

To:
From: Carolina Ramirez <carolina@rohan.sdsu.edu>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Study Abroad Report
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

>>To: Provost Nancy Marlin
>> Professor Alan Sweedler
>> Undergraduate Dean Carole Scott
>> Lynn Garcia, International Programs
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>>From: James L. Wood, Chair of Sociology
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>>Re: Study Abroad Report
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>> I just returned from a successful trip to Amsterdam and
>>London where I was able to discuss international study opportunities
>>for San Diego State University students with representatives from
>>University of Amsterdam; London School of Economics and Political
>>Science (LSE); and University of London, Goldsmiths College. Each
of
>>these representatives -- and others whom I contacted earlier via
>>e-mail -- expressed considerable interest in San Diego State
>>University students attending their universities. I was given much
>>verbal and written detail about how to initiate such programs -- and
>>the related benefits of them -- the written materials of which I
will
>>be providing you soon. Below is a summary of my discussions with
>>them.
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>> In terms of negotiations over such issues as student exchange
>>programs, where students would pay the tuition of their own school
>>instead of the other school's tuition, I would rank order the
>>universities as follows in terms of willingness to negotiate such
>>issues: University of Amsterdam; London School of Economics; and
>>University of London, Goldsmiths College. On the other hand, my
>>personal -- and past -- connections with these universities are
>>exactly the opposite: University of London, Goldsmiths College;
>>London School of Economics; and University of Amsterdam. So, this
>>may even out in terms of the combination of their policies and our
>>ability to work out arrangements to facilitate SDSU students
>>attending these universities.
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>> In particular, Professor and Chair of Audience and Public
>>Opinion Research, Holli A. Semetko (semetko@pscw.uva.nl) from the
>>University of Amsterdam, was extremely interested in the number of
>>Sociology majors we have at San Diego State. When I explained we
>>have hundreds, she was quite excited about the possibilities of such
>>large numbers of majors. She wanted to help rebuild Amsterdam's
>>Sociology program, and drawing on our majors by encouraging them to
>>attend the University of Amsterdam, would be one way to do it. In
>>addition, via a talk given at the faculty reception to which I was
>>invited by our mutual colleague, Dr. Christ'l de Landtsheer, she
>>seemed to indicate that Amsterdam's fees could be waived under
>>certain circumstances, which is as good or better than a student
>>exchange program. This is certainly worth looking into. Also,
>>Professor Semetko viewed San Diego, and San Diego State University,
>>as excellent places for Amsterdam students to attend, again
appearing

>>interested in negotiating a student exchange program between the two
>>schools. She is an American living abroad due to her own involvement
>>in international political sociology and who is married to a Member
>>of Parliament in The Netherlands, with her husband additionally
>>working on a Ph.D. in Sociology at the Sorbonne with one of the
>>West's most important intellectuals, Pierre Bourdieu. My overall
>>impression is that she is a very forward-looking administrator who
>>would be willing to negotiate terms whereby our students could take
>>part in the very exciting activities at the University of Amsterdam,
>>and in Amsterdam as a major European capitol.

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>> I had an excellent lunch with Mike Reddin
>>(m.reddin@lse.ac.uk), Senior Tutor to The General Course -- which
has
>>been taken by many famous figures -- whereby I increased my
knowledge
>>of the long experience LSE has had with international students. In
>>addition to LSE welcoming hundreds of incoming international
students
>>this Fall in programs along the lines of what SDSU has in mind --
>>i.e., our students studying there for a limited amount of time and
>>then returning to SDSU -- I was informed that LSE in general has
>>slightly over half of its student body from countries other than
>>England. So, no student would be looked at as somehow "foreign," as
>>many are from other countries. In addition, he made it clear that
in
>>terms of grading, all students are treated equally. Indeed, his
>>office keeps records on how students ultimately do on the exams to
>>ensure that everyone will get proper treatment when attending LSE.
As

>>a result of this heterogeneous student mix, he indicated all
students
>>immediately get informal as well as formal international experience.
>>Indeed, he said it was common for students to visit fellow students'
>>homes in areas as far-flung as Eastern Europe and the Caribbean.
>>This sounds like it would be a great experience for our students,
who
>>would, by itself, greatly benefit from studying in London at LSE. In
>>terms of flexibility on issues like student fees, he indicated the
>>usual practice is for students attending LSE to pay LSE fees. But,
>>as he was interested in having SDSU students apply there, the topic
>>of alternative fee arrangements could be introduced. Finally, we
>>agreed to keep in touch on this and related matters, as I will be
>>showing him San Diego State next year when he visits here, as well
as
>>sending him information on our students and programs now.

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>> The University of London, Goldsmiths College was very quick
>>to send me many copies of its brochure, and is definitely interested
>>in SDSU students attending there. Jill Thorn (ada02jt@gold.ac.uk)
>>was quite prompt at answering my e-mail in this regard, and I had a
>>very nice dinner with Dr. Mike Levin from Goldsmiths who helped
>>arrange to get me this information. I was a Visiting Scholar at
>>Goldsmiths in 1984 and have remained in contact with them ever
since.

>>Dr. Levin, in turn, was a Visiting Scholar at SDSU in the late
>>1980s-early 1990s. Also, many of my SDSU colleagues have visited or
>>otherwise contacted him over the years. So there are solid bonds
>>between our schools. However, when I asked Ms. Thorn about student
>>exchange possibilities, she indicated the only version of that at

>>Goldsmiths was a program whereby Goldsmiths and some European
>>universities have a three-year program of exchange for selected
>>students. She felt this very long-term type of arrangement would
not
>>work between Goldsmiths and SDSU, which is likely true, unless we
>>devised a very new and original approach to exchanges. Thus,
although
>>SDSU and Goldsmiths have solid ties, their flexibility in terms of
>>fees is low. Nonetheless, we should -- and I will -- continue to
>>inform SDSU students of the benefits of applying to the University
>>of London, Goldsmiths College.

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>> Two of the reasons I enjoyed my stay at Goldsmiths so much in
>>1984 was the outstanding nature of the faculty with whom I
interacted
>>and who greatly helped my research in England; and the fact I and my
>>family stayed at William Goodenough House, which is part of London
>>House, both of which also have student residents. William
Goodenough
>>House connects students and faculty to colleagues throughout the
100+
>>nations of the British Commonwealth, and is thoroughly enjoyable for
>>faculty, family, and students. I would recommend it to any faculty
or
>>students. In addition, it is subsidized by Queen Elizabeth to make
>>London housing much more affordable for these academics. On my
recent
>>trip I stayed there with my wife -- a recurring benefit of once
>>having resided at Goodenough House is the likelihood of return
stays.
>>I raised the issue of SDSU students staying there with the Senior
>>Accommodation Officer, Angela Lowe (registry @lgt.org.uk), who
>>administers allocation of Flats, and who also gave me several
>>applications for our students. I had in mind a plan whereby students
>>could study at Goldsmiths or LSE -- or even other colleges of the
>>University of London -- and live at Goodenough House or London House
>>(or a third part of Mecklenburgh Square in West Central London,
Byron
>>Court). She indicated this was a real possibility, but just for
>>Graduate Students. Nonetheless, for any Graduate Student at SDSU,
>>this would be an invaluable international experience, which I have
>>indicated in the past and will continue to indicate to our students
>>in the future.

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>> In sum, there are real possibilities for our students to
>>study in London and Amsterdam. I will get you the brochures, and
keep
>>copies for myself. I will advertise these possibilities to students
>>and faculty in Sociology, as well as throughout the College of Arts
>>and Letters, and to SDSU's School of Communication, including direct
>>contact with Director Mike Real. I am open to pursuing other avenues
>>of alerting students to these opportunities, and remain willing to
>>work with you to help avail our students of them.

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