



# Longitudes & Latitudes

Lynchburg College International Programs Newsletter

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## Shutterbugs Winners

- First Place: Charlotte Arbogast, *Flamenco Guitar* (Spain), photo above
- Second Place: Abby Goodman, *Vietnamese Butcher* (Vietnam and Thailand), photo below
- Third Place: Tori Rubnitz, *White Wall/Shadow* (Turkey and Greece)
- Honorable Mention: John Marks, *La Flor* (Argentina)
- Honorable Mention: Kristin Bell, *Morocco Wall* (Spain and Morocco)
- Honorable Mention: Katie Koehling, *Hadrian's Wall* (Rome)



## Study abroad photo contest showcases students' experiences around the world

*Charlotte Arbogast '10 wins first prize with a snapshot from Salamanca, Spain.*

A stroll through the Dillard Fine Arts Center lobby took visitors on a world tour this semester.

"Shutterbugs," the College's first-ever study abroad photo contest and exhibition, offered LC's ever-increasing number of study abroad participants to showcase the images they captured on film in such destinations as Vietnam, St. Lucia, Spain, Argentina, and South Korea, just to name a few.

Senior history major Charlotte Arbogast's "Old man playing flamenco guitar" won first prize. "My boyfriend was visiting and wanted to see a flamenco guitar concert during his visit. From the cathedral tower, we saw a man playing guitar, so we went and listened to him play and took a photo for our memory. I had seen the man from time to time throughout the semester," Charlotte said.

The idea for "Shutterbugs" was conceived by Barbara Rothermel, director of the Daura Gallery, and Dr. Ed DeClair, who oversees the College's study abroad program. "Having traveled with students on a number of study abroad

programs, I have seen how they document their travels and incorporate the experience into their photographs. The exhibition of student photographs is a way of bringing the importance of study abroad to the College as whole through this visual record," Rothermel said.

The exhibition also provided museum studies minor **John Marks '10** hands-on experience as curator of the exhibit, a perfect fit for John since he also studied abroad in Argentina during spring semester 2009.

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## **¡Vamos a estudiar al extranjero! Let's study abroad!**

**Hispanic Society and study abroad  
students unite to promote language study.**

Monkeys descending from treetops to steal your fruit or even your camera; people assuming you only speak English; crossing international borders on a rickety bridge; catching glimpses of Spanish wedding processions; attempting to do banking or shopping when the host city is on siesta; etc.

These were just some of the stories that Class of 2010 study abroad students **Charlotte Arbogast, Amanda D'Arcy, and Kevin McCloskey** shared with attentive listeners recently at an event organized by the Hispanic Society to promote study abroad in Spanish-speaking countries.

During their junior years, each student spent a semester abroad during which they immersed themselves in Spanish-speaking cultures by living with host families and attending classes at local universities.

While in Spain, Charlotte visited cities and towns throughout the country. "Some towns seemed so remote without internet access, while Madrid and Barcelona were international hubs for a variety of cultures," remarked Charlotte, who spent a semester in Salamanca, a medium-size city, which was a good match for her.

Amanda's experience in Costa Rica helped her see the world from a different point of view, especially in terms of economics. What she



Members of the Hispanic Society and study abroad students gather for a photo with smiles showing their enthusiasm for language study.

observed while abroad in terms of Costa Rica's socio-economic development made what she studied at LC more real.

Kevin attended a large university in Xalapa, Mexico. Although it was much bigger than LC, he still found a welcoming environment and found it easy to navigate his way around.

In terms of being in a non-English-speaking culture, Kevin remarked that the experience was a little intimidating at first, but classes and living with a family were beneficial. Likewise, Amanda said, "To live in Costa Rica, I was dependent on the language. I had to learn it; I wanted to learn it. My learning and language practice in Costa Rica were much different than being in a classroom at LC."

Even though Amanda, Charlotte, and Kevin studied in different countries and had different experiences, one common theme from their presentations was their advice to students - JUST GO!



## Student interns gain valuable experience with the International Programs Office

The International Programs Office (IPO) at LC recognizes and values students' talents and abilities to make positive contributions to its efforts here on campus.

Beautiful posters advertising study abroad around campus are the handiwork of **Maddie Coultrip '11** (graphic design). "The study abroad fair was a highlight because that was the first time for me to see all the posters printed and on display together," Maddie said. In fact, visitors to the IPO from study abroad service providers have remarked on the high quality of Maddie's posters. Dr. DeClair even refers to them as "works of art."

This year the IPO has taken on a second student intern to assist Christian Wilwohl with student outreach and advising. Study abroad veteran **Amanda D'Arcy '10** (international relations) has taken part in College-sponsored programs in India and St. Lucia and spent a semester in Costa Rica, where she lived with a host family and improved her Spanish. Amanda commented, "I have really enjoyed meeting with the pre-departure and re-entry students to share advice, stories, and most of all, the excitement."

Working with the IPO has allowed Amanda and Maddie to cultivate new knowledge and sharpen their skills. About her experience, Amanda reflected, "This semester has brought several issues into focus that I probably would not have realized. For instance, I have been able to get a better understanding about gender, ethnic differences, economic dynamics, and how they come into play with study abroad."

Meanwhile, reaching the final poster design for Maddie did not happen at the snap of a finger. "The hours and hours that my posters took helped to make me more comfortable with my design skills. Also, by working with people I trust to give me genuine feedback, I have become more confident about getting my ideas and designs across. I have also learned you cannot be defeated when it takes you thirty tries to find a design that works for everyone involved," Maddie explained about the design process.

For Amanda, her internship has even opened a new career option that she had not considered. "I am planning to apply for jobs in international education after graduation," she said.



**Amanda D'Arcy '10** (above) speaks with a student about study abroad at the Academic Opportunities Fair, and **Maddie Coultrip '11** takes time for a photo shoot with her beautiful posters on display in Alumni House.



## Comings and Goings

The **Open World Delegation** of educators from Russia paid their annual visit to LC in October. This year's group were largely from the Irkutsk region near Lake Baikal in Siberia. While on campus, the group visited with the International Programs Office, enjoyed lunch with LC faculty and staff, viewed exhibits in the Daura Gallery, and joined **Dr. Payerhin's** European politics class.

Two LC students traveled abroad with faculty last summer to work on research and independent study projects. Nursing student **Sara Hardin '10** went to Uganda for a second time to work on community health with **Dr. Todd Olsen**. Meanwhile, biology

major **Loriann Garcia '10** returned to Panama to conduct plant and insect research with **Dr. John Styrsky**.

Environmental science professor **Dr. Tom Shahday** and math instructor **Doug Thomasey '05** spent part of last summer in Costa Rica. While there, they attended language classes, lived with host families, and explored the rain forests.

Three graduates from the **Class of 2009** are currently abroad teaching English. **Derrick Van Leer** is a teaching assistant at a university in Orsono, Chile, while **Carolyn Nelson** is working at a school in La Palma del Condado, Spain. In pursuit of her life-long dream, **Jill Murray** has obtained a position at a private school in Daegu, South Korea, where she teaches elementary and middle school students. All three participated in study abroad as part of their studies at LC and were members of the Westover Honors Program.



**Dr. Tom Shahday** (environmental science) flies through the Costa Rican rain forest on zip line last summer. In 2010, Dr. Shahday will teach his second study abroad course in the Central American country noted for its bio-diversity.



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## International exchange offers opportunities for friendship and growth

*Fall semester sees greater exchange with sister-school in Austria.*

More students are finding their way across the Atlantic through LC's sister-school relationship with Fachhochschule Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FHV) in Dornbirn, Austria. This fall, LC is hosting two FHV students, Gunther Burk and Alex Lehmann, who are both from Germany. LC students, **Tyler Cookson '09**, **Austin Jones '10**, and **Nick Como '11** are studying in Austria. This is the largest exchange of students in the history of the program.

LC's friendly environment appears to attract students from FHV. Visiting student Gunther Burk commented, "The reason why I choose LC was because of the experiences of former FHV students. LC seems to be a school that is not too big where it is possible to build relationships with other students and professors."

Meanwhile, Austin Jones offered similar sentiments about his experience in Austria. He characterized the FHV international office staff as "wonderful advisors, tour guides, and friends." Of his experiences with the Austrian and international students, he said, "The relationships I have struck up with them are special, and I believe they will last for many years."



FHV student Gunther Burk (above) enjoyed some rock-climbing in West Virginia at the beginning of the fall semester. While on a break from his studies in Austria, **Austin Jones '10** (below) paid a visit to the *Schloss Neuschwanstein* in Germany.



## Learn the world at Lynchburg College

*The study abroad program is an integral and indispensable component of the College's mission to:*

- *prepare our students for intelligent and whole-hearted participation in a **global society**;*
- *create a learning environment that respects and supports **broad diversity**; and*
- *create a learning environment that respects and supports **global understanding**.*

While international exchange offers students opportunities to explore another culture and make new friends, the experience also entails some interesting challenges and adjustments. For Gunther, living on campus and sharing a room was a new experience, which at first he felt was a little strange but grew to appreciate this sense of community. Academically, he said classes at LC are different because students in Austria have a lot of preparation work before classes begin, and they have only one final exam, as opposed to periodic tests and quizzes throughout the semester.

Likewise, Austin has had to make some adjustments to the academic culture at FHV, where students take intensive classes sometimes as short as one week with lectures from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Austin offered this advice to students back at LC, "Bring plenty of flexibility, adaptability, academic stamina, and a determined work ethic, and you should be fine." Within the schedule at FHV, students have periodic breaks throughout the term, which afforded Austin the opportunity to travel to the Canary Islands, Greece, Ireland, Italy, and Scotland!