

# Study Abroad Connections

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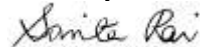
## Message from the Director

Aloha and welcome to the Summer 2016 issue of Study Abroad Connections! If you have not heard, the Study Abroad Center is currently and temporarily relocated to Henke Hall 109 for the Summer. We expect to return to Moore Hall 115 before the Fall 2016 semester begins.

In an effort to increase the community's understanding of study abroad and how students can benefit from a study abroad experience, the Study Abroad Center will be hosting an Advisor Workshop in Fall 2016. Details will be posted when available.

On a study abroad program, students explore the world, live and learn in a different culture, and discover themselves. In this issue, you will read about Spring 2016 graduate Kamaka Dias, who participated in two study abroad programs, and is preparing for his next phase as a Peace Corps volunteer as we publish this issue. If you are on the fence about studying abroad (or applying to be the faculty Resident Director) in Paris, you are in luck! English professor Miriam Fuchs has successfully completed several appointments as Resident Director, and shares her insight on being abroad in Paris.

Sincerely,



Sarita Rai

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## The Best Decision of My Life

**Kamaka Dias**

**Communication**

**Seville, Spain, Fall 2014; Mendoza, Argentina, Summer 2015**

Entering my fourth year of college, I was an undeclared senior with no idea what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I was too afraid to commit to one thing and let that determine the rest of my life. Now, one year later, I am graduating with a degree in Communication and a certificate in Spanish, I've been to three continents and seven countries, and I'm also going to Madagascar to be a Peace Corps volunteer; and I have study abroad to thank for that.

I first found out about studying abroad during the spring semester of my Junior year. Vanessa came in to my Spanish 102 class and gave us a talk about studying abroad in Spain. I have never given studying abroad a thought—nor have I ever been outside of the country—so it sounded like something I should do. Also, the idea of earning nine Spanish credits in one semester and living in a foreign country for three months really sparked my interest as well.

I went online, filled out the application, packed my scooter suitcase and the rest was history. The reason I chose to study in Spain was not only because I wanted to travel, but I sincerely wanted to learn the Spanish language. I grew up speaking Hawaiian and English so I felt like I never actually learned a language. So I wanted to challenge myself and become trilingual. What better place to learn Spanish than Spain, right?

Although I lived in Hawai'i my entire life and had never been outside the country, it is hard to say if I experienced culture shock. I say this because Hawai'i has such a diverse demographic, so I was always accustomed to being around people of different origins all the time. What was really shocking to me was to see a lot of Chinese people in Spain and hear them speak perfect Spanish. We have a lot of Asians in Hawai'i, but they speak their own language so it was pretty incredible. It also motivated me to learn Spanish because I thought to myself, "if they can come to a country and learn another language fluently, so can I." I have to say that the informational pre-departure meetings did help me prepare for my trip and learn a little bit about the culture and lifestyle of my host country. If not for these meetings I probably would have gone in slippers and surf shorts for the majority of my trip.

*Continued...*



Days before leaving you have this nervous feeling, but it's like a good kind of excited nervous feeling. A feeling of anticipation and not knowing what to expect, but I knew I was making the right choice. After over a day of traveling I arrived in Spain and it just felt right. The field trips, host family, friends and food in Spain were just perfect. The most memorable moment I had in Spain was playing soccer in a bubble ball and winning the championship with other students and my host brother playing on my team. We got a little world cup trophy and it was one of the coolest things I have ever done in my life.

Studying abroad changed my life. During my time in Spain I overheard our resident director talking to another student about the Peace Corps and I joined their conversation. From that moment I knew it was what I wanted to do with my life. I appreciate Spain so much because that is where I discovered myself and others as well. The friends I made were amazing because you share stories with each other and it is interesting to see where everyone came from and all the different experiences that they have had in their lives.

I didn't come back from Spain a changed man, but a grown man. I fell in love with the Spanish culture and language and caught a bad case of the travel bug like most students who study abroad do. I came back to UH-Manoa during the spring semester with a new sense of direction and passion in my life. I decided to strive for my certificate in Spanish, so I knew I had to study abroad again. I decided to go to Argentina in the summer to finish it off. I felt more confident this time. This time studying abroad I felt like a leader and I could share my experience of my previous trip with new students. I thought it would be the same as Spain, but I was wrong.

I expected every aspect of my second study abroad to be similar to my first time but there were so many new things I did not expect. In Spain we walked no more than 10 minutes to our small ICS building for class, but in Argentina we had to catch the bus to a university every day. The way they spoke was different, the food they ate was different, their interest was different as well. Don't get me wrong, it was still awesome, but here I was thinking I knew everything. But really I was just like any other student there experiencing this new place for the first time. This taught me that every place you go to in life will have its own personal experience. Things will be similar, but along the way you will always find something new and that is the beauty of studying abroad. Every day is something new and every day there is a new lesson to be learned, not only in school but outside as well.

One of the coolest things about my time in Argentina was just being at the dinner table with my host family and eating, talking stories, and showing them pictures from home then going back to my room later and realizing that I just spent over an hour hanging out with my family only speaking in Spanish. I didn't even know I could do that because I went to Spain knowing very little Spanish but over the past semester abroad and semester at UH Manoa I didn't even realize how quickly my Spanish has improved.

Studying abroad taught me that I am capable of more than I give myself credit for. Society tells us to graduate high school, get a degree in four years, get a good job and make a lot of money, get married, have children and so on. I say create your own path in life. Learn as many things as you can, be a tourist, learn another language, travel not to see the world, but to get out of your own comfort zone, and most importantly, study abroad. You might have a million reasons not to study abroad, like a significant other or some sort of fear of flying, but all you need is one good reason. If I could give advice to myself as a freshman entering college and other students who are interested in studying abroad, I would say to study abroad as soon as you can. Don't wait until your senior year, don't be afraid to take that leap. You will hear all the awesome stories of other people studying abroad and you won't know how life-changing it is until you study abroad yourself. Although I am grateful for the opportunities that I had and I wouldn't change anything, it would have been great to study abroad earlier in my college career, because it helps you grow so much as an individual. It forces you to step outside of your comfort zone and experience new things that you never would have imagined. It sounds so cliché but it's so true. I owe so much to study abroad and I can honestly say that I would not be the person I am today without it. Studying abroad is and will forever be the best decision of my life.



# Thinking About Paris?

Miriam Fuchs

Professor, English

Resident Director, Paris, France, Fall 2016, Spring 2015, Fall 2009, Summer 2005



Is this Paris?



Or is this Paris?

The correct answer is that *both locations* are indeed Paris!

As a UH student in Paris, you will probably live in a neighborhood that's shown in the picture to your left. And you will take classes in the neighborhood that's in the picture to your right. This means that you'll become utterly familiar with the older parts of historic Paris, and that you'll also be very comfortable navigating the largest business district in all of Europe—called *La Défense*—the picture on the right. And if you choose to take your language course at the Sorbonne, your Paris home will also include the artistic area known as the Left Bank.

Wherever you travel between *La Défense* and the twenty *arrondissements* of Paris, the gorgeous, historical city of Paris becomes your home. You'll attend classes that are truly international and taught in English, whether they are business, economics, marketing, etc. as well as the course you take with your UH Resident Director. For instance, UH students who took my "Art (& Lies) in Paris" class—connecting popular novels about art to specific Paris locations that we visited,—were in class with students from Sweden, Mexico, Poland, Hong Kong, Canada, Brazil, and, of course, France.

If you are reading this newsletter, you may be trying to decide in what city and in what program you most want to spend a forthcoming semester. Paris is ideal: it's exciting, its metro system is efficient and easy to use (trains run at extremely short intervals), the architecture is extraordinary, and the food, from sandwiches sold in bakeries or crêpes prepared at kiosks or cheeses in gorgeous window displays, is (arguably) the best in the world. Also, French people are nice (yes, it's true) and happy to help you find a street or the nearest metro station.

The academic program is varied and challenging, from the classes to the scheduling. With the full name of *Institut d'Économie Scientifique et de Gestion*, the school that hosts UH is more simply known as IÉSEG or IÉSEG School of Management. It's well known and highly respected. Classified as a "Grande École" and a member of the Conférence des Grandes Écoles, IÉSEG is part of the most prestigious network of higher education institutions in France.

A closing note: Look again at the Grande Arche in the right photo above. It's said that all of Notre Dame Cathedral can fit inside of the Grande Arche. Your school is right up that staircase at the base of the arch. You can take an escalator that's right under the canvas-like suspended roof, which is actually an artwork called "The Cloud," and it helps cut down the winds created by such a vast open space. (There are other entrances to IÉSEG as well, but this is the most spectacular of them).

*Continued...*



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
 Study Abroad Center  
 1890 East West Road  
 Moore Hall, Room 115  
 Honolulu, HI 96822

**Phone** 808 956 5143  
**Fax** 808 956 9319

**Web** studyabroad.org  
 uhmstudyabroad  
 uhmstudyabroad

Dare to Discover,  
 Dare to Learn, and  
 Dare to Understand



As the American writer Ernest Hemingway wrote:

*"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young [person], then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast."*

## Meet the next Resident Directors

... and the exciting courses they are teaching abroad!

### Fall 2016

#### London, England

**Mark Branner** [branner@hawaii.edu](mailto:branner@hawaii.edu)

THEA 101 (W): Introduction to World Drama and Theatre

THEA 474 (O): Theatre for Young Audiences

#### Paris, France

**Miriam Fuchs** [miriam@hawaii.edu](mailto:miriam@hawaii.edu)

ENG 271 (W): Creative Writing - *Paris, je t'aime*

ENG 381 (E): Popular Literature - Paris Literature: *Art (and Lies) in Paris*

#### Delhi, India

**Ned Bertz** [bertz@hawaii.edu](mailto:bertz@hawaii.edu)

HIST 401 (W): History of the Indian Ocean World

HIST 451D: History and Literature - Asia/Pacific: The Making of Modern India through Literature

HIST 663: Seminar in South Asian History

#### Florence, Italy

**Jane Moulin** [moulin@hawaii.edu](mailto:moulin@hawaii.edu)

MUS 407: Music in World Cultures

MUS 478I (H): Musical Cultures: Polynesia

#### Machida, Japan

**Andrew Wertheimer** [wertheim@hawaii.edu](mailto:wertheim@hawaii.edu)

HIST 452D: History and Film: The War and Occupation in Japanese Film and Memory

ASAN 393J: Field Study in Asia (Japan): Interdisciplinary Approaches to Japanese Photography