

# Education Abroad Network Fall 2020 Meeting

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Learning Abroad Center Updates

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

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# Welcome!

## Meeting Overview

- First hour will be recorded
- Feel free to chat your questions throughout; we'll gather them for the Q&A section
- The meeting will end at 1:55 to allow for a 5-minute break
- At 2 p.m., the Q&A portion of the meeting will begin (not recorded)
- Recorded presentation (first hour) and resources will be available on the LAC EAN webpage later this week





Kimberly K Hindbjorgen



Molly A Micheels



Gina M Brewington



Ellen Sunshine



Adriana N Taborda



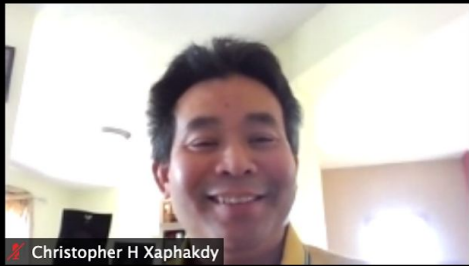
Cathy Schuster



Scott T Daby



Chris R Schlichting



Christopher H Xaphakdy



Jeanette A Bowman





Kimberly K Hindbjorgen



Molly A Micheels



Laura M Dupont-Jarrett



Kevin L Dostal Dauer



Martha Johnson



Christine L Anderson



Bradley J Titus



Scott T Daby



# Education Abroad Past, Present, & Future

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Martha Johnson, Assistant Dean, Learning Abroad  
University of Minnesota

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# COVID-19 Timeline

- January 3: First reports of a “new” coronavirus in China
- Jan. 28: US health officials expand screenings of international travelers and take other precautions, but insist the risk to Americans is low. The UofM cancels spring semester study abroad in China.
- Feb. 7: UofM cancels spring semester study abroad in Korea
- Feb. 25: LAC offers students in Italy the option to return home and begins developing curriculum via technology option
- Feb. 26: LAC establishes a “war room” model to start each day (now the situation room)



# COVID-19 Timeline

- Feb. 28: US Dept. of State moves Italy to a “level 3,” triggering evacuation of students studying in Italy
- Mar. 6: LAC begins work on online curriculum at all LAC sites
- Mar. 11: President Trump announces a “travel ban” from Europe
- Mar. 12: All UofM students in Europe are required to depart
- Mar. 13-14: Multiple countries close borders, requiring emergency 24 evacuations for programs in Spain, Argentina, Denmark, Morocco, Jordan, Senegal, and Kenya (in that order)
- Mar. 15: All UofM students abroad are required to return home



# Assistance to Returning Students (& Those Who Never Left)

- Assistance with placement in on-campus course options (China and Korea)
- Waiver of student service fees with activation of services
- Established “Welcome back” message in collaboration with OUE
- Assistance with isolation housing for those who needed it
- Successful transition of coursework at all LAC’s own program sites to online delivery
- Establishment of refund matrix, including assistance for ticket change fees up to \$500 and additional travel expenses up to \$500
- Secured tuition waivers for 3 or 6 credits for students needing additional courses for graduation requirements or to maintain full-time status for financial aid





# The Cancellation Game

- All May and summer programs cancelled on March 17
- Fall programs cancelled on July 24
- Flexible financial policies and extended deadline for spring programs
- Working for spring ITRAAC “bundle” approval
- Students should be cautioned against affiliate or independent options
- Smaller list of LAC instructor-led programs for 2020–2021 academic year



# The Future of Ed Abroad: The Bad News

- The costs
- Massive layoffs, particularly for providers
- Uncertainty for when and where travel will resume and US citizen mobility
- Crisis in higher education
- Exposed levels of lack of preparedness
- Will likely change models for partnership, programs, and funding
- Likely to have greatest impact with most already-underrepresented groups in the short term



# The Future of Ed Abroad: Some Good News

- Focus on “Why?” and what are the goals
- Focus on quality and vetting of partners
- Exposed levels of lack of preparedness
- Will likely change models for partnership and programs
- Accelerate adoption of technology
- Expand pedagogical model—virtual internships
- Renewed focus on inequities in higher education
- Understanding of global interconnectedness
- Interest in underrepresented curricular such as public health and sciences



# Diversity Conversations with On-Site Staff

Fall 2020 EAN Meeting | September 16, 2020

## **BJ Titus**

Director of Institutional Relations,  
Diversity & Inclusion



# Virtual Efforts to Contextualize Racism in the US

- Panel on Race & Racism in the Twin Cities
  - 3 LAC staff and one alum
  - 4 prompting questions and over 50 questions asked
- Follow up will be individual Zoom meetings with program teams and on-site staff
- On-site survey will inform new website updates on on-site information regarding identities on site



# Health & Safety Update

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## **Kevin Dostal Dauer, PhD**

Director of International Health,  
Safety, & Compliance

## **Laura Dupont-Jarrett, PhD, LP**

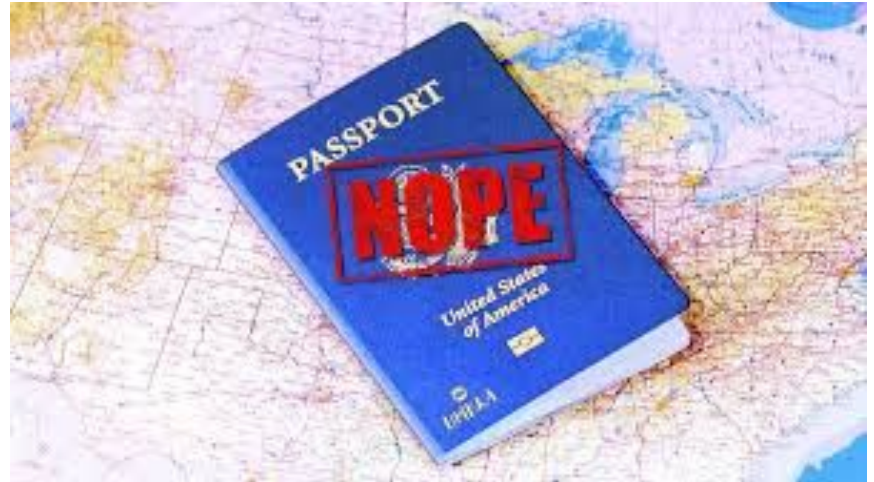
Assistant Director for Education  
Abroad Mental Health



# Health & Safety Update

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- Introducing Laura, Assistant Director for Education Abroad Mental Health
- Policies and procedures
  - UofM travel policy
  - ITRAAC
- What's open, anyway?
- Passports and visas



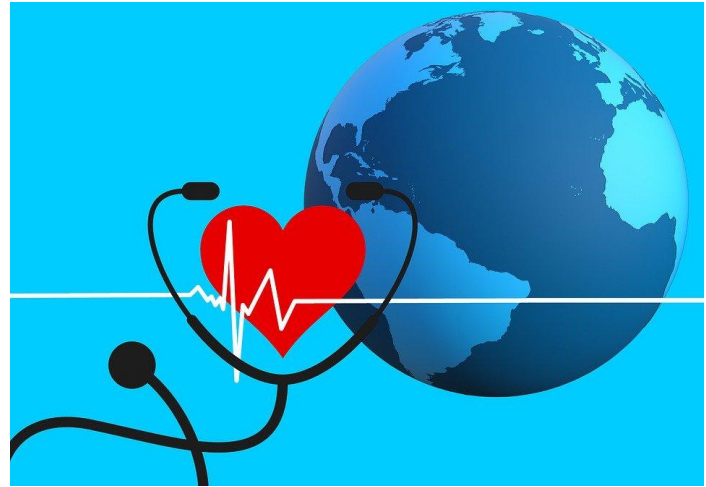
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# Health & Safety Update

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- Health and Safety Updates on site
  - Local public health recommendations and standards of the UofM
  - General recommendations
    - Housing
    - Social distancing
    - Good hygiene
    - Testing
    - Orientation
    - Transportation
    - Meals
    - Excursions/site visits
    - Teaching
    - Personal travel
  - Posted (abridged) at: <https://umabroad.umn.edu/students/covid19/social-distancing-protocols>





# Advising Update

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**Scott Daby**

Assistant Director of Advising  
and Enrollment



# Contacting the LAC

- Virtual Front Desk
  - [z.umn.edu/LACfrontdesk](https://z.umn.edu/LACfrontdesk)
  - Available Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Phone
  - Main line (612.626.9000) answered Monday–Friday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.



# Virtual Advising

- First Step
  - Online module [z.umn.edu/firststep](https://z.umn.edu/firststep)
  - Live webinar weekly (schedule at [UMabroad.umn.edu/students/advising](https://UMabroad.umn.edu/students/advising))
- Program Selection Advising
  - Via Zoom or phone
  - [z.umn.edu/LACadvising](https://z.umn.edu/LACadvising)
- Financial Aid Preview Meetings online
  - [z.umn.edu/scheduleFAPreview](https://z.umn.edu/scheduleFAPreview)



# LAC Advising Team



Q: What's the status of study abroad for spring 2021? Is it still an option?

A: Yes\*



# Advising

- Program selection considerations
- Passports
- Parallel planning
  - Academics and housing
  - Max credit override applied by LAC for confirmed students
- On-site experience will look different
- Social distancing protocols  
[UMabroad.umn.edu/students/covid19/social-distancing-protocols](https://UMabroad.umn.edu/students/covid19/social-distancing-protocols)



# Confirmation & Cancellation

- Relaxed confirmation deadlines
- Cancellation policy
- Program cancellation notifications



# Current Enrollment Stats

Winter break: 20+ applications (7 confirmed)

Spring semester: 300+ applications (~60 confirmed)





# LAC Programs Open for Spring 2021

Visit [umabroad.umn.edu/programs/deadlines](https://umabroad.umn.edu/programs/deadlines)



# Virtual Internships

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**Christine Anderson**

Academic Director



# Placement Locations



- Buenos Aires
- Toledo
- Madrid
- Barcelona
- Montpellier
- Dakar
- London
- Florence
- Nairobi
- Chiang Mai
- Sydney
- Quito

[Industries](#)



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# Internship Examples

The Bookshop (International library in Montpellier)

Collège l'Assomption (Private Junior High School in Montpellier)

Small jewelry designer-Florence

Timbuktu Institute—Think tank for peace and security-Dakar

PressAfrik-Dakar

Parole aux Jeune-Youth, Gender, Reproductive health-Dakar

Assistant to a Visual Arts Specialist (the Director of Museo Sívori in Buenos Aires)

Fundación Encontrarse en la Diversidad-Inclusion and diversity projects-Buenos Aires

El Independiente-Madrid

Students spend between 8-15 hours at their internship site per week



# Academics

- Course designed to guide experience
- 4 credits
- Global Perspectives LE
- Focus on comparative national response to COVID-19
- Multicultural groups
- Global industry
- Market useful skills
- Safe space



# Cultural Considerations



- Realize your own professional identity
- Values
- Flexibility and awareness
- Perspective-frame shift
- Professional culture
- Language
- On-site staff will provide culture-specific information



# Virtual International Internship by the Numbers



- 61 interns for summer 2020
- 223 enrolled for fall
- 11 sections
- 9 instructors in Buenos Aires, Dakar, Florence, Madrid, Montpellier, and Toledo
- 1 section taught in French
- 1 section taught in Spanish



# Student Quotes

**Lindsay Sipple, a junior in the College of Design, intern at small jewelry designer in Florence, Italy**

“I’ve wanted an international internship for a really long time,” Lindsay said. “Even if I can’t go to the country itself, I still want the experience with an international company.”

“I wanted to step out of my comfort zone,” Lindsay said. “I knew that working internationally would benefit me with intercultural communication.”

**“This internship definitely helped me broaden my skills,” Lindsay said. “My dream as of now is to become a retail buyer, but I could also end up in a completely different direction. Getting experience with social media gave me another path if I need it.”**





# Student Quotes

**Jessica Herbst, intern with Florence News, an English news magazine based in Florence, Italy**

“Even if I don’t end up working abroad, the soft skills that I’ve gotten from this can be applicable to basically any sort of communications or journalism or editing field that I go into,” she said. “I’ve proven that I can work independently and write X amount of articles in a certain amount of time, and I can come up with those ideas and work with my supervisor who’s in a different country.”



# Student Quotes

**Madeline Deninger, a senior studying strategic communication, intern with El Independiente, an online publication in Spain**

“This internship wasn’t something I ever thought I’d have a chance to do,” Madeline said. “If COVID had never happened and it had been in person, I wouldn’t have gotten the opportunity.”

“They were excited that an international audience was still interested in the [Black Lives Matter] movement,” Madeline said.

[Newspaper article](#)



# Q&A coming up!

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