End of Project Reporting

Travel May 25, 2016 through June 14, 2016 (Travel funded by QEP May 25 – June 6, 2016).

I traveled to Paris, France to the Paris American Academy (PAA) and joined a faculty-led study-abroad trip lead by Assistant Professor Mitzi Cook of the Apparel Design and Merchandising program and Associate Professor Richard Elaver of the Industrial Design program. Both Professors Cook and Elaver are from the Department of Applied Design which is where my appointment in the Interior Design program is housed. The group consisted of Apparel Design and Industrial Design students. No Interior Design students were part of the trip. I join the group for the second week of a three week program. I was able to participate in student focused labs, lectures and observe the facilities at PAA as well as tour museums and historic sites with the group. The tours were lead in-part by faculty from PAA who acted as interpreters, tour managers and content presenters. I also had the ability to see where the students and faculty were housed as I shared an apartment with the other faculty during my visit.

I would characterize my trip as a success in meeting all my expectations and objective.

1. Progress and Results

1. A. - Progress toward goals and objectives

**Project Stated Objectives - Establish four types of new relationships with PAA for the future purposes of:**

a. Faculty lead summer experience  
b. Semester-long study abroad  
c. Intercultural collaborative student projects during the school year.  
d. Faculty exchange  

PAA’s faculty are largely adjunct or part-time. Their institution doesn’t have a tenure/permanent employment arrangement with faculty. However there are faculty who are regularly employed to teach reoccurring courses. They are for all intents and purposes “full-time”. I was able to meet with three of the regular faculty in PAA’s interior Design program as well as meet the administrative staff and of course work with Peter Carmen the President of PAA. All of PAA’s faculty speak English fluently and with appropriate design and artistic terminology for a classroom and field-study context. In one instance where the classroom presenter, a respected couture dress-maker who spoke limited English, a translator who was a faculty member in Art History was provided by PAA to facilitate the afternoon session.

PAA Interior Design Faculty List; Christophe Salade, Eugenia Frias Moreno, and Benjamin Clarens.
I was able to observe Christophe in a studio critique after he worked with the student from AppState on a small boutique project. I was able to chat with Christophe after the presentation and found him to be very pleasant to work with and similarly concerned about design related issues for the various levels of students they see at PAA.

I sat in on a presentation by Benjamin Clarens of his firm’s project portfolio and then was able to tour to one of the projects with the students as well as a number of other boutiques for an afternoon. It helped me to see how he would work both with interior design majors and non-majors on future collaborations and studio projects.

I was able to meet for an extended amount of time with Eugenia Frias Moreno, who was identified to me by Peter Carmen as the person most likely to help coordinate an interior design activity in the future. Eugenia and I discussed a number of issues from class projects and software to collaborations by Skype and full semester study-abroad. The exchange was very fruitful and will lead to a variety of activities based on our discussion.

During the week I had regular interaction with Agnes’ Rannou who is an art historian by training and served as interpreter and tour guide at a number of sites. I also had the opportunity to sit in on a lecture by Olivier Roux who spoke on market trends in Europe and more specifically on marketing luxury design items in France. He had a number of suggestions which will guide future faculty-lead trips for interior design students.

In addition to daily contact with Peter Carmen while the programs were taking place, I had a very constructive private meeting him where we discussed the future relationships with PAA. During that meeting all four of my stated objectives were presented. The first three, faculty-lead, full semester abroad and remote faculty collaboration during the semester for classroom interaction were discussed with positive results. There were comments of setting up additional courses or workshops if needed to better suit AppState’s Interior Design curriculum. A specific area of concern for the full semester study was a lighting course to satisfy our current Interior Design Systems Two course requirement. Mr. Carman was open to the idea and suggested that after further conversation with his faculty about PAA’s Construction and Methods course, he would be interested in adding the necessary courses or workshops to fit out needs. As for the fourth objective, a faculty exchange was not dismissed but presented as a longer-term option that needed to be explored after the first three were established. Mr. Carmen agreed to keep the lines of communication open and explore options that suited both institutions.

By establishing a relationship with the faculty and administration at PAA, the future of an Interior Design specific faculty-lead program, a semester abroad option and a faculty collaboration looks very likely to occur within the next few years. The Department of Applied Design will need to sort out over the next few months which program area will be the next to lead a trip to Paris as to not over tax our student enrollment.

1. B. - Evaluation Results
Project Stated Assessment Plan

1. One faculty-led study abroad trip proposed for summer 2017.


3. Establish, with the aid of OIED, a semester-long plan of study.

As far as a faculty-lead trip is concerned, PAA would be ready to host a trip from AppState interior design as soon as it can be arranged. The Applied Design programs will need to discuss how programs will operate regarding faculty-lead trips in the future as to not over tax the student pool.

The conversation with the PAA faculty and administration was very positive toward the idea of collaborating on a project together. The specific of the project and the appropriate course at AppState will need to be explored to select the right group of students for best fit of skills and project content or subject.

The program at PAA is ready to receive AppState semester-long study abroad students. In my conversations with Peter Carmen, we discuss the only apparent question about the junior/3rd year curriculum in our program which Peter is very willing to accommodate with my input as to what we need in a course.

2. Successes and Challenges

2 A. Project Successes

Talk about Funding Successes – I was able to work within the established budget due to PAA’s assistance with housing and metro travel support. The apartment provided during the week allowed me to experience life in Paris more as a local than a tourist in a hotel. The students had a similar experience and I’m sure it influenced their connection to the culture. It was very beneficial to my ability to navigate the city, the language and the culture. Saw Chateau d’Ecouen and the Musee national de la Renaissance, Musee of Decorative Arts and the Memorial de la Shoah for the first time expanding my knowledge of Parisian tour locations.

3. Lessons Learned

Not enough time was planned for Versailles this trip. We also ran into a snag getting into the Petite Trianon due to the type of tickets we had. Even if we had skipped the perfumery and gone straight to the palace to see the State Apartment with the public, kept the private tour of Louise 14’t & 16’t, and walked through the formal gardens, groves and grounds there still might not been enough time to see the remaining areas of interest like the Petite and Grand Trianon or the Queen’s Hamlet and gardens. The stables have been restored and were recommended by one of the faculty but there wasn’t time to see them either. Traveling by private tour bus did eliminate some of the
travel time moving the group by train and walking from the station into the palace grounds.

The private tour of the Kings Apartment was a great addition that was only open to students groups by arrangements. The tour guide was knowledgeable and gave us as much time to ask questions about the rooms and furnishings. We were allowed to see the interior of the Kings private chapel, a huge church within the palace, which is off limits to the public. This is a “must do” on a return visits. We were also allowed to skip the public lines once we were finished since we ended at the Estate Apartment’s front door.

Need to schedule time into the trip to go to the Memorial de la Shoah (Holocaust Memorial and Museum). I was able to go on my own and unfortunately only had an hour to visit. This was my first visit to the memorial. I didn’t know how extensive the museum display would be and underestimated the time and the emotional impact of a display at the place where the atrocities happened.

The Chateau d’Ecouen and the Muse’e national de la Renaissance is a forty-five minute drive from PAA’s building and satisfies a need to experience a renaissance chateau’s without the longer trip to the Loire valley chateaus. Chateau d’Ecouen is a hidden secret outside Paris. During our tour we were the only tour group there and there were only a few other visitors in the chateau.

The classroom space available at PAA of both studio and lecture type classes would be a welcome addition to a faculty-lead trip. Having a home base to work from and a classroom to hold presentations, lectures and critics as well as a space for student to work on projects would be an enormous benefit to the content of the study-abroad experience.