Language Immersion Gives Students an Edge

Lindsey Meyers, a senior from Billings, now knows there’s a big difference between speaking Spanish in a classroom and speaking Spanish in Spain. As recipient of the Taylor Scholarship for Study Abroad, Lindsey lived and studied in Spain for her sophomore year. There she transformed from a “toddler in front of you,” Lindsey said, describing the effect of finally being immersed in the culture she had been studying about for years. Students in the study-abroad program stay with host families and are separated from each other so they have to rely on their own abilities. “I was with a family that did not speak English, so I had to speak Spanish with them the whole time.” It was a challenge Lindsey was well prepared for, and it gave her a chance to put her knowledge to work and allow herself to really appreciate the world sounds of the classroom. The experience was far beyond just speaking Spanish.

The program took Lindsey to the city of Salamanca in western Spain, but she says, “I was also interacting on a daily basis with people from all over the world.” Recalling a work conference a few weekends ago when a group of international students gathered for a special dinner, she counted young people from at least thirteen countries. “The only language that we all had in common was Spanish, so we’re all speaking a second language, coming together from all different parts of the world, and we’re hanging out. It was incredible.”

Lindsey also has traveled and studied in Siberia and China, but Spain struck a nerve. “I’d really like to go back. It’s like when you find the place that finally fits you— that was Spain.” Of her overall experience with the program and her occasional adventures side trips, she says, “It was educational, but it was also something that meant a lot to me, and the reason I went was really possible because I received this scholarship.”

Douglas ‘94 and Diane Taylor of Tucson, Arizona, created this study-abroad scholarship as their campaign commitment. During his years as international manager for occupational health and environmental safety products for the 3M Company, he saw firsthand what an advantage it was in international business environments to be fluent in the local language. Lindsey’s experience fits their purpose exactly.

In Outreach Efforts
Craighead Chair in Wildlife Biology

Bultmann lives in Colleyville, Texas. Bultmann, a 1966 graduate of the UM School of Business Administration, became treasurer at the board meeting last fall. Prior to assuming the position, he and his wife, Suzy, moved to Kalispell in 1998. “I’ve immersed myself in Montana, the University, and its academic and athletic programs as much as their campaign commitment. During his years as international manager for occupational health and environmental safety products for the 3M Company, he saw firsthand what an advantage it was in international business environments to be fluent in the local language. Lindsey’s experience fits their purpose exactly.

Center Will House Innovations in Business

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wenty-first-century ideas are best presented in twenty-first century environments. Having an adequate facility to train business leaders of today and tomorrow was a motivating factor for giftors Charles G. ’65 and Cheryl Statt Papesch ’66 of Spokane to make a campaign gift for the Gilkey Center for Executive Education.

Bill has made his career in the investment and banking industry in Washington. As closely connected with assisting small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Pacific Northwest, he was taken with the idea of a facility where students could participate in entrepreneurial skills to build the economic base of the region. Harold Gilkey, Bill notes, is one of those people—someone who has a good sense of what it takes to promote and support a vibrant business community.

“Return on investment is what business people look for at the end of the day,” Bill said, “and this facility is a good investment.” The school, under Dean Larry Grantham, is an important player in the Montana business community, and with the support of people like Hamilton and Priscilla Gilkey, has a history of achievement. The business school already has demonstrated its capabilities, and an expanded facility will make it even stronger.

“On our last campaign, we also clent on the Excellence Fund to nurture new programs for every student. “Please follow John’s example and recon- nect with a student to get a fresh perspective and that “this campaign has a place for everyone.” Please follow John’s example and recon- nect with a student to get a fresh perspective and that “this campaign has a place for everyone.”

Deborah Doyle Whitmeyer National Campaign Chair

Stefanie Kiemele

For their gift to the campaign and the Gilkey Center, the artium in the center will be named for Bill and Cheryl Papesch.