



DONOR REPORT

2019



STUDENT
DIPLOMACY
CORPS

SDC Chile 2019 Group on Rapa Nui

Our long-time Italian program partners recently described Student Diplomacy Corps (SDC) by saying “*Gli ingredienti fanno un pasto perfetto,*” meaning “the ingredients are what make the meal.” We wholeheartedly agree.

When building SDC programs with international educators across the globe, we curate each element to ensure the most impactful learning experience for all of our motivated Student Diplomats.

In these pages we invite you to take a closer look at two of our 2019 SDC programs. From a village in far western China to a sustainable farm in central Italy, you’ll visit the venues, meet the experts, learn about critical issues explored and gain a deeper sense of the many different ingredients that go into building educational opportunities that transform and inspire.

Thank you for investing in our unique programs and remarkable young people. Your support gives our Student Diplomats a seat at the table and opens up a whole new world of flavors, experiences, and skills that prepare them to thrive in college and beyond.



Tony Allen



Madelaine Eulich



Chris Frantz



John Meislin



Breeze Willis

UPDATED AND EXPANDED 2019 CURRICULUM

CHINA:

The Green Dragon—Environmental Activism in the Middle Kingdom

Student Diplomats, on the updated China program, spend four weeks learning about the relationship between China and the United States, both nations' impact on the world's environment, and efforts to build a greener future. Alongside organic farmers, scientists, rural villagers and leaders of the Chinese environmental movement, Student Diplomats explore the challenges of industrialization, the growth of Chinese eco-civil society, and centuries-old sustainability techniques being revitalized in China's countryside. Students are challenged to understand how the philosophical and religious underpinnings of Chinese life and culture are fueling the modern green movement. On farms and in temples, they explore the Taoist belief of *wu wei* and the pursuit of harmony between human beings and the natural world, Confucian environmental ethics and intergenerational responsibility, and Buddhist teachings on coexisting with nature instead of conquering it.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Hongfeng Organic Tea Plantation

Guiyang, Guizhou Province

From picking to sipping, students participate in the traditional processes of cultivating, curing and enjoying China's iconic national drink.



Zhonglu Village

Danba County, Sichuan Province

At the foot of two sacred mountains, Student Diplomats work with Chinese and Tibetan ecological activists at the Yunhe Forest School in far Western China. While learning about water security, community development, and zero-waste living, students explore the interconnection of faith, local culture and environmental sustainability with local monks.



Duck, Rice, and Fish Farming

Congjiang County, Guizhou Province

Experiencing first-hand a United Nations Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System (GIAHS), Student Diplomats work with farmers and villagers in a Dong minority village to examine the benefits of an ancient agroecosystem being revitalized to promote sustainable development, and provide a healthy food source in a mountainous region of Southeastern Guizhou province.



Shared Harvest

Liuzhuanghu Village, Beijing

Student Diplomats volunteer at China's first Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) farm, harvesting vegetables, exploring issues of food security and learning about the connection between Taoism and modern environmentalism.

MEET AN IN-COUNTRY EXPERT

Shuchin Shen is an activist and educator at the Yunhe Forest School in Zhonglu village in China's Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Region. Holding a master's in Environmental Art & Design, Shuchin has worked on community development projects throughout Asia and Southern Africa. Shuchin designs and facilitates workshops with Student Diplomats exploring environmental conservation efforts in the village and introducing students to the innate connections between Buddhism, ancient land use practices and sustainable development in this ecologically fragile village in Western China.

PICTURED: Group leader Sissi Liu with Shuchin Shen.



THE 2019 SDC CHINA GROUP



TOP FROM LEFT: Emily, New York, NY; Lawrence, Tiburon, CA; Taylor, Queens, NY; Thomas, Cranston, RI;
MIDDLE FROM LEFT: Jayla, Chicago, IL; Odalys, Carbondale, CO; Lauren, Naples, FL; Emmanuel, Bronx, NY;
BOTTOM FROM LEFT: Priscilla, Framingham, MA; Tarique, Newark, NJ; Tilda, Seattle, WA; Group Leader: Sissi Liu, Boston, MA

NEW PROGRAM IN 2019

ITALY:

Il Paradiso Terrestre – Between Heaven & Earth

Tuscany and Umbria are known as both the geographical center and the cultural heart of Italy. Throughout the centuries, the region's rich soils and gentle climate have produced bountiful harvests that nourish culinary, artistic and architectural traditions unparalleled in Europe. Student Diplomacy Corps' newest Italy program explores the earthly paradise - *il paradiso terrestre* - of Italy's heartland. Through university-level seminars, students explore the intersection of Italian ecology, agriculture, art, and architecture - and discover the meaning of the Italian spirit.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Tribewanted Monestevole

Umbertide (Perugia), Umbria

Living in a 15th-century Umbrian farmhouse surrounded by olive groves, rolling hills, and pastures, Student Diplomats learn about permaculture and the locavore movement on a working *agriturismo*. Workshops on renewable energy, green design, and farming are fueled by farm-to-table meals of fresh pasta and organic vegetables harvested by students themselves. Through lectures and excursions into the verdant Umbrian hills, local sustainability expert Fillippo Bozotti and his colleagues help students grasp the interconnected nature of economic, cultural, and environmental sustainability in Umbria and throughout Italy.



Tuscan Family Stay

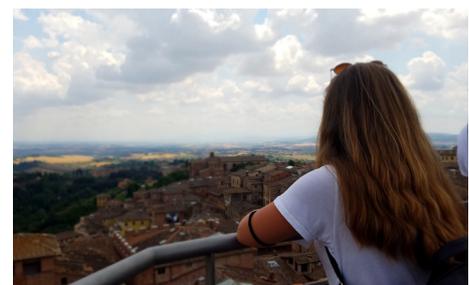
Grosseto

Close to the Tyrrhenian Sea in the Maremma region of southern Tuscany, families in the town of Grosseto welcome Student Diplomats into their homes. During the 10-day family stay, students meet the legendary *butteri* (Italy's last cowboys), explore Siena with an art historian, and practice new Italian language skills with host siblings. As the family stay concludes, Student Diplomats prepare a farewell feast for their hosts and experience public speaking in a foreign language as they thank the host community in Italian.



Umbria & Tuscany Field Exploration

The Field Exploration portion of Il Paradiso is an opportunity for students to put their newfound expertise in Italian culture, language, and history into action. During this final phase of the program, Student Diplomats carve alabaster into form with artisans in Pietrasanta; experience the spiritual power of the medieval architecture of Assisi; hunt for ancient frescoes and mosaics in Orvieto; learn chocolate making with chefs in Perugia; and practice architectural sketching in San Gimignano.



STUDENT ESSAY EXCERPT

“I felt like a gladiator myself as I walked around the Colosseum. I had only read about it in books depicting godly warriors defeating opponents and basking in glory. I basked internally in my own glory. I have traveled further than any of my family ever has. I am experiencing a new culture first-hand, I am beginning to pick-up another language, and I am developing as a future leader – not only in my community in Atlanta, but globally. With this experience and newfound knowledge, I brandish a spear and shield, and throw myself into the world’s arena.”

Jassiem Konrad
Atlanta, GA



THE 2019 SDC IL PARADISO TERRESTRE ITALY GROUP



TOP FROM LEFT: Leonardo, West Orange NJ; Kevin, Woodside, NY; Jassiem, Atlanta, GA; Gabriele, Framingham, MA; Adia, Teaneck, NJ; Jaqueline, Glenwood Springs, CO; Makeba, Kansas City, MO;
BOTTOM FROM LEFT: Athena, Newark, NJ; Isabelle, Waukegan, IL; Kenneth, Bronx NY

Student Diplomacy Corps Alumni Leaders

Over the past six years, Student Diplomacy Corps has used international education to build global citizenship and prepare students for success in college, career and beyond. We are proud to see that our first cohort of students from 2014 are graduating from college and giving back to Student Diplomacy Corps as summer Group Leaders.

PICTURED: SDC Alumna Daniela Charris with her group in Italy.



Daniela Charris:

Spain 2014 Alumna & Italy 2019 Group Leader



Born in Barranquilla, Colombia and raised in Queens, New York, Daniela participated in SDC's first program to Spain in 2014 after her junior year of high school. Daniela went on to study Government and English at Franklin & Marshall College, and studied in Italy her junior year.

After graduating in May 2019 as a first-generation college student, Daniela co-led a group of 10 Student Diplomats on SDC's "Italy: Slow Food. Rich Culture" program.

Daniela is pursuing her JD at Howard University School of Law. After graduation, she plans to practice Civil Rights Law.

Alexis de la Rosa:

France 2014 Alumnus & France 2019 Group Leader



A New York City native, Alexis participated on SDC's "France: La Cité Cosmopolite" program after his junior year of high school in 2014.

In 2019, Alexis graduated from Middlebury College where he studied Theater and Pre-Med. This summer, Alexis returned to SDC as the co-leader of the same program he participated on five years ago.

Alexis works as a paralegal in New York City, and plans to pursue a law degree. His goal is to work at the New York County District Attorney's Office.

Student Diplomacy Corps 2019 Updates

In 2019, Student Diplomacy Corps grew its professional team, adding a fifth full-time staff member. Madelaine Eulich, Associate Director of Fundraising and Leadership, worked with SDC's Board of Directors and leadership team to grow the donor base and augment staff training and professional development. Across the globe, SDC launched a new program in Italy, introduced new host communities in France, Mexico and Spain and an expanded curriculum in China. Through dynamic educational partnerships in Chicago and Colorado, SDC sent record numbers of students from the midwest and mountain west. Finally, as Student Diplomats from our first cohort in 2014 are graduating from college, exciting new data show that SDC alumni are graduating at seven times the national rate for their income bracket.

SDC 2019: BY THE NUMBERS

173 Student Diplomats from 23 states & 9 countries participated this summer.

102 High schools and youth mentoring organizations nominated students.

395 Individual, foundation and institutional donors invested in SDC.

92 days of college level seminars, lectures, workshops and master classes presented by international scholars.

100% Of students received scholarship support.

17 Thematic programs in 16 countries explored by Student Diplomats.

14 Languages taught on 5 continents during the summer.

40 In-country experts worked with participants.

1065 Student essays and personal statements were submitted by 355 applicants.

\$1 million in scholarships distributed to 173 Student Diplomats in 2019.



PICTURED: Students exploring País Vasco in Spain.



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