



Xavier University of Louisiana
Center for Intercultural & International Programs



CIIP News

2014 - 2015 Issue

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An Epic Summer in Cyprus

By Nia Beasley (BIOLOGY)

For the summer semester of 2014, I decided to make a life changing decision to leave my mundane American lifestyle behind, and embark on an epic journey to study abroad in Cyprus. I have always had the aspiration to plunge into a unique culture and region that was far from the United States. But I was always discouraged by the lack of biology courses offered.



Fortunately with the help of the study abroad office, I was able to find the Animal Science in the Mediterranean program hosted by Global Semesters (GS). This month long opportunity allowed me to not only gain six biology credits toward my degree, go on amazing weekend excursion all over the country, but also helped my friends and I plan

an awesome weekend expedition to the great city of Cairo, Egypt! By going to local clubs and venues we were able to truly immerse in the laid back Cypriot lifestyle as well as get swept up in the excitement of the World Cup! I was fortunate enough to celebrate an epic 21st birthday in Cyprus with my new local companions and my awesome friends from the GS program! After my brilliant summer in Cyprus my life has not and will not ever be the same!



Nia in Egypt

Director's Message



Study Abroad as a Pathway to your Career

Xavier's mission is to promote a more just and humane society and to prepare students for leadership and service in a global society. To meet the mission, students must take advantage of the multiple opportunities to develop their knowledge of the world generally and as it relates to their chosen field of study. At Xavier, study abroad is one of many ways students can work toward meeting the mission and setting themselves on the path toward graduate school or the workforce.

Study abroad is one of the most exciting and challenging experiences you will have during your college years. It may be the first time you will live in another culture, travel internationally, or build upon your foreign language study. It has the potential to provide you with a fresh outlook and unique perspective on a career you've been thinking about after graduation.

However, even if your career goals are not clear, studying abroad has the potential to clarify the direction you would like to take, give you a new perspective on your academic work, and strengthen skills that will be of benefit to you during your job search.

Given the widely accepted impact of globalization on the U.S. economy and in light of the new skills in demand in business, nonprofits, and government, it is to your advantage to consider the career implications of what may be a once in a lifetime educational experience. Study abroad will provide a unique opportunity for you to set yourself apart from other job seekers and to build valuable new intercultural skills and competencies.

According to Xavier's study abroad partner, the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), job applicants with international experience will stand out for many reasons, including the following:

1. Today's global marketplace demands increased adaptability, cross-cultural sensitivity, political awareness, and intellectual flexibility
2. Globalization's impact on workers and the workplace has leaped across national borders and transcends cultures
3. Employers, especially those doing business internationally, are interested in whether or not a job applicant demonstrates they have developed the requisite skills and sensitivity that make them stand out as the strongest candidate for a particular job.

Further, AIFS indicates that in addition to international experience, employers are looking for candidates who have articulated the lessons learned and the intercultural and interpersonal skills that were strengthened as a result of studying abroad. Some of the skills employers look for in a promising candidate are:

1. General cognitive skills (problem solving, analytical ability)
2. Interpersonal and relationship skills
3. Tolerance for ambiguity and adaptability
4. Cross-cultural competency (ability to work well in different cultures and with people from different backgrounds)
5. Personal traits (character, self-reliance, dependability)

In sum, studying abroad can definitely provide you with the capacity to build and strengthen the above skills and competencies. Coupled with other out-of-classroom experiences such as home stays, travel, work, or internships, the entire experience offers you an unparalleled opportunity to create a "toolkit" of competencies that will impress an employer and help you stand apart from other job applicants.

For information on Xavier's Study Abroad opportunities, please stop by the Center for Intercultural and International Programs, Saint Joseph Student Resource Center, Room 312 (504) 520-5491.



An African Adventure

By Schyler Morton (Biology Pre-Med)

Growing up and to this day, everyone has seen a commercial where they show starving children in Africa and ask for donations to help these children and other thousands of people. As a child, you instantly become sad and want to be able to help. Hearing about *Doctors Without Borders*, I made a decision in that I would one day go to a part of Africa where there is a need for help. In traveling to South Africa for a month long study abroad program I learned so much about the country, history and people. So many family members and friends were scared for me to travel by myself especially to a place that is depicted by the media as struggling and filled with sickness and violence. While in some areas these statements might be true, they never had us in any dangerous villages and there was no need to worry unless you came face to face with the leopard while you were running around camp.

I was nervous before getting on the airplane to leave New Orleans because it finally hit me that I was about to leave the country by myself. This was huge for me since I never flew international by myself and this was the first time leaving the US for an extended amount of time since living in Spain when I was younger. You might get tired of the airplane but I recommend having layovers in other countries. Just my overnight stay in Madrid, Spain had me ready to plan my next trip back to Europe. I knew I made the right decision where to study abroad when I landed in Johannesburg, South Africa. Minus the cold weather, it completely blew my mind when I stepped out of the airport and saw that this was just a normal busy city like anywhere else. It was at this time I realized that I needed to stay open-minded about my experience and really take in South Africa.

The Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) South Africa program was not held at a university but at four different locations around South Africa including the main location, Kruger National Park. At first it seemed like a lot of work was due over the course of a month, but once you get into it there really is time set up to do work and also to just enjoy South Africa. A typical day consisted of lectures in the morning, field trips afterwards, and the rest of the day to either relax, go hiking, jumping off a waterfall or playing soccer and Frisbee. You will see plenty of animals around the camps especially on safari rides every morning during the final week. The lectures really were not bad at all, as they were held outside in the open overlooking a river in one location and constantly getting interrupted by monkeys and giraffes in other locations. I learned so much about the healthcare in South Africa and how it is both similar and different from the US. There was also a research project where we participated in home

Schyler Morton continued

stays for 4 days in villages around South Africa. Not only did this give us research experience but also let us interact with the natives of that village and let them show us a piece of their culture. Most villagers did not speak English so we were given a translator to help conduct the research and everything else that was needed. It was my home stay experience that showed me that while the media might depict these people in one way, most are completely happy about their situation and even many said they would never think about leaving their village. I can honestly say that this trip will go down as the top experience of my lifetime, not only due to the amazing people that I met, but because of the knowledge I received there and you truly do not know the beauty of the Motherland until you are standing on top of a mountain during the sunset looking out toward the horizon.

An Unforgettable Journey

By Faith Joseph (Biology Pre-Med)

My experience in Costa Rica was beyond amazing. From the culture to the people to the atmosphere Costa Rica is a place I would not hesitate to return. Initially I will admit I was fearful of a new environment especially in another country but once I landed in San Jose, my fears were alleviated. Each day in Costa Rica was a new chance to truly indulge in a new atmosphere. I met people less fortunate than me who had more happiness than I could ever have. The attitudes of the locals or Ticos are what I really enjoyed most. People were beyond friendly and welcoming to those of us new to their home. Secondly taking the journey allowed me to truly strengthen my communicative skills in Spanish. I can definitely see the change in the way I speak now in comparison to my former knowledge of the language. I personally encourage all of you to embark on such a journey for the memories are endless.



Travel and open yourselves to the world you have yet to explore, it will never disappoint you.

Thanks,

Faith Joseph

Making an Impact

By Kayla Irby (Psychology)

My main decision to study abroad was heavily influenced by me wanting to immerse myself into another culture, while also having the opportunity to see how we are globally connected to others around the world. Even though I wasn't absolutely sure on how I would be able to accomplish both of these goals, I still went to the study abroad office. The office helped me make an enlightened decision on the possibilities on an internship placement, depending on the country of my choice. I must be honest, the idea of studying abroad had never quite appealed to me, but everything changed after taking intercultural classes and discovering how everyone is connected in a much bigger way than just within borders of the United States.



Choosing Peru as my country was not much of a difficult decision to make because I wanted to visit a place in Latin America, and ISA (International Studies Abroad) had an internship placement for a local youth organization, Instituto Mundo Libre. The main goal of choosing Mundo Libre as my placement was to help make an impact on the at-risk youth in the city of Lima and Pachacamac. The boys I worked with were extremely smart, but their circumstances had placed them in unfortunate situations that negatively influenced their motivation to fulfill tasks. I worked with Mundo Libre's psychology department performing various tasks and assignments, such as conducting daily therapy sessions and class discussions on how to be motivated, performed acupuncture to a small group of students as a relaxation method.

Adjusting to the city life in Lima, Peru did not take me a while, mostly due to my host family, who welcomed me and four other girls into their home and showed us what the "gastronomical capital of Latin America" was all about. I did have to maintain an open mind because the food was not at all similar to what we have here in the United States, and I ended up trying everything from the picarones to ceviche. By immersing myself into the Peruvian culture and language, I was able to increase my Spanish comprehension and speaking skills as soon as my feet touched the Peruvian soil. The moment I knew I had chosen the right abroad location was when I had discovered Lima consisted of so many subtle hints of various outside cultures that have all blended together, creating one big melting pot.



During and after my time abroad I have discovered more about myself than I ever could have imagined. Not only was I able to make an impact on the boys at Mundo Libre, I also had time to self-reflect upon my worldview. The bonds and treasured memories I created in the four weeks while abroad made this experience definitely worthwhile. Studying abroad has changed me, and I'm so happy I made the decision to take that leap. When you place yourself in an unfamiliar place, you have to be willing to take a leap without hesitation. Are you ready to make that leap?

The Best Summer of My Life

By Ricayah Citizen (Psychology)

As summer 2014 slowly approached, I realized that despite me participating in a domestic exchange program, I had not truly studied abroad. As a Psychology major and Spanish minor I wanted to find a program perfect for me. Every semester I made plans to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country and I was about to be a senior so I had to make a decision and fast! I had always dreamed of visiting a Spanish-speaking country with African roots which led me to choose the Dominican Republic. My time in Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic had to be the best summer of my life!

This past June 2014, I traveled to what would now be one of my favorite countries. I chose to participate in the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) summer community public health program for 7 weeks. Through CIEE and the aid of the Benjamin A. Gilman International scholarship, I was able to travel to my dream country. The goal of the program was to educate the participants about the state of health care in the Hispanic Caribbean. I took 9 credit hours that consisted of advanced Spanish conversation and grammar, community health practicum, and medical sociology at Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra (PUCMM). In addition, we had a weeklong stay in a semi-rural clinic in which we experienced firsthand how primary level health care functions.

Upon returning from the clinics, we then held health discussions in the poorer areas of Santiago.

I stayed with a host family that showed me

culture as well as informed me on the history of the country. Even though their Spanish is unlike the traditional one taught in the classroom, you adapt quickly. I thought I would never understand them with how fast they speak! Dominicans were very understanding and patient with me especially when it came to learning how to dance to bachata, merengue, salsa, and dembow. I also traveled to beach towns in guaguas on the weekends and the capital to see the first hospital in the Americas. Also, there is nothing like buying fresh limoncillos (guineps), mangos, passionfruit, and coconuts from street vendors except having the opportunity to pick it off the tree yourself.

I would highly suggest the program for individuals in the pre-medical profession or that have a general interest in public health.



Ricayah at an orphanage

My Spain Experience

By Jordan Reaves (Biology)

It was a brisk morning on Monday May 10th. I was more than excited to be taking my first solo trip to Europe. I ate breakfast with my family and before I knew it, there I was, on my way to the airport. I was about to embark on a trip that would ultimately change my life forever, for the better. I was meeting my study abroad group in Philadelphia, as they were on a plane from Cincinnati. I had no idea what they looked like, so I waited until the last members of the plane were called until I found out who they were. One girl in my group called me. Facing the wall and looking into a host of people in line, I observed carefully who was on the phone, just about everybody. It was ironic that everybody seemed to know who was a part of this study abroad group except for me, but I found out soon enough. We all met up in line. We all boarded the plane and I was on my way to one of the best experiences of my life.

Hours flew by, 7 to be exact. As we came closer and closer to landing I observed some modern architecture that seemed to overflow the mountains, presumably in Portugal at first, which expanded to Spain. We came to a landing, at last. I could relax from a long, nerve-wrecking 7 hour flight. We got off the plane and at the terminal everything was in Spanish, with some English translations. My introductory Spanish classes had finally paid off. We went to baggage claim and ended up meeting with the rest of the group who had been chosen to be abroad in this journey. We left the airport and traveled by bus to our study abroad city, Segovia, where we would be staying with a loving host-family, or host mother in my case. We drove for about 2 hours, up through mountainous terrain and cold weather, until we finally had come to a well-travelled brick street. We stopped in the middle of the street and had been introduced to our host family. Fortunately, my host-mother spoke no English, so I had no choice but to speak Spanish, which would take me about a day or two to master. My two roommates and I then went with her back to where we would be staying. A beautiful Spanish condo, with nothing but culture and pure beauty, embodied the house. I knew this was a place where I was going to live on day.

As the days continued on, we explored the small city of Segovia. There were many festivals, and every Tuesday would be market day. Market day was when the locals would bring their music, food, books, and things of that nature to town. We went to class in the middle of this small town. We walked by a couple of clothing stores and coffee shops in order to get to our class, which was studying in the mornings and exploring the city in the afternoons. There were some days out of the week where we would take small trips to other cities, such as Madrid,



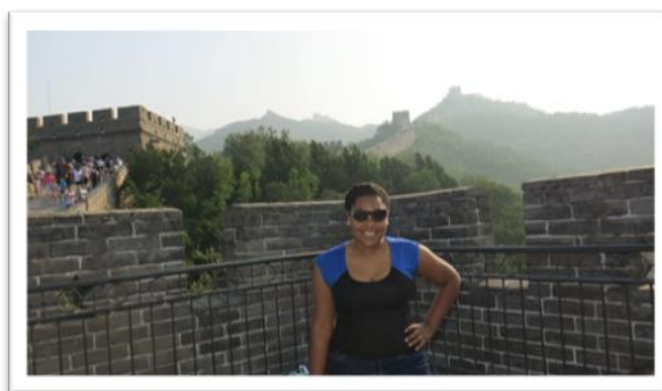
Jordan Reaves continued

Sevilla, Cordoba, just to name a few. Each city was filled with different kinds of architecture and artwork that brightened the city with its beauty. Madrid was filled with a plethora of people, as it is one of the most travelled areas in Spain. Sevilla is the only city in Spain that is surrounded by a medieval wall. Cordoba was close to southern Spain, as there was a mixture of Arabic and Spanish influences that shown throughout the city. There were so many different cultures and people in Spain, it was the place to be. That statement remains true to this day. Although I was not able to spend more than a month in this wonderful country, I have no regrets, as I absorb each aspect of Spain, food, clothing, music, architecture, crafts, etc. I realize that travelling abroad is the best decision I have ever made.

Researching in China

By Antionette Bell (Biology Pre-Med)

Antoinette Bell, a senior Biology Premed major, traveled to Suzhou, China during the summer of 2014 for two and a half months. Her visit to the People's Republic of China entailed cardiovascular research with the Tulane-Xavier Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) Program.



While away, she analyzed a 10-year cohort study on the Inner Mongolian community and the effects of their lifestyle on their cardiovascular health. While in China, she visited the cities of Shanghai, Beijing, and walked the historical Great Wall of China. She will later present her research findings to an academic audience in hopes of a future publication.

Summer in Costa Rica

By Kennedy Crosby (Biochemistry)

I've always wanted to study abroad, ever since I started high school. I never quite understood why I wanted to go so bad, but I knew I did not want to stay in the country my whole life. When I saw the opportunity to go to Costa Rica this past summer, I thought "This is my time to actually follow through with my dreams"! After that I took every initiative to make my dream come true; I went to every meeting, started planning a fundraising site to raise money to go on this adventure, and of course figuring out what I was going to pack! Once the plane tickets were bought, paperwork finished, and of course actually getting a passport for the FIRST time (now it has a fancy stamp in it!), I was ready to see



the world!

When I got there, I was a little skeptical at first because it rained on the first day we got there. However, my host family was loving and was also learning English while we were learning Spanish so there was plenty of patience going around. I got to know and become close to my fellow Xavierites as we traveled on this journey in a foreign country together. We enjoyed the Ticos, the Ticas, the cheap food, zip lining (which I would have NEVER done here), the freedom, and of course the six hour bus trip that should have only been two (it's a loonngg story). I got to meet new people and experience things I never thought I would be able to experience.

I know a lot of people do not see the benefit of studying abroad, but the fact of the matter is that the world is becoming smaller and smaller as enterprises cross country boundaries. To understand the lives of a people you could potentially be doing business with is completely worth the money you are spending to travel abroad for a month or even a semester.

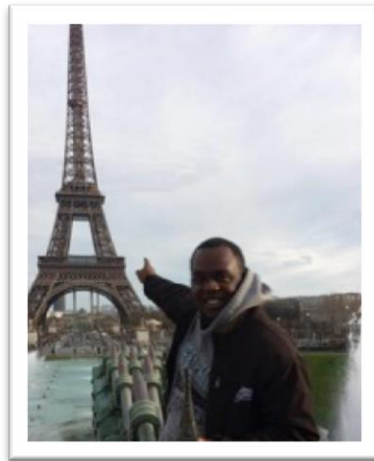
Do not let someone tell you that studying abroad is stupid and not worth it; that is something you have to decide for yourself. I am completely grateful and blessed to have this experience, and I want everyone to realize that studying abroad is possible, even if you are a science major! I cannot wait for my next adventure...in Ecuador!

Living in London

By Gregory Jones
(Political Science)

I want to thank my family, the Office of Intercultural and International Programs, the Gilman Scholarship Foundation, Xavier University, and Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church for helping to make my abroad experience possible. Last spring, I had the opportunity to attend the American International University of Richmond in the United Kingdom (U.K.). Staying on campus and having a roommate from Sudan afforded me the opportunity to learn a lot about myself while exploring the British culture. Visiting London's Eye, Westminster Palace, Buckingham Palace, and Tower Bridge in London was priceless. I must admit, I did experience homesickness in the beginning but that was something that I quickly overcame. Being 4,000 miles away from home, a place where family was non-existent and friends were few was freighting. In the tenure of my experience I would say that class discussions, participation in the Model United Nations, and my trip to France were my high points. At the University I studied Accounting, Sociology, and Ethics of Philosophy, American Studies,

and Gender & Culture. In these classes we had group projects and intense class discussions. For group projects, we had a lot of studying sessions at the tavern across from my flat. As one can imagine, class discussions turned Socratic quickly. For example, Gender culture confronted the challenge of gender equality in male dominated cultures. Imagine listening to the perspective of someone from Saudi Arabia or Iran on the issue of women's rights. As one could imagine, we had Great classroom discussions.



While in the U.K. I participated in the Model United Nation at the London School of economics. The school resurrected the Cole War and my assignment was to serve as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Russian Federation, which is equivalent to the Secretary of State for the United States (U.S.). I have to be honest; it pained me. My American pride tortured me. So, I studied the rules, squiggled my way into the United States cabin, and eventually became the Vice President

of the U.S. wherein I played a strategic role in regaining grounds and winning the Cole War.

Visiting France was great. I found out something that I will never forget. The Mona Lisa picture is a lot smaller than I imagined. That was a mind blower for me. While in France I visited the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum, and the Notre Dame Cathedral. Having seen these sites makes it more personal when I see these destinations in movies.

Often I am asked, "Why was studying abroad so important to you?" The truth is that this world is no longer an American world, it is a global society wherein global competencies or rather a global prospective has become more important than ever before. If I had to choose one word to describe my abroad trip I would say diversity. During my experience I met people from all over the world, people I now consider friends. Studying abroad was one of the most enlightening experiences of my life. I would say that every opportunity abroad is a valuable experience whether it be studying in the tavern across from my dorm, participating in Model United Nations, visiting France, or touring London's greatest attractions. I encourage everyone to get a passport and start seeing the world.

The Magic of the Big Easy-*Brazil Science Mobility Program*

By Raphael Ocelli Pinheiro (Biology)



This year living in New Orleans and studying at Xavier University of Louisiana was so different and busy, that I couldn't even see it passing. I was so used to my culture, my college and my life in Brazil, that now I realize how different the rest of the world is.

I'm a Biology major senior, and in Brazil the Biology course is completely different from the one here, so I had a lot of good new experiences. I met so many great people that, in the future, will be awesome doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and scientists. I have this feeling that we are on our way to a better world. When you have your first Biology class in college you see the world and life this way, but when you're about to graduate and leave college, your mind is so wide open and you see this whole new world. That was definitely one of my best experiences in college, and I'm thankful for meeting so many wonderful minds in my pathway here at Xavier. I would like to thank Dr. Martinat, Dr. Spillman, Dr. Porter and Dr. Lee, for contributing with my personal and academic development.

Most of all, I could not write about my experience in United States without mentioning New Orleans and how the Big Easy welcomed me. I really don't think I would fit so well in another place. All the roads I've been through, there's no place like New Orleans. The way people here embrace life and joy after such a bad time, the way art - especially music - is part of their lives 24 hours a day (and now more than ever, part of mine too). The streets, the parks, the river, the houses, everything is unique and magic here. This magic reminds me a lot of Brazil.

Sorry that I have to emphasize this, but I'm so glad that I met so many nice people here, because they were essential in my journey. I have friends from all over the United States that I will take with me forever; hopefully someday we'll meet again.

Viva la London

By Brie Merritt (Mass Communications)



Hi my name is Brie Merritt; I am a current senior at Xavier University with a major in Mass Communications and a minor in Political Science. Last semester Spring 2014 I got the privilege of studying abroad in London England. I attended London South Bank University and I took my political science course. I choose London for the simple fact that I am a communications major and I am very intrigued with fashion. During my time at LSBU I feigned to be involved because I was so involved at my home university. So, I auditioned to be a part of their dance society, because I love to dance and guess what, I made it! I was also a part of a study abroad company called KEI (Knowledge Exchange Institute) where they had planned out activities and trips that

we took in the course of my stay there. We went to Brighton to visit their pier, Wales, Cambridge, Oxford just to name a few places and did activities like having English breakfast, going to our first pub and going to the Shard. My experience studying abroad was a once of a life time opportunity. Not only did I get to live in a different country, but I also got to meet some of the most amazing people that I have ever met. A great philosopher once said that “it’s the journey that counts, not the destination”. My time abroad stood strong to this quote. I had the honor of meeting people that I would have never met otherwise, in a multicultural and cosmopolitan city.

When you are taken out of your everyday routine or lifestyle and are forced to adapt to your surroundings you are forced to grow as a person. You are forced to deal with who you really are in a city or country filled of people that do not know you. So not only did I get to do that, but I got to do it with people who had to same hunger as I did to see the world; that was my favorite part. Studying abroad will change your life for the better, because once you get a taste of what the world has to offer, you can only feign for more. I am already planning my next trip to study abroad, are you?



Domestic Exchange

By Ricaylah Citizen (Psychology)

At the beginning of fall semester 2013 of my junior year I thought that going abroad in general was out of the question. So when I found myself in the CIIP office expressing an interest in participating in the domestic exchange program at the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, I was pleasantly surprised at myself. It was a new program and I would be the first student at Xavier to ever participate. Once I was accepted I began second-guessing my decision because I was afraid to leave Xavier but my friends and family quickly talked some sense into me. As a psychology major and Spanish minor, I took some psychology classes and several others that interested me such as fencing; all of which were preapproved for a total of 16 credit hours. So that January I found myself on a plane to the Caribbean.

Nervous excitement overcame me.

I quickly made friends with students from the National Student Exchange program as well as with some islanders.

Quick disclaimer: Virgin Islanders are not Jamaicans and Jamaica is nowhere near the V.I. so do not call them that; it is a pet peeve of theirs. I stayed on campus in the newest dormitory, West Hall. Every day I made sure to just admire the crystalline waters that could be seen from outside my room. Just down the hill was a beach named Brewer's Bay that we visited often. There were countless beaches to visit and each one was beautiful in its own way. My favorite was Botany Bay, a secluded beach at the Western tip of the island. I saw my first mongoose, learned that iguanas and lizards do not care about personal space

While my friends were studying for finals at Xavier, I went to my first Caribbean Carnival that consisted of going to Village every night and j'ouvert (pronounced joo-vay), a dance party/parade that begins at approximately 5:00 a.m. I learned to appreciate the Black Caribbean culture that varies quite differently from that of Black Americans. The accents from people of different islands took some getting used to, but I enjoyed hearing them every day.

My best memories lie with the lifelong friends I made. It is hard not to bond on safari rides to Kmart, ferry rides to St. John, and Wednesday nights at Duffy's. It did not hit me until I boarded my flight back home to Las Vegas, Nevada that I realized I made the right decision by learning in paradise.

Leaping in London

By Michael Rauls (Marketing)

Going to London was a leap of faith for me. I felt it would be a lot of hard work to make genuine friendships. Having a good time to me is all about being with people you enjoy rather than just being at a spectacular place. Making genuine friendships that exist to this day happened faster than I could've ever expected. My friends and I went to Wales, Greece, Stonehenge and Bath, and many more amazing places all within the span of six months. I learned how to say thank you in Greek, which is efharistó. Common words we use in America take on different roles in the Queen's English of Great Britain, and I wouldn't have learned that if it weren't for me going there.

While abroad my studies were also very important. I received a letter of recommendation from the metropolitan police in London for work in my integrated marketing communications class. I created strategies the police could use to address issues in the borough of Brent. They will now be using my ideas, and I like to think my presence in London created a difference. I had plenty of time before and after classes to adventure out with my friends or by myself. I gained a new sense of confidence I didn't have before going to London, and I learned a lot of self-love being independent. Even though I was away from home, my mom came to visit me.

I grew extremely accustomed to life abroad. I knew the streets of London better than I do my own hometown! Having to walk and use public transportation accounted for a lot of that. I was so ready to explore and learn. To people that lived there life was stagnant, but to wide eyed me it was a terrific experience. Riding the London Eye and climbing to the top of the Shard taught me about observing people from above. Life becomes so naked when you're above the world. I wouldn't give up my experiences for anything. I encourage students to also take a leap of faith and embrace the thought of the unknown. Don't let anything, especially yourself, hold you back. Create your own story!



#Chan Goes To China

By Chandler Schexnayder (Pharmacy)

In the two-week time span of May 8th - 24th, one event changed my life forever: The 2014 Confucius Institute Summer Study Abroad in China Program. If someone would have asked me a year ago if I thought I would be on the other side of the world for 14 days, I would have quickly declined. Not everybody gets the chance to travel and experience rich, ancient cultures such as China, so I am truly grateful for this opportunity. Our stay in Baoding and Beijing, China has totally opened my eyes to a life I couldn't imagine existed. Experience is life's best teacher, and I was proud to feel like a student in the great country of China.

From jet-skiing in the Lotus Flower Gardens to aweing at Chinese Yo-Yo to bargaining with the toughest sellers of Beijing, I had so much fun with our activities. The Chinese mall, crazy driving, tea culture, and even making dumplings were things I will never forget. I still do Tai Chi in my free time! Yet, out of all the amazing activities we participated in, none compared to seeing one of the 7 Wonder of the World: The Great Wall of China. This was truly the highlight of my stay in China. It's still hard for me to believe that I was able to see one of the most beautiful, ancient man-made creations this world has to offer. I knew that The Great Wall was huge, but I was unaware of how steep and long it was! The Chinese people say you aren't a man until you climb The Great Wall, and on May 21st, 2014, I became a man, indeed. If we as students did not open up to the Chinese experience, our amusement would have been limited. Yet if we did not have Mrs. Shu Peng (Mama Shu) by our sides from the beginning, then this trip would not have went as smoothly. Thank you, Mama Shu and thanks to the rest of the Confucius Institute at Xavier University and Hebei University. This program has truly impacted my life in a positive fashion. Now, I want to go everywhere! Wo ai Zhong Guo 我爱中国!





Xavier Faculty Led Program – Costa Rica

By Dr. Farudi (Department of Languages)

This past summer I had the distinct pleasure of leading a faculty led study abroad in San Jose, Costa Rica. Over the course of last year, I---along with the CIIP office---planned the trip and recruited students. Although the planning stages presented a number of challenges (especially as this was Xavier's first faculty-led study abroad program of this type), I enjoyed every minute of it; and, in the end it was well worth the effort.

Nine Xavier students participated in the program. The students attended classes daily. In particular, they all attended and successfully completed my Spanish 1090 course (Conversation and Culture 3 credits). Some of the students also took a Spanish for Health Professionals course at Veritas University (5 credits). In addition to their class work, the students stayed with Costa Rican host families, which gave them the opportunity to be completely immersed in Spanish, learn about Costa Rican culture first hand, and make life- long friends.

The class benefitted greatly from the opportunity to study Spanish in a place where they were completely immersed in a Spanish speaking community. It has always been my dream as a language instructor to teach the course in an area of full immersion as this is the fastest method to gain fluency in the target language. It was a truly rewarding experience to make this dream a reality.

I made a particular effort to incorporate the ample cultural opportunities available in San Jose into the course, by including various types of field trips, guest lectures, and tours of various cultural sites after class and on weekends. Students and I took weekend excursions to Irazu volcano, the beach side town of Jaco, Monteverde and Manuel Antonio. In San Jose we visited and learned about el Museo Nacional (National Museum) el Teatro Nacional (National Theatre), La Galeria Nacional (National Gallery) and the historic Mercado Central (Central Market). Xavier Students also participated in language tandems with native speakers, guest lectures with professors from Veritas University, professional development workshops, and a tropical fruit tasting.

We also had the unique experience of being in Costa Rica during the World Cup and watching Costa Rica make it to the semifinals. It was a very exciting time to be in Costa Rica and witness the historical winnings in San Jose along with the Ticos. Study abroad prepares students for today's global and multicultural society. Students returned to Xavier with enhanced communication skills, and more open and flexible mindsets, cultural sensitivity, as well as memories that will last a life time and new friends, which, quite often, become life-long.

I am proud of each these nine students for their successful participation in the course and study abroad experience. Senior Faith Joseph reflects, "My experience in Costa Rica was beyond amazing. From the culture to the people to the atmosphere Costa Rica is a place I would not hesitate to return. Initially I will admit I was fearful of a new environment especially in another country but once I landed in San Jose, my fears were alleviated. Each day in Costa Rica was a new chance to truly indulge in a new atmosphere. I met people less fortunate than me who had more happiness than I could ever have. The attitudes of the locals or Ticos, is what I really enjoyed most. People were beyond friendly and welcoming to those of us new to their home. Secondly taking the journey allowed me to truly strengthen my communicative skills in Spanish. I can definitely see the change in the way I speak now in comparison to my former knowledge of the language. I personally encourage all of you to embark on such a journey for the memories are endless. Travel and open yourselves to the world you have yet to explore, it will never disappoint you."

Pura Vida!

The Foundation for Campus Internationalization at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)



Thematic Forum

Sponsored by AIEA and Xavier University of Louisiana, and in collaboration with Diversity Abroad and Generation Study Abroad

Saturday, March 21, 2015
9 am – 5 pm

Xavier University of Louisiana
University Center
1 Drexel Drive, New Orleans, LA 70125



The Foundation for Campus Internationalization at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) will clarify the role of the campus Senior International Officer and engage attendees in discussions about creating teams of campus stakeholders, utilizing campus internationalization assessment tools, and building an institutional global engagement plan.

Higher education professionals, globalization specialists, and community leaders with an international perspective are invited to join this discussion. Attendees will be asked, prior to the symposium, to complete The American Council on Education's "Mapping Internationalization on U.S. Campuses" online assessment tool. During the symposium, participants will also receive a copy of the book, *The Senior International Officer (SIO) as Change Agent*, by John D. Heyl, Ph.D.



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this one-day symposium, participants will understand the following:

- *The role of the Senior International Officer in campus internationalization
- *How to create a cross institutional team of stakeholders for campus internationalization
- *How to utilize data from the ACE campus assessment tool, *Mapping Internationalization*
- *How to work toward a strategic institutional global engagement plan

Xavier Faculty and Staff should RSVP by March 13 to:

Torian L. Lee, J.D

tlee@xula.edu

(504) 520-5490

Forum Speakers/Facilitators



Dr. Harvey Charles
President of AIEA &
V.P. for International
Initiatives at Northern
Arizona University



Mrs. Minnie Battle Mayes
President, MBM International
Education Consultants



Dr. Gailda Davis
Associate Director Inclusive
Excellence Group
American Council on
Education



Mr. Andrew Gordon
Founder and President
Diversity Abroad



Mr. Torian L. Lee, JD
Director, Center for
Intercultural and
International Programs
Xavier University of LA



Dr. Maxine Sample
Director of International
Education
Virginia State University

2014-2015 Faculty Campus Internationalization Grant Recipients

Annually, the Center for Intercultural and International Programs provides faculty travel awards toward the goal of comprehensive campus internationalization. The Xavier Internationalizes the Curriculum (XIC) Grant assists faculty with exploring potential academic partnerships with foreign universities, expanding knowledge toward internationalizing the university's curriculum, and fostering collaborative research with colleagues around world. Please see the faculty section on the CIIP website for more information. <http://xula.abroadoffice.net/professional.html>

The 2014-2015 XIC Grant recipients are:

Dr. Calvin Porter

Division of Biology & Public Health Sciences

Destination: **Cyprus – The University of Nicosia**

Dr. Ross Louis

Department of Communications Studies

Destination: France- European School of Art in Brittany

Dr. James Dunson

Department of Philosophy

Destination: **South Korea- University of Seoul**

Dr. Joe Ricks

Division of Business

Destination: **England & France -**

London Southbank University and the American Business School in Paris

Dr. Amy Bellone-Hite

Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Destination: **England & France-**

London Southbank University and the American Business School in Paris

Dr. Paul Schafer

Division of Arts and Humanities

Destination: **England & France**

London Southbank University and the American Business School in Paris

Important CIIP Dates & Deadlines

1. Summer/Fall 2015 CAMPUS STUDY ABROAD DEADLINE

April 22, 2015

2. Pre-departure Orientation

University Center - Room 201

12:15pm or 4:00pm

April 23, 2015