Course Content

Title: Study Abroad Stories: 100 years
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The idea for this course originated with Amy Greenwald Foley, Director of UD's Global Outreach and Partnerships program as part of the university’s year-long celebration of its 100 year history with Study Abroad. To brainstorm ideas for the event, and to solicit the participation of OLLI, she met with George Irvine, Becky Worley, Jenna Cole, and Sally Cole. She was familiar with the courses that feature multiple speakers, such as that sponsored by Marine Studies, and that supported by the Center for Material Culture with graduate students discussing their research projects.

But Amy wanted to include UD graduates who had participated in the Study Abroad program over the years and hear their reflections on what this experience had meant to them personally, or professionally. The focus on personal stories suggested the course OLLI is currently offering on "New York City: 10 unique views,"—an extremely popular in-person and on-demand course. So I spoke with Sharon Rosen, one of the course instructors, to find out exactly how they structured it. Not only did she provide information, but she has also enlisted two people, Study Abroad participants, who may be willing to participate.

Finding and selecting speakers is the biggest job for this course, but multiple sources are available. First, UD is already soliciting participants through its webpage on the history of the Study Abroad program, at https://www.udel.edu/academics/global/study-abroad/history/. That page includes an invitation to readers who would like to share their stories, with an attached form.

To publicize that, I can enlist Marianne Lazarski, newly appointed director of Alumni Relations, who works with alumni to engage them in various UD programs and events. She has already sent an alumna to OLLI as a new Spanish instructor. And she has agreed to include OLLI information in the various UD publications directed to alumni, including the UD magazine and various newsletters, as well as social media, and other avenues. And of course, we can publish this initiative and solicit participation through the various OLLI media we have available.

To handle all of this, Amy has agreed to provide some help during the summer, once the spring term ends, and she has also agreed to speak herself, or provide others to speak, particularly for the introductory session. Because we will very probably feature speakers from distant locations, I suggest we offer this as an online course, which is already the format for the New York City course.

So Amy is enthusiastic, George readily agreed, and I will also solicit help from my Collaboration Committee members to work on this project. Our newest member, Jean Spraker, already has related experience.