June 16, 2006

Rogue Community College is sponsoring a range of exciting “down under” programs in Australia next winter. Educational programs for students as well as adventure experiences for community members will feature sailing the Indian Ocean aboard a tall ship and exploring the outback.

The student component of “RCC Down Under” is a collaboration between RCC and the University of Notre Dame-Australia. This 10-week program runs from Dec. 26 to March 1. Students will be based in Perth-Fremantle, with housing in university residence halls. Classes will include studies of Australian culture and history. A program highlight will be a two-week outback adventure including visits to Aboriginal sites and a sheep station with local guides. Other activities include weekly guest lectures and cultural activities such as sporting events and day tours.

The cost is $5,999 and includes round-trip airfare from Medford/Portland, university residence hall accommodations, tuition and fees for up to 12 credits, books for four classes and Australian medical insurance. It also covers access to the university’s library services and computer lab as well as a three-day orientation, with activities including a tour of Perth and welcoming barbecue.

Students can extend their stay by signing up for an optional package that includes a two-week sailing adventure March 3-16 in the Indian Ocean aboard the SS Leeuwin II. This three-mast tall-ship is a research and educational sailing vessel and has an experienced 13-member crew. Fee for this portion is $1,999, when booked in conjunction with the academic program. It includes accommodations aboard ship, all meals at sea, tuition and fees for four credits of marine biology, books and study materials, Australian medical insurance, and transfer to Perth airport.

Community members who want to take part in a shorter Australian adventure can choose between a two-week outback exploration of Western Australia from Feb. 14 through March 2, a sailing adventure aboard the SS Leeuwin II from March 1-16, or experience both and save money. Cost of the outback expedition is $2,499, with the sailing adventure $3,399. If both are booked at the same time the cost is $4,999, a savings of almost $900. RCC faculty will provide leadership on both options. Australian health insurance is included.

The outback exploration, led by experienced local guides, begins with a two-day orientation in Fremantle-Perth and then heads into the backcountry. Cost includes meals, lodging during orientation, and tent accommodations in the outback. The sailing adventure package includes a two-day orientation, accommodations on land and at sea, and educational fees and study materials.

For more information, contact Dr. Kay Aldrich, 245-7508, or Dr. Wolfgang Runzi, 245-7570.

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