STUDYING ABROAD IN ARGENTINA

By Stefan Ivanovski '12

I am an international student, class of 2012, currently studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Why would an international student already studying abroad choose to study abroad?

Well this is a question that many of my friends have asked me before leaving at the end of the last academic year. “Why would you go and study abroad... You are already studying abroad... It doesn’t make any sense...” Other friends have told me: “…You must hate Bucknell... You could have just gone for a semester, not a whole year!”

I appreciate and respect my friends' input, but I also know that each individual views and evaluates life experiences and opportunities that lie ahead of them differently. Thus, based on my experiences, I am convinced that one can always learn more about the world and about themselves by immersing themselves in different cultural settings.

The reason I chose to study abroad, even though I am already “studying abroad” at Bucknell is because I wanted to take advantage of everything that our university has to offer. I think that the Bucknell experience is not limited to the pristine Lewisburg campus nor does it end upon receiving the coveted diploma. As an international relations and Spanish double major, I thought that an experience in Argentina would help improve my Spanish language skills and offer me the opportunity to make new connections leading to my personal and academic growth.

In my opinion, learning a foreign language within its cultural setting enriches the learning experience by increasing the appreciation for the culture. For example, my host family has contributed to my understanding of both the Argentinean and Peruvian cultures. My host mother is from Peru and my host father is from Argentina, they are both very friendly, great cooks, and well educated people with captivating life stories. It is fascinating to listen to personal anecdotes from people who have lived through military regimes in both Peru and Argentina; it brings life to the words written in history books. Although six months is not a sufficient time to fully immerse oneself in a different culture, it is long enough to create lifelong connections.

Through my classes in Argentina I have started to get to know and appreciate Hispanic literature and I plan on reading the works of Jorge Luis Borges, Pablo Neruda, Mario Vargas Llosa, etc. I am also doing a directed research project on work cooperatives and recuperated factories in Argentina. Making the decision to study abroad has not been easy. It has meant leaving my friends and experiences at Bucknell behind. However, that does not mean I have forgotten about this place. I am currently thinking about how to bring the new experiences back to Bucknell and be an active contributor to its community. But, nothing in the world will compare to the feeling of excitement to see my friends again once I return, friends who have unconditional love and respect for me and who understand the decisions I make in life. Regardless of whether they personally agree with my decisions or not, they still approve and accept them and wish me all the best in my endeavors. My friends and the experiences we have shared are what make Bucknell ‘my home’ and for that reason I am sincerely looking forward to returning ‘home’ next year.
On September 26, 2010 Essential along with The Black Student Union hosted their Second Annual Women of Many Hats Tea Party and Brunch. Essential is a student association on campus whose mission is to provide a sisterhood that celebrates the unification of women. Our purpose is for women to use their collective power to motivate each other and their community. We highlight the significance and strength as an organization by eliminating racial, political, physical, and social barriers. The purpose of Women and Many Hats is to encompass this organization’s mission by acknowledging what it means to be a woman in the 21st century. It commemorates the evolution of what it means to be a woman and the roles that women play in society today. We honored women from all different walks of life who all shared one commonality in life; their joy of being a woman. Those in attendance were asked to take a moment to themselves to acknowledge the role they play as a woman; as mothers, as daughters, as a sisters, as cousins, and as a friends. In essence, the event celebrated women and the many “hats” they wear.

As the focal point of the luncheon, Essential brought Zora Howard a young woman from Yale University who is a well known spoken word artist. Her pieces were profound and her performance exemplified the purpose of the day. Professors, staff students as well as children attended the event. It provided them with the opportunity to relax while enjoying a good meal. In this mood, guests were able to see one another in a different light than perhaps is usual. Bringing women together to share their similarities and their differences was a perfect way to facilitate conversation about their daily lives and the people most important in it. Overall, Essential’s Second Annual Women of Many Hats was a huge success, a pattern we hope to continue for the years to follow.

Save the dates:
- SASA Annual diner on Nov 6th in Larison Dining Hall.
- International Potluck Diner Thursday Nov 4th
- Last Brown Bag Series Presentation on Nov 5th in the Bertrand Traditional Reading Room
- International Education Week (Nov 15th-19th) [http://goo.gl/Y71F]
On September 27th, 2010, Bucknell’s college chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hosted its first ever Unity Jam to support the Stop the Hate Rally. With the Rally growing in numbers every year, the NAACP was eager to bring students, faculty, and staff of all different backgrounds together in order to unite as one principle body of members representing our campus community. The Jam was overwhelmingly successful with representation and sponsorship from offices such as the Multicultural Student Services, the Women’s Resource Center, and the LGBT Resource Office. Among other activities, campus members in attendance were able to make posters, flyers and tee-shirts that promoted the idea of stopping the hate in the Lewisburg community and Bucknell campus.

As a college chapter of the NAACP, we aim to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of all citizens in order to inform the public of the adverse effects of discrimination. In order to create and facilitate an environment of inclusivity and acceptance our chapter works diligently to incorporate all members of our community into our programming. On October 12th, the NAACP had the pleasure of hosting a panel on Hurricane Katrina. The panel was chaired by several professors from a diverse selection of academic departments. Although the event was open to the campus community at whole, it was particularly put together for the residents of the Social Justice College in order to bolster their experience as freshman students.

Looking forward, the current executive board of the NAACP is excited to continue establishing a legacy of social change and reflective dialogue. After an absence on campus for over 10 years it is finally time to make our presence known.

From Cultural Center Staff....

Please keep the Vedder Cultural Lounge in mind for a unique place to hold your weekly office staff meetings, club meetings, or just a quiet place to study.

In order to reserve the space, you may contact the Event Management Office to schedule your meeting or luncheon. You can also reserve it by logging in to mybucknell, click on Schedule an Event and fill out the form. If the space is available, we'd love to have you join the many organizations that have already made use of our wonderful lounge.
Pictures from the Women of Many Hats Event  Photos by Juanita Jeffrey ’13

International Student Services || Multicultural Student Services
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Cultural Center Lounge Hours:  Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30, Monday-Thursday, 7pm-10pm