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KU Study Abroad named an elite program

< The Office of Study Abroad announced new business exchanges in China and Germany. Business students can choose between semester and academic year programs. Left, KU students visiting the Great Wall in China.

Study Abroad one of many passions of Mary Klayder

KU business students are able to participate in unique programs through new exchange agreements between the KU School of Business and institutions in China and Germany.

“The addition of these three exchanges offers a range of excellent choices for students in the School of Business, including courses taught in English as well as the opportunity for intensive language study,” states Sue Lorenz, Director of the Office of Study Abroad.

The first option for students is the University of International Business and Economics. UIBE was founded in 1951 and is recognized as one of China’s leading universities in the studies of business and finance. UIBE has a total enrollment of more than 21,000 students from China and around the world. UIBE is located in the Haidian District in the northeastern part of Beijing. The campus is conveniently located with easy access to all areas of the city and is seven miles from the city center.

There are three schools at UIBE that offer business courses: the School of Business, the School of International Trade and Economics (SITE) and the School of International Education (SIE).

SITE is one of China’s leading centers for the study and research of international trade and finance. The school offers business courses and beginning to advanced level Chinese language courses.

SIE offers Chinese language courses from beginning to advanced level and five business courses in English.

Another option in China is Sun Yat-Sen University (SYSU), founded in 1924. SYSU is a comprehensive university with almost 50,000 students. The university has a top-ranked business program, and its city location offers exposure to a major industrial center and hub of foreign commerce.

For those wishing to study in Germany, the European Business School (EBS) is an option. EBS was founded in 1971 and established a campus in 1980 in the city of Oestrich-Winkel, located outside Frankfurt in the heart of the Rhine-Main region. This region is a hub of economic development with a population of more than 4.7 million and 320,000 companies, including 2,200 high-tech production plants, sales and service organizations. EBS is the oldest private business school with university status in Germany. EBS features a top ranking and a program structure similar to the U.S. model. EBS hosts roughly 200 exchange students from all over the world each year.

Manageable student numbers at EBS guarantee individual supervision in the classroom, and students, lecturers and administrative staff know each other personally. There is a friendly and open atmosphere, and students feel a sense of belonging on the campus, with its historical buildings, green spaces and numerous seating areas. All this makes the university a very special place to study.

EDITED BY ROBERT LOPEZ

Produced by the KU Office of Study Abroad
Lippincott Hall, 1410 Jayhawk Blvd, Room 108, Lawrence, KS 66045



CONTACT INFORMATION:
OSAalumni@ku.edu
(785) 864-3742
www.studyabroad.ku.edu

Newlywed Cakes



KU Study Abroad alumni featured on Food Network

Written by MALLORY RALSTON

Getting the chance to create a cake on national television is the most recent adventure that newlyweds Jack and Mallory Hannah have enjoyed.

The Hannahs, who currently live in Kansas City, recently competed on "Food Network Challenge: Newlywed Cakes." The show, which first aired on Jan. 10, gave four couples the chance to win \$10,000 in a cake decorating contest.

"It was really neat to see how TV shows are filmed, as well as meet people we watch on the show all the time from home," Mallory said. "Another fun part about being on the show was getting to highlight our experiences as a couple. Our cake was such a wonderful representation of our lives together thus far."

During the show, the cakes were created for the wives by the husbands and cake designers. One of the cake layers Jack designed represented an experience that rivaled the couple's involvement with the show: studying abroad. The couple, both 2008 University of Kansas graduates, participated in a study abroad program together in Italy during the summer of 2006.



^ Mallory and Jack Hannah of Kansas City participated in a study abroad program during summer 2006.



^ The Hannahs, along with their cake designer, on the set of "Food Network: Newlywed Cakes." The fourth level of the cake highlights the couple's study abroad experience in Italy.

"They're both experiences that were exciting rushes we'll forever remember and talk about," Mallory said. "Studying abroad was one of my favorite memories in college, and by far one of the most beneficial to my life since I'd never traveled outside the U.S. before."

KU Study Abroad, with programs in over 70 countries, offers students the chance to enrich their lives by traveling to a foreign country and immersing themselves in a new culture.

"Traveling abroad opens your mind to other people and cultures throughout the world," Jack said.

The couple had only positive things to say about their study abroad experience. Jack and Mallory agreed that studying abroad benefited them on both an individual and a professional level. They said that their experience abroad helped make them more marketable in the real world, providing an interesting talking point for them during interviews.

"It really says something about a person who's willing and excited to step out of their comfort zone on their campus and plop themselves into a completely different world," Mallory said.

Jack and Mallory provided some advice for those planning to travel abroad. The couple said to take the best camera you can find and to take as many pictures as possible on the trip. Also, get to know the local people and explore as many different areas as you can in that particular country.

"There's so much to explore in the country you're in, and it's fun to see how different each part of that country can be," Mallory said.

The Hannahs cannot wait to travel together again, which they partially blame on their study abroad experience. Traveling represents something that the couple loves doing together.

"Jack and I have been saving since we got married, and we plan to take an amazing trip abroad somewhere before we start a family together," Mallory said. "I truly can't wait to be back abroad again."

Participating in a KU study abroad program and being on national television each symbolize a special part of this newlywed couple's relationship, but it's just the beginning. Maybe you can have your cake and eat it, too.



Costa Rican staff cornerstone of KU Study Abroad program



^ The Grupo de Kansas staff at the University of Costa Rica, Zaida Ugalde (left) and Isa Alcázar (right), along with University of Kansas student Rachel Bohn. The Costa Rican staff advises students on matters related to academics, enrollment, and housing, and organizes occasional excursions and gatherings.

The University of Kansas Program at the University of Costa Rica (UCR) in San José is the oldest and most successful exchange program in the western hemisphere. There are many reasons for the success of the program, from students' attraction to Costa Rica's natural beauty, to the largest and most prestigious university in Costa Rica, to homestays. But perhaps the most important reason for the success of the program is the Grupo de Kansas staff, which supports the KU students during their time in Costa Rica.

With a combined 31 years working for the Office of Study Abroad, Isa Alcázar and Zaida Ugalde have been an influence to countless students. Since the spring of 1994, when Alcázar and Ugalde started with KU, 1,291 students have spent time on the UCR campus. Alcázar and Ugalde support students with academic matters and life in general in Costa Rica, but also become lifelong friends with the students. "Isa and I have worked for the Costa Rica Program almost 16 years, and it has been a very rewarding experience in many ways," states Ugalde.

Rachel Bohn, senior from St. Louis, participated in the program during the spring 2009 semester. Bohn explains the importance

of the staff: "Zaida and Isa not only offered warmth and comfort with their loving personalities but also sound advice for matters concerning academics, personal life and travel. The Grupo de Kansas office was a daily stop for many students hoping to spend some time with these wonderful women."

Sue Lorenz, Director of the Office of Study Abroad, first met Alcázar and Ugalde in 2009. "I had heard great things about Zaida and Isa for many years before I joined the Office of Study Abroad. When I met them in person, I could immediately understand why they are held in such high regard. They made sure that I met host families, toured neighborhoods in which our students reside, and also arranged a lunch at which I could talk individually to the current students on the program," states Lorenz.

Both Alcázar and Ugalde were eager to join the KU staff and recall the popularity of the program and its students. Ugalde was a Latin American Literature graduate student at UCR when she first heard of the program. "The program needed an assistant, and, at the interview, I was told about the program, the students and the ties the two universities had for many years already; I knew right away

that I wanted to be part of such a great program," states Ugalde.

Originally from Chile, Isa was a linguistics graduate student working as an instructor for the Cultural Contact section of the KU programs's orientation at UCR when the assistant position opened. "During that time, I met the KU coordinator for Latin America, Ellen Strubert, who asked me to seriously consider joining the UCR staff. I had already met some of the students and I knew about the program, so I applied for the job and joined the KU staff soon after that," recalls Alcázar.

Ugalde studied abroad under the Campus Fulbright Scholarship Program during her undergraduate career and personally knows the importance of international opportunities. "I studied at St. Michael's College in Vermont, so I was very excited at the opportunity to be part of the international experience for other students because I knew how much it could mean in a person's life. While trying to help students have a wonderful experience abroad, I feel that the students and KU staff that I've met throughout the years have in fact brought many gratifying experiences to my own life," states Ugalde.

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Grupo de Kansas



^ Students attending a host family picnic, one of many activities arranged by the Grupo de Kansas staff.

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And the gratification is reciprocal. “The Office of Study Abroad is extremely fortunate to have Zaida and Isa staffing the Grupo de Kansas Office. Their skills, warmth, and personal investment in our students have contributed to very strong alumni connections to this exceptional program,” states Lorenz.

The program attracts students from all majors and a variety of backgrounds. “One of the things I find fascinating about this program is the diversity of its participants. While for many students coming to Costa Rica may only mean pushing themselves a bit out of their comfort zones, for others it means their first time seeing the ocean, experiencing the heat and humidity of the rain forest or as simple as a first time tasting maracuyá, guanabana or mango verde... For most, this semester usually means broadening their minds to other cultures while understanding and reconstructing the view of Americans that the ‘others’ have, and being part of it is a very rewarding experience for me,” states Alcázar.

Alcázar and Ugalde particularly enjoy the academic and personal growth of the students who participate on the Early Start Program. “During the time we’ve worked for the program, we have seen how (the Early Start Program) has expanded to give this opportunity to a broader community of students. For

instance, if the students don’t have the level of Spanish required, they are still given the opportunity to come early and take an intensive Spanish course to help them prepare to take courses in Spanish. This way they don’t miss out on this great opportunity,” explains Ugalde.

UCR alumnus continous generosity

Richard S. Paegelow studied abroad at the University of Costa Rica in 1967. The longest running exchange in the Western Hemisphere is still near and dear to his heart and show this by sponsoring KU students who must participate on the exchanges Early Start Program. Students who have only four semesters (or the equivalent) of college-level Spanish must participate in a one-month intensive Spanish course before the actual start date of the program. Students who participate in the program receive an additional three credits of Spanish on top of what they will receive during the semester.

Paegelow’s scholarship is open KU Students who have been accepted into the Costa Rica semester program (either Fall or Spring or the Academic Year). The amount covers most of the expenses (tuition, room and board, on-site assistance, and an excursion) connected with studying in the Escuela de Filología for the month.



New Programs

New programs attract students in the arts and ecology



^ Ryan and Sarah Darby studied abroad at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, during spring 2000. The Darbys were part of the first group of KU students who studied abroad in New Zealand.

Ryan and Sarah Darby, both 2001 KU graduates, enjoyed their experience abroad tremendously and believe study abroad should be part of everyone's college life. "I think it is very important for students to broaden their perspectives as much as possible, and studying abroad is very conducive to that. Often students come from a background of people very similar to themselves. By meeting people different from yourself and having a completely different set of life experiences, it allows you to more fully understand problems, issues, and successes that other cultures experience," states Sarah.

Ryan and Sarah continue to look back at their time in the South Pacific. "It was a great experience and we still have friends in New Zealand that we keep in touch with. We both feel extremely fortunate to have had the experience," states Ryan.

The Darbys met in Lawrence while attending KU. "We met at an Oktoberfest in Burcham Park (and) immediately hit it off and found we had a lot of things in common, one of which was that we were both from Tulsa," states Sarah.

Sarah earned the Hub and Kathy Hall scholarship through the Geology department that paid for her undergraduate education

expenses for all four years. Ironically, Ryan waited on the Halls on a regular basis at a Lawrence restaurant where they would come in to lunch almost every day. However, it wasn't until Sarah's senior year that they made the connection that the same couple that provided her scholarship was the couple that Ryan had been serving. Soon after, Ryan introduced Sarah to the Halls. "We are so grateful for people like Hub and Kathy and we would love to give back to the university and younger generations as they did," states Ryan.

After Ryan and Sarah walked down the hill, Ryan with a B.A. in Environmental Sciences and Sarah with a B.S. in Geology, they moved to California for two years, where Sarah attended UC Davis and received her M.S. in Geology and Ryan worked as an Environmental Consultant. The couple married in 2002 and ran a bed and breakfast in Breckenridge, CO, before returning to Tulsa in 2005. Sarah is a geologist for Samson Resources, a company specializing in drilling natural gas wells in East Texas. Ryan works in the family business, Darby Equipment Company, where they manufacture, rent and sell specialty pipeline equipment. Ryan is currently the Vice President of Operations, in charge of Engineering and Manufacturing.

Studying abroad helped the Darbys academically and professionally. "I was able to go on field trips to diverse geologic areas that were not available in Kansas—active volcanoes, colliding plate boundaries, strike/slip faults that regularly produced earthquakes. New Zealand is a geologic wonderland. I was able for the first time to take what I had learned in my geologic studies at Kansas and apply them somewhere else. This created a confidence in my academic background that has served me throughout graduate school and professionally," states Sarah.

Ryan recalls the process of applying to the program. "Everyone at Study Abroad was great to work with and we are happy to give back to the program when we can." Ryan continues, "I have a great deal of respect for the Study Abroad department at KU. They were so helpful and easy to work with. You could just tell that every person in the department was excited for you to go on such an adventure, and they were just as interested in hearing about your experience when you returned. As far as my major, Environmental Studies, New Zealand is a great place to study, and the department of Environmental Studies at KU was very accommodating."

The Darbys look back fondly at their college experience. "We love KU and Lawrence. We are very proud Jayhawks!"

INTERESTED IN HELPING STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD?

Donations can be sent to:

KU Endowment Association
c/o Study Abroad
Lippincott Hall
1410 Jayhawk Blvd. Room 108
Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7515

KU OFFICE OF STUDY ABROAD

The University of Kansas

Lippincott Hall
1410 Jayhawk Blvd., Rm. 108
Lawrence, KS 66045-7515



KU Study Abroad ranked in Top Ten

The University of Kansas is among nine public universities in the nation cited by U.S. News and World Report for having the top study abroad programs, which the publication said education experts agree on as a key ingredient to student success.

KU offers programs in approximately 70 countries throughout the world. Students can study in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia or Europe. Twenty-seven percent of KU students study abroad at some point in their time at the university. U.S. News described the selected programs as “stellar.” KU and the University of Texas were the only Big 12 Conference schools cited.

The study abroad listing was among several high rankings the university collected in the past month from U.S. News, the Princeton Review and the “Fiske Guide to Colleges.”