



September 22, 2008

NKU students travel to learn

Study abroad up 23% last year

*By Howard McEwen
Enquirer contributor*

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS - Northern Kentucky University's new Office of Study Abroad is hoping to capitalize on last year's 23 percent increase in student international travel.

It hosted its annual Study Abroad Fair at the new Student Union ballroom on Wednesday.

Amye Day, education abroad adviser, said the increase came from the university putting a spotlight on studying abroad.

"I think the university has continued to place more importance on giving students global education opportunities," Day said. "I think one reason for the increase would be the scholarship opportunities that are available. NKU has an International Study Scholarship and in addition to that some academic departments have their own study abroad scholarship."

Day said the 284 students who studied abroad last year went to 30 countries.

"Western European countries are still the most popular," Day said. "However, countries in Latin America are growing in popularity. I think some of that has to do with getting more bang for the buck than in countries on the euro and the pound."

Day said reasons for students to get foreign experience range from personal to professional.

"I think some of the biggest benefits are personal to the students - it could be an increased understanding of their academic discipline or increased personal growth that leads to more maturity - they learn they can grow as individuals and can rise to the challenge to succeed in a different academic environment.

"It helps with careers because a lot of employers are looking for students with global experience."

At the Study Abroad Fair, staff from the Office of Study Abroad provided information on winter break, spring semester, spring break and summer programs as well as scholarship information.

Anyone wanting more information can contact the Office of Study Abroad at 859-572-6908 or visit studyabroad.nku.edu.
