Event: Pre-Departure Orientation Fall 2011  Date: November 11, 2011

SUMMARY OF EVENT:

Pre-departure orientation was held from 3:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. on Friday, November 11. The purpose of the pre-departure orientation is to prepare students for their study abroad experience. This orientation is an important way for CIE staff to convey information that will be relevant to students’ time abroad. It also affords and opportunity for students to ask any pressing questions and meet with past participants and current international students.

The Fall 2011 pre-departure orientation was held for students studying abroad in Spring 2012 on all programs, including Loyola exchange and study abroad, ISEP exchange and direct, and non-Loyola programs. 39 students attended the November 11th orientation. Five students that did not attend will be attending a make-up orientation session.

OBJECTIVES/GOALS:

• Clarify policies and procedures
• Provide students with practical and logistical information
  ▪ Travel documents
  ▪ Travel arrangements
  ▪ Money matters
  ▪ Computers and communications
  ▪ Health and safety
  ▪ Academics
  ▪ Travel documents
  ▪ Registration and transfer of credits
  ▪ Academics abroad
  ▪ Resources for preparing
• Help students develop realistic expectations
• Help ease pre-departure anxiety
• Provide intercultural training
• Provide opportunities for students to meet other future study abroad participants, past study abroad participants, and current international students
• Enhance relationships between students and CIE staff

EVALUATION METHODS:

All participants are asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the pre-departure orientation presentations by CIE (before the dinner with regional representatives, who provide more country-specific information). The evaluation questionnaire asks students to comment on the following: day and time of orientation, topics of orientation, helpfulness of orientation, highlights of orientation, and suggestions for improvement. CIE discusses the event, conducts an overall assessment, and proposes changes for future orientations.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

34/39 evaluations received

• 34/34 students said orientation was helpful
  ▪ Seven students said that orientation made them more aware of things they did not know
  ▪ Seven students said that pre-departure orientation answered many questions they had
  ▪ Five students said that orientation helped to reduce anxiety
  ▪ Two students commented that pre-departure orientation gave them a good idea of what to expect while studying abroad
  ▪ One student said that the culture section of pre-departure orientation was only helpful to those who have never traveled before

• Best part of orientation
  ▪ Practical and logistical information – 11 students
  ▪ Student panel – 10 students
  ▪ Interacting with CIE staff – 3 students
  ▪ Meeting other outgoing study abroad participants – 2 students
  ▪ Organization, structure, and schedule – 2 students
  ▪ Culture talk – 2 students
  ▪ Journals – 2 students
  ▪ Intercultural simulation activity – 1 student
  ▪ Ability to ask questions – 1 student
  ▪ “All of it!” – 1 student

• Least favorite part of orientation
  ▪ Overall length – 11 students
    ▪ But most students said they understand why it has to be so long
  ▪ Intercultural simulation activity – 5 students
    ▪ One student said he/she did not like the activity because it was awkward, but understood that’s part of the point
  ▪ Culture talk – 3 students
  ▪ Culture-specific information – 2 students
Repetitive – 2 students
Academics talk (content) – 1 student
Academics talk (length) – 1 student
Too much information overall – 1 student

Suggestions for additional topics
- More culture-specific information – 7 students
- More specific information about applying for visas – 1 student
- More group activities – 1 student
- More information about housing – 2 students
- Working abroad – 1 student
- Homesickness – 2 students
- Travel within and around host country – 1 student
- Getting involved in activities on site – 1 student

Comments on day and time
- No comment/day and time were fine – 29 students
- Sunday afternoon preferred – 2 students
- Saturday morning preferred – 1 student
- Alternative dates preferred – 1 student
- Not Friday – 1 student

Additional comments
- Many thank yous

CHANGES FOR NEXT SEMESTER:
Based on student comments and assessment by CIE staff
- Next semester, CIE will hold pre-departure orientation on a Saturday during the day. This will help address complaints about the length of the orientation because the event will not go so late into the evening and will be split into sessions with lunch in between.
- Ran out of time in “preparing to go abroad” section. Lengthen by 30 minutes but provide more opportunities for interaction and more group activities so that the session does not feel too long.
- Offer breakout sessions: women abroad, race and identity in study abroad, financial aid, academics (offer twice), working and interning abroad, housing, etc. Sessions can be presented by CIE staff (inc. LIEP instructors), peer advisors, past study abroad participants, international students, career services, and other LOYNO faculty/staff.
- Have Debbie or other staff do the Academics Abroad to ensure that students are getting the appropriate content in the allotted time.
- Separate “resources for preparing” into its own session. Next semester, present this section immediately before the luncheon with regional representatives.
- At lunch, regional representatives need more direction (e.g. where to sit).
- After lunch, present “goal-setting” and journaling session (with guided visualization).
- Revise Cross-cultural training to make it more relevant and more interactive. Bring the group together for the culture section. Present in afternoon.
- Review suggestions for additional topics when planning the presentation next semester.
- Contact Media Services to ask about filming pre-departure orientation.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW:

3:45  Introductions and Orientation Overview (Mercy 305)
      Debbie Danna, Director, Center for International Education (CIE)
      Mariette Thomas, Study Abroad Advisor, CIE
      Kristy Magner, Coordinator for International Student Services, CIE
      Susan Dempsey, Office Manager, CIE
      Alisa Townes, Andrew Vo, and Laura Gutierrez, Peer Advisors, CIE

4:30  Loyola and ISEP Participants (Mercy 305)  The Abbey and Non-Loyola Participants (Mercy 311)

Cultural Adjustment
Debbie and Kristy

Academics Abroad
Dittmar Dittrich

Student Panel
Andrew Vo, Laura Gutierrez, Hannah Griggs
Moderated by Bailey Shultz

Preparing To Go Abroad
Mariette and Student Panelists
- Travel Documents
- Travel Arrangements
- Packing
- Computers and communications
- Money Matters
- Maintaining Enrollment at Loyola
- Academic cultures abroad
- Health and Safety
- Green Travel
- Getting the most out of your experience
- Resources for preparing

6:00  Break

6:15  Loyola and ISEP Participants (Mercy 311)  The Abbey and Non-Loyola Participants (Mercy 305)
Preparing To Go Abroad
Mariette and Student Panelists

• Travel Documents
• Travel Arrangements
• Packing
• Computers and communications
• Money Matters
• Maintaining Enrollment at Loyola
• Health and Safety
• Green Travel
• Getting the most out of your experience
• Resources for preparing

Cultural Adjustment
Debbie and Kristy

Student Panel
Alisa Townes, Warren Oliver, Annelise Rickert
Moderated by Bailey Shultz

7:30 Re-group: Journals, Keeping in Touch, Returning Home (Mercy 305)
Debbie, Mariette, Kristy

7:45 Dinner with Regional Representatives (Mercy 301)
Past study abroad participants and current exchange students

FOOD NOTES:

Snacks:
3 bags baby carrots – **bought 4, used 3**

**Bought 4 packs of celery – only used 1**
3 bags grapes - **bought 4 – all were consumed**
4 bags trail mix – **2 were consumed – 4 this was too much**
2 bag pretzels – **bought 3 – this was too much**

Drinks (during sessions)
5 bottles Coke
5 bottles Diet
2 gallons water

Drinks (during dinner)
5 bottles Coke – **bought 3 cokes, 2 Barqs**
5 bottles Diet
2 bottles Sprite
2 gallons water

Had much more soda than needed.

Dinner (estimate 60 guests)
**ASK FOR ALL IN FOIL CONTAINERS**

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 pints hummus with pita</td>
<td>This was not needed, orders come with hummus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 orders falafal</td>
<td>5 dozen – should get 7/8 dozen</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 orders lula kebab dinners with rice</td>
<td>Get 13 or 14 orders – ran out of meat quickly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 orders chicken kebab with salad</td>
<td>Get 13 or 14 orders - ran out of meat quickly</td>
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