



Tartans Abroad

Study Abroad Newsletter

Hannah Skarin, Editor

Greetings from the Office of International Education!



Inside this issue:

<i>Glimpse</i>	1
Making the Most of Your Experience and SATC	2
J. Pattison-Gordon, Buenos Aires, Argentina	3
Financial Aid Information &	4
Ema Woodward, Montpellier, France	5
J. Pattison-Gordon, Buenos Aires, Argentina (Cont.) and	6

Hello!

My name is Hannah Skarin and I am in my third semester of my graduate program in Student Affairs in Higher Education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Student Affairs is an exciting field where professionals get to work with students in a variety of ways including residence life, study abroad, career services, orientation etc. Working with students is my passion and I am excited to continue my education and experience here in OIE at Carnegie Mellon.

I have gotten a chance to look through the different places our students are currently abroad and I cannot help but be inspired by your photos, blogs, and various experiences you all have had thus far.

Studying abroad is such a unique and wonderful experience and I hope that you all are taking full advantage of the cultures that surround you!

While feeling homesick is a normal part of being abroad, don't let it effect

your ability to appreciate your surroundings. Whether that means avoiding the urge to eat only Big Macs, drink Frappuccinos, or seek out other English speakers so you don't practice French or Spanish. You do not want to come home and wish you did more while you were abroad!

I hope all of you are having the time of your lives and living it up in whatever exciting place you are in. Take advantage of every opportunity!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue and shared their inspirational stories and photos!

Hannah Skarin
Office of International Education
Graduate Intern



Looking for a Great Opportunity to Share Your Experiences? Check Out Glimpse!

Glimpse is seeking applicants for its Correspondents Program. Supported in part by National Geographic Society, The Correspondents Program is for talented students specializing in writing or photography. Correspondents receive a \$600 stipend, a professional editor, career training in writing and photography, guaranteed publication on Glimpse.org, and Matador. The application is due November 20th so apply today at www.glimpse.org to take advantage of this great opportunity!

While You 're Abroad...

Check Out:

- The Study Abroad Handbook:
www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/before/handbook.html
- Follow-Up SATC:
www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/forms/index.html
- Great travel products:
www.umabroad.umn.edu/products/index.html
- Articles on returning home:
www.glimpseabroad.org/

Make the Most of Your Experience!

There are plenty of ways to bring your experience abroad back when you return to Carnegie Mellon:

- Attend the Welcome Back Reception.
- Help out with Information Sessions and Pre-departure.
- Serve as an e-peer advisor.
- Publish your journals, short stories, or poetry.
- Enter the annual Photo Contest.
- Use your experience as a springboard to complete a senior thesis.
- Apply for a Fulbright, Rhodes or Marshall scholarship.
- Continue your experience with an international internship.

Transfer Credit:

Follow-Up SATCs

If you have made changes to your course registration abroad and have not already made arrangements with your academic advisor(s), please use this [Follow-Up SATC Form](#) to update your courses.

Please complete all categories, including URLs for specific courses. You will automatically receive an email with the changes you are proposing. Once we receive the completed form we will send it to relevant academic advisors.

Advisors will review courses and send you confirmations of approval where appropriate.

REMEMBER!

To enroll yourself in CMU classes for next semester while you're overseas!!

CMU Study Abroad on Facebook

Click on the Study Abroad Facebook badge on the [Carnegie Mellon University Social Media Directory](#) or on [OIE's Study Abroad](#) page to become a fan! Our fan page consists of student and staff photos from abroad, including all photos and winners from the 2010 photo contest, the study abroad calendar of events, and discussion posting opportunities where students can talk about their overseas experiences and pre-and post-trip questions and thoughts.



Argentina—by J. Pattison-Gordon, studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Argentina is a land where dulce de leche and coffee are king, where the traffic makes New Yorkers look polite, where strangers will walk up and offer to help you, where 40 minutes late is right on time. It's a place full of contradictions: bag set down is a bag stolen, but step into the rain without an umbrella and strangers will offer you room under theirs. The most jarring of contradictions is that these sun-drenched parks, full of bikers and students drinking mate, saw atrocities. On break I visited a little Welsh town that I remember for the crowd of flamingos dotting its picturesque river and for its impressive dinosaur museum. Only thirty years ago, History remembered the town for a government-led massacre. It's in an interesting time to be in Argentina, a place seeped in a violent history that is still playing out as I write.

Three days ago I found myself at ESMA, a startlingly beautiful complex of buildings, full of green, graceful trees and the smell of lavender. The place was home to a large Navy school, and a center where kidnapped civilians were routinely tortured and imprisoned before being thrown into the ocean to drown. This center, in the midst of a bustling city, bordered by tall office buildings, was a critical part of Argentina's mini-version of the Holocaust, in which the national government turned on its own citizens.

In Argentina, the president from 1946-1955, and 1973-1974 is still such a powerful figure, his image was invoked on banners and posters during the recent presidential campaigns. In his own time, Perón was equally beloved by both the left and right, something that ultimately blew up. Terrorism by the leftists Peronists was met with equivalent violence by the Peronists government, who sided with the right.



Perón himself died shortly after, leaving his third wife in office. While Perón's second wife, Evita of musical fame, had left behind women's suffrage and workers rights programs as her mark, Isabel, Perón's third wife, left behind a government run death-squad.

The public was relieved when the military overthrew Isabel Perón and promised to return stability. Soon, the government began pursuing guerrilla leftists. And non-guerrilla leftists. And people who knew leftists. And people who generally walked on the same street a leftist walked on. On March 20, 1977 General Ibérico Saint-Jean shamelessly explained to newspapers, "First we will kill all the subversives, then we will kill their collaborators, then their sympathizers, then those who remain indifferent and finally we will kill those who are undecided."

With this coup, a decade of secret abductions began in which plainclothes policemen broke into people's houses at night, abducted them, robbed their houses, and occasionally kidnapped the children to raise as their own. The desaparecidos or "disappeared" were held and tortured in secret detention centers around the city like the one I visited. Every day hundreds of people must have walked past the center on their ways to work, while inside, people were burned with electric prods, or prepared to be thrown into the ocean alive. Meanwhile the government completely denied knowledge that anyone had been disappeared, and let loose a truly impressive slew of propaganda insisting that the desaparecidos were merely run-aways, who abducted themselves, and that countries calling for an end to the military regime were really anti-Argentinean and completely ignorant about Argentinean life.

Cont. on pg. 6

Wanted: Bloggers Abroad

Our study abroad web site now features a page titled "Student Perspectives." Within this page is a link to our new feature, [Blogs Abroad](#). It features several Carnegie Mellon students' blogs written while abroad in the following locations: Qatar, Australia, Spain, Tanzania, Japan, Ghana, Tunisia, India, and the United Kingdom. We invite you to contribute! For more information about sharing your blog, please email goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu.

Contact Information:

- Office of International Education
Phone: 412-268-5231
Email: goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu
<http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/>
- Counseling & Psychological Services
Phone: 412-268-2922
<http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/counseling>
- Housing Office, Lisa Hartman
Phone: 412-268-2139
Email: ldippold@andrew.cmu.edu
<http://www.housing.cmu.edu>
- HUB & Financial Aid
Phone: 412-268-8186
Email: thehub@andrew.cmu.edu
<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/>
- UC Information Desk
Phone: 412-268-2107

Helpful Links:

Center for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Disability Travel Resources

<http://www.makoa.org/travel.htm>

GLBT Resources

www.gaytimes.co.uk/HotSpots/GayGuide.html

Let's Go Travel Resource

www.letsgo.com

Pittsburgh Post Gazette

www.post-gazette.com/

Sexual Assault Advisors

www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/SAA

The Tartan

<http://www.thetartan.org/>

Women's Resources

<http://userpages.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html>**Travel Advisory Notices**www.travel.state.gov**Important Financial Aid Information**

Attention, students! Make sure to follow-up on your federal aid, 2011-2012 application. More details are on the front page of the HUB website at <http://www.cmu.edu/hub>. Specific questions can be directed to your college contact, listed on the HUB website, <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/hours.html>.

Frequently Asked Questions**1) What if my courses abroad change?**

Students must often make changes to their coursework abroad due to cancelled classes or time conflicts. Because this happens so frequently, OIE has developed a simple procedure for gaining new course approvals abroad. Students who have made changes to their course registration abroad should use the Follow-up SATC Form found online to update their courses with their academic advisors.

2) What else do I need to do while abroad?

- While away from Pittsburgh, study abroad students remain registered at Carnegie Mellon and are encouraged to stay in touch with academic advisors and OIE for course changes and other important information.
- Register with the STEP program
- Check the OIE website and emails from your CMU department regarding special opportunities such as 5th year scholar, honor society nominations, and other important deadlines that may occur while you are away.

3) What if something happens to me while I'm abroad?

The OIE staff is a valuable resource for students and parents throughout the study abroad experience. Should students have any serious problems or emergencies overseas, we are happy to assist in any way we can. Students should first contact their study abroad program as they are on the ground and can be of more immediate assistance.

4) What do students do if they get homesick?

Adjusting to a new culture is both exciting and challenging and there are moments when students feel out of place. Check out the Study Abroad Handbook for a detailed explanation of cultural adjustment and ideas of how to overcome homesickness.

Want to see yourself in a new light?

Read *American Ways*, by Gary Althen when you return!

Emma Woodward-Montpellier, France

Where do I even begin? To start, I will just say that having been able to travel and see so much of France (and then some) has been simply amazing. The architecture, the food, and the culture in Europe are unlike anything I've ever experienced growing up in the States.

With that said, my internship in Montpellier did provide me with a great deal of worthwhile experiences, aside from no doubt improving my French. I would warn others who are looking for a

"These experiences I am having abroad are surely changing me as a person for the better"

summer job or internship in France that it is common for the French to go on vacation during the month of August. If I had the chance to do this experience again, I probably would have tried to do it

during the months of June and July, where there are more people around the office and generally more work to be done. However, even a relaxed internship abroad was still an important contribution to learning the language and culture in the midst of a local work environment.

Since I have returned to Paris for my studies, I have been having the time of my life. My program (through ISA) has been super in organizing interesting activities and excursions, and has also been very supportive in helping us to adapt to this new city. Some examples of activities organized by my program have included: Ver-

sailles, tour of the Latin Quarter, a night at the Opera, and going to see a professional football match. In the weeks ahead, I look forward to visiting the Loire Valley and the Catacombs.

Needless to say, these experiences that I am having abroad have surely changed me as a person for the better; they have broadened my horizons and made me a more independent and outgoing person.

Emma at the beach



Argentina— (cont. from pg. 3)

The scariest part is that while the military government collapsed in the 80's, these events still haven't been resolved. When the ensuing government began to try the perpetrators, military grumblings got loud enough that the president feared the democracy was at risk of being overthrown again if he didn't back off. He pardoned everyone who could claim to be "just following orders", and promised to end trials by 1987. That was it for a while; the military went free to wander in the same society, go shopping in the same supermarkets, as their victims.



Carlos Menem became president next, and pardoned everyone presumably thinking this would let Argentina move on. It wasn't until Néstor Kirchner, husband of the current president, was in charge next that trials were re-opened. These trials are still going on now. According to our guide at ESMA, who himself had been imprisoned there for 2 years, 100 children of the desaparecidos have recovered their identities, and 400 are still living, with the people who murdered their biological parents. Just a few months ago, a witness in a desaparecido trial testified about being tortured and kept in one of the detention centers; during the weeks of the trial, he was disappeared again. He still hasn't been found.

ESMA is a chilling place, but it is better for history to frighten us than be forgotten by us. I am in

Argentina at an astounding time, where justice is slowly resolving one case after the next. The sun shines off palm trees and pine trees, arts fairs and concerts burst with life every weekend, college students dance until 7am at the abundant clubs, and meanwhile, several dark decades approach what I hope is finally their epilogue.

Julie Mallis Netherlands

Journey To A Notherland is a project that connects students in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with students in Nijmegen, Netherlands. We will exchange ideas, artwork and creativity with one another. Although the two groups of students live across the world, many of the students come from very similar backgrounds. We will talk about community, food, clothing, and music as the main sources of our work. The students in the Pittsburgh group come from various backgrounds: Some are 100% Pittsburgh, and have lived here their entire life. Others have moved from other places. Many of our students come from Africa, with a large population of Somali refugees now living in Pittsburgh. The parallel group of students in Nijmegen consist primarily of Somali refugee students now living in the Netherlands.

Why Pittsburgh? Why Nijmegen?

Why Not? These two cities actually have a lot in common, other than becoming home to large populations of refugees. Both are college towns (at least in some neighborhoods), encourage and promote biking, have bridges, boats, and bodies of water. These progressive towns are lucky to be home to diverse groups and work



Photo provided by Julie Mallis

hard to create a healthy and safe community.

Who am I? I am a senior at Carnegie Mellon University, studying Art and Anthropology. I enjoy incorporating creativity and art into everything, from Ethnographic studies, to teaching in a classroom. Journey To A Notherland will employ both. This past summer, I was generously funded by the GigaPan Youth Exchange Project, the Tartans Abroad Scholarship Fund, and Carnegie Mellon's Undergraduate Research Office to conduct fieldwork and research in the Netherlands. (These results represent the views of the author and not those of Carnegie Mellon University.) This project is the aftermath of my summer's fieldwork. I hope to share with you, the public, and the students in Pittsburgh and Nijmegen artwork about who we are, where we come from and how we adapt to a new home.

Want to know more? Check out Julie's blog at : <http://journeytoanotherland.wordpress.com/>

Office of International Education
Warner Hall, 3rd floor

Phone: 412-268-5231
Fax: 412-268-7832

[www.cmu.edu/
studyabroad](http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad)

Carnegie Mellon
Study Abroad
Work Volunteer Research Study