Defining Moments Abroad

While in Edinburgh, I was fortunate to have a host of unique Scottish experiences. From climbing Ben Nevis, to playing “football” with local youth, to eating haggis, and meeting members of the Scottish Parliament, the richness of the country’s storied culture was evident at every turn. Perhaps most memorable were the Scottish ceilidh’s, traditional Scottish dances somewhat akin to a square-dance one might encounter in Virginia or in the southern US. A far cry from what America college-aged kids would attend, let alone put together with great excitement, ceilidhs feature a live band, complete with fiddles, that call out the evening’s various dances. The attire for the men is kilts, sporrans (purse-like pouches that hang from the kilt), high socks, and a dress shirt. For the women there are kilts as well, but most dress formally, wearing skirts and dresses that are easy to move in (there is no standing at a ceilidh).

One of the most storied ceilidhs still held in Scotland is the Highland Annual, which is hosted by the University of Edinburgh. A few friends and I managed to get tickets, and we spent the night galloping about the old halls of the Teviot Student Union, the oldest Student Union in the UK, and mingling with Scots, both young and old. It was an amazing experience, but what I remember most was the great sense of pride that the Scottish took in preserving this part of their heritage. Where other cultures are veering away from traditions, the Scots seem to be clinging as hard as ever to what makes them Scots. Although I already held great respect for them, this experience further magnified my appreciation for Scotland and its people.

Jon Campbell-Copp
Arcadia/University of Edinburgh, Spring 2009

Explore the World: Study Abroad

The Office of International Education offers a world of opportunities for you!

Bucknell has several of its own study-abroad programs, as well as approved programs offered by other universities and organizations in nearly 60 countries around the world.

Visit the Office of International Education, 105 Taylor Hall, to learn more about studying abroad!

www.bucknell.edu/x9096.xml
Time flies, or “tempus fugit,” as my Latin friends would put. It seems like just yesterday, but it’s now almost a year since I assumed responsibility as Director of the Office of International Education (OIE). It has been a very active year for me personally, and for the OIE in generally. As we bring the fiscal year to a close, let me share with you some of the highlights of the past year, and project you into our vision for the future.

**A Newsletter**

We believe that the task of globalizing Bucknell involves all — students, faculty and staff as well as parents, alumni, and the local community. We have begun this newsletter so we can share and learn from various contributions to the effort of globalizing our campus. We invite all faculty, staff and students to let us know of your international/intercultural related work so we can share them with the Bucknell community.

**New Approach to Advising**

Beginning spring 2010, the OIE switched to what we call Academic Field approach to advising. Instead of regional specializations, study abroad advisors are assigned specific academic fields and they work with students in those fields to identify and choose appropriate study abroad programs. Regional specialization is the common approach to study abroad advising in the field, but we believe that the Academic Field approach is the way of the future as it rightly focuses on the major purpose of study abroad — academic enrichment. This approach would also allow the OIE to work more directly with academic departments and programs to ensure that our off campus/study abroad and other international programs enhance the academic interests of the university and its students.

**Student Peer Educators**

We have begun to formally and directly involve our student population in the task of globalizing our campus by establishing the Peer International Educator (PIE) program for students. Our PIE students are specially selected and trained to work with their peers in the halls of residence, classes, and at campus events to either share their own international/intercultural experiences or assist peers in their international/intercultural development. PIEs receive a certificate of participation at the end of a semester — 50 hours of service and the completion of a self-selected project.

**In the Name of Safety and Success**

We have revamped our pre-departure orientation and general preparation of students before study abroad for improved safety, intercultural engagement and transfer of credits.

The focus of the OIE over the years has been on advising and preparing students for the study abroad experience. Our very impressive record shows that almost 50% of students who enroll at Bucknell study off-campus or abroad during their time here. Yet viewed from a different perspective (the glass as half-empty), the statistic provides another reality that we must confront — the other 50% of our students who do not study off-campus or abroad. It’s obvious we cannot let up our efforts to get more students to study off-campus and/or abroad.

In addition to that, and to achieve the overarching imperative of preparing Bucknell students for an increasingly globalized world, we’d also need to step up our efforts to globalize our campus, and classrooms, through initiatives that enable our students to develop global perspectives — knowledge, skills and attitudes. At the beginning of the 2010–11 academic year, the OIE plans to provide forums for discussion in this direction and we invite you to participate. We also hope to launch and lead initiatives to build faculty and staff capacity for study abroad in particular, and international education in general.

One year is almost gone, and another is beginning. There is but enough time to pause and reflect, but the work of tomorrow begins today. I’d personally like to thank all who have been active in the past year for the cause of international education at Bucknell. And to those who are planning to get involved, we roll out the red carpet, and call out with open arms, “all hands on deck”!

Stephen K. Appiah-Padi, Ph.D.
Director, Office of International Education

Study Abroad Adviser Trace Coats (right) working with the Katrina Recovery Team in New Orleans. Bucknell’s Office of Service Learning sponsored the New Orleans trip May 14 – 22, 2010.
This London program will explore various ways in which the Orient shapes the British imagination from the late Middle Ages to the early nineteenth century. This interdisciplinary program will appeal to students interested in literature, visual art, art history, architecture, gardening history, material culture, history, politics, economics, philosophy, and environmental studies. Learning how the British reacted to various Asian cultures at different points in history will provide students with a broad context for their own encounters with people from different cultures in our own diverse world. The program will use historical British buildings, gardens, and museum collections to their fullest extent as sources of knowledge. Visits to galleries, theatres, and historical sites, as well as our enjoyment of popular culture, will supplement learning in the classroom. The program will culminate in a grand field trip to Istanbul, where we will experience the meeting and mingling of east and west that is central to our interests.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

May 31, 2010  Stephen Appiah-Padi, Director of International Education, will serve as a trainer for a workshop at the annual conference of NAFSA: the Association of International Educators in Kansas City. The workshop title is Fundamentals of Intercultural Communication.

October 1, 2010  Marguerite Castelnau-Santorine, study abroad adviser, will present a poster session at the Pennsylvania Council for International Education (PaCIE) Conference in Scranton. Her poster will highlight OIE’s Peer International Educators (PIE) program initiative.

November 15 – 19, 2010  The Office of International Education (IEW) will be a co-sponsor of International Education Week on campus. This is a week-long celebration that will feature presentations, movies, workshops, a study-abroad fair and other events. If you or your group would like to participate, please fill out an participant application form.

The Office of International Education encourages and prepares Bucknell University students to study off campus internationally and domestically while providing a global focus to the academic life of the University and local community.
PIE = Peer International Educators

Would you like to become a piece of the PIE?

The Peer International Educator program is an initiative of the OIE designed to involve students in promoting study abroad and international education in general at the university and in the local community.

Whether you studied abroad/off campus for a summer, semester or full year, or you are an international/inter-cultural education enthusiast, there is a place for you in PIE.

Please watch The Message Center in August for the PIE application deadline and information. Contact Marguerite Santorine, PIE Coordinator, Office of International Education, 105 Taylor Hall, for further information.

Blogger photo of the month

Buddha’s Birthday in Brisbane, Australia.

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