Students, faculty, staff, and community members attended this month’s International Coffee Hour, which highlighted the country of Morocco. Naoufal Elftah, a visiting Fulbright scholar, discussed various cities, traditions, and food dishes from his home country.

IFC Ice Skating and Shopping Trip

The International Friendship Club took approximately 45 members and students ice skating and shopping in the Peoria, Illinois, area on February 12, 2019.

Brasseur Sets School Record at GVSU Big Meet

Western Illinois’ track and field team has shaken up its record book after almost every meet this indoor season, and on Friday, February 8, the Leathernecks proudly boasted a new school record. Shattering a 39-year record, Bo Brasseur, a junior from Heurbeek, Belgium, posted a 6.02-meter jump at the Grand Valley State Big Meet.

International Coffee Hour - Morocco

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Fulbright Recipient Update

Eden Driscoll is an alumna of WIU who received a scholarship to teach high school English in Naju, South Korea. Here is what she has to share as her first year comes to a close.

Is the Naju school system similar to or different from the U.S. system?

High schools here have only three years, and I teach grades one and two. In the U.S., teachers have their own classroom and students switch rooms every class, but here the opposite is true. Every class has their own room, and the teachers go to that room to teach when it is their period (so students basically stay in the same room all day). However, I have my own English classroom, so students come to me for class. Teachers have their own desks in a room, similar to a teacher’s lounge, where they work when they are not teaching.
Nearly 850 students, faculty, staff and community members attended the 46th Annual International Bazaar on March 2, 2019, in the University Union Ballroom. This year, thirteen booths represented cultures from around the world. Costa Rica, represented by Casa Latina, won the booth competition based on their creativity, cohesiveness, representation of culture, and overall presentation. The students and booth participants prepared authentic cuisine, cultural dances, songs and performances. Hemangi Mhatre won best entertainment for her cultural dance. Students also displayed traditional clothing during the fashion show and provided an international market which sold authentic items from various cultures made or selected by international students.

Fashion Show Participants

Best Booth: Costa Rica Represented by Casa Latina

Best Performance: Hemangi Mhatre

Students Meet with Ambassador of India

Two WIU Indian students represented Western Illinois University at the Indian Consulate in Chicago on Friday, March 22, 2019. Mr. Lokesh Babu Rayadurgam, a computer science major and Mr. Sai Krishna Samaymantri, also a computer science major currently completing his optional practical training (OPT) in Schaumburg, Illinois, attended the event. The students met with H.E. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Ambassador of India to the United States. The purpose was to visit with Indian students studying in America in the Midwest region and to build opportunities for the Consulate to engage with Indian students in the Midwest jurisdiction. Other universities represented were University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago State University, Purdue University, University of Michigan, Northwestern University, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Western Illinois University Department of Sociology and Anthropology graduate student Saber Khani, of Iran, will present his research in middle eastern politics, social movements and social and economic development April 17-20 at the Midwest Sociological Society meeting in Chicago. Khani's current research centers on the analysis of the relationship between government size and democratic practices in Iran.
Upcoming Events
April 10 Cultural Cafe - Organization of Arab Students, University Union Heritage Room
April 17 American Culture Workshop, Knoblach 230
April 30 International Coffee Hour - Spain, Horrabin Hall 1

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International Alumnus Spotlight
Name: Hekmat B Alhmadi
Home Country: Iraq
Current City: Alsamawa, Al Muthanna
Degree: Graduated in 2017 with a master’s degree in biochemistry
Current Position: Instructor in the College of Medicine at Al Muthanna University

What has life been like since WIU?
After I graduated, I returned to my home country and started teaching students molecular biology and biochemistry in the College of Medicine and Inorganic Pharmaceutics at Al Muthanna University. I feel that the knowledge I gained from my time at WIU made me an incredibly strong teacher. I hope that I can continue to study and earn my PhD in the United States.

What is your favorite Western memory?
Everything was wonderful. I had great professors, mentors, friends, and support at WIU. All of my classes and relationships have helped shape me into the professor I am today. I have everyone I knew at Western to thank for that.

Have you had any notable accomplishments since graduation?
I was invited to be the speaker representing Iraq at the International Volunteer Forum in Moscow, Russia, in December 2018. The forum included roughly 500 volunteers from all over the world. The program of the forum was made according to the recommendations given by the volunteers and public organizations and consisted of business, practical and cultural sections. The participants visited various charity foundations and social and nonprofit organizations and learned about the intricacies of social, hospital, ecological, medical and event volunteering.

Contact Us!
School of Global Education and Outreach
wiu.edu/international
globaloutreach@wiu.edu

Office of the Executive Director
Horrabin Hall 6
Phone: (309) 298-1929

Study Abroad and Outreach
Horrabin Hall 8
Phone: (309) 298-2504

International Student Services
Memorial Hall 347
Phone: 309-298-3734

WESL Institute
Memorial Hall 346
Phone: (309) 298-2485

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