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TMC professors travel for study

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

CRESTVIEW HILLS - Even as the campus of Thomas More College grows quiet over the Christmas break, the learning continues. Three of the school's professors will be taking students around the globe for study.

Associate professor of biology Dr. Christopher Lorentz will teach the Natural History of Australia in Australia. Dr. Catherine Sherron, associate professor of philosophy, will teach a course on biomedical ethics in London, and associate English professor Dr. James Shuttemeyer will teach a theater course in London and Dublin.

"There is no substitute to being out in the field observing organisms in their natural environment," said Lorentz. "Traveling to Australia offers the opportunity to experience firsthand some of the most unique ecosystems and communities in the world. I've been able to broaden my knowledge in the areas of marine and freshwater ecosystems, evolution, ecology and zoology, and use this knowledge and these experiences back in the classroom at Thomas More."

Shuttemeyer will take 20 students to see plays in London and Dublin. The productions range from Shakespeare to Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Shuttemeyer says he teaches where he can. "We work out of the hotel, in buses, on tours and on the fly ... or rather at a walk ... We do a lot of walking in these urban environments," he said.

"It will be a good experience to learn outside of the classroom," said Jasmine Parker, a junior history major from Independence. "For example, to see where Shakespeare wrote his plays and experience them in person as opposed to reading about it in a classroom."

Parker is like many students who are expanding on what they have learned in the classroom. She just finished Shuttemeyer's honors seminar on Shakespeare.

"I think many of my students seem to get turned on to the study of theater abroad," Shuttemeyer said. "Typically I get a lot of drama, English, history and international studies majors who are eager to experience the best theater in the world and gain exposure to a foreign culture."

Many of Lorentz's students have similar motives. Senior chemistry major Andrea Young is excited "to see many different organisms in environments ranging from the rain forest to the ocean."

"I couldn't think of a better way to spend two weeks in Australia," she said.

Other students want the opportunity to dive into the Great Barrier Reef or stroll London's serpentine streets.

Thomas More Accelerated Program student Steven Gabbard, 49, said his motto is "have passport, will travel."

"It appears to offer a fun exciting option to enjoy the sights of London and Dublin while fulfilling some required credits for my degree," he said. "I hope to

meet some interesting people both within our group and while on the prowl in these wonderful cities."

The trips will take place between Dec. 26 and Jan. 9.

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