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Study Abroad Newsletter

Spring 2017 Issue

Seoul, South Korea

Message from the Director's Perch

When President Obama unveiled 100,000 Strong in the Americas, his administration's signature education initiative in the Western Hemisphere, he did so by declaring, "When we study together, we learn together, we work together, and we prosper together." Note the plurality of that statement. Read the 'we' and the 'together'.

I was asked this fall by a French journalist if political movements in the U.S. and Europe that seem to be moving us more towards tribalism and less towards internationalism are going to dampen our student exchange efforts. Honestly, I think we'll see the opposite outcome. Global Engagement is now more important than ever.

The many populist political movements we are seeing today deserve credit for reminding us that our social and economic systems are imperfect and many politicians are out of touch with the realities of working men and women, but they should also remind us that the issues challenging our societies today – jobs, migration, climate change, health care – are not merely U.S. American issues, or British issues, or Indian issues – they are global issues that require global solutions. International programs, including partnership agreements, study abroad, and the Cardinals Beyond Borders program, create a space for dialogue so we can use international resources to solve international (and domestic) issues. For this reason, we are entering a time where we will feel an unprecedented benefit from more international engagement, rather than less, and with more than 200 students heading abroad in 2017, Global Lamar will be leading the way in this endeavor. Even in the face of a changing political landscape, I remain as positive as ever about the state of international education at Lamar University and beyond – reading this edition of the Newsletter will show you why.

Dr. Jeff Palis

Director of Global Studies and Study Abroad

Runnningman Challenge

Presented by the Office of Study Abroad
and Korean Culture Club

Friday, January 20th, 2017
At 2pm in the Rec Center

Compete in games and challenges to
see who can win the final Name Tag
Elimination Challenge

It's like tag
for adults!



For more information or to sign-up, e-mail:
bcrossley@lamar.edu

NEW ZEALAND

January 2 - 14, 2018

GEOL 1403 - Introduction to Physical Geology
GEOL 4301 - Geography of the South Pacific

* Students will take the classes as part of the Fall 2017 semester *

Contact:

Dr. Sarah Schwartz
sschwartz@lamar.edu

Core
Credit



Nasim sketching at the *Galleria dell'Accademia*.

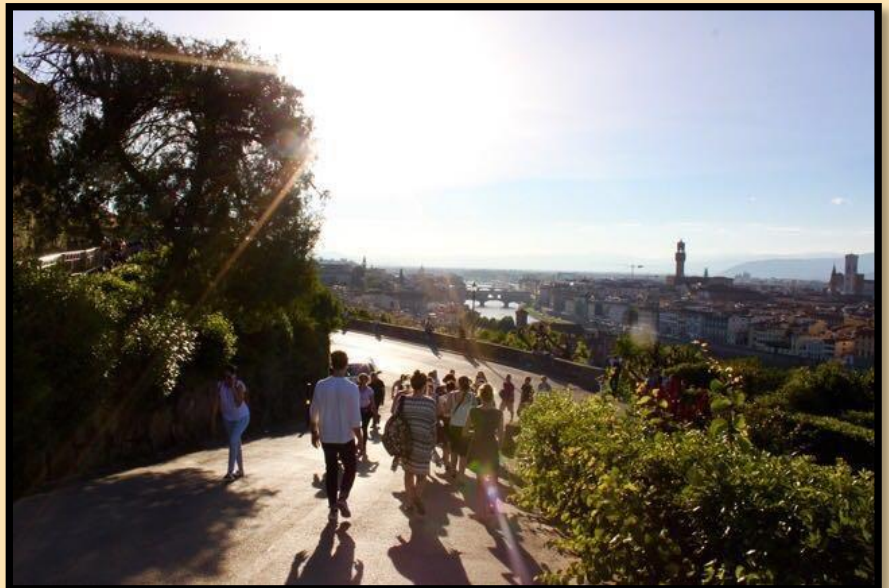
Engineering a Summer Studying Art in Florence

By Nasim Abedelwahab

One of the few things I was certain of when I started college, was that I would study abroad at some point. Earning college credits while traveling internationally always sounded like a great opportunity to me. Studying abroad already sounded great, but after actually going on a program and seeing first-hand what we gain from studying abroad, I know for a fact that going to Italy last summer will stand as one my most memorable college experiences.

I studied abroad for a month in Italy on an art program; which was a bit odd, considering I'm a mechanical engineering major. Taken at face value, painting and drawing aren't really skills companies look for when hiring mechanical engineers, sadly. So what was the point in me participating in a study abroad that didn't even count for my major, not even as an elective? Personally, I believe it is important to branch out, especially in college, and learn about more than just what your major pertains to. It might seem a little irresponsible to spend a summer abroad taking a course that won't count for anything when I could take some engineering courses over the summer to get ahead or get an internship to gain valuable experience in the working sector. However, studying abroad itself can be as influential on your future career and academic plans as either one of the previous options.

All of the cliché statements made regarding studying abroad, such as "It will change your life", "You will remember it for the rest of your life", "It will broaden your horizons", are all, in my opinion, actually true. Living for a month in Florence with only some basic knowledge of Italian and having to use a map to find my way around, made for some very interesting experiences. For example, during the first week of our trip we visited San Miniato, a church located at the top of a hill and one of the highest points in Florence. While visiting San Miniato we had the chance to explore the extensive graveyard behind the church which contained several famous Italians, such as Carlo Collodi, the creator of Pinocchio. After exploring a little we sat down for a short history lesson, followed by an art lesson. During our short lessons we heard someone speaking Italian through some very old loud speakers, and naturally none of us understood what was being said. When we got up to leave and arrived at the doors we noticed they had been locked



The group walking back down after being locked in the graveyard.

Continued on next page...

Engineering a Summer Studying Art in Florence (contd.)

By Nasim Abedelwahab

and realized that the message over the loudspeakers was actually a warning about the graveyard closing for the day. Now we were stuck in an Italian graveyard. This led to us banging on the graveyard doors until a very angry monk let us out after about an hour and a few choice words in Italian. I'm not saying that if you go to Italy you should go get locked in a graveyard for fun, but every study abroad program has its fair share of unique experiences – experiences that will stay with you long after graduation.

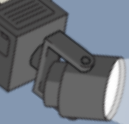
As a mechanical engineering major, visiting Florence, Rome and Venice was fascinating, and even though the program I went on was not engineering related, seeing the massive structures, some of them over a thousand years old, was very enlightening. Specifically, I found the Duomo in Florence really interesting because at the time of its construction it was the largest dome in the world. The cathedral itself was actually built before anyone knew how to build a dome that large. The church was actually used for several decades with a huge hole in the roof where the dome would be because no one had solved that pesky engineering issue! In 1420 construction of the dome began and now it is one of the most iconic structures in all of Italy. In a regular university classroom, these sort of historic engineering achievements are not given much attention, but seeing and learning about them on study abroad provided me a new appreciation for the art of engineering.

One of the best parts of any study abroad experience is just getting to explore a new place. Simply being in Florence and walking around discovering all the little nuances of the city was surreal. Waking up early to get breakfast and freshly squeezed orange juice on the roof of a six story building while watching the city of Florence come alive is something I definitely recommend to anyone considering visiting Italy. These mornings became one of my favorite Florence experiences. Likewise, during our visit to Rome, a morning stroll among ancient roman ruins, where the great armies of the Roman Empire marched, followed by a relaxing evening by the Trevi Fountain, made for a great day in Rome.

Traveling abroad will expose you to many memorable, once in a lifetime experiences, and is really something everyone should participate in. Even though this particular study abroad program did not contribute directly to my academic or career goals, it was still a very enriching experience. Not everything you do in college has to be in your degree plan. College is one of the best times to branch out and learn about new things. Sometimes you don't need a specific reason to do something significant, such as studying abroad, outside of wanting to experience something unique and challenging. What's the point in living life – or attending college - if you're not going to take some time to enjoy it?



Students on the program visited the cities of Rome and Venice while living in Florence for a month.



Program Spotlight

History in the UK

Dates: June 26 – July 8, 2017

Course: HIST 4321 or HIST 5321 – British Sports History

Program Fee: \$3,700 + Tuition

Included: Roundtrip international airfare, accommodations, transportation in country, breakfasts, excursions, museum entry fees, & international health insurance



The English Sport Heritage Study Abroad Program offers students an exciting 11-day tour of key sporting stadiums and museums in London. Students will learn about the history and public history of sports like soccer, cricket, and rugby, and the relation between each of those to larger phenomena such as globalization, colonization, race, class, and gender. One of the key components of the program is the partnership with London's world-famous Arsenal Football Club. We'll get an up-close tour of their facilities and team museum complete with guest lectures. The program is open to all majors!!

Contact: Prof. Josh Howard
jhoward22@lamar.edu

Communications in India



Dates: June 12 – July 2, 2017

Course: COMM 4396 – Studies in Film & Culture: Bollywood

Program Fee: \$3,000 + Tuition

Included: Roundtrip international airfare, transportation in country, accommodations, some meals, excursions, & intl. health insurance

Students will have the opportunity to produce fiction film, journalistic and video documentary narrative, photo documentary narrative, or academic research while visiting Mumbai, India's entertainment capital and home to Bollywood, one of the most prolific centers of film production in the world. We will take a brief orientating journey through the history and culture of India, the period of colonization and conquest, and the rise of the independent India. Then it's off to India to get engaged with Indian artists, journalists, filmmakers, and immerse in Indian culture. The program is open to all majors!!

Contact: Prof. Mahmoud Salimi
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Crossing Borders

By Stephanie DeMeyer

In the Fall 2016 semester, the Office of Study Abroad started a new program called Cardinals Beyond Borders (CBB). CBB matches students who have studied abroad with a “buddy” from another country. The purpose of this program is to help international students acclimate to American culture, and for study abroad students to make new friends while continuing to learn about the world outside of Texas.



Cardinals Beyond Borders Pizza Party and Game Night

I traveled abroad to Italy this past summer, which made me excited to participate in the program. Because I have studied abroad, I am aware of the challenges that come with being immersed in a different culture and a different language environment. My buddy’s name is Sanket Gajera, from Rajkot, Gujarat, India. He and I hit it off right away!

CBB put on a variety of events throughout the semester, where students were able to connect over fun and food. My favorite event by far was the game night. Students brought games from their own culture, either domestic or international. We taught the international students American games like Uno, and we learned how to play the Korean game *Ddakji* from exchange students from Seoul Tech. Several games were parallel across cultures, and had similar rules. It was eye-opening to see how alike we are, even across great geographical distances.

We also were able to share many of our traditions with our buddies, including Homecoming and Halloween. I realized how little I knew about the origins of our traditions, and it helped me learn more about my culture as well.



It has been such an amazing experience to be able to share my culture with Sanket and learn about his life in India. I’ve learned a handful of phrases in his native language, and have also been able to participate in Indian cultural traditions like Diwali. I am grateful to CBB and to Sanket, because I have made a friend for life. The friendships made in CBB cross cultural, geographical and language barriers, and show that bonds can be made, regardless of where you come from.

Fall 2016 Farewell BBQ for the Cardinals Beyond Borders program.

Taking Advantage of New Opportunities in Korea!

By Linda Pham



A traditional Korean building.

This past summer, I was given the wonderful opportunity to travel abroad to Daejeon, South Korea for the SSIS (Summer Session for International Students) program, hosted at Chungnam National University (CNU). This was the first time Lamar University sent students to CNU and also the first time I travelled abroad without my family. I felt like a study abroad pioneer and I knew I was in for an amazing experience.

There were two separate parts of SSIS, a two-week and a four-week program. I really appreciated the fact that I chose the four-week program, which was long enough for me to truly appreciate my stay in Korea without getting too homesick. SSIS provided me with wonderful memories and an inspiration to go out of my comfort zone to try new things and explore new and unique opportunities.

SSIS students take two classes: a required Korean Language Course and an elective taught in English. The interactions with other students from around the world made the classes very enjoyable. So enjoyable, in fact,

I often forgot these were actual classes! One of the many reasons why I enjoyed this program, was the fact it involved participants from around the world. I remember there being students from China, Brazil, Romania, Taiwan, and even Germany! We all exchanged ideas and stories and it was really inspiring to see how the countries we came from did not influence any of the relationships we made and shared. Even simple things we found in common with each other resonated with me, like hobbies and taste in music. One time I mentioned my favorite Korean Pop group, and that incident resulted in me getting a wonderful pen pal from Romania.

CNU also integrated several other activities inside and outside of the classroom into our courses, including ceramics, Taekwondo, and cooking. Each student also had an assigned buddy, a domestic student from Chungnam, to help them around the city. I heard of buddy pairs going out to sing karaoke, hiking mountains, going to the beach, and just simply sharing meals together. Since I went on the longer program, there was more time to take advantage of available time outside of class. We used this time to explore the many gems of South Korea, which included traditional villages, temples, palaces, beaches, and cities like Daejeon, Seoul, Busan, and Daegu. These trips were easy thanks to South Korea's efficient means of transportation via bus, subways, passenger trains, and bullet trains, and the fact that Daejeon is almost at the center of the country.

During my time in Korea I grew to appreciate an unfamiliar country, made irreplaceable memories, ate great food, and formed lasting friendships around the world. Words cannot express how much I enjoyed this program, and I strongly encourage other students to consider the summer, winter, and semester programs at Chungnam National University.

Linda's Korean Food

Must Eats

1. Ddeokbokki
2. Gimbap
3. Bingsu
4. Bibimbap
5. Jjigae
6. Pajeon
7. BBQ
8. Hoddeok
9. Hodugwaja
10. Ice cream waffles

Upcoming Events

January

- 19th Spring Study Abroad Fair**
Dining Hall Lawn
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- 20th Runningman Challenge**
Indoor Soccer Court – Rec Center
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

February

- 16th Spring Break Pre-Departure Orientation**
Mandatory orientation for all students study abroad during the spring semester.
Landes Auditorium – Galloway Building
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
- 21st REDTalk – Study Abroad**
Landes Auditorium – Galloway Building
1:00 pm

Tuesdays & Wednesdays from January 24th – March 15th Study Abroad Table

In front of Family & Consumer Sciences
Building across from the Library
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

GlobalLamar



Contact Us
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Wimberly 215
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Monday – Friday
studyabroad@lamar.edu
409-880-7013 / 7516
lamar.edu/studyabroad

March

- 3rd Summer Program Deadline**
Applications and deposits due for summer programs due by 5 pm.
- 8th Criminal Justice in Ireland Info Session**
Find out about the Criminal Justice and Psychology in Ireland study abroad programs. Location TBD.
- 31st Study Abroad Fee Grant Deadline**
Applications for SAFG and additional funding due by 5:00 pm.

April

- 27th Summer Pre-Departure Orientation**
Mandatory orientation for all students studying abroad in the summer.
Landes Auditorium – Galloway Building
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

