

Study Abroad Connections

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Message from the Director

While the majority of the UHM Study Abroad Center's programs have been in Europe, we are now looking to expand in Asia. Within the next few years we are considering launching exciting semester programs in India and China. We hope that these initiatives will enable a broader base of faculty to teach, conduct research and establish professional connections in these countries. Similarly, we anticipate that these study abroad programs will also appeal to students wishing to study in non-traditional locations.

Sincerely,

Sarita Rai
Sarita Rai

On Spanish olives: growing, harvesting, processing, and tasting

On Friday, February 17th, UHM Food Science Professor Dr. Wayne Iwaoka and senior Kacie Ho presented their findings of research conducted during the Fall 2011 Study Abroad Center semester program in Seville, Spain at the CTAHR HNFAS Conference Room. While in Spain, they visited a Spanish olive farm and a large olive oil processing plant and tasted many different varieties of olive oils. Dr. Iwaoka and Ms. Ho discussed the harvesting and processing of the olives into olive oil, the Spanish perspective of the olive oil market, and how to distinguish quality olive oil from lesser grades of olive oil. As a treat, their presentation also included a short sensory evaluation activity, letting participants to taste different types of olive oil.

A Unique Opportunity in Florence

Monique Chyba
Department of Mathematics
Summer 2011 Resident
Director

"My stay in Florence has been extremely productive professionally. During my stay in Florence I was able to focus on one of my research projects. A resulting paper, that was entirely written during the four weeks, has since then been submitted and accepted to be published in a special volume of the São Paulo Journal of Mathematical Sciences. The paper is co-authored with two students from

UH Manoa, one student from Pisa and one colleague from the College of Education at UH Mānoa.

During my stay in Florence I also had the opportunity to be invited as a guest speaker to a workshop that took place in the engineering department at the University of Pisa. It was a 2 day workshop and I gave one of the invited presentations on my project on underwater vehicles developed in Hawai'i. We are now working with my colleagues from Pisa at organizing a special session for the conference on

Control and Decision that will take place on Maui in December 2012. Moreover, I am expecting in the near future to visit the University of Pisa again and to welcome some of their graduate students at UH Mānoa as a sort of exchange program.

I definitely qualify my experience in the study abroad program as very successful in terms of my professional development. I could not wish to have accomplished more in only a four-week period. It was a unique opportunity for me.

"I could not wish to have accomplished more in only a four-week period. It was a unique opportunity for me."

- Florence Summer 2011 Resident Director Monique Chyba

Spotlight On...

**Katrina Valcourt,
Berlin, Summer 2011 and
Florence, Fall 2011**

There is a hypothetical question in a getting-to-know-you game that my friends and I have argued over on more than one occasion: if you had the chance, would you rather spend 10 minutes on the moon or one year in Europe? For me, it has always been a no-brainer. I've wanted to go to Europe for as long as I can remember, so when I got the opportunity to study abroad and get UHM credits, I decided it was time to make that dream come true.

Since I was a freshman, I had my mind set on studying abroad before graduating. I've lived in Hawaii for almost my entire life, never leaving Oahu for more than a week or two at a time. I knew that if I didn't travel for educational purposes, it would be harder and harder to make it happen as life got busier. I kept my eye on the Study Abroad Center for a while and finally found something that fit me: a summer at the *Freie Universität* of Berlin in Germany.

Leaving home for the first time didn't scare me. I was far too excited that I would be accomplishing one of my life goals to even care that I would be away from everyone I loved for six weeks. Not once did I regret flying halfway around the world to take summer school—I was too busy integrating myself in a new culture, learning when to say "Entschuldigung" and understanding so much more about a city that has been divided and reunited in the most astonishing ways. It's one thing to take a history class and hear about the Cold War. It's another thing entirely to plant one foot on each side of the line marked "BERLINER MAUER 1961-1989" and be able to see both the sunrise and sunset from the same place.

For me, nothing is quite real until I've experienced it personally. I learn by doing, and SAC's program abroad gave me that chance. I was only gone for six weeks, but when I came home, I felt like I was a different person. I learned about Berlin and its places of memory as represented by films, plays, and urban sites. I learned about German literature and art from Romanticism to the present. I learned how it feels to walk through a concentration camp. I learned how to take the train and I learned how to order a kebab. I learned what I already knew deep down: that the more I traveled, the more I would discover things about myself buried under the repression of a life consolidated on one tiny island.

I thought the Berlin program was perfect for me when I heard about it. After I had already set my mind on going, I heard about yet another program that was even more amazing for me: a semester in Florence, Italy studying at Lorenzo de' Medici, an international institute. After many lists, charts,

and even a Venn diagram, I realized that I just had to do both. I would rather pay off student loans for the rest of my life if it meant I could eat gelato on the steps of the Duomo than stay at home and go through the same routine I've had for the past three years. If studying abroad has taught me anything, it's that I thrive when I make myself uncomfortable. I force myself into situations I'm not used to so that I'll adjust more quickly. I feel like I've grown more in the past few months than I have in my entire college career thus far.

In Florence, I had an entire semester to create a life for myself that I wouldn't be able to live at home. I did this with three simple decisions: buy a museum pass, join a club, and get involved in something local. I spent my weekends staring at Michelangelo's statue of David and Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus*. Every week I went to meetings of the Gazzetta Club where I got to write and edit articles for our student-produced publication. For one week in November, I served on a student jury for an international documentary film festival, the Festival dei Popoli, watching beautiful films from all over the world. I constantly kept myself busy with things I am passionate about, knowing that one semester would fly by incredibly fast.

I was able to take courses at LdM that would count towards my major as they have an extensive catalog of classes. The program required me to take Italian 101 and live with a host family which enriched my experience exponentially. I was accepted into a culture almost automatically, which led to opportunities that will certainly help me in the future, both career-wise and for my own personal development.

There's no better way to grow and get ahead than to try something new, even if it seems scary at first. I've made incredible friends not only from the UHM Study Abroad Center programs but from all over the world that made my experiences unforgettable. Whether it was a stroll through the cemetery where the Brothers Grimm are buried or a Fall Break trip to Paris, there was never a single moment where I regretted leaving home. Studying abroad is a chance to go out into the world and try something different while still knowing you can come back home in the end.

So maybe getting to spend 10 minutes on the moon is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and sure, you can probably see Europe from up there. But I wouldn't be able to find myself amongst the rocks and craters. I found myself at the top of the Berliner Dom, in the Blue Grotto of Capri, and in the Eiffel Tower. Studying abroad is undoubtedly the best thing I have ever done and would recommend it to anyone in a heartbeat. If you want to change your life in the best way possible, explore your options. Maybe you'll find yourself abroad, too.



*Visiting the brothers
Grimm*

"Studying abroad is a chance to go out into the world and try something different while still knowing you can come back home in the end."



Katrina and David

Experiences of a Lifetime

Dana Davidson
Family and Consumer
Sciences (Retired)
Angers, Summer 2010
Resident Director
Mendoza, Summer 2011
Resident Director

"I can say with certainty that my SAC experiences have led to more students and faculty applying for Study Abroad, both from FCS/CTAHR and EDCS in the College of Education. I have written letters of support for former students who have returned to their first

country or went to study in new places. I have consulted with two university programs, and a community based program that asked about young adult transitions, and have just been invited to write an article on young adults and substance abuse with a colleague from UHM School of Nursing-- all as a result of the rare experience to study 18-24 year olds in and out of class overseas.

In addition, and as a result of my SAC work, I have also recently completed three chapters for my textbook, all based on the

fabulous chance to live, work and conduct observations, surveys, and conversations with young adults over two summer programs. The University of Texas invited me to write a chapter on research ethics in international settings, and although the focus is on early childhood settings, I also learned related perspectives and challenges to doing research in France and Argentina.

Thank you for the experiences of a lifetime!"



Prof. Davidson on Patrol Zoological

Debunking Myths About Study Abroad

Myth: Studying abroad will delay my graduation.

Fact: Data consistently show that UHM Study Abroad Center students earn their degrees more quickly than the average UHM student.

Myth: Studying abroad is a break from school.

Fact: UHM Study Abroad Center programs are academic programs. Students earn UHM credits for courses taken overseas and the grades count towards their overall cumulative GPA.

Myth: The credits taken on study abroad are transfer credits and may not count towards UHM degree requirements.

Fact: Students on Study Abroad Center programs earn UHM resident credits for their courses taken abroad. These credits may apply towards students' major, minor, certificate, elective, general education and/or focus requirements.

Myth: Anyone can go on UHM's Study Abroad Center programs.

Fact: Admission is selective. Students are selected based on their GPA, study statement, and letters of recommendation. UHM Study Abroad Center students have a higher cumulative GPA than other UHM students, an average of 3.44.

Myth: You have to be majoring in a foreign language in order to study abroad.

Fact: Students from any major are eligible to study abroad. In fact, some of the top majors of UHM Study Abroad Center students are English, Political Science, Psychology, and Interdisciplinary Studies. Language proficiency is not a requirement for most UHM Study Abroad Center programs. Many courses are available in English.

Myth: Studying abroad is too expensive.

Fact: The costs for each Study Abroad Center program vary, anywhere from \$3,400 - \$8,000 for a summer program and between \$11,000 - \$19,000 for a semester program. While the initial price might seem high, remember that it includes your tuition/fees, accommodation, and in some cases, your meals. In addition, eligible students may use UHM Financial Aid and scholarships towards the cost of the program.

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to the following Study Abroad Center alumni who participated in the **Fall 2011 Commencement Ceremony!** We wish you the best in your future!

Marla Ben-Dor, France
 Jackie Brady, France & Italy
 Noah Chong, Argentina

Dean Cobler, Argentina
 Nicole Connor, France
 Katlyn Daoust, Spain
 Maria Deguzman, Argentina
 Kristen Domingcil, Germany
 Mikayla Hart, France
 Matthew Higa, Japan
 Janice Kunishige, Japan

Tyler Lanigan, China
 Ashley Lelie, Italy
 Nate Menacher, Australia
 Kaimana Morris, Denmark
 Dioreme Navasca, Spain
 Kasey Orita, Italy
 Ginger Oswald, Japan



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

"Transnational Subjects"

Assistant Professor **Sarah Twomey** (Curriculum Studies, UHM College of Education) was the Spring 2011 Faculty Resident Director for the Florence, Italy program at Lorenzo de' Medici. She has since co-authored a paper with Anna Baldini of Lorenzo de' Medici, titled "*Transnational Subjects: Women's Travel Writing in an Italian Study Abroad Program*" which will be presented at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education Annual Conference 2012 in Ontario, Canada.

The purpose of this paper is to deepen understanding about the role of transnational travel writing in bridging cultures and in providing a deeper understanding of self in relation to 'other' in context of a study abroad program in Florence, Italy in 2011. Using a qualitative feminist content analysis of writings from the first edition of an on-line journal (*Chiaroscuro*) created by young women of *Lorenzo de Medici*, findings give evidence of the multiple subjectivities of traveler in ways that disrupt the

notion of nation, gender and language. How one defines women's experience and to understand feminism within a global, postmodern context is essential for finding ways to respond effectively to the complex borders and boundaries that have brought humanity closer together in a time of transnational migration and hybrid subjectivities.

Meet the Resident Directors

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

Summer 2012

Mendoza, Argentina

José (Tony) Torralba, Curriculum Studies
ITE 360: Introduction to Multicultural Education & Service Learning in Argentinian Schools

Hainan, China

Aaron Creller, Philosophy

Copenhagen, Denmark

Petrice Flowers, Political Science

Angers, France

Jacob Huss, LLEA - French

Lille, France

Reza Ghorbani, Mechanical Engineering
ME 491: Introduction to Renewable Energy

Paris, France

Tom Brislin, Academy for Creative Media
ACM 384: Paris On Film: An Affair of the Art

Berlin, Germany

Gertraud Maskarinec, University of Hawai'i Cancer Center
FSHN 491: Spinach or Chocolate? How Do We Know What Is Good For Us To Eat?

James Marsh, Financial Economics & Institutions

BUS 313: Economic & Financial Environment of Global Business

Florence, Italy

Anne Freese, Curriculum Studies

Kobe, Japan

Aya Kimura, Women's Studies

Fall 2012

London, England

John Rieder, English
ENG 271 (W): Intro to Literature: Genre: Drama
ENG 494 (W): London and the Representation of Empire

Paris, France

Summer La Croix, Economics
ECON 414 (W): Growth and Crisis in the World Economy: France and the World Economy: 1650-2012
ECON 471 (O): Industrial Organization: France's Tourism, Food, and Wine Industries

Florence, Italy

Brian Szuster, Geography
GEOG 324: Geography on Tourism
GEOG 412: Environmental Impact Assessment

Seville, Spain

Benito Quintana, LLEA - Spanish
SPAN 352-B: Latin American Cultural Perspectives: Pre-Columbian to Colonial Periods
LAIS 495: Topics in Latin American and Iberian Studies - Imperial Iberia