

Studying Abroad

Students get opportunities to learn from studies and cultures

By LINDSEY FIELDER
THE BATTALION

Christi Boening, a senior journalism major, went to Italy in Spring 2000. Boening said, from a student's perspective, studying abroad is an opportunity to see the world and live in a foreign country for a semester.

"When you live there for four months, you become familiar and comfortable in that country," Boening said. "You get to know the country better because you live there instead of just visiting."

Study Abroad is a great opportunity to meet people and become open to other cultures, Boening said. She hung out in town and got to know some of the local residents. The best way she could get to know the culture was to emerge herself in it, she said.

"The students there are just like us," Boening said. "They are going to school and trying to have a good time."

There are some things Boening wishes she would have known before she went to Italy for four months. Boening said her time in the program went by too fast.

"You have time to travel, but balance it with the people in the town," Boening said. "I kept

thinking that I would have time later to do certain things, but time goes by so fast and suddenly you didn't have time to do what you wanted."

Boening's most memorable experience was in Venice.

"Even as a kid, I dreamed of Venice, the boats and canals," she said. "It was so amazing to see ambulance boats and police boats and to think they live without cars, while we depend on them so much."

Like Boening, many students want to take classes while seeing the world.

Study Abroad, the most popular international education program, offers faculty-led groups. While professors are in charge of the groups and teach the classes, students attend school full time and the entire group takes the same classes.

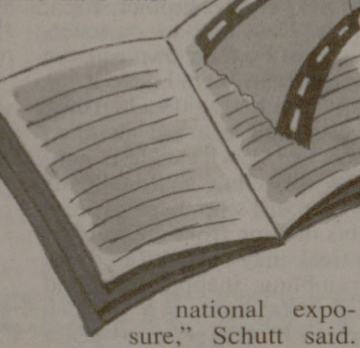
Students can also participate in paid or unpaid internships abroad and gain practical experience in their field. The Study Abroad office also can assist students in finding a job in a foreign country.

Studying abroad benefits students by making them more marketable to companies after graduation.

Kathy Schutt, assistant director of the study abroad program at A&M, said studying abroad

allows students to obtain multi-cultural skills that employers are looking for.

"CEOs and corporations are looking for students that show initiative and have inter-



national exposure," Schutt said. "Study Abroad shows both."

Marti Boerema, director of experiential education, said many companies partner with international corporations and graduates may need to interact with offices around the world.

"If students have studied abroad, it shows companies that students have the ability to adapt to situations and learn about other cultures," Boerema said.

Students may think studying abroad will put them behind in hours towards graduation, but that is not always the case. In

"Bee A Good Neighbor" teaches students code violations, laws

By JOHN SALERNO
THE BATTALION

Having a police officer visit one's house is not a situation most people would like to face, but last week, an estimated 100 houses and duplexes opened their doors to the College Station Police Department. In conjunction with the College Station Fire Department and Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS), the "Bee A Good Neighbor" program began its first door-to-door welcoming campaign on Sept. 13.

"We started the program with the city of College Station in order to acquaint college students with some of the code violations that can occur," said Cindy Giedraitis, public education officer with the College Station Fire Department. "We are doing it in a way that lets everyone know that if you are thinking about living on your own for the first time, to consider those who

are your neighbors."

The "Bee A Good Neighbor" program actually had humble beginnings, but became a widespread initiative on the part of both the city council of College Station and Texas A&M.

"It started out as a property education process," Giedraitis said, meaning that the initial concern of the program was to inform residents and students about issues and violations concerning their premises, such as length of grass or parking cars on the street.

"Eventually the police department got involved and brought in the noise and alcohol aspects of the campaign, and the city council wanted to get more involved with the University as well," Giedraitis said.

These subsequent expansions broadened the scope of the program and increased not only those involved with it but also those affected by it.

"Our interest is in alcohol abuse and the loud party situa-

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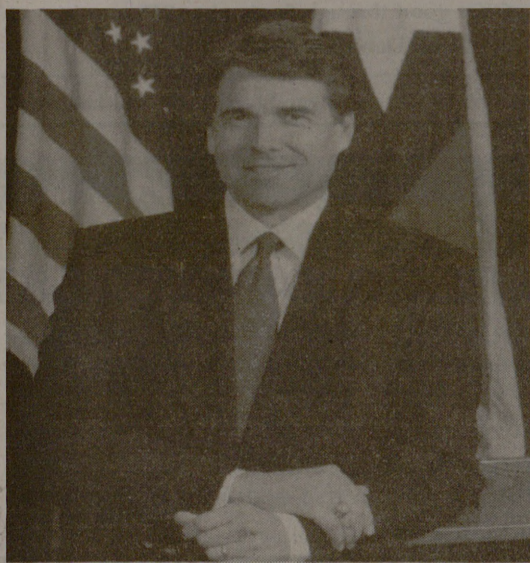


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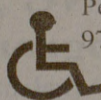
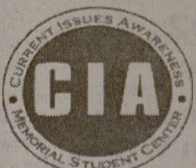
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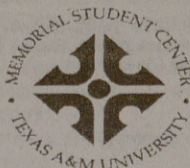
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