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Alumni Profile: Kristofer Zajkowski 20



16 Photographer's Journey: A Summer in Eastern Europe

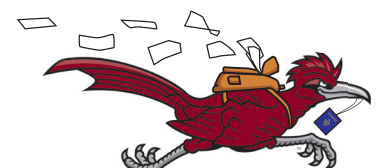
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### CLOCKWISE:

1. The Eiffel Tower on a clear day in Paris, France.
2. Students in Costa Rica walking along a grassy hill as the sun rises.
3. Madrid resident Amelia Hernandez and Professor Edna Negrón enjoy a beautiful garden and fountain during a visit to the patios of the Viana Palace.
4. Giselle Morales ('14) stopping at an overlook in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



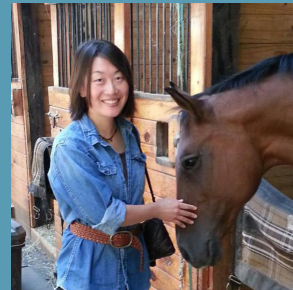
# MEET *the* TEAM

THE ROUKEMA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



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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.

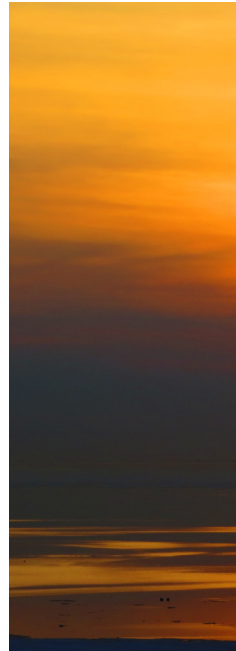
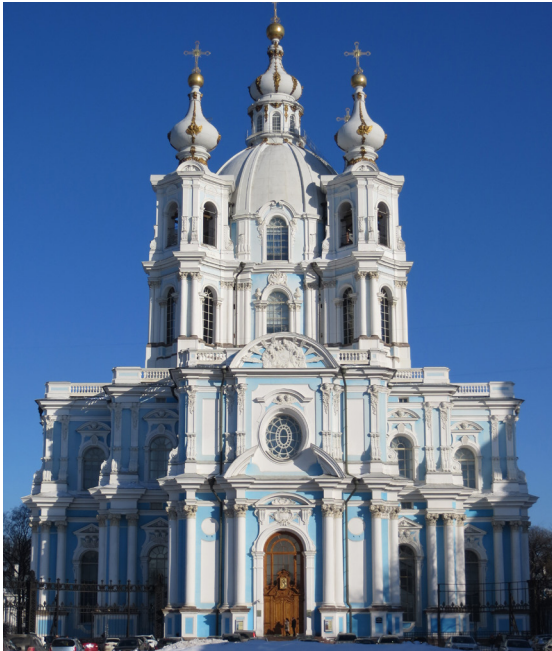
The Center is named for the Honorable Marge Roukema, who represented northern New Jersey in the United States Congress from 1981 to 2003. She championed the Family Leave Act and educational and financial reform legislation among other things, and enhanced resources for education in her district and at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



The Roukema Center for International Education is located in the Anisfield School of Business, Suite-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



## Russian Exchange

DAVID RESNICK '15

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION

SPRING 2013



## MY EXPERIENCE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

*I past security, looked back to a final glimpse of my parents through the corridor then walked. Then, it hit me I was going away, far away for a long time. I had no one...I was on my own, and I've never been so unsure of anything in my life. I had a lot of time to reflect on what I was doing, why did I want to go halfway around the world where I have no friends, don't know the language & culture, and have never lived in a city before? I realized this was a life changing experience that not many people get. I could be anyone I wanted to be, and from then on I never looked back. Off to the Russian Federation I went for 119 days!*

Нет Нет Нет .. Получить из линии глупо. Нет миграционной карты (No, No, No...get out of the line stupid. No Migration Card!). This was my first time interacting with anyone in Russia, a Soldier came up to me and pointed to the desk that I needed to go back to and do my card. A whirlwind of emotion started at that point, No one could speak English, no warm greetings. Outside the airport temperatures of 20 degrees Fahrenheit awaited me, it was 1 1/2 hours to the dorm, I trudged through mud, snow and water, and rode buses as I was squeezed like sardines in a tin can until I finally reached my dormitory on the Gulf of Finland. I met my roommate, a Frenchman, and my flat mates were Hungarian, Swiss, Kyrgus, and Portuguese. We got along immediately and are still great friends. I was happy that I had the best view from Kapitanskaya (Our Dormitory Name) overlooking the frozen Gulf of Finland. Once I settled down, I finally was able to comprehend that I was in Russia!

Russia was full of memorable experiences, and here I will share a few of them! Our school, the Saint Petersburg State University Faculty of International Relations was located in a very old Convent called Smolny. Built in the mid 1700's, it was a very old building, but the history of the place made it so impressive. The Russian professors had a different style of teaching than those in

Left: St. Petersburg State University, School of International Relations.  
Middle: David Resnick ('15) meeting with Russian Federation Firefighters.  
Right: Spring sunset over Russia.  
Bottom Right: David in front of St. Basil's Cathedral.

## Reflections from Abroad



the U.S. but I liked it. I learned a great deal about Russia, the Security, History, Cold War and Arms Control. The other cool thing about being in the University is that it was the only place that everyone spoke English. Nowhere else in St. Petersburg did a majority of people speak English. My commute to school every day was also a new perspective for me. As opposed to Ramapo, where I basically walk out of my dormitory and have everything I need less than 5 minutes away, my commute to classes in Russia consisted of: Public Bus 7, The Subway, and Another Public bus, then a 15 Minute Walk to school. Most of the time, I did this on my own and it was a great experience.

Many people told me I was the first American they've ever met. I never got hostility from anyone, but rather awe in that I was American. They mostly say, "You are from Great America?" I thought this was awesome...little did I know how much Russians want to come to America, nor did I know they thought of us in a good way, although that's not what everyone said.

Another great experience I had was going to the Fire/Emergency Station and visiting Firefighters and Medical Personnel. It was awesome to talk to people halfway around the world that have the same passion for something that I love, and we shared stories and swapped patches. They were very happy that I stopped by.

I traveled a lot! All inside of Russia, so I got a very good perspective of what I like to call "Real Russia" outside of the cities. I saw Russians living very simple lives in the middle of nowhere. People go to their summerhouses called "Dacha" and enjoy the green nature around them, grill, and have fun drinking and relaxing with friends. I experienced this many times. The nature in Russia is very relaxing once outside of the city. The beaches are calm and quiet, it even seems like life stops so much that you can't believe this is Russia, It's so beautiful. The outskirts of the city are just somewhere to go, relax and think about life, or hang out with friends. Almost every weekend, I traveled to an even more gorgeous place than before.

After a wild time during the Victory Day festivities, the white nights were upon us. This is when the sun does not really set, and it is always light outside. The city turns into a giant party after around May 18th. People are out all hours of the night, the sidewalks on the main street Nevsky Prospect are so full you can barely move, and there is something going on every night. It's crazy...leaving the dormitory to go out to a club at 12:30am, it's light out, leave to get back to the dorm at 4am, and it's light out already. The smell of BBQ's fill the air in St Petersburg, people sitting by the Gulf of Finland enjoying the sunset, couples holding each other taking in the last rays of sunlight. St Petersburg and Russia in general is a very beautiful, fun, and romantic place in the summertime.

During my last day in St Petersburg, I thought about what I had accomplished over the past 4 months. I sat out on the bank of the Gulf of Finland and stared out to the sunset. I realized that Ramapo had given me the adventure of a lifetime. I changed in many ways...all good ones. I said to myself that I will never take anything for granted at home and wouldn't complain about anything ever again. I made lifelong friends from around the world that made Russia the most fun I've had yet! Most importantly to me, I learned what I really care about, and what I want to do with my life and future. I found it, what makes me happy, and now I'm pursuing it! Thank you to everyone who made this possible...My parents, Ramapo College and the Study Abroad Office especially!



# Reflections from Abroad

## A Change of Pace

MATTHEW WOLCKENHAUER, '14  
CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM  
SPRING 2013



Top: Biking is the best way to get around Cambridge, England.  
Bottom: Matthew Wolckenhauer ('14) as he begins his semester at Anglia Ruskin University.



*Thanks for the good wishes!*

Cambridge is absolutely incredible and I am loving every second of it. I think we all are. It's a completely different experience than being at Ramapo. I love the excitement of taking the bus to campus every morning, the amount of people that are on campus at all times, and the lifestyle of walking everywhere and going out to local pubs and scenic places. It's really awesome. And on top of that, the classes and facilities here are phenomenal. I love all of my professors and the classmates are really easy to work with. I love the amount of hands on interaction all of my classes have. I'll be sure to keep you updated with what goes on!

Thanks for making this program happen and allowing me to be a part of it! It's a once in a lifetime opportunity for me.



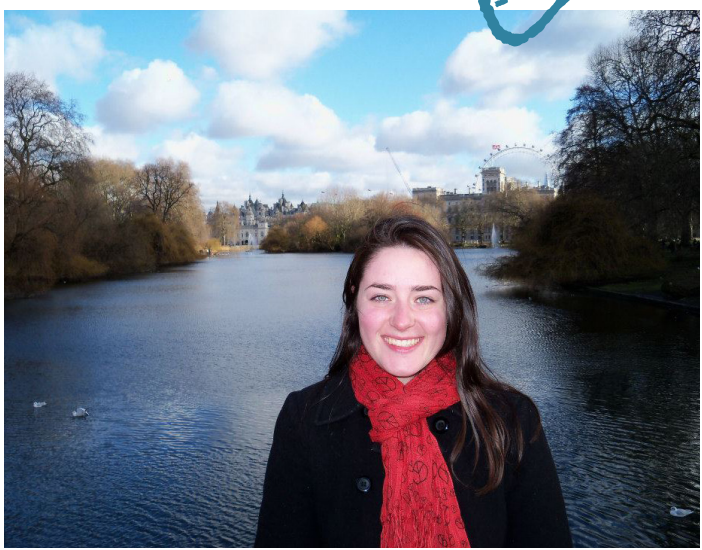
EXPOSITION INTERNATIONALE  
 PARIS 1937  
 10 AOÛT 1937

*Reflections* from Abroad



TOP:  
 Michael Mazzeo ('14) and  
 Jacqui Guhl ('14) taking a  
 moment to capture one of  
 many rainy day photos in  
 Cambridge, England.  
 Bottom: Jacqui taking  
 in the sights of London,  
 England.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER  
 (785)  
 EMBARKED  
 6 OCT 1972  
 LONDON AIRPORT



Anglia Ruskin University:  
 A Place Where Music Happens

JACQUI GUHL, '14  
 CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM  
 SPRING 2013

*Hey music students,*

If you are interested in going to England, the Anglia Ruskin program is quite good. I'm currently posting this in their music lobby and the school is great! The people are really friendly and the lessons are fantastic. They give you a lot of creative freedom. The work I'm doing is basically cool projects based off the lessons and in another class there is one paper due at the end of the semester.

The campus life is different from Ramapo because it's a college city. There are students milling about everywhere and it's just lovely. There are a lot of travel opportunities that the school offers. It's really easy to make travel plans on your own. The city bus here is quite expansive, and the city itself is really easy to maneuver through. I honestly don't want to come back, save

for my friends and family. Oh! Also, the facilities here are grand. There's a full recording studio, complete with separate rooms for drumming and vocals, and a surround sound mastering studio. The practice rooms are twice our size and there are eight of them!! I can't recommend ARU enough!! :)

REPUBBLICA CECOSLOVACCA  
 FRONTIERA ITALIANA  
 GEN-RUS-XIII  
 STAZIONE SOLO MARITTIMA  
 SCITA

# Reflections from Abroad

## The World's Attraction

GISELLE MORALES '14

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

SPRING 2013



*I decided to take my first trip out of the country on a 6-month semester abroad program. I chose Rio de Janeiro, Brazil because of its diverse location; where the beauty of the beach, city and life combines. Just as many abroad students will say, my experience abroad has been an adventure and the best thing that has happened in my life. Besides learning and understanding a new culture, speaking another language, and making new friends; you most importantly learn about who you are.*

There is so much I can share about my experience I can easily fill up 10 pages, from arriving in December 2012, to Brazilian New Years and experiencing the biggest party on the planet in February, Carnival. The most interesting observation I made was witnessing how Brazilians embraced and respected their culture, especially Carnival. Also, to see this country

grow in action has been amazing, as they prepare for the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics, from new metro stations, buses, roads, buildings, price increases, law changes and security efforts within the 6 months I have been here.

Brazil is extremely diverse and there is a sense of reflection of the world within the country, as you see immigrants from Africa, Europe, and Asia all settled here. People here will find somewhere to fit in. The outside sports, music, art, hipster culture, and everyone just full of life in their own way. In my opinion, Brazil has one of the richest cultures.

The outdoor life is pure beauty. It is breathtaking to climb up tall mountains, touch the clouds and to see an overview of the city.

My 'hardest time' with studying abroad was the application process, because from the moment I







OPPOSITE  
Left: Students walking on a calm side street in Rio de Janeiro.  
Middle: A view of a beach in Rio from the Atlantic Ocean.  
Right: Where city and nature collide in Rio de Janeiro.  
Bottom: Boats cruising the harbor in Rio.  
  
Top: "Cristo Redentor" or Christ the Redeemer statue towering above the hustle of Rio.  
Bottom: Giselle Morales ('14) sits above the clouds at an overlook point in Rio.

got onto the plane, this experience has only been a marvelous mark on my life that I will always appreciate. It is different to live in another country, but it is a journey in your life that you will embrace and cherish forever.

It seems crazy to leave everything you know, your routine, the people you love, to get up and live in another country. Yet as crazy as it sounds, it is an experience filled with fun and adventure; because to some extent you will finally lose control over the structure and routine of your daily life. Thus allowing yourself to take a moment to let go and to live your life to the fullest. Like the Brazilian saying "*mente sã, corpo sã*" (healthy mind, healthy body).

“ Like the Brazilian saying *mente sã, corpo sã* [healthy mind, healthy body] ”





## Carefree in Copenhagen

ASHLEY ORLANDO '14  
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
SUMMER 2013

*Arriving in Copenhagen,* Denmark at the end of May was like stepping foot onto another planet. Upon arrival, my soon-to-be fellow classmates and I were whisked to our respective dorms. After being given only an hour to unpack, freshen up, and become acquainted with our rooms, we were taken into the city to be given a crash course in everything Danish. We were shown the location of our classes, told which buses we should take, and which places to dine and visit all in a blink of an eye. I remember staring blearily up at my tour guide that day, jet lagged and frightened out of my wits, thinking that I would never find my way in such a huge city that was as different from my home town as planet Earth is from the moon. I was, of course, incorrect. Throughout my 3 weeks in Copenhagen I learned more about myself and another culture than I could have ever imagined. I met other students from all over the United States and made life-long friends.

Copenhagen is an absolutely breathtaking city. Even after being there for a few weeks I could not help but look around in wonder each day at all the beautiful architecture and sights that the city had to offer. I visited the Queen's Palace, Rosenborg Castle, Hans Christiansen Anderson's statue of the Little Mermaid, and multiple museums throughout my stay. After visiting each place, I felt as if I had acquired a piece of Copenhagen history that I would store away in my memory forever. One of my favorite parts about Copenhagen was



Boats docked in Nyhavn Canal in Copenhagen, Denmark.

the shopping. My academic building was located right in the heart of Copenhagen, surrounded by designer stores and cute cafes that I could easily frequent after my class let out. I acquired so many unique items of clothing and jewelry during my trip, the likes of which cannot be found in the U.S.

My trip though, was not without a few bumps in the road. Danish is an extremely difficult language and despite my best efforts I had an extremely difficult time pronouncing any of the words. For example, one day my new friends and I were trying to make our way to the canal to take a tour. We believed that we were pronouncing the name of the place we were trying to reach correctly but every time we stopped to ask for directions, no one had any idea what we were saying. After wandering around for over half an hour frustrated and confused, we finally came across a sign for our destination. Exasperated, I asked a passing Dane how to pro-

nounce the name and to our dismay, we had been saying it completely and utterly incorrect. Simple tasks like buying groceries and ordering in restaurants were also quite difficult due to the language barrier. To my chagrin, I accidentally bought goat's milk my first week there and ordered meals that I had not intended to. Despite these challenges, I would not trade my time in Copenhagen for anything in the world. Being in Copenhagen was an absolutely amazing experience and I one day hope to travel back there and visit the city that stole my heart.



# Reflections from Abroad



Left: Hans Christian Andersen Statue  
Right: Ashley Orlando ('14) and The Little Mermaid statue.  
Bottom: View of Copenhagen from the top of the Church of The Savior.

## Reflections from Abroad



Elizabeth Glacken, Nicole Triola ('14), Ayla Murrell and Aoife Burns with the jaunty cart we took through the Gap of Dunloe in County Kerry.



Nicole Triola, Elizabeth Glacken and Molly Mullen in front of Mámean in Maam Valley, a church where St. Patrick is said to have rested.



Nicole Triola, Shannon McCain and Ayla Murrell in front of the Cliffs of Moher.



Elizabeth Glacken, Molly Mullen, Nicole Triola and Ayla Murrell and is taken in front of the Ryan Institute at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

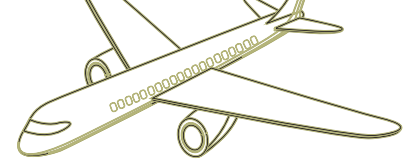
## Away to Ireland

NICOLE TRIOLA '14  
GALWAY, IRELAND  
SPRING 2013

*On December 28th, 2012 I was sitting on a plane by myself for the first time destined to Dublin, Ireland and overcome with nerves. On February 3, 2013 I was sitting again, only this time I was on what felt like the top of the world watching the sun rise on Paris and surrounded by five irreplaceable people. My life had drastically changed in such a short amount of time, it was near impossible to fully comprehend; but in that moment on top of the world, I felt the deepest appreciation possible overwhelm me. Choosing to study abroad was not an easy decision because there are practical matters to consider such as funds or college credits; but there are also sensitive matters to consider such as missing family or adjusting to a totally new way of life. I can honestly say choosing to study abroad was the best decision I have ever made.*

I have lived in Galway, Ireland and studied at the National University of Ireland, Galway for almost five months now. Within that time I have had the opportunity to travel to various parts of Ireland, France, Italy, England, and the Netherlands. In five months I have absorbed a small part of a rich Irish culture that is filled with music and exudes laughter and joy. This experience has instilled in me a great love for travel and adventure. I have learned things that would be impossible to teach in a classroom. This experience has allowed me to meet people from all over the U.S. as well as Ireland that I am more than sure we will remain my friends for life. There is so much positivity to be gained through immersing yourself in a new culture. On May 18, 2013 I will be on a plane destined for the states and I will be taking home with me memories to last a lifetime. My advice to all college students who are considering to study abroad, "do it." Take all of your dreams and put them on a map, then go after them.





# Ramapo College Fall 2013

## WHO ARE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?

67 international students at Ramapo, from 22 different countries!

- Adrian Andonov* **Bulgaria** ●
- Dimitar Andreev* **Bulgaria** ●
- Ivaylo Balabanov* **Bulgaria** ●
- Sarahjine Bien-Aime* **Haiti** ●
- Inna Boycheva* **Bulgaria** ●
- Maria Briones* **Ecuador** ●
- Roselaure Charles* **Haiti** ●
- Rohan Chitrakar* **Nepal** ●
- Young Min Choi* **China** ●
- Nam Dang* **Vietnam** ●
- Clifford Denis* **Haiti** ●
- Tsveta Dobreva* **Bulgaria** ●
- Maria Esteban Diaz* **Spain** ●
- Yuansong Fu* **China** ●
- Mehmet Geyik* **Turkey** ●
- Juan David Gomez* **Colombia** ●
- Aleksandar Goranov* **Bulgaria** ●
- Buu Ho* **Vietnam** ●
- Htet Htut* **Burma** ●
- Hsiao-Ting Huang* **Taiwan** ●
- Elena-Maria Ilieva* **Bulgaria** ●
- Yoon Seoung Jeon* **South Korea** ●
- Shazia K.C.* **Nepal** ●
- Zuhal Kamaci* **Turkey** ●
- Ruby Karki* **Nepal** ●
- Ekaterina Kavchenko* **Russia** ●
- Ferid Kaya* **Turkey** ●
- Shauharda Khadka* **Nepal** ●
- Raheen Khan* **India** ●
- Joo Seong Kim* **South Korea** ●
- Hiroki Kishimoto* **Japan** ●
- Zin Me Ko* **Burma** ●
- Rijesh Kumar* **Nepal** ●
- Mingzhao Liu* **China** ●
- Alexander Livadchenko* **Russia** ●
- Saroj Maharjan* **Nepal** ●
- Sujil Maharjan* **Nepal** ●
- Rikiya Makino* **Japan** ●
- Igor Melnyk* **Ukraine** ●
- Arpita Mishra* **India** ●
- Maria Nenkova* **Bulgaria** ●
- Emmanuel Ojo* **Nigeria** ●
- Thiri Oo* **Burma** ●
- Vivek Pandey* **Nepal** ●
- Binaya Panta* **Nepal** ●
- Sooyeung Park* **South Korea** ●
- Bethsaida Perez* **Mexico** ●
- Sarwajaya Prasai* **Nepal** ●
- Simon Petrov* **Bulgaria** ●
- Marlouie Alain Saldariega* **Philippines** ●
- Lachezar Samanliev* **Bulgaria** ●
- Omer Seven* **Turkey** ●
- Princep Shah* **Nepal** ●
- Foram Shah* **India** ●
- Safal Shrestha* **Nepal** ●
- Devinder Sodhi* **India** ●
- Abdulai Swaray* **Sierra Leone** ●
- Krisztina Klaudia Szabo* **Hungary** ●
- Valensiya Tsvetanova* **Bulgaria** ●
- Aleksandar Vasilev* **Bulgaria** ●
- Xiaoyu Wang* **China** ●
- Weihao Wang* **China** ●
- Yunjie Xu* **China** ●
- Dobromir Yordanov* **Bulgaria** ●
- Tianyi Yu* **China** ●
- Nikita Zabotin* **Russia** ●
- Maria Zaderey* **Russia** ●

- Accounting
- Chemistry
- Engineering Physics
- Law and Society
- Psychology
- Accounting/Law
- Communication Arts
- Environmental Studies
- Sustainability- Master's
- Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Information Systems
- Undeclared
- Bioinformatics
- Contemporary Arts
- International Business
- International Relations
- Nursing
- Nursing- Master's
- Biology
- Economics
- International Studies
- Political Science
- Business Administration
- Educational Technology- Master's

### When "Europe" a Creek Without a Paddle: Getting Lost While Abroad

THOMAS COLELLA '15

PARIS, FRANCE

SUMMER, 2013

*After studying abroad in Florence, Italy last summer and in Paris, France this summer, I have come to the inevitable conclusion that getting lost while in a foreign country is very common for me. Naturally, I assume it is also common for other people because, let's face it, anything that isn't the size of Ramapo's campus is really confusing to navigate. So here are a few stories, along with tips and tricks to prevent said stories from happening to you in your own travels around the world.*

Paris is a big city. As in...huge. So in order to get around and cover the various districts, you need to take the train. My Paris saga begins when I get on the RER C metro line after a long day of walking/appreciating art in Paris like a regular Robert Langdon, and I'm all set to get back to my dorm to chill out. Unfortunately, I miss the stop where I need to get off in order to transfer to the RER B metro line that goes directly to my dorm. So I get off at the next one and figure, "No problem, I'll just take the train that's going in the opposite direction as the one that I was just on. That way I'll pass my stop from the other direction and get off then."

But Parisian physics will have none of that.

I get on a train that is originally heading back to my missed stop, but somehow I soon find myself 20 miles outside of Paris at a station that has 10 trains coming in and out every three minutes and something like 200 tired, French businessmen (and women) coming home from work. After walking around for 10 minutes looking at the (French) signs, I give up and ask the information lady. Using broken French, and a little bit of Italian for some reason, she gets me on the right train back to my missed stop! Yay -- ordeal over!

But is it?

I finally get on the RER B train to head back to my dorm and IT. IS. PACKED. Picture a sardine in a can, on a shelf with dozens of other cans, in a store that only sells sardines. And every one of those sardines is sweating and sneezing and at least one of them wants to steal your wallet.

That is Paris. The city of lights, love, and terrible public transportation experiences, at least for me. Chances are, most places you may end up going to will have public transportation, and chances are, you will be taking



that transportation to get around. Here are some tips for you when it comes to getting lost via public transportation. First, always get on the right train and off at the right stop. Plan out the route beforehand and PAY ATTENTION while you are in transit. Getting distracted is likely to get you lost and pick pocketed. Seriously, the thieves there are sneaky sons of a guns. Second, if you get lost, find help. Don't think that because you know the New York metro, you know every metro. It is better to ask someone for help than to end up in Brussels by mistake. If you don't speak the language, don't worry -- I have tips for that, as well!

If you can't speak a word of the language of the country you're visiting, there is always another way to communicate. First of all, find an official-looking person. They'll be the ones in uniform or behind a counter. Chances are, they will speak at least a little English because they deal with lost and confused tourists like us every single day of their lives. If there is no one official around, ask a nice-looking person. Now, they might not speak any English, so you'll have to get creative. Try other languages! If you're in Europe, especially, they tend to be super-educated in languages and may know one or two others in addition to their native one. If you don't know any other language, even a little bit, a) your high school teachers are going to be upset and b) you'll have to charade your ordeal to them. Grunt, point, and mime your message in any way you can, and hopefully the nice person you're communicating with can glean the general gist of what you're saying and give you some assistance. If you have a map, point to it with a confused look. If you don't have a map, just keep repeating your final destination over and over, and they'll eventually catch on. Now, you may not understand their directions back, so you'll have to wait



until they grunt, point, and mime them as best they can. If you still don't know how to get found from person number 1, try person number 2! And 3 and 4! Just keep on keeping on and you'll be back on a train in no time. Hopefully, it'll even be the one you were looking for!

Now what if you don't need public transportation to get from point A to point B? Well, it's just as easy to get lost (and found) while walking as it is on a train. While in Florence, a group of students and I were heading to a museum we wanted to visit. We got to the museum with no problem, but after finding it closed and with night falling, we decided to just head back "home." So, naturally, we just started walking without any idea where we were going. Fifteen minutes later, we come to a sign that basically said, "You are now leaving Florence."

Well...shoot.

Tip number one: don't panic. Seriously, it will do nothing but annoy everyone around you and attract sketchy Italians who now know you're American students. Stay calm and if you're in a group, stay together! Don't think Scooby-Doo had the right idea by splitting up every time a butler in a ghost costume attacked. If you have a map (you ALWAYS should have a map), get it out. Look for the closest sign or landmark. Again, you may not know the language, but even if you don't understand what the word means, you should be able to match that combination of letters and numbers to that same combination of letters and numbers on your map. Once you find it on your map, start walking. Don't linger, especially at the edges of cities because that's where the 'non-touristy,' stuff happens. As you walk, keep checking your map. Are the streets you're passing matching the streets the map says you should be passing? If not, readjust. After a few minutes, you should be on a roll and have a good enough sense of direction to stop freaking out. Congratulations -- you just became unlost!

So there you have it. Getting lost is pretty easy while living in a new place, but luckily, so is getting found. If you stay calm and stay patient, you'll be back home eating crepes and sipping espresso in no time at all.

Opposite page: Auguste Rodin's statue "La Penseur" or "The Thinker" in Paris, France.

Top: A rear view look at Notre Dame de Paris.  
Bottom: The Eiffel Tower on a clear day in Paris.



# *A Photographer's Journey:* A Summer in Eastern Europe

ANNIE ARJARASUMPUN '15

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC AND KRAKÓW, POLAND

SUMMER 2013



▲ PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC Jan Hus Memorial, Old Town Square

▼ PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC  
The District of Lesser Town







▼ **KARLOVY VARY, CZECH REPUBLIC**  
A spa city in the western part of the country known as Bohemia.



▼ **KRAKÓW, POLAND** Wawel Castle



# *A Photographer's Journey*



▲ **CESKY KRUMLOV, CZECH REPUBLIC** Cesky Krumlov Castle



▼ **PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC** Lovers Locks





Prague Castle sits on a hilltop overlooking the city.

▼ **PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**



▲ **PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC** Namesti Miru Metro station escalators (the longest in the EU)

# Alumni Profile: Cataloña: A Path Towards Permanence

KRISTOFER ZAJKOWSKI '12



*"Españita, querida"*

When students apply to a study abroad program, they generally don't leave for their country of choice with the idea that they may one day wish to move there. I can tell you for sure that I didn't think I would be going back to Spain... again... and again... and again. But that I did. In 2010, I participated in a Summer session at Deusto University in Bilbao, Spain (in the Basque Country). Once I realized that I wanted that fresh perspective again, I returned to Barcelona, Spain in the Catalonia region, for the Fall semester of 2011, finding myself not only studying Spanish, but learning the regional dialect of Catalan at Pompeu Fabra University with my newfound local friends. I even appeared in an article in one of the local newspapers after a few journalism students got wind of my language exchange, and interviewed my language partner — now my good friend — and me.

The thing is, I didn't stop there! I was lucky enough



to be admitted to Middlebury College to study for a masters in Spanish linguistics with the best of the best. And the last nine months of my life (September 2012 - May 2013), I've found myself in Madrid, attempting to perfect not only the academic level of my Spanish, but my colloquial speech, as well. Suddenly, I was meeting people whom I could call more than just acquaintances, and I started to spread my roots. Not only was I lucky enough to be enrolled at a top-tier university, but I had the immense luck of making friends with one of my flatmates, a native to the city, and our bond is something I doubt will ever break; I truly consider him one of my close friends, and vice-versa. Apart from my studies, however, I came to realize the hard way that life, regardless of where you're living, is still life: a close relative passed and I had to return to the States for the funeral; I had a falling-out with someone I viewed as a dear friend; I even had one of my major academic projects rejected (although they did allow me the opportunity to amend my errors). But of course, I did have extraordinary excursions to Mallorca and England, and even returned to Vilafranca, a town an hour outside Barcelona, for a concert where I stumbled upon two fantastic Catalan University students that I still keep in touch with.

All that being said, I wouldn't dare change my experience for anything. Living in Bilbao, Barcelona, and Madrid has taught me to appreciate so many aspects about my home country, about my culture, and most importantly, about myself that I never would have recognized without all the blood, sweat and tears devoted to my overall stay. This Fall, I am returning to Madrid in order to teach as an auxiliar, or teacher's assistant. It's a huge perk to know I have at least a year or two of job security before I'm thrust into the real world, but, until then, I'll be working my hardest to



## Alumni Profile



### OPPOSITE PAGE:

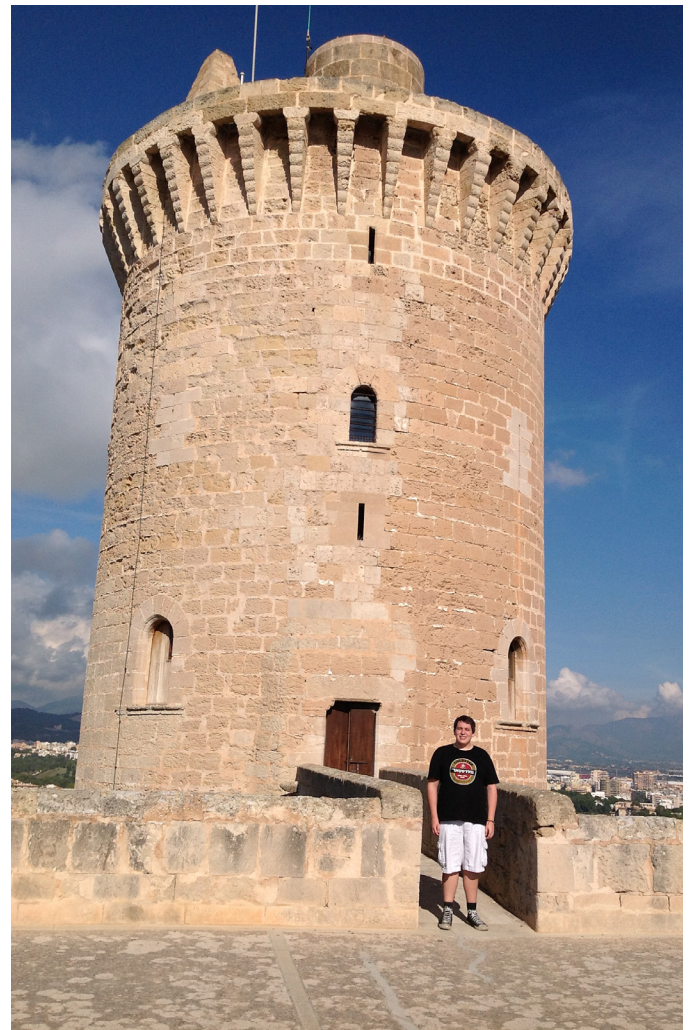
1. Kristofer enjoying the view of the Thames River in London, England.
2. Plaza: Ramapo College students including Kristofer (third from right) take in a sightseeing tour of Madrid, Spain during the summer of 2010.
3. Kristofer (on right) posing for a photo featured in an article published in a local paper about the language exchange program at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain.

### THIS PAGE:

1. Kristofer (far left) and his classmates stop to capture the moment in Bilbao, Spain.
2. Kristofer Zajkowski ('12) looks back at the camera while snorkeling near the coral reef off the coast of Hawaii.
3. Kristofer spent a few days off the coast of mainland Spain to visit Mallorca, Spain.

find my way back where I so desperately wish to call home, a place where Ramapo so helpfully aided me to study: Catalonia. Madrid is just the first step for me in what I hope will be a long-term goal of foreign permanence. With the help of Ramapo, I am currently in the process of applying for a Fulbright scholarship to teach in Andorra, and maybe, if I'm exceptionally lucky, that will gain me that extra inch toward my ultimate aspiration: assimilation into a foreign country that I would have never learned to call home without Ramapo and the Roukema Center.

Here's hoping!



# Faculty Perspective: Córdoba's Colorful Patios Showcase Its Multicultural Past

PROFESSOR EDNA NEGRÓN

PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM, RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Córdoba's patios typically display an impressive burst of color in its flower-draped balconies, exotic trees and foliage.

On a warm June evening in Córdoba, Spain, local guide Rafael Barón escorts a group of visitors through the narrow, cobblestoned streets of barrio San Lorenzo to the shady, fragrant patio inside the house on Calle Pastora. There, he points to the orange tree, laurels and begonias bursting with color - typical elements of patios cordobeses.

Córdoba, a city of more than 300,000 people, is located in the Andalusian region of southern Spain. It is the scorching summer heat of the region that, in part, gave rise to the colorful, cool patios recognized worldwide. Aromatic flowers, vertical gardens of hanging plants, exotic trees, fountains and geometric mosaics on walls and pottery are characteristic of the patio cordobés. The patios' design reflect this city's unique multicultural history of religious tolerance. Muslims, Christians and Jews coexisted in this city under Muslim rule roughly between the 8th and 13th centuries, according to some scholars.

Córdoba is home to the world's third largest mosque, La Mezquita Catedral, which houses the legacy of the Muslim and Christian presence in the city in one unique, historic Hispano-Islamic structure located at the foot of the old Jewish quarter. The Mezquita's patio features rows of orange trees.

Beyond their aesthetic appeal, the patios, influenced by the Romans and the Moors, are part of the city's social life. It is the place where residents gather for weddings, funerals, religious ceremonies, do chores and share family stories.

"This is not decoration," said Barón, speaking in Spanish about the historic role of patios in Córdoba. "This is a way of life. This is the heart of the city."

The Roman atrium and the Arabic Mudejar style of architecture inspired the white-washed courtyards constructed around houses as spaces for residents to escape the dry Andalusian heat which can reach a high in Córdoba of 40 °C (104 °F) in the summer months. The patios are an extension of the living quarters.

Dating as far back as the 10th century, the patios of Córdoba have long provided a cool respite for residents escaping the searing subtropic Mediterranean sun. The Roman influence included a fountain in the center that collected rainwater. Later, the Moors incorporated a multitude of fragrant flowers, an irrigation system to enhance fountains, in addition to plenty of foliage to preserve cooler spaces.

Homeowners maintain their patios year-round because they are considered the nucleus of dwellings in Córdoba, according to the Asociación de Patios Cordobeses "Claveles y Gitanillas," a local civic group which organizes patio competitions. The majority of the patios are gardens in private homes, others are public spaces with an exquisite maze of vegetation, such as the Palace of Viana with its 12 stunning gardens.

Córdoba's patios also tell stories of *la vida cotidiana* or everyday life in the city. During the early 20th century, the mostly poor immigrants, who lived with large families in cramped apartments, developed the courtyards into *la vida comunitaria* or community life of the patios. The patios served as the common spaces for these families who cooked, washed and chatted in the open air.

Handed down from generation to generation, the maintenance of the patios led to an annual competition among neighbors dating back to the 1920s; the city later institutionalized the festival which today attracts visitors worldwide. In May, thousands visit the "Festival de Los Patios Cordobeses" during the prime spring season to witness the blooming flora in the city. Residents in neighborhoods, including San Lorenzo, Santa Marina, San Agustín, and the old Jewish quarter vie for recognition in the competition, and open their gardens to the public.

In December 2012, the Committee for UNESCO World Heritage listed the Festival of the Patios of Córdoba on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List, citing its role in giving the community a sense of identity. This year, the festival featured more than 60 patios. Some of the gardens remained open to the public after the May festival.

Cultivation of the family patio is an inherited custom. During his walking tour, Barón stopped at Gabriel Castillo's patio on San Juan de Palomares street, where he maintains his family's award-winning patio of more than 300 species.

"The tradition is to have the most beautiful patio," said Castillo. "You see the work," he said in Spanish, pointing to a hearty hibiscus.

Patio owners talked about the year-round care the gardens require.

On Calle Parras, Maria Isabel Navajas invests several hours a day watering and pruning 40 varieties of geranium in her award-winning patio. Navajas explains that maintaining a beautiful patio takes many dedicated years of tiling, placing pots, watering, cutting and cleaning leaves. Her family installed a sliding patio roof to control the patio's humidity, sunlight and temperature.

On Pastora Street, Barón points to his own prized patio representing Córdoba's multicultural roots. Every species in his garden evokes Córdoba's history. The olive tree represents a Jewish tradition, the orange trees heralds Arabic roots and laurels are reminiscent of the Romans. His Christian altar to the La Virgen de la Salud or health won his patio recognition as Córdoba's most devout.

Wiping the sweat from his brow at the end of his two-hour walking tour, Barón explains in Spanish: "The patios are a show of solidarity among neighbors who open their gardens for the public to enjoy."

Edna Negrón is a professor of journalism at Ramapo College. She teaches Race, Ethnicity and Cross-Cultural journalism.

# The School for Field Studies Matching Scholarship



CLOCKWISE

- 1: Adam Lazor ('13) finding shade near the Arenal Volcano in Costa Rica.
- 2: Nicole Ginsburg ('14) cuddles with a Koala at the Cairns Zoo in Australia.

*The School for Field Studies* (SFS) is a study abroad provider that offers programs in Australia, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Kenya, Panama, Tanzania, and Turks and Caicos. In an effort to further promote participation in study abroad and make SFS programs more accessible, RCNJ and SFS have partnered up by establishing and equally contributing to an annual fund which will be available to students starting in the Fall of 2013. Through this collaboration Ramapo students may now receive a School For Field Studies Award which grants one RCNJ student per semester \$4,000 and two summer students \$2,000.

Each semester and summer session at the School for Field Studies brings a cohort of students from across the country together at designated campuses around the globe to study and learn under a team of international faculty and staff. SFS students are challenged and inspired by the work they do because it makes a real difference and a positive contribution towards

a sustainable future. They develop practical, transferable skills in research, writing, oral presentation, language, teamwork, community living, leadership, and critical thinking; ultimately making them stronger candidates for graduate school and laying the groundwork for professional careers, particularly those in conservation, environmental science, or sustainable development.

A core component of the SFS experience is the focus on undergraduate research. Students are provided with a unique opportunity to work directly with PhD holding faculty members and engage in field research projects that are designed in collaboration with local and national stakeholders. By conducting applied, use-inspired research, students learn through experience and contribute to a growing body of knowledge about the local issues related to environment and development. Previous student research topics have included the effects of rising temperatures on tree frogs in Panama, understanding

the regrowth of critically fragmented rainforests in Australia, and the behavior of lions and the health of the savannah grasslands in Kenya and Tanzania.

If you have ever wondered what working out in “the field” is actually like or want to expand your knowledge of a particular environmental issue or region of the world this is your opportunity get out there, get your hands dirty, and get to work on an unforgettable, hands-on experience. When you finish an SFS program, you will not only walk away with the education of a lifetime, you will never view the world – or yourself – the same way again.

*\*RCNJ students are also eligible for additional financial aid from SFS.*



# Event Calendar: Fall 2013



## Study Abroad Deadline: Spring 2014 Partner Programs

Tuesday, October 1

## 4th Annual NJ Study Abroad Re-Entry Conference

Saturday, October, 12

8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m. | Rutgers University

## Cooking Demo

Thursday, October 3

5p.m. - 7p.m. | The International Scholars  
House ('White House')

## International Studies Abroad: Advisement Sessions

Tuesday, October, 15

10a.m. - 2p.m. | ASB-123

## School for Field Studies: Advisement Sessions

Tuesday, October, 8

10a.m. - 3p.m. | ASB-123

## Study Abroad Deadline: India Spring 2014 & China Spring Break 2014 Programs

Friday, November 1

## Movie & Discussion - "In God's Land"

Tuesday, October, 8

6p.m. - 9p.m. | H-Wing Auditorium

## International Education Week

Monday - Friday | November 4 - 8

*All events are subject to change, please check the online events calendar for the most up to date information*

<http://ww2.ramapo.edu/international/events.aspx>

## Study Abroad Tips

- Keep a journal or blog and take a TON of pictures! You won't remember everything and when you look back it'll help jog your memory of your adventure!
- Keep in contact with friends and family from home - they will want to share in 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!
- Check out 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.

