

GLOBETROTTER

GLOBAL AMBASSADORS

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WWU WELCOMES 11 NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Student & Scholar Services welcomes 11 new international students for Winter 2021 from 9 countries:

- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Hong Kong
- Indonesia
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Saudi Arabia
- Venezuela
- Vietnam

There are currently 115 international students at WWU, despite the pandemic and immigration challenges over the past year.

MEET THE STUDENTS



Loïs

Loïs is from The Democratic Republic of the Congo in Central Africa. "I speak three languages: French which is my first language, my national languages (Lingala) plus English. I am a transfer student from Bellevue College and my major is Political Science/Economics, and I am glad that I have the option to study both at the same time at Western. I enjoy watching TV, cooking, baking, karaoke, listening to music, and dancing."

Leonardo is from Venezuela. "I've been living in the U.S. since 2019 when I studied at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Florida. I speak Spanish, which is my mother language, English, and a little bit of French (I'm learning it). My major is Biochemistry. I am addicted to watch series and movies. Also, I like outdoor activities, cooking, playing my guitar, and learning stuff about science."



Leonardo

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE GLOBE

BY ELLIE POTTS

OVER THE HOLIDAYS, YOU MAY HAVE ATTENDED CHURCHES WITH FAMILY, SCORED CHRISTMAS DEALS SHOPPING AT THE MALL, OR EVEN TAKEN A PHOTO WITH SANTA! WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION AND CONSUMERISM REVOLVES AROUND CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT NOT EVERYONE CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS OVER WINTER BREAK. AS CHRISTMAS IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND JESUS CHRIST (WHICH THIS DOES NOT MEAN EVERYONE WHO CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS IS A CHRISTIAN), OTHER HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED IN DECEMBER MAY ALSO BE RELIGIOUS, OR SEASONAL, OR CULTURAL, OR RELATED TO THE NEW YEAR. TO NAME A FEW, HANUKKAH AND KWANZAA ARE COMMONLY CELEBRATED IN THE US, AND AROUND THE WORLD THE WINTER SOLSTICE, BOXING DAY, ÔMISOKA, AND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR ARE CELEBRATED. LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME!

HANUKKAH IS A JEWISH CELEBRATION COMMEMORATING THE RE-DEDICATION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM FOLLOWING THE MACCABEAN REVOLT. IT IS AN 8 DAY CELEBRATION THAT BEGINS ON THE 25TH OF KISLEV ON THE HEBREW CALENDAR. THIS IS BECAUSE DURING THE RE-DEDICATION, THERE WAS ONLY ENOUGH UNTAINTED OIL TO KEEP THE CANDLES OF THE MENORAH BURNING FOR A SINGLE DAY, BUT THE FLAMES BURNED FOR 8 NIGHTS.

THE HEBREW WORD HANUKKAH (CHANUKAH, חַנּוּכָּה) MEANS DEDICATION. HANUKKAH IS CELEBRATED BY LIGHTING THE MENORAH, RECITING BLESSINGS, PLAYING WITH DREIDELS, EXCHANGING GIFTS, AND EATING TRADITIONAL FOODS SUCH AS THE LATKES (POTATO PANCAKES) EATEN IN AMERICA, AND SUFGANIYOT IN ISRAEL (JELLY DONUTS).



KWANZAA IS A CULTURAL HOLIDAY STARTED BY DR. MANULANA KARENGA IN 1966. HE FELT THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS NOT LIVING ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA WERE DETACHED FROM THE VALUES, CULTURE AND TRADITIONS, AND HE WANTED TO CREATE A HOLIDAY TO ENHANCE THEIR AFRICAN CONNECTIONS. KWANZAA IS DERIVED FROM A SWAHILI WORD MEANING "FIRST HARVEST." IN THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND OTHER PLACES AROUND THE WORLD, IT IS CELEBRATED BY GIVING THANKS FOR THE HARVEST. IT OCCURS DECEMBER 26TH-JANUARY 1ST, AND IS A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE (RATHER THAN A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY). DURING THE 7 DAYS, THE NGUZO SABA (7 PRINCIPLES) ARE STUDIED, WITH THE 7 CANDLES OF THE KINARA REPRESENTING THE PRINCIPLES. 1 BLACK CANDLE REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE, 3 RED CANDLES REPRESENT THE BLOOD, AND 3 GREEN CANDLES REPRESENT EARTH AND WORK. THE PRINCIPLES ARE UMOJA (UNITY), KUJICHAGULIA (SELF-DETERMINATION), UJIMA (COLLECTIVE WORK & RESPONSIBILITY), UJAMAA (COOPERATIVE ECONOMICS), NIA (PURPOSE), KUUMBA (CREATIVITY), AND IMANI (FAITH). THESE 7 PRINCIPLES CAN BE USED FOR ANYONE'S IMPROVEMENT OF THEMSELVES OR THE WORLD.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE GLOBE (CONTINUED)

BY ELLIE POTTS

ŌMISOKA, DECEMBER 31ST, IS CONSIDERED THE 2ND MOST IMPORTANT DAY IN JAPANESE TRADITION. FAMILIES GATHER FOR THE LAST TIME OF THE YEAR, AND CELEBRATE EATING A BOWL OF TOSHIKOSHI-SOBA OR TOSHIKOSHI-UDON, AND THESE LONG NOODLES REPRESENT CROSSING FROM ONE YEAR INTO THE NEXT. AT MIDNIGHT, PEOPLE VISIT SHRINES OR TEMPLES FOR HATSUMŌDE, AND AMAZAKE IS SHARED AT SHITENO SHRINES. MOST BUDDHIST TEMPLES HAVE LARGE BELLS THAT ARE STRUCK 108 TIMES, EACH FOR THE 108 EARTHLY DESIRES BELIEVED TO CAUSE HUMAN SUFFERING.



THE LUNAR (OR CHINESE) NEW YEAR IS CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD, AS IT MARKS THE START OF A NEW LUNAR CYCLE. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS IN ASIA, WITH STORES AND HOMES FESTIVELY DECORATED, GIFTS AND WEALTH SHARED WITH LOVED ONES, TRADITIONAL DANCES AND FIREWORK SHOWS, AND FOOD/TREATS SUCH MANDARIN ORANGES, CANDIED FRUITS, FISH, KOREAN RICE CAKE SOUP OR MONGOLIAN PASTRY TOWERS. WORSHIPPERS VISIT TEMPLES TO PRAY TO DEITIES FOR BLESSINGS AND LUCK, LIGHT INCENSE, AND OBSERVE THE FESTIVE DRAGON AND LION DANCES HELD AT TEMPLES. LUNAR NEW YEAR DATES AND THE ZODIAC CHINESE ANIMAL CHANGES EACH YEAR, BUT FOR 2021 IT FALLS ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12TH, AND IT IS THE YEAR OF THE OX.



THESE ARE JUST A FEW HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED AROUND THE WORLD DURING OUR WINTER SEASON (WINTER IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE). SOME OTHERS INCLUDE THE WINTER SOLSTICE ON DECEMBER 21ST WHICH IS THE SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR, WITH FESTIVALS, CELEBRATIONS, AND CANDLE OR BONFIRE LIGHTING TO COAX BACK THE SUN. ST. LUCIA DAY IS CELEBRATED IN SWEDEN ON DECEMBER 13TH, WHERE SWEDISH GIRLS DRESS AS "LUCIA BRIDES" AND WEAR LONG WHITE GOWNS WITH RED SASHES, A WREATH OF CANDLES ON THEIR HEADS, AND BRING COFFEE AND SING SONGS TO WAKE UP THEIR FAMILY. ST. NICHOLAS DAY IS A GIFT-GIVING, FEAST, FESTIVAL, AND PARADE-FILLED EUROPEAN HOLIDAY CELEBRATING ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA, WHO INSPIRED SANTA CLAUS AND FATHER CHRISTMAS AND DIED ON DECEMBER 6TH, 343 CE. MARDI GRAS IN FEBRUARY/MARCH IS A TIME OF LENT AND REFLECTION FOR CHRISTIANS, AND IN NEW ORLEANS AND BRAZIL THERE ARE HUGE PARADES, WITH COSTUMES AND MUSIC.



LEARNING ABOUT HOLIDAYS YOU DO NOT CELEBRATE OR THAT ARE NOT COMMONLY CELEBRATED IN YOUR COUNTRY HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND CULTURE AND CONTEXT AS A TRAVELLER AND GLOBAL CITIZEN. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO LEARN ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S TRADITION THAT THEY MAY NOT FEEL AS WELCOME SHARING IN A PREDOMINANTLY WHITE AND CHRISTIAN-RELIGIOUS COUNTRY. I AM NO EXPERT ON ANY OF THESE HOLIDAYS, BUT I RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE IN LEARNING AND CREATING SPACE FOR PEOPLE DIFFERENT THAN ME TO FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING. I HOPE YOU HAD A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON, AND LEARNED SOMETHING NEW!

SOURCES:

[HTTPS://WORLDSTRIDES.COM/BLOG/2015/12/DECEMBER-HOLIDAYS-AROUND-THE-WORLD/](https://worldstrides.com/blog/2015/12/december-holidays-around-the-world/); [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH/VVFQBIMGUIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch/vvfqbimguiq);
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OFFICER SPOTLIGHT --KIERSTEN KRUMM--

Hello everyone! My name is Kiersten Krumm, and I grew up in Redmond, Washington. I'm a senior majoring in psychology with a minor in Spanish, and I'm the Social Media Manager for the Global Ambassadors Club!

I studied Spanish in Granada, Spain through API. My favorite part was being able to travel on the weekends, because everything was close by and flights were so cheap! I got to see so many different countries and experience many different cultures. I made tons of friends in Spain and have gone back to visit them twice! Also, I'll be moving there to teach English in an elementary school after I graduate from Western which I'm super excited for!

I love being a part of the Global Ambassadors club because it is a good way to connect with likeminded students who love traveling as much as I do. I love hearing about everyone's stories and experiences traveling and studying abroad, as well as inspire other students to study abroad as well!

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Follow us on Instagram!
@globalambassadors_wvu



IMPORTANT DATES

January 26th, 2021

GA Peace Corps Talk
Details TBD

January 27th, 2021

Boren Graduate Fellowship
Application Due

February 1st, 2021

Wildland Studies, Thailand
*Study marine ecosystems in
Thailand from March 25-May 8,
2020. Visit the WWU EdAbroad
website for more details.*

February 3rd, 2021

Boren Undergraduate
Scholarship Application Due

February 9th, 2021

GA Valentine's Day
Details TBD

February 23rd-25th, 2021

EdAbroad-Con
*All the excitement and
information of the annual Go
Abroad Fair in an online format.
Visit:
<https://studyabroad.wvu.edu/ed>*



JEREMY'S BUCKET LIST ---ICELAND---

The name Iceland does not paint a picture of exciting landscapes. But, Iceland is home to some of the most amazing outdoor spectacles in the world. Waterfalls, hot springs, active volcanoes, fjords, and yes, even ice, await the adventurous traveler. Landscapes like those found at **Snaefellsnes**, **Fimmvorduhals**, and **Vatnajokull National Park** are not likely to be found anywhere else in the world. The luxury of these places is that they are truly isolated, except for your fellow trekkers. There is no pollution to inhibit your enjoyment of the dancing **Northern Lights**. But, the towns one finds in Iceland are quaint, full of colorful buildings, and surprisingly packed with enough to keep a weary traveler entertained.

So, if you have the ability, think about taking an extended layover in Iceland on your way to or from Europe. You might never have a more memorable layover.

WWU has partnerships with three different programs in Iceland. See the EdAbroad website for more details.



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Hello readers,

I hope you had a restful break, and that your quarter is going well so far. I hope you enjoy this new edition of the Globetrotter as well. While study abroad programs are mostly on hold, it is exciting that one intrepid Western student is currently studying in Thailand!

This issue features two of the 11 new international students on campus this quarter! It is amazing that our global community is still growing despite everything going on in the world.

Also, enjoy the informative special feature on international holidays! For those of you who just know Kwanzaa as a day on the calendar, this one's for you.

Safe Travels,

Jeremy Caldeira

Jeremy Caldeira
caldeij@wwu.edu