ABSTRACT
There are many reasons why students and faculty choose to study abroad during their education experience. The list can include language acquisition, cultural awareness, resume building, or simply learning more about self. This study focused on the impact of cultural awareness and learning about self. Many students who enroll in agriculture programs tend to have limited access to international experiences. This is unfortunate since agriculture is such a large global industry. The objective of this study is to identify and assess the attributes that impact global competence and to understand if personal growth is taking place through participation in study abroad programs. A group of 12 students and 4 faculty met 3 times prior to the departure of the trip to discuss expectations and perform basic cultural education on Mexico. Only 5 faculty and 2 students returned as part of a 22 question survey. Students and faculty were also asked to keep a journal to document their experiences and thoughts regarding the trip. Specific findings are shown below.

MATHEMATICALS AND METHODS
Ten students and two faculty members participated in the travel study program in the spring 2010 semester. Five of the ten students had also participated in the study abroad program the previous summer semester for a month. The travel study trip took place in Sateillo Mexico and was hosted by the Universidad Autonoma Agraria Antonio Nario (UAAAN). The planning began during the previous fall semester. Students and faculty met 3 times prior to the departure of the trip to discuss expectations and perform basic cultural education on Mexico. Only 5 faculty and 2 students returned as part of a 22 question survey. Students and faculty were also asked to keep a journal to document their experiences and thoughts regarding the trip. Specific findings are shown below.

INTRODUCTION
Creating globally ready graduates is becoming a common topic among educators (Yang, 2008; Magyarszko, 2006). It is important for students to gain the most from an international travel study experience. Travel study experiences are not the same as a private travel experience such as a family vacation or spring break trip. The benefits from travel study trips have been shown to be positive in the short and long run time frame. The journaling adds a whole new dimension to the travel study experience.

Student journaling can be an effective tool to capture student perceptions (Gustafson, 2006; Mills, 2008). It is important for instructors to find better ways to link education in the classroom with real world experience. Students often can forget their experiences on a travel study trip once they return home. The use of journals for students to capture their thoughts immediately after they happen can be helpful in directing and organizing thoughts. Students can be given starter questions to build on their thoughts immediately after they happen can be helpful in directing and organizing thoughts. Students can be given starter questions to build on.

The journaling added a whole new dimension to the travel study experience. Students did gain a better understanding of other cultures through the journaling assignment.

SELECTED STUDENT PERCEPTIONS FROM JOURNALS

"The Mexican factory we visited today surprised me. It was just as modern as the average U.S. factory.” (Dolores, SR Agribusiness Major)

"It may sound strange, but I ate cow tongue. It really was not that bad.” (Debbie, SR Agribusiness Major)

"I have to say, I didn’t have the same stereotypes as before, but I definitely saw cultural differences between the southern part of Mexico and the northern parts.” (Debbie, SR Agribusiness Major)

"I had not believed how small the cornfield factory was! It was nothing like what I expected. The plants just a few workers that did everything by hand. It was very different than what I expected.” (Elizabeth, SR Agribusiness Major)

"The northern parts.” (Debbie, SR Agribusiness Major)

"It may sound strange, but I ate cow tongue. It really was not that bad.” (Debbie, SR Agribusiness Major)

"The Mexican factory we visited today surprised me. It was just as modern as the average U.S. factory.” (Dolores, SR Agribusiness Major)

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