



University of South Carolina

Study Abroad

Study • Intern • Service Learning • Research • Teach • Work

International Perspectives on Higher Education—Spring 2015



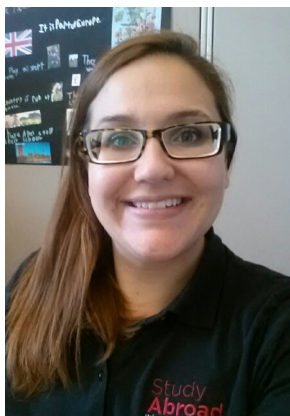
Ana Cueto—Senior Spanish Instructor, Department of Language, Literature & Cultures

Originally from San José, Costa Rica, Ana studied journalism at the University of Costa Rica where she graduated with an emphasis in advertising, public relations, and print and television journalism. Additionally, Ana has studied at multiple institutions of higher learning in the United States. Much of her career in television was spent at San José, Costa Rica's Notiséis (Channel 6) where she served as the assistant news director and as a nightly news anchor and reporter. Highlights of her television career include covering the civil wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador and the political turmoil of Panama in the 1980's, as well as interviewing many important cultural and political figures from the Western Hemisphere. Since 1989, Ana has resided in the United States. Her career experiences as well as her education have led her to teaching and in her career at USC she has led the Study Abroad programs to Costa Rica on multiple occasions.



Barbara Cuevas—Undergraduate Director, Department of Exercise Science

Hello! I am the Undergraduate Director in the Exercise Science Department. I have actually been with USC since 2000 as an undergraduate student in Exercise Science. I completed my MPH in Physical Activity and Public Health in 2007 and have been an instructor in the department ever since. I organize the practicum opportunities for all of our 1200+ students and I am looking forward to taking a group of students every year on an abroad trip in order to compare health care in other countries to our own health care system in the United States. In 1988, I moved to Germany and lived there for 3 ½ years; in fact, my oldest daughter was born there. I am so excited to have this opportunity to travel again. Looking forward to meeting all of you and having a ton of fun!



Cathy Ficznar—Student Records Coordinator, Study Abroad Office

I am the Student Records Coordinator in the Study Abroad Office. I have been with the University of South Carolina for just over one year. I am responsible with the file approvals, INTL placeholder course registration, and transcript processing for our outgoing students. I register the incoming exchange students for their courses and request/send their official USC transcripts to their home university. I also assist in the overseas emergency insurance enrollments. I have been working in Higher Learning since 2006. I have also worked for Park University—Laughlin AFB Campus Center (Del Rio, TX) and Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls, TX). Although I have traveled internationally, I did not study abroad. I am eager to see what the USC students experience as a study abroad student. I hope to get a better understanding of the on-the-ground operations for the students as they complete their program.



Joyce Gossard—Instructor & Advisor, Department of Exercise Science

Hi Everyone! I am an Instructor and Advisor in the Dept. of Exercise Science. I've been with USC since August 2002, when I completed my MS Degree in Exercise Physiology and Certificate in Gerontology. This was the start of my second life after spending just over 20 years working in general accounting. During my career transition I began to realize that I loved working with older adults and studying gerontology since this aging thing was happening to me. I teach EXSC 563 – Physical Activity & Aging in addition to my advising duties in the Exercise Science Dept. I would love to develop a spring break and/or Maymester Study Abroad experience for students where we look at global aging, examine how other countries are dealing with the “silver tsunami,” explore how chronic diseases are affecting seniors and see what resources are available to promote active lifestyles.



Rachel Hardison—Associate Director, Study Abroad Office

Originally from Virginia, she completed a B.A. in *Germanic Languages & Literatures* at the University of Virginia which included a semester-long study abroad in Jena, Germany. Rachel returned to Germany on a teaching fellowship from the Robert Bosch Foundation and spent two years teaching English at the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg in Halle, Germany. She then returned to the US to complete an M.A. in *Foreign Language Pedagogy* at the University of Delaware and then taught German for one year at Widener University. In 2007, she moved to Columbia where she taught German at USC for one semester and then began working in the Study Abroad Office in the fall of 2008. In addition to her time in Germany, Rachel has served as a study abroad program assistant to faculty-led programs in Greece, Taiwan, Italy & Chile and also participated in a two-week professional development experience in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She recently relived the study abroad experience while participating in a summer intensive language course in Rennes, France while staying with her husband's family, in an effort to be able to communicate with them better!



Dr. Damara Hightower-Davis—Assistant Director for USC Connect

Dr. Damara Hightower-Davis has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Education, a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Supervision K-12 and a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She began her career as an English teacher and has gone on to gain over 18 years of progressively responsible administrative experience in PK-16 settings to include high school and elementary school levels, state government, Student Affairs, and Educator Preparation. Currently, Dr. Hightower-Davis is employed with the University of South Carolina as the Assistant Director for *USC Connect*, a comprehensive learning and accreditation initiative to support *all* students in integrating their learning to enhance their Carolina education by *connecting academics and beyond the classroom experiences*. With Global learning as one of areas of emphasis for *USC Connect*, Damara's participation in IHPE programs will prepare her to better communicate the importance and value of travel abroad to underrepresented populations and the resources that have been made available to all students.



Trish Jones—Associate Director, Office of Career Management, Darla Moore School of Business

Trish Jones is currently the Associate Director of the Office of Career Management at the University of South Carolina’s Darla Moore School of Business. Her background includes more than 16 years of counseling, teaching, sales and marketing experience. Before returning to higher education, Trish achieved success in the real estate industry, corporate arena, government work and in higher education where she held various roles in business management, advising/counseling and instruction. For the last six years, she has managed the entire personal and professional development curriculum for all juniors and seniors in the Darla Moore

School of Business, including supporting students in the #1 ranked International Business Program. This curriculum includes a cutting edge career tools class that Trish helped develop and implement and is now a graduation requirement. Trish earned a B.S. in Public Administration from Upper Iowa University and an M.A. in Organizational Management. She continues to pursue additional educational opportunities to fulfill her passion in teaching and providing assistance with personal and professional development. She has completed NACE’s Career Coaching Intensive Course as well as her Myers Briggs Type Indicator and Birkman Certifications.



Scott Kaplan—Chief Financial Officer, College of Hospitality, Retail & Sport Management

Scott joined the College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management in April 2012 as the Chief Financial Officer. Prior to becoming a member of the HRSM family, Scott worked at the Darla Moore School of Business in several roles including Director of Student Financial Services & Associate Director of the Budget Office, Project Manager of TelePresence Implementation and Associate Director of Graduate Admissions. He has also served as the Assistant Director of USC Orientation & Testing Services and has taught University 101 for over eighteen years. In addition, Scott and his wife, Lisa, owned and operated the Olde Towne Hall Restaurant located in Ridgeway, SC from 2002-2007. After completing his PhD, Scott hopes to have the opportunity to lead a

Global Classroom program. In the meantime, Scott will continue to be a proponent of student’s studying abroad and will now have another incredible first-hand experience to share with his students, colleagues, family and friends.



Dr. Jerry Mitchell—Associate Professor, Department of Geography

Jerry Mitchell is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Geography where he teaches the *Geography of South Carolina*, *Geography of Latin America*, and courses for pre-service teacher education. He recently co-authored a book, *Hurricane Katrina and the Forgotten Coast of Mississippi*, and is the editor of the *Journal of Geography*. He directs the Center of Excellence for Geographic Education, providing professional development opportunities and developing curriculum for South Carolina teachers. In May 2014 he co-led a Study Abroad course to Chile with Rachel Hardison and he hopes to learn more about enriching student experiences abroad.



Morgan Porter—Graduate Student, MPH in Health Promotion, Education and Behavior

Greetings! I am currently a Master's student working on my MPH in Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior. I will finish and graduate in August! I will also be taking a full time position as an advisor in the Exercise Science Department this December, which will allow me to continue as an instructor after I graduate. I completed my BS degree in Exercise Science here at USC, and have worked with a number of projects run by the department before I joined the advising team. I like to do a little of everything! I am so excited to be going to Ireland for this trip-I was lucky enough to study abroad at the University of Limerick in the spring semester of 2010, and it was one of the best experiences of my life. I can't wait to go back! After I graduate and begin teaching, I would love to be able to take students abroad to look more closely at perceptions of health across cultures, specifically relating to physical activity. Looking forward to spending time with all of you!



Jody Pritt —Director, International Student Services

Jody Pritt is the Director of International Student Services at the University where she manages all aspects of the office in an effort to provide superior support services to the international student population on campus. Her career at USC began in 2005 when she served as an International Student Advisor. In 2009, she moved to Missouri to serve as the Director of International Services at Missouri State University but returned to the Director capacity at USC in 2011. In 2012, Jody received a Fulbright grant to participate in the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) seminar to South Korea. She has served extensively in NAFSA: Association of International Educators, as the South Carolina State Representative, the Region IV Treasurer, and currently the Region VII Chair. Her love of international travel began when she participated in a short-term study abroad program in high school to Italy and France. She later taught English as a Second Language in the Peoples' Republic of China. Jody graduated from Marshall University in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in International Affairs and in 2005 with her master's degree in Student Affairs Counseling where her curriculum emphasized international education.



Meg Southern—Assistant to the Faculty Principal, Carolina International House at Maxcy College

Meg Southern is the Assistant to the Faculty Principal at the Carolina International House at Maxcy College. She earned her BA in Anthropology and History at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, where she lived in the French House. Meg spent multiple summers conducting archaeology and architectural history field work in Bermuda, and has also researched historic resources in Virginia and South Carolina for the National Register of Historic Places. She is a recent graduate of the MA program in Public History in the USC Department of History. As Assistant to the Faculty Principal at Maxcy, Meg works with Faculty Principal David Snyder, Residence Life staff, and Maxcy residents to brainstorm, plan, and execute International House programming. She also acts as the International House business manager, maintains the International House listserv, and produces the Maxcy monthly newsletter. Through her participation in the IPHE program Meg aims to increase the depth and breadth of her knowledge of USC's Study Abroad programs and to hone ideas about academic content for future programming at the International House at Maxcy College. She also looks forward to networking with other faculty and staff from across campus and serving as an ambassador for Maxcy College.



Nick Vaught—Student Services Coordinator, USC Connect

Nick Vaught is the Student Services Coordinator for USC Connect, the University of South Carolina’s Integrative Learning initiative. In this role he is responsible for managing the University’s Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) program, coordinating with campus partners to support the University’s mission for Integrative Learning, assisting the Palmetto College campuses as they also adopt USC Connect including Graduation with Leadership Distinction, and teaching UNIV 401 in support of students pursuing GLD. Mr. Vaught has been with the University of South Carolina since July of 2013, prior to this he worked as a Graduate Admissions and Academic Advisor for Virginia Tech’s Graduate School. He attended Radford University in Southwest Virginia and graduated with both a Bachelor of Science in Philosophy and Religious Studies and a Master of Science in Education with a concentration in Curriculum & Instruction.



Dr. Dottie Weigel—Assistant Director for Curriculum and Administration

Prior to her work with the Office of Student Engagement, Dottie served on the publications team at the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. She has presented at several national conferences and published on topics such as student development theory and transition in the first year of college. Dottie holds a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of South Carolina and earned a bachelor’s degree in English from King College and master’s degree in student development from Appalachian State University.