

ABROAD

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trend of increasing enrollment in study abroad programs. Since 1997-1998, the University has seen a 35 percent jump in study abroad enrollment.

"The students I talk with are enthusiastic about traveling," Vanderkar said.

Students who have been abroad had positive things to say about their experiences.

"It was great," said Sarah Countryman, a graduate student who studied in Perugia, Italy in the summer of 2001. "I learned a lot about Italian culture that I don't think I would

have here."

Evan Hobbs, a Southern Oregon University student currently studying in Quito, Ecuador, said his experience has been "incredible."

"It's been by far the most positive and valuable thing I've gotten out of college to date," Hobbs said. "If it were up to me I'd require it of all students. You could study a language for five years and not gain the fluency that you could in one year of living in a foreign country."

Hobbs and Countryman said that anti-American sentiment abroad did not negatively affect their experiences.

"People are very good about differentiating between the American

government and Americans as a people," Hobbs said. "Ecuadorians have been, for the most part, incredibly warm and friendly to me."

Countryman said she felt "totally" safe in Italy despite anti-American demonstrations that erupted during her stay.

"They had a bunch of people burning flags outside of the American embassy," she said.

Some University students did choose to stay home following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, according to Vanderkar.

"Fourteen students chose not to participate that fall, most likely due to Sept. 11," she said.

Despite international conditions, University students have chosen a broad range of countries in which to study. While Italy and Mexico are the most popular destinations, University students dot the globe.

In 2002-2003, students studied in such diverse locations as Japan, Chile, Russia, Greece, Thailand and Ghana. Two students even studied in Cuba, a forbidden fruit to most Americans because of federal sanctions.

Turkey and Israel were the only Middle Eastern nations that University students studied in during 2002-2003.

The average University student abroad is most likely a junior and

most likely female, according to University statistics. This profile is consistent with national figures.

Some fields of study also tend to draw a disproportionate number of University students abroad. In 2002-2003, 55 business majors, 55 journalism majors, 52 architecture majors, 49 Spanish majors, 47 art majors and 46 international studies majors studied abroad. Majors such as chemistry, women's studies, linguistics and geological sciences each contributed fewer than 10 students to the study abroad pool.

Contact the campus/federal politics reporter at chuckslothower@dailyemerald.com.

KENNEDY

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on January 20, 1961. He was the youngest president in the nation's history and the first Catholic to be elected for the post. Klonoski said one had to live in those days to appreciate what Kennedy meant to people. The president stands out in history because of his youth, enthusiasm and intelligence, Klonoski said.

"It was a revival of a positive government and he was going to put energy back into national government," Klonoski said.

He said he was at Kennedy's inauguration in Washington, D.C., when Kennedy uttered his famous directive, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask instead what you can do for your country."

"The promise of those words just went through the crowd and through the nation," Klonoski said, adding that Kennedy brought "hope back into the hearts and minds of America."

Pope said Kennedy is remembered because of the image of youth and apparent energy. However, there is now evidence that shows the president suffered from several physical problems.

"He projected an image of being

fresh and new and vital in ways that American politics in the '50s didn't have," Pope said.

Whether Kennedy actually had a significant impact on the political sphere is up for analysis.

"His direct impact was a relatively limited one," Pope said. He said Kennedy was not particularly effective in getting measures through Congress and he may have lost the support of more conservative politicians with some of his ideas.

Kennedy's administration was not without troubles. Kennedy's support of Cuban exiles who tried to topple communist Fidel Castro in the failed

Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 undermined his image. And the stand-off with Russia on nuclear weapons in the escalating Cold War also posed another challenge.

There is also some speculation on how Kennedy would have handled the Vietnam conflict.

Rea said Kennedy was responsible for increasing the U.S. military presence in Vietnam, which eventually led to a war that "cost the nation a generation of young men and women."

"I have often wondered whether the United States would have charted a more peaceful path in Southeast Asia had he lived," he said.

Nonetheless, Kennedy did leave legacies that still stand today. One of his most tangible contributions was the creation of the Peace Corps in 1961. He was also active in the civil rights movement.

Pope said the assassination ended Kennedy's administration before questions about his life could be answered. It left a "mystique" as people wondered what great things he might have been able to accomplish had he lived.

Forty years later, those questions and the memory of the man still remain.

Contact the news editor at ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com.

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