

Some Benefits from the Study Abroad Experience

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Outline

- Life and study at our home base
- Coming to the US to study Quality
- Mixing with other Caribbean students
- New subjects and ways of studying
- New ways to see, *new and old* things
- New experiences; reviewing *old ones*
- Taking everything learned back home

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



At our Home Base

- Language and customs
- Family and friends
- Study methods and habits
- Business and labor ways
- Political and social ways
- Interaction and social life
- Other characteristic issues

Coming to the US

- Competing for the scholarships
- Preparing and gathering information
- Brushing up on our English language
- Material preparations for live abroad
- Mental preparations for live abroad
- Saying good-bye and keeping a line
- Other issues involved in the trip

Other Caribbean students

- Traditional isolation of Latin America
- Lack of interaction among its people
- Arriving to US and meeting new friends
- Learning about different countries
- Different cultures, different languages
- Different perspectives and histories
- Other important issues about diversity

New subjects and ways

- Quality Engineering topics
- Other curricular topics
- Life in an American university
- Life in an American small city
- Visiting other American sites
- Different ways and approaches
- Other important differences

New and old things

- Establishing the contrast: new/old
- Subjective and objective appreciation
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Different values and rankings
- Adapting and absorbing the new
- Without reneging of the old
- The synthesizing process

New experiences

- New books, computers, teaching ways
- New gadgets (cell phone, Ipods, Tweeter)
- New food, new clothes, new climate
- New sports (skiing, skating, shoveling)
- New media (radio, TV, Cable, Internet)
- New friends, new competitors
- Other important new things

The Synthesizing Process

- Putting Humpty Dumpty together again
- Fusion, absorption, modification, deletion
- Adapt, adopt, discard, sort and rank
- Value judgment vs. pure analysis
- Use your Quality Engineering knowledge
- This may well be your first project
- Difficult, challenging, exhilarating

Taking experiences back home

- Will it work, back home?
- Will it be accepted, back home?
- Resistance to change, a Quality issue
- Human Relations, another Quality issue
- The enrichment process: both ways
 - Those returning take new ideas and things
 - Those staying have received different ideas
- Everybody wins and grows!

Conclusions

- Travelling abroad, a great experience
- Studying a profession, a great thing
- People to People Diplomacy
- First hand contact destroys stereotypes
 - And generates a flow of human current
- Now you have become Agents of Change
- The World is Yours!