

2003 Study Abroad Student Deaths

Death date/ Day of incident	Name (age) Home state	Home university/ Education abroad program/ Student status/ Location of study	Location of death/ Cause of death/ Details/ News links	About this student
1/31/03	Matthew ("Matt") Alan Mullaney / (21) Massachusetts	Fairfield University/ The Angel Academy of Art in Florence/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Italy	<p>Florence, Italy/ Not available, status not known, missing since 2003/ On January 11th, 2003, Matt traveled to Florence for a semester abroad. On the evening of January 31st, Matt was seen talking to a group of young people at a pub called The Lion's Fountain. He left at 2:30am, and according to observers was not intoxicated. On February 3rd, Matt's family was notified that he had not returned to housing or class. Thereafter, he did not use his prepaid phone card, credit cards, or ATM card. He is believe to have had with him his state drivers license and health insurance card, though his passport remained in his apartment. Florence police ruled that there was no evidence of foul play. Possible sightings of Matt have been reported in Wales, Ireland and Italy.</p> <p>http://www.matthewmullaney.com/</p>	Matt was an artist. He loved to draw and listen to music. Family recalled him as a gentle spirit with a quick wit.

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			http://www.charleyproject.org/cases/m/mullaney_matthew.html https://www.fbi.gov/audio-repository/matthew-alan-mullaney.mp3/view	
3/22/03	Brandon Brei / (26) Connecticut	Yale University/ Faculty led program, Center for Disease Control's laboratory in San Juan/ Graduate student, research/ Puerto Rico	<p>Puerto Rico/ Drowned/ A group of ten Yale students had been training to treat dengue fever at the CDC's lab in San Juan. On the 22nd, the students went swimming. Unbeknownst to them, they were swimming in water known by locals to be dangerous. A fellow student got into trouble in the water. Brandon attempted a rescue, but instead drowned. On Sunday, the 23rd, the Coast Guard called the search for his body. It is unclear if Brandon's body was ever found. (Please note, Puerto Rico is a US territory, so technically Brandon was not a "study abroad" student. However, this case remains in our data as an example of: (1) student mobility for the purposes of fulfilling one's education, and (2) the risks associated with placing students in an unfamiliar landscape.)</p>	Brandon received his bachelor's degree in biology and entomology from the University of Massachusetts. At Yale, he was a PhD candidate in biology and biomedical sciences. Brandon was especially interested in the ecology of vector-borne spirochetes, including Borreliosis and Lyme disease. He had already published six research papers, spent a year as a Fulbright fellow, and received a CDC fellowship in vector-borne disease. During this trip, Brandon presented his doctoral research to the staff at CDC. Friends remembered Brandon as generous, funny and thoughtful of others.

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			<p>https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2003/03/25/brei-grd-06-drowns-in-rescue-attempt/</p> <p>http://archives.news.yale.edu/v31.n24/story11.html</p> <p>http://medicine.yale.edu/ysph/emd/research/zoonosis/lecture.aspx</p>	
5/17/03	Jean Joseph Reginald ("Reggie") Poyau / (21) Massachusetts	Brandeis University/ Study abroad through Senegal/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Senegal	<p>Senegal/ Drowned/ Reggie drowned during his junior year of college, while studying abroad in Senegal.</p> <p>https://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-7781242.html</p> <p>http://www.thebrandeishoot.com/articles/9347</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/Reggie-Poyau-Memorial-Scholarship-162253977161462/</p>	<p>Reggie's family emigrated from Haiti when he was a child and he taught himself English by watching cartoons. Reggie was the first generation in his family to attend college. He was a political science major, with aspirations to have a career in foreign diplomacy. He became a valued member of the Brandeis Track team. The Reggie Poyau Memorial Invitational track and field event is named after him.</p>

Non-lethal incidents in 2003:
Kidnapping

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Vehicular—boating
Robbery