



# C.I.I.P News



Spring 2012

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Inside this issue:

Director's Message	2
Chanel Perry in Ghana	2
Arielle Akines in Spain	3
Jeremy Montgomery in Italy	3
Alexis Ellis in Argentina	4
David Collins in Italy	4
Odell Isaac in Barcelona	4
Aleia Mays in Italy	5
Kamirah Demouchet in Angola	5
Campus Deadlines	6

## My time Abroad by Malcolm Moise

The idea of studying abroad was always appealing to me, and never did I think that it would have been such a rewarding experience. I always knew that I would enjoy a program in a Spanish speaking country and I also possessed zeal to visit Europe. Spain fulfilled both requirements. I chose Barcelona based on literature which described it as a mixture of ancient and modern Europe. I participated in a study abroad program through International Studies Abroad (ISA). I decided on ISA due to the level of freedom their program offered for my semester abroad.

My study abroad experience was a wonderful experience filled with unforgettable moments. It was the

most enriching aspect was my immersion in numerous foreign cultures. I resided in Barcelona, one of the most popular cities in Europe. I experienced Spanish culture, and the culture native to Barcelona, Catalan. During the semester, I visited numerous cities in Spain, and a few around Europe. Though relatively close compared to U.S. standards, the culture could not be more varying. It was quite enjoyable to experience all aspects of the different cultures.

Several other aspects solidified my period abroad. While in Spain, I experienced a sense of self-confidence that I had never experienced before. The ex-

perience clarified that I could survive on my own no matter where I am, domestic land or foreign land. I established lifelong friendships with students who were going through the same experience. During the arduous times, we persevered together and made our experience abroad one to never forget. I strongly recommend studying abroad.



- **Sister Mary Ann Stachow, Dr. Sara Al-Dahir, & Dr. Anderson Sunda-Meya gave presentations on their XIC Grant experiences during International Education Week at Xavier University**

## Xavier Faculty Travel Abroad on XIC Grants

The objective of the Xavier Internationalizes the Curriculum (XIC) Grant is to support faculty development in the intercultural and international arena and to internationalize the academic curriculum. Five faculty members were awarded XIC Grants during the 2010-11

Academic Year: Dr. Anderson Sunda-Meya of the Physics and Engineering Department traveled to Angola; Dr. Sara Al-Dahir of the College of Pharmacy traveled to Qatar; Sister Mary Ann Stachow of the Theology Department traveled to Italy; Dr. Rosalind Hale and Dr. Renee Akbar of

the Education Department traveled to England.



Malcolm Moise & the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Torian Lee, JD**  
**CIIP Director**

Faced with a planet that has changed from just 10 years ago, higher education is confronted with rapidly changing political, economic, and security issues. To address these challenges it is essential that Xavier University graduate globally competent students. "Globally competent students possess a combination of critical thinking skills, technical expertise, and global awareness allowing for them not only to contribute to knowledge, but also to analyze, and evaluate its meaning in the context of an increasingly globalized world." Global competence is essential to our students as they enter an increasingly competitive global marketplace. The skills that form the foundation of global competency include the ability to work effectively in international settings; awareness of and adaptability to diverse cultures, perceptions and approaches; familiarity with global change and the issues raised as a result; and the capacity for effective communication across cultural and linguistic boundaries. If we are to be successful in developing these skills in our students, we must continue to pursue a comprehensive and systematic approach to campus internationalization. Internationalization is "a range of activities, policies, and services that integrate an international and intercultural dimension into the teaching, research, and service functions" of Xavier University.

As the Director of Xavier's Center for Intercultural and International Programs (CIIP), I have been charged with developing a campus plan for internationalization over the next few years. I have enlisted the assistance of Xavier's Global Awareness Committee and campus community to help review Xavier's current international efforts and to formulate the internationalization strategic plan going forward. The pieces that facilitate Internationalization (students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, the surrounding community, foreign universities, and the private and public sectors) are present at Xavier. These pieces collaboratively will help us to integrate an international and intercultural dimension into the teaching, research, and service functions of the university.

In closing, I am very honored to be a part of the Xavier community and I look forward to working with each of you toward the mission of "preparing students for leadership and service in a global society."

## Chanel Perry Witnesses Need in Ghana



**Chanel Perry**  
**and Nanna in**  
**Ghana**

Upon our arrival to baggage claim, our host made it very clear that there will be people waiting outside to try and take our bags and assist us with our luggage. This gesture was not out of kindness but for money alone. The moment I step foot outside of the Ghanaian airport, I saw a rush of people make their way towards my group. People tried to "help" me with our luggage as we made our way to our host's van. One man would not go away and insisted that we'd pay. Finally, someone gave him money (even afterwards, he tried to get money from everyone) and he went on his way elsewhere. This was my life on a regular basis while in Ghana. With my skin color being a flag, I was seen as a piggy bank full of cash, an opportunity for the next meal for someone's family. It was a very stressful situation. I finally got to the point to realize that I couldn't help everyone. I did my best to do so. The young girl in this picture is named Nanna. She was on an island that we were visiting. She walked up to me and grabbed my hand and guided me. I knew why she was with me, but at the moment I did not care. She was sweet and had stolen my heart. My experience in Ghana changed my life. I saw things that television could not portray. I gained relationships with lifelong friends. They taught me so much about life through their eyes, which is so different from that of an American. Of course, there was a great deal of poverty, but this drove those people to work so hard and fight for their welfare of their people.

# My Spanish Improved in Malaga, Spain by Arielle Akines

Hi, My name is Arielle Akines and last semester, Spring 2012, I studied in Malaga, Spain. My experience abroad was life changing. I found myself falling in love with the culture, language and city of Malaga. My Spanish improved so much that I was able to communicate with locals daily. I also had awesome teachers who loved their job and really wanted to see their students succeed. One of the best parts of living in Malaga was the beach, which was directly outside of my front door. I also traveled outside of Malaga to other cities of Spain such as Madrid, Seville, Granada and Barcelona and even to other

countries like Ireland and Germany. Overall, my experience abroad is something that I would do over and over. The warmth of the people in Spain, my fellow study abroad peers and my home stay parents made my trip absolutely amazing.



**Arielle Akines, enjoying the day in Spain.**

## Getting out of my Comfort Zone in Italy by Jeremy Montgomery

My experiences in Italy were inspiring and memorable but the journey was difficult. This had nothing to do with money but about emotion. I made it to New York City to catch my international flight and I became timid and scared because I was "getting out of my comfort zone." However, I reassure myself that this is an

opportunity of a lifetime. I boarded my flight and nothing but new beginnings and excitement lie ahead.

The countryside of Italy was beautiful and from that moment on I was captivated by its beauty. Seeing the ancient society of the Romans and the modern city has left me forever changed. I

enjoyed the language and culture that the Italians embraced. Now, I am more open to different cultures and have a great appreciation for life. Again, I was forever changed by this experience.



**Jeremy Montgomery in Italy (summer, 2011)**

## Journey to Buenos Aires, Argentina by Alexis Ellis

When I first decided to study abroad, it was solely because I was a Spanish major. I thought to myself that international study would be a fast and fun way to become fluent and that it would give me some kind of advantage when taking the senior comps. The extraordinary thing about my study abroad experience was that my semester abroad fulfilled all of these expectations and many more unexpected ones - I can't even count!

What I didn't realize when signing up to go to Argentina is that study abroad is about so much more than learning a language. We can easily put a price tag on education - we often do. But the lessons I learned about human interactions, cultural differences, overcoming barriers and adapting to new environments is priceless. More specifically, there is something uniquely beautiful about separating yourself from your comfort zone and confronting all challenges, both internal and external. I am so grateful for the opportunity to grow as a person and to strengthen my worldview. Studying abroad was so much fun and I will recall my memories of Argentina forever!



**Alexis Ellis points at Buenos Aires**

# True Life- I Studied Abroad

Rome was an exhilarating experience! I cannot underscore how appreciative I am that I was afforded the opportunity to take part in this trip! Most people are only able to GOOGLE image search famous places in Rome. I have images etched in my mind that I pray I never forget. Rome is oozing with history-rich spaces. Being able to toss a coin into the Trevi fountain, touch the remnants of marble within the walls of The Coliseum, or drink from the fountains at Villa de Este, the experience was invaluable. The Vatican was one of, if not THE most striking of the places we visited. To be so close to the magnificence of the frescoes found within the Vatican's interior and [now] wholly know the history behind these images, truly shows the impact art can have on the viewer. This trip was a once in a lifetime experience. Fortunately, this experience was granted during Summer 2011! I studied abroad! I traveled across the North Atlantic and ventured into another country and culture. I learned about the very beginnings and struggles of the Catholic Church! I've never been so thankful for entering CRN #50033 into Banner Web. I'd recommend studying abroad to any student who wishes to articulate their global perspective. It will enhance you socially, academically, and professionally. In short, DO IT!



**David Collins smiles with friendly Italian police officers**

## Barcelona Experience by Odell Isaac

In 2011, I embarked on a journey of a lifetime. On August 31, 2011 at 5:00am I walked into Armstrong International Airport, final destination: Barcelona, Spain. Barcelona is an amazing city; it has beautiful beaches, extraordinary architecture, and cool people from all over Europe. I remember waking up at 9:45a.m. for a 10:45 a.m. Spanish class. By 12:45p.m.; I was at the beach, surrounded by people from all over the world, listening to my friend play the guitar, as we all sang along to Bob Marley songs. While in Barcelona, I was able to go to Girona, Valencia, Berlin, Munich, Collioure, Innsbruck, Vienna, Mallorca and Amsterdam. As I walked the streets of these places, I couldn't help but think of all the history, these nations that shaped the world, places where kings once reign from formidable castles, where Picasso would meet with like-minded friends, and where in the late 1930s a people once fled from an oppressive dictator.

I learned a lot in Europe. I learned to speak Spanish, I learned to love soccer, I learned to take chances, and I learned to appreciate New Orleans, my home, a place with such a rich history and varied culture. I made great friends from America in places like Rochester, and Minnesota as well as abroad, from places like Germany, Austria, Holland, and Spain. My experience inspired me to go further and see more. I realized that the world was bigger than the United States, and I'd like to see as much of it as I can, I'd like to learn its languages and mingle with its people, taste its many foods. I'd like to thank Xavier University of Louisiana, The Office of Graduate Placement, and the Center for International and Intercultural Programs, which allowed me to achieve a dream that may have taken years or may have never occurred.



**Odell Isaac, enjoying his study abroad experience in Spain**

## Aleia Mays' Amazing Stay in Italy

During our trip to Italy we were not able to go to all of the cities, but we did go to four major cities which were the Vatican, Rome, Florence, and Pompeii. I enjoyed all of the cities, but I enjoyed staying in Rome the most. I really enjoyed Rome because the history of the place was so vivid. I could not believe that I was actually in the historic city. I felt like it was a surreal experience because the things I saw with my own eyes are things that I had learned about in history books. While in Rome we toured the Coliseum and the Forum ruins. I enjoyed the Coliseum and the Roman ruins because we saw artifacts that people only get to see in books, and it was interesting to see how the people in those days built such huge monuments without major technology. To actually see the Coliseum was very interesting because it was still in pretty good shape to be so old. For the building to have lasted so long is amazing, and while I was there I wondered if the buildings that we make today will be able to last as long as these ruins. Another place we visited that I enjoyed very much was Florence. All in all it was very interesting and beautiful. The city of Florence has so much pizzazz, I think. I say that because it seemed so much more colorful than the city of Rome and all of the sculptures make it so much more interesting. The best part of Florence was being able to see the statue of David. I thought that it was so amazing because the statue of David is something that I have seen in pictures. I honestly understood how speaking English as a first language is something that is an advantage to me since it is one of the dominant languages. From going to the school I also realized that a language that I should try and learn is French because that is another dominant language. I always thought that learning Spanish would be to my best advantage, but if I want to broaden my ability to work with foreign countries one language I should try to learn is French. Learning all of these new things taught me that it is all right to come out of your comfort zone.



**Aleia Mays tours the Historic Coliseum in Rome, Italy**

## Our Journey into Humanitarian Engineering by Kamirah Demouchet

After traveling for almost 24 hours, we have arrived in Angola where Dr. Sunda-Meya was waiting for us. Luanda, Angola, was the first stop of our study abroad course, *Global Engineering Outreach (GEO)*, offered for the first time last summer.

Luanda is the capital of Angola and is home to more than two-thirds of the total population of Angola. However, Luanda was not our resting place which would be Uige, Angola. Uige is located in northern Angola and is approximately six hours from the capital. On our journey to Uige, we passed numerous villages. Outside of the villages, people could be seen carrying anything from fruits atop their heads to machetes in their hands. It was almost nightfall before we arrived in Uige. It was not as big as Luanda, but it was not a small city either.

Once we were settled in our residence, we were invited to have dinner with the President of Kimpa Vita University. While at dinner, we were able to take part in the city's annual celebration which takes place from July 1 to July 7. The celebration is in honor of the founding of Uige. This year marked the 94th year of the city. That's remarkable considering it survived the twenty-seven year civil war. The living conditions were not what we are accustomed to in America. It took a while to adjust, but it was definitely manageable. Adjusting to the time difference was pretty difficult. When it is morning in Uige, it was still the previous day or in the early morning hours of the next day in America.

Our trip consisted of meetings and tours. We met with the doctors, political leaders, and university staff members to discuss telemedicine project. Telemedicine allows doctors to communicate with patients in remote areas via satellite. A televised press conference was held at the University on July 15. Our audience included the vice governor of Uige, university teachers, and doctors from as far as Luanda. Our team was able to put together a presentation of telemedicine in Portuguese to make it easier for the present audience and those who would see it on television. Many people were interested in working with us on the future implementations of the telemedicine project. The press conference was a huge success. People do not like it when a solution is forced onto them by outsiders; by including the community, it made it easier for not only the leaders of the community but also the everyday people to accept the idea.

After two weeks of meetings and traveling to different sites, it was time for us to depart. It was a bittersweet moment. Memories and lasting friendships were made on our journey. We may not have been able to accomplish all that we set out to do, but we impacted a lot of lives, and we were a part of a great project that will benefit thousands of people. It was a blessing to have been able to travel to Africa and help those less fortunate.



**Jasmine Jones, Joya Johnson, Kamirah Demouchet, & Kendall Davis walk on a country road in Uige, Angola**

**Xavier University of  
Louisiana**

1 Drexel Drive  
St. Joseph Resource Bldg.  
Room 312  
New Orleans, LA 70125

Phone: 504-520-5491  
Fax: 504-520-7920  
E-mail: [tllee@xula.edu](mailto:tllee@xula.edu)



**We are on the Web at  
[www.xula.edu/ciip](http://www.xula.edu/ciip)**

The Center for Intercultural and International Programs does the following:

1. *Advises students on study abroad, internships, & service learning*
2. *Promotes Internationalization of the curriculum*
3. *Promotes Faculty international development*
4. *Organizes Campus intercultural and international activities*
5. *Visa Support and advising for foreign students and scholars*
6. *Advises multicultural student organizations*
7. *Advising on International Education Scholarship & Awards*
8. *Coordinates campus study abroad application process and procedure*
9. *Serves as the clearinghouse for all Xavier International Activities*



## **Center for Intercultural & International Programs Important Deadlines**

February 3	Campus Deadline for the Boren Scholarship
February 10	Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program deadline
February 15	Institute for International Public Policy Fellowship deadline
February 15	Summer Freeman Asia study scholarship deadline
March 1	Gilman International Scholarship Deadline
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Xavier Study Abroad Deadline for Summer and Fall Programs</b>
April 1	Fall Freeman Asia study scholarship deadline