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Education Abroad Alumni Programming

An Exploration Of Diverse Applications

Goals of the Session

- ❖ Provide an overview of successful alumni programming from both a university and organizational perspective
- ❖ Provide resources for alumni programming that satisfies three core objectives: marketing, international education advocacy, and professional development
- ❖ Hear from alumni who have successfully completed programs that have attributed to their personal and professional development

Peer Advisor Programming: Using Alumni as a Resource

- ❖ Importance of Peer Advisor programs has grown
- ❖ Popularity of Peer Advisor programs have grown rapidly over the last decade
- ❖ What impact do returned students have on outgoing students?



CSU's Peer Advisor Program: Hiring Process

Meet Our Peer Advisors



Monika Bochert

Once I got a small grip on the language, a whole new world opened itself up to me.



Lauren Gannon

Studying in Stellenbosch, South Africa was one of the most exciting adventures of my life



Kristen Goulet

I chose to do an entire year in Spain knowing that just one semester would not be enough!



Michael Knapp

I'm truly glad I spent the full year abroad, because the time flies!



Zack Nelson

Studying abroad at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand was truly an experience of a lifetime



Kayla Rivers

I loved studying abroad at the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina because of the wide range of students.

- ❖ Intentional Hiring: What type of alumni do you want on your staff?
- ❖ Students apply through an online application we manage through StudioAbroad
- ❖ Top 10 candidates are interviewed
- ❖ Set the precedent from the beginning. This is an important role!

CSU's Peer Advisor Program: Roles and Responsibilities

- ❖ Trained as general advisor and first point of contact
- ❖ Shared responsibilities among all peers
- ❖ Each peer has a special project:
 - ❖ Fair assistant
 - ❖ Communication and Statistics Coordinator
 - ❖ Social Media Coordinator
 - ❖ Photo and Mixed Media Competition Coordinator
 - ❖ Student Outreach and Marketing Coordinators
 - ❖ Classroom Visit Coordinator
 - ❖ Underrepresented Student Outreach Coordinator
 - ❖ Alumni Engagement Coordinator
 - ❖ "Peer Culture" - Appreciation and Social Committee



CSU's Peer Advisor Program: Training and Preparation

- ❖ Building a training program - What should be included?
- ❖ Train for success!
- ❖ Have more than one voice: Invite others from your office and across campus.
- ❖ Team building is among the most important part!

Peer Advisor Training | August 19-23, 2013 Office of International Programs – Education Abroad

Monday, August 19

9:00	Welcome / Meet EA Staff Peer Advisor Introductions	Aimee EA Staff
9:20	The Study Abroad Experience/ Transition to Education Abroad	Laura
9:35	Best Practices; Ethics; Core Values	Miranda/Aimee
10:10	Organizational Chart Overview Office Tour	Chris
10:30	Office Policies/Procedures and Resources in the IRC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ computers, phone, email, making calls ➤ timesheets ➤ daily tasks 	Lynn/Aimee
11:15	Advising and the Peer Advisor Roles and Responsibilities (Expectations)	Aimee
12:00	Lunch On Your Own	
1:00	CSU Study Abroad Program Models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CSU Sponsored Programs (Exchanges, Faculty In-Residence/Faculty-Led) ➤ CSU Affiliated Programs ➤ Unaffiliated Programs/Direct Enrollment 	Aimee
1:45	Break	
2:00	Overview of Study Abroad – General Information Mtg. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Selecting a Study Abroad Program ➤ Planning Your Academic Experience ➤ Budgets, Financial Aid, and Scholarships ➤ Information meeting presentation ➤ Classroom presentations (5 min-10 min) 	Aimee
2:40	Paperwork Processing – how you can help	Suzanne
2:45	Marketing – Facebook, Blogs, and Other 5 min presentation – Kayla and Kristin	Aimee
4:15	Homework Assignments/Special Projects Wrap Up Day 1 / Questions	Aimee
4:30	Sexual Harassment Training	All new Peers

Please have your passport or driver's license and social security card for employment purposes.
A voided check will be required for payroll. Please complete hiring paperwork before the end of the day.

CSU's Peer Advisor Program: Build Community!

- ❖ Team building
- ❖ Include in office functions
- ❖ Encourage growth
- ❖ Hold Retreats
- ❖ Develop peers as a team
- ❖ Mentor





API Alumni Programming



- ❖ Online API Toolbox with re-entry resources available post-program
- ❖ API Peer Mentor program: inception 2007/2008, academic yearlong commitment, focus on study abroad awareness, advocacy for international education, analysis of study abroad experience, yearlong research project
- ❖ API Campus Advocate program: inception 2010/2011, semester long commitment, focus on study abroad awareness and professional applications of study abroad experience

Alumni: Voices for Advocacy

- ❖ Engaged alumni benefit the field of international education and our goals
- ❖ Collective action starts with individual initiative
- ❖ Articulation integral to reflection and understanding
- ❖ Maintain contact with the international perspective and experience
- ❖ A student's realm of influence: personal, campus, community



Cultivating Informed Alumni

- ❖ Build awareness by providing a vocabulary for understanding the issues and the available resources
- ❖ Help them find their voice; API alumni day of service in Boston
- ❖ Training components: Connecting Our World: www.connectingourworld.org
- ❖ Program structure and requirements: Share Your Story, write a legislator, etc.
- ❖ Compensation structure reflective of community engagement (Advocacy Day, etc.)



Utilizing Alumni as Informed Voices for Civic Advocacy: Examples

Sen. Phillip Shoopman
504 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Sen. Shoopman,

My name is Amit Kumar, and I am a fourth-year student at the University of South Carolina, originally hailing from Greer. As one of your constituents, I am writing you to discuss an issue that not only is very important to me, but which I think should be important to every South Carolinian in the state.

In my three and a half years at USC, I have been fortunate enough to have extensive experience with international education twice, by studying abroad in both Italy and Spain. My semesters abroad gave me the best months of my life, and I loved the experiences so much that I now intern for a study abroad company, Academic Programs International (API).

I was recently doing some research on international education, and I was surprised to find that – unlike 23 other states in the nation – South Carolina does not have any state-level resolution proclaiming support for international education. Many of our regional neighbors, such as Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana, have passed such resolutions in recent years.

Utilizing Alumni as Informed Voices for Civic Advocacy: Examples

The Honorable Bobby Singleton
Alabama State Senate
Montgomery, AL 36130

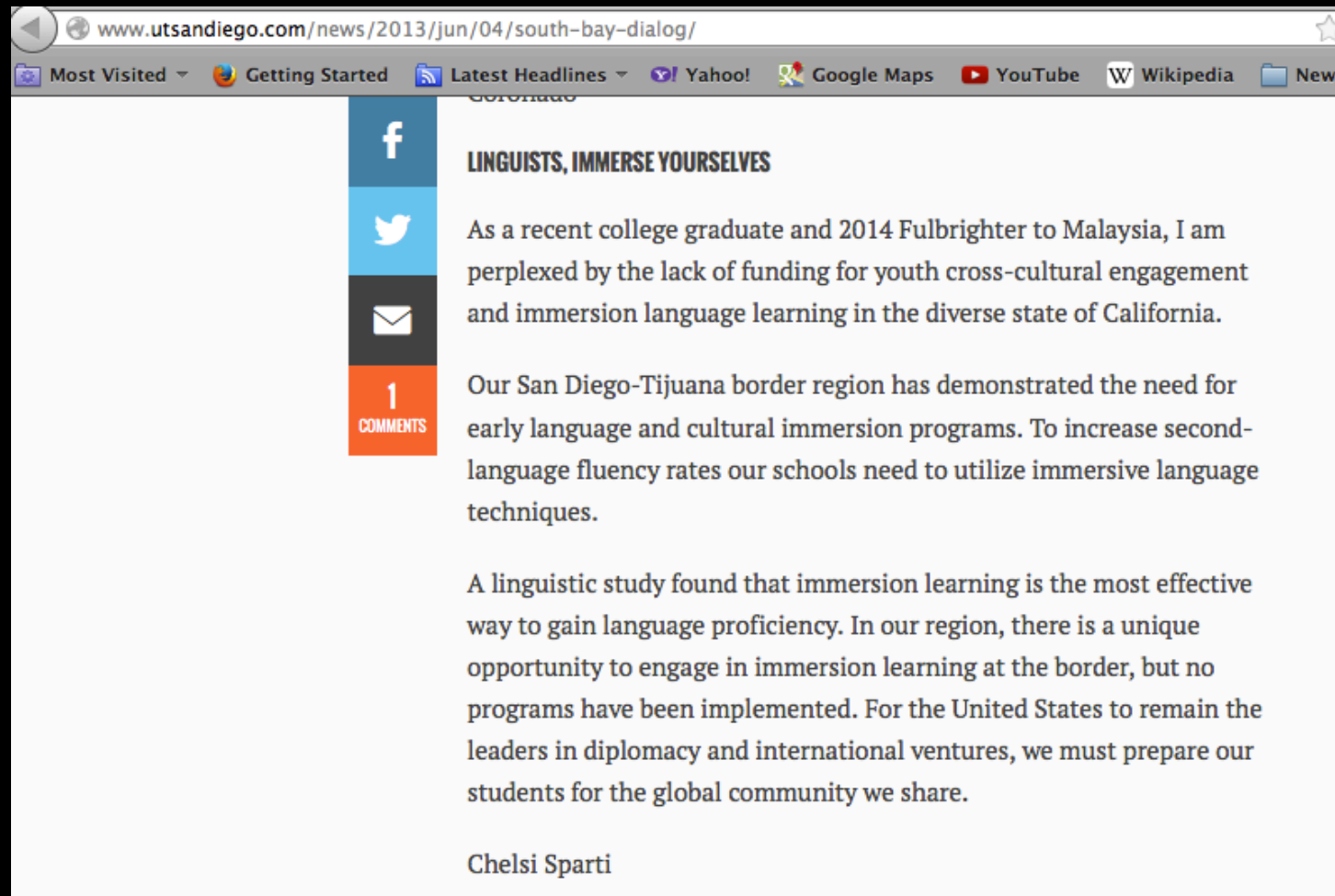
Dear Mr. Senator:

It is my deepest regret that I must express how disappointed I am in the new HB 56 law that was just passed in our beautiful state. However, my personal disappointment is irrelevant. I'd like to talk about the negative impacts that this new bill will have upon Alabama and International Students who come to this great state to study.

It isn't that hard to imagine, if you've never yourself been a foreign exchange student, how fascinating and life-changing the experience of Study Abroad can be. New places and new opportunities can do a mind good, especially when it comes to getting new and more compassionate outlooks on social issues. Last year I decided to study abroad in Paris for a semester and I cannot tell you within the confines of a letter just how much I learned about life and humanity while abroad. The experience was unbelievably fantastic.

However, the more I think about my own experience abroad, the more deeply saddened I am by this new law that institutes racism against people who "look" to be foreign here in our State. I attend the University of Alabama—Roll Tide—and I can tell you with honor that we have at this University one of the finest International programs, the English Language Learning Institute. It attracts hundreds of students from abroad each and every year and continues to do so. How wonderful is that to think, Mr. Senator, that out of all the glorious cities and places in our fine country, these students are choosing the University of Alabama? Tuscaloosa is a superb city and it is so refreshing to know that so many international students are attracted to it from so far away. These students are hardworking

Utilizing Alumni as Informed Voices for Civic Advocacy: Examples



Utilizing Alumni as Informed Voices for Civic Advocacy: Examples

The screenshot shows two overlapping browser windows from the website www.connectingourworld.org. The address bar in both windows shows the URL `www.connectingourworld.org/get-involved/share-your-story/#respond`. The browser's toolbar includes links for 'Most Visited', 'Getting Started', 'Latest Headlines', 'Yahoo!', 'Google Maps', and 'YouTube'.

Left Window: Natalie Brady

Sometimes we discover our calling in the most unexpected ways. I never thought I would, but I had never been and had no real relation to. I changed my mind and knew I loved the Spanish lifestyle so much. I knew I had to go. I traveled to Spain in 2010. I never thought I would, but I had never been and had no real relation to. I changed my mind and knew I loved the Spanish lifestyle so much. I knew I had to go. I traveled to Madrid in the fall of 2012 to study abroad with Academic Programs International. Seeing everything for the second time had more meaning. It was the history and cultural context that I had learned at landmarks.

When you go abroad though, you learn not only about the world but also about yourself. I learned not only how to be patient with myself but also what happiness truly meant to me. Those little moments throughout the semester, but the big wave of it came at the end by beautiful light displays, wonderful people, and sinful food.

Right Window: Ariel Stickles

4 People Have Shared a Story

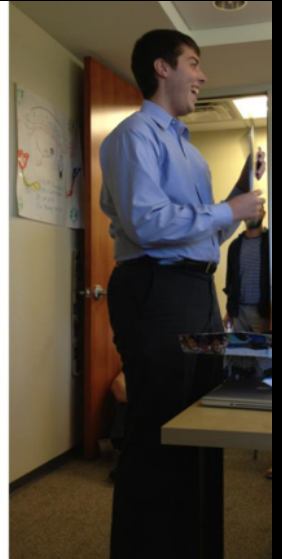
Ariel Stickles *October 3, 2013 at 3:00 pm*

I have had the travel bug from a young age and I had been waiting for the moment when I would get the chance to study abroad. I spent a semester in Seville, Spain living with a host family and immersing myself completely in the culture. I have nothing but positive things to say about my time abroad and my program provider API, Academic Programs International.. Although at points my time abroad it was challenging, it was the best experience I have ever had. Not only did I change and grow as a person I feel more directed in the path of where I want my life to go and the steps I will need to get there.

As I start my senior year in college I have many questions about what is next for me swirling around in my head. When I feel overwhelmed I take a moment to right a letter to my host mother back in Seville and tell her about my life. She is such a beautiful

Alumni Programming as Professional Development

- ❖ Education abroad as personal enrichment and professional development
- ❖ Structured introduction to professional applications of study abroad experience during re-entry
- ❖ Training exercises: soundbyting activity, elevator speeches, public speaking
- ❖ Compensation should match learning objectives of the program



Alumni Programming as Professional Development

- ❖ Résumé review, professional guidance and mentorship, re-entry conference (ex: Lessons From Abroad)
- ❖ Collaborate! Utilize Career Services and network with professionals in the field, including professionals visiting campus
- ❖ By focusing the dialogue of study abroad on professional value, your alumni will focus on this aspect in conversation with prospective students, therefore subverting study abroad myths!





Alumni Voices



Alumni Voices



Jorden Pecher
Academic Affairs Representative
International Studies Abroad (ISA)

2011 CSU Graduate

Studied abroad in Prague, Czech
Republic and Sydney, Australia

Peer Advisor for two years

Hear from alumni

"Being a peer advisor did everything for my career. I was on my way to being a lawyer, but studying abroad and working in the study abroad office made me fall in love with education abroad. I owe my current job to CSU, study abroad, and the peer advisor position."

"I gained a level of knowledge and understanding for the different study abroad options students' have and the organizations within the field that I would not have had the opportunity to learn outside of the peer advisor position. It also taught me how to advise students on a professional level, work with databases such as StudioAbroad, and other aspects vital to my current position at ISA. "

"Being a peer advisor allowed me to take my stories and experiences and channel them in a productive and professional way. CSU was great about allowing us to really be the front line advisors and create projects that were interesting to us which allowed us to grow professionally. I learned how to advise students on more than just a surface level, run an office Facebook page, organize a study abroad fair, and so much more."



Questions?

Education Abroad Alumni Programming: A Diversity of Applications

What are the learning objectives of current alumni programming on my campus / at my organization?

How does my current alumni programming satisfy these objectives?

Alumni as Peer Advisors

Strengths of this model	Action Items for Implementation

Potential Collaborators on Campus for Alumni Programming

Career Services		
International Student Services		

Education Abroad Alumni Programming: A Diversity of Applications

Alumni as Civic Advocates

What issues are you passionate about as an international educator?

How can alumni contribute to the internationalization of your campus and your community?

Alumni Programming as Professional Development

How do my alumni articulate their study abroad experience? How can I help their vocabulary and understanding grow?

Re-Entry Conferences:

Lessons from Abroad: <http://www.lessonsfromabroad.org/>

Lessons From Abroad, Rocky Mountain Region: Saturday, February 22, 2014 Auraria Campus, Denver, CO

Lessons From Abroad, Nebraska: Saturday, September 28, 2013:

Alumni Stories: Peer Advisors to Professionals

Kayla Rivers, Colorado State University Peer Advisor

Finance major / Studied abroad: Argentina Spring 2012

I returned to CSU and began working in the Education Abroad office in order to continue the love of my experience and share it with others. If there was anything I learned while studying abroad it was how through humility and a genuine willingness to learn you can form connections and have experiences you never dreamed were possible.

Professionally, working as a peer advisor has developed my public speaking skills, my knowledge of culture, geography and language. Speaking in front of classes and one-on-one with students has helped me to become a better listener, and I'd like to think, better at determining the best fit for students. My experience abroad has helped me to connect with people who come from diverse backgrounds and have different worldviews. The ability to listen and interpret new ideas with a clear and unbiased mentality is what I believe is the most important aspect of international education. The more humility and spirit-of-learning we can foster through exchange, the better our future interactions will be, socially and diplomatically. Ultimately, this revolution of breaking down the barriers of our own cultural biases will translate into a more positive future for the entire world-community.

Kristen Goulet, Colorado State University Peer Advisor

Economics and Spanish double major / Studied abroad: Spain AY

As a peer adviser every day I get to work with students and communicate with them effectively. These personal interactions have greatly helped my communication skills and have forced me to not be shy in certain scenarios. I have also developed my public speaking abilities and feel comfortable talking to classes of sometimes 200+ students.

Being a peer adviser has really shown me what it means to work in a professional setting with professional expectations. Every day I work with the professional full-time staff and they constantly are helping me to develop my advising skills.

I studied abroad in Spain for a year and during my time in Europe I experienced exponential personal growth. Now I am much more independent and confident in all aspects of my life. Now as a peer adviser I am able to share my experience with other students and highlight all the benefits that they are bound to receive if they study abroad!

Grant Emory, API Peer Mentor

Studied abroad: Florence, Italy / Marketing and Advertising professional

The decision to apply for the API alumni program was more so a need than a desire. In an effort to convey that mentality best, I looked back to my original application for inspiration. I stated, "After being abroad for a period of time, one notices a sense of empowerment spurred by immersing one's self in a foreign environment. *One does not fully understand the gravity of their study abroad until they are aboard the return flight to the U.S.*" That final sentence summarizes my need best— a need to share the opportunities an international education provides. Following my return to America, I realized that my time abroad altered my goals and I needed to help others experience life abroad.

The greatest benefit [of participating in the alumni program] was helping others discover an opportunity to study abroad.

Prior to my involvement with API's alumni programs, I was content to pursue a career in Advertising, but like any great trip, there are unplanned stops along the way. I realized that a career behind a desk, with little thought given to global citizenship, would not fulfill my current life goals. This past summer, I began my path towards an international career through a marketing / brand development position in Kunming, China.

Alumni Stories: Peer Advisors to Professionals

Siobhan Neela-Stock

Studied abroad: Granada, Spain AY / International Division of the American Red Cross in D.C.

I applied [to the API Peer Mentor program] because I wanted to understand more about how study abroad had affected me and others. When I got back from studying abroad all I wanted to do was return and the program was a helpful outlet for me to understand these feelings and understand more of the study abroad profile on my campus. I learned how to effectively articulate what I gained and lessons learned from studying abroad and to share this learning with my campus. The most effective means I found to do this was through classroom presentations. I remember my first activity was extending that learning to and encouraging first year students to begin thinking about and planning their study abroad (It's never too early!).

The biggest benefit was connecting with a community (both API staff and other Peer Mentors) who were as passionate about study abroad and their experiences as I am. I also loved meeting students on my campus and sharing resources and experiences about study abroad. It was very interesting to see what goals they had for their experience and to realize that there is no one "correct" way to have a study abroad experience. Five months after graduating from undergrad and the Peer Mentor Program, I find myself talking about my study abroad experience and encouraging others to take the leap and do it themselves. Study abroad was one of the most definitive periods of my college experience and is something I truly believe everyone (no matter their major) should do.

I also really gained a lot from doing my end of year project. It focused on U.S. immigration Policy and I had the chance to interview an undocumented high school student who shared with me his experience about being undocumented and living in the U.S. I had a theoretical sense of what this was like from reading about it but had never been able to attach the research to someone I knew. The project spurred me to become more involved in the U.S. immigration debate and connected me with professionals who work in the field.

I am currently interning at an organization that has many international ties and an international basis. During my interview I talked about study abroad and how I think it could help me be successful in my internship. For example, skills such as interacting with people from different cultures, learning how to be resourceful, and persevering through challenges that seem insurmountable.

Chelsi Sparti, API Peer Mentor

Studied abroad: Seville, Spain / 2014 Fulbright Malaysia

I applied to the API Peer Mentor program because I was so adamant about advocating for a study abroad service that exceeded my needs and expectations. My time abroad shifted my thinking towards the path I was meant for in international relations. I wanted to share that passion I regained with other students, especially science majors. I was able to keep the study abroad experience alive through constant international adventures, conversation and peer mentoring.

I learned how to better communicate concisely, how to network effectively in the international education realm, more creative skills in producing resources and projects. And most of all, this experience supplemented my preparation for my Fulbright application, which was successful. Because of API, I had the support system in international friends to understand the implications of a Fulbright grant, the professionals at API to ask questions and international skills that allowed me to be well versed in all my interviews and written application.