



# C.I.I.P News



Fall 2012

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## The Passage to Knowledge in South Africa by Sunseray M. Joseph

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Studying abroad in South Africa was essential to my personal and educational growth as a student. I studied at Stellenbosch University through the American Institute for Foreign Studies (AIFS). South Africa's history is a central reason I chose to study there. It is an amazing country that is not commonly recognized for its diversity. I gained more knowledge of South Africa's political system to help further my pursuit of academic excellence through my political science major.



There is not one particular culture that represents South Africa. There are several languages, ethnic groups, and ideologies that formulate a unique place. The geographic aspect of South Africa is completely opposite of the United States of America. I encountered plants that I have never seen or heard of before. The wildlife is another distinct factor that makes South Africa stand out.

Living and learning in another atmosphere allowed me to encounter people with different life experiences and beliefs. During my trip I was able to visit several organizations in South Africa that targeted the management of HIV and AIDS for high risk groups. I also did community service with children from Kaya-mandi Township. It was a privilege to be able to learn first-hand about the struggles of various communities.

In our changing and internationaliz-

ing world, it has become even more imperative than ever to communicate with people around the globe. Studying South Africa's political system gave me a different context from the traditional Americanized system. While Xavier University of Louisiana is an excellent school full of opportunities and offering a window to global citizenship, nothing except full immersion within another society provided me with the degree of learning I was seeking to attain. The world is a living book waiting to be read.



## Carla Simmons in France

This summer for one month I studied French in Lyon, France. Before leaving, I was overly excited but as I waited to board the plane my excitement quickly turned into nerves. However, everything faired out perfectly and before I knew it my 5 weeks was coming to an end. I

made great connections and friends who I still keep in contact with. I would definitely advise anyone considering or not considering to study abroad. I can guarantee it will be the highlight of your undergraduate experience and something you will take with you forever. Not only did I improve

my French but I learned to be more independent, how to interact with people of a different culture, and not to mention it stands out on your transcript and resume.

Major: Psychology

# Director's Message



Greetings,

Xavier University of Louisiana and its Center for Intercultural and International Program (CIIP) are committed to international education and the preparation of students for leadership and service in a global society.

To meet this mission it is essential that Xavier graduate globally competent students. Globally competent students possess a combination of critical thinking skills, technical expertise, and global awareness.

Xavier University provides multiple and varied opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to develop global awareness. Faculty members, across the curriculum, teach and conduct research on international topics. Many Xavier students are engaged in foreign language study. Students in the sciences and humanities are conducting valuable international research abroad and on campus. Other students have decided to complete a minor in International Affairs. International students are represented on campus as both degree seeking students and exchange students. CIIP and many campus departments, units, and organizations promote intercultural activities on a weekly basis. Finally, Xavier students from all majors have taken the opportunity to study abroad at a foreign university for a summer, semester, or full academic year.

This is a very exciting time at Xavier as we have continued to build on our international initiatives. Thirty-three (33) students studied abroad during the 2011-2012 academic year. Xavier students completed full time coursework and conducted research in Australia, Ghana, Brazil, Spain, England, Argentina, Honduras, Israel, Peru, and South Africa. Additionally, Xavier faculty traveled to France, Spain, Haiti, Qatar, China, Honduras, Israel, Senegal, Ghana, Ecuador and Colombia. These faculty efforts resulted in partnerships with foreign universities and increased the internationalization of Xavier's curriculum.

Moving forward, Xavier University will celebrate International Education Week from October 29 through November 2, 2012. Xavier will also celebrate the grand opening of its Confucius Institute, October 18 – 20, 2012. To the end of promoting a more just and humane society, Xavier will continue to work on various international initiatives with Haiti, China, Brazil, and Qatar. Also this fall, in response to the campus Internationalization Review conducted in the spring of 2012, CIIP and the University's Global Awareness Committee will unveil the Xavier Internationalization Strategic Plan: 2013-2018.

This issue of the CIIP Newsletter highlights our student experiences abroad, important study abroad deadlines, international education week, and other international initiatives. As Xavier moves forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, global learning must be one of the central components of its character and identity. The Center for Intercultural and International Programs is committed to supporting all members of the Xavier community toward realizing the University Mission.

Sincerely,

*Torian Lee*

Torian L. Lee, JD  
Director  
Center for Intercultural and  
International Programs (CIIP)

## 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. Six faculty members were awarded XIC Grants during the 2011-2012 Academic Year:

Dr. Margarita Echeverri (Colombia) College of Pharmacy

Dr. Sarah Amering (Colombia) College of Pharmacy

Dr. MaPo Kinnord-Payton (Ghana) Art Department

Dr. Susan Spillman (Senegal) Language Department

Ms. Nancy Hampton (Israel) Art Department & Library

Dr. Nancy Martino (Honduras) Communications Studies Department



### Morgan Weber's Experience Conducting Research abroad in Peru

I had the wonderful opportunity to study abroad in Lima, Peru for three months through the Tulane-Xavier MHIRT (Minority Health International Research Training) Program. Every day brought new experiences since I was communicating in a second language, I was living with a Peruvian host family and I was working in an area completely different than I had ever experienced. The MHIRT program paid for my languages classes which was extremely beneficial because in the evenings I was privately tutored, and I was able to work on my language abilities in a stress free environment. However, during the day that was when the real action occurred. I woke up Monday through Friday at 6 AM and then took the public bus to San Juan de Miraflores at 7:20AM and returned home 3 PM. San Juan is considered a shanty town with many dirt roads, small houses and dogs roaming the streets. I was able to learn so much about the community through the research on socio-economic information, health related issues, food security and perceptions of childhood development. I love that I contributed to the

research project with my own section for the research project which was the perceptions adults have on the development of children. The section targeted women over the age of eighteen years old and asked questions about childhood mile-



stones and interactions with children. Currently, my research partner and I are examining the data from the survey, and we will be presenting our findings to our advisor and the rest of the Tulane-Xavier MHIRT program. However, I can say that

the main illnesses that seem to plague the area we interviewed is Tuberculosis, Respiratory Infections, HIV, diabetes, arthritis and cancer. I truly loved being trained in

the research process as well as doing field research with a Peruvian employee. What is more I was able to shadow three general practice physicians, four obstetricians, four nurses, one dentist and one scientist. I can say that I was able to witness things that would be very hard to witness in the US. This included shadowing doctors who would use catheters for Urinary Cancer, speculums for pap smears, x-rays for arthritis and many other things. I also learned helpful medical terminology in Spanish that will definitely be beneficial in medical school. Overall, my experience was unforgettable and I would recommend studying abroad to anyone.

# Brazil – Life as a Study Abroad College Student

By Bryan Lucky-Heard

Since freshman year I knew that I always wanted to study abroad, and this past spring I finally had the opportunity to do so. With assistance from CIIP and ISA, I was able to enroll in a program in Florianopolis, Brazil that lasted from February to June. Some may ask why Brazil? What made you want to study there? To this, all I say is, it was out of curiosity.

In Brazil, I met life-long friends from all over the world like China, Columbia, Germany, and Poland to name a few. I participated in samba classes,

learned to surf, caught shrimp with the local fisherman, kayaked in the ocean, went hang-gliding, and spoke Portuguese on a daily basis. My time abroad was exhilarating, unforgettable, and life-changing to say the least and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

After spending over four months in Brazil, my understanding of global issues has vastly increased. I feel that as the world becomes a smaller place, individuals will need exposure to other

parts of the world because it helps others to become more aware of cultural differences and similarities. After reading my experience and you're thinking, contemplating, or fantasizing about studying abroad...Go For IT!



# Exploring Espana: Granada Style

By Akia Jackson

Last semester I studied abroad in Granada, Spain. As an English major, and history minor I wanted to go to a country that had an interesting history that made an impact upon their literature both socially and historically. So when I initially decided to do study abroad, I couldn't decide whether I wanted to go to an English speaking country or if I wanted to become immersed in a country where I did not know the language. I eventually decided on the latter because it would be an incredibly new experience and would challenge me intellectually. It was one of the best decisions I could have made for my college career because I learned a new language without much formal instruction and was able to learn from absorbing the culture in Spain. Granada was a beautiful city, and throughout my study abroad experience I became conversational in the

Spanish language even though I did not know any Spanish when I arrived to the country. During my time in study abroad I was able to travel to different cities within Spain as well as outside of the country, that enhanced cultural experience overall. I was able to meet and connect with students from other programs, who I made lasting friendships with beyond my study abroad program. I loved how wonderful the city of Granada was because it was filled with intermingling cultures from all over the world such as Moroccan, Spanish and Asian, that made the city an intercultural standout. In short, I would recommend study abroad for everyone, because for me it was an unforgettable experience filled with amazing memories that will stay with me forever.



Akia Jackson in Spain

# Traveling to Morocco

By Jessica Dandridge

A simple greeting of "Libus" and "Hamdolilah," the act of purchasing a local pastry with fresh honey from a street vendor, and running to catch the bus to campus that is already filled to capacity, not only with human flesh, but with the overbearing sounds of local music blasting into your ear was the vista of most mornings while living in Meknes, Morocco. The extreme chaos of trying to figure out life outside your control and where you belong in the globalized world brings forth the importance of study abroad in more ways than one.

The CV benefits of studying in a foreign country can be countless; learning a new language, taking courses from another university, volunteering in a local village, and team building with your native and non-native cohorts. Yet it is the immersion into a culture, and in my case a religion not your own that will push you to see and do more. I pushed myself not only by traveling around the country often with bad sign language as my voice, but to develop friendships with Moroccan boys and girls that made life in an Islamic country worth every moment. In every way possible, I eliminated barriers, and embraced diversity, which indirectly made me an Ambassador of Morocco. My life beyond basic survival now includes dispelling stereotypes, and embracing the differences and similarities afforded to us as a human race. In this way and more studying abroad has changed my life by providing me with a wider lens that experience can only buy, and acquires valuable interest over time.



# The Australian Experience

My time abroad by Gabby Dowdy

My study abroad experience in the South Pacific was invaluable. I learned so much about myself and also about the wonderful cultures. I went directly to Fiji after leaving the US where I lived with a host family for two weeks. This was probably the most life changing experience for me. It was basically a third world country but the citizens were the nicest and happiest people I've ever met. While in Australia, I studied in Sydney but I traveled the country a lot. The most remarkable destination was the Great Barrier Reefs. It was so amazing to scuba dive in the clearest and most beautiful water I had ever seen. A few highlights of my trip would be holding a koala, climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge and eating kangaroo! I made friends from all around the world and gained a new perspective on life. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything and I would like to thank the CIIP office for helping me achieve this dream!



# Kelsey Riley's Semester at Sea

This past semester, I was fortunate to travel around the world with Semester At Sea (SAS) as an inaugural Tom Joyner Foundation (TJF) Scholarship Recipient. The Tom Joyner Foundation Scholarship is the highest valued scholarship offered through Semester At Sea and restricted to HBCU students. It provides funding for tuition, room and board, expenses and a stipend. The Tom Joyner Foundation and Semester At Sea recognize the low participation of HBCU students, and African American students in general, in study abroad programs and this semester there were 5 HBCU students, which was the highest number ever on a SAS voyage.

The unique aspect of SAS is that it is essentially a floating university on a cruise ship. The cruise ship was equipped with an extensive library, snack bars, wi-fi, cafeterias, fitness center and a pool deck. This environment led to a dynamic bonding in the shipboard community. I met students from all around the world on the ship from countries including Brazil, Sweden, Mexico, Cambodia, and China. My language and vocabulary and terms of communication were changed as I adjusted to shipboard life. One of the few drawbacks of this awesome experience is the limited access to communication. Internet access is not free, phone calls are expensive and Skype is not allowed.

Needless to say, attending SAS has inspired me to do even more traveling for academic, professional and for pure leisure. I have already looked into international postgraduate programs and fellowships. I strongly desire to work abroad as part of my career and be able to travel freely. I have planned to return to some of the countries in the coming years and reunite with some of the friends I made on Semester At Sea. I have had unforgettable experiences. I have been able to have conversations with foreign diplomats from various countries, meet with a Xavier alum in Vietnam, have lunch with Lyndon B. Johnson's daughter and her husband Senator Robb. For me, Semester At Sea was a confirmation time and time again that my life as a traveler and global scholar has only begun.

## Kelsey's Semester At Sea Itinerary

Nassau, Bahamas

Roseau, Dominica

Manaus, Brazil

Tema (Accra), Ghana

Cape Town, South Africa

Port Louis, Mauritius

Cochin, India

Singapore

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Hong Kong, China



# Xavier University of Louisiana Partners with Qatar and the University of Notre Dame in Haiti

By Dr. Wendy Gaudin

In July of this year, the State of Qatar Fund for the Reconstruction of Haiti approved the grant proposals submitted by Dr. Norman C. Francis. The two proposals, totaling five and a half million dollars in support, establish a partnership between Xavier University of Louisiana and the University of Notre Dame of Haiti. Through this partnership, Xavier will assist Notre Dame of Haiti with the establishment of new programs in both Education and Pharmacy. The Education program, which totals \$2.5 million, includes support for university and secondary school scholarships, professional development for veteran teachers, travel funds for short-term exchange opportunities, and instructional and technological improvements for the University's library. Likewise,

the Pharmacy program, which totals \$3 million, provides funding for university scholarships, professional development for practicing pharmacists, travel funds for Pharmacy students to conduct their rotations in the field in Haiti, and fully equipped and modern pharmacy laboratories and classrooms. Finally, each proposal includes ample funding for capital projects, specifically, the renovation of a building that will house the Education program, and the construction of a building that will house the Pharmacy program.

On Monday, September 17, the Qatar Fund held a signing ceremony to honor the initial recipients of the grant, and Dr. Loren Blanchard traveled to Port-au-Prince to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the two schools; the signing of the MOU marks an official beginning to this important partnership.

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## The Confucius Institute

By Dr. Yu Jiang

Xavier University of Louisiana Confucius Institute, in partnership with Hebei University in China, is the first Confucius Institute among the nation's HBCUs and in the State of Louisiana. The Institute is named after Confucius (551-478 B.C.E.), whose promotion of education, moral behavior and social harmony profoundly shaped East Asian civilization.

The Confucius Institute at Xavier University helps prepare students to become global leaders, and teaches Chinese language, culture, and economic development courses to Xavier students and the surrounding communities. It also aims to facilitate research activities in the above areas and promote increased understanding between the United States and China.

From October 18 to October 20, the Confucius Institute will celebrate its Grand Opening on Xavier campus. The events include: Thursday October 18, keynote speech at 6:30pm in the Ballroom, 3rd floor, University Center; Friday October 19, 3pm-5:30pm, music performances and ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the University Center, 6:30 pm Presidential Gala (invitation only) in the Ballroom, 3rd floor, University Center; Saturday October 20, 1-3pm, Chinese Traditional Medicine (acupuncture, tuina-massage), and Taichi well practice, 1st floor, University Center. There will also be

a Chinese culture display on Friday. For more information, please visit <http://www.xula.edu/confucius>.



(Pictured Left to Right is Dr. MaPo Kinnord-Payton, Dr. Yu Jiang, Dr. Rosalind Hale, Dr. Rongyao Wen, Dr. Lori Crawford, and Dr. Wendy Gaudin)

# Deanna Johnson Travels to Peru

Deanna Johnson

Major: Chemistry Pre-med

Classification: Senior

Study Abroad Program: AIFS

I truly enjoyed the richness of the Peruvian culture and how it was integrated into the modern day Peruvian society. Studying abroad gave me a new perspective on the world around me and taught me how to effectively communicate with others despite language barriers.



## Passport Fair

Xavier University of Louisiana University Center  
1st floor

***Tuesday, October 30, 2012***

***9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.***

What's Needed to Apply?

Birth Certificate

(or certified copy)

Valid Photo ID

Passport Photo

(Size: 2"x 2")

(Photo service will be available)

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**Passport Application Fee (\$110)**

**Execution Fee (\$25.00)**

**Photo Fee (\$15.00)**

***\*Fees paid by check***

***or money order\****



# ***Xavier University of Louisiana International Education Week***

## **Monday, October 29, 2012**

**11am-1pm**

### **Student Org. Intl. Ed Week Kickoff**

African Student Union  
Vietnamese Student Interest Group  
Muslim Student Association  
Student Government Association  
University Center, Yard

## **Tuesday, October 30, 2012**

**9:30-12:30pm**

### **“Passport Fair”**

Apply for a Passport with the  
United States Postal Service

Please bring

1. Birth certificate
2. Photo ID
3. Passport Application Fee (\$110)
4. Execution Fee (\$25)
- 5 Photo fee (\$15)

\*Fees paid by check or money  
Order\*

University Center, 1st Floor Gallery

**12:15pm-1:15pm**

### **Spanish/French/Mandarin Conversation Hour**

Facilitated by Xavier University  
Language Club  
Library Room 407A

**4pm-5pm**

### **Xavier University’s Internationalization Strategic Plan: 2013-2018**

Presenter: Mr. Torian Lee, JD  
Director, Center for Intercultural and  
International Programs (CIIP)  
University Center Rm. 219

## **Wednesday, October 31, 2012**

**12pm - 1:15pm**

### **“Xavier Students See the World”**

#### **Student Presenters:**

Sunseray Joseph (South Africa)  
Bryan Lucky-Heard (Brazil)  
Gabrielle Dowdy (Australia)  
Akia Jackson (Spain)  
Alexis Ellis (Argentina)  
Vicky Ann Cortez (Honduras & Israel)  
Malik Stevenson (Spain)  
Pizza & Soda will be served  
University Center, Rm. 205

## **Thursday, November 1, 2012**

**12:15-1:15**

### **Seminar: “Xavier Internationalizes the Curriculum”**

#### **Faculty Presenters:**

Drs. Echeverri & Amerring (Colombia)  
Dr. Kinnord-Payton (Ghana)  
Dr. Spillman (Senegal)  
Ms. Hampton (Israel)  
Dr. Martino (Honduras)  
University Center, Rm. 205

**6pm-8pm**

### **International Movie Night**

Film: “*Taking Root: The Vision of  
Wangari Maathai*”

Popcorn and Soda will be served!  
University Center, Rm. 308B

## **Friday, November 2, 2012**

**6pm-8:00pm**

### **Xavier Cultural Night & Show**

College of Arts & Sciences /  
College of Pharmacy  
University Center, Room 308B



**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. Coordinates campus study abroad application process and procedure
8. Advising on International Education Scholarships & Awards
9. Serves as the clearinghouse for all Xavier International Activities

## Center for Intercultural & International Programs Important Dates and Deadlines

**October 17, 2012**

**Fulbright program**

<http://us.fulbrightonline.org>

**November 14, 2012**

**Luard Scholarship**

<http://www.esuus.org>



**November, 2012**

***The JET Program (The Japan/English Teaching Program)***

<http://jetprogramme.org>

**January 18, 2013**

***Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program (Graduate)***

<http://www.rangelprogram.org>

**January 23, 2013**

***Xavier Study Abroad Fair in the Univ. Center***

**January 27, 2013** Mount Sinai Int'l Program is a 12 week summer program for minorities underrepresented in the sciences.

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