Faculty Report Dani Bedau

Name:  Error! Reference source not found.

Faculty/Rank:  Assistant Professor, 4th year probationary

Department:  School of Theatre, Television, and Film

College:  Professional Studies and Fine Arts

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Proposal title: Borders and Border Crossings: The Power of Art to Redefine Boundaries of Identity, Community and Place

Country/ies visited: Morocco

Institution visited: Ben M’sik University, Festival International de théâtre universitaire de Casablanca

Dates of travel: July 5 – 17, 2010

Number of student participants: 0

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates): None

Have all required reports been submitted? N/A

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: Travel funds from School of Theatre, Television, and Film – approximately $500.00

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum): This project will expand on an emerging relationship between SDSU and Ben M’sik. My July 2010 visit provides foundational knowledge and initial relationship development. Long-term, this project will examine the impact of identity(ies), community and geography on an individual’s response to art-making and viewing. A play will be devised in collaboration with SDSU students and students from Ben M’sik and presented by SDSU students at international theatre festival in Casablanca in 2011.
Travel report:

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity
The purpose of my trip to Casablanca was to expand on an emerging relationship between SDSU and Ben M’sik University. My colleagues Eniko Csomay, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Letters and Ghada Osman, Chair of the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages established a relationship with Ben M’sik in Spring of 2010. I was specifically asked to participate as part of a panel of judges for the annual International Theatre Festival sponsored by the University. In fall of 2010 Ben M’sik launched the only ‘Theatre Track’ emphasis in all of Morocco. The university is interested in forging a long-term faculty and student exchange in the areas of Theatre Arts and Language.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad
- collaborated with – at SDSU: Eniko Csomay and Ghada Osman, in Morocco: Karim Bejjit, professor of English at Ben M’sik
- e mail contacts: karim bejjit <kbejjit@gmail.com>
- researched university statistics and compared to SDSU (e.g. number of students enrolled - N/A
- confirmed that prospective university is “recognized” by the Ministry of Education - N/A

III. Upon arrival/specific activity
- What/who are the contacts made at the prospective partner university?
  lahlou khalid lahloukhalid2002@yahoo.fr, Professor of English
  karim bejjit kbejjit@gmail.com, Professor of English
  a.kaddouri@univh2m.ac.ma, Dean
  agonegai@hotmail.com, Festival Director

- What particular major/minor is of interest?
  Arabic and French Language Majors
  Arabic Studies Minors
  Theatre Major and Minors

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?
- Why is this particular institution valuable for SDSU?
  Ben M’sik has a strong English/American Studies Department and a deep interest in linking with SDSU. They will provide SDSU students a welcoming environment in the Arab speaking world and a safe home base from which to explore the cultures that are unique to Morocco.

- Sustainability of project (is there a high likelihood that students in the department will be interested in studying the proposed subject area at the prospective partner university and vice versa)?
There is a great interest on the part of students from both universities to study in each location. Internet-based exchange began in fall of 2010 and the interest on the part of theatre students in particular is growing.

- How will this exchange program (or expansion) increase participation by students in international activities, or enhance international learning environments for students? Theatre majors have an international studies requirement in order to graduate. Ben M’sik University marks the first institution in the Arab speaking world available to Theatre majors.

- What students will benefit? Theatre Majors and Minors, Arabic and French language students, Arab studies minors

- What will be their activities (e.g. course work, international internships, field research, etc.)? Internet student exchange has already begun as well as Skype-based faculty lectures. Ben M’sik and SDSU are currently exploring student exchange opportunities including semesters abroad, Summer sessions for course credit, internships and extensive field research. In spring of 2011 the School of Theatre, Television, and Film plans to host Professor Abdeslam Chetioui from Ben M’sik’s English Department for a two-week exchange. In June and July of 2011 4-8 SDSU student delegates will participate along with me in the International Theatre Festival presentation of the play currently being created collaboratively between myself and Prof. Chetioui.

- What will be your role in promoting and supporting these activities? I will be the primary host for Prof. Chetioui in the Spring and the primary contact and faculty liaison for the SDSU visit in Summer of 2011. I am writing the new play SDSU and Ben M’sik students will perform together at the International Theatre Festival. Additionally, I will continue to support Associate Dean Csomay and Ghada Osman in their on-going efforts to create a lasting partnership with Ben M’sik