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During Winter Break 2009, KU began a new Music Therapy in Thailand program. Due to the popularity of the program the Office of Study Abroad is offering the program during the 2009 summer session.

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Simon legislation gaining momentum

The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2009 was introduced by U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) on February 25, 2009. The legislation is meant to build study abroad opportunities for U.S. undergraduates with the goals to increase participation, promote diversity among participants and to encourage students to study abroad in more diverse locations, such as developing countries.

The act, originally called the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Act, was the vision of late Senator Paul Simon who believed studying abroad should be the norm and not the exception for U.S. undergraduate students. Durbin states, "Senator Paul Simon had a vision -- to strengthen the role of the U.S. as a world leader by investing in the education of our young people."

The act was originally introduced in March 2007 and was shortly thereafter unanimously passed by the House of Representatives. After a few changes in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the bill was introduced in Senate as part of "The Advancing America's Priorities Act." In December 2008, the bill ended one step short from passage in Congress when the session ended.

There is reason to believe the act may pass soon due to a bipartisan effort on Capital Hill as members of Congress see the importance of international experiences during students' academic career. The legislation gained tremendous support recently with 50 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and the endorsement of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"The international study abroad program we are proposing will instill in the next generation of Americans a deeper understanding of the cultures and histories of other nations. This, in turn, will enhance the United States' capacity to lead in the 21st Century," stated Durbin. "Last year the House of Representatives unanimously approved this bill. It is now time for the full Congress to make international education a national priority."

The Office of Study Abroad relays the message originated by Senator Simon to its prospective study abroad participants. They are advised that a study abroad experience would strengthen future career opportunities as they develop intercultural communication skills and study Abroad alumni attest that having international experiences are attractive to future employers.

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Andreas Graf



University of Kansas students (L to R) Lucas Lux, Pantaleon Flores, Christopher Friedl-Buckland and Andreas Graf in Berlin, Germany



Andreas (top, center) with friends in Cologne, Germany at the official opening of Karneval season.

DAAD Young Ambassador eager to promote study abroad

The following essay is submitted by Andreas Graf who studied abroad in Bonn, Germany during the 2007-08 academic year. Andreas also participated in the Summer Advanced German Language Program in 2006. Andreas is the son of William Graf and Sabina Teschner of Mission Woods and is a graduate of Shawnee Mission East High School. He is majoring in Germanic languages and literatures and political science with a co-major in European studies. Andreas is one of 25 DAAD Young Ambassadors in U.S. and Canada universities for the 2008-09 academic year.

Studying abroad is by no means an easy task. Traveling to a distant country to study in an unfamiliar environment and a foreign tongue can be daunting for even the most seasoned traveler or expatriate. Whether you are simply going for a summer or a full academic year, making a commitment to study abroad ultimately requires serious thought and sometimes even soul searching. Knowing that I could help in this decision made my experience as a DAAD Young Ambassador extremely rewarding.

As a Young Ambassador, you serve as a student representative at your home university for the North American branch of the German Academic Exchange Service

(DAAD in German), a publicly-funded German organization that provides information and financial support for conducting study and research in Germany. To fill the positions, the DAAD looks for students who have recently returned from having spent time studying in Germany, and are excited to share their experiences with the rest of their student body. Some of the tasks associated with the position include working with the campus study abroad offices, volunteering at study abroad fairs, answering questions from students, and organizing events on campus. After receiving the position in July 2008, I attended a training session at the DAAD headquarters in New York in August and began my work soon afterwards.

One of the many things Germany has going for it are the many opportunities for funding. The DAAD funds thousands of study and research visits to Germany every year, and numerous additional financial aid opportunities exist on campus as well. In fact, I was recently awarded a DAAD Scholarship funding an entire masters program in Germany. One especially enjoyable task, therefore, consisted of drawing people's attention to sources of funding for studying abroad and helping them through the application process.

My other main task was to give people a sense of what they could expect from studying abroad in Germany. Seeking to prevent false or unrealistic expectations, I always spoke candidly about my time studying in Germany, including the inevitable homesickness. But with good moments greatly having outweighed the bad, I generally found myself sharing humorous anecdotes, allaying needless fears, and giving tips on how to live life in Germany to the fullest. I am not sure how many people I was able to help through my work, but I encourage anyone who had a great time studying in Germany to apply to become DAAD Young Ambassador. It's well worth it.



University of Bonn, Germany

Multicultural Events

Ambassadors encourage diversity abroad

In recent years, the KU Office of Study Abroad (OSA) has experienced great success. Nationally, a recognition of the need for study abroad has also increased dramatically. Although study abroad participation by U.S. students has more than doubled over the last decade, data from the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the U.S. Department of Education show that participation rates have been stagnant for African-American, Hispanic and Native American students. African-American students, for example, comprise 14 percent of postsecondary student enrollment, but they make up only 3 percent of study abroad participants. Minority students in general make up only 17 percent of the overall study abroad participation nation-wide.

At KU, the numbers are even lower than the national average. The overall percentage of minority student participation for the same year as the IIE study was 6.8 percent, with African-American student participation at only 2.4 percent.

As the nation begins to develop study abroad as a standard part of a higher edu-

cation degree in the U.S., and employers look for international experiences in the graduates they hire, the lack of minority student involvement will ultimately create a gap that could hurt minority students graduating from KU. It is vital that these groups of students are not be left behind. Moreover, increasing the number of minority students in study abroad programs exposes the host culture to the ethnic diversity of America, and allows KU's minority students to examine themselves and their role in society from a new perspective and alongside Caucasian study abroad students doing the same self-examination and social examination.

In the fall, the OSA held the first in a series of events highlighting issues related to diversity and study abroad, starting with a panel discussion to coincide with KU's International Week. The student panelists who presented were Julian French, 2006-07 academic year in Trento, Italy; Alejandro Carrera, Spring 2008 semester on the island of Bonaire; Anne Culnane, Spring 2008 semester in Newcastle, Australia; Christopher Delacruz, Spring 2008 semester in Cape Town, South Af-

rica; and Pantaleon Florez, 2007-08 academic year in Bonn, Germany.

Due to the success of this event, the student panelists were chosen to be the first students on a newly formed OSA Multicultural Student Advisory Board. The Advisory Board students serve as student advisors for OSA outreach efforts that are targeted to minority students. They also assist in OSA efforts to reach out to minority student clubs and organizations on campus.

This Spring, the students on the Advisory Board have met to review strategies and methods for reaching the target student populations. In addition, as needed and on a voluntary basis, the Advisory Board members participated in presentations on campus at clubs, organizations and OSA planned events.

During Summer 2009, a new advisory board for the academic year 2009-10 will be nominated.



Anne Culnane (L) and Pantaleon Florez (R) were two of the initial five ambassadors to the Office of Study Abroad's Multicultural Panel promoting diversity abroad.

New Exchanges

New exchange agreements announced for 2009

The Office of Study Abroad works with international students studying at the University of Kansas for a semester or year through an exchange agreement. KU recently reached formal exchange agreements with the following institutions:

University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China

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. Located in 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 and the School of International Education.

Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China

Founded in 1924, Sun Yat-Sen University 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.

The following business courses are offered in English: Understanding China Business, Global Strategic Management and Cross-Cultural Management, International Accounting Standards, Financial Accounting, Managerial Economics, E-Commerce, Business Communication, Consumer Behavior, Marketing Man-



The historic entrance to Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China.

agement, Organizational Behavior, HR Management, Operations Management, Corporate Management and Strategic Management, Logistic Management, Supply Chain Management, and Corporate Finance.

European Business School in Berlin, Germany

Founded in 1971, European Business School (EBS) is the oldest business school in Germany with university status. EBS is located in the Rhine-Main Region with a population of over 4.7 million people and 320,000 companies, including 2,000 high-tech production plants, sales and services enterprises.

EBS is closely situated to Wiesbaden, the capital of the state of Hesse and of Frankfurt, where more than 430 national and international financial institutions are located.

The school has a large curriculum offered for either semester or academic year options. Students from partner institutions may participate in an early start German language course at no added tuition cost.

University of Leeds in Leeds, England

Leeds is a city of 700,000 people located in the county of Yorkshire. It has recently been named the top city to visit in Britain both by Condé Nast Traveler magazine and the Good Britain Guide.

The University of Leeds is ranked in the top ten universities for research in Britain. Serving 30,500 students from 130 countries, the University is also Britain's second largest university.

Universidad Católica de Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Centrally located in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) was founded in 1958 and is one of the largest and finest universities in Argentina.

The agreement was established between the KU School of Journalism and UCA beginning the Spring 2009 semester. Two places are available to junior or senior level students for each semester.

In Remembrance

Study Abroad bids farewell to longtime supporter



The Office of Study Abroad lost a longtime friend on February 10, 2009. Shirley Cundiff Haines passed away at age 82. The memorial service was held on February 16, 2009 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Wichita, Kansas.

Shirley was a 1948 KU graduate with degree in English and was an advocate of Study Abroad. Shirley and her husband Jordan L. Haines established a study abroad fund in 1998. The Shirley Cundiff and Jordan L. Haines Study Abroad Fund fund has helped support fifteen KU students in semester or academic year study abroad programs to date.

Sue Lorenz, Interim Director of the Office of Study Abroad, explains the importance of the fund. "Through the generosity of Shirley Haines and her husband, Jordan, students from the visual arts, architecture, literature or other humanities were assisted in pursuing study abroad programs through which their classroom experience could be enhanced by museum collections, library collections, and historic buildings and monuments in the countries in which they studied.

Connor Donevan, a past recipient of the Shirley Cundiff and Jordan L. Haines Study Abroad fund, explains the importance of an international experience during his undergraduate career. "The academic experience was eye-opening. I went to study architecture, and remember telling people before I left that "design was a universal language," and that communication difficulties wouldn't be an issue. After a year in German architecture studios, I can attest that the language of design has at the very least regional dialects. The functional approach to architecture has shaped my design sensibilities and the way in which I work through projects. The experience as a whole made me see how much my opinions are formed by my place in the world."

The fund will continue to assist students who wish to make an international experience part of their academic career. "We are grateful for the commit-



Aerial view of Lippincott Hall, home of the Office of Study Abroad.

ment which Shirley made to KU students through the Office of Study Abroad, and we will continue to honor her memory and her contributions to this worthy cause in selecting for this scholarship students who share her longstanding interest in humanities, the arts and architecture," states Lorenz.

Photo courtesy *Wichita Eagle*

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

INTERESTED IN GIFT PLANNING?

PLEASE CONTACT:

John Hillis , Assistant Vice President for Development Programs
KU Endowment
785.832.7413
jhillis@kuendowment.org
Or visit: www.kuendowment.org

A blue banner with the text 'the jayhawk planet' in white and yellow. The word 'the' is small and above 'jayhawk'. 'jayhawk planet' is in a larger font, with 'jayhawk' in white and 'planet' in yellow. The text is enclosed in yellow brackets. The background of the banner shows a faint image of a building.

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Study Abroad is going green!

In an effort to conserve resources, the Office of Study Abroad (OSA) now offers *The Jayhawk Planet* newsletter via e-mail. If you would like to continue to receive a physical copy of the newsletter please contact us at (785) 864-3742 or via e-mail at osa@ku.edu and we will continue to mail you a paper copy. All others will only receive a electronic version of future issues of the *Jayhawk Planet*.

This is the first of several sustainable development projects at the OSA. We strive to meet the needs of our students without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

OSA now has added two Sustainability Ambassadors to the Center of Sustainability, Ingrid Horton, Program Coordinator for programs in Africa, France, Italy, and Humanities and Western Civilization; and Robert Lopez, Outreach Coordinator. KU's Center of Sustainability offers resources that address environmental improvement, economic prosperity and social responsibility across the KU campus.