Faculty/Staff Exchange Program with the University of Graz, Austria

UALR Faculty and Staff have the opportunity to travel and work abroad at the Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria. The costs of the program will be partially underwritten by UALR. Seize this opportunity. You may go it alone or consider travel as a group.

Purpose of the Program
To internationalize the UALR curriculum and stimulate innovation in UALR's delivery of services to students by providing faculty and staff with an in-depth introduction to the workings of a foreign university. This will be done in partnership with the University of Graz, Austria, with which UALR has enjoyed an excellent working relationship since 1987.

Dates and Eligibility
Dates
The exchange will be for a 2-week period in May. We will depart from Little Rock on Monday, May 12th, and return on Monday, May 26th. We anticipate sending a group of 7 people this year. The dates of the program will require faculty members to make alternate testing arrangements in their spring semester classes, since the group will be gone during the examination period. Permission to do this, if needed, should be sought from your chair. These dates were chosen because the University of Graz will still be in session in May and a May time frame will entail minimal disruption to scheduling for UALR staff and faculty.

Eligibility
The program is open to faculty and professional staff. Clerical staff is not eligible for the program. Though some facility in German would be helpful, it is by no means a requirement.

Program Overview
The Program
Participants in the exchange program stay with a host Austrian family and are assigned to a faculty/staff liaison that performs similar work at the University of Graz. Participants may be asked to provide guest lecturers (in English), visit classes, attend seminars on European systems of higher education and participate in discussions with colleagues about techniques for the delivery of education to students. In addition, the library and computing facilities at the University of Graz is available for research purposes. The program also includes field trips, cultural programming and an excursion to Vienna.

Program Costs
Participants receive a subsidy from UALR to cover a portion of the total costs of the program: round trip air fare from Little Rock, trip insurance, public transportation in Graz and Vienna, two meals a day (breakfast and dinner), field trips and cultural programming costs, seminar fees, and housing (in home stays with host family).

The subsidies will be distributed on a sliding scale based on the participant’s annual salary. The precise subsidy for each individual will be announced when the final selection of participants is made.
About the University of Graz
Founded in 1585, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz is the second largest institution of higher learning in Austria with some 25,000 students. It has faculties of humanities, law and social sciences, medicine, theology, and natural sciences. With six Nobel Prize winners to its credit throughout its history, the University of Graz sets a very high standard in teaching and research. The university can boast of a superb research library and excellent support facilities. You can visit their web site, which may be accessed at least partially in English, at http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at/E/.

Since 1987, UALR has exchanged students and faculty with Graz, and presently several joint research projects have grown out of this interchange, and in the Fall of 2002 a formal full-fledged partnership agreement was signed by the two institutions.

About Graz and Styria
A city of some 250,000 inhabitants situated astride the Mur River about 120 miles from Vienna, Graz is perhaps Austria's most livable city. Numerous parks and green areas add to its beauty. Founded over 850 years ago, Graz is rich in cultural and historical attractions, with excellent opera and theater companies and widely diverse museums.

Graz can also boast of one of the best preserved central city cores in all of Europe, which led to the city being named in 1999 as a UNESCO World Heritage site, one of only 533 such natural and cultural heritage sites worldwide. In 2003 it has served as the Cultural Capitol of Europe. Graz is the capital of the province of Styria, which has diverse landscapes ranging from Alpine valleys to wine country and the hilly, castle-studded borderland that adjoins Hungary to the east and Slovenia to the south. The program will include field trips to Vienna and significant sites in Graz and its environs.

Application Procedures
Application Process
To apply for the program, please download the application form, complete it, and then e-mail it as an attachment to Heather Binder at hxbinder@ualr.edu. If you have any questions, you may call Heather at 569-3376, or visit her in-person at Stabler Hall room 105A, in the Office of International Services. In addition to e-mailing the application, please print out a hard copy, provide the necessary signatures and send the hard copy version by campus mail to Heather Binder, Office of International Services, Stabler Hall 105A.

Deadline
The application deadline is December 7, 2007.