May Term Opportunities Encouraged

If there are any bigger advocates of May Term travel opportunities than the faculty who lead them, it is probably the students who enroll in the spring courses.

“My experience in England was incredibly powerful,” said Leah Reuber ’11, a participant in the writer’s colony course led by Esther & Robert Armstrong Professor of Rhetoric Bob Marrs in England’s Lake District. “Dropping everything and heading off to England opened my eyes and helped me to discover so many things about myself.”

Reuber plans to enroll in future May Term courses, even though only one counts for credit toward graduation.

“I used it as a chance to explore who I was, what I wanted out of life, where I wanted to go, and what I could accomplish,” she said. “It may sound corny, but it is an absolutely mind-blowing opportunity which Coe provides.”

Fellow writer’s colony student Kyle Herink ’12 echoed Reuber’s comments, noting how MayTerm provides an opportunity to get a sample of what it’s like to study abroad while meeting new people. “During a May Term course, students are abroad for about 2-4 weeks, so it is not a huge commitment,” he said.

After accompanying a dozen Coe students to Sicily with Professor of Philosophy Jeff Hoover, Professor of Humanities Ed Burke returned to campus perplexed about the stature of May Term among the college’s educational opportunities.

“May Term provides a wonderful opportunity for student travel, but it doesn’t always seem to get the kind of notice that it deserves,” Burke said.

Of 14 courses offered during May Term 2009, 11 were held off campus. Eight of the May Term offerings involved international travel to Vietnam, Central America, Spain, Sicily, Northern Ireland, England, Serbia and Sicily. In addition to the study-abroad options, off-campus courses were offered domestically riding bicycles in Iowa and volunteering at a Lakota Indian reservation in South Dakota.

Although students may only apply one credit hour from May Term toward graduation, faculty encourage its utilization as a way to broaden the educational experience. It is also an opportunity for students who are uncertain about their ability or interest in spending an entire semester or academic year abroad to test the waters.

“I do think overall it’s underutilized,” said Associate Professor of History Derek Buckaloo. “I’d love to see it become an integral part of the Coe experience.”

Buckaloo and Associate Professor of History David Nordmann ’87, accompanied by Associate Professor of Political Science Lynda Barrow, led a group of 12 students to Vietnam during May Term 2009. The course is offered every three years.

“Being somewhere for three weeks with an academic component really lets us get into the culture quickly,” Buckaloo said.

While cost can be an impediment to students, May Term courses are equivalent to the cost of a college credit and provide a low-cost alternative to semester-or year-long study abroad. Faculty can often reduce costs through their affiliation with colleges in the host country. Students who studied in Spain stayed with host families, further reducing costs while enriching the learning experience, said Assistant Professor of Spanish Mònica Fuertes-Arboix.

2010 May Term Courses

- May Term in Asia: South Korean History, Culture and Health Care with Associate Professor of History David Nordmann and Assistant Professor of Nursing Mary Tobin
- Marine Biology with Professor of Biology Kurt Redborg
- Southern Africa with Assistant Professor of Nursing Anita Nicholson and Henry and Margaret Haegg Professor of Biology Paula Sanchini
- Advanced Biology Research Laboratory I and II with Professor of Biology Randy Christensen
- Business Sustainability and the Environment with Louise J. and Ella Pochobradsky Associate Professor of Business Administration David Hayes ’93
- From Socialism to the EU: Economic and Organizational Change in (East) Germany and the Czech Republic with Associate Professor of Business Administration and Economics Rick Eichhorn and Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Economics Rob Kuennen
- The Economics and Ethics of Alternative Energies with Adjunct Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Economics Mary Knudson
- Equity in Education with Assistant Professor of Teacher Education Christine Wolfe
- May Term in Spain with Assistant Professor of Spanish Mònica Fuertes-Arboix
- Internship in Health & Science with Professor of Chemistry Maria Dean
- May Term in Scotland and France: Exploring Spirituality in the 21st Century with College Chaplain and Director of Religious Life Kristin Hutson
- Advanced Physics Lab 1 with B.D. Silliman Professor of Physics Steve Feller
- Writers’ Colony in New Zealand with Esther & Robert Armstrong Professor of Rhetoric Bob Marrs
- Writers’ Colony: Bicycle Writing with part-time writing instructor Kerrie Miller
- Topics: Lakota Culture with Adjunct Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Deb Wooldridge
- May Term in London with Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Steven Marc Weiss and William R. and Winifred Shuttleworth Professor of Theatre Arts Susan Wolverton

TOP: Photographed at the highest point in Sicily during a May Term humanities course were (left to right) Katie Mraz ’09, Angie Pederson ’11, Kacie Svoboda ’10, Kaci Rumelhart ’09, Professor of Humanities Ed Burke, Amy Hering ’11, Justine Brady ’11, Amanda Havel ’09, Keli Goddard ’10, Eric Hayek ’09, Professor of Philosophy Jeff Hoover, Amy Marquardt ’09, Michael Burgess ’09 and Ben Franta ’09.

BOTTOM: Piloting a boat on a trip to the island of Tabarca in Spain during May Term were Assistant Professor of Spanish Mònica Fuertes-Arboix, Kail Rietcheck ’10, Megan Fiala ’10 and Jenny Uhlan ’10.
Coe College registered 1,225 full-time students for fall term, the third largest enrollment in its history. The academic profile of the incoming class remained strong, with an average ACT score of 25.4 and grade point average of 3.6.

In total, 45 first-year Coe students scored 30 or greater on the ACT test. As well, 25 percent of first-year class members ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. This year’s Coe class represents 21 states and nine foreign countries.

Coe received a record 2,235 applications for admission for the fall of 2009, the highest number in the college’s history. From this applicant pool, a total of 368 students enrolled at the college for the first time. A residential college, Coe has 1,038 students in campus housing this fall, the second most in school history.

Coe has 1,300 full and part-time students registered for fall term 2009. Part-time student enrollment decreased two students from one year ago, at 75 students.

“With impressive average test scores, grade point averages and classroom performance while in high school, our first-year students continue the tradition of academic excellence at Coe,” said Coe President James Phifer. “The academic profile of each of the last five entering classes has established the college at a new plateau of selectivity. In addition, our overall full-time student numbers indicate historically strong and stable enrollment.”

More than 200 parents and siblings experienced a slice of life as a Coe student during Family Weekend Sept. 18-20. In addition to the usual campus tours, receptions, musical performances and athletic events, participants were given the opportunity to perform community service. Nearly 100 Coe students and family members participated in an effort to plant trees at a dozen flood-affected sites in Cedar Rapids.

Participants were divided into work teams at various Cedar Rapids homes and nonprofit agencies. Collectively, they planted 18 trees.

A silent auction conducted during Family Weekend raised over $2,700 for the Parents’ Scholarship Fund. Silent auction items ranged from the ordinary to the unique and were all well received by the bidders. Many donors see the silent auction as a way to give back to Coe for the educational experience they or their child received.

“Coe College has been very generous to my daughter and I know she has benefited in so many ways from the educational and social experiences she has had,” said Mette Pedersen of Albuquerque, N.M. The mother of Katie Pedersen ’10 donated a silver and turquoise bolo tie to the auction.

Since it was launched in 2001, more than 500 current and past Coe parents have contributed to the fund each year. Scholarships are awarded to seniors with a 2.5 or higher grade point average who are involved in co-curricular activities and demonstrate financial need. This year, the Parents Council hopes to generate $50,000 in scholarships.
Coe Introduces Theme Housing Options for Students

Kohawk spirit and concern for the environment are the driving forces behind Coe’s first theme houses.

Introduced this year to provide a wider variety of campus housing options and to facilitate a connection between academic and residence life, a committee of faculty and staff members selected Kohawk Service Learning and Eco-House from a pool of 10 applications for theme housing.

Associate Dean of Students Erik Albinson said theme housing represents a first step toward a big picture goal of offering learning communities, in which there is more intentional interaction between faculty members and students in the residence halls with a focus on student learning.

Acquisition of homes as part of the college’s campus expansion opened the door for the introduction of theme housing, Albinson said. High enrollment rates have stretched campus housing and the themed houses allow Residence Life to offer more student housing options.

Theme housing provides an opportunity for four students to live together in a house centered around a common theme. In addition to electing a house representative to communicate with residence life staff throughout the year, each theme house must identify a faculty or staff advisor to help the residents meet their goals for the community.

In order to be eligible for theme housing, prospective residents must have a minimum GPA of 2.25 and a judicial record that is free of any patterns of misconduct or significant policy violations. Applicants for theme housing must indemnify how their house will contribute to the larger Coe community, what the residents hope to learn from the experience and specific learning outcomes for residents and plans to achieve them.

Kohawk Service Learning is located at 1319 E Ave. NE. The house intends to help raise support for all Coe athletic teams by hosting a series of alcohol-free events, such as tailgate parties, game nights and postgame celebrations. Additionally, the residents seek to raise awareness and Kohawk pride throughout Cedar Rapids by participating in 10 hours of community service per month.

Eco-House is located at 1309 15th St. NE. The house seeks to spread environmental awareness within the Coe community and serve as a model for green living. Residents hope to show that college students can take an active role in making small changes in their lives that will make a big environmental impact. Residents plan to involve the campus community through seasonal dinners, environmental forums, maintaining the Coe garden and volunteering at least 10 hours per semester in activities that address local environmental needs.

The theme houses for 2009-10 will have to reapply for selection next year with any other housing applications, Albinson said. “In the future, we hope to expand our theme house programs,” he said. “At other institutions, academic honors, wellness and diversity appreciation are common themes that may translate well to Coe.”

Meet Your Parents Council

Coe College recognizes that parents of college students bring unique insights to an institution. The Parents Council was formed to tap this valuable resource. Composed of families and/or individuals reflecting the academic class and geographic distribution of the student body, the council meets twice per academic year. The Parents Council was established to:

- promote parents’ knowledge and understanding of Coe College’s education program and policies,
- provide a communication channel between parents and the college and among parents,
- assist with internship and career opportunities for students,
- assist in recruitment and retention of new students, and
- promote the development of Coe College through personal, corporate and foundation financial support.

Current members of the Parents Council are:

- Cindy Banchy of Rosemont, Minn., mother of Noah Banchy ’12
- Perri and Cathy Carnes of Littleton, Colo., parents of Hannah Carnes ’11
- Danny Chang of Afton, Minn., father of Paden Chang ’12
- Tim and Becky Crouch of Independence, Mo., parents of Emily Crouch ’12
- David and Vanessa Genger of Lake Bluff, Ill., parents of Nicole Genger ’13
- Gregg and Jane Hess of Edina, Minn., parents of Emily Hess ’11
- Katie Kozisek of Chicago, mother of Anne Kozisek ’12
- Sally Nordstrom ’78 and Kent Cooling ’78 of Cedar Rapids, parents of Chelsea Cooling ’10 and Chase Cooling ’13
- Janet Schupbach of Cedar Falls, Iowa, mother of Andrea Schupbach ’10 and Michelle Shupbach ’13
- Tony Wickham of Neenah, Wis., father of Maddie Wickham ’13
- Dennis and Deb Yossi of Cedar Rapids, parents of Christopher Yossi ’12

For more information about Parents Council, contact Parent Programs Director Kate Rose at 1-877-KOHAWKS (564-2957) or 399-8663 or krose@coe.edu.
The Crescent Honor chapter at Coe College was among the outstanding chapters to be honored for their excellence at the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference, held July 24-26. The group was one of 67 outstanding chapters to receive the Silver Torch Award, presented to chapters executing timeliness and dedication while exemplifying the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. Silver Torch Award recipients are selected based on a review of national records, requiring that the chapter meet all of the national minimum standards and deadlines.

Chapter President Katie Paulsen ’10 was present to accept the chapter’s award.

Mortar Board is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 227 chartered collegiate chapters with nearly a quarter of a million initiated members across the nation. The Crescent Honor chapter at Coe College was chartered in 1985 and currently has 32 members.

Mortar Board provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include former President Jimmy Carter, distinguished politician Condoleezza Rice and former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. Learn more about Mortar Board at www.mortarboard.org.

### Essential Calendar

#### Fall Term
- Thanksgiving Recess (after last class) .................. Nov. 24
- Classes resume .............................................. Nov. 30
- Classes end .................................................. Dec. 8
- Final Exams .............................................. Dec. 10-11, 14-15
- Classes resume .............................................. Nov. 30
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes) .............. Jan. 18
- Spring Break (after last class) ...................... March 5
- Classes resume .............................................. March 15
- Student Research Symposium (no day classes, evening classes will meet) ................ April 13
- Classes end .................................................. April 28
- Final Exams .................................................. April 30, May 3–5
- Baccalaureate ............................................. May 8
- Commencement .......................................... May 9

#### Spring Term
- Classes begin .............................................. Jan. 12
- Classes end .................................................. April 28
- Final Exams .................................................. April 30, May 3–5
- Baccalaureate ............................................. May 8
- Commencement .......................................... May 9

#### May Term
- Classes begin .............................................. May 10
- Memorial Day (no classes) ............................. May 31
- Classes end .................................................. June 4

*Note: For the most complete and updated campus calendar, select “View Full Calendar” on Coe’s Web site (www.coe.edu).*