Qatar Debate Visit

VFTH

12/27/18

Debating in English is tough enough but imagine having to make your argument in a foreign language.

That’s exactly what some WKU students do at the International Qatar (KAH’-tar) Debate competition in Doha.

Amy Bingham has more in this week’s View from the Hill.

“We did have to think on our feet, we did have to know things we wouldn’t know otherwise. We had research we had to do.”

Maggie Lewis did all her speaking in Arabic at last spring’s international debate competition in Qatar.

“Just being able to know another language is a completely eye opening experience.”

Maggie and two other students recently recapped their experience with a Qatar delegation who came to visit WKU.

“We are very happy to learn they had a very rich experience in Doha.”

During their two day visit, the delegation hosted a debate workshop since WKU will be sending a team to Qatar Debate for the third year in a row.

“This time we’re making it on the spring break for American Universities so all universities that have semesters system. Right now we have 100 universities coming in.”

“It’s an amazing experience for them and for me too just being with them the whole time and interacting with international students and coaches from all over the world.”

For Maggie, taking Arabic as a student at the Gatton Academy, opened up a whole new career possibility.

“I want to do social media analysis for the American government, so scroll through and identify threats on different social media sites and platforms.”

She says it was the rigors of debating in a foreign language that proved she could do it.

“It really sealed the deal with Arabic for me. Like I said it was just completely by chance that I came across the opportunity but once I did, I knew I had to apply and it was something I really wanted to do.”

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

The Qatar Foundation is looking to expand it’s partnership with WKU in the future. The delegation also had stops at universities in Boston, Chicago, New York and Utah during its recent trip to the U.S.

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