

# RAMAPO UNPACKED

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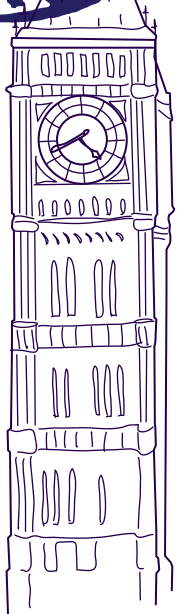
INTERDISCIPLINARY > INTERCULTURAL > INTERNATIONAL





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# MEET THE TEAM!

## *The Roukema Center for International Education*

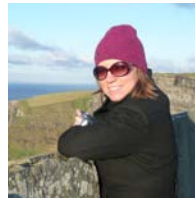
RAMAPO COLLEGE was founded with four pillars as the guiding principles of the College's activities: interdisciplinary education; intercultural understanding; experiential education; and international education. Within Ramapo College's Mission Statement, it states "The College provides service and leadership opportunities for students and faculty through a combination of internships, field placements, community service, study abroad, and cooperative education. These opportunities allow students, faculty and staff to encounter the world beyond the campus." 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 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.



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*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](mailto:goabroad@ramapo.edu)



**Ben Levy**  
*Director of International Education*  
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MY JOURNEY into the world of international education began when I was sixteen years old. I spent an entire high school semester in Israel. It is a place rooted in its history and culture while maintaining a beauty that is indescribable. It was here where my passion for the field of international education blossomed. Upon

arriving to my undergraduate institution Nova Southeastern University, I began supporting international education through my strong relationships with internationally-focused faculty. We worked in partnership on program development and recruitment for a variety of programs.

In 2000, I began an international non-governmental organization (NGO) focusing on conserving biodiversity through education, technology, and the visual arts. In that position, I led numerous groups of professionals to various countries. After two years, I continued my education with a master's degree in sustainable development, focusing on international indigenous issues. I then worked for nearly three years in Central America and one year in New Zealand as a faculty member leading study abroad programs. Upon returning to the United States, I worked for three years with SIT Study Abroad coordinating their Latin American programming. In 2009, I began my time with Ramapo College as the Director of Study Abroad, and was recently promoted to the position of Director of International Education. ✈



**Rajesh Adhikari**  
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THE OFFICE of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) staff warmly welcomes you to Ramapo's international community of more than 80 international students and scholars from over 35 countries. We take pride in providing high quality programs, services, and information in order to assist you in achieving your personal and professional goals while at Ramapo. The ISSS provides a broad range of services

including advisement to international students, faculty, staff, and scholars regarding United States Department of Homeland Security and Department of State regulations

and procedures; new international students orientation in spring and fall semesters; referrals relating to personal, social, and academic issues, and a full calendar of social and educational programs of interest to international visitors. ISSS ensures that the College maintains compliance with all applicable laws and regulations set forth by the DOL, DOS, DHS, USCIS, and other government agencies related to international students, faculty, staff, or other international visitors, and their accompanying dependents. The office maintains an open and welcoming environment for all our international visitors and we invite you to utilize the office and our website as a resource for information and appropriate referral. We wish you a productive and enjoyable stay here at Ramapo! ✈



**Kate Godfrey**  
*Study Abroad Advisor*  
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AT A VERY YOUNG AGE I fell in love - but not in the way you might think. I fell in love with travel. Many family vacations were spent in the car for hours at a time on the way to some destination on the east coast. So you could say my love began during many a road trip. However this love only grew when I was introduced to other modes of transportation; the boat, the train, and the plane. During each new adventure,

my grasp of the world grew and I felt a deep longing to see as much as possible and to connect in some way to

that new place. The excitement of being in a new place and learning more about their culture or way of life gave me a thrill I cannot find doing anything else. It had to be love.

My longest journey happened to be my first solo adventure on a plane after my freshman year of high school to Australia and New Zealand. It is difficult to remember every moment but I have key memories ingrained in my head and pictures to remind that which I have forgotten. I can still remember landing in Australia in the early morning hours and thinking, I made it, now let the cultural journey begin. It was after this experience as a student ambassador that I knew I had to repeat such adventures again and again.



As I was applying to colleges I knew that I had to study abroad. It wasn't a question of yes or no but when and where. I attended an open house at Marist College at which I visited a session on their study abroad program offerings. As soon as the Director of Study Abroad, Du-leep Desothale, began to speak it was as if he understood me. I finally found someone who was as passionate about travel as me. It was an easy decision to make; I had to go to Marist. Soon enough, along came my junior year of which I spent four incredible months mainly in Ireland with a few short trips around Western Europe added to my itinerary. I saw as much as I could fit into those four months. I connected with many new friends and people to whom I now refer to as family. Those four months have never left me; not their memories, not the people I met, nor the lessons I learned. They were undoubtedly the best four months of my college life.

After graduation I had a specific idea of my career direction. However as many recent graduates often learn, they will not have one sole job or sole job focus throughout their professional career. I dabbled in a few industries and found myself unsatisfied with my contribution to the lives of others and dissatisfied with jobs that bored me. During a random job search I came across a posting for a Program

Assistant at Ramapo College of New Jersey. I figured, "hey, I worked in the study abroad office at Marist as a student assistant, why not continue to grow and develop in the international education profession?" A resume overhaul turned into an interview that became a job. Three years later, now a Study Abroad Advisor at Ramapo College, I am happy to say I am as committed and passionate about my job as I am towards my love of travel. I love working with Ramapo students as they prepare for their experience because I was once in their shoes and I know what it felt like to feel nervous and excited at the same time. The best part of my job is reconnecting with those students upon their return; listening to their stories, looking through their pictures, watching videos, reading their blogs, and connecting with them as a study abroad returnee myself. No matter the destination or overall experience, the change in them is there and it never ceases to amaze me how all Ramapo study abroad students are changed in some way upon their return to their New Jersey home, a very different home from where they have lived for the past few weeks or few months. Who knew my study abroad experience would lead me here guiding other students toward their study abroad realities? I surely did not, but I am glad my journey brought me here to Ramapo and I look forward to what the future has in store. More travel perhaps? I think yes! ✈



**Izumi Osawa-Minevich**  
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BORN AND RAISED in a rather small town in Japan, my dream had always been to get out and see the world. Somewhere in my desk back home,

there is a local newspaper article from 1990 with a small picture of me with an awkward smile. When the paper decided to interview elementary school children in my prefecture asking what their future

dreams were, I answered that "I would be studying abroad somewhere in the world."

Growing up in Japan, learning a foreign language and studying abroad are inseparable. No other country uses Japanese as their national language. So learning a new language, such as English, was the first ticket to reach for that opportunity. Luckily, studying English was not really an obstacle for me. Of course the large number of textbooks and workbooks bored me at times, but I was having "fun"

trying to decipher what was written in magazines and newspapers, what musicians were singing about in songs, and what was happening on TV shows and movies.

Naturally, my dream of studying abroad continued to grow as time went by. I chose to attend an international university in Tokyo reputed for its robust study abroad programs. I was determined that I would apply for an exchange program and when the time came, I did. During my junior year, I spent two semesters as an international student at University of Pennsylvania. My life-long dream finally came true, and I loved every moment; Yet dreams are not always viewed through rose-colored glasses. Studying English and studying in English are totally different entities. My world was turned upside down when I was put to the test in the U.S. higher education system; taking the same classes and exams with domestic students and participating in group discussions proved to me that despite the long years of studying and preparing, my own shyness in speaking up in public and the lack of confidence in the language sometimes became a major hindrance. Getting an A was not a piece of cake anymore. I still vividly remember

the relief I felt after the first semester finding out that my grades were better than I had expected.

I experienced a whirlwind of emotions that year, the most significant being the urge I had was to find out who I was and to find my own voice. Studying abroad was not just about to seeing the outside; it was more of a series of inward discoveries. I often found myself asking “why did I decide to study abroad, why did I choose my major, and what do I want to do after graduation?” I also had to re-educate myself about my own country. When I introduced myself as a Japanese exchange student, people instantly started asking about my country and I often encountered situations in which I did not know enough to explain about my place of origin. I found myself looking up the entries on Japanese culture and statistics on Wikipedia quite often.

While at the university in Japan, I lived in the Global House with 70 international students and likewise during my year at Penn, I lived in the International Program residence hall. Both dorms gave me a chance to make many friends with whom I enjoyed social gatherings which usually involved international food and music. We shared our experiences being abroad, helped each other both in our academic and personal life by living together. Through this experience, I learned to develop my interest in cultural exchange and international communication to a further level.

Now America is not “abroad” anymore; it became my home. I have a family, friends and a career, all of which I cherish. Working in the Roukema Center as a Program Assistant, I provide support for both Study Abroad and International Student & Scholar Services. I feel this is where I belong. I can relate to what’s going on in the office based on my own experiences. After all these years, I still love being in an international community, and I have strong motivation to share these wonderful opportunities with others to broaden their horizons.

Sometimes, when you keep chasing words like “international,” “global,” and “multi-cultural,” the concept is so big that it makes you feel being at a loss unsure of where to start. I feel that I make a significant contribution by helping to provide and support our outgoing and incoming students at Ramapo College. My senior thesis advisor used to quote the phrase “think globally, act locally” on occasion. It is a term used in different context in the field of environment and business in international relations in contrast to the concept of globalization. With my own interpretation added, I enjoy the dynamics of international education while thinking globally and acting locally here at the Roukema Center. ✕



*Beth Barnett, Ph.D.*  
Provost

INTEGRAL TO every undergraduate college career is an international experience. The global perspective one receives through a study abroad experience is a necessary complement to the theoretical knowledge received in a classroom environment. Ramapo College of New Jersey provides students with “a high quality

comprehensive education based on the liberal arts with particular emphasis on international education; intercultural understanding; interdisciplinary curricula, perspectives and analysis; and experiential learning.”

Our strong emphasis on diverse classrooms of faculty and students contribute to student’s overall learning experience. Faculty and students are encouraged to share their out of classroom experiences during their classroom time to expand and strengthen the knowledge sharing during every class.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

The opportunities and resources offered by the International Center Team are unique and comprehensive. Whether you are simply in need of a passport or travel resources, or interested in developing an academic course abroad, the Roukema Center for International Education staff are available to support you. Visit them today! ✕







Peter P. Mercer, Ph.D.  
President

This May I was fortunate to travel to Sierra Leone with Ramapo staff, faculty, and students to do volunteer work in healthcare. The experience was a lesson not only in West African civilization and culture, but also an opportunity for participants, including me and my wife, Jackie, to gain greater appreciation and insight into our own culture and way of life- a remarkably

valuable lesson and one that I encourage our students to push themselves to experience firsthand.

In 2007 the National Academy of Sciences reported that "a pervasive lack of knowledge about foreign cultures and for-

As the world grows more connected and the workforce more competitive, Ramapo's commitment to internationalizing the undergraduate experience becomes increasingly important to student success. The successful engagement of our students in a global society relies largely on their willingness to embrace the College's four pillars of intercultural understanding, interdisciplinary curricula, international education, and experiential learning as pathways to achieving their own individual international competency.

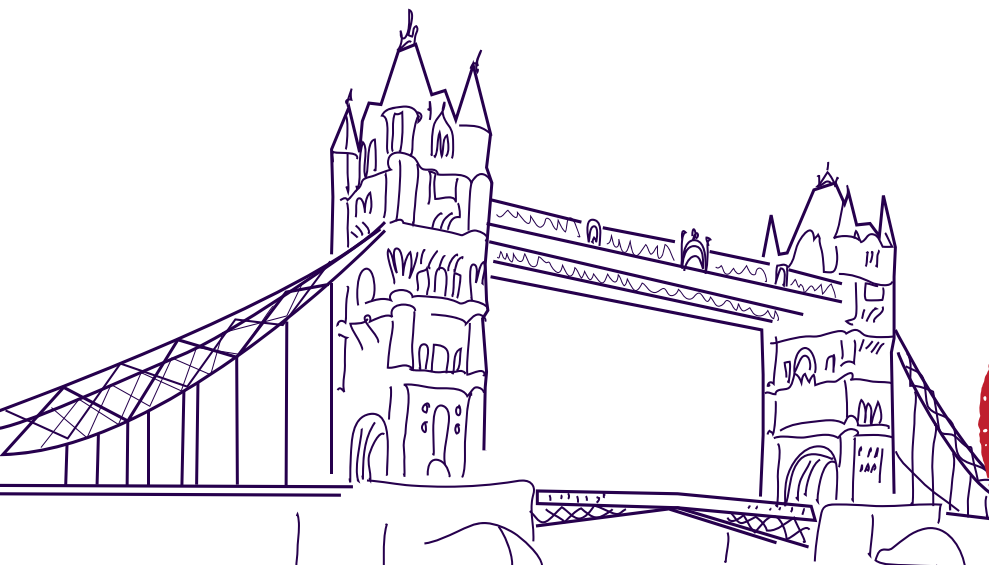
At Ramapo, the development of a student's international competency is rooted in our liberal arts curricula and complemented by the Roukema Center for International Education. The Center houses Study Abroad, International Student and Scholar Services, and National Student Exchange. These programs all foster an appreciation for diversity, foreign language skills, and the capacity to function effectively in different cultural environments.

The Center has expanded its programming over the years to address the increasing societal and labor demands for a well-informed and internationally competent citizenry. Among the 400+ study abroad programs in 60 countries available through Ramapo, students can research environmental conservation within the Eastern Himalayan Forest of Bhutan, explore the cutting edge uses of renewable energy throughout Iceland, or improve their Spanish while examining the political, social, and

cultural forces shaping contemporary Spain at the University of Granada. Our study abroad programs span the globe and, as such, they challenge our students to push their own geographical, academic and individual boundaries--giving way to truly invaluable personal and intellectual growth. ✈



eign languages in this country threatens the security of the United States as well as its ability to compete in the global marketplace and produce an informed citizenry."



# 2011 STUDENTS

Over 100 students, representing almost 30 majors, traveling

## Spring 2011

- Arecchi, Christina* - Santander, Spain ■■
- Craig, Kelly* - Florence, Italy ■
- Fantozzi, Taylor* - Florence, Italy ■
- Ferrari, Lorin* - London, England ■
- Gathers, Ashley* - Bilbao, Spain ■



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- Grobstein, Bice P.* - London, England ■
- Haar, Paul* - Brussels, Belgium ■
- Hummer, Ashley* - Florence, Italy ■
- Iannacone, Mary* - Sevilla, Spain ■
- Krapf, Carissa* - Berlin, Germany ■
- Lewis, Janeille* - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Marcus, Emily* - Paris, France ■
- Minicozzi, Arielle* - Paros, Greece ■
- Mulligan, Fiona* - Cuzco, Peru ■
- Rogers, Maggie* - Prague, Czech Republic ■
- Rossiter, Edward* - Sydney, Australia ■
- Rotundo, Danielle* - Florence, Italy ■
- Rowe, Falecia* - Florence, Italy ■
- Shapov, Dennis* - Sydney, Australia ■
- Vollero, Ariel Marie* - Florence, Italy ■

## Spring Break 2011

- Avila-Yaurimo, Stephanie* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Comer, Kristian* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Dela Cruz, Jeremy* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Gray, Michael* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Kenyon, Jason* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Kipkoech, Christopher* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■

- Ruiz, Alexander* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■■
- Shambry, Clifton E.* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Stone, Natasha* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Studzinski, Carly* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Washington, Gerald* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■
- Wyatt, Brittney* - Shanghai & Beijing, China ■

## Summer 2011

- Giuliani, Matthew* - Venice, Italy ■
- Golej, Alicia* - Venice, Italy ■
- Hopkins, Rachel* - Venice, Italy ■
- McHugh, Megan* - Venice, Italy ■
- Polizzo, Alexandra* - Venice, Italy ■
- Pospisil, Lukas* - Venice, Italy ■
- Ramirez, Nicole* - Venice, Italy ■
- Strandberg, Laura* - Venice, Italy ■
- Tejedor, Leandra* - Venice, Italy ■
- Wintermute, Rachel* - Venice, Italy ■
- Catena, Jessica* - Sierra Leone ■
- Francese, Kaitlyn* - Sierra Leone ■
- Gordon, Whitney Imari Vera* - Sierra Leone ■
- Khanom, Runa* - Sierra Leone ■
- McKenna, Chris* - Sierra Leone ■
- Rakholia, Avani* - Sierra Leone ■
- Rodenheiser, Ken* - Sierra Leone ■
- Vega, Christina* - Sierra Leone ■
- Ayivor, Selasie (Samuel)* - Barcelona, Spain ■
- Baratta, Francesca* - Dublin, Ireland ■
- Beaton, Ashley* - Limerick, Ireland ■
- Cardinalle, Loren* - Sevilla, Spain ■
- Carroll, Caitlin* - Dublin, Ireland ■
- Cockcroft, Geena* - London, England ■
- Davidson, Kelci* - Barcelona, Spain ■
- De Ferrari, Marcy* - Urbino, Italy ■
- Delavan, Michael* - Urbino, Italy ■
- DeLucia, Daneille* - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Fezza, Amy* - London, England ■
- Fredas, Elizabeth* - Spain ■
- Glynn, Alexa* - Rome, Italy ■
- Gomez, Gerardo* - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Gordon, Sara* - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Green, Thomas* - Paris, France ■
- Halter, Emily* - Rome, Italy ■
- Hand, Kaitlin* - Limerick, Ireland ■
- Hay, Ariel David* - Tel Aviv, Israel ■





# ABROAD

g to 21 countries and 6 continents!

- Haymaker, Julie - Buenos Aires, Argentina ■
- Ivkovic, Marieta - Granada, Spain ■
- Janulis, Christina - Paris, France ■
- Jones, Joanna - Urbino, Italy ■
- Keough, Jillian - Limerick, Ireland ■
- Kimball, Jessica - Limerick, Ireland ■
- Klube, Maximilian - Geneva, Switzerland ■
- Kohler, Melanie C. - London, England ■

- Larkin, Kiera - Sydney, Australia ■
- Leach, Amanda - Brussels, Belgium ■
- Lee, Kathryn - Alicante, Spain ■
- Liguori, Alexandra - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Lomaglio, Kristina - Urbino, Italy ■
- Loughrey, Daniel - Beijing, China ■
- Marklin, Lauren - Sevilla, Spain ■
- Marsh, Megan - Malaga, Spain ■
- Mauro, Stefanie - Paris, France ■
- McHugh, Erin - Australia/New Zealand ■
- Messina, Nicholas - Urbino, Italy ■
- Metz, Lorraine - Paris, France ■
- Nidle, Nicole - Seoul, Korea ■
- Orinski, Melanie - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Ortega, Daisy - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Porres-Hernandez, Silvia - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Reich, Julie - London, England ■
- Roderick, Mary - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Ruggiero, Samantha - Urbino, Italy ■
- Saavedra, Jeffrey - Rome, Italy ■
- Sadeghi, Leela - London, England ■
- Santaniello, Lauren - Urbino, Italy ■
- Schmidt, Lauren - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Schwabe, Kimberly - Multiple ■
- Shea, Alexandra - Malaga, Spain ■
- Steck, Elizabeth - Sydney, Australia ■
- Strickland, Taylor - Urbino, Italy ■
- Studzinski, Carly - Prague, Czech Republic ■
- Tarabocchia, Samantha - Sevilla, Spain ■

- Tiu, Danielle - Barcelona, Spain ■
- Venturini, Staci - Urbino, Italy ■
- Vietri, Kristen - Sydney, Australia ■
- Vigorito, Adele - Sevilla, Spain ■
- Warn, Lindsay - Rome, Italy ■
- Willsey, Aimee - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Wiltbank, Steven - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Wood, Ashley - Shanghai, China ■
- Yodice, Anthony - Sevilla, Spain ■

## Fall 2011

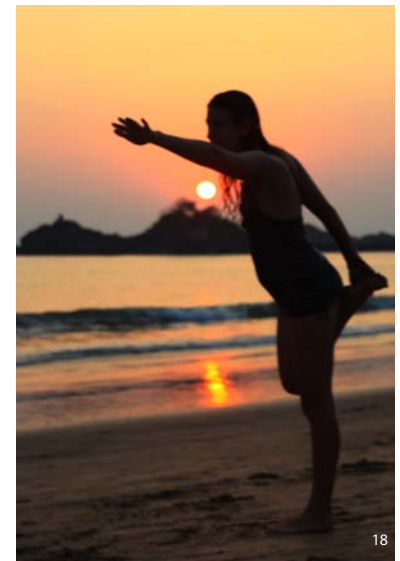
- Agesen, Morgan - Copenhagen, Denmark ■
- Baum, Joseph - Cairns, Australia ■
- Brant, Rachel - Jordanstown, Ireland ■
- D'Amato, Brianna - Costa Rica ■
- Hernandez, Jennifer - Buenos Aires, Argentina ■
- Hodobod, Jennifer - Prague, Czech Republic ■
- Mendoza, Cathy - Bilbao, Spain ■
- Minicozzi, Arielle - Paros, Greece
- Perrotta, Sean - Melbourne, Australia ■
- Zajkowski, Kristofer - Barcelona, Spain ■
- Bissell, Jonathan - Hilo, Hawaii ■
- Kehoe, Andrea - Hilo, Hawaii ■
- Lazor, Adam - Hilo, Hawaii ■
- Maggio, Vince - Hilo, Hawaii ■

### Is your major represented?

- |                           |                         |                          |                     |               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| ■ Accounting              | ■ Business Marketing    | ■ History                | ■ Literature        | ■ Psychology  |
| ■ Art History             | ■ Communication Arts    | ■ Italian                | ■ Marketing         | ■ Social Work |
| ■ Bioinformatics          | ■ Contemporary Arts     | ■ International Business | ■ Mathematics       | ■ Spanish     |
| ■ Biology                 | ■ Education             | ■ International Studies  | ■ Music             | ■ Theater     |
| ■ Business Administration | ■ Environmental Science | ■ Law and Society        | ■ Nursing           |               |
| ■ Business Management     | ■ Finance               | ■ Liberal Studies        | ■ Political Science |               |



**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT**  
**SPRING SEMESTER**  
**IN SOUTH INDIA**



**Sixteen Intense Weeks of Fun and Learning, In the Heartland of India**

*Dr. Ashwani Vasishth, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies & Director, Master of Arts in Sustainability Studies*

RAMAPO COLLEGE'S Semester Abroad Program at the Fireflies Center is off to a brand new start! Faculty have reworked both the content and the delivery of the program, based on an extensive review of the courses, and on feedback received from students.

The program still comprises of four courses, offered sequentially and for a total of 16 credits, but the content of the courses and their delivery has been entirely redesigned. The first course, Indian Culture, Society and Media, presents a general survey of Indian philosophy and religion and the logic of the caste system, as well as the social transformations initiated by key reformers such as: Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and B.R. Ambedkar. The course also surveys the literary and artistic movements of modern Indian art and culture.

The second course, Sustainable Development in South India, is a field-work intensive course that surveys the idea of "development," which has had a major influence on the formation of economic, social and political institutions, spanning from the post-Independence period to modern-day India. Beginning with post-independence India, "development" was institutionalized through centralized and socialist planning apparatuses, such as large scale modernization programs to increase agrarian and industrial production. In later phases of Indian development, these ideas moved from the "mixed economy" approach to the recent "liberalization" and integration of the economy into the global economy. Field visits to agrarian development projects in surrounding villages will be interspersed with lectures to make the story of sustainable development more real and immediate.

The third course, Peace, Justice and Social Movements in South India, explores ways in which people in India are organizing to achieve social justice and working to find solutions to economic, social and political problems. The course begins by reviewing the legal and political structures



that shape the lives of India's citizens and then examines tools for social change such as grassroots media, alternative law practices and conflict resolution groups. The semester-long program culminates in the Field Work Project course, in which each of the participants will pick a topic from a wide variety of issues covered during the previous three courses, and then work with Program faculty to develop their individual projects.

Throughout the Semester, there are a number of visits to surrounding towns and villages, with a particular emphasis on the idea of sustainable development. The Fireflies Center is itself a particularly picturesque setting, and ideal for relaxation and meditative reflection. There are great conversations to be had, with other students and local residents, and much to be learned about the ways in which the Global South may be ahead of us in developing the pursuit of the "good life."

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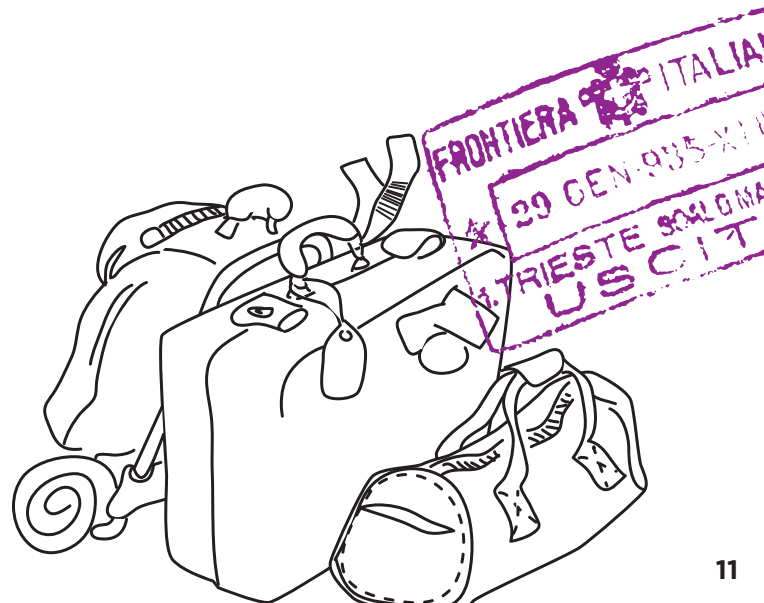
### *Jessica Brandeisky, Class of 2011*

I WAS A FRESHMAN when I first heard about the Ramapo-led study abroad program in India. I was sitting in class while one of my professors explained the program and what it entailed. From that point on, I was constantly day-dreaming about what it would be like to go to India. As time went on and my attraction to the idea of studying in India grew stronger, I finally applied to go on the Spring 2010 program in my Junior year. I was completely excited that I had finally taken that step, despite my parents' worries and my own anxieties. I expected a life-changing semester, perhaps a glorified stereotype of studying abroad (especially in India), but one that was present in my mind nonetheless. As I continued on with pre-departure meetings and began to meet the other students of the program, I didn't know what to expect. Will I have fun? Is it really safe? Can I do this? My mind raced with stories and possibilities, but nothing in my imagination could have ever matched the actual experience of studying abroad.

Yes, there were some uncomfortable parts of the trip and yes, I missed home sometimes, but studying abroad truly changed my values and perspectives. I learned a great deal about myself and the topics I was studying from my experiences both in and outside of the classroom. Classroom lectures were never mundane; they related to the people who we were meeting face to face, the places that we were experiencing firsthand, and the events that had noticeably

affected our newfound home. Status as a 'student' also created a great deal of unique opportunities that no tourist could ever encounter. The many expectations that I had about studying abroad were thrown out the window the moment that I arrived in Bangalore and I couldn't have been happier. The six months that I lived in India were some of the most enjoyable, frustrating, and wholesome experiences of my life. Studying abroad is really a great experience for students, on both personal and academic levels. In my opinion, no other college experience could match the exhilarating uncertainty of traveling and studying in a foreign country. No matter what your expectations are for studying abroad, you will never know the truth until you get on a plane and take off. ✈

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### **Kelly Craig - Florence, Italy, Class of 2013**

GOING H... (I don't even want to say the h-word uhh) home.

People say that you change when you study abroad. This is because your experience of places you've seen, people you've met and cultures you immersed yourself in, gave you something you didn't have before. When you go back home, you see something in yourself, and see the world you used to live in through different eyes.

Will you appreciate your house more now?  
Will you appreciate that friend more now?  
Will you delete some contacts from your phone?

Okay, that last one's a little harsh, but you know what I mean. Studying abroad opens your mind. Some of us came abroad open-minded, but we will leave better still. We might have been open-minded to different people, but experiencing the differences of lifestyles is a whole different ball game. Talking to people from all different points of view, from all over the world, some from the city, some from

the country, some from big families, some from no families, some single, some lying... different cultures, lifestyles, ideas, beliefs, morals...

I am definitely going to miss this diversity. The one positive thing about going home? Seeing my little world through these different eyes. ✂



### **Chris McKenna - Sierra Leone, Class of 2012**

WHETHER YOU ARE wandering around a developing country, settling in for a semester abroad, heading away for the summer to further language skills or heading across country to try a new domestic school, you are sure to ask yourself "why am I here?". Then inevitably you ask, "where is here?" Is here the physical location or more of the philosophical one? I have ended up asking myself this question more than once, first in China and more recently Sierra Leone. Both times, the answers surprised me, and from those answers they took me to a new realization.

Studying abroad not only gave me an opportunity to experience unique things, meet amazing people, and learn new cultures, but it also gave me the tools and resources to grow personally. It gave me a confidence which I suspect was hidden somewhere, but it developed into a sense of adventure that is taking me to far reaching corners of the globe. Regardless of what interests it sparks, it opens your eyes up to a new world that you might not have thought about before.

While at home, you might occasionally pick up a newspaper or hear on the news about a story overseas, in a place with a name like Banjul, Dili, Adelaide, Christchurch, or



Florence. Some would write it off as "someplace far away, it doesn't affect me", others interest would be piqued, and others would be driven to go there. Fast forward six months, and you find yourself in Adelaide, attending classes at and experiencing the local culture. There is no limit to where you can end up and once you're there you will end up being exposed to a whole new world (cue Aladdin music), and from there, the possibilities are endless! ✂



## ***Ramapo Study Abroad Alumni***

# **WHERE ARE THEY NOW: DORINA GEORGIEVA**

*Class of 2011*

AFTER GRADUATING from Ramapo College in May 2011, I started working at the Institute of International Education in New York City, as an assistant to the Bulgarian Young Leaders Program Director. Soon I was promoted to a consultant for a Summer Entrepreneurship Program that took place in New York City, Boston, and San Francisco. I managed to obtain this position due to my international awareness and knowledge in foreign languages – skills that I developed while studying abroad.

I spent three semesters of my undergraduate education abroad – in India, China, and Russia. I had unforgettable moments studying sustainable development at Fireflies, Bangalore. I explored the remarkable Chinese culture, language, and civilization in Shanghai. I also deepened my knowledge about Russia and US-Russian relations in St. Petersburg.

My global exposures also play a pivotal role today. I was accepted at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and I am currently in the Bologna Center of the University in Italy. Without my strong academic preparation and diverse international exposures, I would not be able to follow the intensive graduate program.

In our increasingly complex and interconnected world, being effective in the academia and competitive on the job market requires international awareness and cultural consciousness. Only through studying abroad and opening yourself to the world will you develop innovative ideas and acquire new skills – essential for your future academic and professional development.



# 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.



## Q&A: *Myths and Facts About Studying Abroad with Ramapo*

### ***When can I study abroad?***

You are allowed to study abroad after you have completed two semesters of college (minimum of 32 credits). You must also maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and be in good judicial standing.

### ***Isn't it too expensive?***

No! Many semester programs are actually cheaper than a semester at Ramapo.

### ***Do I need to speak a foreign language?***

No! You can go to an English speaking area (England, Australia, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland) or complete an English speaking program in a foreign language country. You can also take language classes while abroad to learn the host country's language.

### ***Can I go abroad with my major?***

Yes, we offer over 400 approved programs in more than 60 different countries – we can help you find the one that will be an appropriate fit for you!



# ROUKEMA CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

## ***Study Abroad Fair***

Tuesday, January 31, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friends Hall

## ***Boren Scholarship for Study Abroad Due***

Thursday, February 9, 9 a.m. - Noon, ASB-123

## ***Re-Entry Conference***

Saturday, February 11, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Montclair State University

## ***Summer / Fall Study Abroad Applications Due Scholarship Applications Due***

Thursday, March 1 to ASB-123 by 4 p.m.

## ***NSE 2012-2013 Application Deadline***

Friday, February 24 to ASB-123 by 4 p.m.



## WHO'S THAT BIRD? *Name Our Mascot*

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...a roadrunner?

Study Abroad has a new mascot, but they need your help naming him - or her! Submit a name (anything appropriate, but preferably international) with a short biography or background story about the roadrunner.

All entries should be about a paragraph long.

Submit to [goabroad@ramapo.edu](mailto:goabroad@ramapo.edu) by **January 25, 2012**.





**PHOTO LEGEND:**

1. Local Legislative Assembly – Bangalore, South India
2. Chris McKenna '12 – International Studies- Summer 2011- Beijing and Shanghai, China
3. Visit of an orphanage in Sierra Leone
4. Roukema Center of International Education Team
5. International Evening, Fall of 2009
6. Ramapo's South India Spring Semester Abroad
7. Shanghai, China – Spring Break China 2010
8. Ramapo's South India Spring Semester
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11. President Peter P. Mercer visiting nursing students - Summer 2011- Freetown, Sierra Leone
12. Christina Arecchi '11 – Political Science, International Studies – Spring 2011 – Santander, Spain
13. Maral Varjabedian '12 - International Studies- Summer 2010- Lille, France
14. Jessica Brandeisky '11 – Biology and Psychology- Spring 2010- Bangalore, India
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**If you would like to submit stories, pictures, poems or anything else from your travels to the Unpacked Magazine please contact [goabroad@ramapo.edu](mailto:goabroad@ramapo.edu).**



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