

Been around the world

Aggies study abroad, learn valuable lessons, gain experience

By JASON BENNYHOFF
The Battalion

Sandy beaches, cheap drinks and the opportunity to meet new, exciting people may draw students to study abroad programs, but there is far more to be learned from these programs than how to ask for a drink in another language.

Cathy Schutt, assistant director of study abroad programs at Texas A&M, said study abroad programs are designed to improve students' understanding of other cultures and open their eyes to different perspectives on the world.

"We are here to broaden the horizons of the students," Schutt said. She said there are numerous study abroad programs throughout the year, topped by the summer semester, which has about 20 programs this year. She said the trips go to such destinations as Italy, Germany, Mexico, Australia and Dominica.

Despite the fact that the individual programs are designed to teach a specific discipline, such as political science or foreign language, Schutt said, any student can go on a study abroad trip.

"Most programs are faculty-led, so a political science professor might be leading a trip," Schutt said. "However, any major can go, as long as the program fits in their degree plan."

Schutt said the tuition for the programs depends on the length of the trip, but most programs cost between \$2,000 and \$5,500.

A&M provides a number of study abroad opportunities, but numerous overseas study programs are not led by A&M faculty.

Although some students may not find what they want in A&M's program, Schutt said there are other organizations, like the School for International Training, that provide excellent study abroad opportunities, and the University encourages students to explore those options.

Schutt said the study abroad library in Bizzell Hall West provides information for students looking for opportunities outside the A&M program.

"If we are not meeting the needs of the students, they can take advantage of outside programs," Schutt said. "They should know, though, that it is a different process to take a program outside the A&M system. It is not really any more or less difficult, but it is a different process."

Ryan Locker, a study abroad participant and senior political

science major, said he wanted to go "somewhere different," but A&M's study abroad program did not provide the program he wanted. Locker chose to attend a 15-week program in Tibet sponsored by the School for International Training instead.

"When it comes to what program to attend, you are really shortchanging yourself if you do not look into other programs," Locker said.

However, he warned students that programs outside the A&M system may not transfer directly for credit. Locker's program provided him with only elective credits.

Locker said his experiences abroad were more than worth the \$12,000 he paid for the trip.

"One of the most interesting experiences I had was when we were camping in a remote valley in Tibet," Locker said. "One night a drunken nomad wandered into our tent and started singing Tibetan folk songs and asking for food."

A&M provides study abroad programs for both graduates and undergraduates in the form of internships, study programs and volunteer opportunities. One participant said that his experiences in Mexico taught him a great deal about himself.

Bobby Robbins, a senior political science major, took part in the Spring Leadership Program in Mexico. As quoted by the Study Abroad Programs Website, he said the trip reinforced his confidence in serving the public.

"Given the opportunity to experience international culture and history on a deeper level, I was able to truly see how indelibly tied my life is to international public service," Robbins said. "I was placed in a situation where I would have to stretch to get the job done. I did stretch and I did succeed."



ADRIAN CALCANEO/THE BATTALION

SPRING 2001 BUSINESS CAREER FAIR

TUESDAY

- H-E-B Grocery Company
- Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- American National
- Bridgestone/Firestone
- AIM Funds
- The St. Paul Companies
- Ernst & Young
- Mutuals.com
- Bed Bath & Beyond
- EDS
- The Expo Group
- J.D. Edwards & Company
- Skilled Services Corp.
- e2i
- Enron Corp.
- Sewell Automotive Companies
- Automatic Data Processing (ADP)
- Wal-mart Stores Inc.
- Donovan and Watkins
- KPMG, LLP
- Mervyn's California
- Valero Energy
- Dell Computer Corp.
- Zale Corporation
- Sysco Corporation
- Luby's, Inc.
- Ryan & Company
- Maxim Healthcare Services
- Allegiance Healthcare
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Adjoined Technologies
- Sherwin-Williams
- Neiman Marcus
- IBM Corporation



- Hope Lumber & Supply Company
- Kurt Salmon Associates
- ABB, Inc.
- Guaranty Bank
- Ford Motor Company
- Smith & Associates
- Deloitte & Touche
- Walgreens
- Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
- Sam's Club
- Halliburton Company
- H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc.
- Randalls/Tom Thumb Food Markets
- El Paso Energy
- National Instruments
- Office Depot
- United States Gypsum Co.
- Reliant Energy
- UCS
- JC Penny
- Equiva Services
- TEK Systems
- Foley's
- Sears, Roebuck and Company
- H.D. Vest Financial Services
- Cintas
- Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.

WEDNESDAY

- Grainger
- McLane Company, Inc.
- Grant Thornton LLP
- NASA Johnson Space Center
- Toys R Us
- Houston Chronicle
- JP Morgan Chase-Texas
- Kohl's Department Stores
- CMS Energy Panhandle Pipe Line Companies
- Harte-Hanks
- Harley-Davidson, Inc.
- Salomon Smith Barney
- Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)
- Arthur Andersen
- DHL Worldwide Express
- Southwest Bank of Texas
- VarTec Telecom
- Concert
- Payless ShoeSource
- Blockbuster, Inc.
- Hewitt Associates
- Compaq Computer Corporation
- Consolidated Graphics
- Conoco Inc.
- Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.
- Guaranty Bank
- Ford Motor Company
- Smith & Associates
- Deloitte & Touche
- Walgreens
- Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
- Sam's Club
- Halliburton Company
- H&R Block Financial Advisors, Inc.
- Randalls/Tom Thumb Food Markets
- El Paso Energy
- National Instruments
- Office Depot
- United States Gypsum Co.
- Reliant Energy
- UCS
- JC Penny
- Equiva Services
- TEK Systems
- Foley's
- Sears, Roebuck and Company
- H.D. Vest Financial Services
- Cintas
- Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.

THURSDAY

- Sai Software Consultant Inc.
- Royce Homes LP
- Crate and Barrel
- Pepsi Bottling Group
- SBC Communications Inc.
- United States Marine Corps
- Ford Motor Credit Company
- Wells Fargo Financial
- E & J Gallo Winery
- First Avantis Securities
- Accenture
- Aramark
- General Mills
- Harold's Stores, Inc.
- Gap Inc.
- WebTPA
- Hastings Entertainment, Inc.
- Duke Energy
- Baker Botts, LLP
- Dynegy Inc.
- Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, P.C.
- Peace Corp
- Vista Analytics, LLC
- Fidelity Investments
- PSS/World Medical
- Federal Reserve Bank - Houston
- Merck & Co., Inc.
- Onsite Companies
- Unocal Corporation
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- TXU
- USAA
- Target Corporation
- Exxon Mobil Corporation
- KPMG Consulting
- American Express Financial Advisors, Inc.
- Frito-Lay, Irving Operations

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