

THE INTERNATIONAL GATOR

University of Florida International Center Newsletter

September 2011

Volume II, Issue I



3rd Place - International Students Category
Arun Purushan
"In One Equal Light"
Savannah, FL, USA
2010

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

During Academic Year 2011/12, the UF International Center (UFIC) will be celebrating its 20th anniversary as a visible and identifiable stand-alone unit on the Gainesville campus (note our 20th anniversary graphic on the cover page!). We have accomplished a great deal in those two decades and have much to celebrate! Although many of the responsibilities assigned to us when the Center was formed in 1991 were being handled in numerous corners of the UF campus prior to our origin, the Center's creation meant that those responsibilities could be drawn together in a single place with professionally dedicated leadership. The establishment of the International Center created an environment in which international programs could flourish, where new ideas and innovations about internationalization could be tested, and in which our many constituencies could find a home where they would be heard. Over the years, we have organized our work in new ways, and undoubtedly we will continue to do so as our role on campus continues to expand and we find additional ways to promote the notion of internationalization. A world class university such as the University of Florida can be nothing less than fully committed to, and engaged with, the global community. UFIC's very existence sends a clear message to the world that UF is, indeed, an international player with respect to learning, knowledge creation, and outreach – all of which are at the heart of a great university in this period of history.

While we are celebrating our 20th anniversary, we do not forget that it is partnerships with the colleges and departments throughout the university that have assisted us in promoting internationalization. In this edition of our newsletter, you will see the contributions the College of Journalism and Communication has made to help its students engage with the global community.

As this year continues, come celebrate the 20th anniversary of UFIC with us as we announce a series of events!

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THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

The University of Florida International Center (UFIC) announces a year-long celebration of its 20 years of service as a visible and identifiable stand-alone unit on the Gainesville campus. UFIC has accomplished a great deal in two decades and has much to celebrate. A calendar of activities can be found at www.ufic.ufl.edu. The UF community is invited to check the list of planned events regularly as it will be updated on a weekly basis. UFIC's 20th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration was held on Monday, August 29, 2011. The event consisted of an outside chalking activity. Staff and guests were invited to join the International Center by writing words and phrases to commemorate UFIC's 20 years of service and to celebrate internationalization.



To find out more about events celebrating the International Center's 20th anniversary, visit www.ufic.ufl.edu.

The establishment of the International Center in 1991 created an environment in which international programs could flourish, where new ideas and innovations about internationalization could be tested, and in which our many constituencies could find a home where they would be welcomed and heard. Over the years, UFIC has organized its work in new ways, and undoubtedly will continue to do so as its role on campus continues to expand and find additional ways to promote the notion of internationalization. Dr. David Sammons, Dean of the International Center, affirms that a world class university such as the University of Florida can be nothing less than fully committed to, and engaged with, the global community. "The International Center's very existence sends a clear message to the world that UF is, indeed, an international player with respect to learning, knowledge creation, and outreach – all of which are at the heart of a great university in this period of history. Come celebrate with us!" said Sammons.



Kick-off Event: On Monday, August 29, UFIC staff commemorated 20 years of service and celebrated internationalization by writing words and phrases in chalk outside the Hub.

The UF International Center (UFIC) was formed in the Fall of 1991. The founding director of the Center was a faculty member who held a half-time appointment. At the time, the Center was located in Tigert Hall. As the office began to grow, parts of the office occupied portions of the third floor of Tigert Hall; the Center's Program Development unit was housed for a time in Walker

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE



Hall and later in UFF). The founding Director resigned in the fall of 1993 and an interim half time faculty director was subsequently appointed. It was almost two years before the position was permanently filled again. In 1995, the Center moved to Grinter Hall, a building that was closer to the middle of campus and therefore more accessible to students. However, there was not enough space there for all Center staff, so the Program Development unit was relocated in Peabody Hall. The Center and its entire staff were finally moved to a renovated suite of offices in The Hub in

March 2007, its current location. This more spacious and central location has enabled UFIC to position its entire array of resources in one building where students and faculty can more easily find them. Its proximity to a common area where students eat and study creates a comfortable, accessible, and highly visible environment for the Center's work and integration with the rest of the campus. Now, more than ever, UF needs an International Center as we head into the next round of reaccreditation with the theme of "Internationalization" as a focus for quality enhancement.



INTERNATIONAL PHOTO COMPETITION

The University of Florida International Center (UFIC) invites students, faculty, staff and alumni to enter its annual international photography competition. There are four categories. Each entrant may submit up to two digital photos in only one chosen category. All photographs must portray the theme "Global Culture." An exhibition of all winning photos will be displayed during the Fall Semester.

CATEGORIES

Enter one category only.

1. Study Abroad & Service Learning Students (UF sponsored): Open to all current students who have taken part in a UF Study Abroad program in 2010 or 2011, as well as students who participated in a UF sponsored service learning program abroad. Photographs must have been taken during a trip abroad and reflect the competition theme of "Global Culture." *(This category is not open to photography and photojournalism majors, who should instead enter Category 4.)*

2. International Students, Scholars & Employees (F-1, J-1, H-1B, TN, E-3, O-1): Open to all current UF international students, scholars, faculty and employees on Visas listed above. Photographs must have been taken anywhere in the United States in 2010 or 2011, meeting the theme of "Global Culture." *(This category is not open to photography and photojournalism majors, who should instead enter Category 4.)*

Deadline:

All entries must be received electronically by October 7, 2011.

Winners will be notified by October 26, 2011.

For more information, rules and instructions, please visit our submission page, <http://www.ufic.ufl.edu/photocontest.htm>



1st Place - International Students Category

By: Kan Li

"Jump" - Honolulu, HI, USA - 2010

3. Faculty, Staff & Alumni: Open to all current or retired University of Florida faculty and staff, as well as UF alumni. Photographs must have been taken abroad in 2010 or 2011 and reflect the theme of "Global Culture." *(Photography and photojournalism professors and instructors are not eligible to be considered for awards but are invited to submit up to two prints at this time for possible inclusion in a future exhibition.)*

4. Photography & Photojournalism Students: Open to all current University of Florida students majoring in photography or photojournalism. Photographs must have been taken abroad in 2010 or 2011 and reflect the theme of "Global Culture."

AWARDS

Judges will award a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each of four categories.

1st prize winners will each receive \$200

2nd prize winners will receive \$100

3rd prize winners will receive \$50

Total prizes to be awarded: \$1,400.

SOUTHEASTERN ALLIANCE FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSORIATE (SEAGEP)

In UFIC's last newsletter, the Southeastern Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (SEAGEP) trips to Chile and China were highlighted. Soon after these trips, SEAGEP and UFIC then took students to South Africa and Brazil. Students who traveled to South Africa and Brazil participated in the Science and Engineering in the Global Context program. This program, as July's newsletter described, intends to heighten students' global awareness and to develop their intercultural competencies in preparation for and pursuit of academic and professional careers. Graduate students on these trips visit local universities and industries, meet with local researchers and professionals, network with faculty and students and present original research on one of four assigned topics – science and technology, science communications, technology transfer and science education in the visiting countries. With all that in mind, hello, again and Welcome or Karibu and Bem-Vindo to South Africa and Brazil!

SOUTH AFRICA

One of the first stops on the SEAGEP tour of South Africa was at Pretoria's Innovation Hub. Known for its convergence of high-tech entrepreneurs, world-class businesses, academics, researchers and venture capitalists, the Innovation Hub taught students how scientific and technological discoveries were being commercialized in South Africa. Soon after, the group visited the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, viewing their nanotechnology labs, and met with faculty at the University of Pretoria (UP) to learn about how science education is accomplished in South Africa. They were led on a tour of UP by UP Tourism Department students. While in Pretoria, the group also visited the Pretoria Zoo and Tswane University of Technology (TUT) Department of Environmental, Water and Earth Sciences where a presentation was given by post-graduate students Illunga Kamika, Tabani Mtombeni and Kabede Kafeni on water quality research.

En route to Polokwane, the students explored the Cullinan Diamond Mine and met with Ministry of Agriculture representatives. The group's second day in Polokwane was spent with Limpopo Provincial Government Department of Agriculture Research Hydrologist Gabriel Leklakala in the field to observe water management, alternative compost making and biopesticide projects. Paula Mejia, SEAGEP doctoral student in Biology, was impressed with the array of South African research projects. She said, "In my trip to South Africa I learned that

other countries also have high quality facilities and equipment, where high quality science is being done."

Fortunately, after several days of intense networking, visits and presentations, SEAGEP participants were then treated to a drive through the Blyde Canyon where they were greeted by breathtaking views at landmarks such as God's Window and the Mac-Mac Falls & Pools. After meeting with a Kruger National Park social scientist that taught SEAGEP students about on-going community projects, the group took part in an evening game drive. This evening game drive required a good eye as participants were asked to spot and identify native animals while driving through the Park at night. What an experience it must have been! Mejia agreed in that she, "was absolutely amazed by [South Africa's] natural ecosystems" and "seeing the big five in their natural environment." For her, South Africa's SEAGEP trip "was priceless, a once in a time experience."



BRAZIL

The final leg of SEAGEP trips took place in Brazil. Immediately following their arrival in São Paulo, both educators and students jumped into several hours of cultural activities. The group first visited the street market at Paulista Avenue which is often compared to Fifth Avenue in New York City and known for being one of São Paulo's most prized sites due to its financial, cultural and commercial influence. Soon after, the group toured an Electronic Language International Festival (FILE) exhibition. FILE is a festival that takes place in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre and other locations around the world. It also celebrates interactive works from both national and international new media artists.

The group's second full day in São Paulo was spent touring the UNICA Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association and the University of São Paulo where students had the opportunity to speak with Institute of Electronics and Energy Professor José Goldemberg.



And while Professor Goldemberg served as a great and informative host, the opportunities for students to network with Brazilian educators and industry experts did not stop there – the next couple of days were spent at other universities and research centers throughout the state of São Paulo. Such locations included: the Foundation for Research Support of São Paulo (FAPESP), the Odebrecht Group's ETH Bioenergia S.A., the Interdisciplinary Center for Energy Planning at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), the ESALQ School of Agriculture and the Center for Advanced Studies in Applied Economics (CEPEA) in Piracicaba and the Instituto de

Pesquisas Ecologicas (IPE). At IPE, the SEAGEP group not only learned about deforestation and reforestation efforts, but actually participated in a tree-planting activity.

For SEAGEP doctoral student in Interdisciplinary Ecology, Milagros JeanCharles, the trip to Brazil "was a great travel-learning opportunity," that showed her just how much "water engineering is a broadly defined discipline." It also confirmed for her how "science and technology is [in fact] advancing abroad." Along with her enlightening educational experiences abroad, JeanCharles also enjoyed the breadth of leisure activities the group was able to participate in their short spans of free time. Jean Charles states, "My favorite activity... was an afternoon trip to the park, where people were out walking, biking, skating, talking, eating, dancing even, with their families and friends. Just a reminder that people are people everywhere."



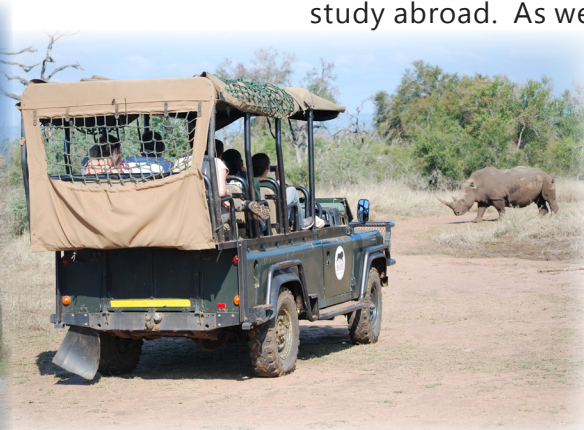
UF STUDY ABROAD



UF in Rome "Teach the World" Photo by Miguel Mejia, Jr

Since the semester has resumed, Study Abroad Services has been quite busy preparing for the upcoming year. Over the summer, we worked hard to develop a variety of new programs for our faculty and staff affiliated with study abroad. We now offer a program director listserv to keep faculty informed of upcoming activities and events associated with study abroad. On 9/1, we hosted our first annual Welcome Back Reception for summer study abroad program directors. We also accepted 26 new students into our popular Study Abroad Peer Advisor program through a competitive application process.

Mid-September greeted us with more than 40 students in attendance at our student Welcome Back event, a forum for students to consider international opportunities beyond the study



Left: "Wall of Avila" Photo by Christa Reynolds
Above: "White Rhino on Game Drive" Photo by Samantha Wilbur

The beginning of the semester has seen the return of study abroad students to Gainesville, ready for another exciting school year. Over the past summer, UFIC ran 62 sponsored programs and had more than 1200 students abroad. Included in this list are a handful of new programs:

- UF in Paris – Hip Hop
- UF in Berlin – English and Fine Arts
- UF in Chengdu – Chinese language (Summer A)
- UF in Florence – Journalism
- UF in Ireland – Archaeology
- UF in Beijing - Global Science and Engineering
- UF in Brazil - Global Science and Engineering
- UF in Dublin - Production to Politics
- UF in Edinburgh - Summer Repertoire
- UF in Greece - Summer Repertoire
- UF in London - Athletic Medicine
- UF in Prague - MBA
- UF in Salzburg - Business Internship
- UF in South Africa - Global Science and Engineering
- UF in Swaziland - Wildlife Ecology

abroad experience. Our bi-annual Study Abroad Fair was held on September 21, and we also held the inaugural meeting of the Study Abroad Advisory Council (SAAC) mid-month. The SAAC is comprised of faculty from Business, Journalism, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Building Construction and Agriculture, among others, and will be useful for SAS as we further expand our services in the future.

2011-2 promises to be another exciting year in study abroad. As we gear up for another busy year, we keep the enthusiasm of our students in mind. In mid-July, we received an email from a student that contained one simple phrase: "Best experience ever." We look forward to another great year of assisting UF students in having positive and exciting overseas experiences.

SACS REACCREDITATION AND THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

As many of our readers know, the University of Florida will be reviewed for reaccreditation purposes during the academic year 2013/14, a process that we go through about once a decade. This is a rigorous and demanding process – and by no means a trivial exercise. The university is already hard at work preparing the required documents for presentation to our accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). For this SACS cycle, the reaccreditation review adds a new component, the preparation of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The plan, which is already under development, focuses on a selected area of strategic

importance in terms of student learning outcomes. The decision has been made that our QEP will focus on internationalization, something of great interest for us in UFIC. Last December, the Provost asked Dean Sammons to serve in a convening role in the establishment of an Internationalization Task Force (ITF) to start the process of development of our QEP. We have made progress since that time, defining internationalization, identifying thematic elements for student learning in the context of internationalization, and drafting specific desirable and measurable student learning outcomes to support

those thematic elements. The work continues with the good news that the Provost has appointed Dr. David Miller from the College of Education to officially take over as QEP Chair to complete the work that has been launched by the ITF. He will lead the campus effort to develop a formal QEP on internationalization for presentation to SACS in the late fall of 2013 for implementation beginning in the Fall of 2014. We wish him well in this critically important task. All those with interest in the work of the ITF should be in touch with Dr. Miller to find ways of fitting your skills and interests into the work that remains to be done.

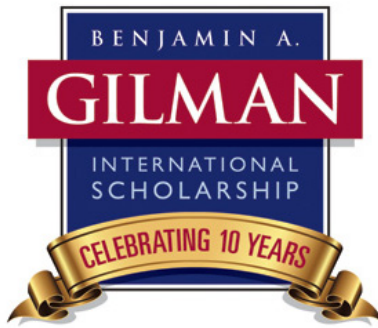
J1 NON-DEGREE PROGRAM

International Student Services (ISS) has a total of 9 students participating in the J1 Non-Degree program for the Fall 2011 term. The first student is with the UF Provost-initiated agreement with Price Sultan University in Saudi Arabia which is in its second year of activity. We also have eight students with new agreements with two Chinese universities in the areas of agriculture and business within our 2+1+1 agreements. The above groups typically are here at the University of Florida for two semesters.

The J1 Non-Degree Program is designed for individuals from other countries to attend the University of Florida to enhance their current skills or degree, conduct research or to transfer credits to their home university from the University of Florida as part of

their current degree seeking process. This program is separate and different from the Exchange Student program and is offered to anyone outside of the U.S., student or not. If an interested individual is not part of an active agreement between UF and their home institution the individual may apply as a non-degree student but must be funded at least 2/3 from a source other than personal and/or family funds, must have a faculty sponsor for mentoring purposes, may stay for up to 24 months and may take general courses or conduct research. If there is not an active agreement in place general non-degree students are not permitted to take courses in the Colleges of Business, Law and Medicine. The J1 Non-Degree Program is typically small however we are seeing a steady increase in these numbers especially with new cooperative agreements being developed and approved.

For any questions regarding the J1 Non-Degree Program, please contact Scott Davis at sdavis@ufic.ufl.edu



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

Some students travel to India and study the local language while mentoring underprivileged children. Others embark on a trip to the Brazilian rainforest to learn about environmental sustainability. Still, some choose to fly to London, Europe's financial capital, to gain knowledge in international business and perhaps even complete an internship. Studying abroad is an experience every college student should have. While it's true that funding this experience can be expensive, there are many scholarships available that greatly help a student go abroad, one of these being the Benjamin A. Gilman scholarship.

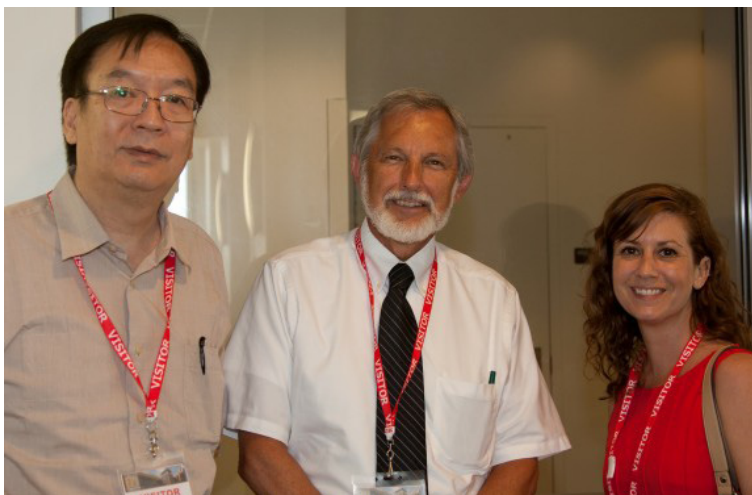
Over the past 10 years, the Gilman Program has awarded over 8,800 scholarships of up to \$5000 that have enabled students to study abroad in 116 different countries. The program aims to diversify the types of students that go abroad by supporting those that might not be able to do so because of financial constraints. Thus, it is open to U.S. citizen undergraduate students that receive a Federal Pell Grant and plan to study abroad. This past summer semester alone, 11 University of Florida students received the scholarship allowing them to go to countries like South Korea, Morocco, and Peru.

In the most recent years over a third of all applicants are awarded the Gilman scholarship. The application consists of writing two essays. In the first one, the student must indicate why he/she

would like to study abroad. In the second essay, the student is to outline a follow-on project proposal that would promote the Gilman program if he/she is awarded the scholarship. It takes minimal effort to apply compared to the amazing benefits a student can have from becoming a Gilman scholar. If you are interested in studying abroad complete the online application today at www.iie.org/GILMAN.



University of Florida Gilman Recipient in Spain.



Dr. Chonghua Zhang (left), Director of the UF Beijing Center, visited with Dean Sommons (middle) and staff from the College of PPHP (right) in July.

International Student Services (ISS) has checked in over 960 F-1 and 179 J-1 students for the Fall 2011 semester so far! We welcome our new students and invite them to come to the UFIC with any concerns at any time. Our office is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., excluding observed holidays. Please visit our website for contact information: www.ufic.ufl.edu/issstaff.htm

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AWARDS

The deadline for the Seventeenth Annual Outstanding International Student Awards is approaching. These awards are designed to recognize students who not only meet exemplary academic achievement, but also a wide range of accomplishments and contributions. These include the Alec Courtelis Award, the Diane Fisher Award, the Scarborough Scholarship and the Scarborough-Maud Fraser Award. The Alec Courtelis Award nominees are selected by each college and the final winner will be chosen by a panel of judges. For the latter three awards, students may nominate themselves by including an essay and providing other documents listed in the award description. To learn more about these awards, please visit our website at <http://ufic.ufl.edu/issresources/17thAnnualInternationalStudentAwards.html>.

If you have additional questions or need to know the contact in your college for the Alec Courtelis Award, please contact Megan Crowley at m.crowley@ufic.ufl.edu.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Beginning in 2004, an award to recognize outstanding international endeavors by UF faculty members and to encourage UF faculty to pursue international activities was created. Subsequently, a new award was created for faculty in junior ranks and in 2010 a new award was added to recognize the many contributions of staff to our campus internationalization priorities. Nominations from all colleges across campus for each of these awards are invited in recognition of outstanding contributions to the internationalization of the campus. Details follow:

Faculty: Each college is asked to submit nominations for the two faculty International Educator of the Year Awards by October 21, 2011. Colleges are asked to make nominations for two awards—one for junior faculty (untentured or newly tentured) and one for senior faculty.

IFAS, CLAS and the College of Medicine may nominate two people in both categories because of the relatively larger size of those colleges. The winner of each of these two awards will receive \$2,000.

Staff: The staff award recognizes the important contributions of University of Florida staff to the internationalization priorities of the campus. This new award, first made in 2010, is intended to recognize the essential role of UF staff in furthering campus internationalization priorities. Anyone may nominate a staff member from any unit on campus for this award following the criteria and process described below. Up to two awards may be made in the staff category. The awardees, if more than one, will share equally the \$2000 set aside for the staff award(s). [NOTE: Staff members of the UF International Center are not eligible for the staff award.]

Process: Nominations for each award may be made by anyone on campus (not limited to the unit in which the individual nominee is employed). Each college is free to develop its own review process for submitting nominations for each award; the faculty nominations from each college must be officially transmitted to the UF International Center by the department chair with the endorsement of the dean. Nominations for the staff award may be developed and submitted to the UF International Center directly by the nominator. The nominations, in each case, should consist of a statement of no more than three pages describing the international accomplishments of the faculty or staff member being nominated. Contact information for the nominee and a summary paragraph about him or her should be placed at the beginning of each nomination. Please do not submit resumes.

SPOTLIGHT ON: COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS



Gators in Italy: *A group gator chomp near the arena in Verona!*

Written by Emily Burris

The College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida has been providing students with the opportunity to broaden their horizons while pursuing a higher education, offering study abroad experiences that combine a mastery of collegiate courses with the discovery of exciting new cultures.

BERLIN STUDY ABROAD

In May, 12 students and Associate Professor of Journalism John Freeman explored the city of Berlin on a two-week photojournalism study abroad program. There they learned how to best capture through a lens the culture and history of Berlin and its people.

This particular program started more than seven years ago when Freeman, who began his photography career as a high school student in Berlin, wanted to revisit the city and see how it had changed.

This year's trip began with a five-hour, eight-mile guided bike tour giving students a comprehensive introduction to the historical sights of the city.

"Our focus is always on the former East Berlin, the section that used to be communist – the section that used to be walled off. That's where all the transition is taking place and that's where all the renovation is happening, and Berlin has this incredible creative force that just draws people to it," Freeman explained.

While students enjoy their time abroad, they are also responsible for completing JOU4930 Special Topics, a 3-credit-hour professional elective. Students work to produce a slideshow or video presentation showcasing the life of someone who lives in Berlin.



UF students gather in the lobby of the Transit Loft Hotel at midnight on the day before their slideshow projects are due. **Photo by John Freeman**



On the steps of the Friedrichstadtpalast, UF students pose for a group shot before enjoying a musical/acrobatic variety show.

The course is completed without a traditional classroom. Students edit their work in the lobby of their hotel and learn on the go as they photograph the city and their subjects.

After completing their projects, students enjoy a final group dinner 680 feet in the air dining at the Tele Café, a revolving restaurant in Berlin's TV Tower. The course is finished before traveling back home or

Berlin, continued on next page.

Berlin, cont.

elsewhere in Europe, as many students often do.

Plans are underway for the program's eighth trip, and Freeman will again be leading students back to his beloved city.

"It has a buzz, it has a life of its own. That's why I go back every year," he said.



UF students celebrate on a sunny afternoon at a lake-side Biergarten in Berlin after submitting all of their coursework for the program. This was the fourth of five sponsored group meals. **Photo by John Freeman**



The group poses for a photo in Sorrento before leaving for the island of Capri.

GATORS IN ITALY

The College of Journalism and Communications took one of its largest ever study abroad programs to Italy this summer with nearly 100 students traveling through its cities and countryside.

Gator students and faculty traveled to several Italian cities during the month of May. While students lived and studied in Florence, planned excursions to Verona, Venice, Sorrento, Capri and Rome took up much of their time.

Mike Weigold, advertising professor and associate dean for undergraduate affairs, began planning for the trip more than a year in advance with the American Institute for Foreign Study, a company that coordinates undergraduate study abroad programs. The trip itinerary sought to blend students' coursework with travel and cultural experiences like a month-long pass to Ufizi Gallery, wine tasting and a cooking class.

"There's really very little point in studying abroad unless part of what happens is an appreciation of the diversity of the world and of other cultures and of the lives that people lead elsewhere," Weigold said, explaining that they strive to blend the kind of education found in Gainesville with a new appreciation of the world.

For Gators in Italy, that education included class offerings in every college department taught by UF faculty.

"We had faculty from all four departments, which is really important because it is a college

Italy, continued on next page.



Gators in Italy Students visit the Vatican and wait in St Peter's square for the blessing by the Pope.

Italy, cont.

program and we love the fact that we provide an opportunity for students from different departments to mix and get to know one another in a way that sometimes is hard to do here," Weigold said.

Senior advertising student Katherine Fitzwater recalls her time spent in Italy as some of the most fun experiences in her undergraduate years.

"I learned so much and got to see so many different things, I would definitely recommend this particular program to anyone who could possibly go on it," Fitzwater said. "We got to see so many

places and make so many friends while having an awesome experience."

The social aspect of study abroad is something Weigold recognizes as extremely important as well.

"In that month, for many individuals, there's more growth that happens than over a couple of years living in Gainesville," he said.

NEW BEGINNINGS

As the College of Journalism and Communication's undergraduate programs continue to flourish, the college is expanding its graduate offerings and making global education a reality for graduate students.

The Global Strategic Communication program will launch this fall according to Spiro Kiouisis, public relations professor and director of distance education for the college. The program, which will be offered entirely online, is making its debut through the University of São Paulo in Brazil.

"The initial program will be launched with the University of São Paulo, but our goal is to quickly expand the program to include both domestic and other international students," Kiouisis said in an email interview.

According to Kiouisis, the graduate program is designed to offer an interdisciplinary and international look at professional communications fields.

"Students can expect to learn principles for effective strategic communication in a global

context. This will prepare them for positions in strategic communication with all the types of organizations but those especially with a global and international orientation," he said.

Dean of the College of Journalism and Communications Dr. John Wright is excited about this program and opportunities it will open up for the university.

"It's just so important in today's very small world to have a global perspective, and that's what this is all about," Wright said. "As we reach out and become more global in an era of digital communications, we really think that these types of relationships are not something that we just want to do, they're vital."

These relationships, as well as opportunities offered through other study abroad programs, are beneficial to the students as well.

"They need an understanding of other cultures, and this kind of interaction is just extremely important to broaden the employment possibilities of our students," Wright said, echoing sentiments expressed by many advocates of study abroad. "To gain those perspectives just makes our students all the more valuable and more well rounded."