



## May 2010

This will be our last e-newsletter of the 2009-2010 academic year. Thank you for your time, dedication and service in providing international opportunities to Ohio University students!

We would like to say a special thank you to Anna Seidel-Quast, who has been a graduate assistant in our office during the past two academic years and worked full-time for us during the spring of 2008. Anna has been a very valuable asset, and we will miss her. We wish her the best of luck as she starts a new position in study abroad at the University of Madison- Wisconsin at the end of June.

### **Updates from the Study Abroad Committee**

#### ***Evaluation Process***

The Study Abroad Committee formed an evaluation subcommittee this academic year with the goal of implementing an evaluation process for Ohio University study abroad programs. Beginning summer 2010, all directors will be asked to submit an annual report on their program. We will send you guidelines soon. Also, the subcommittee is working to finalize a more extensive five-to-seven year review process for all of programs. This will be implemented starting next academic year.

#### **Education Abroad in the News**

Tiffany Smith, OEA PACE publicity assistant, posted the following blog on Michelle Obama's speech at the Georgetown commencement ceremony:  
<http://oueduabroad.wordpress.com/>. To see the first lady's full speech, which addresses the topic of global engagement, visit: <http://tiny.cc/3qv1o>.

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently published an article on mental health issues on study abroad programs: <http://chronicle.com/article/Study-Abroad-Missteps-Remind/65690/>.

#### ***A Taste of Study Abroad***

Thanks to everyone who participated in A Taste of Study Abroad! The event was a success. Check out the Post article at <http://tiny.cc/b4ouv>.

### **Updates**

#### **Summer Staffing**

Many of us will be in and out of the office during the summer, but the office will remain open throughout the summer months. Your point person will be in touch with their specific vacation or travel dates.

#### **Looking Back on a Successful Year.**

As we look back on the year behind us, some of our major projects included:

***Implementation of Education Abroad Information System for Applications.*** Thank you for your support as we implemented our new online application system, and we look forward to further upgrades to this system in the future.

**Negotiating University Financial Policies.** Thank you to those who worked with us to set up a standard operating procedure that allows study abroad programs to secure in-country transportation through our partner vendors (while booking airfare through the university's preferred providers). Also, many of you provided support in seeking an exception to university cell phone policy. We now have exceptions that allow our programs to operate in a safe and effective manner while also honoring university policy.

**Study Abroad Participation.** We just finished the count for last year! Total study abroad participation on Ohio University programs for the Academic Year 2008-09 was 873. This number includes students from the College of Osteopathic Medicine, foreign nationals, and participants from other institutions and professional fields that cannot be included in the official Open Doors report conducted by IIE Passport. We have seen a slight decrease in numbers of students over the past few years, but we are optimistic that many OHIO students will continue to choose to study abroad as an integral part of their academic career.

**Advising Visits to the Office of Education Abroad.** More than 800 students have sought advice on international opportunities through the Office of Education Abroad's walk-in advising hours. This does not include the many questions, phone calls, and repeat visits. We also had excellent participation in the Study Abroad Fair, Get the Scoop on Study Abroad, and A Taste of Study Abroad.

**Increased use of Social Media.** The OEA is now on Twitter and Facebook. Follow us on twitter, [@OUEduAbroad](#), and Facebook, <http://tiny.cc/5odda>. You can also follow our foreign correspondents via our blog, <http://oueduabroad.wordpress.com/>.

**New Programs Approved by the SAC.** The Study Abroad Committee approved the following new programs this year: Portuguese Language in Brazil; Media, Diversity, and Governance in Uganda; and Field Studies in Mexico (for Chillicothe students). Ohio University also has a new affiliation agreement with GlobalLinks, <http://www.globalinksabroad.org/>.

### **Looking Forward.**

Some of the goals and events we have outlined for the future include:

**Moving to 15 Park Place.** Look for us next to Baker Center in the next academic year. Although we are not sure when the move will be, we will keep you posted.

**New Outreach Initiative – Major-specific Advising Handouts.** We are seeking to collaborate with departments interested in developing a study abroad advising materials specifically for their majors. Please contact Lori Lammert, [lammert@ohio.edu](mailto:lammert@ohio.edu), if you are interested in collaborating.

**New Look for Brochures.** In upcoming months, we'll be rolling out the new look for our brochures. Samples can be found at <http://www.ohio.edu/educationabroad/Pdf/brochure%20redesign.pdf>.

**Transition to Semesters.** We will start focusing on the transition to semesters soon and how this will impact our study abroad programs. Please be thinking about how you envision your program under the new academic calendar.