

Editorials

When In Doubt, Travel

Emma Gomes, Staff Writer

More often than not, students are influenced by the common misconception that studying abroad is unobtainable; the time, money, and resources needed to study abroad feel distant to many. In my experience, I thought I would never get the chance to study in another country, but despite my doubts, I gave the application process a shot and kept my optimism low.

Over the span of a few months, that hope began to grow as the Office of International Programs guided me through the entire process and eventually handed me my acceptance letter. With guidance, perseverance, and support, the doubts I had once felt disappeared and I got to live out one of my dreams.

The Office of International Programs, located on the first floor of Joyner Hall, is a department dedicated to assisting students who are well on their way to study abroad as well as students who feel that their circumstances may interfere with their chances. Not only is their door open to all students, but they have made it their mission to keep students on track with deadlines regarding the application process and making studying abroad affordable.

Finding ways to fund your trip may be frustrating, but the Office of International Programs has organized a Study Abroad Funding Workshop that is intended to help students save money more effectively.

These workshops include

discussions surrounding loans, fundraising methods, and insight into ways that former students have raised the money they needed to make their trip possible. The Director of International Programs, Brooke Shurer, can be contacted at shurerb@meredith.edu or Liz Yaros, Associate Director of International Programs, can be reached at yaroseli@meredith.edu.

Although the Office of International Programs is committed to supporting students along their study abroad journey, it's really up to us to take initiative. In the beginning, I was doubtful that this opportunity would come to life, but by working hard and taking advantage of the resources on campus, I was able to visit Belize

over the summer of 2017.

A major piece of advice I would give is to look into scholarship opportunities. Meredith College gives several study abroad scholarships away each semester as well as in the summer. If it weren't for the scholarships I received, I would have never gotten to experience the beauty of Central America in the way that I did.

Don't let money be the deciding factor of whether you will get to experience this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Most importantly, be brave enough to step out of the safe bubble you've created for yourself — feeling uncomfortable is a necessary and inevitable part of growth. Studying abroad will teach you that.

Pumpkin Spice and Everything Not So Nice

Ashely Ricks, Staff Writer

Oreos, Pop-Tarts, Cheerios, Milanos, Planters Almonds, Land O'Lakes Butter, Quaker Oatmeal, Peeps, Philadelphia Cream Cheese, Peanut Butter & Co. Peanut Butter, and Pepperidge Farm Bread all have one thing in common: their products have the limited edition flavor of pumpkin spice.

Whenever people go to the grocery store between the months of August and November, it seems that almost every product in existence has jumped on the pumpkin spice bandwagon. There is nothing wrong with wanting to enjoy an occasional pumpkin spice latte, but the flavor seems to have taken over the fall season. People

anticipate the pumpkin spice season so much that products come out with the fall flavor earlier and earlier every year.

The first day of fall is Sept. 22, but most companies released their pumpkin spice products long before that. Pepperidge Farm came out with their pumpkin spice bread in late August, which begs the question: is pumpkin spice really a fall phenomenon or a pop culture phenomenon? The obsession over pumpkin spice started with Starbucks' drink, the Pumpkin Spice Latte.

The mania over this Starbucks' drink has even led to the latte having its own Twitter and Instagram account. I believe it's

okay to enjoy a few pumpkin spice products, but food brands have put too much emphasis on this fall flavor. Food with fall flavor should not be consumed until the first day of fall, and only items that go with pumpkin spice should be allowed on the market!

Our culture has too much of an investment with anything pumpkin spice related. There is no reason companies should sell a fall product earlier than the actual fall season. The worst part about pumpkin spice is that there is no evidence of any pumpkin in the actual spice! The pumpkin spice seasoning found in grocery stores is typically made with ground cinnamon, ground nutmeg, ground

allspice, and ground cloves.

Society raves about pumpkin spice, but do you really want to eat butter that tastes like cinnamon and nutmeg, or does society want you to have butter that supposedly tastes like fall?

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Eight is the Loneliest Number: What To Expect From Apple's Two New iPhones

Laurie Diggett, Staff Writer

It's that time again, folks—time for the stressful decisions, the constant question of affordability, the sudden loss of practicality over numbers and the never-ending switch between wondering why this is so important and justifying your investment. No, I'm not talking about the financial state of college students. I'm talking about the new line of iPhones that Apple has recently revealed to the public.

A new iPhone is not typically something to get insanely excited about. The last few times that Apple has introduced a new phone, there have not been groundbreaking improvements other than in size, shape, and photo and video quality.

Of course, there have

been somewhat more exciting improvements like Touch ID and Live Photos, but both have been around for a long enough time that nearly everyone who owns an iPhone can take full advantage of them these days. So why is the 8th generation of Apple's line of mobile devices worth a year of major hype?

It's because the iPhone 8 is not the only new iPhone. Coming out alongside the iPhone 8 and the iPhone 8 Plus is the iPhone X (read as "iPhone 10"). While the iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus possess the typical moderate improvements of camera quality and are both water and dust resistant ("resistant" not "proof"), they will also, for the first time,

come with wireless charging capabilities.

However, the iPhone X is presented as especially high tech. The home button will no longer exist on this model; the user will raise the device or tap the screen, prompting the phone to "wake up" and swipe up to get to the home screen. Because this model does not have a home button, Apple will be replacing the option for Touch ID with FaceID, a face recognition software that will not only be available to unlock your phone, but also as a replacement for an Apple ID and password when users make an in-app purchase or use Apple Pay in any instance.

FaceID does raise some cause for concern; the lack of

a home button could make the device more sensitive to physical movement or an accidental nudge of the screen, causing the device to actively look for a face, and upon not finding the right one, locking the user out for a certain amount of time before allowing another chance. On top of the shaky new bells and whistles comes a hefty price of \$999 for the iPhone X along with a starting price of \$699 for the iPhone 8 and \$799 for the iPhone 8 Plus.

Perhaps the real question in the grand scheme of things is not which device is better, but whether you are willing to choose between an iPhone and your textbook rentals for the next semester.

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