



Why Are We So Passionate About Study Abroad?

By Alexandra S. Schmid, Special Programs Coordinator



Rachel Bechtel

Faculty, staff, and students who've studied abroad love to share their passion for international education and travel. Why? According to Rachel, "Studying abroad was the best experience of my life! I had high expectations, and I had even more fun than I thought I ever would!"

Rachel Bectel joined GVSU fall 2010 as an honors business student. As a freshman in college, she was not convinced that pursuing study abroad was worth the hype. Even her older sister, another Seidman business student and long-time study abroad veteran with multiple international experiences, could not fully persuade Rachel that going abroad is a must. Yet, throughout her years at GVSU, Rachel kept hearing from faculty, staff, and other students about all the benefits of living in another country and taking classes abroad. Three years later, in 2013, Rachel became a believer. She participated in the 2013 Kingston University summer program in England.

So was it worth it? Is the study abroad hype justified? You bet it is! Rachel's time abroad left her with invaluable impressions and memories that will stay with her the rest of her life. These special memories are priceless. Many people at GVSU are compelled to share their international experiences with others of the GVSU community because to this day we are still reminiscing about the adventures we've shared with friends abroad, we still have a taste for the exotic foods we once ate, and we still feel enlightened about the beauty of diverse cultures, not to mention the dazzling metropolises and landscapes we've visited. It is, therefore, with great passion that we want to inform the rest of the GVSU community that study abroad is something very special, that it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and that it should be pursued with gusto.

To further whet your appetite for study abroad, let's revisit some common myths and misperceptions about study abroad:

- **Study abroad is expensive.** Not necessarily! There are programs available that cost the same as going to Grand Valley or even less!
- **I can only study in England or Australia.** Not true! You can take business classes in English around the world. Foreign language skills are not required.
- **Study abroad will delay my graduation.** Again, not true! As long as you make sure to carefully plan your study abroad and talk to Alexandra Schmid, the Seidman study abroad advisor, you can find a program that offers the right business courses for your degree!
- **Future employers don't care about study abroad experiences.** False! Study abroad sets your application apart in a competitive job market; it shows leadership and initiative, flexibility and adaptability. These are all qualities that employers seek in a potential job candidate

Did you know?

- You can spend four weeks of your summer in Paris at ESSCA, a GVSU partnership program for only \$2,000 (including tuition for six credits and housing) compared to \$2,800 in tuition for six credits at GVSU.
- Studying at the University of Brighton in England costs about the same as staying at GVSU for a semester.
- You can study for a semester at SeoulTech University in South Korea without having to pay tuition for this program.

Join the study abroad movement and follow Rachel's path by getting educated about your study abroad options! **How do I get more information?** Schedule an appointment with Alexandra Schmid, Seidman International Business Programs, Room 3137, L. William Seidman Center, (616) 331-7452, schmiale@gvsu.edu or www.gvsu.edu/internationalbusiness. **OR** attend one of the following fall 2013 events:

- **Study Abroad and International Internships Opportunities for Seidman Students**, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Room 1008, L. William Seidman Center, Grand Rapids
- **Study Abroad Alumni Reunion** – Thursday, Sept. 26, 6-8:30 p.m., The Guest House, 634 Stocking Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504
- **Study Abroad Fair** – Tuesday, Oct. 8, 10:00–3:00 p.m., Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room, Allendale
- **DeVos Study Abroad Advising Day** – Thursday, Oct. 17, 10:00–3:00 p.m., DeVos Bldg C 1st floor, Grand Rapids



What's NEW in the Library?

By Linda Masselink, Senior Librarian, Steelcase Library and Liaison to Seidman College of Business

Steelcase Library **renovation** is extensive! The library instruction lab now seats over 40 students. Study space is greatly e-x-p-a-n-d-e-d. Comfortable, new seating provides many options for group or individual study in the Knowledge Market. Small group rooms provide options to practice presentations. The digital collaboration room allows for screen projection with a capability to switch from one laptop to another instantly while working on projects. Student peer research consultants are highly trained to work with professional program students and are available to assist with research and writing Monday through Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The University Libraries provide students with access to tools and technologies to design and build projects.

3-D printing is available in the Mary Idema Pew



Library on the Allendale campus during select times each week. Students from all disciplines can come together to explore this new technology and discover new possibilities. To learn more, students can visit Learning Lab 2 in the Mary Idema Pew Library on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. A portable 3-D printer will be coming to Seidman College of Business in October for a demonstration. Watch for an announcement.

New databases are now available and include *Demographics Now* which provides comprehensive business and residential information for identifying target markets and consumer expenditures and *Business Insights: Global* that adds an international perspective to business information with case studies, statistical data, news, and journal articles with information organized by country, company, and industry.

Faculty Spotlight



Leslie Muller

Meet Dr. Leslie Muller, Assistant Professor of Economics. Originally from Grand Rapids, Dr. Muller has a BA in Economics from Calvin College and a Ph.D. in Economics from Michigan State.

She received her doctorate in 2000 and moved to Washington, D.C. where she worked as an economist with the Social Security Administration.

Her research interests include pensions, Social Security, and health care policy. Hobbies are running, gardening, and hiking with her family.

“Growing up in Grand Rapids, I have watched GVSU go from a small school in Allendale to the school it is today, and I am excited to be a part of its growth.”

Faculty Spotlight



Kevin Callison

Welcome to Dr. Kevin Callison, Assistant Professor of Economics. He grew up in Ohio and received his undergraduate degree from Ohio State University.

Kevin received both masters and doctorate degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago, having just completed the Ph.D. program this summer. He also spent a couple of years as a consultant for Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association in Chicago.

His reasons for coming to GVSU are the strong emphasis on teaching as well as research, GVSU's commitment to student achievement, and the resources available to both students and faculty.

He's a big sports fan, follows the NBA closely and attends one OSU football game each year.

Meet the Dean's Board

By Jonathan Cook, Secretary

The Dean's Undergraduate Student Advisory Board (DUSAB) takes the role of mediator for the students of the Seidman College of Business and John W. Reifel, the interim dean. As mediators, the board is tasked with creating the best possible environment for professional development at Seidman. To do this, the board acts on evaluations gathered at "food and feedback" sessions where students can meet the dean, eat free pizza, and fill out surveys regarding factors that affect the educational experience of business students. The survey allows students to voice concerns which the board then uses to work with Dean Reifel to find solutions to the concerns of the student body. With the opening of the new business building, the food and feedback sessions will be a great asset for students to express their thoughts on the new building and offer suggestions to make it a better environment for their education. DUSAB is also organizing a new series of speakers who will address various aspects of professional growth and offer exciting insight to career pathways. The list of speakers and topics will be released in the coming weeks.

Make sure to follow DUSAB on social media to stay up-to-date on the latest Seidman events: Twitter - @GV_SUAB; Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/gvdusab>; or, Email – suab@mail.gvsu.edu.

Second Annual Investment Portfolio Organization (IPO) Golf Outing

When: Saturday, September 21, 2013
Where: Meadows Golf Course, Allendale
Format: 18-Hole, 4 Person Scramble
Time: Registration-7:30 a.m.
Shotgun Start at 8:30 a.m.
Cookout: 12:30 p.m.

Entry Fees: GVSU Alumni-\$85;
Business Professional-\$100

Includes: 18-hole scramble, free range balls, carts, cookout, drink coupons, and prizes.

Sponsorships are available! For more information on sponsorships or to RSVP, please contact: Turner Novak at novaktu@mail.gvsu.edu or 616-916-2849.

Eighth Annual Careers & Curriculum in Finance Night

When: Thursday, October 24, 2013
Where: Room 1008-Forum Room,
L. William Seidman Center
Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Dress: Business Casual

Food and door prizes. Receive information about various finance careers. Learn about study abroad and internship opportunities. Meet finance department faculty advisor and finance business professionals. Meet IPO club officers—a student club that manages a \$50,000 portfolio.

RSVP by October 15, 2013 to the Finance Department at 616-331-7390 or email scbfinance@gvsu.edu.

Seidman Faculty Win Alumni Association's Outstanding Educator Awards

The GVSU Alumni Association's Outstanding Educator Award is given twice a year to GVSU faculty members who have had the most significant impact on the careers of alumni. A panel of members of the GVSU Alumni Association Board of Directors makes two selections each year. Presentations of the award will be made during commencement ceremonies on December 7, 2013 and April 14, 2014.

Dr. Kevin Lehnert, Assistant Professor of Marketing, and Dr. Asli Akbulut, Associate Professor of Management, are this year's winners of this prestigious award. Dr. Lehnert will receive his award at commencement in December and Dr. Akbulut at commencement in April.

**Seidman Student Professional Development Program
Passport Program Events Fall Semester 2013**

Note: You may only attend the same event once to receive either required or elective credit.

September

Tuesday, September 10 – Study Abroad and International Internship Opportunities for Seidman Students with Alexandra Schmid, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Room 1008, L. William Seidman Center, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus (Required Choice)

Wednesday, September 25 – Economics Open House, 11:45-1:15 p.m., Room 2266, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus (Elective Choice)

October

Monday, October 7 – Intercultural Awareness Training with Sean Huddleston, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Room 2270 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus (Required Choice)

Thursday, October 10 – Career Services Résumé and Career Fair Prep Session w/IPO, 6:00-7:30 p.m., location TBD (Elective Choice)—be sure to check the Career Services Website at <http://gvsu.edu/careers/> for any changes to this event.

Friday, October 11 – The Huntington Breakfast Lecture with Mike Guswiler, West Michigan Sports Commission, 7:30-9:00 a.m., Room 1008, L. William Seidman Center, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus (Elective Choice)

Monday, October 14 – Alcohol and Drugs: Truth, Lies and Consequences with Dr. Eric Klingensmith, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Room 2270, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus (Required Choice)

Wednesday, October 16 – Career Services Etiquette Dinner, 6:00 p.m., Perry Room, Alumni House. To attend student must reserve a space through the Allendale 20/20 Desk (Elective Choice)—be sure to check the Career Services Website at <http://gvsu.edu/careers/> for any changes to this event.

Tuesday, October 22 – Castro Lecture with Jonathan Haidt, co-sponsored by Business Ethics Center and the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, 7:00 p.m., Second Floor, L.V. Eberhard Center, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus (Required Choice)

Thursday, October 24 – Using Social Media to Build Relationships with Leah Twilley and Nate Hoekstra, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Room 2266, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus (Required Choice)

Thursday, October 24 – Careers and Curriculum in Finance, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Room 1008, L. William Seidman Center, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus (Elective Choice)—be sure to check the Career Services Website at <http://gvsu.edu/careers/> for any changes to this event.

November

Wednesday, November 6 – Why Business Students Should Know How to Play Golf with Terry Sack, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Room 1008, L. William Seidman Center, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus (Required Choice)

Tuesday, November 19 – What DO Employers Want? 5:30-7:00 p.m., Cook-DeWitt Center Auditorium, Allendale Campus. Co-sponsored by the Business Ethics Center and Seidman Professional Development Program. (Required Choice)

Friday, November 22 – The Secchia Breakfast lecture with Dick DeVos, 7:30-9:00 a.m., Room 1008, L. William Seidman Center, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus (Elective Choice)

December

Thursday, December 5, 2013 – Networking 101 with Tim Cusack, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Perry Room, Alumni House, Allendale Campus (Required Choice)

The Passport Program may be completed in as little as one semester or no more than three consecutive semesters (fall, winter, fall). It is open to all Seidman College of Business undergraduate students. Requirements include attending four required choice events, three elective choice events, and the mock interview event (yet to be determined). Got questions? Contact Robbi Osipoff at 331-3774 or osipoffr@gvsu.edu for more information.

This newsletter is published by the Seidman College of Business bi-monthly during the academic year and once each summer. Contact Roberta Osipoff, Seidman Special Projects Assistant at 250 Lake Huron Hall, 616-331-3774 or email osipoffr@gvsu.edu if you wish to submit an article.