END-OF-SEMESTER GREETINGS!!! To All Fall 2008 Education Abroad Participants!

On behalf of the CUAbroad staff, I want to offer my congratulations to all of you on the occasion of completing your semester studies overseas. It is quite an accomplishment and you deserve kudos for making it all the way through. We hope that you have learned a lot, grown as a person, and that you are coming back as a changed person with global insights. Once back in the US, you will be able to share your experiences with your parents, friends and other students here at CUA. Please, talk to others about what you did and encourage them to study abroad or complete an internship while in college. Your experience is truly special and it will make you stand out in the crowd! Welcome home!

RE-ENTRY SHOCK As challenging as it was to learn to live in another country, go to a different school, perhaps speak another language and live with a host family, you’ve done it! Remember that you went through a happy, honeymoon-like initial period at the beginning, followed by periods when you had doubts about whether it was the right decision to leave the familiar behind and to challenge yourself? Slowly – and no doubt, with setbacks – you’ve adjusted and, before your departure home, hopefully became part of the host country’s culture.

Now that you are back, it’s time for re-entry shock! You may notice that sharing your pictures, blog entries and telling your stories is exciting, you may feel that very few people truly understand what you are going through. You may see your home country with a different set of eyes now and may also feel that life was much more exciting while you were away. Feeling this way is completely normal, we’ve all experienced it. Eventually, it will go away or fade or lasts until your next trip back to your new host country. You are richer and more mature because of what you did this past semester.

CAREER BOOSTER Make the most of your unique experience - it is definitely be a resume-booster! Be sure to visit the CUA Office of Career Services to learn how to upgrade your resume and advance your career. Whether it is graduate or professional school application or job search that is in your future, they can help you “talk up” your experience in an interview situation or improve your resume. Contact Ms. Kathryn Marshall at marshal@cua.edu and visit the Office of Career Services web site at http://careers.cua.edu/

WORK FOR CUAbroad. CUAbroad has a position opening for those of you wishing to learn more about international education as a career by working or volunteering in this office. The ideal applicant will want to share his/her experiences with others and be actively promoting education abroad on campus. To inquire, send an email to Ella Sweigert at sweigert@cua.edu.

EVALUATION TIME. Tell us what you think! About your program, services provided before departure and on-site, and back on campus, and more. The Education Abroad Program Evaluation form is on the web at http://cuabroad.cua.edu/forms/ and can be submitted by email. Your honest assessment will help us improve our programs for future participants. Thank you!!

FREEBIES & GOODIES. We did not have them when you departed but now our office has free luggage tags for each education abroad program participant. Pick up your CGE (Center for Global Education) luggage tags in 111 McMahon when you return to campus. We hope you will give your luggage – and the luggage tag – a workout on your trips in the future.

Best wishes and Happy Holidays,

Ella Sweigert & Madison Bolls, CUAbroad