

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Classes start Thursday, August 18th**
- **UALR Welcome Week: August 18th-23rd. Visit ualr.edu for event schedule**

INTS News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



FALL 2011

Students Visit Poland & Ukraine

Dr. Jacek Lubecki led a group of students to Poland and Ukraine this past summer. Though much fun was had by all, this wasn't just a normal vacation. This was a three credit, upper division course listed in the UALR catalog as INTS 3321—Topics in Modern International Cultures. The name of the course was titled "Microcosm: Poland and Ukraine Between Nationalism and Multi-Nationalism, Democracy and Totalitarianism."

The class focused on Eastern Europe from World War II to now. There was special emphasis on the holocaust, and on the contemporary political climates of Poland and Ukraine.

Though students did not arrive in Europe until mid-July, the class actually started back in April. Weekly meetings were held where the group watched a different film. Films included "The Pianist," "Schindler's List" and "Everything is Illuminated."

Three books were also assigned as reading so that participants would have a substantial base knowledge about the topics once they landed in Poland. Also, students were required to turn in four essays; three about each book, and one reflection essay about their experiences as a whole regarding the course.

The group started in the Polish



The group in front of the Palace of Culture in Warsaw, Poland

capital of Warsaw. Here, among other things, students learned of the huge Jewish ghetto created by the Nazis, the Warsaw Uprising of '44 and spoke with a famous reporter who covers Polish politics.

Next students took a train to Krakow, where they visited the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, toured the old royal castle and met with the local representative to the Polish parliament. The group also visited the alma mater of Nicolaus Copernicus.

The next stop was the small country town of Przemysl (pronounced like "Premish"). Here the group toured old WWI fortresses, visited an ancient

cemetery, and ate delicious meals in the old town center.

Next they trekked across the border and into Ukraine. Their destination was the city of L'viv. Sites included a number of cathedrals, the famous L'viv opera house and the Ivan Franko National University which was established in the year 1661.

Though the trip lasted just three weeks in all, but the students learned lessons they will never forget.

This was the fifth group that Dr. Lubecki has taken to Poland (although it was the first time he led students to Ukraine). This is an annual trip open to all UALR students regardless of major.

We encourage you to think about this trip as you plan your academic career at UALR. In addition to the charge for 3 credit hours, there is an additional course charge to cover all in-country travel expenses and lodging. Participants are also responsible for getting to Poland and for providing their own meals. This is a relatively physically demanding trip with many miles of walking involved, so those interested are warned in advance! If you are interested in going to Poland and Ukraine next year with Dr. Lubecki, please contact him at jxlubecki@ualr.edu.



Become a Tutor for Fall 2011

If you have been awarded work study, contact the UALR Student Support Services (SSS) about working in their tutoring lab and/or becoming a tutor for SSS. Tutors earn money while deepening their own understanding, build their resumes with leadership skills and experience and contribute to the success of others. Working with SSS is easy as

tutors set their own flexible schedule.

The SSS program offers tutoring, academic skills development, and guidance and counseling, with emphasis on developing strategies for succeeding in college. All services are free and available to any student who lacks adequate preparation and qualifies under federal

guidelines.

For more information please contact SSS Tutoring Services Coordinator Teresa Jordan at (501) 569-8749 or tljordan@ualr.edu. You may also apply in person room SPCH 117.

Volunteer Opportunities with ASN

The Arkansas Sustainability Network (ASN) has ongoing volunteer opportunities. Every Saturday, volunteers run Food Club pickup. They also need volunteers for the Wednesday evening market.

The ASN Local Food Club connects members with the local food system. Members have a weekly opportunity to interact with farmers as a par-

ticipant in their local farm buying cooperative, get an inside look at what's available locally and can get to know their local farmers.

Volunteering with the ASN could be used to fulfill the INTS Internship requirement. To do so, one would need to consult with Dr. Lubecki first.

Drop ASN a line at asnlocal-foodclub@gmail.com to sign

up for a shift. Volunteers receive \$5 in "volunteer bucks," which can be applied to memberships and orders. On Saturday mornings, snacks and coffee are provided. For more information on the Food Club, visit littlerock.locallygrown.net.

Internship Programs in Germany

We have just been made aware of German internships with the Emigre Memorial German Internship Program (EMGIP). The sponsor provides internship opportunities for students to complete one- to three-month internships with German state parliaments and ministries.

Internships afford students an excellent opportunity to gain government work experience, improve their advanced German language skills, and learn about German culture first-hand. Candidates should have at least an intermediate command of the German language. Each participant will receive a

stipend to ensure a total salary of EUR 500 per month to help offset the cost of living during the internship. This will cover basic expenses such as housing, local transportation, and food. For more information visit: www.cdsintl.org/fellowshipsabroad/emgip.php

"Interest does not tie nations together; it sometimes separates them. But sympathy and understanding does unite them."

-Woodrow Wilson



International Simulations Association



ISA to Host Membership Drive

The International Simulations Association (ISA) is the student organization at UALR that participates in Model United Nations and Model Arab League. Students that participate in ISA learn how to debate current issues with their peers in a public forum, how to work on potential solutions to the world's most difficult problems, and how to draft resolutions to implement

those solutions. ISA participates in conferences in St. Louis and Washington DC as well as hosting conferences at UALR.

ISA may be taken for credit as POLS 3101—Seminar in Political Science. However, students need not register for the class to participate and membership is open to all UALR students, regardless of major.

On Wednesday, August 24th, ISA will be hosting a membership drive party. The event will take place from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Donaghey Student Center meeting room D. Food and drinks will be provided. Students are encouraged to come by and see what ISA has to offer. If you cannot make it to the party, ISA meets every Monday at 5:00 PM in Stabler Hall room 409.

“More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together.

-Kofi Annan

UALR Offers Student Success Resources

Certainly a large part of everyone's educational career is rising to and surpassing challenges. Indeed, such is the way that we all gain confidence to clear life's hurdles. However, challenging though your studies may be, UALR strives to not leave you without guidance. As such, there are many helping centers on campus that are offered free of charge to all UALR students.

First, there are two Mathematics Assistant Centers (MAC) on campus for those having with math. MAC I is located in DKSN 600 and MAC II in ERSC 104. For more info visit ualr.edu/mathematics/index.php/math-lab-info.

Next, is the University Writing Center, located in SUB 116, which helps students write effectively. For more info visit ualr.edu/writingcenter/

Also, there is the Communication Skill Center in SPCH 201. Here you may find help perfecting your presentations. For more info visit <http://ualr.edu/speechcomm/index.php/home/scil-center>.

Finally, for help in foreign language studies, there is the Language Resource Center in SH 202. For info: ualr.edu/languagestudies/index.php/home/language-resource-center/

Deadline to Study Abroad in Spring 2012 Approaching

It is not too early to start thinking about studying abroad for next semester. Applications for Spring 2012 Programs Abroad are due September 15th. Study Abroad Information Sessions will be held every Tuesday at 10am and every Wednesday at 3:30pm in the Office of International Services starting August 23rd.

Study abroad offers you a unique and valuable experience—the opportunity not only to

study, but also to immerse yourself in another country and culture, thus expanding your view of the world. While working to fulfill major and minor coursework requirements, you also have an unparalleled opportunity to acquire firsthand knowledge of another culture, develop or improve fluency in another language, and gain a global perspective. Your time abroad will be full of vivid and amazing experiences that you will remember for the rest of your life, no matter where you

choose to go. There are four types of programs: Semester/Year, Faculty Led, UALR Summer, Post-Graduation Opportunities.

UALR Programs Abroad also encourages students to get involved on campus by becoming an exchange mentor, volunteering at the annual UALR International Celebration Week, or joining the International Club.

For more information please visit ualr.edu/programsabroad.



Photograph of an iftar in Dubai

Middle Eastern Studies to Host Iftar

UALR Middle Eastern Studies (MEST) will host an iftar on Thursday, August 25th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This event will be held in the Ledbetter Hall rooms A,B & C in the Donaghey Student Center. A quiet room will also be available for reflection and prayer.

An iftar is an evening meal when Muslims break their daily fast during the Islamic holy

month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims fast all day and may only eat or drink after the sun sets. Iftars are often done as a community.

This will be a great opportunity for the Muslim community and the greater UALR community to come together and learn a little bit more about each other.

The iftar hosted by UALR is free and open to the public. Representatives from the Islamic Center of Little Rock will be on hand to lead the festivities. Halal food and drinks will be provided.

For more information, please contact Dr. Clea Bunch, Chair of MEST, at cebunch@ualr.edu or 501-569-8397.

“A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.”

- Khalil Gibran

Internship Available with City Year

City Year is a non-profit organization that unites young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, giving them the skills and opportunities to change the world. As tutors, mentors, and role models, these diverse young leaders make a difference in the lives of children and transform schools and neighborhoods across the United States.

City Year provides hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate students as well as for graduate students and post-baccalaureates interested in non-profit administration careers. Part-time interns will support a variety of projects that will help City Year carry out our education mission by assisting in recruitment, data collection, event planning, fundraising and more. Internships typically run concurrent with the semester system with the option to continue into the

spring semester. Each intern will be matched with a specific department. Additionally, each intern will assist with general office operations, administrative work, event support, and data entry. Internships are typically between 10 and 20 hours per week during business hours (9am-6pm, Monday-Friday), and can be flexible with a student's class schedule. Please note that all internships are office based.

Internships are available in the departments of Admissions/ Recruitment and Development/Fundraising.

This is an unpaid opportunity where interns will learn and develop a variety of resume building skills including: organization, teamwork, project planning and execution, communication skills and customer service, multi-tasking, service learning, and networking. At the successful completion of

the program each intern will receive a letter of recommendation including the projects they accomplished. It is up to the applicant to determine whether they are eligible for credit, scholarship, or work study money from their school. All interns will have the opportunity to participate in Corporate Service Days, Lunch and Learn seminars with members of our Leadership Team, and will be assigned a manager who will serve as their mentor throughout the internship

Applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to: little-rockrecruitment@cityyear.org. Please indicate your department of interest in your cover letter. For the fall term (September to December) applications must be received by September 5, 2011. For the spring term (January to May) applications must be received by January 5, 2011. Direct all questions to (501) 707-1427.





SIGMA IOTA RHO

The Honor Society for International Studies

Sigma Iota Rho Eager to Begin New Year

Sigma Iota Rho (SIR) is the honor society for international studies. The purpose of SIR is to promote and reward scholarship and service among students of international studies and to foster integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs.

SIR is open to INTS full-time majors and minors who have at a jun-

ior standing, have at least a 3.3 GPA. There is also a one time life-time membership fee of \$45. Members receive a certificate, a lapel pin, a copy of the current Journal of International Relations and an honor cord. There are also graduation stoles and T-shirts available for purchase.

SIR is a great way to connect with

other INTS students, looks good on a resume, and presents opportunities for publishing and scholarships.

There will be an induction of new members in November, but those that are interested in joining may start participating sooner. If you are interested, please contact Joshua Thomsen at jcthomsen@ualr.edu

“If we are a metaphor of the universe, the human couple is the metaphor par excellence, the point of intersection of all forces and the seed of all forms.”

- Octavio Paz



Politics & Culture of Mexico Room Change

There has been a room change for the Politics and Culture of Mexico course. Instead of Ross Hall room 215, **the class will now be in Ross Hall room 211.**

This is the first semester that we are offering this class. It is an upper division course that is perfect for satisfying elective requirements. For those that are looking for one more class to round out their schedule, there is still space available.

It will be a course about the rise and fall of the PRI, combined with major cultural themes that run deep in Mexico. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Mexico-U.S. relations are unique in many ways. There is no bilateral

agenda between two bordering countries anywhere in the world that comes close in complexity, diversity, intensity, and asymmetry. In addition, Mexican migration to the U.S. constitutes one of the largest migration systems in the planet. Mexico, however, remains a mystery for the American public, sometimes even for the U.S. tourists that visit the beach resorts in Baja or Cancun. After a brief introduction to Mexican history, this course attempts to describe and analyze the major cultural themes that permeate Mexico’s social life, and explores the most recent developments that have changed the function and structure of current Mexican politics.

The course objectives are:

To describe and understand the way in which 19th century political order was rearranged by the post-revolutionary regime.

To analyze the causes that brought the fall of the political party (PRI) that ruled Mexico for over 70 years.

To read and interpret some of the major cultural traits that have been part of Mexican life for centuries as they manifest as catalysts, or simply appear or disappear in the background.

The class is cross-listed as INTS 3321 and POLS 3301. For more information, contact Professor Rene Rabell at rxrabell@ualr.edu.



Dr. Jacek Lubecki
Director of International Studies
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
2801 South University Avenue
Stabler Hall 603-E
Little Rock, AR 72204
Phone: 501-683-7029
Fax: 501-569-8271
E-mail: jxlubecki@ualr.edu
www.ualr.edu/ba/ints
www.ualr.edu/minors/mest



Follow us on Facebook. Search for UALR International Studies!

"A nation, like a person, has a mind - a mind that must be kept informed and alert, that must know itself, that understands the hopes and needs of its neighbors - all the other nations that live within the narrowing circle of the world."

- Franklin Delano Roosevelt

A Message From Dr. Jacek Lubecki

Hello to all International Studies and Middle Eastern Studies Faculty, Students and Friends.

I hope that you all had an exciting and fruitful summer. I did – teaching two online classes (Global Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency) and leading a group of students – many of them your colleagues – on a course-trip to Poland made for a busy summer. In the meantime I tried to stay in touch with you via email, facebook, skype, or any other means.

We have another exciting International Studies year in front of us. For me, a big task is completing International Studies accreditation review process – a task in which my Assistant Joshua Thomsen has helped me tremendously. I am also looking forward to Model UN and Model Arab

League activities, Sigma Iota Rho - the honor society for international studies - inductions, lectures, classes, senior projects, and all the whirlwind of activities that the UALR International Studies program always does. In this newsletter, you will find a lot about the upcoming year and our accomplishments over the past year. Please, enjoy.

Cheers,

Jacek Lubecki
Coordinator of International and Middle Eastern Studies

