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**Executive summary**

The purpose of this report was to examine all the areas and activities the Student Life team is in charge of and summarize the major conclusions and changes that need to be pursued in the future. The report is based on student evaluations, conversations and participation counts in the different Student Life sponsored activities.

The major findings indicate that improvements can always be made but the basic structure is solid and a good base from where the Student Life team can work.

While the findings in the different areas vary, this report recommends continued development and close follow up in order to continue developing SLU-Madrid students to be “men and women for others” in all the aspects of human life outside the classroom: spirit, body and mind.
INTRODUCTION

The following report is an exercise of analyzing facts and data gathered through different means by the Student Life team to reflect and improve all the activities and aspects for which the department is responsible.

All the data specified on the report has been gathered through:

- participation counts,
- record keeping,
- students’ housing evaluations,
- students’ and leading faculty’s trips evaluations,
- monthly meetings with Campus Ambassadors,
- formal and informal talks with students, faculty and staff
- survey to fall incoming freshmen and transfer students
- survey to study abroad students both in the Fall and Spring sessions

The first section describes what the Student Life Office does in order to reflect afterwards on what actually has happened during the Academic Year 2013-2014.

Relevant conclusions and/or recommendations for each one of the areas or aspects that the Student Life is involved in and that they should consider are included at the end of each section.

The Mission and Description of the Student Life Office

The Student Life team follows the SLU mission, and vision, and tries to both serve and also help our students to serve others. Student Life pursues to help in the area of “Student Development”. Following the Jesuit tradition, Student Life wants to help each SLU-Madrid student to grow as a “whole person” and in order to achieve this goal provides the following services:

**Academic trips**

Along with Faculty members Student Life staff work out the logistics and budgets for Academic mandatory trips. Act as a liaison between Faculty and travel agencies to offer academic trips that will provide first-hand experience that will enhance the students’ learning experience while at SLU Madrid

**Campus Ministry & Volunteer opportunities**

Helps students not to leave behind their spiritual life while living and studying in Spain, by helping the students to find places to worship according to their religious tradition

Plans and provides retreats to Loyola, Bible study, Christian Life Communities, Interfaith Prayer Workshops and catholic religious services on campus such as weekly Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Masses and confession

Helps students to be aware of ways to serve humanity by serving the ones around us: helping the local soup kitchens, blood drives, fund raising events, inviting NGOs to present themselves: T-Oigo, Acción Social Protestante or along with the students and
staff of the *Universidad de Comillas* or other people involved in summer volunteer programs such as volunteering with the Salesian Nuns in Zway (Ethiopia).

**Campus Ambassador Leadership Program**

Within these volunteer opportunities Student Life tries to build up leadership skills in some of our students who volunteer to serve at the SLU-Madrid campus: Campus Ambassadors (CAs).

**Commencement**

Along with the Registrar, Finance and MarCom takes care of the practicalities for this exciting SLU-Madrid campus community ceremony when students graduate.

**Housing**

Places students in University housing with Spanish host families.

Gives advice to students when looking for non-university housing by helping them out with applications to trusted *colegio mayores* and *residencias* or if asked for advice about renting rooms in shared apartments.

Helps students to deal with their living situations, confronting others, communicating, listening, be open to diversity, cultural adaptation, etc.

**Legal status**

Gives advice to students who stay in Spain longer than one semester on how to make the appointments to apply and renew these Residency cards with the Police as well as when and how to apply for re-entry permits.

**Non-Academic trips and leisure activities**

Offers a variety of trips to enhance the experience of SLU Madrid students while in Madrid and in Spain, usually day trips right after orientation and other trips to fit students’ interests (*Morocco cultural immersion with Morocco Exchange Ltd.*)

Offers alternative to drinking activities with the Billiken nights and other Student life sponsored events (Spanish Cooking Classes or Language Exchanges)

**Sports**

Facilitates the practice of up to 20 different sports and at different levels, work-out in gyms, training with different sports teams, purchasing sports tickets, renting sports facilities, having two teams in the *Federación de Fútbol* and in the *MARCA* or *AS* league, doing an international accreditation course (PADI) in scuba diving.

Provides Academic advising to professional athletes that study in SLU-Madrid

**Student Conduct**

Deals with any discipline issues on campus, on trips or at University housing

**Student-led Clubs & Organizations**

Help out any student-led club or organization to get started, chartered and going for the benefit of the student body and the SLU-Madrid campus.

Train the student leaders on how to budget and organize their club’s events. Supervises that what they do follows the SLU Mission.

**Student Health**

Acts as a liaison between students and doctors, going with them to hospitals and to different practitioners when needed.

**Student Security & Safety**

Makes sure all students have arrived safely to SLU-Madrid campus. Act as Campus Security Authorities to whom any incidents on Campus are reported according to the Clery Act Policies.

June, 2014
In case of health and safety concerns: sicknesses, assaults, thefts, pick-pockets, lost passports and documents, lost baggage, etc.

The Student Life 24/7 Emergency phone provides information on how to deal with health and safety issues in case of emergency and actual help when needed and possible.

Welcome Sessions

Plans a whole program of informative sessions and activities for the students to settle in better into Madrid, the US educational set up and the SLU-Madrid community.

In helping the students, Student Life collaborates with the different SLU-Madrid divisions and others:

**Academics:** Acting as liaison with the travel agencies for faculty-led trips.
- Informing about students’ absences
- Looking for students
- Acting as a resource when they have any questions
- Organizing Commencement
- Looking for housing options for visiting professors
- Providing academic advice to professional sportsmen and women in our student body

**Admissions:** Informing confirmed students about orientation and providing information for prospective students.
- Training CAs to represent the Madrid Campus in its major social events.

**Finance:** Providing the information Finance requires about housing, Welcome Weeks events and trips
- Caring about the maintenance of the campus premises and its resources

**Counselors:** Leading students to their services and briefing them of the particular circumstance the student is going through.

**SGA**
- Student Life is the department who supervises and mentors Student Government Association in their activities so they follow the SGA constitution and the SLU Mission.

**Spanish families** who host SLU-Madrid students

All the Student Life Office activities such as sports, Campus Ministry, Welcome Weeks’ events, etc. are open to all the SLU-Madrid Faculty and Staff in order to facilitate community building.
During the Academic Year 2013-2014 Ms. Paula Otero García became part of the Student Life team. She was tasked with the responsibility of informing and helping the permanent students with the Spanish Residency card application and renewal processes, preparation of academic and non-academic trips and student leisure activities. Student Life is in charge of Campus Ministry and works closely with Fr. James O’Leary, SLU-Madrid Campus Chaplain in this area.
REPORTS

Academic Trips

Objective

The Student Life Office aids the Academic Divisions in their goal of taking learning off the classroom. Through academic trips, students gain first-hand knowledge of concepts acquired in the classroom. Student Life, in conjunction with the faculty member leading the course, coordinates all the logistical aspects of the trip.

Outcome

**Murcia and Alicante** (Two groups) – EAS-105 Introduction to Oceanography

November 7-10 and 14-17, Ms. Mónica Pérez Bedmar

The general opinion was that it was a very educational trip; the professor did a good job to link what was learned in class to what they were seeing during the activities in Alicante. Everyone seemed to agree that this helped to explain and extend on what they had learned in the classroom. The students wrote positive reviews about sailing and snorkeling and many were surprised at how much they liked the trip. The rating of the faculty was mainly 10 out of 10, they all would recommend the trip. The only comments that seemed to be negative was about the weather which was not in the control of the school and all the comments of Monica were very positive.

**Navacerrada**

October 28, 2014. Dr. Raúl Martin

The overall agreement was that the class covered what was on the trip and could do all the measurements. One suggestion of the trip was to go earlier in the year. They all seemed to be pleased with the bathymetry and learning about those concepts. It helped to connect what was learned in the classroom and all enjoyed the trip.

**Brussels** – ECON 395 The Political Economy of the European Union

November 13-17, Dr. Knut Roder

The location and quality of the hotel was not very good. It was decided go back to the Adagio Aparthotel in Spring 2013 rather than the IBIS. Students liked all the activities at the different European institutions and the tour of Brugges.

**Toulouse** – Engineering Programs and Engineering and Science

February 6-8, Dr. Francisco Prieto

A few students wanted more time to explore. All of them seemed to enjoy what they learned and there was a lot of new information on airplanes and water process. All felt the trip was very well planned.
students wanted to know about the meals beforehand, like which ones were provided and which ones were not. Many had complaints about the bus and wanted to look into a train. The rating of the faculty was between 7 and 10 out of 10. The itinerary was rated between 5 and 10 out of 10. They all seemed to enjoy applying what they learned in class to the real world and seeing the factories. Suggestions just included more free time.

**Morocco – General interest**
February 24-28

This trip is through Morocco Exchange Ltd. SLU-Madrid only facilitates a means of transportation to the south of Spain. Many students suggested they be given the itinerary before getting on the ferry or more information. A few thought meetings beforehand or emails would have been helpful. Also a few students complained about the bus not being comfortable and that it did not have a bathroom. Many students spoke about learning Moroccan culture and bonding with the families, Islamic culture as well. They all agreed that the trip was very well planned. The suggestions were in the realm of the bus, one person suggested a train. Also more time in Tangier was suggested by a few students and guidance on money conversion.

**Brussels – POLS 454 The Political Economy of the European Union**
March 12-16, Dr. Knut Roder

Overall agreement that trips were well planned. Many wanted a breakdown of cost and why they were spending what they were or where it was going. A couple students suggested not taking the metro but walking since the places were only 30 to 35 minutes away by walk – they believed the metro was unnecessary. All agreed that seeing the EU in action helped put into practice what they were learning and made it easier to understand. The majority of complaints were that the price was too high and that they wanted to know where their money was going not just a set price for the whole package.

**Lanzarote – EAS 101 Earth Systems I: Solid Earth (Volcanoes of Spain)**
March 13-16, Dr. Raúl Martín

The general opinion was that the trip was excellent and better than expected. They said that the trip went well with what they were taught in the class and helped to have visual aid about what they had learned in class. Although one student suggested that Chapter 5 was taught first before going on the trip. The food was given a positive review; one student suggested having an itinerary given beforehand. The trip was well planned and the accommodations and safety received mostly 10 of 10. There were mixed review of additions to the trip, some students believed it was perfect the way it was while others thought maybe leaving a day earlier would help to get more activities in.

**Murcia and Alicante (Two groups) – EAS-105 Introduction to Oceanography**
March 27-30, April 3-6 and April 24-27, Ms. Mónica Pérez Bedmar

All the trips had very good evaluations as regards to how much the activities had to do with the course and how much they learned by actually seeing what they had covered in class.
**Stratford-upon-Avon** – ENGL 432 Later Shakespeare
April 4-6, Dr. Cary D. Barney
Students enjoyed going to England, being where Shakespeare actually lived and walked and the two Shakespeare plays performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**La España Templaria: Miravet, Tarragona, y Peñíscola, Castellón** – SPAN 418 Spanish Culture and Civilization
April 25-27, Dr. Aitor Bikandi
The overall suggestion was a more in depth itinerary – two students suggested eating at earlier times. Although overall opinion was that it was really fun and that they had a good time. They learned a lot about Spanish culture and new vocabulary in Spanish. Said it was very well planned although one student wished it was earlier in the semester. One student suggested more preparation with time in class for the trip and one student suggested a bathroom in the bus.
Campus Ministry

Objective

Student Life offers through Campus Ministry and with the collaboration of the Ignatian Community Council opportunities for cultivating an informed faith, a commitment to social justice and an integrated way of life.

Guided by the Catholic Church and the Society of Jesus, SLU-Madrid welcomes and serves students of all religious backgrounds and traditions. Two Student Life staff members and Fr. Jim O’Leary SJ are part of the Ignatian Community Council who along with four faculty members planned activities to help all the SLU-Madrid Community to grow in their spirituality. You will find them listed in the next charts.

Complete list of Campus Ministry Events and their outcome and changes to be made on the Comments section of the tables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2013 Events</th>
<th># of Participants</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mass of the Holy Spirit (9/10)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Tuesday at 6.30 pm before the Dedication of SLU-Madrid Campus’ new building, San Ignacio Hall. The same as last year, when it was celebrated at 5pm evening time is far from ideal. We should schedule for a noon-time mass next year. Celebrants: SLU President Emeritus Fr. Lawrence Biondi SJ; VP for Campus Ministry Fr. Paul Stark SJ; Fr. James O’Leary SJ, SLU-Madrid Campus’ Chaplain and Alberto de Mingo (SLU-Madrid).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Masses on Campus</td>
<td>3-15</td>
<td>A modest turn-out (15) for the first Sunday ‘welcome’ mass; smaller turn-out for others (students attending other services closer to home/away on trips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekday Masses on Campus</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>The reestablished break at 1.50 pm Thursdays has helped to have s few students in the weekday Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLC and Bible Study Meetings</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>The group run smoothly weekly throughout the semester. They enjoyed it a lot and were very committed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyola Retreat (11/23-25)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33 students/4 staff; very successful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Ignatian Community Council (several activities and meetings through the semester)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Group of students, faculty and staff to promote Campus Ministry activities on campus. This semester it focused on Social Justice towards immigrants. Round table with three senior students presenting immigration issues in North America and Europe (20-25 people), One social justice movie each month (1-12) and and Interfaith Prayer Service took place (15-18 people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Party and Sing-Along (12/12)</td>
<td>60-70</td>
<td>Students, faculty and staff participated in a joyful party with Christmas sweets and carol singing in San Ignacio Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Ignatian Community Council along with Student life Staff planned a trip to Rome but only one student signed up for it.

**Outcome**

- As in previous years, this academic year saw an increase in participation in Campus Ministry events from the Fall to the Spring semester as numbers show in the charts on pages 12 and 13.

- The Loyola evaluation survey concluded that both Fall and Spring trips to Loyola are excellent – many said better than expected. The talks were enjoyed by all and many people put the Christian talk about God’s love being real as their favorite. Many students felt they had come closer to God and have been reconnected with their spirituality. The activities were given positive reviews along with the food and the fact that students had time to be alone and self-reflect. The trip overall was fun and
relaxing, although a suggestion was that the group leaders should be more structured and people who have already gone on the trip, also to keep the small groups the same throughout the weekend. Also they suggested that struggling with their faith should be more open and maybe a topic of discussion. But the trip was received positively and all would recommend it.
Campus Ambassadors Leadership Program

Twelve students participated in the Campus Ambassador student-leadership program. As two of them left to the SLU-St. Louis Campus in December, more recruitment was done at that point for January having up to fourteen CAs at the end of Spring. Four have graduated this Spring and six new CAs will join us in the Fall.

Through this program, these volunteers welcome and orient newly-arrived students. Campus Ambassadors also accompany students on Billiken Night events and excursions. They also help in December and May Commencement events and other Academic Conferences or social events on Campus.

The program is designed to provide them with experiences in the leading of students. It starts with e-mail exchange during the summer of Christmas with the new incoming students. They lead them through the Welcome days and first weeks in all the different events and remain as “mentors” during the term if the students contact them.

The academic year ended with a meal and a training session for the Fall. Due to the national and local holidays at the end of the Spring semester it was very difficult to find a date where people were available to make it more special. The “certificates of appreciation” were given individually to the students after Commencement.

Conclusions

CAs like their job, they are proactive and always give good feedback of all the Welcome Weeks´ events on Campus which is greatly appreciated and considered when elaborating all the events Student life plans, such as:

1. Changes were made on a few slides of the Student Life presentation and new changes will be made to include IT and Counseling information in it
2. During the Student Life presentation, CAs will continue sharing with the incoming students real life incidents their friends have encountered in Madrid: student falling into the Metro rails ( a CA himself), acknowledgement of knowing classmates who have gone through date rape drugs experience, etc.
3. They will be in charge of the practical information related to the Metro pass, banks, mail as this has proven to be very effective
4. They will be around the Student Life office at the entrance hall of Padre Rubio Hall during the first couple of weeks to help students learn their grounds in Madrid and help out with the matters mentioned above.
Commencement

Objective
Create community in this special event as graduates leave University live and start their professional careers. Student life along with Finance and Operations and MarCom coordinates all the logistics of the event hosted by the Academic department.

Outcome
December Commencement was small, with 6 graduates participating out of 13. Most of them were international students who would be leaving Madrid and would not be in Madrid in May. The other seven January 2014 graduates decided they would walk in May 2014 Commencement. The December event took place in the Auditorium of SIH. Professor Daniel Chornet-Roses was the speaker. The reception, catered by “Sodexo”, took place there as well. Both the conferral of degrees and the reception were very nice according to all the guests.

May 2014 Commencement was held on May 15 at the Auditorium of Fundación Pablo VI. The speaker was Mr. Pedro Miró Roig, CEO of CEPSA (Compañía Española de Petróleos, S.A.U.) Eight MA graduates and 69 BA graduates finished their degrees in May 2014. Out of which 66 walked plus the five out of the six graduates who postponed participating in Commencement in December 2013. The reception was held in San Ignacio Hall and served by Sodexo.

Conclusions
While in December there was only a small group of people the students and their families really appreciated celebrating the students´ academic success. May graduates and their families also appreciated all the effort made to celebrate with them such a joyful occasion (below).
Housing

Objective
The Student Life Office aims to provide students the opportunity to explore Spanish society and language to the fullest through their housing experience. A rewarding and culturally integrating option is becoming a part of a Spanish household. With the host family (señora) option, students learn and experience day-to-day life in urban Madrid.

Aside from the University-arranged housing options, the Housing office facilitates contact between the student and a variety of other options such as colegios mayores and residencias de estudiantes (Spanish-style university dorms) and third-party outfits such as Aluni or Madrid Easy.

Outcome

Fall 2013 Housing Evaluation

- A total of 245 students in host families, out of which: 21 students were new and 5 were transfer students; 1 Master student and 218 were study abroad.
- Response to online housing evaluations: 41.6% (245 students in housing, 102 evaluations)
- From 102 evaluations: 97 positive and 5 negative.
- Most common complaints: lack of interaction with the host family, meals.
- 23 students changed housing.
  - Issues
    - Relationship with host family or with roommates: 20
    - Needed to change the meal plan: 3

After the change everything went well with their second families

Out of the 21 students (new and transfer) three of them continued in Host families in Spring 2014.
**Spring 2014 Housing Evaluation**

- Total of 306 students in family housing, out of which 5 students were new and 301 were study abroad students.
- Response to online housing evaluations: 22.5% (306 students in housing, 69 evaluations)
- From 69 evaluations: 63 positive and 6 negative.
- Great evaluations from host families: Marli Ferreira, Gloria de Pedro, Loti Niño.
- Most common complaints: interaction with the host family, meals.
- 9 students changed housing:
  - Issues:
    - Relationship with host family or with roommates: 6
    - Closer to Campus location 3

After the change everything went well with their second families. It has been the semester with the fewest changes since Spring 2010.

After SP 14, four students will continue in host family housing for Fall 2014 (three continued with the same family between Fall 13 and Spring 14).

**Feedback from señoras for the 2013-2014 Academic year:**

- Students drink too much, due to this: they vomit all over the house (3 complaints), urinate in mattresses (9 complaints), get their keys stolen (3 complaints); not being able to recall what happened previous night (5 complaints); being so drunk that the student could not even walk and his/her friends took him/her home (1 complaint).
- Students do not want interaction with families and seem antisocial.
- Extreme untidiness in bathrooms and students’ rooms and lack of personal cleanliness.
- Families still request from SLU to remind students about the high cost of utilities in Spain.
- Students were more open to try Spanish food in the host families and families received less food demands from students.
- Students were very happy about SIH building being so new.

**Conclusions**

- Host families’ received an orientation session in September 2013 as advised in last year’s report. They were trained on cultural competence: how new generations behave, relate to each other (Skype, etc) general about cultural differences. They were informed about the students’ real needs and wants and how to address the students. And in fact less number of students changed host families and evaluations on both sides have been more positive.
• The host families' evaluations about the students living at their homes has increased the awareness of these families to reflect on their experiences and therefore their ways towards the students. These evaluations have proved to be very successful.
• Host families were visited last summer, and will be revisited this summer 2014 to check conditions in the home and get more of their feedback too.
• Eight families will no longer collaborate with SLU-Madrid. Two will stop collaborating with SLU due to their old age; another two due to new family situation; one of them due to personal health issues; another three due to the problems they had with the students.

The Student Life Office also assisted in the placement of visiting faculty:

• Sara Van den Berg (14 Jan – 10 Apr 2013)
• Kenneth Warren (18 May – 23 June 2013)
• Kara McBride (21 June – 31 July 2013)
• Cathleen Fleck (2 Sept – 30 Nov 2013)
• Kenneth Stenhauser 13 Jan - 11 April 2014)
• Geralyn Meyer (20 Feb – 9 May 2014)
• Phyllis Weliver (16 March-14 May 2014)

These professors have been housed with D-Flat and Friendly rentals. Both rental agencies have proved to be trustworthy and professional offering good value for money. Their apartments are good for professors’ accommodation. The Housing Coordinator managed to find Friendly Rentals and will continue asking for apartments and bids to all the agencies we think are good in order to offer the best to visiting faculty to increase the offer.

SP 14 Students posing with Host father Juan Velazaman. Juan and his wife Ana Antón are one of the most demanded homestays.
Legal Status

Objective

Student Life gives advice to students who stay in Spain longer than one semester on how to make the appointments to apply and renew their NIE cards with the Police as well as when and how to apply for re-entry permits

1) Non-EU students
   1.1) 1st card (“autorización inicial de estancia por estudios”):
       - Give information and advice to students
       - Get appointments in group and inform students about their appointments and the documents they will need to bring with them that day (one of these documents is the empadronamiento certificate)
       - Help students to get an empadronamiento certificate (get an appointment for the City Council, provide students with the necessary application forms and information about the process)
       - Accompany students the day of the appointment at the police station (Summer 2013: 3 students; Fall 2013: 67 students; Spring 2014: 23 students)

   1.2) Renewal (“prórroga de autorización de estancia por estudios”)
       - Give information and advice to students about the process and the different steps they must follow.
       - Help students to fill out the forms online.

2) EU students (“certificado de registro de ciudadano de la Unión”)
   - Optional document (not mandatory) for EU students. Some students need it when they want to purchase a phone, a car in Spain, etc. We give information and help students to get an appointment to get this document.

3) Re-entry permit (“autorización de regreso”).
   - Gives information and help students to get an appointment to get a re-entry permit.

4) Lost/stolen cards.
   - Explain the different steps students may follow if their cards when lost or stolen.

5) Others: Student Life helps students with specific problems. Sometimes we need to contact the embassies, the consulates, the police stations, the Local Immigration Offices, the Ministries, etc. in order to help students. For instance, there was a student who did not follow the Spanish deadline to renew his card and the Spanish Interior Affairs Ministry denied his Student Residency Card. We had to contact the Saudi Arabia Embassy in Spain and get a new visa in order to avoid future problems to the student.
Outcome

- Long process, especially for renewals. Some cards are already expired or are going to expire soon when students pick them up at the police station. Sometimes students even don’t receive physically the card they applied for previously and have to apply for the following card again.
- Some new students got their 1st cards valid for a couple of months only (instead of being valid for one year) because the certificates those students got from Admissions for the Spanish Consulates (when they applied for their visas) did not include the right dates. Some students who applied for the renewal of their cards had similar problems because the certificates prepared by the Registrar Office didn’t include all semesters.
- Under 18 years old need a Spanish legal tutor while in Spain in order to apply for their Residency cards.
- Sometimes some internal errors arise in the police station. In these cases it is necessary to go to the police station several times and get in touch with different administrations to get the problems solved.
- Students who apply for the renewal of their cards must deliver their documents in an office and then wait for some months (6-8 months) until they receive a letter with further instructions. Some students never receive these letters.
- Some students had problems because the administration did not accept some of the documents they delivered when they applied for the renewal of their cards. In most cases, students brought additional documents and finally got the problems solved.
- For some students, the police did not accept their applications of renewal and had to apply for a new visa.
- The expiry date of some visas is on July 31st, so some students have to wait until May 31st to apply for the renewal and apply for the autorización de regreso to be able to travel during the summer.

Conclusions

- Make sure the certificates prepared by the university (Admissions Office & Registrar’s Office) include the right dates (the whole academic year, if possible)
- Make sure that students who need to renew their NIE, check the information of our website before buying any ticket for the summer, because with an expired Student Residency Card, they are not allow to enter into Spain.
Sports

Objective
The Student Life Office cares for the well-being of students’ body, mind and spirit. Through sports, the department strives to encourage a healthy lifestyle among SLU-Madrid students.

Outcome
Almost 50% of the student population participates in our active Sports program. A new sport, *Pickleball*, was added to the variety of activities SLU-Madrid students can enjoy.

More than 340 students participated/played sports on a weekly basis. More than 80 have registered in nearby gyms and 80 participants completed the 5k fundraiser Run for Ethiopia in the Fall and the one in the Spring which was for the Paraplegic hospital in Toledo. The overall perception students have of the quantity, variety and quality of the sports offered by SLU-Madrid Campus is very positive according to informal questioning by the Student Life staff.

Students participate every day of the week in Sports activities. Students play tennis, golf, paddle, go to gyms and to the swimming pool anytime. Students continue playing team games in the afternoons-evenings. This remains their preference in order to be able to play together. Therefore the sports schedule seems to be working.

Due to having a lot of people interested in playing soccer, this year we had two different soccer teams playing in the Madrid league, this will be done again in the next season 2014-2015.

Students’ participation in the different sports activities offered through SLU-Madrid.
Conclusions

Pickleball has successfully been introduced to SLU-Madrid students. There is an opportunity of setting up a net for pickleball/badminton in one of the patios on Campus to play sports during the Summer Sessions.

Close ties have been made with Universidad de Comillas in order to create some competitions between both universities in order to open up the sport opportunities for the students of both Jesuit institutions in order to create different initiatives for both institutions to collaborate. Next Fall we will organize the first Inter-University Pickleball tournament. We will also look for opportunities to do sports together with Universidad de Comillas such as participating in our 5K fundraising runs in the Retiro Park, hiking, etc.

We are also starting our SLU Madrid Cheerleading Group which will start training in the Fall 2014.
Student Conduct

Objective
To help maintain an effective university learning environment, students are expected to act responsibly at all times and to respect the rights of others both on and off campus. The Student Life Office uses the “Code of Student Conduct” as a guide through which the appropriate staff members will respond when a student’s conduct is called into question. Student disciplinary actions must be formative, not punitive in order for the student to reflect and learn from his/her actions.

Outcome
There were three incidents in the 2013/2014 academic year in which Student Life initiated disciplinary action. Two students were sanctioned due to fighting in the SGA Fall Student Soccer World Cup tournament. And four other students were sanctioned in two incidents for having friends over night in their host families’ homes.
Student-led Clubs and Organizations

Objective
SLU-Madrid student-led clubs are chartered by SLU-Madrid and supervised by Student Life. Through these activities, the student body creates a sense of campus community. This is especially important at a campus whose students, for the most part, hail from foreign countries. Student Life’s work with the clubs and organizations’ leaders in all these activities also strive to continue the students’ education outside of the classroom.

Outcome
During the current academic year, there were eight active student-led clubs and organizations:

- Art Club;
- Chess Club;
- Gay/Straight Alliance;
- Graduate Student Association;
- Human Rights Club;
- IR Society;
- Model United Nations Society;
- Poker Club;
- Pep Club.

Some of the activities carried out or in which student-led clubs and organizations participated in were:

**Fall 2013**

- SGA Opening Get-Together, September 12, 2013;
- SGA Student Forum, September 17, 2013;
- SGA/Campus leader dinner October 2, 2013;
- Gay Straight Alliance event, October 9, 2013;
- Open Mic Night, October 10, 2013;
- SGA Halloween October 31, 2013;
- SGA Student World Cup Tournament, December 1, 2013;
- SGA Hobbit party December 5, 2013
- IR Movie Night December 10, 2013;
- SGA Winter Wonderland, December 12, 2013

**SPRING 2014**

- SGA Valentine’s campaign, February 4 - 14 2014;
- SGA Talent Show, March 17, 2014;
- MUN in MUN Conference Bucharest, Romania March 23-30, 2014
- SGA President trip to the American University in Bulgaria in Belgrad US Universities in Europe SGA Conference, March 27-30, 2014;
- SLU-Madrid Vs Universidad de Comillas Debate April 2, 2014;
- Poker Tournament, April 8, 2014;
- IR Music of the World, April 22, 2014;

**Conclusions**

All the activities were a great success. SGA has been very active in creating many activities for students to meet each other and be together.

Student-leaders were trained about budgeting and other University policies as well as to raise money in different ways not only through bake sales. A new meeting with current and future student-leaders (those running -or thinking of chartering- a club or org) will be set up at the beginning of each term to train them on these different matters.

The Art Club designed the SLU-Madrid Banner for Atlas Week 2014.
Student Health

Objective
In the event of serious illness, injury or hospitalization, the Student Life Office acts a liaison between students and health care providers and/or the students’ own families when the student is not able to initiate communication him or herself. Student Life staff also assist in communication with the students’ professors when the student has been hospitalized or is otherwise unable to get in contact with faculty.

The Student Life 24/7 Emergency phone answered a total of 3 real emergency calls in the Fall 2013 and 2 in the Spring. Students did not seem to phone so much after hours but contact the Student Life Office during office hours. The afterhours calls related to health had to do with:
- 5 requesting a Sanitas doctor to go to their homes
- 1 asking about the hospital he could go to
- Other calls received afterhours were about services on campus.

Outcome
These results are as reported to the Student Life Office or cases in which Student Life staff was directly involved in contacting parents, going to the hospital, etc. during Fall 13 and Spring 14 and in comparison to Fall 12 and Spring 13.
**Student Life Activities**

The Student Life Office arranges a whole plan of Informational Sessions, training sessions and activities throughout the academic year.

During the summer different leisure activities that they would not do by themselves in Madrid are planned for students to enjoy their Fridays off: day at the waterpark, horseback riding, etc.

There are different objectives to these activities:

1. Student to learn about the sports, volunteer opportunities, clubs and organizations, etc. that we offer through our Campus. These information sessions take place during Orientation, the Activities Fair in the Fall and during the informational days in the Spring.

2. Students to be exposed and experience the most typical aspects of the Spanish culture with things like the Flamenco shows and bullfights and going out with the Campus Ambassadors for Tapas Nights and the Spanish cooking classes.

3. Get to know and learn interesting things and aspects about Madrid city that they would not find by themselves like the Madrid Rio, the Egyptian temple and the aerial tram, the waterpark, etc.

4. Students playing sports in the international tournaments with their classmates from many different cultures as more than 60 nationalities are represented on the SLU-Madrid Campus. This enhances the intercultural aspect and increases intercultural development of any student in SLU-Madrid. The Saudi Taste fundraiser held on February 24 had this intercultural objective as well as the next one of encouraging service to others.

5. Students to realize the need for them to be "Men and Women for others" particularly with the activities sponsored along with the ICC, the different drives (clothes drive) ; the faculty and staff bake sale on February 6 and the 5K runs linked to projects with great relevance to our students: the Zway Mission in Ethiopia were 12-20 students volunteer each August or the hospital for the Paraplegics were one of our students is recovering from a motorbike accident.

**Most relevant activities planned and sponsored by Student Life**

**June 2013**
- June 5, 2013 – Flamenco
- June 7, 2013 – Cycling in Madrid Rio
- June 12, 2013 – Bullfight
- June 14, 2013 – Horseback riding

**July 2013**
- July 3, 2013 – Bowling Night
- July 12, 2013 – Swimming pool and tennis
- July 14, 2013 – Bullfight
- July 17, 2013 – Flamenco
- July 19, 2013 – Day at the Water Park

**September 2013**
- September 2, 2013 – Welcome Sessions and Madrid city tour
- September 5, 2013 – Activities fair and volunteer opportunities
- September 6, 2013 – Clubs and organizations, soccer tryouts and Tapas night

June, 2014  27
- September 9, 2013 – NGO T-Oigo presentation
- September 13, 2013 – Soccer tryouts and Tapas night
- September 21, 2013 – Hiking with SLU students in La Cabrera

**October 2013**
- October 11, 2013 – Students vs faculty and staff
- October 22, 2013 – Justice for immigrants presentation (along with ICC)
- October 23, 2013 – Justice for immigrants NGO’s presentation (along with ICC)
- October 24, 2013 – Justice for immigrants movie (along with ICC)
- October 28, 2013 – NGO T-Oigo presentation

**November 2013**
- November 8, 2013 – International Paddle tournament
- November 9, 2013 – 5k Run for the Zway Mission in Ethiopia
- November 12, 2013 – Mountain and adventure movie
- November 20, 2013 – Order of Malta presentation
- November 29, 2013 – International Golf Tournament

**December 2013**
- Clothes drive
- Faculty & Staff new toys drive for Fundación Padre Garralda SJ

**January 2014**
- January 9, 2014 - Welcome Sessions and Madrid city tour
- January 10, 2014 - Tapas Night
- January 14, 2014 – Information day (sports, student-led clubs and organizations and informational sessions on volunteer opportunities)
- January 15, 2014 – Information day (sports, student-led clubs and organizations)
- January 16, 2014 – Morocco Exchange Ltd, Informational session
- January 17, 2014 – Visit to an Egyptian temple and aerial tram
- January 21, 2014 – Optional trips meeting
- January 22, 2014 – PADI Scuba diving course informational meeting
- January 28, 2014 – Running club meeting

**February 2014**
- February 6, Bake sale for Mozambique
- February 12, 2014 Spanish cooking class
- February 15, 2014 – Sierra club hiking
- February 24, 2014 – Saudi taste fundraiser for Accion Social protestante
- February 26, 2014 Spanish cooking class

**March 2014**
- March 11, 2014 – Atlético Madrid vs Milán Soccer Match
- March 14, 2014 – Basketball Professors and staff vs students
- March 22, 2014 – 5 K Run for the Hospital for Paraplegics in Toledo
- March 28, 2014 – International Golf tournament

**April 2014**
- April 1, 2014 - The World’s Ugliest Woman TED talk and debate afterwards (along with ICC during Atlas Week)
- April 2, 2014 - Interfaith Fair (along with ICC during Atlas Week)
- April 6, 2013 – Bullfight

**May 2014**
- May 14, 2014 – Commencement
- End of Academic year clothes drive
**Outcome**

All activities were very well attended with lots of students’ participation. For the new Academic Year we must incorporate a physical template to evaluate each one of these activities which will include head counts and sometimes open ended questions or short questionnaire like for example the one for the Spanish Cooking classes.

Spanish Cooking Classes February 12 and 26, 2014 review

As it has been the first academic year in which this activity has been incorporated, students were asked to fill out an evaluation form. The first class’ evaluation of the activity ranged from 6 to 10 out of 10. Most were in the 7 and 8 range. The first class had 18 students. They suggested taking fewer students in the class to be able to cook in smaller groups so it would be more hands on and they would have the opportunity to work at each station. The students thought the food was good but not everyone could participate and see how it was made. They suggested to warn about allergies beforehand since there were nuts in the last dish. All the students would recommend it to their friends.

The second class seemed to have more positive reviews. There were 10 students instead of 18. Their suggestion was to be in partially in Spanish so they have a chance to practice their Spanish. The evaluations were all 10 for the second class.
Student Safety

Objective
The Student Life Office aims to provide students with the information necessary to make sound choices regarding their own health and safety. Student Life staff also provide resources in cases of theft or any other event which may threaten a student’s safety.

Outcome
The following incidents were reported to the Student Life Office.

Conclusions
It is important to mention the two sexual assaults, one in the Fall and another one in the Spring. Both cases seemed to have been related to being too drunk or date drugs and were reported to the Police. In order to help students realize these matters and how they can be avoided, we already asked the Campus Ambassadors to cover these topics in the groups during orientation. This avoids “mother-talk” from staff members although these staff members will address these matters as well during the Welcome Sessions. Clear guidelines and recommendations to avoid these assaults taking place will be reinforced during the Welcome Sessions.

The on-campus thefts have increased in all the universities in Madrid. The thieves subtracted iPads, one photographic camera and two laptops. Safety warnings e-mails were sent to all the SLU-Madrid Community; posters were put up all over the campus and Computer lab coordinators reinforced the identification of all the computers' users. The installation of video cameras is being considered particularly in Padre Rubio Hall Student Lounge and Computer lab.

Off campus thefts were usually wallets in the area of Sol which is the most touristic area in Madrid. Students are always made aware of this during orientation.
Billiken Nights

Objective
The Student Life Office along with the SLU-Madrid Campus Ambassadors design entertaining and inexpensive alternatives to become acquainted with classmates and Madrid without having to engage in alcohol consumption. Ultimately, Billiken Nights are a way for students new to the city to explore the great variety found in Madrid's nightlife.

Outcome
As a result of the new-student participation in the Fall 13 and SP 14 Billiken Nights (90-123 in tapas night) Last year’s feedback through informal participant and Campus Ambassadors’ interviews, made us increase the number of Tapas nights and remove the movies and bowling nights. Billiken nights took place on Thursdays nights as well as Fridays to get more students involved and this actually happened, increasing from (60-80 students participating last year)
Non-Academic Day Trips

Objective
The Department aims to provide quality opportunities for students to make new friends while exploring Madrid nearby historical cities. To accomplish this, the students are accompanied by professional guides as well as by Campus Ambassadors who help facilitate interactions with the guides and the other students.

Outcome
For the Fall 2013 semester, Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus received over 407 students.

- 37% of incoming students visited Toledo compared to 19% in Fall 12;
- 25% of incoming students visited Segovia compared to 15% in Fall 12;
- 19% of incoming students visited Salamanca;
- 16% of incoming students visited Monasterio de Piedra.

These day trips take place during the first two weeks each semester. The trips to Toledo and Segovia were offered both on Fridays (for 50 students) and Sundays (for 100 students). This fact made it possible to increase the number of students visiting these two historical destinations. Monasterio and Salamanca were offered on Saturdays with two 50-seats buses each one of them.
In Spring 2014, our campus saw 345 incoming students.

- 43% of incoming students visited Toledo compared to 29% in Spring 13;
- 23% of incoming students visited Segovia (same percentage as in SP 13 as this trip took place also on a Friday and Sunday in SP 14).
- 15% of incoming students visited Monasterio de Piedra.
- 22% of incoming students visited Salamanca

While there is no formal evaluation of the excursions, feedback through informal conversations with the participants and Campus Ambassadors’ interviews was very positive. In 2014-2015 an assessment artifact will be in place to gather feedback data from students.

Another Day Trip that Student Life organized was a Ski Trip to La Pinilla ski resort located only an hour outside Madrid city.

**Ski Trip. La Pinilla** – General interest
January 31, led by Student Life staff

Very positive response, student enjoyed the trip, in particular, the fresh snowfall. The location of the ski resort was close to Madrid and for that reason some student chose to return the following weekend on their own. The weather conditions were not perfect, it was foggy and one student hurt her knee coming down the slope.

Spring 2014 students with SLU staff, Paula Otero in multicolor jacket and Patrice Burns (Careers Services) in black and green jacket
Finally a Student Life overnight trip takes place between the Spring and the Summer I Session. It is a 5 day pilgrimage walking Saint James Way in the North of Spain until they reach the city and the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela where the legend states that the Apostle Saint James was buried.

**Camino de Santiago** – Student Life sponsored
May 14-19, Rodrigo Urbina as the leader
This year’s Camino de Santiago, although made up of fewer students (10) in comparison with last year (16), happened to be extremely satisfactory for the students who took part in the trip. The whole group enjoyed being able to socialize not only with other SLU-Madrid students but also with people from all around the world. It is true that the experience revolving around the environment of the Camino was expressed by every single one of the participants. The general consensus within the group was that although it was not the easiest of tasks, walking on the Camino de Santiago was without a doubt an extremely enriching experience. Everyone agreed that having Rodrigo Urbina as the leader of this trip was extremely helpful since he did not hesitate to help anyone who needed his assistance. Next time to stress it even more to pack light and walking shoes since it seemed not all the students seemed to understand what this meant.

Students with Rodrigo Urbina (StudentLife Programs Assistant) at Santiago’s Cathedral
Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities and Service Learning

This year there has been a big increase in the number of students participating as volunteers with different NGOs, schools and associations, we had a total of 93 students in the Fall and 83 more giving part of their time during their Spring semester, making a total of 176 volunteers committing a total of 2372 hours of service here in Madrid, great number compared to the 117 that volunteered in the year before.

The number of Associations that receive the time from our volunteers has also increased, we now offer 32 different places for our students to go to, serving a wide range of public, children, elder people, immigrants, homeless, addicts, sick, people with disabilities, animals… This gives our students more options when deciding what group of people they would like to serve.

These numbers do not include the event that we organize to raise funds for the Red Cross in “el día de la banderita” in which around 65 students, staff, faculty and host family members participate.

We also have two SLU runs which we organize to raise funds for an organization, this years runs were dedicated to our project in Zway Ethiopia and to the Paraplegic hospital in Toledo, 79 people participated in these runs.

Conclusions

All students involved in volunteerism agreed that it had been a great experience. On a survey they took, 100% of them mentioned they had learned something while volunteering and they would all recommend their experience to others. 88% of the volunteers found the process to register for an activity an easy one.

Many of our volunteers appreciate having the opportunity to volunteer in Madrid, since giving their time to the community is something many used to do back home and they appreciate to be able to continue with this type of work. Many also realize that it is a wonderful way of getting to know Madrid and meeting locals.

What the volunteers like the most about the places they have volunteered is the people they get to meet and the bonding experience with others, be it other volunteers or the recipients of the action. The negative comments usually come from the having to commute for over 30 minutes to the place where they volunteer at.
The best experiences were Community ESL (due to location), T-Oigo (for being a very rewarding experience) as well as any action with Acción Social Protestante (for the people being nice and the different things that can be done: feeding homeless, giving out food, etc), we have some new additions that are also working very well such as FEMM (Fundación Esclerosis Multiple de Madrid) in which our students do a language exchange with MS patients, which is a great way for all to learn a new language and it help the patients self-esteem by feeling useful again when teaching Spanish to one of our volunteers, another site is the Colegio Julián Marías public school in which our students volunteer as the English teacher assistants, even though the place is 45 minutes away from SLU they still have a good number of volunteers (7) who love to go there.

The language barrier is a disadvantage to be able to participate in some activities, however an asset in many other cases, particularly those which involve English tutoring or tutoring other subjects in English.

As for recommendations for future students, most of them recommend to go with an open mind, and to take action and just sign up to do them, many people miss this opportunity because of fear of not being fluent or scared of doing something new.

"T-Oigo is an amazing program that pairs up English-speaking university students with young Spanish students who have hearing impairments. Through this pairing, university students are asked to tutor the kids by helping them out with their English speaking abilities. Each child has a different level of ability in English as well as different levels of hearing ability. Many of the children live outside of the city of Madrid, but most, if not all, of the parents are so devoted to the program that they will arrange for your transportation to and from their homes. Getting to meet a family in Spain and being able to practice your own Spanish skills is a fantastic opportunity to branch out and experience something unique while abroad. In addition, being able to tutor a child in English is an incomparably amazing experience. I highly encourage all SLU-Madrid students to join the T-Oigo program, regardless of your own level of Spanish, and volunteer with Spanish students in the Madrid area! It was definitely one of my most memorable, rewarding, and happiest experiences while studying abroad in Madrid!" by Kelsey King.
Welcome Sessions

Objective
For the Student Life Office, the Welcome Sessions, or "Orientation Sessions" are a constant work-in-progress. The changing profile of our campus demographic makes the design of appropriate Welcome Sessions dynamic. The aim of the latest designs was to foster a sense of community among newly-arrived students hosting one only session for all the students. This avoided unnecessary repetitions by faculty & staff and students to be aware of the needs of others.

Outcome
In Fall 2012, 332 students participated in the Welcome Sessions in a huge complex, Fray Luis de León (Guadarrama). Academic And Student life sessions took place in a big auditorium and after lunch they were gathered to do all sorts of outdoor activities. In Spring 2013, the 341 students participated in the Welcome Sessions. The Academic and Student Life sessions for the Study Abroad students were held at the Auditorium of Fundación Pablo VI as the weather in January is too cold to go to Guadarrama. This Academic year 2013-2014, the Welcome Sessions took place in house. With the new San Ignacio Hall building we were able to welcome all the students to our Campus.
As recommended and advised on the 2012-2013 report, in 2013-2014 students were divided into ten different groups with two presentations each.

Conclusions
Being in smaller groups helped students in getting to know each other, interacting more with the faculty and staff members delivering the presentations as well as the Campus Ambassadors in each room. Conversations got going and the afternoon activities, which were Madrid tours and neighborhood tours had many participants.
After the two main sessions, the smaller sessions recommended on the 12-13 report also took place by major or by home institutions as well as for new and transfer students with the summer reading debate. These proved to be very relevant to students and helped to address specific information to these different groups.

The Student Life team planned an overnight excursion in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 to Sierra de Gredos for permanent students to enhance the Welcome events program and retention in this particular group of students. Unfortunately neither gathered enough number of students to make it feasible. This optional trip will be offered again in 2014-2015.
FINAL CONCLUSION

The Student Life team has taken into consideration all the recommendations made in 2012-2013 report and has tried to improve things from that previous experience. To reflect in the past in order to perform better is a very good exercise and very Ignatian and the student life staff will continue with this philosophy.

In the light of the reflections of 2012-2013 performance, the Student Life Office goals in 2014-2015 are:

- Continue to improve the students’ experience in Madrid with new day trips and activities such as an overnight trip to Gredos in September and establish the Spanish Cooking classes, Flamenco Show and Ski trips as activities for each academic session.
- Improve its assessment artifacts for each of the activities sponsored and planned by this department or in collaboration with other departments to be able to reflect, learn and improve all the trips and activities for the future.
- Continue with the development of student-led clubs and organizations leaders as how to create a budget, do expenses reports, keep a record of their events, reflect and improve their activities, as well as to how and why implement SLU-Madrid policies and procedures.
- Following with the previous idea on Student Development, do a series of workshops in Intercultural Development and Service leadership.

God willing, this report will help this department in developing each one of the team members in better “men and women for others” while serving the SLU-Community and for most Our God. May all our work always be for Our God’s Greater Glory.

“God freely created us so that we might know, love, and serve him in this life and be happy with him forever. God's purpose in creating us is to draw forth from us a response of love and service here on earth, so that we may attain our goal of everlasting happiness with him in heaven.

All the things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can come to know him better, love him more surely, and serve him more faithfully. As a result, we ought to appreciate and use these gifts of God insofar as they help us toward our goal of loving service and union with God. But insofar as any created things hinder our progress toward our goal, we ought to let them go.”

— Ignatius of Loyola
APPENDIX

STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS’ RESPONSE TO END OF SEMESTER SURVEYS

The survey is not relevant as only 11 out of 407 students in the Fall 2013 and 21 students out of 345 students in the Spring 2014 semesters filled this survey out. However, we decided to share their comments to learn and evaluate the qualitative data provided by them.

THE STUDENTS WHO FILLED OUT THE SURVEY

The majority of the students who filled out the survey in Fall 2013 came from SLU-St. Louis campus. Other students came from colleges such as Boston, Saint Joseph’s University, Wake Forest, Loyola Marymount University, Trinity, and Baylor.

During the Spring 2014 semester, the 21 students who filled out were from the SLU main campus at Saint Louis. Others came from a range of colleges like Notre Dame, Wake Forest, University of San Francisco and Lafayette.

Both semesters, the majority of students were sophomores and juniors.

The students registered in the Fall 2013 were Human Resources, International Business and Finance, Nursing, Biology, Political Science, Spanish, History and Marketing majors.

The Spring students’ majors were engineering, international business, health/nursing, finance and Spanish.

Both semesters, the students answered that they came to study abroad in Spain in order to travel, for personal growth (which was the most frequent answer), learn about the language and another culture.

STUDENTS’ OBJECTIVES MET WHILE STUDYING ABROAD

The objectives that many students think they met while studying abroad were: to improve their language skills, travel and meet new people. In the Fall, some stated that to enhance their résumé in the Spring, one of their objectives was to improve or maintain their GPA. Also in correlation to the question of why students chose to study abroad, some put that it was not only to communicate in another language, but for self-growth.

But on the other hand, the majority stated that they did not meet the following objectives: learn Spanish or did not improve it to the extent that they wanted to. Others said they wish they travelled more but the underlining message in most of the answers was that they spoke in English the majority of the time.

Students said they did achieve their objectives, they did not make improvement to the language because they were never in Madrid and always traveling. Some did not take a Spanish class or it was not as high on their priorities. Another student suggested that there should be more interaction between permanent and visiting students, but also mentioned he/she had not joined any clubs or organizations to become integrated. Although many agreed that the lack of learning Spanish came from them due to the fact that they did not invest much time or try to immerse themselves into the culture.
STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS' GREATEST CHALLENGES

These responses were specifically mentioned in the Fall 2014 responses, but they did not come up in the Spring responses and the biggest challenges were the workload and time management.

Specific to Spring 2014 was the challenge of living in someone else’s house with their rules.

Both in the Fall and Spring semester students faced: balancing money in order to travel, coming out of my comfort zone, adjusting to the culture (timing, food, ways, etc.), homesickness and adjusting to the culture and meeting new people.

The majority of students said they thought they were prepared to study abroad prior to come over. While in Madrid they explored Madrid city, went to monuments and museums and they learned to operate outside their comfort zone, to cope with uncertainty, improved their self-confidence and many also answered that in Madrid they strengthened their faith. They re-examined perspectives of their own culture, accept other cultures better than before, improved their ability to make your own decisions, and learn about Spanish culture. Most of them felt they spent too much time with people from home or their own country/university.

STUDENTS' SATISFACTION OF THEIR EXPERIENCE

They mentioned they were satisfied as this experience had helped them in developing their skills & abilities, intellectual growth, emotional growth, setting professional goals, cultural competence and Spanish level.

The majority of students put that they were satisfied not only with what they learned in class but outside of the school as well.

In the Fall a couple of them stated professors were very strict. While in the Spring there were three students that said that the classes were not what they expected and disappointing. They felt that they had not really learned a lot of new information and one said she knew material was missing in the curriculum. This brings to our attention the need for a more accurate assessment artifact for the Study Abroad experience in which we can analyze better this academic information.

STUDENTS' BEST AND WORST MOMENTS IN SPRING 2014

Best: Student felt that the free time in the city and exploring, the host families, the people they met in SLU-Madrid were some of the friendliest and inviting that they had met in their life.

Worst: was traveling back to Madrid after being away; the classes they took and adjusting to the Spanish culture and timing. Juggling the work load with the time to travel. Seeing that their peers did not want to make an effort outside their comfort zone, did not put effort into their work or did not know how to control their alcohol consumption.

REASONS TO CHOOSE SLU-MADRID

Most of them responded: to see Europe while studying abroad and travel. SLU-Madrid program was approved by their school. Also many mentioned SLU and SLU credits were recognized by their home universities.
WAYS TO HELP STUDENT LIFE TO IMPROVE THE STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE WHILE IN SLU-MADRID

Some felt that the program was very good and that the problems they encountered while studying abroad had to do with more personal circumstances. The students that had problems with traveling mentioned that they had great experiences with Student Life and said that the Student Life staff did a wonderful job helping them out. Some wanted more preparation on the Spanish culture and language prior to coming over. There were comments about there being limited English in Spain and wanting more information on this fact before arriving.