Dec. 2, 2011

Program to foster international understanding

The partnership between Sacramento State’s Honors Program and English Learning Institute (ELI) to promote international awareness and community engagement will be the focus of a presentation by students and faculty from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the University Union Orchard Suite.

Co-hosted by the General Education Honors Program and the Omicron Chapter of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars, this event is designed to encourage study abroad and community involvement.

Professor Vanessa Arnaud, who is coordinating the event, teaches the capstone class in the Honors program. The objective of the class – Civic Engagement, Service Learning, Pursuing the Public Good – is to connect students with the local and global community. Six of Arnaud’s students mentor students from abroad who are taking classes at Sac State’s ELI. “Most of the 200 or so international learners come from Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Taiwan,” ELI Director Paulo Pinto says, “but there are about 21 other countries represented.”

The Dec. 7 program begins with Professors Nadeen Ruiz and Peter Baird of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Department and the California Bi-National Teacher Education Project discussing “Transnational Teacher Education” from 10 to 10:50 a.m.

Sac State students Daniel Angulo (Granada, Spain), Will Hedin (Budapest, Hungary), Guy Stewart (Leeds, England) and Erica Wilens (Paris) will discuss what they learned during their semester and academic year experiences abroad from 11 to 11:50
a.m. They will be introduced by Janis Silvers, coordinator of Study Abroad, in the Office of Global Education.

From noon to 12:50 p.m., five of Arnaud’s students will discuss “Service Learning and Study Abroad, G.E. Honors Program.” Amanda Bonzani will present her experiences in Germany, and Courtney Copeland, via Skype, will reflect on “Ireland and Lifelong Learning.” Anna Fashho, Suerna Johl and Jennifer Nieto will share insights on service to the global community.

The program’s final session, from 1 to 1:50 p.m., will feature a discussion of the symbiotic relationship between ELI students learning how to become successful here while Honors students experience a slice of international life. ELI teacher Leanne Cameron and ELI student Min Kyung (Monica) Kim of South Korea will discuss their work with the International Rescue Committee. ELI students Minji (Lily) Cho of South Korea and Vinicius da Silva of Brazil will discuss their mentoring and yearbook classes. The session will conclude with a discussion of an Honors student-produced video featuring ELI students.

For program details and/or questions, contact Vanessa Arnaud at arnaud@saclink.csus.edu

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156.

– Alan Miller
amiller@csus.edu

Sacramento State is making a difference in California’s Capital Region and beyond. We offer a life-changing opportunity for our 28,000 students, preparing them to be leaders in their professions and communities. Our professors are known for their dedication to great teaching. And our location in the capital of the nation’s most populous state allows students to pursue unique internships and research.

###