

2004 Education 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
1/27/04	Sean P. Reilly/ (25) Connecticut	Fairfield University/ Italian Study Abroad Program/ Undergrad, study abroad, interim travel/ Florence, Italy	<p>Barcelona, Spain/ Fall/ Sean was studying in Italy. He joined fellow students on interim travel to Spain. Sean went with a friend to a Barcelona basketball game, but did not return that evening or the next day. By the second day, students began calling hospitals and police stations. Three days after Sean had last been seen, he was located in a hospital with a massive head injury. Local papers reported that Sean had fallen off a bridge. However, it is unclear if there was any investigation. He was transferred to the U.S., where he was diagnosed as having a “minimally conscious” traumatic brain injury. He received medical care until his death in 2009.</p> <p>http://fairfieldmirror.com/news/accidentputsstudyabroadstudentinhospital/</p> <p>http://www.nydailynews.com/promising-sign-brain-injuries-article-1.622113</p> <p>http://www.nj.com/independentpress/index.ssf/2009/01/obituary_sean_p_reilly_25.html</p>	Sean was a business major on the Dean’s list.

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			http://www.seanreillytbifund.org/home0.aspx	
3/16/04	Julia Scott/ (21) N. Carolina	Agricultural & Technical State University (A & T, N.C.)/ A&T/ Ghana	Ghana/ Illness Julia was enrolled at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. School officials told the press that Julia died of an “illness,” though an autopsy “had not been completed.” Julia’s obituary indicates that her death was “unexpected.” https://www.starnewsonline.com/news/20040319/nc-aampt-student-dies-during-study-in-ghana https://www.ancestry.co.uk/boards/localities.northam.usa.states.northcarolina.counties.forsyth/11127/mb.ashx	Julia was a junior mechanical engineering major. She was an active mentor of high school students, particularly related to STEM education. Honors included Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, class vice president 2003-2004, and Dean’s List.
7/11/04 Sunday	John Paul (“JP”) Krupa/ (21) Pennsylvania	Moravian College/ It is unclear if JP’s education abroad program was through Moravian or an independent program/ Undergrad, study abroad/ Costa Rica	Guanacaste, Costa Rica/ Fall/ JP was attending an international studies program with the goal to improve his Spanish. He’d been in Costa Rica about a week, when he and two fellow students traveled to Playa Flamingo resort, a few hours from San Jose. While there, John fell and died. Police and family believed there was no foul play. “We just want to get his body home,” said JP’s mother. http://articles.mcall.com/2004-07-	In high school and college, JP was a record setting sprinter. A member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, JP was majoring in criminology, with a minor in Spanish and sociology. JP was also a cancer survivor. He had just finished his sophomore year.

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			<p>16/news/3560772_1_costa-rica-anne-krupa-moravian</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesleader/obituary.aspx?n=john-krupa&pid=2426078</p>	
8/14/04	David Sneddon/ (24) Nebraska	Brigham Young University/ Beijing's University of International Relations/ Undergrad, study abroad, post-program travel/ China	<p>Beijing/ Not Available, missing since 2004/ After a term of language study, David went hiking in the Yunnan Province and was never seen again. Although there were no witnesses and no physical evidence, Chinese authorities presumed David had fallen or gotten lost and died. However, because North Korea has a history of kidnapping foreign nationals who are skilled at languages and might be able to language train their personnel, and because David could speak both Mandarin and Korean, David's parents believe he was abducted by the DPRK. The Sneddon's have been building evidence for their claim, including reported David-sightings. China has disputed these claims, and the US State Department has questioned them. But in August of 2017, eight senators joined forces to reinvigorate the case. Parents are hopeful that they will soon know the fate of their son.</p> <p>http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3772624/American-student-kidnapped-Kim-Jong-arrested-China-helping-North-Korean-</p>	Family describes David as a skilled backpacker and trekker. He had previously traveled to South Korea on a mission trip, and later for an internship. At the time of David's disappearance, he was an Asian Language major, planning to study law and business administration. Toward that end, he'd been preparing to take the LSAT.

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			<p>refugees-escape-oppressive-country.html</p> <p>https://www.voanews.com/a/new-hope-us-student-china/3792015.html</p> <p>https://www.voanews.com/a/new-hope-us-student-china/3792015.html</p> <p>http://www.helpfinddavid.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Who-is-David-Louis-Sneddon.pdf</p>	
11/13/04 Saturday	Benjamin ("Ben") Jacob Shipley/ (21) Maryland	University of Maryland/ U-M's Study in London Program, London Metropolitan University/ Undergrad, study abroad/ England	<p>London, England/ Fall/ Ben was found lying on a sidewalk in London's Mayfair district. The case was said to be under investigation.</p> <p>http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2004-11-17/news/0411170125_1_shipley-london-program-carver</p> <p>http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/baltimoresun/obituary.aspx?n=benjamin-jacob-shipley&pid=2835204</p>	Ben was an English major, interested in drama and art history. He planned to add Spanish to his college major. Ben's high school principle said, "Ben was a multitalented young man...he got along with everyone and was well-liked." He was interested in and culinary arts and music, and had played in the school band. Ben was a talented sprinter, with some of the fastest times on his team.

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Non-lethal incidents in 2004:

Medical Event, injury—fire with severe burns