

# RAMAPO UNPACKED



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1: Fall 2015



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RAMAPO UNPACKED | FALL 2015

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# *meet the team*



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# Memorial Ceremony for Victims of the Nepal Earthquake

Held on April 30, 2015

RAJESH ADHIKARI | DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, at approximately 11:56 a.m. local time—or 2:11 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time—on Saturday, April 25, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck central Nepal at a shallow depth of approximately 9.3 miles. The epicenter of the earthquake was located approximately 48 miles northwest of Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city, and 45 miles east of Pokhara, another major population center. More than 20 aftershocks—ranging between magnitude 4.5 and 6.6—followed the initial earthquake. By the end of the day on the following Wednesday, more than 120 aftershocks were recorded and remained a major concern. Experts say that such shocks could last for weeks and months to come.

As per the estimate from UNICEF, approximately eight million people were affected, including 2.8 million children. As many as 1.5 million people in the Kathmandu Valley spent their nights outdoors, either because their homes were destroyed or they were afraid to spend the night in their homes. More than 8,700 people lost their lives and more than 18,000 were injured. In addition,

more than 600,000 houses have been destroyed or damaged. While most of the bodies have been pulled from the rubble across areas of Kathmandu, the fate of those living in the remote regions is yet to be determined. Many communications were down, landslides blocked off roads and relief efforts, and many people remain unaccounted for. Thousands of people rushed to bus stops to board buses to leave the capital due to the fears of further aftershocks. The scale of the devastation was extraordinary and the losses are heartbreaking.

With the monsoon season looming, many people will no longer have a roof over their heads to keep them dry. A large congregation of people living out in the open can increase not only the risk of diseases spreading, but also the speed at which they spread.

Rescue, medical and relief workers from around the globe began pouring into Nepal hours after the earthquake struck. But they were hampered by the scale of the devastation. The quake destroyed much of the limited infrastructure - the main airport was unable to fully



Ramapo College students, faculty and staff gathered for a candlelight vigil at the Arch.



function for several days, roads were destroyed and there was a massive shortage of fuel to transport relief to the survivors.

Thousands of homeless have fled to other parts of the country, but many have settled in improvised camps around the capital which lacks food, water, decent shelter and medical care.

The Ramapo College community jumped into action by immediately showing extraordinary compassion and providing support to ease the anxieties of our Nepali students who were in desperate need of our care, counseling and guidance even as some of them were unable to reach their families and loved ones. On behalf of the entire Nepalese student community at Ramapo, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank President Mercer and the entire Ramapo College family who came together to help bring a sense of peace and comfort during this time.

One student said: "Words cannot express how grateful everyone is for the kindness shown during our time of sorrow since Ramapo is like a family for us. It's truly a blessing to have a family who is there to support you when you need them the most."

This supporting atmosphere at Ramapo is proof of why we have been a popular college choice of students from Nepal. We are a big family here and the Nepalese students are an integral part of that family. They make up the largest part of our international student population and they are very active on campus.

Although our students' family members are okay, that doesn't mean their futures are secured. We know that the human cost is not easily repaired. It takes time. We hope that people in Nepal find support and strength in their families and communities, at home and abroad, as they rebuild their homes and their lives.

Please continue to remember our beloved students, their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers. Reach out to them with love and compassion, remembering that compassion means to "suffer with." While we cannot truly know the depth of grief and heartache they feel, we can help to carry the burden of these students by being there for them. Your support is the motivation for them to continue the effort to help the earthquake victims and rebuild their community.

Thank you for your heartfelt giving and helping us in sending relief to the victims in Nepal. Your donations will help workers continue to provide clean water, food and shelter to those displaced by the earthquake and will support in longer-term recovery efforts.

**STAY STRONG NEPAL!**



TOP TO BOTTOM:

1. (L-R): Princep Shah '18, Pragnu Tuladhar '18, Nischal Khatri '18, President Peter P. Mercer and Rajat Sainju '18.
2. Rajat Sainju '18
3. Nepali Flag with candles in the background.

**ARIANA GARBACCIO '16**

JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY  
ROME, ITALY  
SUMMER 2015



## WHEN IN ROME

When you envision Rome, you think of the ancient ruins: the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Theater of Pompey. You might imagine yourself throwing a coin into *La Fontana di Trevi* or sitting on the Spanish Steps. That was my idea of Rome until I studied abroad. As my professor at John Cabot University wrote in her book, **“Rome is both more and something other than what is conveyed by its global tourist image.”**

I studied at John Cabot University and lived in the heart of Trastevere, Rome. Our classes were on-site, and we traveled to different neighborhoods in Rome and studied the urban fabric, the people and the history of each. Our professor suggested we travel to each neighborhood on our own, allowing us to learn our way around the city which gave us more hands-on experience and more knowledge than I could have ever learned in a textbook.

This class, “Rome: Modern City,” allowed me to see the other side of Rome - the neighborhoods less talked about and the people who make up this globalized, complex city. The tourists are so dazzled by the magnificent sites that they often don’t see the urban transformations and challenges within the city. Living in Rome and learning about the multifaceted culture provided me with an experience of a lifetime. The beautiful city with cobblestone streets and small shops everywhere is also home to graffiti, thousands of immigrants and refugees and scores of homeless people. Like most cities, this does not take away from its beauty, but it does present a sense of reality. I even had the opportunity to volunteer with RomAltruista at La Ronda del Caffelatte e Dolci and serve breakfast to the homeless of Trastevere at Piazza Mastai. It was an eye-opening experience.

In addition to attending class on the weekdays, I explored Rome and traveled to some of Italy’s most beautiful places, such as the Amalfi Coast, Tuscany, Florence and Cinque Terre. The views are breathtaking. Whether you choose to study abroad for a semester or for a summer session, your time will be a meaningful, life-changing experience. In just a few weeks, I experienced more than I could have imagined and lived some of my biggest dreams. My advice is to travel with an open mind and don’t be a superficial traveler. You must learn rather than see, and experience rather than visit.

Living in Trastevere, Rome was the greatest experience of my life and I would go back in a heartbeat. If you would like to read more about my experience, check out my study abroad blog: [andiamoaroma.tumblr.com](http://andiamoaroma.tumblr.com)

TOP:

1. The view of John Cabot University (JCU) courtyard and the neighborhood of Trastevere from the rooftop of JCU where we studied/did homework
2. The Colosseum in Rome, Italy
3. Victory selfie after our hike to Anacapri on the Island of Capri!
4. Street art in the Garbatella neighborhood, Rome
5. Delicious gelato in Rome
6. Welcome to Positano! (on beach)
7. Roman sunset over the Tiber River & the Vatican in the distance
8. Wine tasting in Montalcino, Tuscany





My friends and I on our evening boat tour of the River Thames

## BROOK TWEETEN '17

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER  
LONDON, ENGLAND  
FALL 2014

## CHEERS TO LONDON!

I spent the busiest, most exhilarating and wonderful four months of my life in London in the fall of 2014. It was an unforgettable adventure. I studied with ISA at the University of Westminster. The experience took me outside my comfort zone to participate in activities and events that are not usually available to me. With ISA, I went to exciting tourist sights, including the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace and Shakespeare's Globe Theater. We also enjoyed other trips, like having tea at Harrod's, taking an evening boat tour down the Thames and having an exclusive tour at the BBC. My flat was in Shoreditch, East London, which is a very up-and-coming hipster area of the city and where I met so many interesting people. Most of my classes were at the University of Westminster Regent Street campus, off Oxford Street, the longest shopping street in the world.

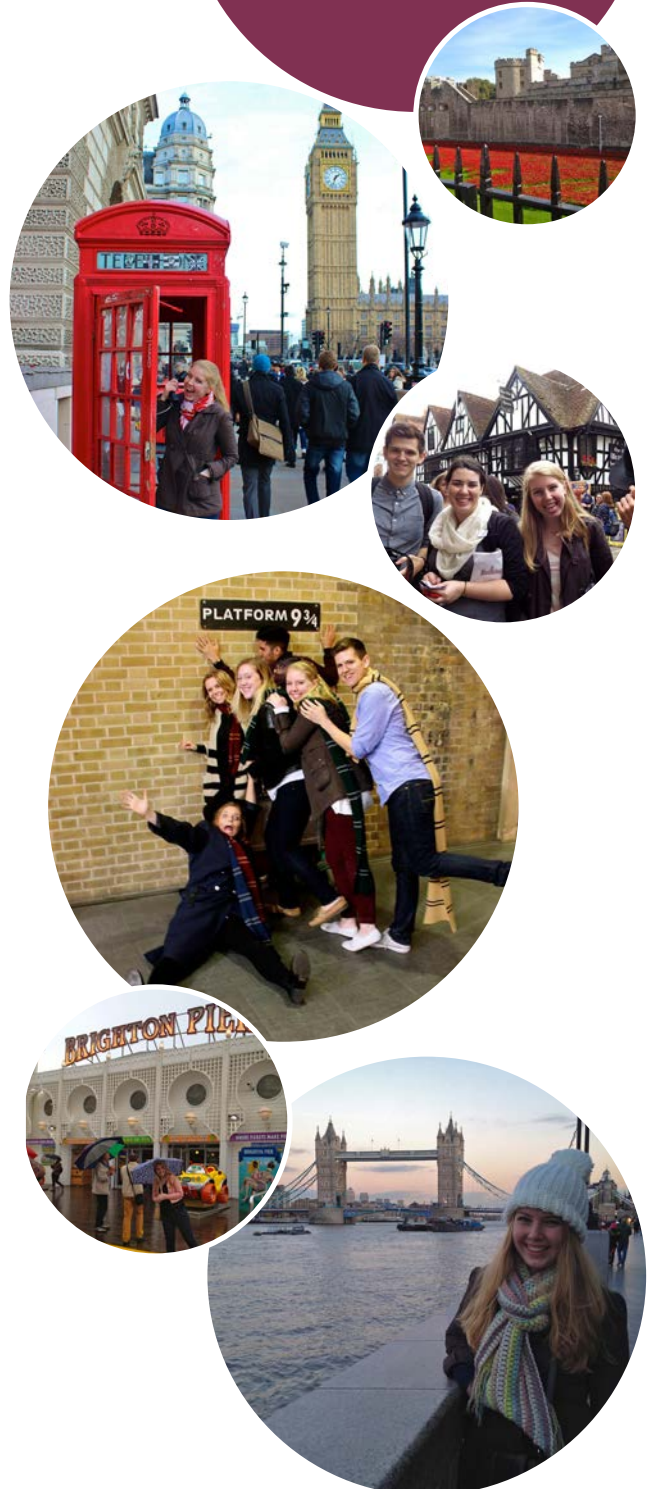
My class "Art and Society" took me to different museums across London to study different genres of artwork. I also took a "Jack the Ripper" course with British students. Fun fact: the infamous murders were committed a ten-minute walk from my flat. My theater class was my favorite. We attended different plays and musicals every week, ranging from the West End's big performances (*War Horse* was amazing) to small independent performances that tugged at your heartstrings. All the classes were academically challenging as well as culturally interesting.

I traveled throughout England and Europe with ISA as well as separately with friends. In addition to visiting Dover, Brighton Beach, Canterbury, Stonehenge, Bath, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwick Castle and Windsor Castle, I went to Scotland, Paris, Amsterdam and Prague. It was fantastic to see and experience all the sites that I've read about for so long.

Four months abroad was not enough for me. I would love to live abroad for a longer period of time. I caught the travel bug and I will not be satisfied until I have traveled everywhere.

### TOP RIGHT:

1. Tower of London surrounded by poppies for the 100th anniversary of WWI
2. In front of Big Ben
3. My friends and I visiting Canterbury
4. At King's Cross Station
5. During my trip to Brighton
6. In front of the Tower Bridge



# Dhanyavada, ROUKEMA CENTER!



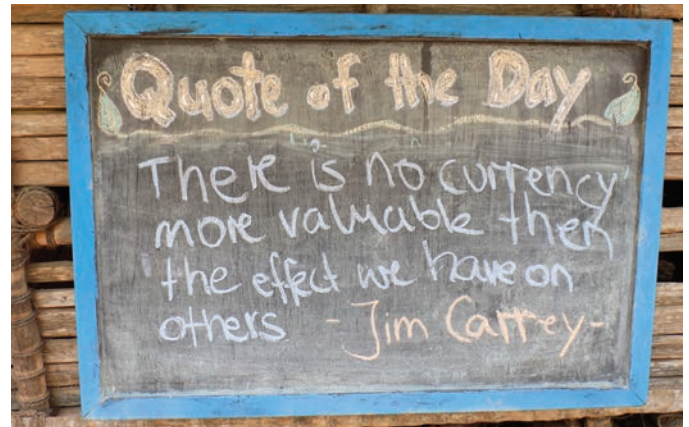
**DANIELLE CORCIONE '15**

RCNJ DEVELOPMENT  
AND SUSTAINABILITY  
BANGALORE, INDIA  
SPRING 2015

I prepared lunch in the afternoon, all with plant-based and non-processed ingredients.



The main hut, in Auroville (Program Excursion), the structures all over campus are composed of organic matter and recycled products. There's an encompassing zero waste initiative.



The Jim Carey quote: "There is no currency more valuable than the effect you have on others."

I couldn't have chosen a better way to spend last semester of college than in South India. After studying abroad in Prague for three weeks last summer, I wanted to travel again. However, as an EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund) student, I was concerned with tuition and board fees as well as the cost of living.

With generous scholarship support from the Roukema Center for International Education and the Ramapo Foundation, my journey became a reality. The cost of the semester was more than affordable.

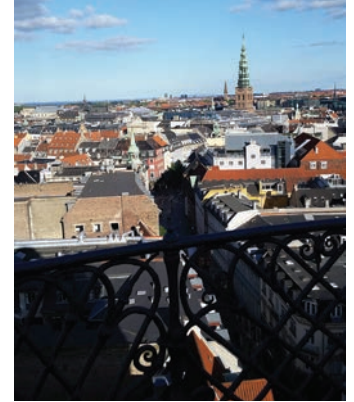
My experiences were priceless. I met people from all walks of life: academics, writers, musicians, farmers, activists and, of course, new friends. My most memorable experience was at the Sadhana Forest, an ecological project in the outskirts of Auroville. In the morning, I volunteered on a Tamil landscape that had been previously eroded. The organization I worked with aimed to replant trees in the dried-up land with the goal of reviving a once-lively forest ecosystem. In the afternoon, I helped prepare lunch for an entire crew of volunteers.

I am so glad I decided to study abroad in Bangalore. While there, I managed my expenses in a detailed fashion. I kept a pocket-sized notebook and recorded every purchase. When I returned home, I calculated my spending and figured out the cost of living. I spent less abroad than if I stayed on campus for the semester. Additionally, I have fewer student loans as a study abroad alumnus.

I encourage students from all socioeconomic backgrounds to consider and apply to the South India program. The scholarship support and the cost of living will surprise you in the best possible way.

Dhanyavada, Roukema Center!





**GREGORY MULROY '16**  
 DANISH INSTITUTE FOR  
 STUDY ABROAD  
 COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
 SUMMER 2015

I began my seven weeks in Copenhagen, Denmark not knowing what to expect. Before this, I had never left the United States. After a seven-and-a-half hour flight, I landed early Monday morning at the airport, exhausted and jet-lagged, then hopped on a bus and headed to my apartment in the city center.

Copenhagen is an absolutely gorgeous city. There are no skyscrapers, only buildings with about five floors. The larger buildings are historical monuments, like churches, castles and palaces. The architecture is tasteful, with few ostentatious structures. History is everywhere—churches built during the Renaissance, museums full of centuries-old artifacts and statues of the kings of Denmark. One of my favorite things about Copenhagen is how accessible it is. Living in the city center, almost everything is within walking distance. On the occasion when something is

more than a reasonable walk away, the Metro makes it very easy to travel.

Castles are everywhere around Copenhagen. Rosenborg Castle, home of the Danish crown jewels, was no more than a 15-minute walk from my apartment. I also visited Kronborg, better known as Elsinore, the setting of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Frederiksborg, another royal castle, sits just a 40-minute train ride out of the city while Parliament operates in a grand palace is a 20-minute walk away. The city and surrounding area are full of incredible and beautiful historical landmarks.

While in abroad, I visited Oslo, Norway; London, England and Malmö, Sweden. I also spent a week in Iceland. My stay in Copenhagen has been everything I could have imagined and more. I love this city.

CLOCKWISE:

1. At the gorgeous Frederiksborg Castle and gardens
2. Me and my roommates at Kronborg, better known as Hamlet's castle
3. An aerial view of Copenhagen from Rundetårn, or the Round Tower in English
4. The magnificent Parliament building
5. With friends atop Rundetårn

•••  
THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THE ATLANTIC  
•••

As a child, I learned about my mother's Dominican roots and was raised learning about the culture of this Spanish-speaking country. I was always curious to know more about Spain, so I made it a mission to travel there to learn more about the motherland.

Studying abroad for six weeks opened my eyes to another world. I grew to appreciate the simple beauty of the country, its culture and the complexity of its history.

After arriving, I was anxious to take classes and began my journey by mentally preparing and taking in the atmosphere one day at a time. While in Sevilla, I learned how to navigate in a new environment and how to become self-reliant. I learned how to accept new perspectives and to keep in mind that the different cultural norms are what sculpt society.

Sevilla is the most beautiful city I've ever visited. I lived four minutes from Plaza De España, which is one of the

Hanging with Jose Pepe



**JENNIFER OVALLES '16**  
UNIVERSIDAD INTERNACIONAL  
MENÉNDEZ PELAYO  
SEVILLA, SPAIN  
SUMMER 2015

best most known plazas in the city. My favorite pastime was taking photos of Spain's beauty but the memories are what I will cherish the most. I am proud to be a Global Roadrunner, and I owe the biggest thanks to my advisors in the Roukema Center for guiding and helping me plan this journey.



Plaza de España in Sevilla, Spain



# the habits i chose

I chose to study in Copenhagen, Denmark, but before departing I had some mixed emotions about being on my own. The thought of three weeks away from everything I've ever known was overwhelming but for some reason, I knew in my heart that this journey was meant for me. I began to view my trip as an opportunity for positive change and I believed if I could discipline myself, maybe I could relax and trust the process.

## WEEK ONE: ADJUSTMENT

I selected a course called "Positive Psychology." My first interactive experience was orientation at the Danish Institute for Studies Abroad (DIS). Hundreds of strangers were brought together by both their curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Speakers informed us of the wonderful history of the Danes, while a jazz band reminded us the importance of having fun while learning.

My professor lit up the room with her positive aura. She led us in a new meditation before each class, setting the tone for what would be the most peaceful three weeks. Our discussions consisted of questions concerning our happiness and wellbeing, whether we are mindful of ourselves, and small ways to change our behavior. She encouraged us to incorporate appreciation and gratitude in our daily lives, from conducting a mindful walk through a botanical garden to sharing random acts of kindness with strangers.

## WEEK TWO: PASSION

I chose to do my class presentation on our visit to the Playfield Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland. I was moved by their passion to incorporate mindfulness into the lives of children. I visited a Buddhist temple and learned from a monk "it is only when we quiet the mind can we understand our thoughts." I hiked a mountain in Scotland with my classmates. It was challenging for many reasons but we continued to motivate one another. Once we all reached the top, we practiced a mountain meditation and rested in our gratitude. I began to understand how happy we could all be if we dropped our ego in exchange for a helping hand. Every situation I encountered forced me to let go of any obstacles holding me back. Ultimately giving both hands a grasp on what was happening right now because this moment was all that really mattered.

**SABRINA MCLEAN '16**  
DANISH INSTITUTE  
FOR STUDY ABROAD  
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
SUMMER 2015



## WEEK THREE: COMMITMENT

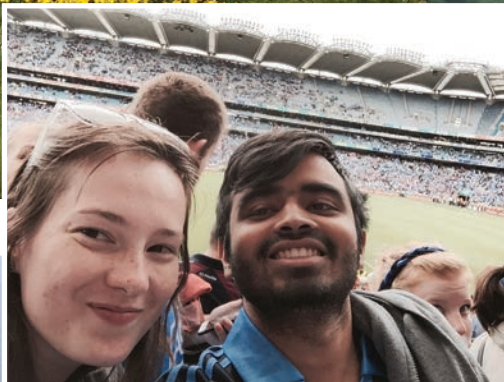
I chose mindfulness as my personal journey and vowed to spread awareness along the way. After returning from Scotland and a weekend trip to Ireland, I felt a sense of clarity. I was now certain of the reason this trip was meant for me and it went much deeper than meditation.

I left New Jersey with the intention of clearing my mind. It was only when I returned home and had the chance to reflect, did I understand what this trip was all about. I learned that happiness is not a destination but rather a choice.

1. Enjoying a beautiful afternoon in Nyhavn watching the boats set sail
2. The sun did not set until 11 p.m., while it rose around 4 a.m. It took some adjusting at first but it continued to take my breath away.
3. Outside of my Kollegium after a passing thunderstorm. It rained frequently but it only seemed to add to the beauty of this country.
4. The sky in Nyhavn looked as if it was painted to perfection. It was almost impossible not to have your head in the clouds while strolling along the strip.







After leaving my home in Nepal two years ago, I am able to call Ramapo my new home. Many people told me I was already an international student and were amused by the fact that I wanted to study abroad. But I have always wanted to travel, so the program at University College Dublin, Ireland, was perfect as it combined a study abroad experience with an awesome internship. The Roukema Center helped me find the best of both worlds with this program.

the people you meet on the street, the beauty of Ireland increases exponentially even as you leave the crowded city and begin to explore the shorelines and the country side. The first weekend, we went to the North of Ireland to see the various places where Game of Thrones is filmed. As exciting as that was, I was taken aback more by the magnificent view of the Giants Causeway.

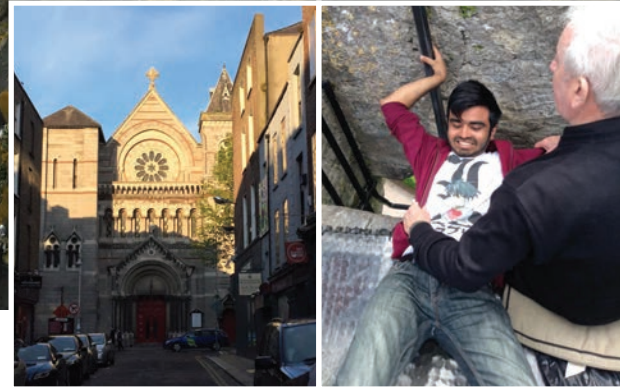
I got very little rest while in Ireland because there is so much to do and see. I received an internship at the Bank of Ireland where I worked weekdays. It was such a great learning opportunity and really helped me get a better perspective of the corporate lifestyle and gain

Dublin is such a beautiful city that it is nearly impossible to describe it in words. From the incredible buildings that are centuries old to

TOP:  
1. Scenic View at Carrick-a-Rede, Northern Ireland  
2. Representing Ramapo at the Gaelic Football Finals with Briana Skuriat  
3. At Cliffs of Moher (selfie on the edge at 390 feet)



NEPAL  
 ~  
 NEW JERSEY  
 ~  
 DUBLIN



knowledge of the financial sector in which I aspire to work. On the weekends, we traveled across the country to new places, each more beautiful than the last. Traveling to the tourist city of Galway and visiting the Cliffs of Moher was one of the highlights of my trips. And the other was kissing the Blarney Stone.

The eight weeks in Ireland was such a great experience that flew by. Learning about the culture and history of Ireland was just amazing, but the best part is the friendships that I have forged. My experience would not have been the same without them. Traveling really helps one grow and I am glad I chose to study abroad in Ireland. I would recommend it to anyone.



CLOCKWISE:  
 1. A cathedral in Dublin  
 2. Kissing the Blarney Stone  
 3. Bog jumping at a farm!  
 4. Going crazy at Howth Harbour



**KARSYN ANSARI '16**

NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, HILO  
HAWAII, HILO  
FALL 2014

It was through another student that I found out about the National Student Exchange, a program that allows students to exchange at participating universities within the United States. Without a second thought, I applied to exchange at the University of Hawaii, Hilo, for the fall 2014 semester.

In August, I boarded a plane to Oahu where I changed flights to the Big Island. This was my first solo trip overseas and the longest flight, on which, I had ever been. When I arrived in Hilo, I had absolutely no idea what was in store for me in the coming months – I was living completely anxiety free and in the moment.

During my semester at the University of Hawaii, I was continually awed by the natural environment and endeared by the people I met. I could write pages about the island's natural beauty and my exposure to Hawaiian culture and customs and about the friends and connections I made.

Every experience was truly memorable.



TOP TO BOTTOM:  
1. Sea turtle friend, Hilo, H.I.  
2. Taking photos of coral for my Intro to Hawaiian Coral Reefs class, Hilo, H.I.  
3. Ka Lae (South Point), the southernmost point in the United States, Ka Lae, H.I.



As the end of the semester drew near, I reflected on the academic and personal growth I gained while in Hawaii. I realized that my interest in seeking adventure and learning experiences didn't have to stop there. I chose to continue my student exchange experience and applied to exchange at the University of Utah for the spring 2015 semester.

Shortly after returning to New Jersey, I packed my car and drove across the country to my new home for the next few months in Salt Lake City. I enrolled in challenging classes and spent the rest of the winter and spring





balancing schoolwork and a job with time enjoying the natural environment of the Wasatch Mountain range. Again I met fantastic professors and amazing friends. Among many other things I experienced was the jaw-dropping landscape of the red-rock country of southern Utah where I did some rock climbing and fell in love with camping.

Because I loved the outdoor-oriented lifestyle of Salt Lake City, Utah as well as the job and learning opportunities there are for someone in my area of study, (environmental studies) I chose to stay in Utah after the spring semester ended. I was fortunate to make some great connections and landed a fantastic internship for the summer.

*Thank you, Ramapo, for setting me on this path.*

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
SPRING 2015

- CLOCKWISE:
1. Bluebird ski day at Alta Ski Area, Alta, U.T.
  2. Summit of Mount Olympus, Salt Lake City, U.T.
  3. Castleton Tower, Castle Valley, U.T.
  4. Green Sand Beach, Ka'u District, H.I.



FOLLOW JOSE PEPE AROUND THE GLOBE

WHO IS JOSE PEPE?

He is Ramapo College's Roadrunner gone global.



Global Opportunities Fair - Fall 2014 with Kate Godfrey



El Manantial Macaw Sanctuary, Aranjuez, Costa Rica



Fireflies in Bangalore, India



Gelato in Florence, Italy



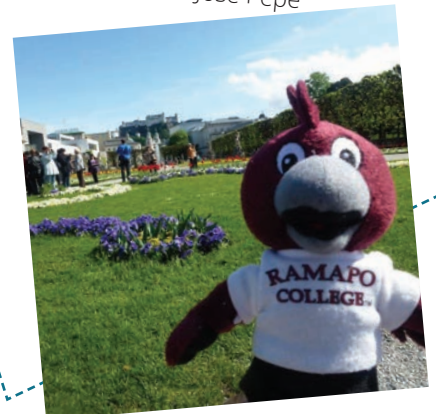
Chris McKenna '12 with Jose Pepe



"The Art of Living Ashram" in Bangalore, India



Joe Skarzynski '12 with Jose Pepe



Salzburg, Austria



Ricky and Jose Pepe at World Expo 2014



Kappabashi Street in Tokyo, Japan



Adam Lazor '13 with Jose Pepe



FOLLOW JOSE PEPE AROUND THE GLOBE



Košice, Slovakia



Colosseum in Rome, Italy



Pacific Coast, Costa Rica



Akasuka, Japan



Rikkyo, Japan



Copenhagen, Denmark



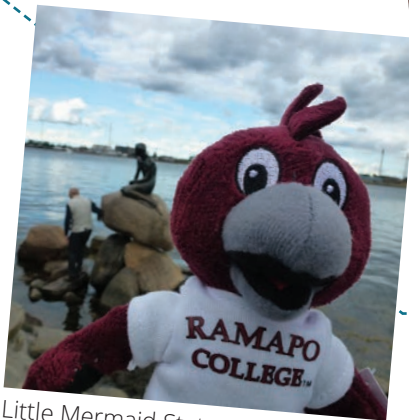
Chris Lukisik '14 and Emma Ruddick-Ferrat '13 with Jose Pepe



Blue Waters, India



New monkey gnome friend in San Jose, Costa Rica



Little Mermaid Statue in Copenhagen, Denmark



Brian Nazzaro '13 with Jose Pepe



Heidelberg, Germany



FOLLOW JOSE PEPE AROUND THE GLOBE: <http://on.fb.me/1HBYNAS>



**PROFESSOR ERIN AUGIS**  
KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(KNUST)  
GHANA, AFRICA  
SPRING 2013



Upon arrival at Ghana's Kotoka International Airport, our faculty met Dr. Kofi Owusu-Daaka, Dean of Students at KNUST and instructor of anatomy and physiology at Ramapo College. Dr. Owusu-Daaka took us to the KNUST faculty guesthouse in Accra where we spent the night. The next morning, our group left for the seven-hour drive north to Kumasi, the location of KNUST's campus.

During the trip north, we watched the southern Ghanaian countryside go by -- verdant and dotted with small towns and villages -- and we ate a lunch of traditional Ghanaian food at a busy restaurant along the national road.

When we arrived in Kumasi, we remarked on the campus' beauty and incredible size. KNUST was established in 1952, and it remains a premier international research university.

After the conclusion of our stay at KNUST, Dr. Owusu-Daaka traveled with us to important sites in Ghana that Ramapo students likely will visit during their

stay. Our first stop was at the beautiful Kintampo Falls, a lush nature reserve characterized by a biodiversity that will thrill any sustainability or biology student, or anyone else with a deep appreciation for the natural world.

From there, we traveled further north to the crowded city of Tamale, passing the fabled Black and White branches of the Volta river along the way, and noting the change in environment from tropical and verdant to dry and desert-like as we moved closer to the Sahelian region of the continent.

When we reached Paga, Ghana's northern border town, we visited the royal family of Paga, which maintains this city's predominating traditional beliefs, that crocodiles contain the souls of local peoples' ancestors and have been protectors of the people of this region for hundreds of years.

Before heading back to southern Ghana, we stayed at Mole wildlife reserve, where upon our arrival, we were greeted by this fellow, who was munching on flowers







## RAMAPO FACULTY TRAVEL TO KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY TO PLAN STUDENT EXCHANGE



right outside our sleeping quarters.

After leaving Mole, we came to the community of Larabanga, home to one of the oldest mosques in Africa. It is likely that this mosque dates to the 1400s.

We arrived at Baobeng National Forest and Monkey Reserve, where the park ranger, Edmund, explained the local significance of the Mona and Colubus monkeys. Edmund told us that the villagers in Baobeng live in close harmony with these monkeys in their forest. The villagers protect the monkeys and forbid killing them. A popular saying is, "Look at a monkey's hand, it is like your own."

Next we arrived to Ghana's Cape Coast to see the Elmina Slave Castle, built by the Portuguese in the 1400s. It was later taken over by the Dutch.

As we entered the castle, we came upon a vast courtyard, the center of which was a Portuguese Catholic

church where priests resided in the midst of the surrounding slave dungeons.

The Ghanaian government presents sites like The Last Bath and Elmina Slave Castle to tourists as the tragic places they are, but also as places to commemorate courage, idealize freedom and civil rights, and memorialize those who have fought slavery worldwide.

At The Last Bath, images of abolitionists like Sojourner Truth line the memorial's walls. In the central courtyard of Elmina Castle, this sign proclaims the sentiments of Ghanaian heads of state, traditional chiefs and the Ghanaian people.

The Ghanaian state and people's focus on progress informed by education and tolerance was palpable as we traveled from the south of the country to the north and back: the laughter of an elderly Baobeng woman as she danced with Professor Owusu-Daaka when we

emerged from the forest, the pride that our museum guides in Paga, The Last Bath and Elmina Castle took in explaining detailed Ghanaian histories and the great tradition of intellectual inquiry and leadership that permeates the scholarly mission as well as social and academic atmospheres of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. We were thrilled by our travel to a country so diverse in history, culture and geography, and by our warm reception from Ghanaian villagers, local leaders and faculty, students and staff at KNUST.

LEFT PAGE, RIGHT TO LEFT:

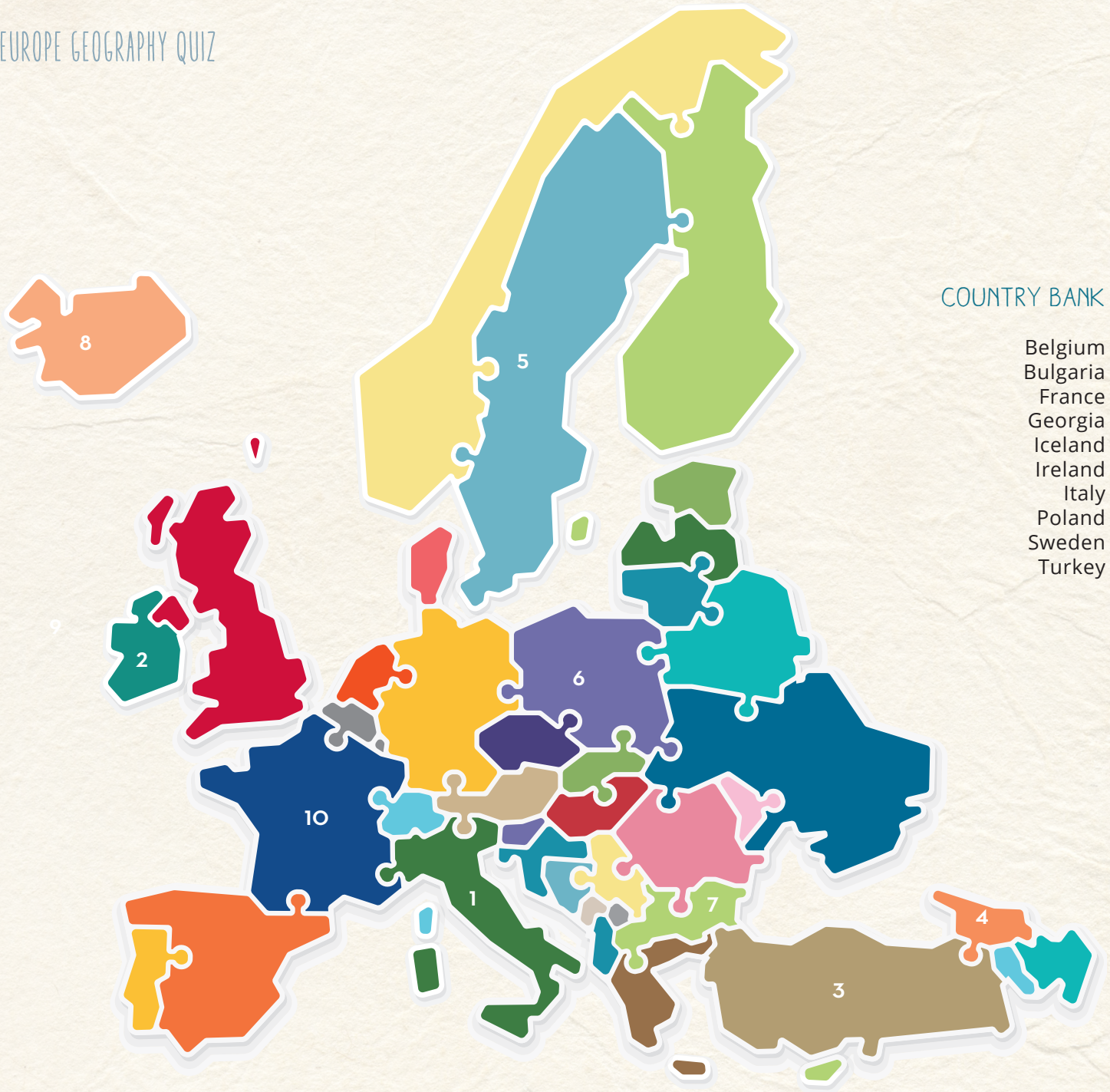
1. Elmina Slave Castle
2. Ben Levy, Erin Augis, Elaine Patterson, Kathleen Burke and Lorne Weems
3. View from breezy upstairs quarters of the Dutch and Portuguese Barons of Elmina castle
4. Ben Levy walks pensively toward Slave River
5. Kintampo Falls
6. Erin with a Local Monkey
7. A tree near the Kintampo Falls

RIGHT PAGE, RIGHT TO LEFT:

1. Elephant at the Mole Wildlife Reserve
2. KNUST Campus in Kumasi, Ghana



# EUROPE GEOGRAPHY QUIZ



## COUNTRY BANK

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- France
- Georgia
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Poland
- Sweden
- Turkey

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW EUROPE ... ?



# INTERNATIONALIZATION @ RAMAPO

## WHAT IS INTERNATIONALIZATION?

“The intentional process of integrating an international, intercultural or global dimension into the purpose, functions and delivery of post-secondary education, in order to enhance the quality of education and research for all students and staff and to make a meaningful contribution to society.” (DeWit et. al., 2015)

## OUR PLAN

### GOAL 1: BUILD GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

- Outcome 1.1: Strengthen & Assess Students' Global Competencies
- Outcome 1.2: Increase Opportunities for Self-Awareness and Identity Development in a Global Context
- Outcome 1.3: Enhance Opportunities for International Co-Curricular Activities

### GOAL 2: INTERNATIONALIZE THE CURRICULUM

- Outcome 2.1: Increase Engagement of International Issues in Coursework
- Outcome 2.2: Expand Opportunities for Diverse Perspectives on Course Themes
- Outcome 2.3: Assessment

### GOAL 3: DEVELOP A DIVERSE GLOBAL COMMUNITY AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

- Outcome 3.1: Develop Diverse International Residential Communities
- Outcome 3.2: Provide Opportunities and Recognition for Increased Global Engagement by Faculty and Staff
- Outcome 3.3: Increase Collaboration with New Jersey's Diverse Community Resources
- Outcome 3.4: Increase International Student Enrollment

### GOAL 4: DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE GLOBAL AND LOCAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Outcome 4.1: Expand Foreign Language Programs at Ramapo College
- Outcome 4.2: Strengthen and Refine Intercultural Communication Skills
- Outcome 4.3: Prepare Students for the Global Workforce

### GOAL 5: SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

- Outcome 5.1: Develop Institutional Resources to Support International Travel
- Outcome 5.2: Provide Risk Mitigation Training and Support for International Travelers

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Ramapo embarked on a strategic and intentional process to identify our strengths and gaps in order to internationalize. Through in-depth surveys, focus groups and committee work, a draft plan was constructed, reviewed and submitted for approval. Upon approval, the committee worked in collaboration with numerous stakeholders across campus to construct a specific implementation plan to guide the College through the next few years of comprehensive internationalization.

## ANNUAL YEARS OF FOCUS

Each year Ramapo College will simultaneously implement the Strategic Plan for Comprehensive Internationalization in conjunction with specific regional foci each year. Within each of these years, a multitude of diverse activities will take place to raise the overall attention and awareness to global regions. For the next five years, they have been designated as follows:

<b>Year One</b>	2015 - 2016	Latin America
<b>Year Two</b>	2016 - 2017	Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>Year Three</b>	2017 - 2018	Eastern Europe
<b>Year Four</b>	2018 - 2019	East Asia
<b>Year Five</b>	2019 - 2020	Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

## FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Ben Levy: [blevy1@ramapo.edu](mailto:blevy1@ramapo.edu) | 201.684.7533 | or visit ASB-123



CHRIS MCKENNA '12

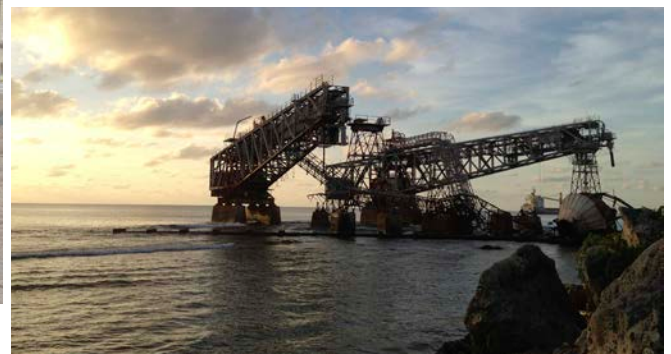
RCNJ CHINA IMMERSION  
BEIJING AND SHANGHAI, CHINA  
SPRING BREAK 2010

RCNJ PUBLIC HEALTH  
IN WEST AFRICA  
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE  
SUMMER 2011

DANISH INSTITUTE  
FOR STUDY ABROAD  
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
SUMMER 2012



CLOCKWISE:  
1. Group photo at Connaught Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone, June 2011  
2. Leaving Guimaras Province, Philippines, locally known for their mangos, October 2013  
3. Sometimes studying abroad takes you to unexpected places. Sunset over long abandoned industrial equipment, Aiwo District, Nauru, October 2013.  
4. Spending an afternoon cycling around Copenhagen. This is in front of Amalienborg Palace, the winter home of the Danish Royal Family, June 2012



Inspiration comes from the least expected sources. Reflecting on the last few years, I know that I was hooked from my first experience studying abroad. Not necessarily the travel itself, but spending time in a new city and completely surrendering yourself to the experience of living and learning.

Over the past few years, life has taken me from the quiet and comforting halls of Ramapo, to serene villages in rural Sierra Leone, to Copenhagen, a city where old-world charm meets the 21st century, to the sprawling metropolises of Manila and a variety of places between.

INSPIRATION  
COMES FROM THE  
LEAST EXPECTED  
SOURCES

Each experience was enhanced by those that preceded it, with extensive “unpacking” occurring after the return home, often taking place during long conversations in the Roukema Center. It was during those times when the gravity of the experience finally sets in. A simple conversation about a hotel in Bo, Sierra Leone, eventually led to a graduate degree in public health and being a member of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office Emergency and Humanitarian Action Team during Typhoon Haiyan. While there is no resting place for the mind, studying abroad helps one discover the journey.



**JOHN SAPIDA '14**

RCNJ CHINA IMMERSION  
BEIJING AND SHANGHAI, CHINA  
SPRING BREAK 2014

**ENJOY THE MOMENT**

Hello Global Roadrunners (or potential Global Roadrunners)!

My name is John Sapida. I graduated from Ramapo College in May 2014 with a degree in International Studies and Political Science. I am currently a graduate student at The New School in New York City where I am a candidate for a Master's Degree in International Affairs. I spent Spring Break 2014 in Beijing and Shanghai with Ramapo College. This past summer, I spent two months in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to study human rights and media. My colleagues and I are now currently in post-production on our media projects from Brazil.

In many ways, I owe my experience in Rio de Janeiro to what I learned during my week in China. When the opportunity came to participate in my university's International Field Program, I immediately knew I



wanted to take advantage of an opportunity to go abroad again. My visit to China gave me a chance to see a different country, but I also learned about a different culture and how to converse with others with a different language, however minimal. More importantly, I learned how I could be more independent, open-minded and comfortable in learning about other cultures even if there is a language barrier. Today, it feels so amazing to hear someone say that my Portuguese is "not that bad."

My advice to those whom have studied abroad and to those thinking of studying abroad is to make sure you take the time to reflect on the experience as a whole. Make a list of things you want to accomplish and at the end of your trip, check to see how many of those things you achieved. Remember, the experience and the lessons you take home with you are most important. Enjoy the moment!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:

1. John Sapida at the top of Escadaria Selaron, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2. Photographing the view from Cristo Redentor, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
3. John Sapida filming a project in Lopes Mendez Beach in Ilha Grande, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



# CAN YOU GUESS WHERE THESE FAMOUS PEOPLE STUDIED ABROAD?



GWYNETH PALTROW



MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY



REBEL WILSON



BRADLEY COOPER

LEÓN, MEXICO

INDIA

SOUTH AFRICA

PARIS, FRANCE

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

TALAVERA DE LA REINA, SPAIN

OXFORD, ENGLAND



CORY BOOKER



GIADA DE LAURENTIIS



JEB BUSH



KERRY WASHINGTON

KEY:  
Gwyneth Paltrow - Talavera de la Reina, Spain // Matthew McConaughey - New South Wales, Australia // Rebel Wilson - South Africa // Bradley Cooper - Aix-en-Provence, France // Cory Booker - Oxford, England // Giada de Laurentiis - Paris, France // Jeb Bush - León, Mexico // Kerry Washington - India