



Experience a World of Difference

The Scholar Ship is a semester-long academic program aboard a dedicated passenger ship that traverses the globe as an oceangoing campus. Students and staff from around the world come together to form a transnational learning community designed to develop their intercultural competence and leadership skills.

Featured Learning Circle

What's New

- Innovative Orientation Goes High Tech for First Class of TSS Students and Staff**
To best prepare students and staff for a semester aboard The Scholar Ship, we have developed an interactive orientation that is required of all program participants in anticipation of their upcoming voyage. Upon completion of the Intercultural Development Inventory survey, a statistically valid measure of intercultural competence, the online orientation provides participants with information and skills to better understand and appreciate cultural differences, take leadership of their own experiences, and achieve academic success. This innovative orientation is comprised of a series of experiential exercises that provide participants with opportunities for reflection and goal-setting. Early reviews from students who have completed the orientation are very positive, one writing, "I'm very impressed with this online orientation. I find it super-interesting."
- TSS to Launch Global Learning Center to Foster Faculty-led Programs**
In response to the academic community's interest in the innovative approach we have taken to global education, we are excited to announce we will be opening The Scholar Ship to a select number of colleges, universities and consortia that either have a successful history of faculty-led study abroad or wish to develop this aspect of their offerings. "We are well-positioned to provide institutions a distinctive learning environment for their students and professional development for their academic teaching staff. We offer a multicultural onboard life program and a robust port program into which they can integrate their own programs. This is not anything they will find elsewhere," said Dr. Joseph Olander, president of The Scholar Ship, who expects the first of these co-creative partnerships to materialize in time for the September 2008 voyage. For more information, contact us by [E-mail](#) or by telephone at +1 410.962.7344, ext. 16.
- January 2008 voyage itinerary altered due to security concerns in Morocco**
Due to security concerns stemming from recent terrorist activities in Morocco, we have changed the January 2008 voyage itinerary. The inclusion of a Muslim country has

International Relations (Postgraduate)

Competing and conflicting national interests remain a core concern of scholars of international relations and diplomacy, despite the profound changes in the international system as a result of the end of the Cold War in the 1990s. In the International Relations Learning Circle, postgraduate students and academic teaching staff explore the theory and practice of international relations "the relations between nations" and the roles played by both state and non-state players in that process.

If you currently study or are interested in the following fields of study, International Relations Learning Circle is one you should consider:

- Conflict Studies
- History
- Intercultural Studies
- International Law and Diplomacy

and will continue to be a priority required for a culturally diverse itinerary. As such, Turkey has replaced Morocco as one of the great countries we will visit to expose and educate our students to the Muslim culture.

To accommodate this priority and enhance the academic field programs in Asia, the entire voyage has been evaluated and modified as necessary. Other important considerations, including the logistics required to complete the voyage within a 16-week semester, have resulted in the new itinerary.

[View new January 2008 itinerary](#)

- International Studies
- Political Science
- Peace Studies
- War Studies

[Learn more about this and other Learning Circles](#)

Port Spotlight: Hong Kong



The name "Hong Kong" literally translates to "fragrant harbour," and is derived from the area where fragrant wood products and incense were once traded. Hong Kong encompasses 262 islands in the South China Sea, of which Lantau is the largest.

Hong Kong's settlement history dates back to the rule of the Qin Dynasty, when the region was first incorporated into Imperial China. Hong Kong was occupied by British forces in 1841 (during the first Opium War), and in 1898, Britain obtained a 99-year lease, declaring Hong Kong a free port of the British Empire.

In the 1980s, the impending lease expiration prompted the governments of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China to discuss the issue of Hong Kong's sovereignty. The two countries signed the Sino-British Joint Declaration, agreeing to transfer the sovereignty of Hong Kong to the P.R.C. in 1997. The declaration stipulated that Hong Kong would be governed as a special administrative region, retaining its laws and high degree of autonomy for at least fifty years after the transfer. The handover ceremony occurred the night of 30 June 1997.

Shore Excursions in Hong Kong

Hong Kong Highlights Tour: This half-day tour introduces you to the most important sites of Hong Kong: the Man Mo Temple (worshipping two gods: Man, the god of literature, and Mo, the god of war); Hollywood Road and the central market (filled with international crafts and antique shops); SOHO, an entertainment zone where you may ride the longest outdoor covered escalator system in the world; and Victoria Peak, boasting spectacular views of the city and bay.

The Hong Kong Kaleidoscope: Start with a guided visit to the Hong Kong History Museum, illustrating the development of the area from a small fishing village into the modern territory it represents today. Then explore religion in Hong Kong at the Chi Lin Nunnery, a Tang style monastic complex of timber structures. Afterwards, the tour proceeds to a Chinese traditional medicine talk.

Glimpse of the New Territories: Exploring the scenes behind the high-rise apartment towers and busy highways, this tour brings to life the customs and cultures of Hong Kong's heritage. Begin with a visit to Tai Fu Tai & Fan Tin Village to understand traditional life and its relationship to the New Territories. Proceed to Lo Wai Walled Village & Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall. Experience Tai Po Market, and visit the Yuen Yuen Institute, the only temple in Hong Kong dedicated to all three major Chinese religions.

A Taste of Shaolin Martial Arts: Travel to the Shaolin Wushu Culture Center, located in

Onboard Staff Profile



Susan Nickens, Ph.D.
Academic Dean
Inaugural Voyage
September 2007

Susan Nickens has worked in higher education for numerous years since she began her career at the University of Maryland as an English instructor. After joining University of Maryland University College, she served as head of the English Department, Assistant Dean, Communication, Arts and Humanities and Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, before joining the University of Maryland University College's program for the U.S. military stationed in Europe and the Middle East. Dr. Nickens held a number of positions within UMUC-Europe including Director of Administration, Academic Director, and Director of Faculty Development.

Returning from Germany in 2002 to accept the position of Associate Dean at Villa Julie College's School of Graduate and Professional Studies, Dr. Nickens managed curriculum development, faculty development, and the advising office for adult students. Thereafter she served as Director of Academic Services at Mount St. Mary's Division of Continuing Studies.

tranquil Tai O. This training program will help you increase your awareness and appreciation of Chinese art and culture, build a healthy mind and body, and examine the Shaolin way of life and its Zen philosophy to create a balanced and harmonious environment. Then explore Tai O, a traditional fishing village reminiscent of old Hong Kong.

Llama Island and the Fisherfolkâ€™s Village: Drive to the Ocean Court at Aberdeen and take a ferry to the Lamma Island. Explore the fisherfolkâ€™s village and dragon boats, which showcase the local culture and the history of the fishing industry in Hong Kong. After a traditional lunch, wander peaceful Lamma Island. Buildings higher than three storeys are prohibited and there are no roads and hence, no automobiles. The communityâ€™s only transport means is by foot or bicycle, and serves as a haven for artists, cartoonists and musicians.

Mountain Biking in the New Territories: Cycle through the historic village of Shui Tau and visit the Old Schoolhouse Museum and Ancestral Halls. Then visit nearby Mystery Tree House, over 850 years old. Head out on a bike path via Sha Po village to Nam Sheng Wai, an area known for its exotic bird species. Cycle on to the city of Yuen Long for a Dim Sum lunch. Afterwards, cycle to the Fish Ponds and fishing villages near Tsim Bei Tsui and ride along the border fence of China, before returning via Wetland Park to the city.

Dragonâ€™s Back Hike: Travel to Wong Nai Chung Gap, hiking across ridges on the island. Walk through the Tai Tam Country Park, past the Tai Tam Reservoir and along the north side of the Tai Tam Valley, filled with ecological abundance protected by the government from development. Trek through Shek O Country Park, Hong Kongâ€™s natural haven, before topping the Dragonâ€™s Back and its spectacular views over the mountains and bay below.

[Learn more about our Shore Excursions](#)

Last Call to Study Aboard The Scholar Ship on Inaugural Voyage

If youâ€™ve been putting off making plans to study abroad this September, itâ€™s not too late to consider a semester aboard The Scholar Shipâ€™s inaugural voyage. Join undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the world on a historic voyage departing from Athens, Greece and traversing through Europe, the Americas, the South Pacific and Asia. Applications will be accepted for just a short while longer. Financial aid available.

[Learn more about our inaugural voyage](#)

Continuing Education

Dr. Nickens has received a number of grants for curriculum development, innovative program delivery, and academic support services for students, including an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant awarded to University of Maryland University College for development of an online baccalaureate accounting curriculum for which she served as principal investigator.

Dr. Nickens holds a B.A. in English with honors from North Carolina Wesleyan College; M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature and Language from University of Maryland.

[Learn more about our Voyages](#)

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