the dorm of my study abroad program than I do here at home. The food is just that good!

My study abroad in Poland was one of the best times I have ever experienced in my life! From meeting various types of people, to seeing historical sites like Auschwitz, I learned that the American way is not the only way to live. Looking back at the program, it really made me a better person. From the moment I arrived to the moment I left, it was a constant learning experience that I think every college student should experience. Words cannot describe the study abroad program that I attended; students just need to go experience it for themselves. They will not be disappointed.



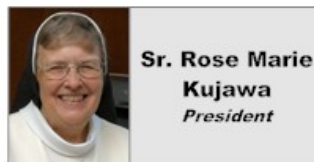
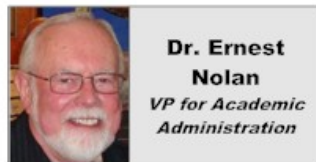
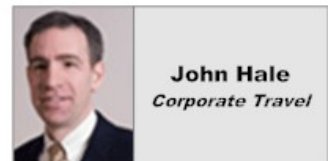
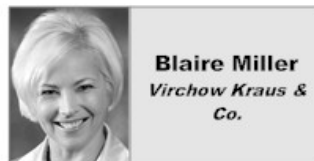
We Pray for All the Students Around the World

As a world university, Madonna University encourages its students to be constantly in contact with students from other parts of the world. They hold in common a quest for truth, justice, and knowledge. In today's world, their words and pictures are found throughout cyberspace. We deal with avatars, twitters, you-tubes, social networking, and hand-held devices that convey pictures and video. The following pictures of the Teheran demonstrations were sent by our contact in Iran, journalist Syma Sayya via Payvand Iran News.



Introducing the Council for International Education

Under the leadership of noted expert on international education, Dr. Jonathan Swift, Madonna University's Council for International Education provides advice and direction to the Center for International Relations and assists with accomplishing the mission of preparing the 21st-century student with the knowledge base, skills, and dispositions needed for personal and professional success in a global world. Members are drawn from the international community of metropolitan Detroit as well as from the University.



Not Pictured:

Dr. Randy Liepa
Superintendent, Livonia Public Schools

Ramesh Gudapuri
President, Amerisoft Corporation

Dan McDougall
Chair, Sign Language Studies Department

Michael Quattro
Director of Admissions

Robert Kachadourian
ABG & Associates

Sue Boyd
Producer, Technology Learning Services

Kimberly Campbell
Administrative Assistant, Center for International Relations



Why Study Abroad?



Hey! Why not?

Studying abroad is really the best way to absorb new cultures and new people. It can be an exciting experience, yet it is clearly an opportunity to further

your own education. You can make a difference in this changing world by acquiring new perspectives on world issues, by learning more and adding all this to you resume.

What's stopping you? Is it money? Spend some time looking for grants, scholarships, loans. There are many sources. The F.A.T.E. Fund at Madonna University is a help. If you are receiving state or federal support, that is usually applicable to study abroad.

Job recruiters are looking for workers with different backgrounds. Why? Well, there is the fact that you are more aware of other cultures which is helpful to firms doing international business, but, in addition, the more experience you have daring to try something new, adapting to new situations and people, the more marketable you become.

You can learn about this blue planet on which we live while working towards your degree.

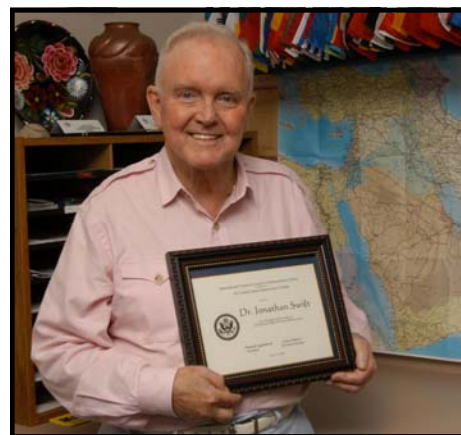
Director of International Relations: Dr. Jonathan Swift

Dr. Jonathan Swift, Director of the Center for International Relations, was recently honored with a citation from the United States Department of State through the International Visitors Council (IVC). Active in IVC for the past seven years, Dr. Swift has organized a series of ethnic dinners, to which ITV invited members of the metropolitan Detroit international community. This is just one of many activities and opportunities for cultural work that Dr. Swift has taken the leadership for during his long and distinguished career as a global educator.

Born in Scotland, Dr. Swift emigrated to the United States with his family. He was educated

in the United States, Great Britain and France, with a B.A. and M.A. from Wayne State University, a Certificate in Music (Singing) from the Conservatoire National de Musique (Paris), and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He has sung operas and concerts from the U.S. to Australia. Over the years, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, the International Teacher of the Year from the National Education Association, the Philo Farnsworth Television Award seven times for his television programs, and tributes from the Michigan State Legislature. Dr. Swift is also the author of several dozen articles and reviews.

Currently, he hosts three television programs aired on Bloomfield cable and his show, Dining Out with Jonathan Swift is a staple on the local PBS channel.



Dr. Jonathan Swift holding his June 10, 2009, citation from the U.S. Department of State for his work with the International Visitors Council.



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Vice President of Academic
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Jonathan Swift, Ph.D.
Director International Relations

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Mission and Goals

The mission of the Center for International Relations is to initiate, promote, support, and administer University programs related to study abroad and foreign travel and to serve as a professional development resource for students, faculty, and staff related to global education.



BOUND FOR EUROPE: Madonna Students Represent USA on Basketball Tour of Europe

Madonna University women's basketball players Christie Carrico (Waterford, Mich.) and Tabatha Wydryck (Wyandotte, Mich.) have been chosen to represent the United States as part of a foreign tour this summer.

The duo are traveling to Europe as part of an eight-member team from USA Athletes International, a non-profit organization dedicated to giving amateur athletes and coaches the opportunity to participate in international Olympic-style sporting events throughout the world, while also allowing them to broaden their educational and cultural knowledge of the world through the experience.



There are many opportunities at Madonna University for students, faculty members, and staff to gain an international perspective in the academic offerings as well as through international study and travel in other countries. The University campus reflects the global community. International students comprise more than 5% of the student population at Madonna University. These individuals come from more than 40 different countries—literally, from the four corners of the globe. More than 20 languages are spoken by faculty and staff, and hundreds of inquiries requesting information come annually from all over the world. This university is truly a microcosm of the world.

