

December 19, 2008

Dear Parents and Students:

I don't have to tell you that we now live in a "global economy" – the evidence is all around us. Virtually every major company is engaged in the international marketplace, and many companies in South Carolina are foreign-owned (e.g., BMW, Michelin, Fuji). Employers (including American companies) avidly seek graduates who have prepared themselves for this global environment. One indicator they look for on resumes is an international experience, such as study abroad. We have a number of fantastic short-term international study opportunities for Clemson students in the Summer of 2009 that I'd like to outline below:

- **Sustainable Energy and the Environment (Trier, Germany).** A 4.5-week (May/June) program offering Clemson credit for two courses taught (in English) by faculty of the Fachhochschule Trier, noted for its environmental and alternative energy expertise and lab facilities. Students experience German culture and visit scenic and historic sites. Located in the beautiful Mosel River valley, Trier is the oldest city in Germany – founded by the Romans! The program concludes with a weekend trip to Munich, the capitol of Bavaria.
- **Bioengineering Innovations (Brussels, Belgium).** A 4-week (May/June) program, offering Clemson credit for two courses (taught in English). This summer's program focuses on Biomechanics. Aside from learning about exciting innovations in bioengineering, students experience Belgian and European culture, and visit important scenic and historic sites. Brussels is not only the capitol of Belgium, it is the capitol city of the European Union.
- **Nuclear Energy (Brussels, Belgium).** A 4-week (May/June) program, offering Clemson credit for two classes (taught in English). In addition to international experience and study at a world-class nuclear research facility, it offers students an introduction to a field of increasing importance in our world's energy portfolio. Students in this program will join the Bioengineering group for the cultural component and excursions as described above.
- **Surface Physics (Paderno and Trieste, Italy).** This 4-week program covers the theoretical aspects of surface physics, plus an unparalleled opportunity for laboratory experience at the world-class synchrotron called "ELETTRA." The program is located in historic and picturesque northern Italy, with close proximity to Venice, as well as other neighboring European countries. This program is designed for rising seniors in majors such as Physics, Chemistry, and Electrical Engineering.

In each of these programs, the program fee includes the summer school tuition, lodging, program excursions, and meals (varies by program). There is no difference in cost for in-state or out-of-state residents. Except for Surface Physics, the programs are designed for rising sophomores and higher in engineering or science majors. So, students can get a taste of study abroad in an organized setting – a great platform for those with little or no international experience.

We have other summer study abroad programs available for our students -- including one designed for Chemical Engineering seniors in Vienna, Austria -- and programs are offered by our partner universities overseas and by other departments at Clemson (e.g., Foreign Languages, Business, Management). Information on these is available in our office or on our website.

Finally, I'd like to add that we have a number of semester-long programs available at locations around the world, in intriguing locations such as Australia, India, Asia, and Europe. In fact, at any given time, hundreds of Clemson students are studying overseas. These programs can be surprisingly affordable, often similar to the cost of studying at Clemson. And, in many cases, scholarships and/or financial aid can be used.

I encourage you to consider adding a study abroad program to enhance your Clemson degree. There is no better time to gain international experience than while a college student. Please explore our website ([www.clemson.edu/ces/students/global](http://www.clemson.edu/ces/students/global)) or come by our office in 107 Riggs Hall. Ms. Jessica Pelfrey ([pelfrey@clemson.edu](mailto:pelfrey@clemson.edu); 864-656-4440) is our college's study abroad advisor and program coordinator. Feel free to contact either of us for more information. We'd be pleased to explore the options available, or discuss any aspect of study abroad. My best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2009.

Sincerely,

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