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Study Abroad or America Abroad?

By CHLOE WILLIAMS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

America has reached an all-time high for the amount of college students sent abroad. In 2001, the government-sponsored Open Doors Report estimated that there were 154,168 students who went abroad, and in 2016, that figure rose to 332,727. Despite this increase, the amount of time actually spent abroad is shrinking. In 2006, 4.3 percent of students spent the whole year abroad. In 2016, the number shrank to half that. As the number of American college students abroad continues to grow, the quality of their immersive experiences is being called into question.

Junior Emma Perlman, who spent the fall of 2018 studying in Madrid, Spain, found immersion to be quite difficult. “It was hard to make Spanish friends,” she said. The Spaniards she spoke to in class or on the street “didn’t really want to interact with Americans,” which she believes is a direct result of the quantity of Americans entering and leaving the city each year.

Instead, she remained closest to Americans. “When I was out, and heard someone speak English, we just kind of bonded, so those became my closest friends,” she said.

Junior Shahnmat Uddin—who studied in Rabat, Morocco last semester—noted that this experience, though common, can be hindering.

“Immersive study abroad is [about] challenging yourself,” he said. “That can be hard to accomplish with the typical study abroad model where you live and learn alongside other Americans.”

Senior Jenna Shults saw this as the biggest drawback of her time last semester in Berlin, Germany. “It was nice to have [other American students], and talk to them about the changes we were experiencing, but at the same time, I wish we had gotten more exposure to German people,” she said.

This is countereuitive to what study abroad programs proclaim. If you look on the IES Abroad website, the pictures depict students mingling with a diverse network of people, and smiling broadly at the camera from the far corners of the earth.

But an academic paper by Zemach Bersin found that “program advertisements appeal to American students’ sense of entitlement, consumerism, and individualism.”

Perlman agrees, saying that, through her experience in Madrid, “study abroad isn’t immersive whatsoever.”

But is that the purpose of a study abroad program?

Shults was more focused on travel and personal growth, which she believes she accomplished through her time in Berlin. Perlman said she wishes she had been more immersed, “but wouldn’t know how” to achieve this. Uddin said it boils down to how much you challenge yourself.

Nonetheless, all believed their time abroad was worthwhile and enjoyable.

Williams is a member of the Class of 2021.

Front page photo taken by Photo Editor Daniel Caje.
In front of Rochester’s City Council on April 16, Phyllis Harmon tearfully opened her neck brace, showing what she says are the remnants of eight screws and a plate that had to be put in.

“If you all don’t do nothing else today, think about me,” she shouted. “Me! And get this right.”

Harmon sustained her neck injuries, she says, in an assault by two Rochester Police Department officers. She was one of many who believe Rochester needs a police accountability board. But others, like Rochester’s police union, believe the board would commit officers’ ability to keep citizens, or themselves, safe.

As the City Council votes nears, questions over who gets to hold power and who gets to feel safe persist.

According to City Council’s most recent draft of the legislation, the board would have investigative, subpoena, and disciplinary power over claims of police misconduct, as well as power to examine RPD policy. It would be independent of city government or RPD.

The legislation would allow former law enforcement officers—not from RPD—on the board. The Mayor would nominate one member, and City Council and the Police Accountability Board Alliance, an advocacy coalition, would each nominate four.

Ted Forsyth in front of the Flying Squirrel Community Space, where some Alliance meetings are held.

Ted Forsyth, an Alliance leader, co-wrote an April 2017 report with fellow activist Barbara Lacker-Ware recommending a police accountability board. Later that month, City Newspaper reported that City Council President Loretta Scott was interested in police oversight reform.

According to Stanley Martin, an Alliance leader, there had been past pushes for police accountability boards, but that reform sparked this current initiative.

Adam Devincenzi’s, the secretary of Rochester’s police union, said City Council’s proposal is based on the report, which he said is “filled with lies.”

City Newspaper attributed City Council’s interest to Ricky Bryant, a teenager who claims he was attacked by police in 2016. The article noted that Bryant was charged with burglary, who received monetary compensation.

A September 2017 report ordered by City Council from the Center for Governmental Research, a nonprofit consultancy, said the use of force or force was itself misconduct.

City Council plans to hold a public hearing on the proposal before it’s up for vote. If city council members pass any legislation on this board, it will be their own.

But it still faces challenges.

Many oppose allowing former officers on the board. And granting disciplinary power to the board means taking it from the police chief. To change who has disciplinary power, citizens must vote to change the City Charter. That vote will happen in November.

Stanley Martin in Rush Rhees library at UR, where she was a graduate student.

Martin, now a City Council candidate, came to Rochester in 2014 as a UR grad student. She lived off campus; first year, she said she noticed mistreatment surrounding police.

She spoke of Silvon Simmons, who shot three times by an officer, running from a police cruiser that was following the car he was in. The officer told Simmons shot at him first. Simmons was later cleared of all criminal charges, and is now suing the city. His parents are Alliance members, Martin said.

Adding a retired officer to the board, Martin said, would hurt its mission.

“That presence, for some, really is a sense of expression, it’s a sense of abuse,” she said.

Martin said the change came through City Council’s communication with Rochester’s police union—the Locust Club—whose representatives spoke at the March public CitySpeak to Council session.

One of those representatives was Devincenzi.

Locust Club secretary and RPD sergeant Adam Devincenzi, next to a memorial to slain RPD officer Daryl Pierson, at the Locust Club office; Phyllis Harmon in front of her house, where she says she was assaulted by two officers.

Despite a large crowd, the Locust Club contributed to a donation of $15,000 and a new car for his widow.

A lack of understanding causes many of RPD’s perception problems, Devincenzi said.

He gave the example of an individual, who—according to Forsyth and Lacker-Ware’s report—was Tasered and beaten so badly he lost an eye, and was awarded monetary compensation in the resulting lawsuit.

Devincenzi said the individual was drinking while driving, nearly hit an officer and violently resisted arrest, and that his eye was “dead” before the incident.

Devincenzi said excluding law enforcement from the board would make it “staked against police officers.”

“This group [of board advocates], for lack of a better term, is very just anti-police,” he said.

“They’re not anti-community,” Phyllis Harmon in front of her house where she claims she was assaulted by two officers.

In an interview with her fiance and daughter, Harmon told the Campus Times that, on July 14, 2011, after she repeatedly asked two RPD officers to leave her home, one grabbed her head and put it between his legs, Harmon said.

“The other officer was looking under my shirt,” Harmon said, tearing up. “It just made me feel so defeated.”

Harmon said the officer then slammed her into her door and pepper sprayed her.

“I couldn’t breathe because I have asthma,” Harmon said.

She said the same officer body-slammed her to the ground. The other officer, Harmon said, kicked and beat her before kneeling in the back and arm. Then she was arrested and put in a police car, she said.

The officers’ reports and a statement from a witnessing contractor say Harmon approached one officer standing in front of her doorway—despite being told to stop—and hit him in the head. The documents say Harmon was putting away the officer as he tried to grab her arm to cuff her.

Then one officer pepper-sprayed Harmon, the reports say, before she was pulled to the ground and handcuffed.

The reports said that Harmon was brought to the psychiatric section of Strong Memorial Hospital. She was charged with obstructing governmental administration and resisting arrest.

Harmon said the charges were dropped.

When asked about the incident, Devincenzi denied it being connected to Harmon’s accusations. He also said that Harmon’s lawsuit mentioned nothing about being grabbed by the head as she told CT. Legal documentation Devincenzi provided supported neither the incident, Harmon’s lawsuit against the city of Rochester is ongoing.

The City Council vote—the proposal’s next hurdle—will be held on May 21.

This article was changed to reflect revisions made on our website.

Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.
By OLIVIA BANC
COLUMNIST

Spring has sprung — well, as much as it can up here in Rochester — and that means it’s time for the upstate-renowned Lilac Festival. I had actually never actually been to the Lilac Festival before, but today I had a tiny bit of downtime and a mother in town, so it seemed like the perfect place to be.

The Lilac Festival has a seemingly endless wealth of food stands and trucks offering an exciting yet overwhelming abundance of options. Sadly, I was a fool and did not go into this situation hungry enough, so I only tried items from two different stands. But, they were both wonderful, so at least I have two viable options to pitch to the masses.

First, my mom and I ordered meatballs in a cup from The Meatball Truck Co. I was super impressed by these meatballs. The meatballs themselves were very light and moist and the tomato sauce that they sat in was also perfectly spiced. I also loved the creamy ricotta on top and the lovely hint of basil. I was really feeling the grilled bread on the side as well. The bread itself was really fresh and delectably moist, hearty, and springy in texture. Letting the bread soak up a little bit of that sauce and ricotta made for a brilliantly blissful bite. Small cup, big ambitions.

In addition to The Meatball Truck Co., my mother and I also hit up the Smoked Turkey Legs station. I’m not sure if that’s a brand or anything, I just know that the big sign said “Smoked Turkey Legs,” so at least you know what you’re signing up for. Anyhow, that was exactly what I got and I enjoyed it exactly as much as I’d hoped to. The turkey leg was very smoky in flavor, which was glorious. It was also ginormous. I always get excited at the sight of giant turkey legs, and this one certainly did not fall short. The skin was caramelized well and the meat inside was incredibly juicy and flavorful. The underlayer of the skin was quite fatty, but like, it’s festival food, so I was overall quite pleased with it. Also, pro tip we found that the best way to conquer this colossal feast was to just rip chunks off with our hands. It’s truthfully too big to gracefully and neatly get your mouth around and the meat is so tender that you can just tear it off anyway. Felt like Medieval Times. Would recommend.

I was highly impressed with not only the vast and diverse array of dining options at the Lilac Festival, but also with the quality of the food. With commencement upon us and parents coming to assist in the moving-out process, many of us have family members in town around this time of year. I would definitely encourage you to take them on a wholesome family trip to the Lilac Festival. I mean, who doesn’t want to sit outside and listen to live music while tearing apart a titanic turkey leg with your bare hands? No one I’d want to take to a festival, that’s for sure.

Banc is a member of the Class of 2021.
OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Reaching Our Potential

BY SHWETA KOUL
PUBLISHER

The Campus Times hit 75,000 site views last month. That’s our second-most after September 2017. Three of our seven highest viewed weeks ever came consecutively in April.

There’s a lot to celebrate, but much more work needs to be done on outreach.

What CT has struggled with in the past is connecting our faces to the paper. We want to become more embedded in the community, to increase student interaction.

By increasing our outreach, we can both diversify our writers and better seek out the stories that matter to people. Plus, our more widespread influence will serve to inform more of the community.

Last year’s decision to switch from weekly to monthly print, meanwhile, has seen its pros outweigh its cons.

Last year’s decision to switch from weekly to monthly print, meanwhile, has seen its pros outweigh its cons.

Despite not physically having our work out there as much, it has helped us influence打印 issue. Decreasing print issues gave us more time to focus on videos, an arguably more effective way in covering stories.

The first thing we wanted to do was post more stories to Facebook. Every Monday, new articles are uploaded to each section. But most students do not access our site by typing in our URL — Facebook drives our traffic. Yet, if we are only posting a few select stories to Facebook, then we are not doing our best to inform the community on all aspects.

CT did increase the number of stories we posted to Facebook this semester, largely explaining why our site views went up 70 percent compared to last semester and 30 percent compared to last spring. Still, there’s always room for improvement.

Another step we took to increase our presence in the community was organizing our first-ever event this semester. Elissa Orlando, a 30-year broadcasting veteran, spoke to us about the ins and outs of journalistic ethics in March.

Practicing proper ethical journalism is essential for our organization. To have your trust, we must educate ourselves and the community on the importance journalists have in informing you with all sides to a story.

CT plans to have more educational events on journalism next semester. We want to teach the skills we have picked up on writing, interviewing, and editing to other students who wish to learn, too.

Every journalist starts at the same place: How do you write an article? If we want to increase our number of writers, we need to give them the basics.

Lastly, CT got merch. Cups and pens for all caps for writers, and hoodies for staff — among other purchases — should help spread our brand. CT has always had difficulties with retaining writers. We hope this will be another way to combat our insular reputation.

Unfortunately, we did not get to employ all of the ideas we had at the start of the semester.

With the new year came a new CT staff, each with a story to tell. We planned to create staff bios to let you know who actually works on CT.

We also wanted to create a video of what goes on during our Sunday production nights. We did not get to tell these stories, but that does not mean we are throwing them away.

Before I pass on the role of publisher next semester, I plan to give you this content. That way, the CT office won’t be this mysterious place you walk by after getting a hearty dinner from the Pit on Sunday.

After all, if we are going to have a bigger presence on campus, it’s high time we get our faces out of our laptops and show you who we really are.

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

LET US KNOW.

OPINIONS@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG
"Endgame" Matters, Whether You Like It or Not (I Did)

**By EDDIE HOCK STAFF WRITER**

“Avengers: Endgame” succeeds as a “Marvel movie” more than as a “movie” in the general sense. I don’t mean to say by this that I thought it was poorly made. But that’s not why I saw “Avengers,” and if you’ve already watched it yourself, that’s not why you saw “Endgame,” either. 21 films into the greatest motion picture franchise in history (with the singular exception of “Star Wars”), we should probably have faith that Marvel Studios knows what they’re doing.

With “Endgame,” we have to assume that they’re not pouring $356 million down the drain; everyone involved wanted to make a quality motion picture just as much as we, lowly fans wanted to be entertained by it.

The reason I went out with my friends to see “Endgame” is I wanted to know what happened next. I’m a pretty serious fan of the comics, sure, but the plot of the on-screen “Infinity War” is entirely different (and, in my opinion, leagues better) than the ones on panels. There’s this incredible kind of charisma to Marvel films, and “Endgame” capitalizes on it more than any prior Marvel movie has, or could. Sitting in the theater, I suddenly found myself deeply invested in characters whose comics I don’t read, some of whose non-crossover moviemakers have never seen, because (thanks to the acting and some profoundly good writing) the emotional weight of dozens of characters arcs and subplots coming to a head at the same time was overwhelming.

It’s very difficult to write a spoiler-free review of “Endgame” because the part everybody cares about is the story. I won’t mess you up here if you somehow care about spoilers but haven’t seen the film yet, but if you’ll permit me I need to talk about the ending of “Infinity War” for a bit. So spoilers for that.

Thanos is by far the most effective Marvel villain, and the boldest choice the writers ever made with his character was letting him win. “Endgame” is about how Earth’s Mightiest Heroes deal with the aftermath of his victory. The writers could have dodged this in any number of kitchy ways, but instead we got a thoughtful, creative piece of storytelling that resolves the “Avengers” plotline in a more satisfying way than I had hoped possible.

The Marvel Studios writers’ room (credit must go to screenwriters Stephen McFeely and Christopher Markus) outdid themselves here. Using familiar character choices, genuine humor that matches the best of the MCU, and enough loose ends and time travel plot holes to make sure we’ll be talking about it in cars, house parties, and hangouts for years to come.

Hock is a member of the Class of 2021.

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**CULTURE**

Sitting Through Rochester’s Used Book Stores

By WIL AIKEN MANAGING EDITOR

There are few things like a used bookstore. There’s the distinctive smell, probably a cat slinking around, old records in the corner, or maybe a weird sculpture. Piles of books are scattered or spilling off the shelves, the atmosphere is nearly always subdued and warm, with most likely an aging owner presiding over their domain from behind the counter or in an office. Even the light takes on a dusty, gentle quality.

But for all these commonalities, used bookstores are as diverse as the offerings on their shelves. And despite how disastrous the advent of Amazon and its online, maybe, the experience of shopping for books is much more about what you’re not looking for, and stumbling upon something really excellent where you least expected it is what used books are all about.

Rochester’s used bookstores aren’t competitors in the traditional sense of the word. Together, they make up a network of literary oases that serve sci-fi buffs, history fans, home cooks, artists and musicians, and more or less everyone else who cares to open a creepy door and find a refuge in a dusty tome.

Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.

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**MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019**

**Hock is a member of the Class of 2021.**
**HUMOR**

**By WIL Aiken**

*MANAGING EDITOR*

The SA folks that we have employed
Have been, in past years, quite humanoid.
So imagine how our excitement quaked us to our socks
When we found out the next President might be a red fox.
He arrived suddenly, not by request,
Some thought he was ill, but EH&S
Said there was no risk of either rabies or sickness
Though some were concerned about his tail’s lack of thickness.
Once it was clear the beast wasn’t nocturnal
he did create a storm, just so infernal,
that inspired a student, who did think,
“I shall be the man behind the mink.”

Then thought the undergrad political innovator,
“I shall ensure that this quad fox
is our next Ralph Nader.”
But while political accolades danced in his head,
The quad fox captured a squirrel, and chewed it until dead.
Right there in broad daylight he slaughtered the fell low.
His muzzle was covered in a goopy red jello.
The crime was told of from Sue B. to Brooks.
Political speaking, not a good look.
But the undergrad innovator did not bemuse,
Nor did he send his candidate off to go alone.
Before the press, bloodthirsty and sneering,
There was no time, the election was nearing.
The fox met the charged with grace and with style,
Swiping at the claims with an all-out denial.
And emphasized the greatest prong in the fight,
His running mate squirmed, who somehow was white.
SA tried to stop him from being a threat.
When they buried him from debating, they were met
With mobs of supporters with themed shirts and a sign.
(Really it was one guy — what ever, it’s fine.)
On voting day, the fox still had some fight in him,
He had voting students to simply write-in him.
But it was not enough, alas and for shame.
The quad fox had lost the brutal SA game.
And so we reach our sad tale’s denouement.
For EH&S decided to flaunt,
Its horrific power, laying traps and snares
To catch the red quad fox, and bring it elsewhere.
It appears our friend was a threat to the scheme.
And now it sounds like it’s a faraway dream.
To think that once, bounding over political roadblocks,
Was a beautiful, heartening, populist red quad fox.
As for the undergrad innovator who built this empire,
He was left with nothing, save for SA’s political ire.
So back with the common undergrads he did sink.
Such is the sad fate of the man behind the mink.
Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.

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**FINE, HERE’S YOUR COURSE EVALUATION**

**By MICAH GREENBERG**

*SPORTS EDITOR*

Tired of being badgered into a Course Evaluation by a professor who barely made an effort this semester? Frustrated by the paradox of said professor caring more about Course Evals than the actual course? Consider using our handy template!

**The instructor explained and emphasized important points clearly and effectively.**
Yes. It filled valuable requirements for this course.

**The instructor demonstrated sincere respect for students.**
They respected our urge to skip class, because the lectures were useless.

**The instructor was willing to listen to student questions and/or opinions.**
I never voiced my opinion, but the professor took umbrage at the fact that I’ve never watched “Battlestar Galactica,” refused to answer my question about why “Battlestar Galactica” is important, and made a question on the midterm about “Battlestar Galactica.”

**The instructor made himself/herself available for extra help.**
No, apparently that’s what the TAs are for. Luckily, the TAs understood more of the material than the professor.

**The instructor provided clear academic honesty guidelines for this course.**
If you directly copy/paste questions from Google, are we allowed to directly copy/paste answers from that same place?

**The exams/assignments covered important aspects of the course.**
I think that’s true. The parts of the course the professor didn’t teach well were important, which is why nobody understood them on the test.

**The assignments were helpful in understanding the material.**
They helped me understand that I was going to do poorly on the test.

**The exams/assignments were clearly worded.**
Except for the four typos and six grammatical errors, and the additional three verbal clarifications you had to make during the test, the exams and assignments were perfectly worded.

**Lectures/class discussions were well organized or well managed.**
I did learn a lot about “Battlestar Galactica” from lectures. The instructor tended to be well-prepared for class.

**To their credit, they never forgot the clicker that allows you to vote on answers from that same place?**
To their credit, they never forgot the clicker that allows you to vote on answers from that same place.

**I have a stronger interest in this subject because of the instructor.**
Certainly. My deepest interest mainly involves researching how this field accepts any research conducted by that knucklehead of a professor.

**What overall rating would you give this instructor?**
Not tenure.

**I feel the class was valuable.**
Yes. It filled valuable requirements for my major.

**What are the major strengths of this instructor?**
They gave me an A. Of course, not tenure.

**What are the major weaknesses of this instructor?**
They gave me an A. Of course, they gave everyone 20 extra credit points, because otherwise it would’ve looked like they didn’t teach well.

Please share any suggestions for improvement.
When teaching a course, try explaining the concepts.
Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

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Funnier than your friends?

Write for the *Campus Times!* | humor@campustimes.org
Baseball Defends Home Field, Wins Liberty League Championship

By Cez Garcia
SPORTS EDITOR

Baseball has won the Liberty League Championship by beating Clarkson University 8–2. It was the team’s fifth game in three days and avenged an earlier loss to Clarkson in the double-elimination tournament.

The ‘Jackets, despite being regular season champions, were 1–4 against Clarkson after losing that tournament game. On Saturday, they would need to best their rivals twice in a row.

This mission did not start well — a half-inning in, UR trailed by six.

But the ‘Jackets fought their way back, scoring twice in the bottom of the first and adding another five unanswered from the second through seventh innings. Clarkson brought one back in the eighth, knotting the game at 7–7.

In the bottom of the inning, senior first baseman Aiden Finch launched one over the fence, sending the crowd into a frenzy as he rounded the bases. It tipped the scales for an 8–7 ‘Jackets win.

Almost immediately, the next game began. It would be winner-take-all for the league championship.

Senior third baseman Jack Herman got things going right off the bat with a first-inning grand slam. This 4–0 lead would last until the fourth, when Clarkson scored on an error. UR padded its lead back with runs in the sixth and seventh, and a two-run single by junior outfielder Jake Hertz in the eighth put things out of Clarkson’s reach.

Junior pitcher Brendan Shamieh then secured his eighth save of the season, inducing a ground ball to clinch the championship.

From the start, it had been a historic campaign — junior pitcher Garrett Renslow threw the fifth no-hitter in program history in a 10–0 win over Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on Thursday evening.

Renslow also struck out eight and walked just two. Offensively, junior catcher David Rieth led the team with four RBIs on three hits.

The next day, the ‘Jackets had their first tournament matchup with Clarkson. The ‘Jackets lost 16–9 in an offensive flurry that included 35 combined hits. The fireworks started early with UR emerging from the first inning with a 4–3 lead. There was a full until the fifth, when Clarkson had 13 at-bats and recorded seven runs. Every batter on Clarkson’s roster recorded a hit in the game. Despite the loss, it was not over for the ‘Jackets as they headed to an elimination game against rival RIT.

This game, the tides turned toward defense. The ‘Jackets were held to a no-hitter until the sixth inning and held scoreless until the seventh inning. RIT’s first and only score came in the third inning off a single. It wasn’t until the seventh when Hertz doubled home two runs for the ‘Jackets. The game ended just like that: 2–1 Rochester. This set the stage for Saturday’s doubleheader with Clarkson.

With an overall record of 27–15 and a conference record of 17–7, the ‘Jackets took care of business and brought the ‘ship home.

“As a first-year, I’ve never experienced anything like it,” Matzat said. “It is something I will never forget.”

Garcia is a member of the Class of 2022.