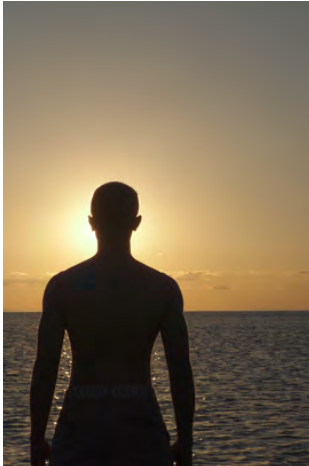


RAMAPO UNPACKED

VOLUME I, ISSUE 2: Summer 2012

30

Program Spotlight:
Ethiopia



*Ramapo Students
Abroad* **4**



26
National Student
Exchange

PUSHING > BOUNDARIES
INTERDISCIPLINARY > INTERCULTURAL > INTERNATIONAL

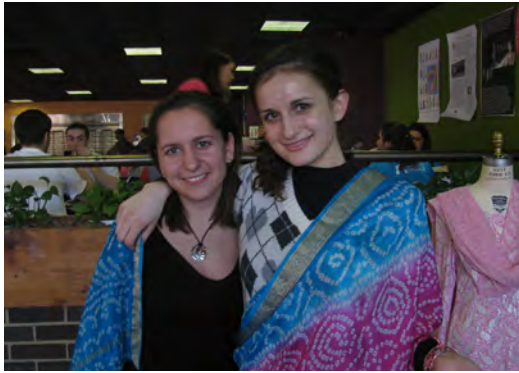


CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP RIGHT:
Venice, Italy
Rome, Italy

Joe Skarzynski '12 in Australia

ISO students Mariya Bistrina
'11 and Valeriya Kamenova
'12 enjoy a Roukema Center
event

Galway, Ireland



in this issue:

- 4** Student Travels
- 13** Where are They Now?
- 16** International Students at Ramapo
- 18** Photo Contest
- 24** Global Roadrunners
- 26** National Student Exchange
- 30** Program Spotlight: Ethiopia

Check the back cover for Study Abroad Tips, Q&A and Roukema Center upcoming events!

MEET *the* TEAM!

THE ROUKEMA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



Ben Levy

Director of International Education
Phone: (201) 684-7533
E-mail: blevy1@ramapo.edu



Rajesh Adhikari

Director of International Student
and Scholar Services / PDSO / RO
Phone: (201) 684-7533
E-mail: radhikar@ramapo.edu



Izumi Osawa-Minevich

Program Assistant / DSO / ARO
Phone: (201) 684-7533
E-mail: iosawami@ramapo.edu



Kate Godfrey

Study Abroad Advisor
Phone: (201) 684-7463
E-mail: kgodfrey@ramapo.edu

The objective of the Roukema Center for International Education 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 International Center 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 International Center 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.





Moments to Look Back on...

**MARAL VARJABEDYAN '13 -
LILLE, FRANCE**

Reflection 1: General Thoughts

During my experience abroad, I learned so much about a culture that is quite different from my own but I also learned a great deal about myself. Studying abroad is not the same as studying at your home university. Living abroad is also very different from living the life you are accustomed to at home. Yet no matter the differences, I had a wonderful experience and I would study abroad again in a heartbeat. No student can truly grasp how studying abroad will affect them, so it is up to the individual to take the chance.

Studying abroad helps you discover yourself and helps you find your place in the world. You have

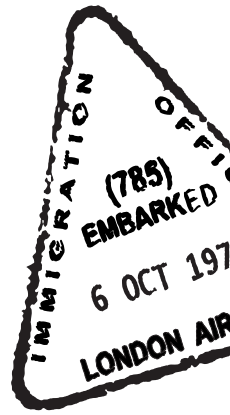
nothing to lose, so take that step and study abroad. Only you can find out for yourself what it is all about.

Reflection 2: The Knock at the Door

I arrived a week prior to the beginning of my study abroad program. I will admit that I was lonely and that I had difficulty adjusting to the new environment and time change. To help with my adjustment I went to the program's main office during that week to help the director and her colleagues prepare for the program, I looked forward to spending my time in the office especially because it helped ease my home sickness. Luckily I found other students in the dorm who arrived early. We became fast friends and my nervousness shifted to comfort. It is amazing how lasting friendships begin. For me, it was a simple knock on the door.



RAMAPO STUDENTS *abroad*



OPPOSITE PAGE:
Lille, France

THIS PAGE:
Lille, France

Maral Varjabedian
13' in Lille, France





Semester Abroad in Australia

JOSEPH BAUM '13 -
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA



For someone who seldom strays from the East Coast of the US, spending three months on another continent was a daunting commitment. In fact, I was so indecisive when applying that I delayed my participation for a few semesters because I didn't think I was ready. However, I knew this program was one I truly wanted to take and the motivation to finally commit came through with the encouragement from friends and family. Studying abroad is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I'm glad I realized that before it was too late. I experienced incredible environments, awesome people, and had amazing adventures during my time abroad, that I can confidently say, I will never forget.

Over the previous semester I was located in Australia on the Rainforest, Reef, and Cultural Ecology program provided by SIT World Learning. The structure of the program contrasted with what I had previously thought studying abroad would be like. Instead of attending college and going to classes like I would at Ramapo, I was traveling around Queensland, living in various hostels and experiencing firsthand the magnificent scenery of the region. The program was fast-paced and day-to-day, but always exciting. One night would be spent in a bed that our host families humbly prepared for us, and the next would be under stars in crocodile territory hours from any city- or hospital. I found the dynamic setting preferable than a traditional university. The hands-on approach taken with all of our lessons

undoubtedly allowed for a more enjoyable experience and made a lasting impression on me. The course was structured such that we would attend informal lectures on a specific aspect of the Australian environment, and then travel to it to conduct fieldwork with our new knowledge. Fieldwork ranged from preparing and executing an experiment assessing the presence of macroinvertebrates in a marine environment in the rainforest to identifying the niche roles of fish in a coral reef ecosystem. Conducting your own experiments in this hotbed of biodiversity and presenting your findings to everyone else is incredibly rewarding in itself and unlike any academic work I've done up until now.

The program was divided into three main modules and an independent project. The first was a weeklong camping trip with a focus on Aboriginal culture. With all technology packed away, we embraced the Aboriginal lifestyle that placed emphasis on having a symbiotic relationship with the environment to preserve the land and the traditions for future generations. The days were spent fishing and exploring and the nights ended with campfire stories and spear hunting of yabbies (large shrimp) in a nearby river. The opportunity to be immersed in a culture drastically different from our own was a cathartic experience. The second module was centered on the ecology of rainforests. We spent a lot of time traveling through Queensland to see how basic aspects of an area, such as elevation, have a profound impact on the formation and structure of a forest. Aside from gazing

at fascinating animals like pademelons, sugar gliders, and cassowaries (Google them, it's worth your time), we experienced beautiful waterfalls and unique plants. The rainforests in Australia arguably held the most visually stunning sites on the program and looking back on it now, I still can't believe I had the opportunity to witness them. The final and, for many, the best module was located on Lizard Island, a desolate tropical island where our studies focused on the surrounding coral reefs and the processes that make up the fragile ecosystems. Snorkeling was conducted 5-6 hours a day for research, learning, and largely enjoyment. Among the array of colorful fish, we often came upon sharks, rays, turtles, seahorses, and even the occasional (and somewhat frightening) school of barracuda! This is also where we got our first real glimpse into the life of being a researcher. We became proficient in varying methods of data collection and were taught the importance of being precise and succinct with the delivery of our results. The work was thorough and difficult, but in such an amazing setting, our spirits were invariably high.

The ISP, or Independent Study Project, was the longest and most rewarding portion of the program. After months of traveling as a group, each one of us split up for a month to pursue a research project arranged by ourselves with a superior in a field of interest. I joined a Ph.D. student on his work tagging and tracking sharks to assess their utilization of a nearby bay. The highlight of the month for me came when we hooked a Giant



Hammerhead shark over two meters in length and performed surgery on it, inserting a tracking device into its' stomach cavity. The independent study project was so rewarding because I wasn't just working for a grade at this point. I was doing important work that is going to make a change in the future. However small my contribution was to the overall effort, my work will be used in the production of scientific reports. Those publications will be considered in the designing of management and conservation strategies ultimately implemented to protect sharks. I can't say any of the work I've done back home has held that kind of importance.

In this article I use "we" a lot because I identified myself with the group of students I was with and at no point did I ever feel like I was alone or on my own regarding the difficulties I faced. I lived with 18 other students for a full semester and I formed a unique bond with them that I couldn't and won't ever be able to replicate with anyone else. We did everything as a group and I had some of my best moments because of this. Providing fire for the camp with nothing but a few sticks, being woken up to rescue the girls' room from a sizeable spider that had found its' way inside, and even sampling the native poisonous plants with these people that I shared this common passion with brought enjoyment and memories that I will keep with me forever. And yet, amidst all the group activities, I still became more independent as I learned about myself in a way I've only heard about from other people with similar excursions. Living for three months away from everything I've ever known has fostered my own confidence and made my aspirations in life more clear. It's necessary to leave your comfort zone once in a while to grow as a person. The motto of the program that was drilled into us from the very beginning reinforced this concept. "Accept adversity and ambiguity as adventure". I encourage anyone who needs that extra push to take the leap and study abroad, as I would do it again in a heartbeat.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:
A beach sunset in
Australia

Baum gets some
hands-on education
while working with
sharks in the Great
Barrier Reef





OPPOSITE PAGE:
Wilson's Prom
THIS PAGE:
Sam Klein
makes the most
of his time in
Melbourne



Wilson's Prom **SAM KLEIN '12 -** **MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

While living in Melbourne, I often heard a lot of my friends that were from Australia talk about going to Wilson's Prom in the summer. For a while I seriously thought they meant some sort of post-prom place, like how people from my area of New Jersey go to Seaside Heights after the prom. But I was very wrong.

My friends were actually talking about Wilson's Promontory, a massive peninsula that forms the southernmost tip of mainland Australia. It is a gigantic nature reserve, beach, camp ground, and wildlife reserve.

As a last hurrah, my closest Aussie mates decided to take my two roommates and I on a camping/surf trip at the Prom before we departed from Melbourne for good. We loaded up in three cars, included my friend Liam's massive, creepy-yet-awesome white van, and headed out to the Prom.

Loaded with signs warning us of kangaroo, koala, and wombat crossings,

this was shaping up to be a true, Australian camping trip. I felt lucky that I had been in Australia long enough to go on a trip like this; out of the mainstream, doing what real Australians do, not just touristy stuff.

Despite being somewhat in the woods, a less-than one minute walk led us to the beach; the southern-most tip of Australia. We could see tiny, untouched islands in the distance, wild rock formations to our side, and mountains in the background. Not to mention, a nonstop flow of perfect waves. The waves were a bit out of my comfort zone, as I am a fairly new surfer, but when in Rome...right?

Surfing, playing frisbee, relaxing on the beach, and enjoying some good conversation was the main theme of the trip. It was seriously a highlight of being in Melbourne.

Going with the theme of not telling us what exactly was in store, the Aussie boys warned us that we would be climbing up Mount Oberon. With a name that sounded like a Transformer, I figured the climb must be cool.

However, walking up the mountain was

pretty average. I wondered why we were doing this; it was just woods and a steep path.

We got to the top, and it was a pretty cool view, nothing too special. The boys then told us to follow them, as they climbed even further, to where it seemed nobody else was going. Higher and higher up, I was a little uneasy but continued on. At the very top, the view was absolutely epic. Any doubt in my mind was instantly erased. On this beautiful, cloudless day, we could see other mountains in the distance and the entire beach with its bright blue water. We could see out into the ocean for miles, with a view of the tiny islands and even beyond them.

When studying abroad, you will make good friends, the best friends, from the area you are living at. It is inevitable. Everyone wants to share their culture, their home, with you. While touring the area is great, nobody knows it like people that have lived there their whole lives. I consider myself lucky that I met such great friends who had the desire to show me around, and I would love the chance to one day show all of my international friends my area of America.



Night In the Piazza di San Marco KELLY ALPERSTEIN '11 - VENICE, ITALY

Several members of our group decided to spend our night in San Marco's Square, or in Italian, the Piazza di San Marco. We left the apartment a little later than we intended to, but the piazza is only about an eight-minute walk from the apartment, so we got there in no time. Upon our arrival, the first thing I noticed was that the buildings lining the piazza were delicately lit and the Basilica di San Marco, the Bell Tower, and the Ducal Palace were completely dark. These three buildings are the oldest structures in the piazza. The lack of illumination was interesting because it provided a window into the old world, when Venice was a powerful republic. The newer buildings (18th century Napoleon) were slightly illuminated, providing hints toward the modern era. The Piazza di San Marco at night was a completely different experience than I had anticipated. I expected the piazza to be as visually incredible as it is during the day, but I had seriously underestimated its magnificence. The sites and the romantic atmosphere made the entire experience unforgettable. The lack of lighting on the important, historic buildings is a reminder that Venice is indeed timeless. As you are sitting, staring at the buildings, you are immediately reminded that people have been doing the exact same thing for hundreds of years. Travelers and locals alike have been coming to this very same spot admiring its impressiveness and beauty for centuries upon centuries. The Bell Tower, the Ducal Palace, and the Basilica di San Marco have been symbols of the wealth and power of Venice since their construction. When gazing at these buildings it becomes obvious that despite the city



that Venice has transformed into, much of it still looks just as it did at the height of the Venetian Republic.

There were three cafés open in the piazza, each of which played live music. The café that we chose opened its doors in the late 1700s and had a more classical vibe. I ordered a delicious tomato and mozzarella sandwich with pesto sauce on a croissant. The four of us sat there listening to the music and enjoying the entire experience. The seat I chose was facing the piazza and away from the musicians, giving me a different kind of experience than the other members of my small group. I was able to listen to the music while observing the people in the piazza. Some stood and watched with obvious signs of contentment while others took pictures in an attempt to capture the experience forever. A few couples even danced with a significant other in the abundant amount of open space that the Piazza di San Marco could only provide at night. The entire experience was very romantic.

After the café, we all decided to walk through the piazza to get the full experience. As we made our way toward the Ducal Palace, we saw a bride and groom posing for pictures with the palace in the background. The Piazza di San Marco offers something that everyone lucky enough to visit can appreciate. During the day, pigeons are flying everywhere and the piazza is packed with tourists. The pace at this time of day is equal to the fast paced hustle and bustle of any city. However at night, the Piazza di San Marco is indeed a timeless place of beauty and tranquility, a place that will be forever ingrained in my memory.





BOTH PAGES:
Sights around
Venice, Italy



THIS PAGE:
Brendan Flanagan '12 enjoying his time in Ireland with fellow Ramapo College students Keryn Lemp '11 and Maura Schwartz '11

Mistaken Identity: Ireland and Being 'Irish'

BRENDAN FLANAGAN '12 - LIMERICK AND DUBLIN, IRELAND

"Always make new mistakes"
- Esther Dyson

Re-read my name. Now the article title. Makes sense, doesn't it? I was raised in an Irish-American household where we made sure we kept in touch with the customs of "the homeland." St. Patrick's Day was a huge event in my family's calendar, holly was a must at Christmas time and memories of my childhood are filled with events related to my uncle's connections with such organizations as the Irish Business Association and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. I thought I was as Irish as it got.

Even when my family visited the Emerald Isle for the first time, in the summer of 2009, I thought it was my homecoming. The week we spent there was an incredible vacation, but it was just that, a vacation. It wasn't until my study abroad in Ireland in the summer of 2010 that I realized how wrong I

was. Spending three months in a country really let's you get a sense of the culture, as well as just how removed from it you are.

I learned quickly, even from my first encounter. The first night on campus at the University of Limerick, my peers and I headed to the on-campus pub. After ordering a pint and paying, I left the bartender the euro's worth of change on the counter, exercising what I thought was the Irish trait of generosity. Not five minutes later, the bartender called to me and as I approached the bar, he said I'd forgotten my change. I tried to tell him it was his tip, but he simply laughed and said "students don't tip" and handed me back my money. So much for my expertise.

As time went by, I did pick up on the subtleties of Irish culture a bit more, but never again believed myself to be an expert. While the argument could be made that I "went native" during my time abroad, I would argue against it, saying that you can never fully know a culture you haven't grown up in, you can only keep learning. So while I could inform you of the tipping habits in Ireland, or the proper way to address a stranger on the streets of Dublin, I'll never make the mistake of forgetting the second part of Irish-American again.



Where are they now?

Ramapo Study Abroad Alumni

CHRISTINA ARECCHI, CLASS OF 2012

When I first started Ramapo as a freshman, I knew right away that I wanted to participate in a study abroad program. Going abroad just seemed like an experience that would only enhance my college years and it definitely did! For my spring semester of junior year I said goodbye to the mountains of Mahwah and hello to the Spanish sun. I spent my time in Santander, Spain and loved every single second of it. At the end, I even changed my plane ticket in order to extend my time abroad with new friends and amazing adventures. After returning to New Jersey I knew that my time abroad was only beginning.

During my senior year the international community became a much bigger part of my life through different clubs, classes and my new job at the Roukema Center for International Education. While working there I became exposed to opportunities abroad beyond graduation. Knowing that I wanted to continue to learn Spanish, I focused on work/volunteer possibilities in

Latin America. After finding many programs that were too expensive or not within my ideal time frame I continued my internet searching until I came across the English Opens Doors Chile Program. The program is run through the Chilean Ministry of Education. Native English speakers are placed within schools throughout the country to assist English teachers in class. Having no degree in teaching or any real teaching experience, I was a bit apprehensive to apply for a job that I really didn't know much about but I did it anyway. Within a month of graduation I applied, got accepted, and moved to Chile.

I have now been in Chile for about a month and am very happy with my decision to live abroad while working. I call the small town of Panguipulli (Pan-gee-poo-ye) home and teach an entire high school of students from grades 7-12 English every day. It is a lot of work and sometimes it is hard being away from my family and the comforts of home but I am learning to love my new life! Having students who are excited to

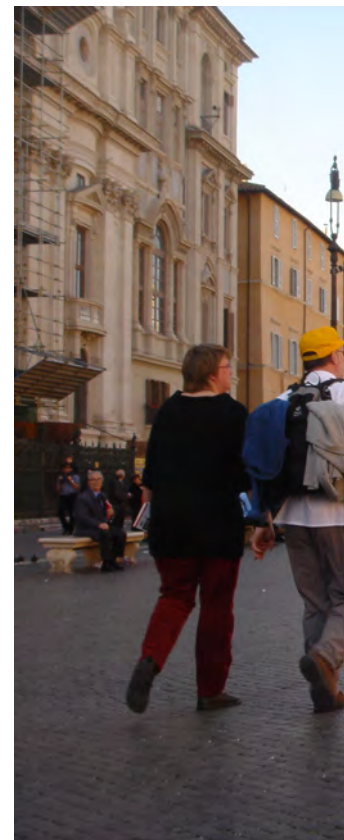
be in my class and a host family who are very welcoming have definitely made my first few weeks easier.

I am currently contracted until December and then I have the opportunity to renew my contract if I want. While my plans after December are uncertain, knowing that there is more to life after college than just graduate school or a starter job is very reassuring for me personally. Without having done a study abroad semester I honestly do not think I would have had the courage to leave everything behind and move to a new continent without much hesitation. The life path I am on now is all because of my decision to participate in a college experience, who would have thought it would have such lasting impact? At times it can be scary and intimidating dealing with a different language, culture, and new people but I would rather have a little fear than live a life of monotony. So I suggest to you all to look past the boundaries that seem placed in front of you because there is so much more for you beyond them.



FROM LEFT:
Arecchi at Lake
Panguipulli, Chile, and
in Santander, Spain

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE



On Abroad

NERIKO MUSA DOERR - AIS ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Sometime between 1993 and 2002, my abroad became home. I came to the United States from Japan for graduate school—to study abroad—but ended up staying. My first time, studying abroad in Aotearoa/New Zealand as a Rotary International Exchange student at high school, made Aotearoa/New Zealand my lifework. In Aotearoa/New Zealand, Pakeha (New Zealanders of European descent) students graduated from high school or college often do a rite of passage called OE—Overseas Experience. They go abroad, usually to the United Kingdom, for several years. It is often described that by going Home, with a capital H because it was the mother country of a settler colony New Zealand, they find (or re-discover) their real home, Aotearoa/New Zealand. That is when they become Pakeha—an indigenous Maori word for the descendants of European settlers—people who identify themselves as of bicultural Aotearoa/New Zealand, not descendants of European settlers, some say. In the field of cultural anthropology, in which I was trained, it is said that a period of staying abroad allows us to understand ourselves better. However, study abroad seems to do more than just holding up a mirror for us.

What is the “abroad” in study abroad? I followed four Ramapo students last summer, interviewing them before, during, and after their study-abroad trips in Europe. I spent several hours in their abroad settings, at their schools, hostels, a dormitory, and a

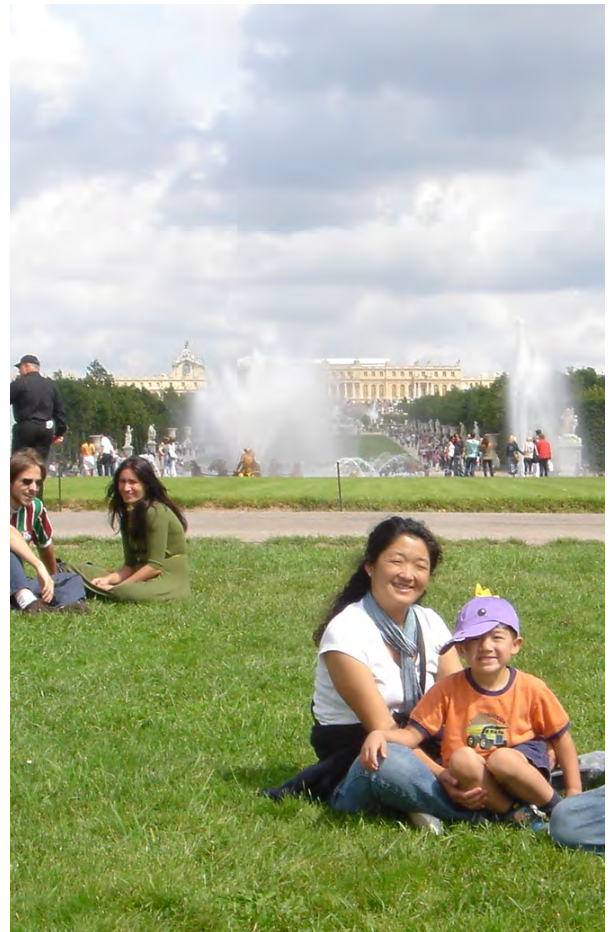
host family. Just like the four of them are different, their abroad experiences were all different.

Vanessa (all the names are aliases) told me with excitement walking down a street in full sun, “it’s like I’m being a kid again!!!” Exploring the landmarks, historical places, stores, beaches, restaurants, festivals, and so on with a group of good friends, having a great time and absorbing and learning everything around her made her feel like a child, starry eyed and curious. Her abroad brought her back to childhood excitement about the world around her. Her “abroad” was inside her, in her memory: past experience and sensitivity.

Jasmine chuckled when she told me that some people mistook her as a local during her study abroad. She loved exploring the city alone, dressed like a local with a bag that a local would carry and shoes a local would wear. She had studied the language for over ten years. She had followed the politics and current affairs of the country. But, it was through her body that she experienced her “abroad”: She became the “abroad.” It was abroad that contradicted with what she thought of as home: sweats, sneakers, and flip-flops, as well as English, had to be left behind.

Christina found her “abroad” in the classroom. Discussions with international students in class exposed her to various viewpoints about the United States, especially its policies, which she was not aware of. She reported, with an embarrassed smile—





CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT
TO RIGHT:
Doerr in Paris.
Rome, with her
son in Versaille,
and in Rome



probably because it was not a cliché study abroad moment although legitimate nonetheless—that class was the most exciting part of her study abroad. There, it was not so much the local but the international of the metropole that was the “abroad” for her. Her “abroad” was a new window to a wider world that opened beyond the local destination.

Elaine’s “abroad” was language. Staying with a host mother who loved talking with her in the local language, she reported that learning to converse constantly in her second language was both challenging and rewarding. She then mentioned how she now knows “what people who are learning to speak English feel like in the US.” Her “abroad” pushed her to think what home is and those who made their abroad home. Abroad and home became intertwined through her empathy.

As students learn abroad, of course they study, but it seems they do more. While the abroad appears exciting and pulls us with its newness and difference, it is more than the ‘otherness’ that they encounter. Abroad reminds us of our tender memories within ourselves. Abroad allows us to experiment with our new selves. Abroad opens to us new windows. Abroad pushes us to empathize with others who made our home their home also. Abroad provides us with a set-aside time and space to look and think, away from our mundane lives that may create an all-too-easy borderline between abroad and home, the difference. In the excited words and sparkling confidence of students studying abroad, what appeared in front of my eyes was a new space where such a borderline split, tangled, evaporated. Abroad is an entryway to “us.”

Ramapo College 2011-2012

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

52 students, from 19 countries, studying 16 different majors!

Furzeen Abbas **Pakistan** ●

Olivia Akien **Trinidad and Tobago** ●

Dimitar Andreev **Bulgaria** ●

Ivaylo Balabanov **Bulgaria** ●

Zhasmina Baramova **Bulgaria** ●

Mariola Baran **Poland** ●

Roselaure Charles **Haiti** ●

Nam Dang **Vietnam** ●

Clifford Denis **Haiti** ●

Magdalena Dimeska **Macedonia MA** ●

Lyuben Dimitrov **Bulgaria** ●

Petar Dobrev **Bulgaria** ●

Tsveta Dobрева **Bulgaria** ●

Nezabravka Dzhogleva **Bulgaria** ●

Mario Georgiev **Bulgaria** ●

Juan David Gomez **Colombia** ●

Asa Hilmersson **Sweden** ●

Buu Ho **Vietnam** ●

Yingjie Hu **China** ●

Elena-Maria Ilieva **Bulgaria** ●

Mariya Ivanova **Bulgaria** ●

Yoon Seoung Jeon **South Korea** ●

Valeriya Kamenova **Bulgaria** ●

Shauharda Khadka **Nepal** ●

Rijesh Kumar **Nepal** ●

Wenji Li **China** ●

Saroj Maharjan **Nepal** ●

Tomasz Malinowski **Poland** ●

Enkhbat Mandukhai **Mongolia** ●

Vassil Mihailov **Bulgaria** ●

Achyut Neupane **Nepal** ●

Omolara Obishai **Nigeria** ●

Emmanuel Ojo **Nigeria** ●

Adetoun Olatayo **Nigeria** ●

Johnny Olsson **Sweden** ●

Paul Oriwa **Kenya** ●

Olanrewaju Owoyele **Nigeria** ●

Minneh Oyas **Kenya** ●

Sooyeung Park **South Korea** ●

Bethsaida Perez **Mexico** ●

Marlouie A. Saldariega **Philippines** ●

Foram Shah **India** ●

Shijan Shrestha **Nepal** ●

Eun Jung Sin **South Korea** ●

Fakir Temocin **Turkey** ●

Vladislav Todorov **Bulgaria** ●

Valensiya Tsvetanova **Bulgaria** ●

Aleksandar Vasilev **Bulgaria** ●

Xiaoyu Wang **China** ●

Yunjie Xu **China** ●

Ha Na Yeo **South Korea** ●

Dobromir Yordanov **Bulgaria** ●



ABOVE:
Scenes from the International Food Festival 2011

LEFT:
Foram Shah '12 and Izumi Osawa-Minevich, Roukema Center Program Assistant

FAR LEFT:
Yinjie Hu '15, Xiaoyu Wang '15 and Aleksander Vasilev '15 at the International Student Orientation



- Accounting
- Bioinformatics
- Biology
- Biochemistry

- Business Administration
- Chemistry
- Communication Arts
- Computer Science

- Economics
- Engineering Physics
- International Business
- International Studies

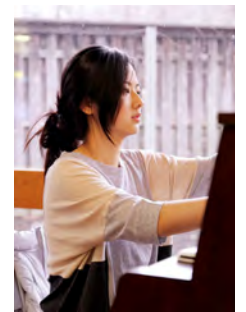
- Information Systems
- Liberal Studies
- Nursing
- Psychology



ABOVE LEFT:
ISO Executive Board:
Juan David Gomez '13,
Shauharda Khadka '14,
Olarewaju Owoyeye '12,
Wenji Li '15, Elena-
Maria Ilieva '15, and
Aleksander Vasilev '15

LEFT:
International Evening

BELOW:
Wenji Li '15



Want to have FUN? Join us - the truly multicultural community at Ramapo!

The International Student Organization (ISO) is one of the most diverse clubs at Ramapo which provides the opportunity for international and U.S. students to experience cultural exchange through its various programs. ISO helps bring students and scholars from different cultures, backgrounds and lifestyles together and provides a support system by promoting unity and advocating for the interests of our international students. Students are encouraged to become involved in various activities and programs so that they can build new friendships, learn acceptance of differences and

to make the most of their time here at Ramapo to engage in cross-cultural learning.

Last year, the International Food Festival was one of the highlights of our club which featured international cuisine and entertainment from various cultures represented at Ramapo. This program has been held for the past several years and has become one of the most popular events during the spring semester.

It is our hope for this upcoming year, with the support from the Roukema Center for International Education, to launch a variety of new programs for students, faculty and staff at Ramapo. We are planning to hold our first International Chalk Mural Competition,

international cooking demonstrations and a Kite Flying Festival. In addition to these events we will be conducting our monthly coffee house, multiple trips to New York City, bowling nights, potlucks, movie nights and much more. Visit the Roukema Center website to view the events calendar for updates!

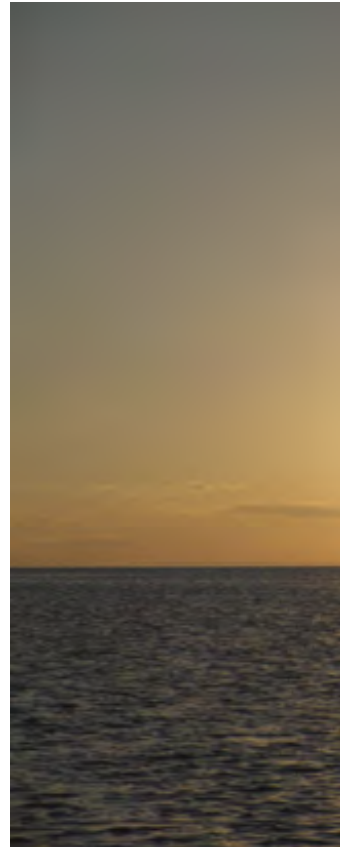
Our club is seen as a unique multicultural family and you are more than welcome to join us at any time during the semester! We encourage you to become part of the ISO family and gain leadership experience through your engagement in our activities!

**ISO E-BOARD TREASURER
WENJI LI, CLASS OF 2015
JIANGSU, CHINA**

Roukema Center
**PHOTO
CONTEST**
SPRING 2012



▼ PARIS, FRANCE: Elena-Maria Ilieva '15



▼ SHANGHAI, CHINA: Ashley Wood '13



▲ LAS SALINAS GRANDES, ARGENTINA: Craig Lewis '12

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Best Food Photo - Danielle Tiu '12
La Boqueria Market, Barcelona, Spain

Best Campus Photo - Ashley Wood '13
East China Normal University,
Shanghai, China

Most Creative - Craig Lewis '12
Las Salinas Grandes, Argentina

Best Landmark Photo - Elena-Maria Ilieva '15
Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France

Congratulations!

▼ MAHWAH, NJ, USA: Yingjie Hu '15



▲ GLENDALOUGH, IRELAND: Brendan Flanagan '12

▼ ROME, ITALY: Alex Polizzo '13



▲ GIVERNY, FRANCE : Maral Varjabedian '13

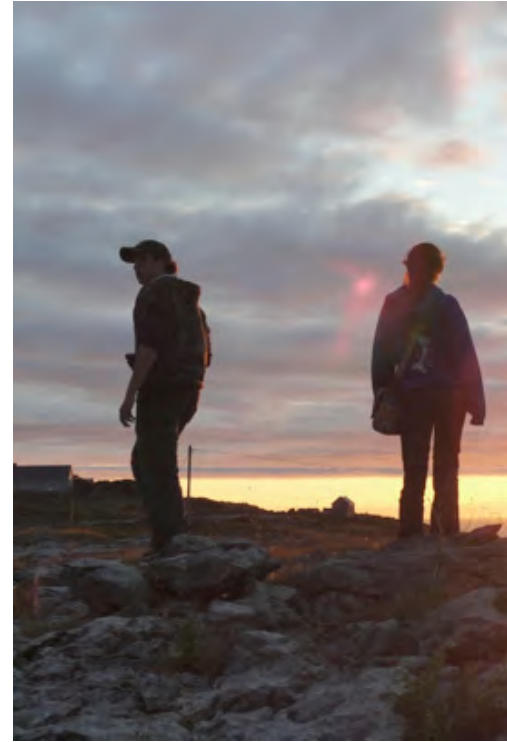


▼ BEIJING, CHINA: Clifton Shambry '12

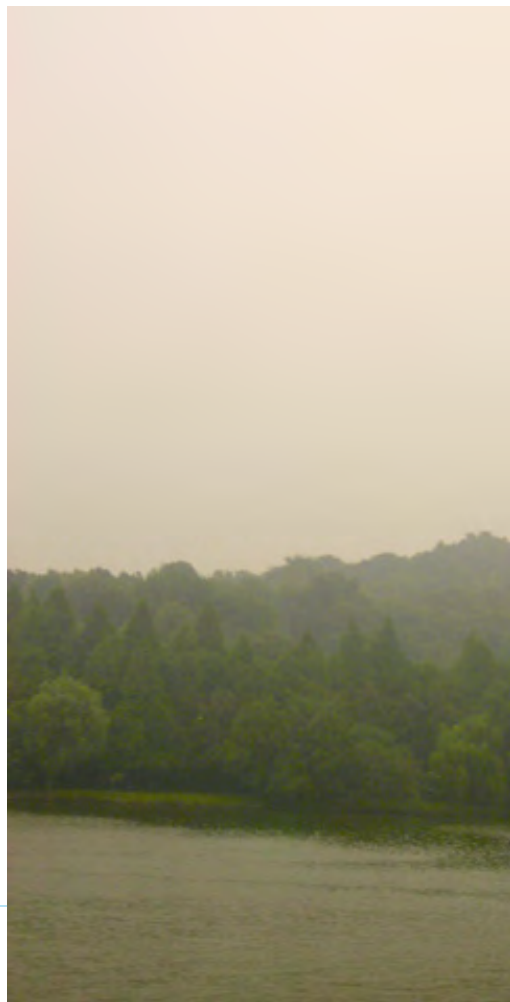
▼ LILLE, FRANCE: Maral Varjabedian '13



▼ GALWAY, IRELAND: Brendan Flanagan



▲ NOOSA HEADS, AUSTRALIA: Joe Skarzynski '12



▼ **URBINO, ITALY:** Lauren Santaniello '12



▲ **KRAKOW, POLAND:** Noah Dennison '10

◀ **HANGZHOU, CHINA:** Ashley Wood '13



ABOVE:
Joe Skarzynski '12 and
Sam Klein '12 invite
students to participate
in a Tim-Tam Slam

ABOVE RIGHT:
Ben Levy, Director of
the Roukema Center,
and Fledge bond over
Study Abroad

RIGHT:
Study Abroad
Advocacy Training Fall
2011

OPPOSITE PAGE:
Global Roadrunners
Megan McHugh '12,
Brendan Flanagan '12,
and Rachel Brant '14
spend time with Fledge

Global Roadrunners
Chris McKenna '12,
Brendan Flanagan
'12, Kate Godfrey,
Study Abroad Advisor,
Maral Varjabedian '13,
and Megan McHugh
'12 at the Leadership
Conference 2012



global ROADRUNNERS

Q: Who is a Global Roadrunner?

A: Any returning RCNJ study abroad student in good academic standing is eligible to become a Global Roadrunner. We are looking specifically for students who are passionate about their study abroad experience as well as international education as a whole. Each student must submit a completed Global Roadrunner application and resume. Those selected will then proceed to the interview phase where finalists will be chosen.

Q: What is the Global Roadrunner program?

A: The Global Roadrunner Program is designed to engage returned study abroad students in the development and strengthening of a study abroad "culture" at Ramapo College. It is very exciting for a prospective

participant to hear about study abroad from a peer's perspective. Participation in this volunteer activity will provide students with leadership experience, event planning skills, exposure to public speaking as well as serve as a great resume builder.

Q: What do Global Roadrunners do?

A: Global Roadrunners assist the Study Abroad Advisor with classroom presentations, information tables, event planning, advocacy work, and recruitment throughout the year. Global Roadrunners also meet with potential study abroad students in a peer advisor capacity. Time commitment depends on the individual.

Q: How & when can I apply?

A: Please contact the Study Abroad Advisor for more details or email kgodfrey@ramapo.edu.



The Global Roadrunners strive to communicate to students, faculty and staff the importance of international education. Students who are Global Roadrunners have studied abroad at some point in their undergraduate college years, and they not only serve as peer mentors to students who are interested to study abroad, but they also organize events as well as participate in the NAFSA Advocacy Day Conference in Washington DC to advocate international education to our New Jersey constituents. The Global Roadrunners understand the importance of international education as they have experienced it with their studies abroad, and they would like others to experience the positive impact of international education. The Global Roadrunner program provides returning study abroad students with the opportunity to relate to one another by listening to each other's experiences abroad. We provide an outlet for them to unite and voice their experiences to others in order to promote "pushing boundaries" and to study abroad!

MARAL VARJABEDYAN '13
Global Roadrunners, President



THE NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE

Student Testimonials

The National Student Exchange is a consortium of over 180 colleges and universities throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Canada. Through this academic program, Ramapo College students can continue to make progress toward their RCNJ degree while studying at another fully accredited institution. After a semester or year on exchange, students return to RCNJ to complete their remaining degree requirements and graduate.

If it is time to expand your curriculum, strike out on your own, explore new interests, study with new faculty, hear different ideas, make new friends, or create new opportunities, then widen your horizons through the National Student Exchange.



One of the most wonderful things about NSE is that you get to experience how truly diverse culture is in the United States. I think often times people assume that to get that unique cultural experience you have to study abroad in Australia or Africa or Europe, but through NSE I really gained appreciation for how different cultural niches exist within the United States.

I studied in Hawaii, which was an amazing, unforgettable experience. I met people from Texas, Alaska, Colorado, and Idaho (among others) and they each came to the program with their own regional perspectives. It was so much fun to be able to explore Hawaiian culture with people from all over the United States. The music, food, art, customs, and relationships that comprise Hawaiian culture were fascinating to immerse myself in, especially against the backdrop of a Hawaiian sunset.

TARA BELITS

Studied at the University of Hawaii-Hilo, Ramapo College Class of 2011



I would have to conclude that overall, studying a semester in Hawaii was one of the best decisions that I have ever made and was worth every penny, even though it wasn't as expensive as I had envisioned. Often times it's not very common that a chance comes around to see and learn all that I have. The endless adventures that were filled with the excitement of newness made this trip worthwhile to say the least.

Academically, this trip served as a great tool for advancement in and broadening of my understanding of environmental studies as well as how other people view worldly problems. While away I also took action in volunteer opportunities with my Forestry and Natural Resources class. Generally speaking, the majority of the materials learned in class were easily glued to my memory as a result of the many class field trips that were taken into different forests, habitats, observatories and other suitable fields that reflected the specific knowledge at hand.

Professionally, this program earned me a few experience points. Simultaneously dealing with the stressful combination of living in a new environment, meeting the demands of the classroom with flying colors, keeping a relationship with family and friends, and having fun has helped my scratch the surface of the integrity that lies within maturity.

During this program I was able to freely explore and learn about the Hawaiian culture as well as, indirectly, my own values. Being so far away from everything I was accustomed to initiated a new idea of pinpointing exactly what I valued the most, which developed

throughout the semester. Although I thought that New Jersey defied the capacity of the meaning of the word diversity, I learned that Hawaii is filled with people from all over the world while its location is the further away from land than any other piece of land. By understanding both what individuals from other cultures valued and why they put such meaning behind them, I became more open minded in accepting differences at all angles. I then took a glance within myself and cleared previous ambiguities about things that I had not been aware of. I feel stronger about the things I care for and appreciate the little things that used to be too small to sense.

This school attracted me because it had similar, smaller, class sizes like Ramapo. To go along with that dimension, this school was not as tourist based as the other school in Hawaii. After taking a great interest in environmental studies, I thought, "What better place to study the environment?" Hawaii is a great place for this because of the vast range of climates that vary within every few miles.

Although it was nearly 5,000 miles away from home, I wanted to really see what the life was like here as opposed to trusting the popular rumors. Given the amazing opportunity provided through the National Student Exchange program, I was able to succeed in a dreamy endeavor that very rarely becomes a reality.

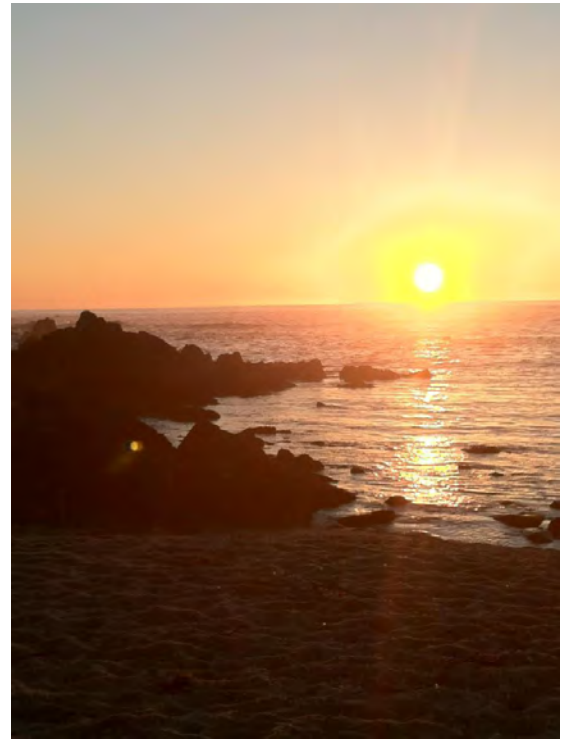
VINCE MAGGIO
*Studied at the University of Hawaii at Hilo,
Ramapo College Class of 2013*



OPPOSITE PAGE:
Tara Belits '11 in Honaunau, Hawaii
Belits and friends in Kua Bay, Hawaii

THIS PAGE:
Vince Maggio '13 in Hawaii
A typical beach scene in Hawaii
Vince Maggio '13 and Adam Lazor
'13 exploring the environmental
diversity of Hawaii

NSE Student Testimonials Continued...



Bags are packed and checked. I've gone through security. I'm all alone waiting for my flight. What am I missing? Oh yea, the freak out.

After saving since middle school, I finally reached a dream of mine by studying abroad in the spring of 2011 to Florence, Italy. I will always remember that plane ride home thinking it's all downhill from here. Instead of coming home to a hard reality, I had planned out traveling the spring of 2012 with the National Student Exchange. It sure did take the sting out of getting smacked with reality when I came back to New Jersey.

I've been well acquainted with the Newark airport. Hmm, do I want Chinese or Mexican food? Good thing I have an iron stomach since these are probably not the best options before sitting down in a confined area for eight hours. Nothing beats chicken chow mein and a book to relax with before a flight.

Preparing for California State University of Monterey Bay through the National Student Exchange was very different that preparing for a study abroad experience. I wasn't overly worried financially as I was saving money by taking a semester in Monterey instead of Mahwah. I researched a bit about the area, but nothing extensive. I figured, students right out of high school went to college far away; this will just be like that experience. What I didn't realize was that no matter how far away from home you are, you are entering a completely different culture.

I've landed. Woah is this different! The paycaf is bigger than this airport! Okay, I've found the person taking me to the college. He seems nice. Where are we? There's no regular green grass here? These hills are crazy. This is central California? How is this America?

California is so different than New Jersey, it boggles my mind they are both America. Waking up to an eerie fog each morning, never needing to check the weather reports as it is almost always a sunny 70, happy drivers on the highways and not

very satisfying pizza was more to handle than I was expecting. Seeing the fog rolling in over the mountains and over the bay around twilight had me fearing a zombie apocalypse.

Although it was much smaller of a trip, I think I learned just as much. I may not have hopped a train every other day to discover new medieval cities or perfected my Italian, but traveling completely alone was incredible. Interacting with all new people without anyone knowing a drop about you is a very freeing experience. It gives you a chance to be 100% who you are. Meeting all new people teaches you more about what your interests and values are as well. I was surrounded with international students from Mexico, Canada, Japan and even Guam. Learning about them and the places they have come from gave me some great memories.

Aside from the people, I fell in love with cycling, avocados and CSUMB's incredible glass library. Personally, I believe California is great for a few months as I enjoy the east coast, but I have definitely been influenced by their culture: staying outside as much as possible and not letting stresses of the day completely wear me out.

I've decided to return to CSUMB for the fall semester to experience a mix of the old and new. My California friends, the central coast beaches and towns are there and waiting, and I am excited to discover a whole new group of National Student Exchange students.

These will be my final four months of college. I'm excited to spend the sometimes-mundane weeks of classes with friends old and new, thousands of bike rides along the water, a trip to Yosemite and many, many beach days.

KELLY CRAIG

Studied at California State University of Monterey Bay, Ramapo College Class of 2013



OPPOSITE PAGE:
Craig takes a break with
some beach yoga
A sunset in Monterey Bay

THIS PAGE:
Jellyfish



THIS PAGE:
Some scenery in
Addis Ababa

Photo at top right
shows a glimpse of
the Addis Ababa
University campus

OPPOSITE PAGE:
Rural and historic
areas near the
Ethiopian capitol

This could
be you!





Program Spotlight **Study Abroad: Ethiopia**

Ramapo students have an exciting opportunity to travel and study in Ethiopia. Students can now enroll in a 4 credit, three-week study abroad course titled, “Globalization and Development in Ethiopia.” The study abroad program in Ethiopia provides an excellent opportunity for students seeking to explore and understand the pressing social issues facing the world today. Ethiopia is a land of contrasts. It is the birthplace of humanity, the source of coffee, the site of ancient forms of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and a symbol of African pride and independence. Ethiopia is also one of the world’s poorest countries. Unemployment is high, wages are low, education and health care is not easily accessible and hunger is widespread.

Over the course of three weeks, students will travel around the country exploring these contrasts and meeting with Ethiopians from various backgrounds seeking to understand the country’s history, its place in the world, the development challenges it faces, and the solutions its citizens are creating to resolve these challenges. Students will spend time living and studying in the dynamic capital city of Addis Ababa. Students will meet faculty and students at Addis Ababa University, one of Africa’s oldest and most

prestigious centers of Higher Education. Students will attend lectures and participate in conversations that address the historical, political, economic, and cultural context of Ethiopia. Lecturers will address such topics as Ethiopian, East African, and African History, Ethiopia’s Foreign Relations and Politics, the People and Cultures of Ethiopia, the Flora and Fauna of Ethiopia, and Ethiopian Architecture and Archaeology and Music. Students will also attend lectures that address specific development issues, including public health, economic development, land and food politics, environment, and education. The instructors will be academics from Addis Ababa University as well as guest community organizers, politicians, diplomats, and NGO administrators.

Students will have plenty of time to learn outside of the classroom. While in Addis (as the city is known), students will have time to engage the city’s dynamic history and culture. Addis Ababa is a fun and exciting city. Students can hang-out at cool coffee houses, go out to jazz clubs in the evening, walk through and shop in bustling markets, and visit some of the city’s historic churches. Students will also have the opportunity to visit the offices of some of the numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

headquartered in Addis. Addis is also a city buzzing with local and global political activity. It is home to the African Union, which brings in thousands of diplomats and politicians from all over Africa. Students will visit the African Union and discuss international politics and development issues with leaders from every part of the African continent.

Students will spend time outside of Addis Ababa as well, traveling to rural villages and historic cities in the North and South. There will be trips to the ancient monasteries around Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, tours of the castles of Ethiopia’s medieval capital of Gondar, walks through the ancient walled city of Harar, and meetings with Jamaican Rastafarians in the town of Shashemene. Students will also engage in service learning and spend time working in the Awassa Children’s Project and spend time in the coffee fields of the “self-sustaining” community of Common River in the Sidamo region, the birthplace of coffee. The course promises to be a fun and exciting learning experience! So, apply now.

David Colman

Associate Professor of African American History

To apply: http://ramapo.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=18256
The deadline to apply is March 1, 2013. Scholarships are available!

Mark Your Calendar!

Study Abroad 101

Every Thursday during the semester
1-2pm, ASB-123

Study Abroad Fair

Monday, September 10, 2012
11am – 2pm, B/C Wing Underpass
(rain site – Friends Hall SC-219)

Asia and Pacific: Study Abroad 101

Tuesday, September 11
1-2pm, B-224

Europe: Study Abroad 101

Thursday, September 13
1-2pm, B-224

Africa and the Middle East: Study Abroad 101

Monday, September 17
1-2pm, B-224

Latin America: Study Abroad 101

Tuesday, September 18
1-2pm, B-224

Anglia Ruskin University: Study Abroad 101

Wednesday, September 19
1-2pm, B-224

National Student Exchange: Info Session

Thursday, September 20
1-2pm, B-224

How to Apply for a Passport?

Monday, September 24, Tuesday, October 2,
and Wednesday, October 10
1-2pm, B-224

Spring 2013 Study Abroad Application Deadline

Monday, October 1: ASB-123
ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4PM

International Education Week at Ramapo College

Monday, October 15 – Friday, October 19
check events calendar online for more details

Financing Your Study Abroad Experience

Tuesday, October 23 and Monday, October 29
1-2pm, B-224

India Study Abroad Program & China Spring Break Program Application Deadlines

Thursday, November 1: ASB-123
ALL MATERIALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4PM

*All events are subject to change, please check the online events calendar for the most up to date information
<http://ww2.ramapo.edu/international/events.aspx>*

STUDY ABROAD TIPS

- Keep a journal or blog and take a TON of pictures! You won't remember everything and when you look back it'll help jog your memory of your adventure!
- Keep in contact with friends and family from home – they will want to share the experiences.
- Get involved in your study abroad community – volunteer and attend events to experience the culture in a new way and to meet new people!
- Disprove the American stereotype and break stereotypes you have of others
- Ask locals for the best places to visit, eat, or shop; they know best after all!
- Expose yourself to the local media – keeping up with local news helps in creating conversation with locals.
- Create a budget!! Do your best to stick to it!
- Research the customs prior to going; you don't want to insult anyone by not knowing the correct cultural norms.

If you would like to submit stories, pictures, poems or anything else from your travels to the Unpacked Magazine please contact goabroad@ramapo.edu.