

## 9. CO-CURRICULUM

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Along with the academic programs, many co-curricular activities on and around the Western campus add experience and a valuable dimension to the global education outside the classroom.

### *International Festivals and Events*

Many activities and events are held for and by the international students and community that enrich the life of the campus and provide opportunities for Western students to experience something international on their own campus. These are just a few examples. The International Festival is popular, as is International Week. Every fall, the Russian Festival is organized by the community at large partially because Kalamazoo's sister city is Pushkin. In recent years, the festival has been held on campus, involved various WMU faculty members and received support from HIGE.

For the past seven years, the four-day Francophone Film Festival has brought movies to campus from French-speaking countries around the world – mainly Africa, Quebec, and the Caribbean—with subtitles in English. This is organized by the French section of the foreign languages department; it is supported by HIGE, as well as external grants. Every fall and spring semester, the Department of Spanish and the Division of Multicultural Affairs organize the Hispanic Film Festival.

The Gwen Frostic School of Art hosts exhibits of artists from around the world. The School of Music brings faculty from Europe and Asia to teach and perform. There are numerous lectures and workshops with international themes or participants. For more detail, see the report sections on college international committee work and the Africa and Japan centers.

### *Medieval Congress*

The Medieval Institute ranks among the top ten of the some 90 institutes, centers, and programs focusing on medieval studies in North America. The Master's Program in Medieval Studies, the undergraduate minor and several research programs have made significant contributions to the institute's prominence. However, the Medieval Institute is best known for its annual international congress, the largest annual professional meeting in the field, and Medieval Institute Publications, which has published well over 200 books and journals since 1964. The 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies will take place May 2010. The congress is an annual gathering of over 3,000 scholars interested in medieval studies, with over 600 sessions of papers, panel discussions, roundtables, workshops, and performances.

### *Umma Scholars*

Located in Harrison Hall, the Umma Scholars community is designed for students interested in global experience. Whether it means having an international student as a roommate, being a language partner for an international student, sharing culture, or discussing the latest political or economic issue with global implications, the community of scholars is a residence centered on expanding ones knowledge of world affairs. It is an ideal community for those considering majors in international business, a foreign language, global studies, or students considering studying abroad.

Residents are a mixture of those wanting a cultural experience and those who wish to learn about world issues. Some popular activities residents undertake together include attending University events, interacting with international students, coffee talk debates and international food events. International students visiting for two- to four-week long exchange live in the Umma Scholars community during their stay. The hall also promotes opportunities to network with University faculty and alumni who have international interests.