

# The Jayhawk Planet

Winter 2007 (Volume 8, Issue 2)

Newsletter for KU Study Abroad Alumni and Friends

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## A Goal of Broader Engagement

This current academic year has seen unusual growth in new programs. As we finalize the Summer 2008 offerings, it is difficult not to notice that KU faculty have developed eighteen new short-term study abroad programs this year.

These programs represent a wealth of new opportunities for overseas study. Of particular interest is the number of programs slated for non-traditional locations.

“Traditional” locations for study abroad include the countries of Europe, the United Kingdom, and Australia. “Non-traditional” locations are found in the rest of the world. According to the 2007 Open Doors Report published by the Institute of International Education, approximately 60% of all U.S. students study abroad in traditional locations.

Between Academic Years 2005 and 2006, KU study abroad in non-traditional destinations increased from 26% to 42% of all overseas study. These data suggest that KU students are increasingly selecting study abroad destinations that offer unique linguistic and cultural experiences as they expand their knowledge and understanding of emerging global markets.

KU faculty have recognized the value of study abroad in non-traditional destinations. This year, new short-term faculty-led programs were inaugurated in Brazil, China, Peru, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, and Turkey. As a result of these program additions, it is expected that KU student participation in non-traditional destinations will continue to rise.

At the national level, the expansion of undergraduate study abroad opportunities in non-traditional destinations has been made a priority in recent legislation passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007 (H.R. 1469, S.991) seeks to enhance the foreign policy capacity of the U.S. by supporting the study of non-traditional languages and cultures and by increasing study abroad participation in China, countries of the Middle East, and developing countries. In order to achieve these goals, the Act recommends an annual appropriation of \$80 million to support the sending abroad of one million undergraduates each year.

Evidence indicates that strategic federal funding initiatives can strongly impact a student’s destination of study. Thus, should the Simon Act be funded, study in non-traditional destinations by U.S. students should increase both nationally and at the University of Kansas.

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# Study Abroad Notes

## University of Costa Rica - University of Kansas Celebrating 50 Years of Cooperation and Exchange

From March 6-9, 2008, the Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) and the University of Kansas (KU) celebrated their historic 50th Anniversary of Academic Cooperation and Exchange. The KU -UCR partnership was initiated in 1958 with an agreement signed by former KU Chancellor Franklin Murphy and UCR Rector, Rodrigo Facio. It is the oldest inter-university exchange of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

Throughout its 50-year duration, the commitment to academic cooperation between UCR and KU has been the inspiration for numerous collaborative projects, including research symposia, short-term research collaborations, and student exchange programs between the KU and UCR. In recent years, the collaboration has expanded to include research projects jointly funded by the Universidad de Costa Rica, the CR-USA Foundation of Costa Rica, and the University of Kansas, as well as the Estrategia XXI, a long-term strategic initiative aimed at enhancing education, science, technology, and innovation in all collaborating institutions.

The Universidad de Costa Rica and the University of Kansas commemorated this historic event with a series of events held in San José, Costa Rica. The celebration began on Thursday, March 6 with an Alumni Reunion and activities in honor of the long-standing student exchange agreement between KU and UCR. Following a tour of the UCR campus and a visit to downtown San José, alumni of the program from 1961 – 2004 and family members joined faculty, administrators, and invited guests from UCR and KU for a dinner at Jürgen's Restaurant.



Chancellor Chalmers  
signing the continuing agreement



Gathering for a photo at the farewell brunch

# Study Abroad Notes



Jeff Weinberg, assistant to KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway, and Marta Bustamante, director of the University Council and professor at the University of Costa Rica, unveil a painting by Lawrence artist Robert Sudlow.

Presentations were given by Rodolfo Mendez Mata, Costa Rican alumnus of KU, and Richard Paegelow, a KU alumnus and participant on the KU-UCR exchange program in 1967. Each highlighted the transformative power of international exchange in their personal lives and professional careers.

On Friday, March 7, the Universidad de Costa Rica hosted the official opening ceremonies. Events included reflections by Jeff Weinberg, Assistant to the Chancellor (KU) and Rector Yamileth González García (UCR) on the history and future of the academic partnership between KU and UCR, Award-winning artistic works were exchanged, a baroque music ensemble performed by faculty of both institutions, and the renewed Agreement was signed. The evening ended with food, drink, music and dancing, as colleagues forged new relationships and renewed old friendships.

On Saturday, March 8, the University of Kansas hosted a series of academic panels highlighting the history of the UCR-KU relationship and the collaborative initiatives of the future. Charley Stansifer, María Eugenia Bozzoli, and Anita Herzfeld, key leaders in the organization of the student exchange program between KU and UCR, opened the day with a history of the Kansas / Costa Rica partnership, noting roots extending back to the late 19th century. Faculty of KU and UCR presented summaries of their collaborative research projects in the areas of Education, Anthropology, Archaeology, and Biology. The day concluded with a presentation on the Estrategia XXI by Gabriel Macaya, former UCR Rector, and Alejandrina Mata Segreda, the current Vice Minister of Public Education in Costa Rica. Macaya and Mata Segreda addressed the current context of Costa Rica and the important role that international partnerships will play in the country's future educational development. The 50th Anniversary Celebration concluded with a brunch held at the Costa Rica Marriott on Sunday, March 9.

For photographs of the event, please visit the KU Endowment website at [http://www.kuendowment.org/about\\_us/photo\\_gallery.aspx](http://www.kuendowment.org/about_us/photo_gallery.aspx)



Isabel Alcazar and Zaida Ugalde, on-site program coordinators at the University of Costa Rica, and Angela Dittrich



Grupo Students at UCR, 1962.

# Study Abroad Notes

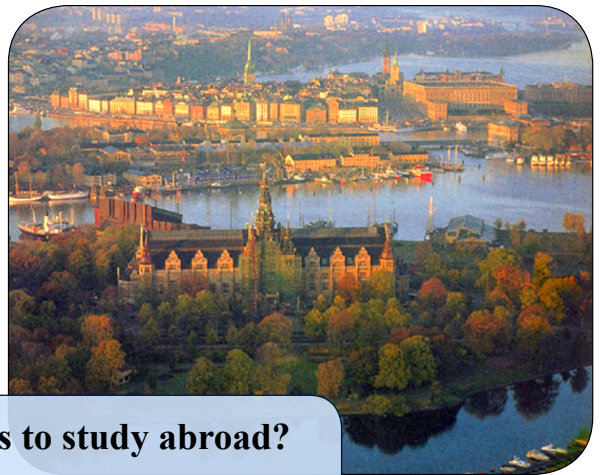
## New Scholarship for Study Abroad

### **Early Start Program Scholarship**

A KU alumnus has created a new scholarship program to help students participate in the Costa Rica Early Start Program.

The month-long Early Start Program helps students strengthen their Spanish language skills prior to the beginning of the academic term they are spending in San José studying at the University of Costa Rica.

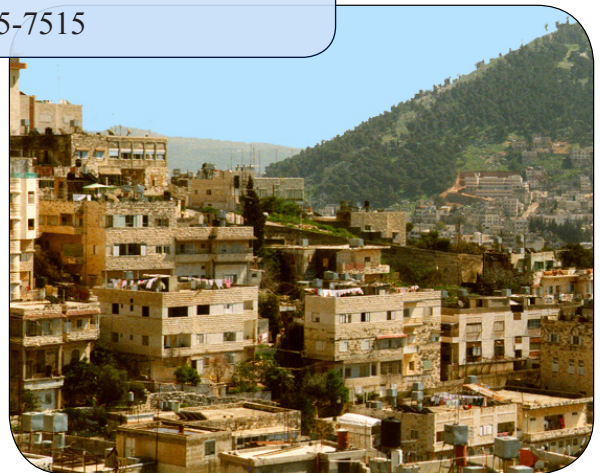
This scholarship is open to KU students who have been accepted into the Costa Rica semester program (either Fall or Spring or the Academic Year). The scholarship covers most of the expenses (tuition, room and board, on-site assistance, and an excursion) connected with studying in the Escuela de Filología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



**Interested in helping students to study abroad?**

*Please send checks made out to:*

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



# Study Abroad Notes

## New Exchange Agreements in 2008

We continue to broaden opportunities for semester-long study abroad.

- **Huazhong Normal University, China**
- **Peking University, China**
- **Shandong University, China**
- **Regensburg University, Germany**
- **Korea University**
- **Hongik, Seoul Korea**
- **Korea University of Technology and Education**
- **American University in Lebanon**
- **Delft University, Netherlands**
- **Radboud University, Netherlands**
- **Jonkoping University, Sweden**



## Where are they now?

### **Richard S. Paegelow writes:**

I participated in KU's Junior Year Abroad Program during the early years of the KU/University of Costa Rica exchange programs. The year was 1967 and the memories of President Kennedy's visit and his famous *Date with Destiny* speech delivered near the entrance of the University of Costa Rica in San José were still very much alive. Our "grupo" was small -- three from KU and four from the University of Colorado. By the end of the academic year (which for most of us was the last semester of our sophomore year and the first semester of our junior year), all of us gained a very high degree of proficiency in Spanish thanks to the combination of taking all classes in Spanish and living with Costa Rican families. For several of us, gaining proficiency in Spanish has had a significant impact on our lives and professional careers.

For the past 16 years I have owned and managed a small company Inline Translation Services, Inc., based in Glendale, California. We specialize in written translations, and serve clients such as Kaiser Permanente, the American Cancer Society, the Professional Association of Dive Instructors, and Hilton Hotels. Almost half of our translation work involves Spanish. Many of the advanced language skills I developed in Costa Rica over 40 years ago are used on the job every day.

# KU OFFICE OF STUDY ABROAD

The University of Kansas

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## *News from the Office of Study Abroad*

We would like to welcome three new staff members to the Office of Study Abroad.

Angela O'Donnell is the new receptionist. She recently moved to Kansas from Florida where she worked in the University of Florida Registrar's Office and finished a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Heather Moore is the Office Manager and holds a BSJ in journalism from KU, and an MBA from University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Laura Dobson will be joining the OSA in June as Associate Director. Laura has been the Director of Admissions and Assistant Professor (Political Science) at the American University of Nigeria, Yola, Nigeria. She was awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant to complete a two-year evaluation project in Jos, Nigeria. She has taught English, French, and philosophy courses in earlier positions. Laura has spent seven years in Nigeria and is looking forward to returning to the U.S.

If you should have any questions or comments or if you should wish to contribute an article or pictures to an issue of the Jayhawk Planet, please contact Natalie at [ncparker@ku.edu](mailto:ncparker@ku.edu) or 785-864-7812.

Have a wonderful summer!