



## Experience Centered Seminars Course Descriptions, March 2012

### **Invention**

Hans Wolfe, Paul Young, Kevin Reel

Invent it. Build it. Patent it. Market it. Sell it. All around us we find useful items, elegant designs, and valuable products. The impact of invention on our lives and wellbeing cannot be overstated. But how does this process work? Who comes up with great ideas, and how do they make it to the marketplace? In this seminar, students study the process of invention from an idea's inception to the commercial marketing of a product. Students work on their individual or team's invention as they learn from those who have made it happen. From patents to 3D design to fabricating a prototype, this seminar has students learning about a multidisciplinary process involving ingenuity, economics, law, graphic design, and more. Students should expect a seminar that balances academic challenges with creative process and the practical limitations of bringing an idea to market.

### **The Iron Chef**

Paula Scarbrough, Hela Robran

With a "tip of the hat" to the modern reality TV cooking craze, this ECS focuses primarily on the process of becoming a professional worker in the food industry. Students learn techniques in the kitchen from professional chefs, and discover the nomenclature of each utensil and pot and the correct terminology of preparation, plating, and food design. The course travels to top restaurants and food supply industries large and small to understand the business of raising, preparing, serving, and entertaining with food. The final experience involves a cook off like those featured on the Iron Chef series. May the best team win!

### **Desert Solitaire**

Jennifer Gaskin, Amy Johnson-Smith

By experiencing the raw Southwest, and by reading excerpts from *Desert Solitaire* and other nature books, students learn to find solace and beauty in the vast deserts of the upper Sonoran life zone as it extends into Arizona and Utah. Lessons in ecology, geology, and conservation arise as they explore the desert landscape. Environmental threats to desert ecosystems are addressed, and ecotourism is compared with other regional resources such as mining and ranching. Students learn the value of nature to the human spirit, using sketches, writing, and photography to document scientific information and capture the lure and mystery of the desert ecosystem. Ecotourism and scientific observations are explored through rafting, hiking, horseback riding, and other activities. Students are required to produce photographs, writing assignments, and illustrations that involve scientific studies and aesthetic artistic principles.

### **Glass Art: Ancient and Modern**

Miller Adam, John Longo, Marta Kunze

This ECS travels to the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, NY, home of the Corning Corporation, which for over 100 years has been the country's largest glass research, design and innovation corporation. The Museum is home to three remarkable, intertwined facilities: The Museum, which houses one of the largest and most complete displays and collections of glass from every chapter of human history and from every corner of the globe, the Rakow Research Library, which houses the largest, broadest and deepest glass research library in the country, and the Studio, a first-rate glass working facility. The staff at the Studio are excellent and experienced teachers, and take us through a number of lessons in glass blowing. We are also introduced to scientific glass blowing on a glass lathe, advanced glass torchworking techniques, and advanced fusing projects. Our days in Corning are divided between working glass and working our minds as each student prepares a research project (multi-media or written) using the resources

of the museum and library. We also visit with some of today's scientists working at the Corning Corporation. The class then travels to New York City, where we stay in a centrally-located hostel. We visit essential artistic landmarks such as the Metropolitan Museum and MOMA, as well as the Cooper-Hewitt Museum. While in NYC, we explore different aspects and practitioners of the emerging "Design Thinking" philosophy that extends the creative process beyond making art for simply aesthetic purposes and instead seeks to combine many diverse disciplines, including art, manufacturing, computer-aided design, graphic design and interior design.

### **Real Hawaii: Polynesian culture from the roots up**

Joseph Arnold, Anne Taylor

This ECS researches the establishment of human civilization on the Polynesian Islands through a focus on history, cultural identity, and science in the South Pacific. In addition to doing their own research, students are guided by an archaeological researcher in the exploration of customs, legends and mythology, spiritual traditions, the arts, and volcanic-soil farming techniques through presentations by and interviews with native Hawaiian experts. Our group will visit several sacred archeological sites and meet with a curator of the Bishop Museum. Surrounded by lush vegetation so different from our own in Colorado, the students will discover the importance of native plants, and take hikes to historic sites to explore the important relationship of the Polynesian peoples to their island environments and the surrounding oceans. Through these experiences, students learn the importance of cultural sensitivity, develop an appreciation for surviving and thriving in a different ecosystem, and gain valuable insights that increase their understanding and appreciation of the Pacific Island peoples.

### **Life in Cameroon**

David Benson, Twyla Surritte, Sam Johnson

We return to Cameroon and our Sister School at Fongo Tongo. We continue in our tradition of doing a major community service project related to either health care or education. Cameroon, often referred to as the "Miniature Africa," provides a truly unique perspective because of its vast diversity. In a country the size of California, one finds over 300 ethnic groups, as well as almost every major geographical region of the continent. Students live and interact with families, students, and officials in a variety of settings, learning about both rural and urban life in Central Africa. The study of culture runs throughout the month as we compare and contrast three different cultural groups in Cameroon. Our students teach English in local elementary schools, interact with local high school students, and visit with both traditional and modern authorities. The students learn about the history, traditions, food, religion, architecture, music, and lifestyles of these various groups. Students also have the opportunity to do a brief research project on topics related to either sustainable development or environmental conservation. Accommodations include a week long stay in a rustic village setting, homestays, and camping in the rainforest.

### **Fair Trade in Chile**

Jen Hedden, Greg Johnson

Fair Trade is an alternative approach to conventional trade and is based on a partnership between producers and consumers. It offers producers a better deal and improved terms of trade, which allows them the opportunity to improve their lives and plan for their future. The ECS partners with Voluntary Horizons, a company that specializes in volunteer travel programs with an introduction to Fair Trade. While taking in the culture of central Chile in Spanish speaking homestays, students find themselves in the midst of several producers involved in Fair Trade. We learn from and work with Fair Trade Grape Producers near Los Coipos, a Cooperative of Bee-keepers in Rancagua, and a Fair Trade Vineyard in Curicó. All of these are small businesses launched and maintained by entrepreneurs in Chile. Students immerse themselves in this unique culture and participate in a multi-day service project in Los Coipos. Spanish is not required, but opportunities to advance language skills are extensive and Spanish students are encouraged to enroll in this ECS.