

# Study abroad can spice up long break

BY KARA SAVAGE  
Staff Reporter

Junior Ashley Blodgett is spending her Winter Break on the beach.

Not all students will be traveling home for Winter Break, but some will spend their break taking courses in the December interim. One of the courses offered in the December interim is an opportunity to study abroad in the Caribbean.

Blodgett is one of the six students who are enrolled in this abroad course. She said this is the first time she has been abroad and that she is looking forward to the experience. But being gone for the holiday season will be a different experience.

"I think it will be a little difficult [being gone over the holiday season, but] it will be a nice experience, and maybe I will gain a little independence from it," Blodgett said.

She said she is excited to learn about the history of both countries the class will be visiting and that she is eager to snorkel and go on the submarine tour.

Professor of history Steven Reschly is the leader of the study abroad course that will take place from Dec. 20 to Jan. 11. During the time abroad, students will learn the history of Barbados and Curacao while earning six hours of credit.

They will have the opportunity to learn about the history as well as the culture of Barbados, an English sugar plantation system, and Curacao's Dutch slave trade, he said. While abroad, they will visit two of the best museums in the Caribbean: the African

Diaspora Museum and the oldest continuously operating synagogue in the western city, Jewish life in the Caribbean, Reschly said.

"Part of the point of study abroad is what can you do that you couldn't do in a classroom here, and one of those is instead of putting up a picture on a wall and talking about it, you can stand in front of a piece of art," Reschly said.

In order to plan an itinerary for the study abroad program, Reschly said he visits the locations and gains an idea of where he would like to go before he puts together the course. Two years ago, he and his wife traveled to Curacao and visited the Kura Hulanda Museum, and he said he thought there might be a way to work this into a course.

Reschly said he decided to plan the course for the December interim as well as the May interim.

"There are issues with missing the holidays, and I am not sure we will do a December interim again," Reschly said.

Reschly said the students will gain a great deal of knowledge while abroad but that there also will be times when they have free days and can lay on the beach or do other activities.

"[While abroad we will] work hard and play hard, and I think that will be a good package," Reschly said.

Senior Amie Wilcoxon is another student taking Reschly's course abroad. She said she went to Greece during her freshman year with Reschly and is excited to gain another experience abroad, even if it means she will not be able to spend the holidays with her family.

"I am really looking forward to being on the beach for Christmas Day," Wilcoxon said. "I think that is what my friends are most jealous about."

Although some students might be apprehensive about studying abroad, Wilcoxon said she thinks college is a perfect time to travel. It also is important for students to note that they do not have to be a history major to enroll in this course.

"Any opportunity to travel abroad I will take," Wilcoxon said. "It is just a small sacrifice in the scheme of things with everything I learn and get out of it."

In order to gain the six hours of credit, students are required to read a variety of books that explain the history of Barbados and Curacao and keep a journal of their thoughts and experiences while abroad, Reschly said. They also will present a research paper on a topic of their choice at a location in either Barbados or Curacao that relates to their topic, he said.

Reschly said he has been leading study abroad courses since 1997 and believes it is important for students to try something new and study abroad.

"I believe in study abroad because I think it is transformative," Reschly said. "It changes people, even short trips, but it would be better to spend a year abroad of course. ... The short-term trips can either stand alone or they are addictive and sometimes people decide to spend more time overseas after they have one of these trips because the idea isn't foreign, so to speak, any longer."

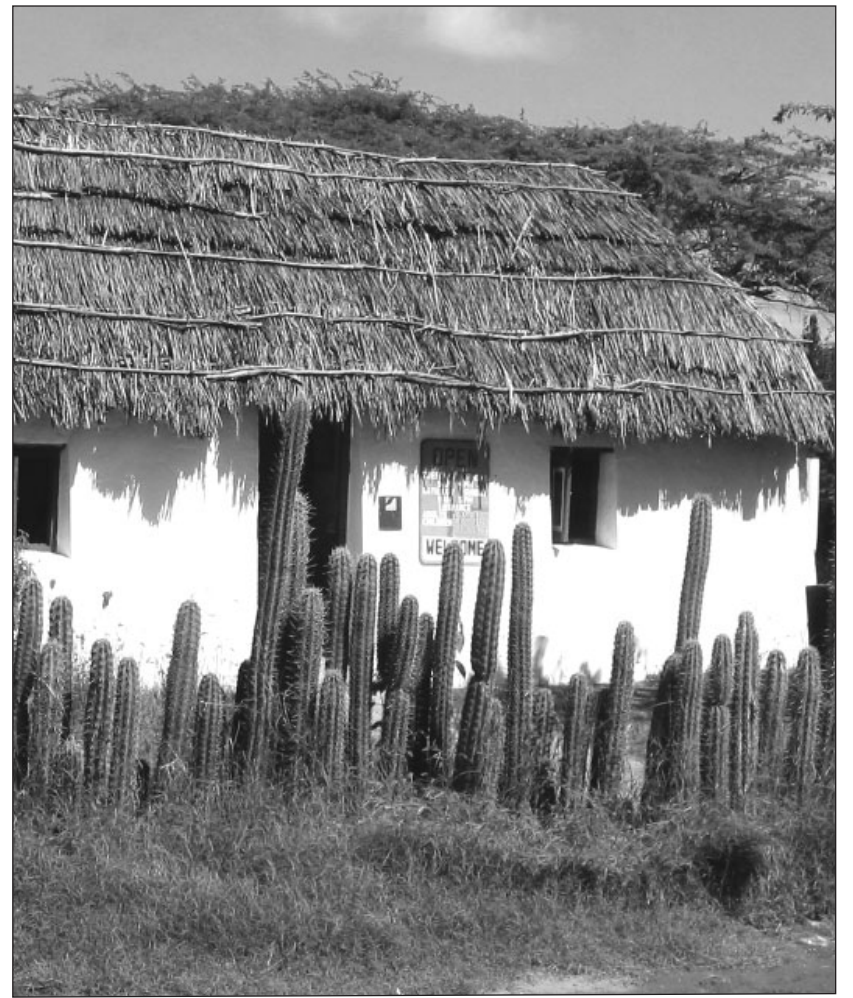


Photo submitted

Professor of history Steven Reschly will take students abroad to the island of Curaco for Winter Break. Reschly visited this slave hut when surveying the site for his history course.

# Students find reliable work for month of cash

BY ALLY SUMMERS  
Staff Reporter

While many students will head back home for the holidays, one student is opting to spend her break in Kirksville to earn extra cash.

Senior Megan Knoche works for Chad Davis State Farm Insurance in Kirksville. Knoche said she started working there toward the end of her sophomore year and that she works about 15 to 20 hours a week.

"I pay for my rent and groceries and bills," Knoche said. "My benefit is that I can pay for all of this, and I have extra spending money most of the time to do what I want. I don't have to ask my parents for cash. I'm independent."

Knoche said she got her

first job when she was 15. She started working her second year at Truman when she moved off campus.

"I made a deal with my parents that I would start paying for more and more on my own," Knoche said. "So my parents just wanted to teach me financial responsibility, and I wanted to stay out of debt as much as possible."

Knoche said she stayed in Kirksville the past two summers to work instead of going back home to Lagrange, Mo.

"I only live an hour away, so it's not that big of a deal to stay here," Knoche said. "I have a job that I know I can work 40-plus hours a week at guaranteed."

Knoche said she keeps a very organized planner and makes choices about what's

important to her as far as what she can schedule herself for.

"I haven't had to give anything up," Knoche said. "I'm involved. I get good grades."

Knoche is licensed in auto and property casualty and is working to get her life insurance license.

"It's interesting, and it's a real job," Knoche said. "It's not working at a restaurant, working at a store, all of which I have done. It's something to fall back on if I needed to, and I get to make my own hours. I can schedule them around my classes and tests."

Professor of Finance Jason Lin said working during the break would bring some additional money, besides just the month's salary, to students.

"I believe that one benefit

would be that if they are working during the break, it keeps them connected with the merchant or business," Lin said. "In the summertime or other occasions when they have to work those connections still remain intact."

Lin said there are two benefits for students who work over the break: One is the opportunity to make money, and the other is the connection with the business and the students' ability to keep the connections even though it is just a short break.

Lin said there also are benefits for those who don't work over the break. These students can lay back, travel with their families and enjoy their time off.

"Students who are willing to work, if you have choices, work

in some place that benefits you personally and professionally," Lin said. "Personally would mean better pay, and professionally would be some type of job that will benefit you in the future and improve your résumé."

Sophomore Jeremy Mapp is a first-year student adviser who plans to go home over the break to earn some extra cash.

"SAs can't work during the school year, anywhere where we get money," Mapp said. "We can do volunteer work, but we can't have an actual paying job. Over the summer or over break, any time you're not on campus you can have a job."

Since the University only pays three-fourths of the student advisors' room and board, being unable to work during the school year might present a hardship to

some SAs, Mapp said.

Mapp said that during Winter Break he plans to work a few hours at one of his summer jobs.

"The jobs that I have are all things that I done over the summer and I can come back to," Mapp said. "If they need me, I can come in and make some extra cash."

Last Winter Break Mapp worked at night, cleaning buildings with his family. His parents manage the business while he is at school, so it's something that he can go back to very easily, Mapp said.

"Get a job that can be flexible that you can go back to that will need you over breaks and can guarantee that you can have hours," Mapp said. "It's better because you're guaranteed that you can make money."

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Deadline: Monday by 5 p.m.

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**Now Hiring:** Market research interviewers. Part-time work, flexible scheduling, \$7.50/hr starting wage, employees meeting quality standards could earn up to \$9.75 within 90 days. Interviewing at the Missouri Career Center (MACC campus), Mondays 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For further info., call 660-626-1500.

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**Wanted:** Disabled person NEEDS personal computer; requests DONATION (unable to afford a computer). James, 516 E. Jefferson, Apt. C, Kirksville, Missouri.

**Wanted:** Two to three sublesors for apartment in Vista Heights spring '08. Two-bedroom, one bath, clean and spacious, new carpeting. Rent negotiable. cpr902@truman.edu or 816-225-1236.

### Miscellaneous

**Miscellaneous:** Can We Know God? "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3 Lake Road Chapel 22963 Potter Trail Sun. 10 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m. lakeroadchapel.org. Call 660-349-0766.

**Miscellaneous:** FREE GARDASIL at Planned Parenthood. Be one less life affected by cervical cancer. Call 1-800-230-PLAN or visit www.plannedparenthood.org/trpp. Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.