



News Release

Doug Lippincott, Director of Communications
Office: (315) 279-5231 Home: (585) 742-1502
Fax: (315) 279-5281
E-mail: dlinninc@mail.keuka.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Dec. 14, 2004

Field Period Scholarship Recipients Headed to Costa Rica, India

KEUKA PARK, N.Y.—Experience another culture.

Make a difference in the lives of others.

Grow spiritually.

These are goals that Keuka College students Gina DeLeo, Jessica Flood, and Steven Mitchell share for their January Field Periods—internships students complete each year where they gain hands-on, real-world experience.

Thanks to receiving Spiritual Exploration Field Period scholarships, all three will be able to pursue their goals with less financial burden.



The scholarship is funded by a \$5,000 Institutional Renewal Grant from The Rhodes Consultation on the Future of the Church-Related College. Each student received \$500 to help with expenses.

Spiritual Exploration Field Periods involve work or service in churches, missions, hospitals, hospices, aiding and assisting churches or religious organizations in providing aid to needy individuals and groups, either in this country or overseas.

According to Mike McKenzie, associate professor of philosophy and religion and director of the grant, this year's Spiritual Exploration Field Period applicants were "very competitive."

What stood out about the recipients to the Spiritual Exploration Field Period Scholarship Committee—which, in addition to McKenzie, included Assistant Dean for Experiential Education Anne Marie Guthrie, Chaplain Gerry Fish, adjunct faculty member in the Division of Business and Management Tony Compese, and Class of 1955 alumna Ruth Spencer—was that "all three have a very strong passion for what they're going to be doing," said McKenzie.

DeLeo, a junior psychology major with a concentration in children and family studies, and Flood, an elementary/special education major with an emphasis in children and family studies, are going to serve as teacher's assistants in the International Christian School in San Jose, Costa Rica.

(more)

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION FIELD PERIOD 2

“I am seeking to strengthen my faith and to serve as a positive example to others while I witness how one’s spirituality is implemented into the schooling system,” said DeLeo, a Stanley native. “I will be able to strengthen my Spanish speaking abilities while making meaningful and spiritual ties with both students and staff.

“While interning in Costa Rica, I am striving to intensely study Bible Scriptures and reflect on how they relate to me,” added DeLeo. “In strengthening my convictions, I feel that this will therefore strengthen and define my self-concept.”

Flood said the opportunity “will inspire a whole new meaning behind my goal of becoming an educator.”

“Through my interaction with the students and educators at this Costa Rican Christian school, I hope to gain insight on how Christian ideologies and Biblical concepts are incorporated into an elementary classroom,” said Flood, a native of Churchville. “Last year I was able to work in a public school and I am curious to compare this experience to that of a private school in another culture. More importantly, I wish to give something back to the world by ministering to the students and becoming a positive role model for them.”

Mitchell, a freshman psychology major from Rochester, is conducting his Field Period with Hope for India, an orphanage in Chillakallu, India.

Mitchell is participating in the Group Field Period to India organized by Fish and being led by Jaipaul Papabathini, an associate pastor at the Zion Fellowship in Canandaigua and representative for Hope for India, which is run by his family.

According to Fish, Papabathini leads such mission trips “at least twice a year.”

“He has taken hundreds of students to India for two weeks to three months,” said Fish.

Mitchell and four other Keuka students will spend 15 days in the country, helping the orphans at Hope for India to improve their English speaking skills and teaching them songs. They will also travel though the village, assisting the homeless and less fortunate.

One of Mitchell’s learning objectives is “being able to answer the children’s questions about God and spread His word to people in the village.”

“This trip will allow me to open my eyes to see what other cultures are like,” said Mitchell. “Many Americans, myself included, become accustomed to the way of life and blessings that we have in the United States. Going to a country that is less developed, with a different cultural background, will allow me to break the barriers that I have put up. I hope and pray that I will be able to learn from observations I may make in India, gaining a better appreciation for what I have back home.”

(more)

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION FIELD PERIODS 3

Other Keuka College students have undertaken mission trips to such countries as Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and Mexico, as well as U.S. cities including Boston, Miami, and Lakeland, Fla.