Geneva, Switzerland (17 – 24 June 2006)

Eight College of Business Sciences students traveled to Geneva, Switzerland with the goal of developing their leadership and communication skills. The United Nations Institute for Training & Research organized training where the students gained knowledge of the United Nations’ many economic development programs, its role in international trade and commerce and an in-depth understanding of business in an era of globalisation. They attended a Human Rights conference as part of the women’s rights discussions, met with many women leaders from the conference, and visited the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and Business Women’s Council. Although their training program was rigorous, the students did enjoy the sights and sounds of the local music festival, and also visited several museums.

“What I really liked about this trip was our visit to the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and Industry, because it clearly showed me that women in Geneva play a vital role in developing their economy.” - Shaikha Ebrahim Mahmood

Japan (4 – 18 May 2006)

The Dubai Zayed University Alumnae Association organized a trip for 12 graduates in May. They chose to travel to Japan to engage in professional development that would be beneficial to the graduates’ career development, advancement and knowledge in both their professional and personal lives. While in Japan the graduates took a course in Leadership, Group Dynamics and Japanese Management Style at Temple University. They absorbed practical advice such as how to plan to achieve goals, meet deadlines and to always think from a win-win perspective. On the last day of the course, the graduates delivered a well-received presentation about Zayed University and the U.A.E.

“The leadership course and the cultural experiences provided us with insight into how Japanese people think and how we can successfully benefit from their perspectives to apply in our daily lives.” - Manar Mohammed

Over the course of 2006, 60 Zayed University students and ten graduates from both campuses participated in study abroad trips, a true academic learning opportunity in which students participate in training and conferences. They also develop global awareness, an appreciation for diversity, self-awareness and independence by experiencing first-hand the culture of the country they are visiting. Local historic and cultural sights are part of the program to enrich the students’ learning experience, and there is often free time scheduled to explore the surroundings and visit local attractions. Upon their return, study abroad participants are required to do a presentation for the Zayed University community so that others can learn from their experiences.

by Renee Burt

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THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

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Last summer, ten College of Communication and Media Sciences students travelled to the BBC in London for five days of news coverage training. They spent a typical work week learning more about the communications industry. The students also visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Press Office, the British Parliament, the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority and the Frontline Club for journalists. Dr. Alma Kadragic, Associate Professor in the College of Communication and Media Sciences, acted as chaperone and has observed that since the trip, several of the participants have grown tremendously in their devotion to their work and have matured into the kind of future graduates that ZU aims to produce.

Training at the BBC was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. We learned so much in those five days about different aspects of media: print journalism, writing TV scripts, essential Web research skills, and much more.” - Mariam R. Al Mheairbi

Salerno, Italy (26 June – 9 July 2006)

“The things that inspired me most were how the Italian civilization was represented by architecture with very unique styles and designs that demonstrated the wealth of Italian history.” - Jamila Juma Abdulla Juma Al Muhairi

The academic trip to Salerno, Italy was arranged by the College of Communication and Media Sciences, and was carried out through the coordinated efforts of Scuola di Direzione e Organizzazione Aziendale (SDOA) and the Vice President’s office at Zayed University. Participating students attended a series of lectures and went on field trips to architectural sites and museums in Rome and in different cities near Salerno. During the first week in Salerno they studied the basics of the Italian language and attended a study program in Public Relations, Advertising and Tourism. They later traveled to Rome, where they toured the Vatican, the Coliseum and other fascinating sites. Their last day in Italy coincided with the World Cup final. The students were lucky enough to celebrate Italy’s victory by joining thousands of people in central Rome.

Dundee, Scotland (27 June – 18 July 2006)

The Al-Maktoum Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, located in Dundee, Scotland, this summer provided 10 Zayed University students a three-week summer training programme in “Multiculturalism and Leadership between Muslims and the Western World.” This is the fourth group of Zayed University students since 2003 to attend the Al-Maktoum Institute’s summer school. The purpose of their studies was to learn about the history of peace between the UK and the U.A.E., and the various historical figures in Islamic history. To supplement their studies and to learn more about the unique culture of Scotland, the students visited historical and touristic sites, including the Scottish Parliament and Executive, Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Museum of Scotland. The students concluded their visit with a graduation ceremony followed by the opening of the Sheikh Maktoum Garden.

“This trip helped in the development of aspects of our personalities, such as increasing our level of self-trust and the sense of responsibility we felt. I truly believe that the Asma who left her home is different than the Asma who returned after three weeks.” - Asma Rubayee Al-Menhali
Perugia, Italy 
(1 – 31 July 2006)

Six students from the Italian Club attended The University for Foreigners in Perugia, Italy, to attend a second month-long intensive language course. The main aims of this trip were to develop the Italian Club members’ level of Italian to the second stage, and to immerse them in Italian culture. During their classes, the students integrated with their classmates from all over the world. Since Italian was the only common language, this helped ZU students to further improve and develop their Italian language skills. Through their conversations about Islam and the Arab world, the ZU students were able to change their classmates’ stereotypes regarding the Gulf, Islam and the position of women in Islam. They found this very rewarding.

“As an art student, this trip meant a lot to me because I had the opportunity to see and explore art in Italy.” – Fatima Mohamed Al Katheeri

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Georgia and South Carolina, USA
(8 – 18 November 2006)

“I got to meet new people from different cultures and backgrounds, and the best part of the experience was changing Americans’ impressions about Arabs.” – Abrar Abdul Hameed Mahmoud Mohamed Al Mahmoud

This past November, nine Zayed University students traveled to the USA to attend training in communication and media. They gained an in-depth understanding of how American universities train their students to cover news in an era of globalization, encountered people from different backgrounds, and represented the U.A.E. by sharing their views and traditions with an American audience. The students met with Communication and International Studies students, and attended classes at the Universities of Georgia and South Carolina, Georgia State University, Francis Marion University and Columbia College. One of the key visits during this study abroad trip was a behind-the-scenes tour of CNN World Headquarters in Atlanta, where the students met TV presenters, reporters and producers.

Renee Burt is Alumnae Relations Coordinator for Zayed University’s Abu Dhabi campus.