

THE PLAIN DEALER

Case to offer global experiences for those unable to study abroad

Saturday, August 26, 2006

Case Western Reserve University plans to develop new international learning experiences aimed at undergraduates unable to participate in the traditional study-abroad model.

The university's College of Arts and Sciences will use a three-year, \$205,000 grant from the McGregor Fund to establish the Worldwide Learning Environment program.

Beginning this fall, faculty members can submit proposals to the program's faculty advisory committee, which expects to fund as many as 10 projects each year.

Molly Berger, assistant dean at the College of Arts and Sciences, said the college is rethinking the traditional model for undergraduates. That most often involves a semester, junior year or a summer abroad.

"These experiences are important and meaningful, but they are also costly, both for the student and the institution," she said.

Between 50 and 60 undergraduates study abroad during an academic year, according to Case officials.

Berger said the hope is to enable more students to participate in international experiences through technology. The idea is that students would join in overseas lectures and seminars with peers at foreign universities through Webcasts or videoconferences.

The grant money also may be used to bring international scholars to the Case campus as lecturers.

Grand opening:

Cleveland State University's campus revitalization continues on Monday with the grand opening of its new \$29 million recreation center.

The center is the second building completed under the university's \$179 million campus master plan. Fenn Tower, a new residence hall, officially opened its doors last week.

The new recreation center will connect to the Physical Education Building, which houses the Woodling Gym and Busbey Natatorium.

Among the amenities at the new facility are: basketball, volleyball, racquetball and squash courts; weight training and fitness areas; an indoor jogging track; a multipurpose gym; locker rooms; and a lounge area with a juice bar.

It also has a 50-space underground parking garage and is next to the 400-car East Parking Garage, which is

under construction.

Party on:

Full Circle Festival 2006 hits the road next month.

The three-day festival will give new and returning college students a taste of Northeast Ohio attractions, beginning Sept. 14 at the University of Akron. The tour then continues at Kent State University and Case Western Reserve University.

Exhibitors include the Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland Pops Orchestra and National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Other festival events will give students the opportunity to catch an Indians games with a pre-game party, attend a Great Lakes Theater Festival play, or grab a trolley for an art gallery hop with a stop at University Circle.

For more information, go to www.college360.org.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:

jgonzalez@plaind.com, 216-999-4327