

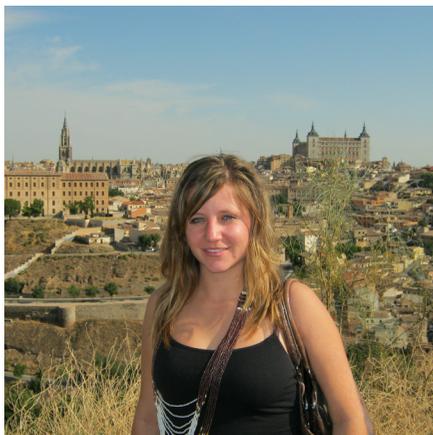
## Jordan Kruse

Fall 2010  
Madrid  
Spain

This past fall I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Madrid, Spain to study Spanish language and culture. Up until then, I had never lived outside of Kansas much less in a city as big as Madrid. My time there, in a place so different than home, completely pushed me out of my comfort zone and allowed me the chance to experience new things every day.

My first couple weeks were great. I spent every day walking around the city, eating churros con chocolate, visiting Retiro Park, and planning trips for upcoming breaks, but I still felt like a visitor. The city was not home yet, and despite my efforts to pull myself off the beaten path, every bar or café I went to seemed to be filled with American tourists and I couldn't help but see myself as one of them. It took a lot of patience and effort, but at some point during my time abroad I was able to shake the feeling that I was a stranger in the city that I lived in. I became best friends with my roommates, improved my language skills immensely, interacted with local Spaniards and other students from around the world, mastered the public transportation system, and even found a café where I became a regular.

I lived with a host mom who cooked authentic Spanish meals for us every day. She was an incredibly interesting woman who, despite her seventy years was very sassy. She wore leopard print and fur coats, she put on bright red lipstick for special occasions, and she never drank anything except coffee or vermouth. She introduced us to her family and friends, and thanks to her I was able to feel a strong sense of community. Most of all, she



was patient in helping me with my language skills. She spoke no English, and upon my arrival my knowledge of the Spanish language barely exceeded "Donde esta la biblioteca?" But the homestay situation forced me to speak Spanish frequently and was an irreplaceable tool in learning a new language.

My time living in Madrid also presented me with tons of opportunities to travel throughout Spain and all over Europe. I visited fourteen different cities within Spain as well as England, Portugal, Poland, Hungary, and Vienna. Every place I traveled to presented me with new things to see, foods to try, cultural insights and experiences, and people to meet.

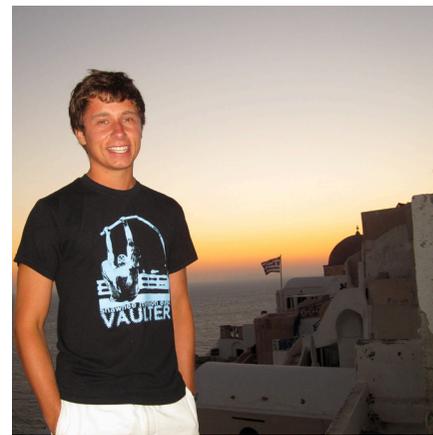
At first Madrid felt like a place I was visiting, but during my study abroad experience, Madrid became a second home. I learned a new language, traveled to places I never imagined I would see, navigated the metro systems of several major cities, met tons of other travelers from all over the world, and started friendships that will last for years.

## John Zecy

Summer 2010  
Paros  
Greece

This past summer of 2010, I studied abroad in Paros, Greece for two months at an institution called Dikemes University. I knew that I wanted to study abroad in Greece ever since I first went in high school in 2006. My family is Greek-American and I've always wanted to improve my Greek in the classroom, but KU doesn't offer any Modern Greek curriculum, only Ancient. Studying abroad turned out to be a great alternative to taking a class that KU doesn't offer. One of the greatest appeals of this study abroad experience for me was that I would go in not knowing anyone. I have amazing friends, but I like stepping out of my comfort zone and meeting new people. Flying 6000 miles by myself definitely took a toll mentally and physically, but it was entirely worth it.

Greece was an incredible experience in that while I was able to relate to some of its customs, I was able to enjoy those that we don't experience in the United States. Life on Paros and many of the islands is much more relaxed than the busy lives that most of us lead. My classmate said it best when she said that in the US, we live to work whereas in Paros, they work to live.



I stayed along the coast for the entirety of my trip, so I ate fresh fish everyday. Needless to say, I now can't look at shrimp and calamari in Kansas the same way. Staying in Greece is like literally living in a postcard. I tried to take pictures of all the views and scenery, but I still never felt like I could capture what I was feeling. I just had to be calm (which is no easy task for me) and enjoy it. I did some island hopping to other islands like Ios and Santorini, while also staying with a friend in Athens. I did everything I wanted to do from cliff jumping to snorkeling. I'm Greek Orthodox, so one of the things that meant a lot to me was being able to go to services at a church on the island that was first built by St. Constantine over 1600 years ago.

I developed long-lasting friendships with both my classmates and the natives of Paros. Once I got a little more confident with my Greek, I had numerous conversations with many of the natives. The friendliness and welcoming of everyone on the island made me feel at home. If you are able to, I would whole-heartedly recommend studying abroad. It has proved to be a valuable part of my education that I wouldn't trade for anything.



photo submitted by  
Kelly Engler, Cork, Ireland  
Spring 2009

## JayhawksAbroad

/ a newsletter from the Office of Study Abroad

Spring 2011

Study Abroad Fair  
Today, Wednesday, February 16  
10:30-3:30  
4th Floor, Kansas Union

# Erin Carter

Summer 2010  
International Media and Marketing  
Argentina



After a ten-hour flight I stepped off the airplane in Ezeiza International Airport, not knowing what to expect from the study abroad program in Argentina. My first experience of the porteños, or people of Buenos Aires, was at the meeting point in the airport. A young man welcomed his girlfriend home with a large bouquet of flowers and an engagement ring. When she said yes, the couple embraced affectionately among the hundreds of travelers. The romantic scene was a wonderful way to begin our visit to the beautiful city of Buenos Aires.

Last summer, I participated in the International Media and Marketing program, led by Prof. Linda Lee. The J-School sponsored program granted our group of 15 students three hours of journalism credit while we spent two weeks in Argentina learning about the dynamics of international business and cultural diversity. Professional visits to various media companies in Buenos Aires and Mendoza allowed us to discover the Argentine business culture and gain experience in international communications.

Our professional visits included tours of media news companies, media agencies and wineries. We also spoke with professors from the Universidad del Cine and the Universidad Católica Argentina. A group favorite was a meeting with MEC Argentina, an international media agency. The professionals talked to us about their work in media planning and buying, which fueled a group discussion on the functions of media and marketing industries worldwide. MEC Argentina's clients included Citi and Pico Dulce, a popular lollipop candy.

In addition to the professional visits, we witnessed the country's infatuation with soccer during the World Cup. The Argentines were devoted and united in their fanaticism for their team. We cheered them on as they defeated three teams during our stay, and we were disappointed when they lost a few days after we returned to the United States.

Between professional visits and World Cup matches, we found time to schedule cultural learning activities. The group signed on with a tour company to take guided bus tours of the many districts of the capital city and of the mountains in the quieter city of Mendoza. In Buenos Aires, we went to an elaborate tango show and dinner, and the next week we took group tango lessons. We also visited art and cultural museums, the famous Recoleta Cemetery and the Casa Rosada, where the president of Argentina works. In addition to the wine tours in Mendoza, the group took a day excursion to the Andes Mountains and went sledding.

Two weeks seemed short, but it was an ideal amount of time for our group to discover the media and marketing operations of another country while we opened our eyes and minds to a different culture. The completion of the program was dependent on final individual projects in an area of personal interest to the student.

# Sarah Shubert

Summer 2010  
Asolo  
Italy



Nestled in one of nature's most gorgeous landscapes, CIMBA serves as a haven for graduate students. Located in the historic town of Asolo, Italy, the program offers a unique learning environment by combining a vast diversity of participants and faculty with valuable exposure to European business practices and social culture. CIMBA quickly surpassed my previous study abroad experiences and exceeded what I had envisioned about living in Italy.

Asolo is a preserved medieval city adorned with cobblestone streets, rolling hills, and expansive villas. As the CIMBA facility is housed in a 16th century structure that is linked to Venetian nobility, it was hard not to be captivated by the richness of the town. The locals make it impossible not to engage, which will ease your culture shock and encourage self-discovery. At Pizzeria Cornaro you will enjoy the best pizza in the region and you will even get a chance to try out your own pizza making skills. Francisco's gelato shop will awaken your taste buds. Try my personal favorite – Bacio (hazelnut and chocolate). And Epoca Birreria will become your go-to place after long days in class when you need to unwind. If I had it to do over, I would have spent more time exploring Asolo to become more rooted to where I lived for eight weeks.

Cultural experience is one of the largest components of this program and it is structured for students to gallivant off to exciting new places every weekend and increase their cultural appetites. Italy is much more than the well-known cities of Rome, Florence, and Venice. I traveled by train throughout most of northern Italy taking in Aida at the Arena di Verona amphitheatre in

Verona, wine tastings in Greve in Chianti, and hiked the 11 kilometers between the villages of the Cinque Terre. The Venice airport is an easy 45-minute train ride away, which makes flights to other countries a breeze. I traveled by horse drawn carriages with Jane Austen at the British Library in London, England. I escaped the persecution of the Jews while exploring the Jewish Quarter in Prague, Czech Republic. I stood overlooking the Danube River and survived the Kosovo War in Petrovaradin, Serbia. In the end, I wished I had more time, but I guess a truly rewarding study abroad experience should leave you wanting more.

Having studied abroad before, I was amazed at how easy CIMBA made it for me to go. CIMBA is a well-structured program focused on quality. The small size of the program made the experience feel more like time spent with family as I built connections with faculty, staff and students from across the U.S. The exposure to Italian manufacturers and businesses gave me hands-on experience that I could not have received had I chosen not to go. I diversified myself in a growing global economy. CIMBA granted me with university credits, but more importantly blessed me with an educational experience that extended far beyond the classroom.

# Kelly Engler

Spring 2009  
Cork  
Ireland



As a native Californian, I am frequently asked why I chose to come to KU. I knew I wanted to broaden my horizons and try something new. I also wanted to incorporate a semester abroad into my quintessential college experience. When it came time to make my final decision of which university to attend, it seemed that KU had everything I was looking for including an amazing study abroad program. I decided to take advantage of this opportunity in my sophomore year, applying to study in Cork, Ireland program for the Spring semester. Ireland is a country rich in history and scenery, and the warmth of its people more than made up for the chilly weather.

My mind swells with memories of countless wonderful experiences during my five month stay. I made fast friends with several students from other U.S. colleges that were studying at University College Cork and we shared many fine experiences together. One adventure in particular stands above the rest. I traveled to the nearby Aran Islands with a couple my new-found friends. After getting off the ferry we had ten hours to explore the island before returning to Galway for the night. After a quick group meeting, we decided that the most efficient way to tour the island would be to rent bikes. What followed next was a crazy ride through its rolling hills with a fantastic photo opportunity at every crest. The white-washed cottages seemed to be straight out of a story book. The meadows and ocean made us feel that the color wheel was lacking in names for the color green. I was named tour guide since I was enrolled in a Prehistoric Ireland course. It got to the point where other tourists were asking me questions about the eras of round towers and wedge tombs. I don't know if it was the sun or the endorphins from

the cycling workout, but suddenly we found ourselves biking along a deserted path belting out "Build Me Up Buttercup" at the top of our lungs. If I hadn't been there I wouldn't have believed that it happened. Finally we arrived at the main attraction, the cliffs of Inishmore.

As we braced ourselves against the whipping wind and the feeling of vertigo, we took in one of the most beautiful views I have seen in my entire life. I can easily recall the thrill of the shear drop and the sound of the waves crashing below. After an hour of taking in the view from every possible angle, we made our way down the hill and resumed our bicycle tour. At this point of the day, every hill felt like a challenge, but none of us even thought of turning back and cutting short our most incredible adventure.

Each and every day of my semester in Cork felt like a present. I never knew exactly what was going to happen, but whether meeting new people, discovering a pub with live music, or visiting a museum, each day gave me new and lasting memories. As I look back on my four years at KU, I feel that I have had a very rewarding experience. Owing in large part to my semester abroad, I know that I made the right decision to be a Jayhawk.