

2017 Education Abroad Student Deaths

| <b>Death Date/<br/>Day of week</b> | <b>Name (age)<br/>Home State</b>      | <b>Home university/<br/>Education abroad program/<br/>Student status/<br/>Country of study</b>       | <b>Location of death/<br/>Cause of death/<br/>Details/<br/>News links</b>  | <b>About this student</b>   |
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| 2/27/17<br>Monday                  | Legacy Watkins/<br>(20)<br>New Jersey | Dickinson College/<br>Dickinson College/<br>Undergrad, study abroad/<br>Cameroon/                    | Cameroon/<br>Illness/<br>Legacy had been in Cameroon for a month. She began to feel ill and was taken to a hospital, where she quickly died.<br><br><a href="http://www.trentonian.com/article/TT/20170227/NEWS/170229774">http://www.trentonian.com/article/TT/20170227/NEWS/170229774</a><br><br><a href="http://cumberlink.com/news/local/dickinson-college-student-dies-while-studying-abroad-in-africa/article_f46d16d0-454d-5ab8-ac7a-709744b01401.html">http://cumberlink.com/news/local/dickinson-college-student-dies-while-studying-abroad-in-africa/article_f46d16d0-454d-5ab8-ac7a-709744b01401.html</a> | Legacy was known for her “ready smile, loving hugs and enthusiasm.” She was active on her campus, serving as a Multicultural Ambassador for Admissions, and also for Hope Station, a program that brings together college students with local at-risk youth. Legacy was applying for a position at Teach for America. She said, “I strive to be an educator and mentor to uplift younger generations as previous generations have done for me...” |
| 3/4/17<br>Thursday                 | Timothy (“Tim”) Adams<br>(35)<br>Ohio | Liberty University/<br>Liberty’s global studies department/<br>Internship-mission trip/<br>Indonesia | Indonesia/<br>Drowned/<br>Tim was on an internship with Liberty University’s global studies department. Tim was at a beach when a child was pulled to sea by rip currents. Tim was able to save the child. However, he was then swept away. His body was   | Tim was an army enlistee who survived combat missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Upon return to the U.S., Tim said, “I want to spend the rest of my life not carrying bullets to other parts of the world, but I want to carry the word of God.”  |

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|         |  |  | <p>ultimately recovered.</p> <p><a href="https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/virginia/articles/2017-03-05/liberty-university-student-drowns-in-indonesia">https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/virginia/articles/2017-03-05/liberty-university-student-drowns-in-indonesia</a></p> <p><a href="http://wkbn.com/2017/04/06/warren-man-on-missionary-trip-sacrifices-his-life-for-drowning-child/">http://wkbn.com/2017/04/06/warren-man-on-missionary-trip-sacrifices-his-life-for-drowning-child/</a></p>  | <p>Thereafter, Tim enrolled in an education abroad course through Liberty University, doing a mission internship with their global studies department.</p>                            |
| 3/??/17 | <p>Unnamed female (20)</p> <p>Unnamed home state</p> | <p>University of California, Irvine/ Yonsei University/ Undergraduate, study abroad/ South Korea</p> | <p>Seoul, South Korea/ Not available/</p> <p>On the morning of March 27<sup>th</sup>, dormitory staff found the deceased student in her room. There were no signs of alcohol consumption, external injury, or suicide. Rigor mortis had set in, leading officials to conclude that the student had been dead for a few days. According to family and friends, the student’s last contact was on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Authorities planned to conduct an autopsy, “due to the possibility of murder.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.koreadailyus.com/20-year-old-american-exchange-student-found-dead-at-yonsei-university-dorms/">http://www.koreadailyus.com/20-year-old-american-exchange-student-found-dead-at-yonsei-university-dorms/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.reddit.com/r/korea/com">https://www.reddit.com/r/korea/com</a></p> | <p>The deceased student was described as “a very outgoing person,” with a “great sense of fashion,” and a “unique laugh that could just make everyone else laugh along with her.”</p> |

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|                    |                                    |   | <a href="#">ments/61s2j6/20_yo_american_student_at_yonsei_found_dead_in/#bottom-comments</a>   |  |
| 3/26/17<br>Sunday  | Brandon Barmore (17)<br>California | Sonoma Valley High School/<br>Seeds of Learning/<br>High School, service-learning program/<br>Nicaragua | Nicaragua/<br>Drowned/<br>Over Brandon's senior year spring break, he participated in a community service-learning project in Nicaragua. The project included twenty-three students from his high school. On the final day of their program, Brandon and peers were swimming in a volcanic lake within the nature reserve. Brandon did not surface. Trip leaders located and attempted to revive Brandon, but he died. Local police were said to be investigating.<br><br><a href="http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/6838406-181/sonoma-teen-who-drowned-on?artslide=0">http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/6838406-181/sonoma-teen-who-drowned-on?artslide=0</a><br><br><a href="http://www.sonomanews.com/news/6838282-181/sonoma-friends-and-family-remember?artslide=0">http://www.sonomanews.com/news/6838282-181/sonoma-friends-and-family-remember?artslide=0</a> | Brandon was a high school senior. He was known as a "whirlwind of activity and curiosity," involved in track, theater, speech and Model UN. Friends described him as "nerdy, but charismatic, hilarious and confident, but humble." Brandon had been accepted to UC-Davis and hoped to become a biologist. |
| 5/6/17<br>Saturday | Leah Bell (21)<br>Louisiana        | Pomona College/<br>DIS/<br>Undergraduate,   | Copenhagen/<br>Vehicular/<br>DIS students, nearing the end of their  | Leah was a psychology major and pre-health student, with special interest in neuroscience.   |

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|                    |                                       | study abroad/<br>Denmark                     | <p>semester, were on a celebratory boating trip when a “high speed jet ski” hit their boat. Two students were killed and five were injured. An unnamed 24-year old man was arrested for driving recklessly and fleeing the scene. He was charged with manslaughter. In January of 2018, he was convicted and sentenced to 2 years. A search of online new sources suggests that the use of jet skis near the shore had been a safety concern of local residents.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pomona.edu/news/2017/05/08-remembering-leah-bell-%E2%80%9918-0">https://www.pomona.edu/news/2017/05/08-remembering-leah-bell-%E2%80%9918-0</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/the-neworleansadvocate/obituary.aspx?pid=185397813">http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/the-neworleansadvocate/obituary.aspx?pid=185397813</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.necn.com/news/new-england/Danish-Man-Jailed-for-2-Years-After-Jet-Ski-Crash-That-Killed-Stoneham-College-Student-468028433.html">https://www.necn.com/news/new-england/Danish-Man-Jailed-for-2-Years-After-Jet-Ski-Crash-That-Killed-Stoneham-College-Student-468028433.html</a></p> | <p>She was a member of The 5C Mental Health Alliance. Leah planned to become a neonatal nurse. Family said, “she had an excellent mind and an even deeper heart.”</p> |
| 5/6/17<br>Saturday | Linsey Malia<br>(21)<br>Massachusetts | Stonehill College/<br>DIS/<br>Undergraduate, | Copenhagen/<br>Vehicular/<br>DIS students, nearing the end of their   | Linsey was a psychology major and sociology minor. She was a member of the Moreau Honors  |

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|  |  | <p>study abroad/<br/>Denmark</p> | <p>semester, were on a celebratory boating trip when a “high speed jet ski” hit their boat. Two students were killed and five were injured. An unnamed 24-year old man was arrested for driving recklessly and fleeing the scene. He was charged with manslaughter. In January of 2018, he was convicted and sentenced to 2 years. A search of online new sources suggests that the use of jet skis near shore had been a local controversy.</p> <p><a href="http://hosting6751.tributes.com/obituary/show/Linsey-Marie-Malia-104792975">http://hosting6751.tributes.com/obituary/show/Linsey-Marie-Malia-104792975</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/05/massachusetts_college_student_2.html">http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/05/massachusetts_college_student_2.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/05/after_stonehill_college_student.html">http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/05/after_stonehill_college_student.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.necn.com/news/new-england/Danish-Man-Jailed-for-2-Years-After-Jet-Ski-Crash-That-Killed-Stoneham-College-Student-468028433.html">https://www.necn.com/news/new-england/Danish-Man-Jailed-for-2-Years-After-Jet-Ski-Crash-That-Killed-Stoneham-College-Student-468028433.html</a></p> | <p>Program, a peer mentor and teaching assistant, an active volunteer, and a work-study student within Athletics. At Stonehill athletic events, she was one of four students who played Stonehill’s mascot, “Ace the Skyhawk.”</p> |
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| <p>6/11/17<br/>Sunday</p> | <p>Daniel<br/>Holland<br/>(20)<br/>Texas</p> | <p>University of<br/>Oklahoma/<br/>interim travel<br/>between two study<br/>abroad programs/<br/>Undergraduate,<br/>study abroad,<br/>interim travel/<br/>Germany</p> | <p>Berlin/<br/>Drowned/<br/>Daniel was traveling through Europe<br/>between study abroad programs. While<br/>in Berlin, Daniel and a friend attempted<br/>to swim across the Spree River. The<br/>friend made it across, but Daniel did not.<br/>Passersby, including a Danish lifeguard,<br/>attempted to save him. Firefighters<br/>retrieved his body.</p> <p><a href="http://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-community-remembers-daniel-holland-after-death-in-berlin/article_c466e97a-5050-11e7-b089-5f34c8c7e1e8.html">http://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-community-remembers-daniel-holland-after-death-in-berlin/article_c466e97a-5050-11e7-b089-5f34c8c7e1e8.html</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-student-dies-while-traveling-in-germany/article_9fea7b60-4f8e-11e7-a433-9315633be010.html">http://www.oudaily.com/news/ou-student-dies-while-traveling-in-germany/article_9fea7b60-4f8e-11e7-a433-9315633be010.html</a></p> | <p>Daniel was in his senior year,<br/>majoring in international<br/>relations, with a focus on<br/>constitutional studies. He was a<br/>member of the OU College of<br/>Arts and Sciences Leadership<br/>and had interned at the state<br/>Senate. A member of the Honors<br/>College, Daniel was on the<br/>board of OU's Informed Citizens<br/>Discussion Group. OU Honors<br/>Dean said, "Daniel was truly a<br/>brilliant, articulate, profoundly<br/>decent, and a deeply idealistic<br/>young man." He loved to have<br/>political conversations with<br/>people of different views, he<br/>listened carefully and "didn't<br/>tell people they were wrong."<br/>Rather, he "always strived to<br/>learn more." Daniel planned to<br/>become a correspondent for a<br/>major news outlet.</p> |
| <p>6/19/17<br/>Monday</p> | <p>Otto<br/>Warmbier/<br/>(21)<br/>Ohio</p>  | <p>University of<br/>Virginia/<br/>En route to study<br/>abroad in China<br/>[program not<br/>named], pre-<br/>program travel with</p>                                | <p>North Korea/<br/>Disputed: Unintentional Injury versus<br/>Intentional Injury-Homicide/<br/>Otto was en route to a study abroad<br/>semester in China. As pre-program<br/>travel, he joined the Young Pioneer<br/>Tours in North Korea. On the day Otto</p>  | <p>Described as "outgoing, athletic,<br/>bright and curious," Otto was<br/>his high school's salutatorian.<br/>When giving his graduation<br/>speech, Otto said, "I wish there<br/>was a way to know when you're<br/>in the good old days before</p>  |

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|  |  | <p>Young Pioneer Tours/<br/>Undergraduate, pre-program travel/<br/>North Korea</p> | <p>was to leave DPRK, he was detained and charged with theft of a poster. He was convicted and sentenced to 15-years hard labor. Except for a videotaped “confession” (in which Otto said he had plotted to steal a poster at the behest of the Methodist Church and the University of Virginia), Otto’s family did not hear from or about him for over a year. Shortly before Otto’s release to the U.S., North Korea informed the Department of State that Otto had contracted botulism and had been in a coma since shortly after his conviction. He was returned to the U.S. on June 13<sup>th</sup>, still in a coma. Doctors described Otto as in a state of “unresponsive wakefulness,” with brain damage resulting in a persistent vegetative state, likely due to some sort of injury-induced cardiopulmonary arrest. Six days after his return, Otto died. Otto’s family and American authorities remain skeptical of the narrative supplied by North Korea.</p> <p><a href="https://mic.com/articles/180338/otto-warmbier-us-citizen-arrested-by-north-korea-dies-of-injuries#.UhcsJepg6">https://mic.com/articles/180338/otto-warmbier-us-citizen-arrested-by-north-korea-dies-of-injuries#.UhcsJepg6</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/201">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/201</a></p> | <p>you’ve left them...This is our season final . This is the end of one great show, but the beginning to hundreds of new spinoffs.” In college, Otto was a double major in commerce and economics, with a minor in global sustainability. He’d done an internship in London and was going to spend his third college year studying abroad in China. Otto was scheduled to graduate in May of 2017.</p> |
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|         |   |   | <a href="http://7/06/15/otto-warmbiers-father-accuses-chinese-tour-company-luring-young/">7/06/15/otto-warmbiers-father-accuses-chinese-tour-company-luring-young/</a>   |   |
| 6/23/17 | Seth Thomas/<br>(24)<br>South<br>Carolina | University of South<br>Carolina/<br>Augusta University/<br>Graduate student,<br>mission trip/<br>Peru | <p>Cuzco, Peru/<br/>Fall/<br/>Seth was a medical student, on an outreach mission to a Peruvian nonprofit whose focus was improving the health of rural women. Seth’s role at the clinic was to act as translator. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Seth went hiking in the Andes Mountains. He did not return and a search ensued. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Peruvian officials found Seth’s body. It is presumed Seth died as the result of a hiking fall.</p> <p><a href="http://nypost.com/2017/06/26/medical-student-dies-in-peru-hiking-accident/">http://nypost.com/2017/06/26/medical-student-dies-in-peru-hiking-accident/</a><br/> <a href="http://college.usatoday.com/2017/06/27/university-of-south-carolina-medical-student-dies-while-hiking-in-peru/">http://college.usatoday.com/2017/06/27/university-of-south-carolina-medical-student-dies-while-hiking-in-peru/</a><br/> <a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/news/seth-thomas-university-of-south-carolina-hiking-accident-peru/">https://www.cbsnews.com/news/seth-thomas-university-of-south-carolina-hiking-accident-peru/</a><br/> <a href="http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-">http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-</a></p> | <p>Seth graduated from Clemson University. He then spent a year in Spain, teaching. He applied to medical school, was accepted, and was in his second year at USC. Seth’s grandfather said of him, “He believed he could help the people of the world. He did help them. He would have done this for his whole life.”</p> |



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|                    |  |  | <a href="https://www.swarthmore.edu/news-events/honor-bunn-buraparat-%E2%80%9920">dys/article158612529.html</a>  |   |
| 7/25/17<br>Tuesday | Bunn<br>Buraparat/<br>(19)<br>California   | Swarthmore<br>University/<br>Independently<br>arranged/<br>Undergrad,<br>internship, direct<br>enroll/<br>Thailand | Bangkok, Thailand/<br>Vehicular/<br>Bunn was on a student internship at<br>Krungsri Bank. He was killed in a car<br>accident. (No further details found.)<br><br><a href="http://www.swarthmore.edu/news-events/honor-bunn-buraparat-%E2%80%9920">http://www.swarthmore.edu/news-<br/>events/honor-bunn-buraparat-<br/>%E2%80%9920</a>                                       | Described as a “joyous, lively<br>personality that belied his<br>curious, kind, and thoughtful<br>nature,” Bunn was a strong<br>math student, committed to<br>“find[ing] the area of science<br>where he could make the<br>biggest difference.” In a recent<br>project, Bunn proposed an<br>energy storage project for wind<br>and solar renewables. With<br>Bunn’s establishment of a<br>student organization dedicated<br>to “the practical application of<br>web and app development” in<br>order to “help others who may<br>be ...facing [cultural] barriers,”<br>he “demonstrated a strong<br>entrepreneurial streak.” |
| 7/27/17            | Gregory Paul<br>Smith/<br>(20)<br>Michigan | Washington<br>University/<br>London School of<br>Economics/<br>Undergrad, study<br>abroad/<br>England              | London/<br>Not available/<br>During his son’s eulogy, Gregory’s father<br>said, “He was going to live a wonderful<br>life.”<br><br><a href="http://www.studlife.com/news/2017/08/24/renaissance-man-remembered-by-family-friends-after-death-abroad/">http://www.studlife.com/news/2017/0<br/>8/24/renaissance-man-remembered-<br/>by-family-friends-after-death-abroad/</a> | Friends remembered Gregory<br>as a “renaissance man,” with a<br>curious mind, especially<br>interested in complex questions<br>about the world. He loved<br>mathematics and physics.<br>Family said he “loved learning”<br>and sought to motivate other<br>students, including working  |

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|         |                                  |   | <a href="http://www.heraldpalladium.com/obituaries/gregory-paul-smith-jr/article_d01edc99-61fa-5262-b0c9-a34c0b0ed21f.html">http://www.heraldpalladium.com/obituaries/gregory-paul-smith-jr/article_d01edc99-61fa-5262-b0c9-a34c0b0ed21f.html</a>   | <p>with them as a physics tutor. Gregory served as mentor in his fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi, and also played on their intramural softball team. Gregory enjoyed playing golf and piano. He also loved the movie "It's a Wonderful Life."</p>  |
| 9/26/17 | Zach Heuple/<br>(20)<br>Virginia | Miami of Ohio University/<br>Miami's MUDEC program/<br>Undergraduate, study abroad/<br>Luxembourg | <p>Ibiza, Spain/<br/>Vehicular/<br/>Zach was participating in a summer study abroad program. Ibiza was one stop in a weeklong study-tour organized through MUDEC. Zach and fellow student Gary Spice were traveling on a Vespa on the western side of Ibiza. They were hit head on by a truck. Ibiza news reported that in 2017, on the islands of Ibiza and Fermenterra (combined population of 140,000), there had already been 17 fatal road accidents.</p> <p><a href="http://miamistudent.net/family-friends-remember-zach-heuples-great-moments-at-miami/">http://miamistudent.net/family-friends-remember-zach-heuples-great-moments-at-miami/</a></p> | <p>One Halloween, Zach drew a scar on his forehead with a Sharpie. When the mark took a long time to wear off, he became known around campus as Harry Potter. He was "the type of person who could light up a room." Zach's favorite quote was "Great moments are born from great opportunities." Zach was a finance major and history minor, a member of and risk manager for Alpha Sigma Phi. He was a member of Miami's intramural hockey team, and also financial consultant to Miami's credit union. Over and over, Zach was described as happy and kind, "[Zach] will be dearly missed by so many, but never forgotten."</p> |
| 9/26/17 | Gary Spice/                      | John Carroll  | Ibiza, Spain/   | Gary was to begin at John  |

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|                    | (19)<br>Ohio   | University/<br>Miami's MUDEC<br>program/<br>Undergraduate,<br>study abroad/<br>Luxembourg             | Vehicular/<br>Gary was participating in a summer<br>study abroad program. Ibiza was one<br>stop in a weeklong study-tour organized<br>through MUDEC. Gary and fellow<br>student Zach Heuple were traveling on a<br>Vespa on the western side of Ibiza. They<br>were hit head on by a truck. Ibiza news<br>reported that in 2017, on the islands of<br>Ibiza and Fermenterra (combined<br>population of 140,000), there had<br>already been 17 fatal road accidents.<br><br><a href="http://www.record-courier.com/article/20171004/NEWS/310049843">http://www.record-courier.com/article/20171004/NEWS/310049843</a><br><br><a href="https://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/obituary/gary-spice?fh_id=10874">https://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/obituary/gary-spice?fh_id=10874</a> | Carroll University fall semester.<br>He was enrolled as a business<br>major.  |
| 11/7/17<br>Tuesday | Kassandra<br>("Kassie")<br>Braun/<br>(20)<br>Indiana | St. Edward's<br>University (Texas)/<br>Semester at Sea/<br>Undergraduate,<br>study abroad/<br>Myanmar | Bagan, Myanmar/<br>Fall/<br>Kassie was one of more that 550<br>students on a three-month Semester at<br>Sea (SAS) course through Germany,<br>Spain, South Africa, India, and Myanmar.<br>In Bagan, Myanmar, while viewing the<br>sunset from a temple pagoda, Kassie fell<br>20-feet. An ambulance was called, but<br>Kassie died en route to the hospital. In  | Kassie was in her junior year as<br>a communications major.<br>Family said she was passionate<br>about helping others. A Moreau<br>Scholar, Kassie was very<br>involved in her home campus,<br>participating in Hilltop Leaders,<br>Hilltop Hospitality, and<br>Business Living and Learning<br>Community. With St. Edward's, |

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|  |  |  | <p>the years prior to Kassie’s death, local residents had express concern for tourist safety, as well as the structural integrity of Myanmar’s pagodas. In response, Bagan limited climbing to five temples (out of 2000). Wattanathaw pagoda, from which Kassie fell, was on the list of approved pagodas. SAS quickly issued a press release stating Kassie “fell while on independent travel.”</p> <p><a href="http://people.com/human-interest/20-year-old-indiana-college-student-falls-to-her-death-while-studying-abroad-in-myanmar/">http://people.com/human-interest/20-year-old-indiana-college-student-falls-to-her-death-while-studying-abroad-in-myanmar/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.teenvogue.com/story/semester-at-sea-student-from-indiana-falls-to-her-death-in-myanmar">https://www.teenvogue.com/story/semester-at-sea-student-from-indiana-falls-to-her-death-in-myanmar</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5062237/amp/US-university-student-20-dies-fall-Myanmar.html">http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5062237/amp/US-university-student-20-dies-fall-Myanmar.html</a></p> | <p>Kassie had previously traveled to Italy and South Africa. Family said of Kassie, “[She was] full of life and love...She lived the Holy Cross way hoping to someday give back as was given to her.”</p> |
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Non-lethal incidents during 2017:

- Intentional injuries—due to terrorism
- Vehicular—boating incident with injuries and death
- Sexual assaults

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