

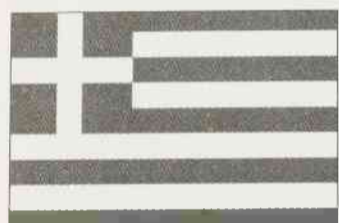
Study abroad can prepare students for their careers



Italy



Chile



Greece



BRITTANI PARKER
 REPORTER

Would you like to spend a semester studying abroad?

Each year Winston-Salem State sends students to study abroad. Candace Kelly, Grace Sturdivant, and Jennifer Paige all traveled abroad.

Kelly, senior, elementary education major, from Leland, N.C., traveled to Chile for two weeks through the Maymester program. While there, Kelly visited artist Pablo Neruda's house, poet Gabriela Mistral's burial site and the president's house.

Kelly said her favorite dish was the ham and cheese empanada, a stuffed pastry. Kelly stayed in a five-star hotel, but a highlight of her trip was when she attended an interactive dinner show and was pulled on stage to dance with the actors.

Kelly said her experience abroad will assist her in the classroom when she interacts with Latino students.

"I'm more comfortable with my Spanish, and I can use my experiences from Chile to relate to my students."

Sturdivant, junior, exercise science major from Burlington, N.C. studied in Wollongong, Australia.

She visited the State Capitol, the War memorial, historical museums, and an opera house.

Sturdivant's group also went on excursions to Sydney and New Zealand and lived in several hostels.

"It wasn't like the hostels from the horror movie 'Hostel.' For the most part, they were all nice places," she said.

Sturdivant said she had to adapt to the cultural differences.

"Hardly anyone used the term 'excuse me.' It was common for people to bump into you and just keep walking."

While in Australia, Sturdivant acquired a taste for kangaroo burgers, which she says tastes like steak. She also ate a lot at Outback Steakhouse.

Sturdivant said her experience will help her when she becomes a physical therapist.

Paige, senior, biology pre-med major, from Florence, S.C., spent a semester at sea. She visited nine countries: Canada, Spain, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Egypt and Morocco.

Paige said she visited the Titanic museum, the Sistine Chapel, the Statue of David, the Parthenon and Greek Islands, Florence, Cairo, mosques and pyramids and went on an Egyptian safari.

"The most interesting thing I did while I was abroad was when I rode a camel in Egypt." Paige tried a variety of cuisine including shark and bull cheek.

Paige lived on the ship for the majority of the trip. During her excursions in the cities, she went parasailing and jet skiing.

Paige said when she becomes a physician she will have a variety of patients.

"This experience will help me have a better connection with them and to be culturally aware," she said.

"Overall, I'm a better person because I was able to let go of stereotypes. We are not that different from people around the world."

According to the Office of International Programs, some of the most popular places to study abroad include Africa (South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria), Europe (France, Spain), and Asia (China, Korea, Japan). Approximately 20-25 WSSU students travel abroad during the fall, spring, and summer.

Failing grades continued from Page 1

plete for one.

The alumni gave Reaves a grade of F for the first priority listed: "Improving Retention and Graduation Rates."

During an interview with *The News Argus*, Bruinton said that with all the things going on today a student graduating within four years is not always obtainable.

"It is important for the University to keep track of students graduating within four years, but they should really focus on graduation rates for those students who graduate within six years," Bruinton said. "UNC-CH, NC State and NC A&T all put more emphasis on the six-year graduation rate."

"Sometimes classes are only offered in the fall semester, and if you are a student with a spring graduation your graduation date may be changed because of class availability."

Reaves said graduation rates are measures of the percentage of students who graduate from the University within four or six years.

"I have only been here two years," Reaves said. "It's impossible for me to have a class under me that we have begun to measure."

"The first class I admitted was fall 2008. My first four-year graduation rate will be in 2012, and 2014 for six years. I can't be held accountable for the graduation rate."

Reaves said all this is about Division I athletics.

He said people who are unhappy with the decision to move back to Division II protest about the decision, conjure up all sorts of things, and attack the process.

"There was no problem with the Alumni Association before that decision was made," Reaves said.

Bruinton said there is still time for change when it comes to the Division II decision.

"The Division II decision will not be finalized until the committee comes in April," Bruinton said.

"There is still something that can be done."

The alumni gave Reaves an F for his ability to increase fundraising.

Reaves said, "Last year in a economic recession our fundraising total was only down I believe four percent, which I believe was the best performance of all the UNC-systems. "It's interesting they [alumni] would raise the issue of fundraising."

Reaves continued to explain alumni fundraising for athletics.

"The transition to Division I is in its fifth year," he said.

"Over that time period the total raised for athletics is \$942,000. Of that total only \$300,000 has come from alumni, which is to say the alumni did not support the athletic program. It's as simple as that," he added.

"That's an average of \$60,000 a year. There are some alumni who are generous and support this University, but if you want this thing so badly you have to step up, and you have to pay for it, and that was not done."

Bruinton said when the alumni try to implement fundraising initiatives they are met with opposition.

"The school will not release information from the University databases that has the year the alumni graduated, their permanent address, phone numbers and e-mail."

"The University said they see the alumni as competition, which does not make sense when all the money raised is going to the same place," Bruinton said.

Tips to keep it 'fly' without breaking the bank

Bridget N. Armstrong
 CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Let's face it. As college students most of us have not achieved "throw it in the bag" status, and for financially fettered fashionistas achieving and retaining the look can be a daunting task when faced with a limited budget.

Two Trends To Watch

Knee and Thigh High Boots: Sister to the always fashionable calve high boot and cousin to the chic ankle boot, these fashionably loud footwear have been making appearances on the runway and on the legs of our favorite celebrities for the past few months. They can be yours without spending an entire refund check. They are extremely versatile and can be worn with leggings, jeans and dresses. Not only do they

keep your legs warm during those cold winter months, they also add spice to your wardrobe.

Military, Leather, Boyfriend Jackets

These jackets have been on the scene since summer and have been donned in many different ways. The military jacket is meant to stun, best worn with killer jeans or leggings and heels to die for; while the leather jacket is typically worn with more everyday attire. The boyfriend jacket can be worn with anything from business casual attire, to a night on the town.

Oldies But Goodies

Skinny Jeans: Most of us have now discovered the wonders of a good pair of skinny jeans. This trend has been around for a while and is not going anywhere anytime soon. The great part is a pair can cost you as low as \$20.

Tights: Not only do they keep you warm and come cheap, they can add a layer of pizzazz to a plain dress or tunic.

Cardigans: Adding a cardigan to a pair of jeans and a shirt or a relatively thin dress can help one achieve a very put together look. Also, you don't have to pack those summer shirts up yet. Wearing a cardigan over a more summer themed shirt brings your summer pieces into the fall.

Accessorize Accessorize Accessorize

This is possibly the most important tip. The difference between a great outfit and a mediocre one is accessories. The accessories are what makes an outfit stand out and can sometimes be what makes the outfit. Invest in great staple accessories that can be worn with many outfits and just wait for the compliments.

Most Importantly of All...

Choosing the right colors: Invest in neutral colors when purchasing tops and bottoms. Save color for eye-catching accessories and unique pieces that will add flavor to your wardrobe.

Utilize the local thrift store. Thrift stores can offer unique vintage pieces at extremely low costs.

As history and fashion always repeat itself, it is not uncommon to find trendy items at the thrift store. You can be sure that your find will have character without costing a fortune.

Remain vigilant of personal style when following trends. If one is not careful following trends can lead to a lack of individual fashion identity. Infuse trends with staple pieces and remember if it does not suit you, don't wear it just because its "in."