

# RAMAPO UNPACKED

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3: SPRING 2013



**14** Featured Program:  
China Spring Break



*Student Reflections* **4**



**20** Faculty  
Spotlight

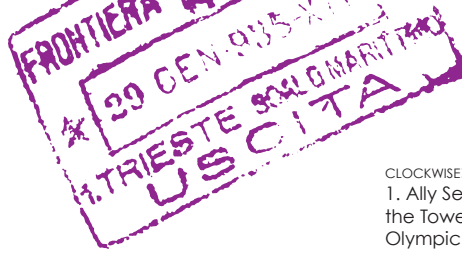


Alumni Profile:  
Nora Dougherty **21**

**PUSHING > BOUNDARIES**  
INTERDISCIPLINARY > INTERCULTURAL > INTERNATIONAL



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- 2. Alyssa Maurin ('15) photographs the rustic Calchaquies Valley in Salta, Argentina.
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# MEET *the* TEAM!

## THE ROUKEMA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



### ***Ben Levy***

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



### ***Izumi Osawa-Minevich***

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



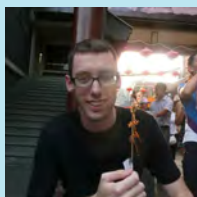
### ***Rajesh Adhikari***

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



### ***Kate Godfrey***

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



### ***Dan Loughrey***

Graduate Assistant  
Phone: (201) 684-7263  
E-mail: [dloughre@ramapo.edu](mailto:dloughre@ramapo.edu)

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](mailto:goabroad@ramapo.edu)**

# Ramapo Students’ *Reflections from Abroad*



Left: Spanish countryside  
Right: Valerie Torrizo ('14)  
catching waves in the  
Mediterranean Sea

## *Summer in Madrid*

VALERIE TORRIZO '14 -  
MADRID, SPAIN  
SUMMER 2012

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!" Big mistake!

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





Left: Valerie getting ready for a rowboat experience in Spain.  
Bottom: Valerie attends a fútbol game at Santiago o Bernabév Stadium.

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.



## *Reflections* from Abroad



Left: Melissa Jerram ('13) stands on the Cliffs of Moher. Bottom: The Blarney Castle in Cork, Ireland, known for the Blarney Stone.

### *Away to Ireland*

MELISSA JERRAM '13 -  
LIMERICK, IRELAND  
SUMMER 2012

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.  
2. Nightlife in Shubuya, Japan.  
3. Sunrise on Mt. Fuji.



## Reflections from Abroad



### *Breaking Routines*

MARGARET TSAI '15 -  
BARCELONA, SPAIN  
SUMMER 2012

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 Catalan 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.



Clockwise from top left:  
1. The class at Park Güell.  
2. Margaret Tsai ('15) on top of the Montserrat mountain.  
3. Margaret on top of Tibidabo.





### *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 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!

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



Clockwise from top left:

1. Jennifer Alfonso ('14) and some of the local children of a village in Bo get to know each other.
2. At Aberdeen Beach in Freetown, Sierra Leone.
3. Children and Jennifer at the village clinic in Jimmi.
4. Jennifer and Naomi in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



### *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.





### *Culture Shock (of Olympic Proportions)*

ALLY SELVAGGIO '13 -  
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM  
SUMMER 2012

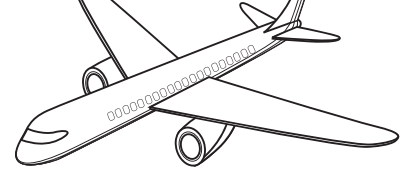
After toying around with the idea of studying abroad since I started at Ramapo, I finally decided to commit and applied to study in London for the Summer of 2012. As I filled out all the paperwork, I did not realize that I had decided to go to London in the midst of some of the biggest events the city 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.

Left: Tower Bridge with the Olympic Rings.  
Right: Ally Selvaggio ('13) with the Olympic Countdown in Trafalgar Square.



# 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 Bouknight

**London, England** ●

Katherine Carter **Osaka, Japan** ● ●

Jaclyn Ciampolillo **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** ●

Beasann Hammoud **Barcelona, Spain** ●

Christina Heimann **Bangalore, India** ●

Hailey Jester **Florence, Italy** ●

Jeffrey Kruithof **Serbia, Bosnia &**

**Kosovo** ●

Lauren Magenta **Los Angeles, CA** ●

Alyssa Mendez **Sevilla, Spain** ●

Gary Miuccio **Barcelona, Spain** ●

Brian Nazzaro **Florence, Italy** ●

Simone Nevruzian **Bangalore, India** ●

Alysa Ochoa **Bangalore, India** ●

Maribel Pantaleon Tejada

**Bangalore, India** ●

Geoffrey Richter **Bangalore, India** ●

Katherine Rivas-Baez **Bangalore, India** ●

Daniel Rowen **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 Kamenova **Shanghai,**

**Beijing, China** ● ●

Gerilee Rosado **Shanghai, Beijing,**

**China** ●

Valensiya Tsvetanova **Shanghai,**

**Beijing, China** ● ●

Amelia Vance **Shanghai, Beijing,**

**China** ●

Silvia Vargas **Shanghai, Beijing,**

**China** ●

Haydee 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 Arvary **Buenos Aires,**

**Argentina** ●

Kristin Badik **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** ● ●

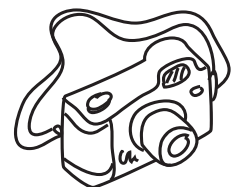
Gena Giuliana **Florence, Italy** ●

Ricky Green **Prague,**

**Czech Republic** ●

Akhlema Haidar **Bo Province and**

**Freetown, Sierra Leone** ●



- Accounting
- Chemistry
- History
- Marketing
- American Studies
- Communication Arts
- Information Systems
- Mathematics
- Biochemistry
- Contemporary Arts
- International Business
- Social Work
- Bioinformatics
- Economics
- International Studies
- Spanish Language Studies
- Biology
- Environmental Science
- Law and Society
- Theater
- Business Administration
- Environmental Studies
- Literature
- Visual Arts
- Psychology

Gabriela Hermosi **Barcelona, Spain** ●  
Jennifer Hodbod **Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina** ●  
Afzal Hussain **Bo Province and Freetown, Sierra Leone** ●  
Rebecca Ishak **Sevilla, Spain** ●●  
Melissa Jerram **Limerick, Ireland** ●  
Rachel Kehoe **Buenos Aires and Salta, Argentina** ●  
Maeve Kirwan **Prague, Czech Republic** ●  
Adam Lazor **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 Rivadeneira **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 Ster **London, United Kingdom** ●  
Valerie Torrizo **Madrid, Spain** ●  
Margaret Tsai **Barcelona, Spain** ●  
Maral 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 Slome **Maynooth, Ireland** ●  
Megan Williams **Cork, Ireland** ●

## WINTER 2013

Danielle Ford **Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney, Australia** ●  
Ross Yellin **Buenos Aires, Argentina** ●

## SPRING 2013

Radwa Abdallah, **Kilimanjaro Bush Camp, Tanzania** ●  
Delaney Burke **Paris, France** ●  
Samantha Callahan **London, United Kingdom** ●  
Holly Ciocci **Florence, Italy** ●  
Kristina Colon **Seville, Spain** ●  
Amanda Coyle **Galway, Ireland** ●  
Chloe Dougherty **Edinburgh, United Kingdom** ●  
Sean Eccles **Salamanca, Spain** ●  
Ashlee Garcia **Bilbao, Spain** ●  
Jacqueline Guhl **Cambridge, United Kingdom** ●  
Elizabeth Kronyak **Paris, France** ●

Chelsea Lennon **London, United Kingdom** ●  
Michael Mazzeo **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 Riedinger **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 **Florianapolis, Brazil** ●  
Leah Voysey **London, United Kingdom** ●  
Melissa Wallace **London, United Kingdom** ●  
Sharyce Willand **Florence, Italy** ●  
Matthew Wolckenhauer **Cambridge, United Kingdom** ●

## SPRING BREAK 2013

Solonge Alvarado, **Shanghai, Beijing, China** ●  
Erin Antonellis **Shanghai, Beijing, China** ●  
Arey 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'Steen **Shanghai, Beijing, China** ●  
Porfirio Rodriguez **Shanghai, Beijing, China** ●  
Ryan Stromberg **Shanghai, Beijing, China** ●  
Jordan Toczynski **Shanghai, Beijing, China** ●  
Caitlin Wroblewski **Shanghai, Beijing, China** ●

# Program Spotlight

## Study Abroad: China Spring Break

Top: Valensiya Tsvetanova ('12) and her classmates spend time in a park in China.  
Bottom: Sam Cruz ('12), Valensiya, and the rest of their class visit the Great Wall.

### Opening Doors

VALENSIYA TSVETANOVA '12 -  
SHANGHAI, BEIJING, CHINA  
SPRING BREAK 2012

Many college students are unsure of what career or field they want to pursue. I only say that because I was one of them. For the longest time I tried to figure out what I could do that I would be good at and enjoy at the same time. I can imagine that many students may feel as though their "wheels are spinning" or they aren't quite sure where to take their first step towards success. In my case, the story starts when I was 16 years old. I boarded a plane departing from Sofia, Bulgaria to Chicago, by myself, heading to become an exchange student living with an American family. The decision I made back in 2006 changed my life, perspective and every single bit about me. A few years later, here I am, a graduate of Elkhart Memorial High School and Ramapo College of New Jersey. Two weeks before graduating college, I was offered a job at an international company, a company which operates in the U.S., U.K. and China. One of the main determinants for my hire was the fact that I know about China (due to my Study Abroad experience) and Bulgaria (my own country of origin). Indeed, my broad variety of internship experiences during my



college years played a valuable role as well. However, this global company had a purpose- to hire some who has global knowledge of the business world and is willing to jump in and apply it. With this said, travelling abroad has equipped me with the perfect set of tools for the job market. I say that because in today's business world, job competition has been surrounded by the impact of globalization: one must keep up with this shift or risk falling behind the competition. Pursuing education abroad will not only change oneself, but open doors to new opportunities that one might have not even known to exist.

### Alumni Reflections:

#### Career Preparation

SAMUEL CRUZ '12 -  
SHANGHAI, BEIJING, CHINA  
SPRING BREAK 2012

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 Tiananmen Square.  
Left: Sam outside the Temple of Heaven with Doctor Li.  
Right: Valensiya enjoys the snowy countryside.



# Photo Gallery

## Argentina Summer 2012



### ▲ BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA Jonathan Bonacolta '12

"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.





▲ **BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA** Rachel Kehoe '13

This photo best portrays my experience in Argentina. It was taken at the zoo, which is in the center of a bustling city. Behind the animals you can see sky-high apartment buildings and the juxtaposition is a little odd but perfectly describes Argentina. While we spent half of our time in this modern, busy city, we spent the other half of the time in the quiet majestic mountainside.

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.

▲ **SALTA, ARGENTINA** Ashlyn Sanabria '15





▶ BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA Victoria Adam '14

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.



▶ BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA Jennifer Hodobod '12

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 dual facets of documentary and artistic photography.



▲ **BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA** DeShauna Dunn '13

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.

▼ **SALTA, ARGENTINA** Alyssa Maurin '15



## FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

### *On Abroad - Republic of Georgia*

DR. JEREMY M. TEIGEN - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
SALAMENO SCHOOL OF AMERICAN & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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.



Left: Professor Teigen and his daughter taking a break from sightseeing for this scenic overlook photo opportunity.  
Right: Professor Teigen strolling through the countryside of the Republic of Georgia.

# 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



Nora Dougherty ('12) in the small town of San Vicente de la Barquera on the north coast of Spain.

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"?

# Fellowships and Scholarships for Post-Graduation

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



***Dr. Aaron Lorenz***

*Associate Professor of Law and Society/  
Director of Fellowships and Scholarships*

**(201) 684-7732**

**[alorenz@ramapo.edu](mailto:alorenz@ramapo.edu)**

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>

### ***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/>

### ***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/>

### ***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/>

### ***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/>

### ***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***

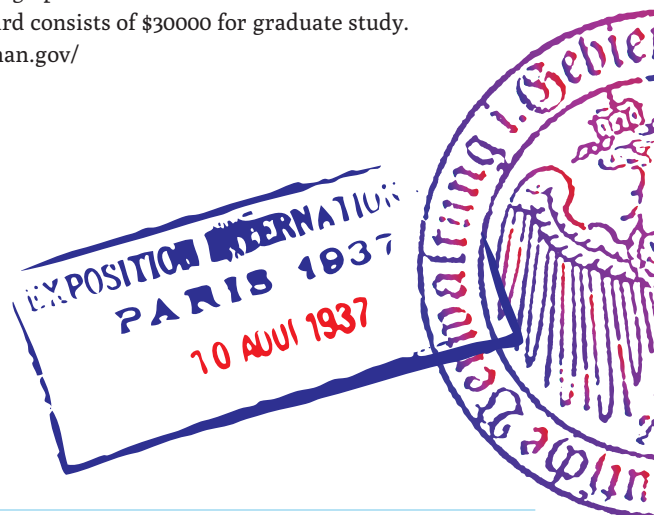
The Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Designed to attract outstanding students who enroll in two-year master's degree programs in public policy, international affairs, 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>

### ***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, kindness, 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/>

### ***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/>



# Closing Thoughts

**Megan Niemiec '14**

*Reflections from Bilbao, Spain  
Summer 2012*



“ 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! ”

