

the [jayhawk planet]

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The Office of Study Abroad announced a new Environmental Studies in India program beginning Summer 2010. Above: forest dwelling women ready to return home with bundles of fire wood (about 150 lbs each) on their heads.

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New program focuses on Environmental Studies in India

The Office of Study Abroad is delighted to announce a new summer program in India beginning in 2010. Environmental Studies in India will be a month and a half, faculty-led program focusing on Field Ecology and Environmental Issues of India. The program is designed for undergraduates in Environmental Studies, but students from other fields such as Biology, Geography, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology may also be interested in the program. Students will receive a total of six credit hours upon successful completion of the program.

Office of Study Abroad Director Sue Lorenz states, "This innovative program will not only strengthen KU's study abroad presence in South Asia, but will offer a unique opportunity for hands-on experience working with environmental challenges under expert direction."

The cities of Bangalore and Mysore will be the featured locations of the program.

Participants in the program will be guided by local experts for orientation, providing a holistic perspective of the ecosystem, as well as expertise on the distinctive features of various ecosystems in the state of Karnataka, India. The local experts will be invited to present lectures and provide field orientation covering a variety of subjects that will help prepare the students to function as effective environmental field scientists, biologists, and natural resource managers.

The program will be led by Dr. Geetanjali Tiwari, Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Kansas. Dr. Tiwari received her Masters of Science in Wildlife Biology from the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun, India and a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Penn State University.

An ecologist and anthropologist, Dr. Tiwari has worked on diverse environmen-

tal and ecological issues all over India including the study of primate behavior, ecotourism development, polyandry, illegal trade in wildlife, herpetology and tiger conservation.

Dr. Tiwari spent a month in Karnataka scouting for the initial program setup. During this time she visited numerous non-governmental organizations and field areas such as Kanakpura, MM Hills, Bannerghatta National Park, Biligiri Rangan Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Somathapura Temple site and Rangan Bird Sanctuary. Her visit was sponsored by International Programs, CLAS and the Office of Study Abroad.

"The Study Abroad Program to India in Environmental Studies will be a life changing experience for hard working, determined field workers searching for a window into tropical ecosystems full of people and an ancient history", states Dr. Tiwari.

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Rebecca's Story

Study Abroad opens doors to future KU graduate



Rebecca (bottom row, third from left) poses with Student Cultural Ambassadors and Jon M. Huntsman, U.S. Ambassador to China, at the China-U.S. Relations Conference in Beijing, China.

Rebecca Russell is the daughter to Leola Wong Russell and Thomas Russell of Wichita. She will graduate with Honors from the University of Kansas in May 2010 with a B.A. in East Asian Languages and Cultures and a co-major in International Studies.

Returning to Beijing after a mere four months back in the States was a surreal experience. This was no doubt partially influenced by the 15 hour plane ride and the yellow-grey haze that perpetually surrounded the city; but regardless, when I left China in June I would never have envisioned myself spending an extended Fall Break in Beijing courtesy of George H. W. Bush.

I first arrived in Beijing in August 2008, armed with one year of college level Chinese and having no idea what I was getting myself into. I had received a generous amount of funding from KU, the Freeman Foundation, and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, and as a result I was spending my junior year exclusively studying Chinese language in Beijing, China. During the next ten months, I studied Chinese for five hours per day, traveled to over 13

provinces, and gained about 15 pounds from eating Kungpow Chicken. When I left in June I considered myself a regular Beijinger, and swore that I'd come back to the city, someday, somehow.

Fast forward to October of 2009. I am back in Beijing, and working as a Student Cultural Ambassador for the 2009 China-US Relations Conference. My funding for this trip came from the Bush Foundation, Bush Presidential Library, Chinese Friendship Foundation, and Texas A&M University, who jointly host the conference. Because this year marked the 30th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries, the conference organizers invited 26 American students to participate

The conference itself consisted mostly of plenary sessions discussing areas of mutual concern between the US and China: the economy, military transparency, educational and scientific collaborations. I was a student leader for the American contingent, so the majority of my time was spent participating in the conference and facilitating activities for other students. The definite highlight of the trip was a joint question-answer session between the



Rebecca (left) and friend at the Summer Palace, in Beijing, China

students, the US Ambassador to China, and the Chinese Foreign Minister, which added a very personal touch to the official proceedings of the conference.

Overall the trip was an amazing opportunity, both as a chance for me to better understand US-China relations, and also to experience completely different side of Beijing. Although I doubt my next visit to Beijing will be within the next four months, I'm certain that I will be back again, and that China will remain a part of my life for a long time to come.

Submitted by Rebecca Russell

Rebecca's Achievements

2009 :

J. Michael Young Opportunity Award,
University of Kansas

2008 - Present :

University of Kansas Multicultural Scholar

2006 - Present:

University of Kansas Honors Program

2006 - Present:

Benjamin Gilman
International Scholarship

2008 - 2009 :

Freeman-Asia International Scholarship

Thank You!

Through the generous support of our alumni and friends (listed below for donations received between November 1, 2008 and October 31, 2009), and the Office of the Chancellor and Office of the Provost, approximately 10.9% of the 1,147 eligible KU study abroad participants received scholarships toward their experience abroad in 2009. A total of 125 KU students received financial support for their studies in various countries. Scholarship amounts ranged from \$200 to \$2,000.

Our goal is to increase both the number and size of the scholarships awarded to KU study abroad participants and make studying abroad a reality for more KU students.

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Gift Planning

Study Abroad and KU Alumnus returns to Lawrence

Kelly Miller has returned to Lawrence to practice dentistry with her father, Les Miller, DDS. Miller, a 2000 KU graduate, participated on the 1999 Humanities and Western Civilization Program which sends students to Paris, France and Florence, Italy.

Miller claims her study abroad experience was invaluable. "It was an opportunity to get out of my comfort zone." Miller has always been a

planner and she knew that while abroad life would be full of surprises. "Each day you wake up and don't know what to expect. I personally grew into an independent and confident person while abroad. Also, it was invaluable to get a different perspective about everything."

While abroad, Miller got the "travel bug." After graduation she attended the Na-

tional University of Ireland in Galway where she received her M.A. in Biomedical Sciences in 2002. After Ireland, Miller returned to Lawrence and performed research for the Medicinal Chemistry De-

partment at KU for three years and then received her doctorate degree in dentistry from UMKC in 2009.

Miller has volunteered to talk with students about the benefits of study abroad. "Study abroad made me a better person and it made me learn more about myself," states Miller.

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

Memorial Scholarship Established

The Gus Rau Meyer, Jr. Scholarship Fund has been established by his parents, Gus Rau Meyer, Sr. and Cheryl Meyer, of Prairie Village. The scholarship is designed to assist students in study abroad opportunities.

Gus's parents established the \$32,000 endowment fund through a combination of their own gifts and memorial contributions sent to KU Endowment by friends and family.

Gus, a fourth generation Jayhawk, died February 3, 2009. He graduated from KU in 2005 with a B.S. in Business Administration and Marketing and B.A. in Economics.

Gus had a passion for traveling and was able to study abroad in Australia for a semester and also spent time abroad in Santiago, Chile as a Boy Scout.

Sue Lorenz, director of KU's Office of Study Abroad, states the significance of the scholarship. "We're grateful to the family of Gus Rau Meyer, Jr. for choosing to honor their son with the establishment of this scholarship, which will help students to pursue the type of international experiences the Gus Jr. valued."

The initial scholarship will be awarded in Spring 2010 to a student going abroad in Fall 2010.



Kelly Miller, bottom-right, and the rest of the 1999 Humanities and Western Civilization Program group on their Chianti excursion during their wine class in Florence. Kelly graduated from KU in 2000.

Internships Abroad

Internship Scholarships presented to OSA



Tony Johnson, Executive Committee Member and Managing Partner of EUSA, and Sue Lorenz, Director of Study Abroad, celebrate four years of partnership during International Education Week at KU.

The Office of Study Abroad (OSA) has received two \$500 scholarships from EUSA, the largest independent internship provider in Europe. EUSA is celebrating their 25th year of service and is entering the fourth year of partnership with the University of Kansas (KU). At a ceremony on November 19, Tony Johnson, the Executive Committee Member and Managing Partner of EUSA, stated, "The scholarship is a gesture of thank you for KU's support. They're the perfect partner."

The EUSA internship program offers KU students internship opportunities in either London, England or Dublin, Ireland. The program is available to all students regardless of their academic discipline and the two-month internships are in a field directly related to the student's field of study. "What I am most proud of is the quality of our internships," states Marisa Vacchi, University Relations Manager of EUSA.

EUSA places 2,000 students worldwide in 8,000 organizations and works with 60 universities in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America.

KU students earn three hours of academic credit upon successful completion of the summer internship. Although students with sophomore status are eligible to participate on the program, preference is given to juniors and seniors advanced in their undergraduate studies.

Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco, Associate Vice Provost of International Programs and former Director of the Office of Study Abroad, recalls some of the early worries about the success of the program. "One of the things I remember during the early times of the program is we didn't think we could make minimum numbers but we wanted two sites. EUSA was flexible with working with us so we are grateful for their efforts as well."

The program has grown since its inception. In 2007 KU sent 15 students on the initial program, 22 in 2008 and 24 in 2009. The growing numbers each year show there are good things to come for the program, a sentiment echoed by Sue Lorenz, Director of the Office of Study Abroad. "The success of the partnership with EUSA has prompted us to look for



Anna Archibald (left) interned for an independent music website in the Summer Internship Program in Dublin, Ireland.

a third site, possibly in Madrid, Spain, in the next two years."

Anna Archibald, senior from Neodesha and participant in the 2009 Dublin program, explains the importance of internships. "Working in Dublin will no doubt look great on my resumé. It was really great to not only see and experience Irish culture all around me, but to see the differences between our workplace and theirs was really interesting. I really think we should implement tea time into the work schedule here."

It was not all work for Archibald, a Journalism major with an expected December 2010 graduation date, "It was also my first time in Europe. The one thing I'm really happy to have come away with, though, are all of the friends I made—both in the workplace and out—and the possibility of going back to Ireland to visit or maybe even to find a job after I graduate. The entire experience was invaluable."

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“Happy Holidays from KU Study Abroad Staff!”



Members of the 2009 KU Office of Study Abroad staff: Michele Arellano, Sam Billen, Colleen Boley, Nancy Chaison, Renée Frias, Justine Hamilton, Ingrid Horton, Robert Lopez, Sue Lorenz, Tracy Miller, Cathy Swenson-Tucker, Jen Weghorst and David Wiley.