

Table of Contents	
Studying Abroad.....	1-2
Short Fiction.....	3
Halloween Pictures....	4-5
Letter from the Editor...	6
Interesting Things.....	7

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Infinite Wisdom

UWF's Honors Newsletter

When I get where I'm going: A student's guide to studying abroad

Jennie Gulley
Honors Fundraising Chair

For many of us, studying abroad is something that gets added to our lifelong to-do list, and then pushed aside amid coursework, jobs, and extracurricular activities. A couple of months ago, I was one of those students. Now (very happily, I might add), I am on my way to spending a semester in the United Kingdom. How did this happen, you ask? Well, it all started on a dreary day in October. You know, we've all had these days: you suddenly realize that you have no idea what to do with your life and acquiring a college education seems pointless. So, I decided to end my so-called "quarter-life crisis" and made a trip to the International House. This was the first step out of many, all of which I will outline for you in this article. Just let me say, before we begin, that my journey through the study abroad process was a little more hurried than it should have been; when you want to study abroad, give yourself ample time to complete everything and you'll be in great shape!

Step 1: Where and when do you want to go?

Go to the International Exchange page on the UWF website, where you will find a list of

possible study abroad locations. It's always a good idea to pick a few, just in case your first choice doesn't work out. Case in point: my first choice was the Universidad de Burgos (in Burgos, Spain), but they didn't have the classes I needed in English. After you



have chosen your schools, either find the deadlines for each school online or go to the International House and speak with an employee; I personally like to conduct everything in person so there aren't any misunderstandings. Also, look at the cost of your exchange and make sure that you will be able to find the money; some countries have favorable exchange rates, and others are quite unfavorable (such as the British pound!).

Step 2: Paperwork, paperwork, and more paperwork!

Once you have narrowed it down to one school, there are several documents that you have to

(continued on page 2)

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obtain from the International House. These documents include: basic applications and requests to study abroad, insurance forms, applications for your “host” school, class registration forms, and a statement of purpose. A little intimidating, I know, but they are all doable and (if you stay on top of them) relatively painless.

Step 3: You can (finally) apply!

Once all of the aforementioned paperwork is turned in and you are approved by UWF for international exchange, you are finally eligible to send in your application to your host school. Then, you wait...which is maddening (I should know, because I am waiting for response as I write this article!).

Step 4: Details, details...

While you are waiting for response to your application, there are a few things that you should be checking out. You will need a passport and a student visa to study in almost every country in



the world; obtaining them takes both time and money. Figure out where you’ll be living, what you’ll be eating, how much transportation is going to cost per week, and how expensive your plane tickets will be (getting them early is always a good idea for your sanity and your wallet). Settle everything with the Financial Aid Office at UWF, because most of the time your financial aid will transfer over to your semester abroad (the exceptions I know of are the exchanges in Australia and New Zealand).

Step 5: Get out of here!

Once everything is signed off, turned in, and paid for, you are almost good to go! A few more bits of information are necessary, such as your new address and email for your host school. You must have your passport and visa ready. You must be financially secure; in most cases, you won’t receive your financial aid until you have been in your host country for a week or two! One thing that I am doing right now is looking up directions from the airport to the university; I am determined not to get lost my first day there!

So, there you have it - a very abridged version of the step-by-step guide to studying abroad. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at jkg4@students.uwf.edu; however, if you are interested in studying abroad I strongly encourage you to visit the International House and ask your questions there. The staff could not have been more helpful during the process; plus, there is always a cool exhibit going on somewhere in the building. I would like to encourage all of you to study abroad, regardless of your majors; traveling lets you get away, face new adventures, and become more aware of the world around you. As the philosopher Socrates once said, “I am not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world.”

Don’t wait to start your international adventure!
Check out the International House today!

Can you find Waldo in this issue of IW?

Birthday Suprise

Sara Richardson
Guest Writer

“Maybe you left it on the balcony,” said Tonnie. “It’s probably right in front of you. Sure you aren’t wearing it?”

“No,” Adelina said, exasperated. “I know I took it off. I remember taking the necklace off.” She ran her fingers across her bare collarbone.

“Where do you last remember it?”

“I put it on the bedside table. That’s that last place. And I already checked there five times.”

“Look in the couch and I’ll see if maybe you overlooked it in the bedroom.”

Adelina aimlessly threw the leather pillows and cushions from the pull-out sofa bed frame and ran her hand along between the cracks. Some Golden Graham crumbs from the night before. She pulled the bed out and checked under the mattress, behind the back. Nothing. She put the sofa back together and began pacing in the kitchen, scanning every inch of counter space. She looked around the marbled sink, even tried to stick her hand down the drain. She grabbed the broom and ran it under the lower cabinet, the fridge, and the leaky steel dishwasher. Some dried up pepperoni and burnt crust no one must have wanted, too lazy to walk to the trashcan.

What would her mother say? Adelina put the broom back in the closet and stared blankly at the banner over the stucco archway entrance: Happy 18th Addie! She pulled it down and stuffed it into a plastic trash bag with all the sticky soda cans, soggy paper plates, and shredded wrapping paper.

“No luck,” said Tonnie as she entered the center room. “Addie? You’re not crying, are you? She walked around the mahogany island and put her hand on Adelina’s shoulder. “You can buy a new one. Why, with money like you got, I bet you could

get three more. Saw one almost like it in Jared’s last week.”

“That was my mom’s. Her grandma gave it to her when she moved here from Spain when she was eighteen. Who knows how old it is?”

Tonnie hugged her and brushed her dark bangs from her red puffy eyes. “Listen, we can put in a request to lost and found. Maybe they can keep a look out. You know? You can still find it. There’s good people.”

“Guess so.” Adelina stared at the mosaic tile and sniffled.

“It’s almost ten. We’d better turn in the keys before housekeeping gets here.”

“Thanks for staying to help me clean up. Be right back.”

Adelina shut the bathroom door and gazed at her irritated face in the mirror. “Oh God!” She blew her nose and dried her eyes. “I’ll know why one day.” As she walked through the bedroom, she stopped. “Hey Tonnie,” she called, “You left your jacket!” Adelina lifted it from the bed, grabbing it by the sleeve, and from an unbuttoned pocket, out slipped her golden chain necklace. The settings of sapphires and diamonds sparkled in the light from the window, like the questions in her mind. *There’s good people, huh?*

Sara’s story was also featured in the 2007 edition of the Okaloosa-Walton’s Blackwater Review. If you have any short fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography, or any other form of creation you’d like to share, contact Infinite Wisdom at kap19@students.uwf.edu.





Editor's Note

Greetings faithful reader,

The fall semester has finally come to a close, and with it I hope that you have managed to complete all of your academic goals. Finals week has come and passed so take a break and reflect on your semester. Make sure to take pride that you put forth your efforts not just as a student but also as a member of the UWF Honors Program.

For me, I can breathe a sigh of relief as my Thesis semester is over. Taking all three thesis hours in one semester was a delightful little trip into my own failed time management schemes and more than a few late nights at SAIL, but it was worth it. Now my thesis, weighing in at a hefty thirty-six pages, is in Dr. Lanier's capable hands. All that's left for me to do is let my anxiety gnaw away with me as I fantasize about the day that I'll receive an envelope in the mail that determines my Honors fate. Ha, kidding!

Sort of.

Anyways, now that I know the effort that goes into a thesis, I have a greater appreciation for the students before me that have completed their Honors requirements. Let me give my greatest congratulations to the Honors students graduating this semester. Wear that cap and gown proudly, and show the world what a UWF Honors student can do!

Looking forward to winter break,

Kalisa Poole

Editor in Chief



As editor, I get to put my picture in every issue.

What is there to look forward to in 2008?
 New classes!
 The Honors Formal!
 Getting into a fitness class at the HLS Facility!
 Visiting the art gallery in the CFPB Building!
 Getting to work on your thesis!
 Honors Council (every Thursday at 6pm)!
 Awesome campus events!
 Making up new Facebook groups!

THE TOP TEN WAYS TO SPEND WINTER BREAK

10. SPENDING SIX HOURS ON WIKIPEDIA, STARTING AT THE ENTRY FOR JOHN LENNON AND ENDING AT A STUB ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF OMLETTES.
9. REFRESHING ARGUS UNTIL GRADES ARE POSTED.
8. TRYING TO FIND THE PERFECT GIFT FOR YOUR LOVED ONES...AT THE DOLLAR STORE.
7. FOR THOSE WHO GO HOME TO SNOW: THE SHOCK THAT SOME PLACES ACTUALLY HAVE SEASONS.
6. FOR FLORIDIANS AND FELLOW SOUTHERNERS: ENJOYING THE 65 DEGREE WEATHER ON CHRISTMAS.
5. SPENDING THE CASH YOU GOT FROM SELLING YOUR TEXT BOOKS ON DVDs AND OTHER NECESSITIES.
4. REALIZING YOU LEFT YOUR LAUNDRY AT THE DORM, AND HAVE ONLY THREE PAIRS OF UNDERWEAR TO GET YOU THROUGH TILL JANUARY.
3. WISHING YOUR PARENTS' KITCHEN HAD A FROZEN YOGURT MACHINE LIKE THE COMMONS DOES.
2. MARK OFF THE DAYS UNTIL SUMMER VACATION.
1. CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR BY WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR INFINITE WISDOM! :)



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