

INSIGHTS

A look inside innovative programming with ACCENT



PARIS • FLORENCE • LONDON • MADRID • ROME • ISTANBUL



Berkeley Global Edge in London

ACCENT partnered with UC Berkeley this fall to host the university's first Global Edge semester for newly admitted freshmen, welcoming a group of nearly sixty students to London. During their semester, Global Edge students fulfill first-year requirements in writing and Mathematics, and can choose from experiential electives in History, Political Science, and Theater, all of which fulfill core curricular requirements on their home campus.

The writing course challenges students to consider the meaning of place in contemporary London, with a research component investigating the changing spaces and voices of the city through lenses of multiculturalism, gentrification and class, or privatization and urban space.

Recently, the class visited Caravanserai, a meeting place and trading post in East London modeled after the Caravanserai inns lining the Silk Road. The space is envisioned as a laboratory for experimental models of commerce, education, and community building. Located in one of Britain's most ethnically diverse wards, the site contains community gardens, market kiosks, and cafes, as well as a performance space and playground. Caravanserai organizers presented their vision of dynamic and economically sustainable 21st century urban space and led a site tour. Students have since written reflection pieces, posted on the organization's blog, that reflect evolving personal views on public space, gentrification, and urban community.

The UC Berkeley Global Edge marks ACCENT's first time hosting a semester-length program designed specifically for freshmen. Having partnered with nine faculty-led, first-year programs previously, ACCENT has observed the impact study abroad can have for first-year students, and understands the importance of working with multiple players on campus – study abroad, student services, orientation, advising – to ensure program success.

This issue of *Insights* also features first-year programming with Colorado College in Paris and Michigan State University in Florence and Rome.

The Art & Science of Restoration

Since 2011, ACCENT and Michigan State University have collaborated on a program in Italy as part of the school's Freshman Seminars Abroad, an initiative to support first year students' transition to campus by introducing students to MSU faculty and promoting critical thinking, writing, and study skills through discussion of thought-provoking global issues. In Summer 2015, fifteen students enrolled in *Art and Medicine in Italy*, a course designed for STEM students to illustrate the many links between science and the humanities.

The group started in Florence, where art and science were one and the same in the eyes of Renaissance masters Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci. They viewed original anatomical models from the Renaissance and spoke with a local expert about the representation of the Plague in Baroque painting. ACCENT Rome arranged a lecture with Gabriele Favero, associate professor of Chemistry at University of Rome La Sapienza where he teaches *Chemistry for Restoration and Conservation*.

Professor Favero illustrated the importance of scientific analysis in art restoration, and described the many strata of a painting, using famous works that the students would later view in the museums of Rome as examples. He also introduced the classification of pigments and the chemical make-up of solvents used in restoration. Laura Symonds, lead faculty and MSU professor of Neuroscience, remarks, "Professor Favero is obviously an expert in his field, and he went to a lot of trouble to put together material that would be of particular interest to the students. Many of the students commented to me afterward how valuable it had been to hear him — we all learned a tremendous amount!"

Following the lecture, the group visited Valentina Pasquali's art restoration laboratory just across the street from the ACCENT Study Center. Valentina described her training, which required that she complete five years of observation before laying hands on her first work of art. She showed two samples – a 17th century oil on canvas and a 16th century oil on wood – and reiterated that her work requires mastery of both art and science.



Landscape & Urbanism in the Megacity

In June, students from the University of Arkansas Fay Jones School of Architecture embarked on a five-week, faculty-led program in Istanbul studying Landscape Architecture. Professor Noah Billig led the group in a program designed to enhance analytical skills in planning and design and to contemplate different cultural approaches to landscape architecture and urbanism. The course explored Istanbul as representative of an emerging 21st century megacity, considering contemporary challenges and opportunities in landscape design while honoring the palimpsest of ancient cultures represented in the city's landscape history.

"The local lectures and ACCENT Istanbul network contributed to very deep experiences for our students and me," comments Billig, "On one hand, they provided the excellent

studio space and inside connections to the local design and planning community. On the other hand, they were able to provide a very interdisciplinary group of lecturers and tour guides."

One of these lecturers was Brit Erenler. Raised in Minnesota and now a full-time resident of Istanbul, Erenler is a licensed landscape architect and completed a certificate program in urban design. She led a walking tour and multi-day workshop. The walking tour explored accessibility and the pressures on waterfront public space in urban environments along the Golden Horn, Karaköy, and Beşiktaş coastlines.

The workshop analyzed physical and cultural aspects of public space in Istanbul, comparing two very different yet vibrant neighborhood squares as examples – one intentionally



planned and the other created and changed over time by its inhabitants. "Her project guided students to a deep, iterative and tactile reading of the historic and emerging urban fabric of two distinct Istanbul neighbors with very different form..." reflected Noah, "The experience with Brit helped them have a better understanding of the fine-grained differences and similarities between different neighborhood types in Istanbul."

ACCENT ^{on} INTERNSHIPS

Patrick Hughes, Artist

When Madison Mann first spoke to ACCENT about her internship placement she could not quite articulate her goals. As part of a Colgate University Economics program in London, most of her peers had their eyes set on consulting or finance. Unsure about the availability of other options and feeling pressure to conform, she followed suit. A few weeks later, she was back in touch with ACCENT: "Disregard everything I told you. I want to work in the art world."

Madison is a senior double majoring in Economics and Art History and worked with artist Patrick Hughes and his team in their London studio. Hughes, an internationally celebrated British artist, created "reverspective," a unique style of three-dimensional relief painting that challenges the viewer's ideas of depth and movement.

Madison's first days were spent organizing the library and learning about Hughes' use of reference material. He also taught her to prepare a canvas and paint a base coat. After a few days, Hughes recognized the potential of her dual interests in art and economics and handed over years of sales data. "Patrick had intuitions about sales trends, but I was the first person to really jump into the analysis," she says. Each day Madison would refine graphs and tables, only stopping for mandatory tea

breaks with the studio team. "I was shocked at the access I was given. Patrick would talk to me about my interests, about the art market, and share his perspective as an artist."

While in London Madison interviewed for a summer position as an art market analyst with Artnet.com and credits her experience in the London studio in securing the position. Her senior thesis will explore the financialization of the art market and she hopes to return to the field after graduation.

Back on campus her peers in Economics are comparing job offers, but Madison is calm and collected. "It took me the entire semester in London to understand, but I know what I want to do now. It's certainly not the norm, but it's the right path for me."

Be Water Sports Marketing & Jr. NBA

A sports agency and marketing firm based in Madrid, Be Water, works predominantly with basketball teams and players to secure sponsorships and plan events. The agency worked for over a year to prepare the NBA's first ever Jr. NBA summer camp in Spain, a project supported in its final months by



ACCENT student intern, Francisco Torres. Francisco is a senior Geography major at UC Berkeley, lifelong athlete and coach, and has worked for the Berkeley football team.

Francisco developed web content for the camp and studied web traffic to measure the success of the promotional campaign. He promoted the camp at schools across Madrid through meetings with parents and students. Due to these efforts, he saw enrollments grow from just two participants when he started the internship to nearly ninety when the camp opened in Málaga. "All of my projects were my own ideas," says Francisco, "the director of the agency told me I'd get out of the internship what I put in, so I ran with it."

Francisco's internship mentor, Eva Marinas, built forty-five minutes into each day to check-in with him about his experience, and insisted that those conversations take place in Spanish. "I learned more Spanish during my time in Spain than in all my years of studying in the U.S.," he says. The internship also gave Francisco the opportunity to meet a number of professional basketball players, as well as Neal Meyer, Senior Director of Basketball Operations at NBA Europe.

The experience culminated with the weeklong basketball camp in Malaga. While he was originally sent to the camp to coordinate downtime activities, he was quickly recruited to lead his own group of young athletes. Francisco does not know where he will be working after graduation in December, but he has already planned his first week of vacation – the 2016 NBA summer camp in Malaga.

Cultivating Creativity in Madrid

John Delacruz designed his faculty-led program in Madrid around a unique project that required students to engage the city, and themselves, in a way that they may not have anticipated. A professor of advertising at San Jose State University, Delacruz asked students to consider the city's unique identity and to propose an advertising campaign targeted at North American millennials that encouraged tourism to Spain's capital. The project required students to understand how destinations are branded and how to apply concepts of visual identity to a place, just as they would to consumer products.

The group visited Spain's official tourism agency, Turespaña, to discuss the country's formal objectives for tourism, and also met with five creative agencies of varying



size and scope, including Grow 101, and independent digital advertising agency, GMR, an offshoot of Minnesota-based conglomerate Omnicom, and Shackleton, a creative firm founded just over ten years ago at the start of the economic crisis and today one of the most powerful voices in advertising in Spain and Latin America.

A New Look at the History of Health & Disease in Italy

Ladona Tornabene and Lisa Vogelsang first met Martino Rizzi when he led a walking tour on their program's excursion to Venice in 2012. Rizzi, like other docents working with ACCENT, was curious to learn more about the University of Minnesota Duluth program, which aimed to engage students in a historical study on health promotion and disease prevention in Italy.

Rizzi is a lifelong resident of Venice – one of only ten year-round inhabitants of the small island of Torcello – as well as a historian and licensed guide. Each year he has suggested new visits and experiences for the program and, in 2015, led the group to Lazzaretto Vecchio, the first permanent plague hospital in the world. The secluded island opened to visitors in April 2015 after an intensive, volunteer-led restoration, and the Minnesota group had the honor of being the first North Americans to tour the site.

Lazzaretto Vecchio was used to quarantine victims of the Black Plague, typhus, and cholera, housing victims of epidemics from



its opening in 1423 through the seventeenth century and later used, until 1965, for storage and quarantine of maritime goods. "To be part of the very first group of Americans to set foot on Lazzaretto Vecchio is something of which I am extremely grateful to ACCENT – they connected us with Martino and made it happen," says Tornabene, "It was time for us to depart when Martino asked if [the students] had signed the guest book. They all ran back in to wait in line and leave their names, preserving a mark in history as a respectful tribute to the thousands of others who left theirs..."

Since the island is not linked to public transport, Rizzi accompanied the group by private fishing boat, stopping along the way at San Servolo, a former psychiatric hospital along the lagoon. Itself an independent island, San Servolo was home to diverse monastic orders between the year 600 and 1715, when it was declared a military hospital. It was later converted to a psychiatric hospital until a 1978 law mandated the closing of all such structures in favor of community-based services. Psychiatrist Franco Basaglia spearheaded the law, *Legge 180*, which provided the basis for modern mental health legislation in Italy.

The timing of the program was ideal, since the group's visit to Venice coincided with a temporary exhibit on the topic of Traveling Disease at Scuola Grande di San Marco. The exhibition framed the history of disease in Venice as relevant to current challenges in global health and the present state of epidemics. Documents and presentations discussed the discovery of diseases and their immuniza-

Students spent a weekend at the fourth annual El Cencerro advertising festival, hosted in a small village near Segovia. The international festival explores the role of creativity in addressing the challenges of rural industries, rather than the traditional subjects of such festivals and competitions: urban centers and mass-market products. Participants integrate in the local community for a weekend of workshop sessions to tackle the challenges of local farmers and artisans. When not participating in sessions, aptly housed in barns, participants taste local foods and view the work of local craftsman. Reflecting on the festival, Delacruz says, "This was cultural immersion like no other, and after a tentative start students settled in and rolled with the *fiesta* that surrounded the business of creativity."



tions, including HIV/AIDS, SARS, bird flu, and H1N1. The exhibit was particularly relevant in light of the 2014 Ebola outbreak and the location apt, considering the volume and diversity of visitors to Venice each year.

This program, which includes a week in both Rome and Florence before finishing in Venice, is a clear example of the potential to continuously improve programs over time through engagement with the local community. Each year, professors Tornabene and Vogelsang seek advice from ACCENT teams and local faculty lecturers, exploring avenues to expand and enhance the program, to increase the number of diverse voices and local experts with which the students interact, and to fold the program into the local communities in each site.

During the 2016 program, the group will add two new elements to the program: a walking tour with urban historian Antonella De Michelis visiting two neighborhoods outside Rome's city center, Garbatella and Testaccio, home to two distinct community health and housing schemes; and a discussion of health and disease in Pompeii with archeologist and historian Albert Prieto.

ACCENT *at a glance*

50th Anniversary Lecture in London

The University of California Education Abroad Program recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in the UK with a week of events in Edinburgh and London. To celebrate, program alumni, administrators, students, and faculty attended a lecture at ACCENT London with professor Alastair Owens. The lecture explored the work of late nineteenth century philanthropist Dr. Thomas Barnardo who promoted migration as the solution to metropolitan poverty, and drew connections to contemporary debates on refugee resettlement. Owens is a professor of Historical Geography at Queen Mary University of London and has taught for the UC London semester program with ACCENT since its inception in 2002.

Learning from the World's Fair in Milan

Italy recently closed the doors on the most recent edition of the World's Fair, Expo Milan 2015, whose theme *Feeding the Planet, Energy For Life* explored topics of food and diet with pavilions from around the world. The event provided multiple learning opportunities. A faculty-led group in Florence from Queens University of Charlotte visited the site as part of a Milan study tour, and student Hannah Schafer from the University of Minnesota semester program in Rome recently toured and reported on the Expo as part of her Journalism internship with *Romeing* magazine.

Colorado College in Paris

ACCENT Paris hosted two new programs with Colorado College this fall, including one that forms part of the school's new Fall Semester Away program, offering academic credit during the fall semester to freshmen otherwise granted spring admission.

Students spent three and a half weeks in Paris studying an intensive course with professor Michael Grace on the music and culture of Europe from the mid-seventeenth to the late nineteenth century. While in Paris students attended two opera performances and eight concerts.

The program represents a "block," which is the unit of division of the academic calendar at Colorado College. Students enroll in eight consecutive blocks each year, one course at a time. The first-year group will also complete intensive, faculty-led blocks in London, Florence, and Bratislava before returning to Colorado Springs to start their studies on campus.

During the same period, the Paris Study Center hosted Colorado College upperclassmen participating in a philosophy seminar block

Turkish Culture Through Art

Students from Washington University in St. Louis and the University of California recently attended a glass blowing class as part of ACCENT Istanbul's ongoing cultural activity series. The sixteenth century is considered the golden age of Turkish glass making, when craftsman refined the art in workshops across the Ottoman Empire. Today, Turkish corporation Paşabahçe is the third largest manufacturer of glassware in the world and Istanbul's Galata District is home to a number of small glass studios, all within steps of the ACCENT Study Center.



WWII Studies in Italy

University of Michigan professor Ken Kollman worked closely with ACCENT Rome when selecting site visits to enrich his summer course, *Italy as Part of Europe*. As part of a wider study of Italy's place in European politics, students considered the country's role during World War II. To support this module, ACCENT arranged a guided visit to Montecassino Abbey and the nearby town of San Pietro Infine. The latter was the site of a bloody battle staged

with professors Jonathan Lee and Dennis McEnnerney. The course, *French Philosophy in Context: Existentialism to Globalization*, surveyed French philosophy since the 1930s. Seventeen students benefited not only from the intimate seminar setting with two faculty, but also from the opportunity to interact with a panel of philosophy professors, all teaching in France, that complete the lecture program.

by the Italian campaign and captured in the controversial documentary by John Huston, filmmaker and soldier commissioned by the US Army to produce the film.

UC Launches Madrid Semester

ACCENT Madrid welcomed the first cohort of University of California students in August to launch the Contemporary Spain fall semester program. The program offers interdisciplinary courses in the social sciences and humanities that take advantage of the host-city and current social and political affairs in Spain to explore social issues relevant to contemporary Iberia. Custom and experiential courses with local faculty investigate immigration, sexuality and gender identity, art, history, and ecology, each incorporating on-site classes in museums, walking tours, meetings with NGOs, and guest lectures with local experts.

History of Fashion in Paris

Students from the University of California are investigating the origins of Paris as a fashion capital in an interdisciplinary course with professor Dimitri Papalexis. *The Fabric of History: Paris as a Fashion Capital* introduces students to the history of fashion as it relates to social and political trends and artistic currents from antiquity to the twentieth century. The course includes weekly visits to the Louvre, Carnavalet Museum, and the Musée d'Orsay, bringing fashion history to life through the museums' rich collections of sculpture, tapestry, and painting.

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