



# CPE Briefing

## A WIDER WORLD

Elmhurst partners with other colleges to expand opportunities for students to study abroad.

When Rachel Trumpy learned that she could spend January of her junior year at Elmhurst studying medical practices in the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago, she knew the opportunity was too good to miss.

A junior chemistry major, pre-med student and volunteer EMT in the rural precincts around her northwestern Illinois hometown of Dakota (population 502), Trumpy has seen the daily workings of America's health care system up close. Now her month abroad, she hopes, will give her some perspective on how healing happens in other countries.

That opportunity comes thanks to Elmhurst's membership in the Upper Midwest Association for Intercultural Education (UMAIE), a consortium of seven Great

Lakes-area college that pool their resources to offer students expanded opportunities to study abroad during January Term. Classes are taught by faculty from the UMAIE colleges and are open to students from any of the schools. For Elmhurst students like Trumpy, UMAIE (pronounced "You may") means a broader menu of options for January study and a wider world to travel.

In 2013, for example, UMAIE is offering 21 courses (including several taught by Elmhurst faculty) touching on everything from politics to comparative religion and from art to sports management. Destinations span the globe, from Thailand to Tanzania and Korea to Morocco. One class will even take students to Cuba, one of the rarest of travel destinations for Americans in recent decades, to study daily life "inside the revolution."

Trumpy's class—"Inequality and Health Care in Trinidad and Tobago," taught by two professors from Hastings College—appeals to her interest in medicine and in service. She and other students enrolled in the class will be working in two orphanages and visiting hospitals in Trinidad.

"I'm from a small town and would never have had the opportunity to learn about a culture like Trinidad and Tobago had I not come to Elmhurst and been encouraged to apply for a UMAIE program," Trumpy said.

Giving students greater opportunities to travel abroad is what Elmhurst's membership in UMAIE is all about, says Wally Lagerwey, Elmhurst's director of international education and off-campus programs.

"It expands what it means to study abroad," Lagerwey said. "It gives students more options. Our students can tap into the expertise of professors from other colleges, and our professors do the same for students from other schools."

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Junior Rachel Trumpy will study in Trinidad and Tobago during January Term.



TRUE PROFESSIONALS

Established in 1997, the Center for Professional Excellence (CPE) helps deliver the Elmhurst Experience, a framing of liberal learning that helps students determine who they will be and what professional field they will pursue. Students who take advantage of the many services and rich experiences offered by the CPE will be better prepared for their future careers—as well as being effective contributors to society. The CPE is proud to connect mentors and organizations with students from one of the top tier master's universities in the Midwest, as ranked, repeatedly, by *U.S. News & World Report*. It is one of the many ways that Elmhurst College demonstrates its synergy between liberal-arts learning and professional preparation.

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## A Look at What's Possible

*Elmhurst students give residents of Chicago's Mercy Home for Boys and Girls a peek into college life.*



When Mohamed Sissoko tells students from Chicago's Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, a residence for at-risk young people, about making the transition to college, they have good reason to listen. It wasn't long ago that Sissoko, now a junior economics major at Elmhurst, was himself a resident of Mercy Home. Now he serves as one of Elmhurst's student ambassadors in a program that introduces visiting Mercy Home residents to the Elmhurst campus and to the realities of college life.

"I try to tell them about the College and about my own story," Sissoko said. "I tell them that I'm here because Elmhurst is such a welcoming place."

Once each during the fall and spring terms, Elmhurst welcomes high-school-age Mercy Home residents to campus for "Do College For a Day," a behind-the-scenes look at the ways Elmhurst students live, work, play and study. The visitors attend a class, have lunch in the Frick Center cafeteria, tour residence halls, and meet with College counselors. The program is organized by Julie Gonzales, coordinator of educational enrichment programs.

During the summer, the College offers a more extensive introductory program called "Dream, Believe, Achieve," coordinated by Jeanne White, associate professor in the Department of Education. Designed for middle-school students, the three-day event includes sessions on how to apply to college, how to pick a major, and how to adjust to college life. There are also workshop sessions in music, art, theatre and creative writing, led in part by Elmhurst students.

"Too often, students have no role models for attending college and no sense of what's possible," said Mary Kay Mulvaney, the director of Elmhurst's Honors Program, who launched the College's programs for Mercy Home residents. "So many of these students have lived complicated lives and this is a chance for them to see what can be part of their future."

Mulvaney said that one of the goals of Elmhurst's efforts is to get Mercy residents thinking about and preparing for college at an early age.

"All the research suggests that you want students to commit to having college in their future by the time they're in junior high. Otherwise, it's less likely to happen," she said. "We want to reach them early."

Sissoko is one of several Mercy Home residents who have gone on to thrive at Elmhurst. He came to the United States from strife-torn Mali in West Africa when he was just 17. With his family encountering financial trouble and his prospects for a college education fading, he found support at Mercy Home. With Mercy Home's help he earned an associate's degree from Harold Washington College in Chicago in 2012, then applied to and enrolled at Elmhurst.

Sissoko is active in Elmhurst's Muslim Student Association and its Spiritual Life Council. Earlier this year, he completed an internship in the office of Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. Sissoko said he has already come to feel at home at Elmhurst College.

"I'm comfortable here," he said. "It's challenging, but so far, so good."

Mulvaney said that Sissoko's story illustrates why Elmhurst wants to help Mercy Home for Boys and Girls serve young people.

"They have great success serving at-risk youths," she said. "And as a college, we have a social responsibility to help serve young people in such difficult circumstances. We can expose them to aspects of college life. We can encourage them to pursue their dreams and maximize their potential."

*"As a College, we have a responsibility to serve young people in such difficult circumstances."*

Mary Kay Mulvaney  
Professor of English  
Director, Honors Program



# Idea Exchange

Students in Elmhurst's Intercultural Seminar engage intellectually with visiting lecturers.

*One of the goals of the class is to give students the confidence to trade ideas with guest speakers.*

Jenna Seim and her classmates in Elmhurst's Intercultural Seminar were looking forward to hearing author and professor Michael Schiavi talk to their class last year about the history of gay rights in the United States.

As it turned out, Schiavi, who was visiting Elmhurst to deliver the annual William R. Johnson Guestship Lecture, was just as eager to hear from Seim and her fellow students.

"He wanted to know our views about the fight for gay rights and how much we knew about gay history prior to his lecture," said Seim, a sophomore from Arnold, California, who is majoring in criminal justice and psychology. "He was very personable, and I really enjoyed speaking with him."

That's the way it goes in the Intercultural Seminar, a quarter-credit class that aims to promote exchanges between students and the authors, scholars and newsmakers who come to campus to deliver each of the College's four annual Intercultural Lectures. Students prepare for the lectures with assigned readings, then engage with the guest speaker in the classroom after the lecture. One of the goals of the class is to give the students confidence to trade ideas with guest speakers, said Associate Professor Russell Ford, who teaches the class and serves as the faculty coordinator of the lecture series.

"The course gives students the chance to interact directly with prominent figures," Ford said. "I've taught this class three times now, and the students really excel at posing questions and challenging ideas they may never have thought to challenge before."

Guest lectures at Elmhurst attract thousands of visitors to campus each year to hear some of the world's most prominent thinkers and achievers talk about important issues. The Intercultural Lecture Series consists of four annual lectures focusing on themes of race, gender and ethnicity. The César Chávez Guestship Lecture, presented each fall to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month, is part of the College's Hispanic Heritage Celebration; the Martin Luther King Jr. Guestship is held in the spring to coincide with Black History Month as part of Elmhurst's Celebration of Black Heritage; the Genevieve Staudt Guestship coincides with Women's History Month in the spring and is part of the College's Women's History Celebration; and

Author Michael Schiavi met with students in Elmhurst's Intercultural Seminar when he visited campus to present the College's William R. Johnson Lecture.

William R. Johnson Guestship Lecture is held each fall to coincide with National Coming Out Day and is part of the College's commitment to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. The Johnson Guestship is named for a member of Elmhurst's class of 1968 who became the first openly gay person ordained to a mainstream Christian ministry.

"The lectures have become an important part of the life of the College and the life of the surrounding community," Ford said, adding that audiences of over 300 routinely fill the Founders Lounge of the Frick Center to hear the Intercultural Lectures. "They help us recognize that we live in a world with different ways of being and that those



different ways of being contribute to the enrichment of each of our lives.”

The students in Ford’s seminar get the unique opportunity for extended intellectual give-and-take with the lecturers—and with each other. Ford said students in the seminar are encouraged to think critically about diverse views. The result is class discussions that are often animated and intense, but always respectful. That kind of intellectual engagement is key to the learning process, Ford said.

“Learning is an active process, it’s not about receiving information,” he said. “You have to learn to voice your own ideas and learn to interact with other people and their ideas.”

That’s just what Seim likes about the class. She has enrolled in it three times, and says she likes the classroom debates.

“The discussion is fascinating, both because of the topics and because of the opinions students have,” she said. “They will surprise you and make you think.

“And the speakers are thoughtful people who want to hear students’ opinions just as much as we want to hear theirs.”

[‘A WIDER WORLD’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Elmhurst has been a member of UMAIE for more than a decade. Each January, about 150 Elmhurst students enroll in courses that take them abroad; typically, about 30 of them enroll in UMAIE courses. The travel options for Elmhurst students include classes that go to seven continents. Among this year’s options from UMAIE: a course on Arab and Jewish influences in Spain and Morocco; an examination of the English language’s growing prominence in India; and a class focusing on the economy of Thailand. Lagerwey said such travel courses give students the kind of insight into other places that comes only from first-hand experience.

“You can read about it, you can go to the museum, but there is nothing like being on site,” he said.

Trumpy said she hoped her class on Trinidad and Tobago would help her understand another culture’s approach to healing and health care. She also said she was drawn to the class because it offered the chance to serve.

“I am very passionate about working with and advocating for children and anyone who comes from an under-

served area, so working in the orphanages [in Trinidad] is something I am really looking forward to doing,” she said.

One of the too-often overlooked benefits of taking a UMAIE class, Lagerwey said, is meeting and traveling with students from other colleges.

“They get to compare notes with each other, and students often end up forming deep friendships that last a long time,” he said.

The challenge for faculty, he said, is keeping students focused on their studies amid the often head-turning scenery of some of the world’s most exotic locales. To help students navigate the temptation to cut loose and party too hard while abroad, Elmhurst requires them to take an online quiz that emphasizes respecting other cultures and behaving responsibly.

“Students know that this is not just about travel and sightseeing, but also reading and writing and reflection,” Lagerwey said. “This is a chance to have experiences they wouldn’t have otherwise.”

# Workshops That Work

Elmhurst helps student employees develop skills.

Sometimes a part-time job on campus is more than just a way to help pay for a college education. For many Elmhurst students, the work itself is an important part of their education.

Take, for example, the Student Enrichment and Training Program (STEP), a series of workshops that build personal and professional skills for students who work on campus. STEP sessions cover everything from business etiquette to job-search skills to tips on how to thrive in a diverse workplace.

“We want to help student employees develop skills they can use day-to-day right now and in their careers beyond college,” said Annette Coduto, employment relations specialist in the Center for Professional Excellence (CPE), who directs the program. “They have the opportunity to learn while they’re working here.”

Anne Tobiasiewicz '14 (shown with employment relations specialist Annette Coduto) says STEP workshops help students learn about the world of work.



About 400 Elmhurst students work at the College, many of them as part of the federal work-study program. They answer phones and make copies in offices, shelve books in the College’s library, and tend the trees and lawns of campus. Some take on more advanced duties, like creating web pages, managing databases and helping produce newsletters.

Elmhurst has offered STEP workshops for student employees since 2004. Each year, the program offers four separate sessions, drawing about 30 students to each.

For students like Anne Tobiasiewicz, a junior marketing major from Burr Ridge, the sessions offer a chance to prepare for professional life. She recalls attending a workshop on resumés and job interviews, and filling a notebook with useful tips.

“The presentations are a great way for students to gain even more knowledge about the ‘real work world’ before entering it,” Tobiasiewicz said.

Coduto said participants help shape the topics covered in the STEP workshops. After students told her that they wanted to know more about how to use the professional networking site LinkedIn to help them further their careers, she organized a session on that topic.

“Students were saying, ‘Everyone says to use LinkedIn, but I don’t understand it,’” she said. “We listen to the feedback students give us.”

STEP and the CPE, in conjunction with the Financial Aid Office, also recognize the efforts of employees each spring during National Student Employment Week. Offices and departments from around the college nominate employees for the annual Student Employee of the Year award.

That’s one more way the College helps students make their jobs work for them.

## GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Exchange agreements with overseas universities offer opportunities for Elmhurst students.

Angela Crawford has been taking Spanish classes since she was in middle school and has always wanted to study in a Spanish-speaking country.

Crawford, a senior with a double major in sociology and Spanish, spent the spring semester of 2012 doing just that, thanks to an exchange agreement between Elmhurst and a university in Madrid. Crawford spent parts of five months attending Universidad Pontificia Comillas, where she enrolled in the social work program.

“I was completely immersed in the culture,” Crawford said. She spoke Spanish almost exclusively and became friends with Spanish students, who helped introduce

her to their country. “It was like I got every ounce of the experience.”

The student-exchange agreement between Elmhurst and Comillas is one of three the College maintains with colleges in other countries. Elmhurst students may also study at Worms University of Applied Sciences in Germany and Kansai Gaidai University in Osaka, Japan.

“Students get a more immersive experience because they’re taking courses right alongside students from that country, not other Americans,” said Alice Niziolek, Elmhurst’s assistant director of international education. She added that the Elmhurst

community benefits from the exchange agreements, too.

“It’s a win-win for Elmhurst. The students who go abroad benefit. And the students who remain on campus are enriched by the presence of the international students who come here. It adds to the mosaic on campus.”

For students like Crawford, there is no substitute for international study.

“I came away with this great sense of independence after having lived and studied and traveled abroad,” she said. “It’s like I can do anything now. Nothing is impossible.”

# Career Connection

For college students entering today's ultra-competitive job market, simply getting the opportunity to tell employers about their capabilities can be a challenge.

That's where Elmhurst's membership in the Illinois Small College Placement Association (ISCPA) can help. The ISCPA, a consortium of 25 colleges and universities that work together to connect their students with employers, offers career fairs, interview days and online resources for the approximately 48,000 students of its member institutions. Big employers like Aon Hewitt, Caterpillar, MB Financial Bank, Kimberly-Clark and others work with

ISCPA because they know its member colleges produce so many highly qualified applicants.

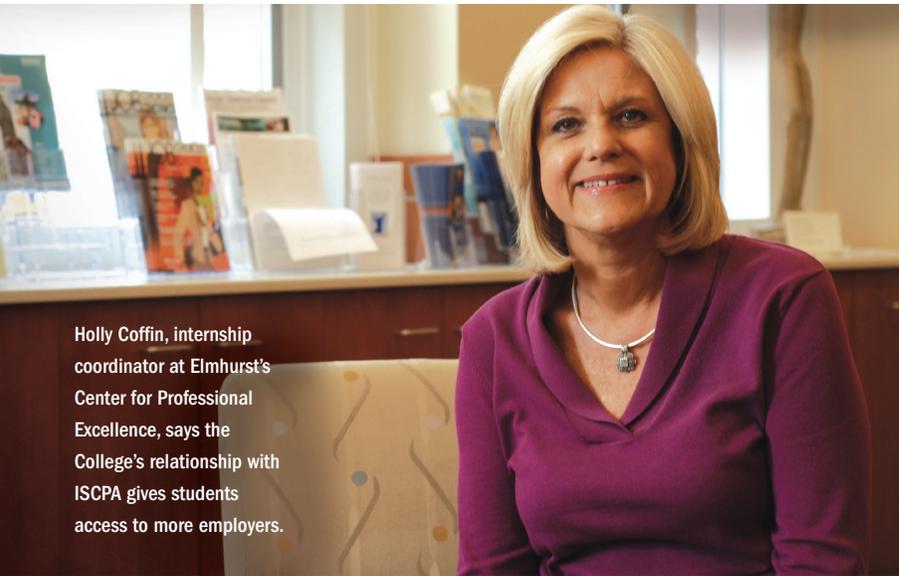
"ISCPA allows our students access to more employers," said Holly Coffin, internship coordinator at Elmhurst's Center for Professional Excellence. "And the employers find a really talented and diverse group of students."

One of ISCPA's signature events is its annual Interview Day, which gives students the chance to interview for multiple job openings with multiple employers at one location. At this year's event, held in October in Willowbrook, 20 employers interviewed 256 students from 17 ISCPA schools. That number included 15 Elmhurst students, who interviewed for a total of 25 positions. Some students have been selected to interview for as many as six positions at Interview Day, Coffin said. The event helps students get a foot in the door and gives them a chance to impress prospective employers and weigh their options.

"Interview Day gives students an entrée," Coffin said. "Once they get the opportunity to interview, they shine."

This February, ISCPA will host its annual CareerFest at North Central College in Naperville, attracting about 75 employers. Students learn about career opportunities at the companies, and may even be asked to do follow-up interviews at the event. CareerFest is a great opportunity for students, Coffin said, because it draws such a diverse and prestigious group of employers.

"These companies know it will be worth their time because of the quality of students they will find," she said. "We have so many repeat customers with these companies because they're always very impressed with the students."



Holly Coffin, internship coordinator at Elmhurst's Center for Professional Excellence, says the College's relationship with ISCPA gives students access to more employers.

## WHO TO CALL

### Internships

Holly Coffin 617-6457

### Career Education

Peggy Killian '94 617-3625

### Mentoring and Shadowing

Julie Gonzales '01 617-3188

### Service-Learning

Dr. Mick Savage 617-6488

### International Education

Dr. Wally Lagerwey 617-3604

### Professional Bridges

Julie Nosal '03 617-3440

### Intercultural Education

Dr. Russell Ford 617-3104

### Employer Relations

Annette Coduto 617-3190

### International Student Services

Alice Niziolek '99 617-3296

### Honors Program

Dr. Mary Kay Mulvaney 617-6479

### Executive Director

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All phone numbers are 630 area code.