Les étudiants de l’Université d’État de New York à Potsdam (SUNY Potsdam) ressemblent aux élèves d’autres universités à proximité. Ce sont juste plus que des étudiants, ce sont des personnes. Ils se partagent en quatre parts : les apprenants qui travaillent bien, et ceux qui piochent malheureusement. Puis, il y a ceux qui réussissent ou ratent. Clairement, chaque personne, qu’elle soit talentueuse ou médiocre, veut bien apprendre.


Les personnes les plus brillantes se concentrent tout le temps sur les études ; sauf que le coût de la vie n’est pas gratuit, ainsi ceux qui compensent leur temps entre l’université et le travail professionnel seront mieux préparés pour le futur.

Winterim 2012 : Morocco

Four students accompanied Lora Lunt on her second Winterim to Morocco in January 2012. Home stays and classroom space were provided by the American Language Centers in Morocco. In Rabat, all were housed with the same family where the SUNY group had stayed in 2010. Students were well prepared to ask intelligent questions of U.S. Embassy officials, Fulbright (Morocco-U.S. Exchange) and Peace Corps directors, and they enjoyed museums, archaeological sites, souqs, and coffee shops in Rabat. Sean Haber was able to accompany host father, Naguib El Moueden, to Casablanca to observe and participate in a university class on electronic technology. In Marrakesh the group was housed with three different host families who were affiliated with the American Language Center. Rebecca Cotton, a first-year student, reported from her research and observations: “Women in Morocco today are much more independent. They are able to have careers. Saida, our host mother in Marrakech, worked for the American Language Center. Women today have a lot more choices and options.” Immersion in a multi-lingual environment in Morocco led all four students to find ways to continue language study or to start a third language during the spring semester. Kristen LaDue produced her own Arabic textbook, including materials from Morocco, the “T.A.’s Guide to Learning Arabic.”
Pascale graduated from SUNY Potsdam in French and Psychology in 1997. Later in her professional life she furthered her education with a Master in Organization leadership in management at Mercy College, NY and a DPMI certification in International program development at Monterey Institute of International Studies. She is presently working in Haiti, in her role as a Senior Community development Delegate for the American Red Cross. Prior to that she had worked as a US Government Program Development Advisor for country in transition, supporting projects with Haiti’s government, private sector and media to reinforce economic growth and stability following the earthquake. She had previously worked for private organizations such as Chemonics International (International Trade and Development industry and, international organization for Migration (IOM) within which she designed a two-ways flow communication program to identify and respond to the needs of 1.3 million displaced people in camps following the earthquake of January 12 in Haiti. Her professional endeavors have led her to several countries (Haiti, Zambia, Ecuador) and to first settle NYC greater area (she initially worked at Pace University where she coordinated educational program for adult learners), then as a directional media manager for AOL/Times Warner in NY, and later in the Seattle greater area where she assisted in the development/ implementation of HIV/AIDS training program in Haiti and advised on cultural appropriateness of: training materials, video production and press releases at the ITECH(International Training & Education Center) in Haiti.

And later as a military program liaison at the University of Washington school department of Defense (DoD)

Pascale a toujours été curieuse en classe et à l’extérieur. Etudiante attentive, elle avait le grand désir d’améliorer son expression orale et écrite et ne refusait jamais de revoir et réviser ses essais. Elle me demandait sans cesse de lui enseigner davantage, que ce soit en traduction, grammaire avancée, et surtout en French for Business. Elle voyait dans ces cours tout ce qui la préparerait le mieux pour son avenir professionnel.

C. Philibert

"ce qui est le plus important pour comprendre et fonctionner dans une culture différente, et de passer d’une culture à l’autre, c’est d’en connaître la langue, de savoir observer, de pouvoir se projeter dans l’autre et ainsi mieux apprendre de ses interlocuteurs."

P. Verly

Mao Nakai (French, Arabic)

After working for Goldman and Sachs (NYC) for the first years following her graduation, Mao picked up a temporary job at the Japan External Trade Organization in New York City. “This is a quasi-governmental Japanese organization that promotes trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. My job is to find American companies that are interested in expanding their business to Japan and support them until they successfully open their business in Japan. It’s actually quite interesting and I find it rewarding to be the resource person for American companies...

Last December, after a long and rather harsh year, Junta (my husband) and I found out that we would be expecting an addition to our family late August 2012. We are very much excited about the news, but at the same time, it’s been quite a challenge to balance my work and being pregnant. I am amazed everyday how working women manage to be mothers while keeping their work! “
Ryan Dockstader (French)

Hello SUNY Potsdam students and alumni:
I graduated from SUNY Potsdam in May 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and minor in French. I chose to major in geology because geologists are in high demand. It is a practical career to have when our populations and higher standards of living require more raw materials from the earth. Geology can be complex or simple, and is usually very interesting. I chose to minor in a foreign language to appreciate other cultures and communicate with many more people. I decided it would also make me more valuable as a geologist and would help me start learning and better understand other languages that may be advantageous in my field.

Learning about the impact of the French, and Francophone nations through the point of view of French works and texts in general has helped me to better see history and culture as a citizen of Earth, not just an American.
I loved my time at Potsdam, not only did I learn in the classroom, I learned everywhere on or off campus, I also became more aware of my decisions and how they will affect me down the road.

This was the most crucial lesson besides learning to experience college and life in general with many different types of people.

The life skills and education I gained at Potsdam are the keys to why I have been successful in the short time I've been out of college, and why I along with just about every Potsdam graduate will achieve one of our dreams. Upon graduating from Potsdam, I was already hired to work for a silver mine as a surface exploration geologist in southeastern Alaska. Riding helicopters to work most days is exciting for everyone, and I'm especially vigilant about the bear population that exceeds the human population in the area. After gaining that essential experience, I was qualified to work in several other places for more companies. I started work for a small exploration company out of a small town in southwest New Mexico as a geologist and geotechnician, learning the geology of the area, and became experienced working in a new deposit exploring for different metals. I worked in New Mexico until the beginning of summer 2012, when work brought me to central Nevada, where I worked for a fair amount of the summer on a property in the earliest stages of exploration. Presently, I'm taking a short break to live life a bit, and spend time with family and friends before I start work for a company in central California doing similar work. As you can imagine, I've been to quite a few places thus far working for a few different companies, and it's always been an adventure. I enjoy my job and the places it's taken me, not to mention earning money and experiencing life outside of small towns in New York. For the students, I sincerely advise you to work hard, pay attention, make a good impression, and do good deeds because you will be rewarded for all of it.

J’espère que vos études vont bien, mais gardez bien en tête qu’il y a un grand monde à l’extérieur de l’université pour vous.

Thank you.
Enthusiastic professors

Winterim 2012
Paris-Marseille-la Corse et la Côte d’Azur

A Corte, en Corse: Nicole Osgood, Callahan Tyler, Amanda Worrell, Bianca Boncoeur, Rebecca Rivera, Stephanie Dwyer.

This travel course led by professor Céline Philibert enabled six students and emeritus professor Ed Pierce from St Lawrence University to spend one week in Paris, one day in Marseille, four days in Corsica and six days in Nice, while visiting the Riviera. Participants took the opportunity to experience a little bit of the French life in different French regions and reflect about culture(s).

Celebrating Epiphany at the Culinary Institute in Paris. Our two queens were Nicole and Bianca. We had a very good time.

Alumna Aimee Seaman (French) teaching La Fontaine in her classroom.

Professor Lora Lunt excited to be with her students in Morocco!

Professor Celine Philibert enthusiastic about sharing a Culinary experience with her students in Paris.
Richard Baldwin (ESL)
My discovery of Morocco

Morocco is a wonderful country to visit! Most everyone is bi-lingual, if not tri-lingual. Arabic, French, and English see a lot of use, though I remember the Moroccan Arabic seemed touched by French and Berber influences. The great majority of the Moroccans I met were more than enthusiastic in trying out any English they knew on me, and were just as enthusiastic to teach me some Arabic.

If I had to suggest a destination, I’d recommend Marrakech above any other city. Tangiers is much like the Tijuana of Morrocco, a bit more predatory for my tastes, so I didn’t spend long there. Rabat is a nice city to spend the night, but not a fantastic time. Marrakech is where the magic lives, for me.

As I remember it, I came home from a semester in York, England during Spring 2003, and had the great pleasure of writing the pamphlets in the fall of 2003. I am so glad Silpa was working with us;
she was a legend in her own right among the creative writers during my time.

Thank you, Dr. Lunt, for everything you've done for me! You made possible a glowing part of my life, and I am ever grateful for your hand in that. Thank you, also, for your help in finding a career in Study Abroad. I continue to send in the applications, and take the rejection letters with a smile, because of it. My eyes are still bright. Thanks again, for the chance to relive good memories.

John Liquori (ESL)

TA for the Conversation Partners program, in the ESL program, John is now working as a 7th Grade Teacher and ESL instructor at Gray Middle School in Florida.

Corinne Spencer (ESL)

Completing a SIIM in teaching ESL, Corinne was Dr. Lunt’s “really treat TA, a true colleague as an undergrad.” She took an instructor position with the University of Iowa for fall 2012.

Amy Wilson (Arabic)

After studying at the Cairo for one semester Amy is now studying Egyptology at The American University in Cairo.

Nice comment from an ESL student

"[my partner] is the first international student I have met from China, and I must admit that prior to ESL I did not have much knowledge about the country or about the culture. I only really knew what my history books had taught me. The whole experience was eye-opening and incredibly educational. I believe that this is the class that I actually took the most out of this semester; what I learned through this experience I have learned a lot in most of my classes this semester, but this was different. I felt that it helped to make me worldlier [more informed about the world] and it was information that I am able to use in my daily life. Also, through this class I gained one of the greatest gifts – a friend.”

Andrea Hoplight-Tapia (Arabic & Spanish)

Andrea was a Spanish major who is currently teaching sociology, at a university in Pennsylvania. She and another student stayed with Lora and Dick Lunt in the spring 1989 when Dick had the Fulbright to Tunisia, so that they would not lose out on Arabic while we were away. After spending a semester living with us in Tunisia, Andrea later spent a year in Seville. She recently wrote to Dr. Lora Lunt: “I just wanted to let you know that I was just recently chosen as a Fulbright Scholar to Costa Rica. I am still following in your footsteps.”