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A Letter from the Chair

It is a privilege to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Fund for Education Abroad (FEA)—an organization whose mission reflects my own personal journey.

I studied abroad in Denmark as an undergraduate, and that experience reaffirmed my desire to become a physician and shaped my approach to service and leadership. More than two decades later, I'm still drawing on the lessons of that time, and I remain committed to ensuring that others can access the same life-changing opportunity.

FEA was founded on the belief that the benefits of study abroad should be open to all students, not just a fortunate few. Since 2010, we have awarded over \$4.6 million in scholarships to 1,369 exceptional scholars—most of whom are first-generation college students or come from modest financial backgrounds. What unites them is not just their ambition, but their openness to growth, their courage in stepping outside their comfort zones, and their commitment to giving back.

That last part—the giving back—is what inspires me most. When I first received support to study abroad, someone told me, "Don't pay it back—pay it forward." FEA embodies that idea. Our scholars go on to mentor others, serve their communities, and even fund future scholarships. The cycle of giving is real—and it's powerful.

As applications for our scholarships reach record highs, our mission is more urgent than ever. We invite all who believe in the transformative power of global education to join us. Together, we can keep this cycle of opportunity and impact in motion.

—Dr. Amar Rewari, Chair, FEA Board of Trustees

MISSION

To provide scholarships and ongoing support to students with financial need who face barriers to participation in education abroad. FEA makes life-changing international experiences accessible by supporting students before, during, and after they participate in education abroad programs.

VISION

In today's inter-connected world, we believe education abroad is an integral component of higher education. We envision a future in which all U.S. students are given equal access to education abroad experiences, regardless of socio-economic status. We foresee a future in which our scholars work to increase global understanding, give back to their communities, and mentor future generations of Fund for Education Abroad scholars.

HISTORY

Through the generous support of Academic Travel Abroad (ATA), the Fund for Education Abroad was established in 2010 as a 501(c)(3) not-profit organization to address the need for an independent scholarship provider to enable more American college students to study abroad. Applicants from groups underrepresented in study abroad are given preference, in an effort to make the demographics of U.S. undergraduates studying abroad reflect the rich diversity of the U.S. population. Since 2010, FEA has awarded over \$3.6 million in scholarships to 1186 undergraduates, helping students from all over the United States follow their dreams of studying abroad.

FEA remains the only national non-profit study abroad scholarship provider funded exclusively with philanthropic support, and the only independent organization dedicated to providing scholarships to students who are least likely to study abroad.



BUDGET & FINANCIALS

FEA is a fully philanthropic organization. We recognize our work could not be done without the generosity of our donors!

[Learn more about making a gift to the Fund for Education Abroad.](#)

DONORS 250

DONOR RETENTION 40%

19 NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

A huge thank you to Academic Travel Abroad, the Cyril Taylor Charitable Foundation, Gateway International Group, Susan Parry & family, Gene & Dale Kenney, the family of J. Scott Van Der Meid, Jan Kielsing & family, the Kacenga-Cladera Family, Malú Alvarez, Martha & Jeff Johnson, Pyramid Systems Inc., PFund Foundation, the Rainbow SIG, NAFSA, the Rasmussen Family, the family of Tish & Bob Walker, family & friends of Meg Witty, Linda Steckley, Amar Rewari, Cyd Curtis Bates, FEA's Board of Trustees, and many others for their support of FEA scholarships in 2024!

PROGRAM & EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

A FAFSA Resource with The Forum

In 2024, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) underwent significant updates, with a goal to simplify the application process for U.S. federal financial aid and improve accessibility for students and their families. The Forum on Education Abroad formed a working group, chaired by FEA's Executive Director Angie Schaffer, to create this resource to help education abroad and student funding administrators better understand FAFSA as a tool for awarding funds to help students afford their education abroad programs. This resource highlights the recent FAFSA updates and offers expert discussion of both the information that can and cannot be gained from this updated form and the data it outputs.

A Celebration of LGBTQ+ Scholarships with the PFund Foundation

The PFund Foundation's mission is to build equity by providing scholarships and grants within the LGBTQ+ community.

In April, FEA partnered with the PFund Foundation to celebrate our LGBTQ+ scholars and raise awareness for this valuable cause.

Wellness Event

FEA hosts a Wellness event at the Annual NAFSA (Association of International Educators) conference. In 2024, we partnered with New Orleans' first Black-owned yoga studio, Magnolia Yoga Studio. Our vegan lunch was catered by Aiji Daste and his amazing Global South Foods. FEA is committed to supporting local businesses who embrace sustainability in their practices. We're grateful to FEA Trustee Dr. Keshia Abraham for leading our session together in New Orleans and to our guests for making it an event to remember!

Fritz Kaufmann Award

This year the Fritz Kaufmann award was given to **Chef Eric Adjepong**. An acclaimed American chef, television personality, and author, Chef Adjepong has a passion for sharing culture through food. Professor Fritz Kaufmann, an Austrian-born lawyer, journalist, and economics professor, fled to the U.S. during WWII. Inspired by his experiences, he promoted cross-cultural understanding through international education, founded the Association for Academic Travel Abroad in 1950. FEA honors his legacy with the annual Fritz Kaufmann Award, recognizing individuals dedicated to fostering global understanding.

FEA Scholar Gala

On November 14, 2024, FEA held our annual Gala at Danish Ambassador's Residence in Washington, DC. The event, which was started in 2015 made for students, donors, access partners, and supporters to come together and celebrate our mission.

This year we hosted over 200 guests with 10 FEA scholars and alumni in attendance, raising over \$50,000 with a very generous Board match of \$25,000. Thank you to our event sponsors and our hosts for making this wonderful event possible!

[Check out upcoming FEA events here!](#)

NAFSA's Rainbow Reception

The annual Rainbow Reception brought in 800+ attendees for a night of celebration at Oz on Bourbon Street. Our community danced the night away and helped us raise a record-breaking \$11,022 toward the Fund for Education Abroad Rainbow Scholarship in just three hours! With these funds, the [Rainbow SIG](#) officially reached its goal to create an endowment fund to support LGBTQ+ students pursuing study abroad in perpetuity.

FEA DAY

FEA celebrated our 4th annual FEA Day: A day devoted to preparing students to go study abroad! With webinars and panels for students, advisors, and access partners, FEA day hopes to break barriers and make international education accessible for all. This year, the panel focused on equipping our scholars with the knowledge they need to feel safe and ready for their journey. With the discussion surrounding "Preparing Students for Study Abroad During Political Transitions". The panel included FEA Access Partners: CEA CPA, WorldStrides, and Education New Zealand, with Maureen Manning of The PIE News as our moderator.

ACCESS PARTNERS

FEA Access Partners engage in the FEA mission through annual support towards co-branded or allocated scholarships and receive sponsorship recognition. Access Partners also serve as members of the Access Advisory Board (AAB), providing critical leadership-level feedback on the Access Partner Program. membership is renewed annually.

We are grateful for our Access Partners, and recognize that their support of FEA is just one of the many ways that many of our AP's promote more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive study abroad.

[For more Access Partner Info, click here!](#)

SCHOLAR BLOG HIGHLIGHT & THANK YOUS

Connecting Through Language

Isabel A.

Ever since I arrived in Egypt, I continue to encounter situations that motivate me to speak Arabic. This has helped me push past the fear and nervousness that sometimes holds me back from speaking the language. Since another huge goal of mine while abroad is cultural immersion, I have spent a lot of time in Arabic of Egypt where people can only speak Arabic, making it my only form of communication. This has been an amazing way for me to connect with locals in those areas and even get my only English speaking friends to connect with them through translation.

Discovering the Pura Vida in Costa Rica

Studying in Costa Rica not only improved my Spanish, but it helped change my perspective on holistic health and the importance of a positive mindset and well-being. With this experience, I hope to effectively communicate with Spanish-speaking patients, provide culturally sensitive care, and ultimately improve patient outcomes. This opportunity wouldn't have been possible without the FEA AIFS Study Abroad Access Partner Scholarship. I am eternally grateful for all of the donors that contribute to experiences abroad. Through this experience, I'm now able to further my nursing career and skill set, and ultimately advocate for Spanish-speaking patients. Pura Vida!

Jolina O.

- Excerpt from a Letter by Logan Tayler Member
2022 Fund for Education Abroad Scholar | 2024 Gilman Alumni Ambassador | 2025 LeadNext Global Ambassador Fellow | Ed.M. in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership | Concentration in Global Studies in Education | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign