Featured Program: China Spring Break

Faculty Spotlight

Student Reflections

Alumni Profile: Nora Dougherty
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Clockwise:
1. Ally Selvaggio ('13) captures the Tower Bridge in London with its Olympic Pride.
2. Alyssa Maurin ('15) photographs the rustic Calchaquies Valley in Salta, Argentina.
4. Melissa Jerram ('13) stands on the Cliffs of Moher in Ireland.
The objective of the Roukema Center for International Education (RCIE) is beyond simply sending students overseas or receiving international students, but striving to create a learning community committed to global understanding and intercultural competency and that supports international initiatives across the campus community.

The RCIE Team has worked to implement federally-recognized standards of best practices to inform Ramapo College’s education abroad activities, as well as strengthening the awareness and accessibility of international opportunities. In addition, the RCIE Team has developed creative, collaborative programming across campus to promote intercultural and global awareness.

The Center is named for the Honorable Marge Roukema, who represented northern New Jersey in the United States Congress from 1981 to 2003. She championed the Family Leave Act and educational and financial reform legislation among other things, and enhanced resources for education in her district and at Ramapo College. She is a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Ramapo.

The Roukema Center for International Education is located in the Anisfield School of Business, ASB-123. Our phone number is (201) 684-7533, or contact us by email at goabroad@ramapo.edu
You can ask anyone who studied abroad about their experience, and ten out of ten times, you’re going to get a blanket statement of “I loved it! It was great! I want to go back!” But, what does that mean? I loved my experience but amidst the unforgettable nightlife, delicious foods, historical monuments and valuable friendships, I faced challenges, struggles and obstacles.

Madrid, Spain. Fancy, huh? I was so excited about my experience, I updated my Facebook status with countdown days to departure and talked to my friends about what they were going to do while I was away. I did not know anyone going on the program, but I was more than ready to meet new people.

A few weeks before leaving, I received my itinerary. It included all the names of the students and their home university, flight numbers and airport pick-up. I was the only one arriving on a direct flight from John F. Kennedy International Airport, but there were a few other students who had the same pick up time. I had no idea how huge the Barajas Airport was so I thought, “No worries!”

One of the girls with the same airport pick-up time emailed everyone and said that she was excited to meet all of us. I, of course, felt the same. We had a few e-mail exchanges here and there, and slowly, but surely, ended the thread with “I’ll see you there!”

Finally my departure day arrived and I was sitting on a plane to Madrid. I was so ecstatic I was already posting photos on Instagram as people were still boarding the plane.

After eight hours, some turbulence and not-so-appetizing airplane food, alas, I was in Spain! I exchanged dollars to Euros, picked up my luggage and headed for Terminal 4. However, Terminal 4 can easily be described at six football fields. You can probably imagine the anxiety attack I had in the middle of Barajas Airport. Yet, I took few quick breaths and continued to look around for my group and the representative picking me up.

Pick-up time was 11:30 a.m., but time was passing too quickly. Noon passed, and still no one. Talk about a nervous breakdown. I became flustered and signs that were already in a different language started to become blurry. I might also add that my knowledge of Spanish extended as far as “por favor” and “gracias” from random small talk with friends. Therefore, simply asking for directions was out of the question.

Then, by some miracle, a taxi driver who happened to speak several languages fluently, saw my concern and helped me. He called the ISA
office and then offered to drive me, free of charge, to my residencia. This guy came out of nowhere and lent me a hand! As much as I want to give him endless thanks, it was that scary moment of being lost in Terminal 4 and all the other challenges I faced during my stay that made my experience.

Artwork by Valasquez was incredible, seafood paella was delectable, and the futbol game at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium was awesome, and they are all memories I cherish. However, it was all the moments I was challenged by a new situation that made me truly understand the value of culture and language.

I gave studying abroad a chance, and I was able to learn more about myself than I had ever anticipated. Being open and accepting to different ways of life made me more holistic as a person and as a global citizen. It really did change my perspective on life, and that made studying abroad the best decision I ever made. Now I can’t wait to go back.
For anyone who has had the urge to travel, I would strongly recommend looking into studying abroad. Studying abroad in Ireland was one of the best experiences of my life. As far back as I can remember I have wanted to travel. When I was growing up, my dad had a job where he traveled all over the world and he would bring back different souvenirs and food from other countries that would fascinate me. I would stare at the photos my dad had taken and hope that one day I would be able to visit many of the places he had been.

One of the main reasons I chose Ramapo College was because of its extensive study abroad program. There is such a wide range of opportunities that I knew I would find a location that was right for me. Since my dad’s side of the family is Irish and we still have some family living there, I choose to study abroad in Ireland. I was fortunate enough to select a program where I knew no one. And I say this because being on my own allowed me to really appreciate the experience. Being able to immerse myself in an environment where I didn’t know anyone really made me learn a lot about myself. I have to admit I had some doubts about being able to fit in, since I am somewhat of an introvert. But I learned that if I can make it in that type of environment, then I can make it anywhere.

I flew to Ireland without any idea who I was about to live with for the next three weeks or what I was about to experience. But by the end of my program, I left having gained a group of incredible friends of whom I am so fortunate to have met.
To the Top of Mt. Fuji

Shane Hajzer ’13 -
Tokyo, Japan
Spring 2012

My name is Shane Hajzer and I participated in a study abroad program in Tokyo, Japan in Spring 2012. My major is International Studies, yet until this experience I had never even left the East Coast. I learned a significant amount of theory in the classroom, but I had no experience with other parts of the US, let alone a foreign culture. In Japan, I lived in a dorm, which had around sixty or so residents. Only half of them spoke English. We all shared a kitchen so if you wanted to cook, you ended up socializing as well. I had previously taken 3 semesters of Japanese, but I soon found certain attributes of my proficiency to be lacking. Since English is a part of the curriculum for students in Japan, I was able to engage in reciprocal teaching. Sometimes I was the student, while other times I was the teacher. By doing so I was able to get a better handle on the subtle differences between the two languages.

While abroad, I noticed that as a result of heavy reliance on the trains in urban areas, businesses are centered on the stops. In Shibuya, there is a famous intersection outside the station. People crowd at the corner until all lights at the intersection turn red, at which point countless people from every corner cross simultaneously, in what I would call organized chaos. Yet there was also a tranquil side of Japan, as I saw beautiful rural areas with scenery for which my camera could not do justice. Miyajima was full of colors, with deer that would not flee even if you approached or sat next to them. Mt. Fuji had beautiful scenery all the way to the top. Sunrise at the summit was breathtaking. Incidentally, there was a vending machine at the top, which had hot coffee. Studying abroad gave me an experience that being in a classroom alone can’t compare to. If you want to learn about the world, go see it for yourself.

Clockwise from top left:
1. Shane Hajzer ’13 atop Miyajima.
3. Sunrise on Mt. Fuji.

Reflections from Abroad
Since entering my freshmen year at Ramapo, I have known that studying abroad is a gift that one could only be so lucky to receive and open up all the many experiences and challenges it has to offer. With that, I chose to study abroad in Barcelona the summer right after my freshmen year. You may wonder, “why so early”? Because I knew in my heart I was ready to get out of the normal routine I had here in New Jersey. I wanted to open myself up and experience the challenges of meeting new people from around the world, integrating myself into a different culture, and most importantly, learning more about myself. I chose to start this adventure by myself and I can tell you, while sitting in the Newark airport terminal, I’ll never forget feeling my heart racing, my stomach turning over and over, and a million thoughts racing through my head. This continued even as I touched down at the Barcelona-El Prat Airport, as there was an ongoing protest right when I walked out to meet my study abroad group. With newspaper shreds and trash covering the floor, it startled me and I could not believe I was going to be living here for the summer.

The most memorable moments came when I went out of my way to talk with the local people at restaurants, especially during the time Spain went on to win the European Cup in Soccer. It was so amazing to watch the way everyone came together for the matches and the pride they had when Spain won. By communicating with other fans, my Spanish significantly improved and I got to feel what it was like to be a local. With my apartment and university right in the heart of Barcelona, I navigated my way through the huge city by myself and getting lost was a terrifying but enriching experience. As a result of having to find my way around, whether it was to find a place to eat or to meet up with friends, I felt like a true "Barcelonian".

One of the amazing parts of studying abroad was the different classes I got to take. I had a “Sports, Politics, and Culture” class that took us to Camp Nou, the famous stadium the F.C. Barcelona soccer team plays in. While it was only a grass field, it made us feel a special way because so many great players like Lionel Messi or Andrés Iniesta played on it weekly. In addition, another class I took was about the Catalonian history. Instead of sitting in a classroom learning about certain buildings or parks, we got to actually step outside and see the architecture for ourselves. As a science major, I don’t look at art very much but I now have such a huge appreciation for art around the world.

The friends I have made will forever be in my heart because we are bonded through this whole experience. My time flew by in Barcelona but still, there is hardly a day I don’t think about my time there because of the changes it brought within me and the memories that I have cherished. With that, I notice little things about myself that I hadn’t known before my trip. I have a new outlook on the world as I recognize similarities and differences between Spain and the United States. Thus, because of the life-changing experience I got through studying abroad, it has propelled me to continue travelling and to learn more about the world, about other people, and about myself.
A Home Away from Home
Sara Gordon ‘13
Bilbao, Spain
Summer 2011

When I first decided I was going to spend the summer of 2011 studying abroad in Bilbao, Spain, one of the major decisions I had to make was whether I wanted to stay in the residence halls of the University of Deusto or if I wanted to live with a host family. I struggled with this decision: on the one hand, living in the residence halls would mean I was a two-minute walk from class. I would be surrounded by other English-speakers, and that would probably be easier to coordinate plans with other students, since they would be right there. On the other hand, living with a host family would give me a richer experience, both in terms of language and culture, and I would truly find out what it was like to live in Bilbao. After a great deal of thought, I chose to live with a host family. I was incredibly nervous to be matched with a family, and although my nerves quieted down a bit when I received an e-mail with information about my host family, I was still anxious about how things would work out once I got there. My host family turned out to be a single woman named Isaura. As I discovered once I arrived, Isaura did not speak a word of English, which intimidated me towards the beginning. However, I decided that in order to improve my command of the Spanish language, I needed to try to communicate with her as best I could. She and I would sit at the table at lunch, and I would ask her to explain words that she had said, or that I had read or heard, with which I was unfamiliar. She and I would have conversations about our lives, about the day, and make plans for the month I would be spending with her. She encouraged me to invite friends over for lunch (she was an amazing cook), and I often did. She became the unofficial host mom of several of my friends; everyone loved Isaura!

Reflections from Abroad

I definitely saw my language skills improve significantly while I was there, and much of that is because of her. If I have one regret about studying abroad, it is that I didn’t stay for an entire semester or year. By the end of the month, I started to feel as though I was beginning to actually think in Spanish, as opposed to thinking in English and translating word-for-word as I spoke or wrote. One of the most valuable lessons I learned during my time there, and especially through developing a close relationship with Isaura, was that you don’t have to come from the same place, have any obvious similarities, or even speak the same language, to get to know a person and value them for who they are. The morning I left Bilbao, as Isaura and I sobbed and said our last goodbyes, she said to me, “Siempre serás mi niña” (You will always be my daughter). She and I still keep in touch and I am so grateful that she became my second mother while I was far away from home. I would go back and visit in a heartbeat, and I know I have a home waiting for me when I do.

Left: Sara Gordon (’13) contemplating how much fun Spain is.
Right: Sara with Isaura, her homestay mother, at the Deusto Graduation Ceremony.
Reflections from Abroad

Finding Happiness in Africa
JENNIFER ALFONSO ’14 - SIERRA LEONE
SUMMER 2012

They say that to travel is to take a journey into yourself and I would have to agree. This past summer abroad was by far one of the most memorable experiences I ever embarked on; it truly served as a journey to knowing myself. To me, Sierra Leone will always be a vivid reminder of the reason why I want to be a nurse, why I want to spend my life traveling, and why both go hand in hand. Sierra Leone taught me more about myself in two weeks than I’ve known about myself my entire life. While I was in Africa, I learned that my outlook on life was nowhere near what Sierra Leoneans thought, and this challenged me. For me, life was only good if things were in my favor, if things always worked out or if I had enough money in my wallet for the day. Yet for them, life seemed to be just fine without all of that extra stuff. They were happy, happier than I have ever seen someone. When I saw that, I wanted to be just like them, have their same outlook on it all—happy with life, regardless of my circumstances. And because of those two amazing weeks, now I am. We all experience things differently. I had a unique experience because I discovered a lot about myself; some good, but also a lot of what I wanted to change. I knew Sierra Leone was going to be a life changing experience, I just didn’t know to what degree it would change my life. Not a day goes by that I don’t miss it.
After toy ing around with the idea of studying abroad since I started at Ramapo, I finally decided to commit and applied to study in London for the Summer of 2012. As I filled out all the paperwork, I did not realize that I had decided to go to London in the midst of some of the biggest events the city has seen.

The first day I arrived was a very special day for all Londoners – The Queen’s 60th Jubilee! All of the streets were jam-packed and I was exhausted from my flight, but I was able to make it to a tea party where the Jubilee festivities were being shown. What a way to immerse myself in British culture right off the bat! I had tea, biscuits, and tried all sorts of new British cuisine. Walking around my neighborhood, every window was adorned with a Union Jack flag and the Queen’s face was plastered in every storefront. Commemorative tins, mugs, food, candy, t-shirts, flags, and bobble-heads of the Queen herself could be found on any street corner and in most souvenir stops.

Just as the Jubilee was dying down, one of the biggest sporting events of the summer was about to begin – Wimbledon. Two of my flat mates and I decided we were going to try and score some tickets. We woke up SUPER early and took the tube to the Wimbledon grounds. Right as we got out of the station, we were handed official Wimbledon energy drinks that we enjoyed on our way to wait in line. With the typical finicky British weather, we waited in both the sun and the rain and 60 degree temperatures just to get our tickets! Once we were in the stadium we had access to several of the games going on. We sat in the first row of a doubles match and got to cheer on an American player – made us feel right at home! We ate strawberries and cream (a traditional Wimbledon snack) and made friends with some Brits who were able to tell us all about tennis. Wimbledon was an exciting sporting event, but all through the summer London was gearing up for perhaps the biggest sporting events of all – the 2012 Summer Olympics. In Trafalgar Square, there was a huge electronic countdown to the Olympics, and the hype just got higher and higher as days went on. About halfway through our stay in London, we noticed small Olympic things starting to pop up – the tube maps had directions to get to certain stadiums, flags with Olympic rings were lining the streets, Olympic mascot statues seemed to find themselves all over the city overnight, and Tower Bridge was adorned with the iconic rings. Perhaps the most exciting thing was watching the complex only a few blocks from our house turn into the indoor volleyball venue. We got to watch the Olympic Torch Parade right down the street from our flat, and got all sorts of free Olympic gear off of the floats. Spotting athletes on the tube was normal, and we were even able to hold one of the official Olympic torches after meeting a volunteer outside King’s Cross station. My last night in London was the opening ceremonies – a bittersweet ending to the best 8 weeks of my life. As I sat at the pub eating fish and chips just like I had done my first night in London, reminiscing with strangers who had become some of my best friends, I had realized that I picked the absolute BEST summer to study abroad in London.
Ramapo College 2012-2013
WHO STUDIED ABROAD?
144 students, to 25 countries, studying 29 different majors!

WINTER 2012
Emily Marcus  Paris, France ●
SPRING 2012
Jamie Bachar  Florence, Italy ●
Brandon Boudnight  London, England ●
Katherine Carter  Osaka, Japan ●
Jaclyn Campolillo  Sevilla, Spain ●
Kelly Craig  Monterey Bay, CA ●
Megan DeSombre  London, England ●
Rachel Frank  Bangalore, India ●
Lauren Geyman  Bangalore, India ●
Nicole Ginsburg  Yungaburra, Australia ●
Jamilla Gray  Bangalore, India ●
Shane Hajzer  Tokyo, Japan ●
Bassam Hanoun  Barcelona, Spain ●
Christina Heinmann  Bangalore, India ●
Hailey Jester  Florence, Italy ●
Jeffrey Kruthof  Serbia, Bosnia & Kosovo ●
Lauren Magenta  Los Angeles, CA ●
Alyssa Mendez  Sevilla, Spain ●
Gary Minuccio  Barcelona, Spain ●
Brian Nazzaro  Florence, Italy ●
Simone Nervuzian  Bangalore, India ●
Alysa Ochoa  Bangalore, India ●
Maribel Pantaleon Tejada  Bangalore, India ●
Geoffrey Richter  Bangalore, India ●
Katherine Rivas-Baer  Bangalore, India ●
Daniel Rozan  Bangalore, India ●
Emma Ruddick-Ferrat  Prague, Czech Republic ●
Brittany Ryan  Hilo, Hawaii ●
Heather Schrepel  Buenos Aires, Argentina ●
Amy Walsh  Madrid, Spain ●
SPRING BREAK 2012
Laura Arias  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
Samuel Cruz  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
Valeriya Kamensova  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
Geríllo Rosado  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
Valentiy Tsvetaeva  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
Amelia Vance  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
Sílvia Vargas  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
Haydel Villacis  Shanghai, Beijing, China ●
SUMMER 2012
Joy Abma  Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone ●
Victoria Adam  Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina ●
Jennifer Alfonso  Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone ●
Paul Arvory  Buenos Aires, Argentina ●
Kristin Badit  Florence, Italy ●
Karissa Battaglia  Sydney, Australia ●
Paula Bohan  Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone ●
Jonathan Bonacolta  Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina ●
Robert Breeman  Paris, France ●
Thomas Colella  Florence, Italy ●
Ruby Corman  Copenhagen, Denmark ●
Jennifer Davis  Florence, Italy ●
Hannah Diehl  Tokyo, Japan ●
Brittany Dillon  Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina ●
Tara Dombroski  Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone ●
Deshuana Dunn  Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina ●
Yisel Espinal  Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone ●
Emilyann Gachko  Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina ●
Brian Garrett  London, United Kingdom ●
Keith Gerstein  Cambridge, United Kingdom ●
Gena Giuliana  Florence, Italy ●
Ricky Green  Prague, Czech Republic ●
Akhlene Haidar  Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone ●
Gabriela Hermosi Barcelona, Spain
Jennifer Hodhod Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina
Afzal Hussain Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone
Rebecca Ishak Sevilla, Spain
Melissa Terram Limerick, Ireland
Rachel Kehoe Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina
Maeve Kirwan Prague, Czech Republic
Adam Lazar Atenas, Costa Rica
Christina Long Paris, France
Alyssa Maurin Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina
Garrett McConville Sydney, Australia
Kaitlin McGuinness Dublin, Ireland
Christopher McKenna Copenhagen, Denmark
Stephen Miller Buenos Aires, Argentina
Gary Miuccio Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina
Megan Niemiec Bilbao, Spain
Clare Peragine Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina
Stephanie Petraglia Sydney, Australia
Ernest Pianim Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone
Ivana Risadnamira San Sebastian, Spain
Shannon Rooney Barcelona, Spain
Melanie Sacks Florence, Italy
Marlene Salvador Rome, Italy
Ashlyn Sanabria Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina
Rebecca Scalabrino London, United Kingdom
Alyssa Selvaggio London, United Kingdom
Ian Singer London, United Kingdom
Jodi Steer London, United Kingdom
Valerie Torrizo Madrid, Spain
Margaret Tsai Barcelona, Spain
Murat Varjabedian Istanbul, Turkey

FALL 2012
Rachael Ard Dublin, Ireland
Matthew Barnish Prague, Czech Republic
Gregory Bukowski Cairns, Australia
Delaney Burke Paris, France
Kathia Cintron Barcelona, Spain
Whitney Finn Rome, Italy
Kaitlyn McBurnie Dublin, Ireland
Jared McGrath Santander, Spain
Jennifer Mejia Rome, Italy
Monica Micek Wellington, New Zealand
Nicole Perry Cairns, Australia
Carrie Stone Maynooth, Ireland
Megan Williams Cork, Ireland

WINTER 2013
Danielle Ford Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney, Australia
Ross Yellin Buenos Aires, Argentina

SPRING 2013
Radina Abdallah Kilimanjaro Bush Camp, Tanzania
Delaney Burke Paris, France
Samantha Callahan London, United Kingdom
Holly Giacci Florence, Italy
Kristina Colon Seville, Spain
Amanda Coyle Galway, Ireland
Chloe Dougherty Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Sean Eccles Salamanca, Spain
Ashlee Garcia Bilbao, Spain
Jacqueline Gauls Cambridge, United Kingdom
Elizabeth Kronyak Paris, France
Chelsea Lennon London, United Kingdom
Michael Mazzolo Cambridge, United Kingdom
Giselle Morales Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Rebecca Nicol Valencia, Spain
Jennifer O’Brien London, United Kingdom
David Resnick St. Petersburg, Russia
Matthew Riediger London, United Kingdom
Victoria Sciancalepore Galway, Ireland
Allison Smith Galway, Ireland
Jane Sosi Florence, Italy
Chasen Stern London, United Kingdom
Nicole Triola Galway, Ireland
Paula Valencia Florianopolis, Brazil
Leah Voysey London, United Kingdom
Melissa Wallace London, United Kingdom
Sharyce Willand Florence, Italy
Matthew Wolkenhauer Cambridge, United Kingdom

SPRING BREAK 2013
Salonge Alvadaro, Shanghai, Beijing, China
Erin Antonelli Shanghai, Beijing, China
Arely Cesti Shanghai, Beijing, China
Michael Dunn Shanghai, Beijing, China
Rudina Kajacka Shanghai, Beijing, China
Stina Malm Shanghai, Beijing, China
Bradley McNamara Shanghai, Beijing, China
Brittany O’Stein Shanghai, Beijing, China
Porfirio Rodriguez Shanghai, Beijing, China
Ryan Stromberg Shanghai, Beijing, China
Jordon Tocznynski Shanghai, Beijing, China
Caitlin Wroblewski Shanghai, Beijing, China
I am Samuel A. Cruz, born in Colombia and at the age of 9, my international exposure began when my family and I moved to the US. While in college I took advantage of going abroad. I didn’t have the resources necessary to cover all the expenses but with the help of the Departments of Study abroad and Financial Aid I was able to go around the world. My first trip was the alternative spring break trip to Guatemala my freshman year, and my second was to Spain and Costa Rica my sophomore year. I discovered that I had a passion for traveling and learning about other cultures. This helped me decide to change my major to International Business.

My last trip which defined my current situation was the spring break trip to China with Professor Huiping Li. After going abroad to China during spring break, I knew that China was where I had to be. Thanks to Professor Li’s guanxi (networking in Chinese), I was able to get in contact with an employer that was looking for someone with my qualifications and my international exposure, which I gained through my study abroad adventures.

Currently, I am working for an international corporation at their Shanghai headquarters. I will be traveling to many parts of Asia for training and supporting some Latin American offices since I can speak both Spanish and English. Hopefully soon I will be able to learn Mandarin and become trilingual.
Top: Sam, Valensiya, and their classmates pose at Tianamen Square.
Left: Sam outside the Temple of Heaven with Doctor Li.
Right: Valensiya enjoys the snowy countryside.
"I’m missing it! I can’t believe I’m missing this shot," I thought to myself as the bus running parallel to mine slowly pulled ahead before I could get my camera out of its stubborn bag. Enthralled by the grips of despair at my lost opportunity, I decided to ready my camera anyway so as not to miss another chance like that one. That’s when our bus driver - perhaps sensing my despair or maybe just feeling his pride sting as he fell behind the adjacent bus - put his foot on the gas, initiating a brief but thrilling 24 passenger street race along a harbor road facing Rio de la Plata. Taking the lead for just an instant, our driver pulled ahead allowing me enough time to take this picture. This image was made by some fluke that my camera was in focus; some fluke that this boy was still enamored by something (probably our bus or the river running next to us); some fluke that I decided to ready my camera despite missing my shot. If my time in Argentina taught me anything, it’s this: Be ready, you never know what might pass you by if you’re not paying attention.
Considering this would be my very first time out of the country, I had no idea what to expect when traveling to Argentina. Shortly after I arrived, I instantly knew that this was going to be a life changing experience. By being able to travel and experience a completely different culture, seeing new places and surrounding myself with inspirational artists, I have learned an abundant amount about myself as well as my artwork. This experience helped me become an overall better photographer and allowed me to pursue my passion in a way that I would have never imagined.
Not being able to choose only one aspect of Argentina to document in my final project I attempted to capture all of the surrounding elements of city life in my photos. I have titled this project Reflections on Argentina, referencing the memories that I created in documenting the country, as well as the actual reflections of the city that I captured in the windows of store displays. I was able to create a contrast between the different areas that I had visited by creating a reflective collage of objects, locations, and people both in Buenos Aires and Salta. The advertisement of merchandise displayed on mannequins creates an interplay in which the interior of the stores becomes one with their exterior location in my attempt to create a series that combines the duel facets of documentary and artistic photography.

This is my favorite photo I took during my three weeks in Argentina mainly because I captured it on the very last day of our trip. We all went to meet up on the roof of our apartment on a street called Colonel Diaz to take our last group picture. I would walk through the streets of Argentina appreciating and marveling at every subtle, beautiful difference to the United States. My favorites were the unique architecture and the enormous trees that line the city streets. In this photo I was able to catch my favorite little things about Argentina and the aerial view of the street, with its balcony filled buildings and its majestic city trees, thick enough to canopy the Buenos Aires street below.
This picture to me represented the economic struggle that Argentina was going through. Before this trip I didn’t believe that a place like Argentina would be classified as a lower world country. However, after witnessing my first bank run during our travels in Buenos Aires, I was alarmed to see the depth of economic deprivation that the country was experiencing. Sadly, much of the gorgeous architecture of Buenos Aires was covered with graffiti, many of it in response to political party agendas. Therefore, I was happy to discover graffiti on our way back home from the open market that appeared to be artistic and positive. I also like the juxtaposition of the smiling painted faces next to the two men leaning against the wall. In some ways the wall seemed to be a divider between positive and negative.

Studying abroad in Argentina was an unforgettable experience, and it was incredible being immersed in such a beautiful culture. I loved every moment of it, and I hope to go back soon.

▲ BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA DeShauna Dunn ’13

▲ SALTA, ARGENTINA Alyssa Maurin ’15
Through the bleary-eyed haze from the prior night’s wine horns and nine time zones of clock displacement, I began a semester teaching in the Caucasus last August on a bright Tbilisi morning. While the jet lag receded, the amazement with life in Georgia never did. For five months, I was a Fulbright Scholar based on Tbilisi, teaching graduate students in American Studies and Political Science centers at three institutions, including the flagship, Tbilisi State University. Fulbrighters wear many hats: teaching, serving on dissertation oral defense panels, faculty meetings, curriculum development, and chairing several conferences. In and outside of academia, the US Embassy, my titular employer, found myriad ways to deploy Fulbrighters both in Tbilisi and in the rural regions. I spoke to party organizations and student groups about developing democracy inside of political parties. Georgia treads unevenly but hopefully on a path toward democracy after its rebirth from the ashes of the Soviet Union’s collapse in 1991 and bloody convulsions of civil war in the 1990s. In this environment, it was richly rewarding to help even in a small way by engaging youth activists and talk about American party development, warts and all. While Georgia’s electoral structures are reasonably sound, one of the hard victories in a democratic consolidation is developing stable political parties that are responsive to public opinion and provide a path for preferences to manifest in government. In this way, I found the Fulbright program to be a great foreign policy tool for the United States, one that was deeply appreciated by the Georgians.

Georgia, or Sakartvelo as it is known by its citizens, is a jewel between the Black and Caspian seas and hemmed in by two mountain ranges. Known for wine, song, and poetry, Georgian culture echoes in the mountain gorges and across the vineyards dotting its river valleys. It is a host culture, and no visitor could claim a complete visit to Georgia without a “supra,” or formalized banquet with highly regimented toasting rituals in which honored guests play an important role. Food staples include wonderful options such as khachapuri, a flattened disc of fresh bread with ample cheese baked inside, and khinkali, unique pork dumplings with at least twenty precise folds. I traveled with my wife and four-year-old, and while our weeks were packed, we spent many of our weekends traveling to beautiful and less developed corners of Georgia. One such excursion was to an ancient cave city called Vardzia, an important religious spot founded in the twelfth century. Near the intersection of the Georgian, Turkish, and Armenian borders, it still contains a working monastery for Georgian Orthodox Church monks who were quite pleased to open a thousand year old church and show chipped but sacred frescoes to an American toddler. The Georgian language is notoriously impenetrable, but I picked up a couple favorite words. “Zeg,” is the day after tomorrow, and “Mazeg” is the day after that. We are hoping for an opportunity to return to Tbilisi after a few mazegs.
Alumni Profile

Nora Dougherty Fulbright Scholar ‘12-‘13

Recently, I was grading my 13 year old students’ position papers for their impending Model UN Conference. I read the following sentence: “The guys of Papua New Guinea don’t have transportation to and from school.” Now, one might see this and think that is a grammatically incorrect sentence, but to me, it was evidence of the impact I was having on my students in San Vicente de la Barquera.

I moved to Spain this past September after graduating in May 2012 to implement a Model UN program called “Global Classrooms” as part of a 10 month Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grant. I live in the tiny fishing village San Vicente de la Barquera on the Northern coast of Spain. It is your typical medieval Spanish beauty turned summer vacation destination; with sweeping views of the snow-capped Picos de Europa from the 12th century church and long sandy beaches with crystal clear blue-green water. I sometimes have to pinch myself when I think that I get to live here. San Vicente is a relatively quiet little town, with the school housing six grade levels and less than 500 students total. My students, ranging in age from 12-16 years old, were used to learning English from their very capable, though non-native teachers. So, when the American rolled into town, their English world changed in a big way.

Almost every day at IES Jose Hierro, I unconsciously begin class by saying, “Ok guys, be quiet!” due to the fact that all teenagers, especially Spanish teenagers, are impossibly loud. The phrase was something so familiar to me, so normal, so Jersey and something that I had hardly noticed that they would pick up like sponges. When I asked Margarita and Alberto, the authors of the position paper, why they wrote “the guys”, they said they were trying to say “students” like I say every day. Looking at how I use the phrase in addressing the students, I can easily see how they came to the conclusion that using “guys” would be correct. It was then that I truly realized that my students absorb everything I do and say in class, not just the information I expressly state.

I began to broadly wonder about the impact that I was having on my surroundings in addition to the profound impact San Vicente was having on me. Because I studied abroad in a big city, Sevilla, Spain, I was not as aware of my actions because I was one of thousands of Americans in a rather cosmopolitan city. I could go about my business with relative anonymity and I could try and hide my “American-ness”. But, in San Vicente, I am a bit unavoidable. Sara’s mother is the sole cashier at the tiny supermarket. Celia’s uncle is my postman and her aunt is the bank teller. Fernando’s entire family lives on the floor below me, and I can’t go into school on Monday without hearing from ten people every time they saw me over the weekend. Everyone is aware of who I am...which is as frightening as it is wonderful.

Being the “token American”, I think that the people of San Vicente use me as their personal ambassador to the United States. Many here think I know everything about anything that happens in the United States just because I am an American. When major events happen in the United States such as the presidential election, Sandy or even the tragic Newtown shooting, everyone from my students, my fellow teachers, or the friends I have made in town, have a million questions for me. It is as if they have had so many questions bottled up about the United States and they finally get to ask to me about the idiosyncrasies of the society that is dominating their own culture. I sometimes think my neighbor, an elderly gentleman, memorizes articles in the newspaper, just so he can tell me what he read about the United States in the paper. Even beyond talking about the news, my everyday “American” actions are observed. Most notably pointed out to me is that I oddly bring my coffee in a reusable to-go cup to work in the morning (which at this point, many have recognized as a good idea because the cafe in school fails to open until after 2nd period). Everything I do and say in San Vicente de la Barquera, whether in the classroom or on the street, is processed and analyzed as, “this is what typical Americans do and say”. There are times when I wish I could shop at the supermarket in peace, but most of the time, it is wonderful to be in a place where you say “hola” to someone at every turn.

When I sadly say goodbye to San Vicente in July, I wonder what their picture of an American will be? I wonder who they will bombard with questions about Obama, gun control, Justin Bieber, or if all the taxis in NYC are really yellow. I like to think my mark will be when the waiter at my favorite cafe, Confiteria Carma, asks the tourists from England this summer what they would like to order, he will say, “What can I get you guys”? 
The Office of Fellowships and Scholarships at Ramapo College works to make students aware of prestigious fellowships and scholarships and assist in the application process. Whether you are interested in conducting research abroad, doing independent research, or going to graduate school, the Office of Fellowships and Scholarships can help you apply for nationally and internationally competitive grants to help you realize your goals. These include the Fulbright, Truman, Boren, NSF, and many others for undergraduates, graduating seniors, and alumni.

Director of the office, Dr. Aaron Lorenz, can provide you with:

- How to get started with the detailed application components
- Individual counseling on which grant opportunities fit you best
- Guidance on the application process
- Assistance in writing and revising your personal statements and project proposals
- Requesting letters of recommendation
- Interview preparation

The process of applying for fellowships and scholarships can be a complicated one. Be sure that you seek the support and guidance of the office to maximize your chances of success with these highly competitive scholarships. Regardless of whether or not you are awarded a fellowship, the application process will help you cement your goals for the future, improve your writing and interviewing skills, and position you well should you decide to prepare graduate school application materials.

**American Academy in Rome**
The Rome Prize Fellow is invited to Rome for 6-11 months to expand their own professional, artistic, or scholarly pursuits. Stipends include $12500-$25000 as well as room and board. Applicants should be graduate students in architecture, design, visual arts, and various ancient and medieval studies. http://www.aarome.org/

**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**
Each year, 8-10 fellowships are offered to graduating seniors to work as research assistants to the Endowment’s senior associates. Anyone who has started graduate studies cannot be considered. The award includes $35000 as well as full benefits. http://www.carnegieendowment.org/

**Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship**
Award is for up to $50,000 per year for up to three years to college seniors and recent graduates with financial need who will pursue a graduate or professional degree in the visual arts, performing arts, or creative writing. http://www.jkcf.org/

**Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships**
All U.S. citizens committed to a career in teaching and researching at the college and university level are eligible. Award consists of annual stipend of $20000. Membership in an underrepresented group enhances likelihood of receiving a fellowship. http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fordfellowships/

**Fulbright Program – Institute of International Education**
Sponsored by the Department of State, the Fulbright Program is the largest international exchange program and supports graduate study and research in over 140 countries. Open to graduating senior or graduate student in U.S. in the fields of arts/humanities, business, education, engineering, natural/social sciences, and public service. Grants include book allowances, tuition, transportation, and moderate dependence allowance. http://www.fulbrightonline.org/

**The Gates Cambridge Scholarships**
Available to citizens of any country outside of the United Kingdom. Must apply to a subject of study available at the University of Cambridge. Must do research leading to Ph.D., MBA, MPhil, LLM, or second bachelor degree. Awards vary in size but tuition, housing, travel, and a stipend are standard. The ideal candidate will be driven by the values of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which include a commitment to reducing inequities and improving lives around the world. http://www.gatesscholar.org/
**Jacob K. Javits Fellowships**
This program provides fellowships to students of superior academic ability, selected on the basis of demonstrated achievement, financial need, and exceptional promise, to undertake study at the doctoral and Master of Fine Arts level in selected fields of arts, humanities, and social sciences. Award includes tuition and fees and a stipend of up to $30000 and is renewable. [http://www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/jacobjavits/index.html)

**James Madison Graduate Fellowships**
Open to teachers or those who plan to become teachers of American History, American Government or social studies (grades 7-12). Award is $24000 and prorated over period of graduate study. Students may apply as juniors or seniors and agree to fulfill the graduate study in a prescribed period of time. Fellowship includes the 4-week Summer Institute on the Constitution held in July at Georgetown University. [http://jamesmadison.com/](http://jamesmadison.com/)

**Marshall Scholarships**
Open to U.S. citizens who hold an undergraduate degree with a minimum GPA of 3.7. The traditional scholarship is for 2 years but may be extended to 3 years. Up to 40 scholarships are awarded annually for students to study at affiliated universities in the United Kingdom. Awards include university fees, cost of living expenses, annual book grant, airfare to and from U.S., and where applicable, contribution towards the support of a dependent spouse. [http://www.marshallscholarship.org/](http://www.marshallscholarship.org/)

**George Mitchell Scholarships**
Open to graduating seniors or graduates enrolled in first year of graduate school at a participating Ireland educational institution. Award includes tuition, fees, travel, and $11000 stipend for living expenses. There are 12 awards per year. [http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/](http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/)

**National Science Foundation**
The Graduate Research Fellowship Program aims to ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the United States and to reinforce its diversity by offering approximately 1,654 graduate fellowships in this competition pending availability of funds. The GRFP provides three years of support for graduate study leading to research-based masters or doctoral degrees and is intended for students who are in the early stages of their graduate study. Fields of study range from computer engineering, mathematics, geosciences, psychology, social sciences, life sciences, chemistry, physics, astronomy, and engineering. [http://www.nsfgrfp.org/](http://www.nsfgrfp.org/)

**National Security Education Program - David L. Boren Graduate Fellowship**
For both masters and doctoral level students, Boren Fellows study less commonly taught languages, including but not limited to Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Swahili. Boren Fellowships provide up to $30,000 to U.S. graduate students to add an important international and language component to their graduate education through specialization in area study, language study, or increased language proficiency. [http://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship](http://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship)

**Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship**
The Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Designed to attract outstanding students who enroll in two-year master’s degree programs in public policy, international affairs, public administration or academic fields such as business, economics, political science, sociology, or foreign languages, and who have an interest in pursuing a career with the Foreign Service in the U.S. State Department. Successful candidates are obligated to a minimum of three years of service in an appointment as a Foreign Service Officer. [http://www.woodrow.org](http://www.woodrow.org)

**Rhodes Scholarship**
The Rhodes Scholarships, the oldest international fellowships, were initiated after the death of Cecil Rhodes in 1902, and bring outstanding students from many countries around the world to the University of Oxford. Criteria include 1) literary and scholastic attainments; 2) energy to use one’s talents to the full, as exemplified by fondness for and success in sports; 3) truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness and fellowship; 4) moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one’s fellow beings. Award consists of $16000 per year for 2 years plus tuition, travel, and living expenses. [http://www.rhodesscholar.org/](http://www.rhodesscholar.org/)

**Harry S. Truman Scholarship**
The goal of the Truman Scholarship is to find and recognize college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in public service and provide them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training, and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service. 60 fellows are selected each year and the award consists of $30000 for graduate study. [http://www.truman.gov/](http://www.truman.gov/)
"Studying abroad has changed my life in more ways than one! I gained confidence I did not have before and met amazing people in a beautiful country. I highly recommend it for all students because not only is it a great time but it is a life changing experience that you will never forget!"