Ben Raznick
Argentina

Life After Study Abroad
After studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2006-2007), I went back to live in Argentina for two more years, and then moved to Spain for two years as an English teacher. I had free time and co-created a bilingual web series called *Pueblo*, a mockumentary style show that incorporated traditions from the town I lived in in Spain, as well as a quirky and dramatic storyline. The project allowed me to get involved in the communities where I was living, and even made it into the Philadelphia Film and Animation Festival this past fall! Now, I am finally back in my home state, Colorado, back in school getting my Masters in Education and working as a high school counselor in Denver for a non-profit organization called *Denver Kids, Inc.* I work with kids who need extra assistance and support in the Denver Public Schools to graduate and apply to college.

Impact on Life, Goals & Career
Studying abroad changed my perspectives dramatically. Every person I met lived a very different life than I had ever seen before. By immersing myself and developing relationships I got an inside look into a new culture. I experienced crazy, unexpected adventures and five years later, still keep in contact with my same friends. It’s always a great day when I get an email from a friend abroad with an update on their life. I worked abroad as an English teacher because it was an easy way to survive, however, back home, I realized very quickly that I love education and I love learning. Life is truly an endless learning adventure, and it doesn’t matter where I am geographically, I am meeting new and exciting people who teach me new things every day. Now that I am involved in education, I am especially thankful to have been abroad and learned Spanish, giving me experiences that I will never forget and a language tool to use every day!

Advice for Returning Students
I think it’s challenging to come home, when the past six months or year have been an endless adventure. It’s also challenging to not want to talk about your travels all the time! Each time I came home from being abroad, I took my five favorite recipes and had an “Argentine Asado” (Steak dinner) or “Spanish Tapas” night. I invited friends who weren’t abroad with me, and with help from friends who did travel abroad with me, we prepared amazing dinners for everybody to enjoy traditional food and drinks. It’s a good way to culminate the experience and share something that we all have in common, love for food!

Interview from August 2013

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