

2001 Study Abroad Student Deaths

Death date/ Day of incident	Name (age) Home state	Home university/ Education abroad program/ Student status/ Country of study	Location of death/ Cause of death/ Details/ News links	About this student
3/18/01	Jamie Penich/ (21) Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh/ Keimyung University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Taegu, South Korea	Itaewon, South Korea/ Homicide/ A group of six students, including Jamie and a 19-year old Marshall University student, Kenzi Snider, were attending an exchange program at Keimyung University. Two weeks into the program, students went north to Seoul for St. Patrick's Day weekend. They stayed in an inexpensive hotel near the American air base. The crowds were later said to be rowdy. Before going to bed, Kenzi said she looked in on Jamie, and she was fine. In the morning, however, Kenzi found Jamie brutally beaten to death. A US Army criminal investigation team and the FBI questioned Kenzi. She confessed to the killing, though later recanted, saying the investigators had posed leading questions at a time when her own memory was impacted by trauma. While other students reported hearing sounds of a struggle, no one investigated. Ultimately, a South Korean judge said there wasn't enough evidence to proceed with a trial and Kenzi was released. Jamie's family, however, believes Kenzi murdered Jamie.	[Unable to find further information about Jamie.]

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			<p>http://abcnews.go.com/Primetime/story?id=132409&page=1</p> <p>http://www.post-gazette.com/news/world/2003/06/19/Kenzi-Snyder-acquitted-in-murder-of-Jamie-Lynn-Penich/stories/200306190030</p> <p>http://triblive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_20380.html</p>	
5/13/01	Shannon Martin/ (23) Kansas	University of Kansas/ University of Kansas/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Costa Rica	<p>Golfito, Costa Rica/ Homicide/ This was Shannon's second trip to Costa Rica. She was collecting fern samples for her honors senior project. Shannon was walking home from town, but never made it back to her host family. In the early morning, her body was found near an abandoned airstrip, having been stabbed multiple times. In the aftermath, Shannon's mother, Jeanette Stauffer, fought to bring her daughter's killers to trial, and also to fight for study abroad laws, particularly transparent safety information. Jeanette assembled a legal team and succeeded obtaining convictions.</p> <p>https://www.deseretnews.com/article/842752/US-student-is-slain-in-Costa-Rica.html</p>	Shannon had only final exams to finish her degree in biodiversity, ecology and evolutionary biology. She had been accepted into a summer plant-ecology research project at the University of Minnesota. She hoped to publish her work and apply to grad school.

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			https://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1211/p07s01-woam.html	
			http://www.ticotimes.net/2006/04/07/new-sentencing-held-for-u-s-student-s-killers	
			https://splinternews.com/what-can-women-travelers-learn-from-the-death-of-karen-1793841428	

Non-lethal incidents in 2001:

Sexual assault

Vehicular, boating incident

Arrested, accused of murder

Robberies