Some Benefits from the Study Abroad Experience

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Outline

• Life and study at our home base
• Coming to the US to study Quality
• Mixing with other Caribbean students
• New subjects and ways of studying
• New ways to see, *new and old things*
• New experiences; reviewing *old ones*
• Taking everything learned back home
At our Home Base

• Language and customs
• Family and friends
• Study methods and habits
• Business and labor ways
• Political and social ways
• Interaction and social life
• Other characteristic issues
Coming to the US

- Competing for the scholarships
- Preparing and gathering information
- Brushing up on our English language
- Material preparations for live abroad
- Mental preparations for live abroad
- Saying good-bye and keeping a line
- Other issues involved in the trip
Other Caribbean students

- Traditional isolation of Latin America
- Lack of interaction among its people
- Arriving to US and meeting new friends
- Learning about different countries
- Different cultures, different languages
- Different perspectives and histories
- Other important issues about diversity
New subjects and ways

- Quality Engineering topics
- Other curricular topics
- Life in an American university
- Life in an American small city
- Visiting other American sites
- Different ways and approaches
- Other important differences
New and old things

- Establishing the contrast: new/old
- Subjective and objective appreciation
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Different values and rankings
- Adapting and absorbing the new
- Without reneging of the old
- The synthesizing process
New experiences

• New books, computers, teaching ways
• New gadgets (cell phone, Ipods, Tweeter)
• New food, new clothes, new climate
• New sports (skiing, skating, shoveling)
• New media (radio, TV, Cable, Internet)
• New friends, new competitors
• Other important new things
The Synthesizing Process

- Putting Humpty Dumpty together again
- Fusion, absorption, modification, deletion
- Adapt, adopt, discard, sort and rank
- Value judgment vs. pure analysis
- Use your Quality Engineering knowledge
- This may well be your first project
- Difficult, challenging, exhilarating
Taking experiences back home

• Will it work, back home?
• Will it be accepted, back home?
• Resistance to change, a Quality issue
• Human Relations, another Quality issue
• The enrichment process: both ways
  – Those returning take new ideas and things
  – Those staying have received different ideas
• Everybody wins and grows!
Conclusions

• Travelling abroad, a great experience
• Studying a profession, a great thing
• People to People Diplomacy
• First hand contact destroys stereotypes
  – And generates a flow of human current
• Now you have become Agents of Change
• The World is Yours!