

# Schwartz Steps Down as SLU Abroad Programs Move Forward

By Edward S.G. Parham —  
After three highly productive years as Director of International Programs at St. Lawrence University, Alan Schwartz will step down from his position this summer to resume teaching environmental studies full-time.

Meanwhile, students returning from SLU's abroad programs this past fall appear to be satisfied in general, although many agree that in each country there is room for improvement in one area or another.

Students wishing to travel abroad during their four years at SLU have a variety of options available to them in Western Europe, Asia and Africa.

"Right now we have the same abroad programs which we've had for some time," Schwartz said. "They include year-long programs in Spain and France as well as semester options in Kenya, London and Vienna."

According to Schwartz, consortium programs exist also in India and Denmark, while exchange programs requiring greater language competency are available in Japan and the Soviet Union.

Schwartz said that he has witnessed a number of significant additions to international programs while he has been in office. Apart from opening up a new student exchange program with the Soviet Union, SLU welcomed its first visiting professor from the Soviet Union last fall.

Schwartz said that in the future he hopes there will be an exchange program available with China. "We have been invited to send a visiting faculty member to China," he said. "Right now we're a little apprehensive about academic freedom...we don't feel the climate there is right yet."

An Indian program directed by Thomas Coburn, professor of religious studies and classical languages, has recently been started in conjunction with Vassar, Hobart-William-Smith, Hartwick and Skidmore colleges. "It's a one semester program designed at giving students an overview of the culture and history of India. There is also language training associated with it," Schwartz said.

Another key change to oc-

cur while Schwartz has been in office is that all the international programs have been brought under one central administrative structure. "We're now beginning to build stronger links between our programs off-campus and our departments here at St. Lawrence," he said.

Last weekend, Schwartz and William Hunt, professor of history, traveled to Vienna, Austria in an attempt to strengthen departmental links there. "Our sole mission was to develop a coordinated group of courses which focused on what's going on in Europe," Schwartz said.

Programs in Africa have also been placed on a sounder footing according to Schwartz. "We probably offer the best undergraduate expe-

rience in Africa," he said. "Schools all over the country recognize how unique our Kenya semester is. We're one of the few institutions whose homestay program and internships are fully permitted by the Kenyan Government."

In London, Schwartz indicated that homestays with British families were a fairly new phenomenon when he took over. In addition, students now have the opportunity to take part in a specially designed course at Oxford in Urban Planning. "It focuses on the development of a city using Oxford as its base," he said. "It also makes a nice change from London." In the future, Schwartz says he is hopeful that there will be more op-

portunities for students enrolled on the London program to be accepted as "full-fledged" students at Oxford during their stay.

Returning students shared mixed-views about the state of the programs and offered suggestions for how they can be improved in future years.

Michael O'Riley ('90) enjoyed the program in France and said he felt there was little that needed changing. "It was excellent. St. Lawrence made sure that we got as much culture as possible," he said.

However, O'Riley indicated that SLU could improve on the living situation by allowing the more independent students to live in apartments for at least one semester, as opposed to

remaining with host families for the entire year.

The same view was also shared by Lori Esmond ('90) who spent a semester in London.

"I'm sure that St. Lawrence has enough money with which they could buy some flats or a house for the students," she said. "SLU students were business contracts for the British host families—they (the families) were required to give two dinners a week and breakfast every morning," she said.

Esmond said that she also regretted not being able to take classes with the British students while in London. "We were purposely kept together and therefore were iso-

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