

St. Lawrence's Kenya Program Is The Cream Of The Crop

By Karen Katz

Academic excellence and cross-cultural emergence—the St. Lawrence Kenya program remains unparalleled.

Alan Schwartz, director of international programs at SLU said, "The mixture of academic and experiential components, combined with the opportunity for students to really meet the people of Kenya, makes our program one of the best in the country."

The program is unique because the participants are exposed to three different types of East African culture. During the semester, students live and interact with urban families, rural families and members of the Samburu Pastoral Tribe.

In addition to rigorous academics and extensive field studies, students are involved in various internships throughout Nairobi.

The program is designed so that students do not find themselves isolated in an American program.

Since the program was established in 1974, over 800 students have participated. Today, the program is more popular than ever.

According to Schwartz, "As students return from Kenya, the academic rigor

and standards of the program become higher."

John Barthelme, associate professor of anthropology and director of the Kenya semester program, said, "In recent years, the program has become much more competitive. The caliber of students who apply increases each semester."

"The development of the African studies minor has made the Kenya program much more visible on this campus," Barthelme said.

"Five years ago, students wanted to go to Kenya be-

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cause it sounded "fun," he said. "Today students have a genuine interest in learning new values and increasing their global awareness."

"Because of the minor, the Kenya experience is no longer an isolated one," Schwartz explained.

Students are more prepared for the program before they leave, and when they return, they can continue their education.

According to Barthelme, two courses in Swahili, a widely spoken East African language, will be offered next fall to those interested.

Not only will this enhance the modern language department on campus, but it will strengthen students' foundation prior to their semester abroad.

Currently, students are allowed to apply to the program as long as they are enrolled in at least one African studies course. In the future, however, applicants will be required to complete a course before applying for the program.

In the past, there have been some misunderstandings concerning the application process.

Because the program is so popular, many students from other schools apply. SLU students should not feel inhibited from applying because candidates are selected from two separate applicant pools.

SLU applications are always evaluated first and a student is accepted if his/her grades, recommendations, essays and interviews meet the program's requirements.

The remaining vacancies are then filled with non-SLU students. Usually, the ratio of SLU participants to non-SLU

participants is equal.

Previous participants have come from Amherst College, Cornell University, Duke University, Williams College

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and Georgetown University. This semester, there are students from Bowdoin College, Vassar College, Brandies College and Middlebury College participating in the program.

Schwartz said that SLU accepts students from other universities because it wants to maintain the program's rigorous academic quality.

"Naturally," he said, "we want SLU students to be involved because when they return to campus, they bring their unique experiences back with them."

Michele Munn ('90), who went to Kenya last spring said, "My experiences from Kenya will be valuable to me

for the rest of my life."

"I learned that no matter where I go in this world, there is a certain level of communication and understanding that I can establish with anyone," she said. "We all share a common inheritance. Man is innately good and kind."

"Something I will never forget was when I sat down to visit with a twelve-year old boy who had been raised to herd cattle," said Munn.

"I was an educated American, from the most industrialized nation in the world, and he had never had a day of school in his entire life... and we became friends," she said.

The program plays an important part in SLU's attempt to diversify. One of its main objectives is to lead students to cross-cultural understanding and to enhance their view of the world on a more global scale.

According to Barthelme, "The program is a key part of the administration's goal to internationalize."

"It is imperative," he said, "that we continue to support this program. Clearly, it should have been included on Dean Howison's List of Top 10 Things to be Proud of at SLU," said Barthelme.

Spring 1990 Brings SLU New Caribbean Studies Minor

By Verne Thalheimer

Beginning this semester, St. Lawrence is offering a new minor to students: "Caribbean and Latin American Studies."

This program is an interdisciplinary program covering a broad range of academic de-

partments.

Students will begin by taking an introductory course called "Introduction to Caribbean and Latin American Studies," which will be offered for the first time next semester.

This course will provide

the necessary background that will enable students to gain a general understanding of the program's dynamics.

After completing this course, students will take five courses in various departments to complete the minor's requirements.

Included in this series of courses is a stipulation which says that one course must be a 400-level research seminar.

At the present time, there is no language requirement for the minor. This, however, is a controversial issue.

Proponents of the minor wanted to include a language requirement. SLU, however, currently has no language requirement. As such, the organizers felt that this was an inappropriate time to include such a stipulation.

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Proponents will be pushing for its inclusion into the program in the future.

According to Ernest Oliveri, visiting professor of government, the program evolved for a couple of important reasons.

First, at a functional level, SLU has enough faculty who specialize in this area of the world to merit offering the minor.

The other reason involves diversity. The minor gives students a chance to touch on areas which are not related to conventional Western civilization. Students will be able to gain insights into new areas of study.

Laura O'Shaughnessy, associate professor of government, was the driving force behind the development of the program as she is currently involved in the politics of this part of the world.

Both O'Shaughnessy and Oliveri noted that student reaction has been overwhelming. Both professors are enthusiastic about the fact that students have quickly taken a keen interest in the program.

O'Shaughnessy went on to say, "It has been a very positive overall experience and it is something I'm excited to see get off the ground."

SKATING SAINTS UPCOMING EVENTS:

* The final Hockey Luncheon of the season sponsored by the Saints Hockey Boosters will be held Friday, Feb. 23, at 12:00 noon at the Best Western University Inn, Canton. Guest speakers include: Bill Cleary, Head Coach of Harvard; Brian Mason, Head Coach of Dartmouth; Mark Morris, Head Coach of Clarkson and Joe Marsh, Head Coach of St. Lawrence. The buffet luncheon will be \$5.00 all you can eat. Everyone welcome.

* Friday, February 23, when the Skating Saints take on Harvard, has been designated Kevin Dougherty Scholarship Night. The Kevin Dougherty Memorial Scholarship will be presented to a member of the Skating Saints at the beginning of the second period.

* The Great White Wave will be at Appleton Arena on Friday, February 23 when the Saints play Harvard. Everyone is encouraged and asked to WEAR WHITE to drown the Crimson.

* The Annual Mid-Winter Hockey Tail-Gate Picnic will be held Saturday, Feb. 24 before the Dartmouth game, Augsburry, 5:15 p.m. The picnic is \$5.00 all you can eat. Everyone welcome.