

Students make the most of summer

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Summertime—a chance to kick back, relax and enjoy some down time without any major worries or critical due dates. A time when students can work to make a decent amount of money that helps for extra spending during the school year. Mostly, summer is a time when students are able to wipe their slate clean and get ready to come back to school to take classes and see friends again.

Some students took summer break as an opportunity to go abroad, see new sights and understand what it is like to be a visitor in a different culture and place. This experience is vital for any college student to help spread their wings and know about cultures other than their own.

Elon has a well-known study abroad program that sends students around the world throughout the year. Seven programs were offered over the summer, allowing students the chance to not only gain credits, but to complete their credits abroad for an opportunity of a lifetime. Students traveled to Mexico, Spain, France, Italy, London, Brighton and Herstmonceux Castle, England. A new domestic course in Alaska was offered for the first time.

The students who went to London were offered internships specific to their major at locations around the city, while also experiencing the rich and numerous cultures of such a historical city. Internships lasted five and a half weeks, allowing plenty of time for students to see all the sights and do all they wanted.

Senior Alana Dunn took the Great War course during Winter Term 2005 and fell in love with London during her short stay there.

“I have been to England, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, France, Holland and Italy, and out of all of the places I went, I wanted to get back to London the most,” Dunn said. “I learned about Elon’s summer internship program during the beginning of last fall and applied months in advance because I was so excited about going back to London. I love the city—I love how big it is, the transportation system, the atmosphere, the charm, the architecture, the diversity, how old everything is and all the history.”

Dunn enjoyed a great work experience during her internship at the Foundation for International Education. FIE is a study abroad provider in London that provides colleges, universities and other institutions with tailor-made study and intern abroad programs.

“I worked in FIE’s internship office, which places more than 1,000 students in internships each year,” Dunn said. “I researched other programs and providers, volunteer opportunities and service-learning modules; interviewed FIE students and wrote an article about their internship experiences, researched information on obtaining background or police checks, worked with bibliographic software and compiled information for potential new internship placements and contacted them as well.”

Not only did Dunn get a professional experience, she got to know her co-



Photo Submitted

Senior Alana Dunn takes a break from her internship at FIE and poses in front of London’s Tower Bridge.



Photo Submitted

Junior Joelle Dent and Tayga Gedik watch a men’s Turkey soccer game in Istanbul, Turkey.



Photo Submitted

Sophomore Ivy Crank takes a moment to pose upon a cliff after a long 12-mile hike just outside of Hope, Alaska.

workers on a personal level and feel like she was part of the team.

“Everyone made me feel welcome, included and appreciated,” Dunn said. “No one treated me like a lesser person or ‘just an intern.’ I was extremely impressed even during my initial interview because my supervisor already had an outline of the projects I would be working on. I was pleased to see that they took me seriously and didn’t have me there only to make tea. I had real responsibilities and people were impressed with my work. They invited me to the chairwoman’s annual reception, gave me a ticket to see ‘Stomp!’, included me in field trips to cultural and historic sights in London and even took me out for drinks on my last day. I absolutely loved my work and everyone I worked with.”

Dunn now wants to pursue working there after she graduates. She is already looking into a British Universities North America Club (BUNAC) visa, a six-month work visa that allows American university students and recent graduates to work in the United Kingdom.

“After I graduate, I hope to work for an international education or study abroad provider, or in an institution’s study abroad office,” Dunn said. “I plan to keep in touch with my supervisor from FIE and she promised to keep me apprised of job opportunities at FIE and with other providers.”

A trip to Alaska was the newest summer trip students could go on to gain credits. It is the only summer abroad trip offered that is actually to a state in the United States, but Alaska could be

considered ‘going abroad’ since it is so far removed from the continental U.S. The actual class begins and finishes on campus, although students spend 14 days in Alaska hiking and canoeing.

Sophomore Ivy Crank had wanted to go to Alaska since she was in the fifth grade, when her older brother visited Alaska with her father and grandfather.

“I heard from family and friends that Alaska is a beautiful place and I was really excited about the possibility of seeing wildlife—bears, whales, moose and wolves—wildflowers, mountains and glaciers,” Crank said. “When I was 10, my family rented an RV and drove out West for two weeks and visited several national parks, landmarks and other points of interest along the way. Through family vacations and travel I had visited every state in the United States except for Alaska—now I’ve seen them all.”

“Wherever we went, there were mountains in the background; it was beautiful,” Crank said. “We fell asleep to a river rushing by our tents, climbed a mountain while watching a cloud pass through a valley and sat on a rock in the ocean while watching a bald eagle perched nearby.”

Some students chose to travel abroad this summer, just for fun. The summer presents a great time to do this because school is not in session. There are no worries about missing anything important or having work to make up.

Junior Joelle Dent traveled to Turkey for six weeks this summer. She came across the opportunity to travel and work there through a friend who had gone to Turkey last summer and talked about how gorgeous it was. While there, Dent was a nanny for a 12-year-old girl named Tayga Gedik.

“I did not know anything about Turkey before I went there, which was a shame,” Dent said. “I expected to learn a lot about a brand new culture and see a lot of historical sites and try a lot of new good food and become friends with the family I was staying with.”

Dent hung out with Gedik during all her waking hours; they spent relaxing days together.

“We would wake up, eat breakfast and watch one or two television shows,” Dent said. “They have a lot of

American comedy shows in Turkey so we watched ‘Spin City’ and ‘Will & Grace.’ Then we would go swimming in the afternoon or visit a historical place like the Blue Mosque or Topkapi Palace. In the evenings, we would play board games and I learned some Turkish card games. Then we would usually go out to dinner and I was able to try a lot of Turkish foods.”

Students took advantage of the summer to gain real world experience working at an internship while at home. Internships are not only a great way to build a resume, but it also sets students apart with more skills and knowledge aside from only taking classes at Elon.

Senior Jackie Lewis interned over the summer at an event planning company called Entertainment Design Group in Austell, Ga., just outside of Atlanta.

“I was lucky to find my internship because the owners of the company attend my church and found out that I needed an internship for the summer,” Lewis said. “I helped put together press kits and proposal materials for events coming up in Atlanta, which means I was busy gathering all the information about the talent and attended the events.”

Lewis’ experience provided her valuable insight in what she wants to do after graduation.

“I learned the details and steps involved and the logistics that actually fall into planning a successful event, which clarifies and gives a real-world experience that goes beyond college classes,” Lewis said. “I would love to work in the event planning business after college and recommend that everybody try and find an internship because it is a great experience and will hopefully give a feel for what you would or would not want to pursue.”

Overall, Elon students took advantage of the summer to work, travel, take classes or just relax. Summer served as a great time to take a break from school to do whatever they wanted, inevitably leading to the excitement of moving back to Elon and beginning another year.

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How did you spend your time over the summer?



“I worked 25-30 hours a week as a lifeguard for the past four years. It paid okay, but I don’t want to do it again. I want a job or internship that will look better on my resume than lifeguarding.”

Shannon Holland, sophomore



“I went to Sicily, Italy with the summer abroad program through Elon. The program lasted one month and I took an Italian course and a tourism course. I also vacationed in France for two and a half weeks with my mom. Went I got back to the U.S. I horse-showed.”

Christina Mangano, sophomore