

RAMAPO UNPACKED



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PUSHING > BOUNDARIES

INTERDISCIPLINARY > INTERCULTURAL > INTERNATIONAL



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MEET *the* TEAM



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YEAR OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA 2016-2017

BY JARROD GARCIA '19

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the most culturally diverse regions in the world, boasting more than 1,000 native languages and 3,000 different ethnic groups. Geographically speaking, it is the area of the African continent that lies south of the Sahara Desert, consisting of countries like Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, Kenya, and Madagascar. Home to a young and mostly rural population, Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the world's fastest growing economies – and it has seen a steady rise in development in recent years. It is an exciting, multi-cultural, and rapidly evolving region, making it a clear choice for Ramapo College's international focus during the 2016-2017 academic year.

The College launched its Year of Sub-Saharan Africa celebration with an opening reception in September 2016. Among the speakers were Ramapo's President, Peter P. Mercer, and Abdulai Gad Swaray '17, a Ramapo student from Sierra Leone who shared his deeply moving personal story. Also on hand were music and food, with performances by Ramapo Chorale and Chiku Awali African Dance, Arts & Culture. The event was open to all students, faculty, and staff from the Ramapo community.

Throughout the year, many other events were held on campus, with a specific focus on the region. The George T. Potter Library held a monthly book club, discussing books by Kenyan author Ngugi wa Thiong'o. A weekly film festival included screenings of films from Senegal, Nigeria, and the Congo. Global climate activist Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, who addressed the UN in 2015, came to speak at the College. In addition to these events, students had the opportunity to learn about Sub-Saharan Africa through several course offerings in both the fall and spring semesters. "Music in Africa,"

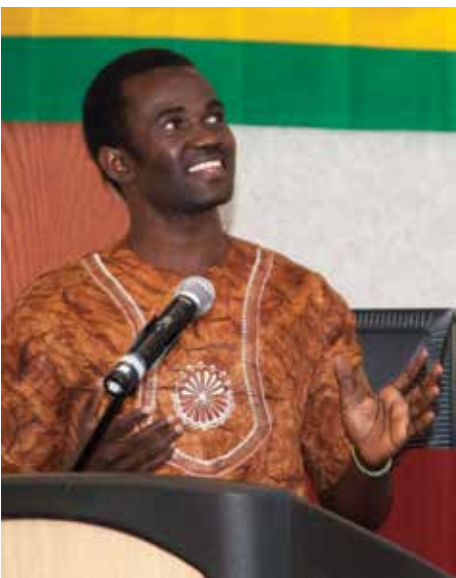
"Africa and Cinema," and "Italian Colonial Culture in Africa" were among the variety of options.

Ramapo currently offers fifty-three international programs – study, research, and internships – in 10 different countries in the region. The featured study abroad program, however, was "Ghana: Public Health in West Africa," led by Ramapo professor Elaine Patterson and Assistant Dean of Nursing Kathy Burke. In partnership with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana, the program allowed students to experience different healthcare environments, while gaining an introduction to Ghanaian culture at the same time. They also explored how the country's politics and history had an influence on its healthcare system, through interactions with local and international healthcare communities.

"Studying abroad in Ghana was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Ramapo student Demi Hernandez '17. "Throughout the trip, I was able to put my views of healthcare into perspective. It is safe to say that I will always remember the experience of studying abroad, as well as all the amazing people that I met along the way."

With its on-campus events, study abroad opportunities, course offerings, special grants, and scholarships, Ramapo's Year of Sub-Saharan Africa has brought the College community together in new and exciting ways, as both students and faculty engaged with this unique region of the world. It's no surprise that Ernest Hemingway once wrote, "I never knew of a morning in Africa when I woke up and was not happy."

For more information, please visit: www.ramapo.edu/international/year-sub-saharan-africa



{ ALISON PHAM '18
Hilo, Hawaii
NSE: University of Hawaii at Hilo
Fall 2015 & Spring 2016



Clockwise: 1. Anna's Pond // 2. Southpoint Cliff Jumping // 3. Halema'uma'u Volcanic Crater

A YEAR IN Paradise

During my freshman year at Ramapo, I decided that I wanted to spend a year in Hawaii. Blistering cold winters in New Jersey made me long for tropical breezes on an island. The University of Hawaii at Hilo, located on the Big Island of Hawaii, became my top choice. The National Student Exchange program allows students to pay the exchange state's in-state tuition. I ended up paying three times less money in tuition and housing in Hawaii, compared to Ramapo! Saving money while living in paradise? This was too good of an opportunity to pass up.

But Hilo is not your picture perfect postcard image of Hawaii. For one thing, it is one of the rainiest cities on the islands. Instead of white sand beaches, Hilo offered black sand and rocky volcanic beaches. Also, every street name is in the Hawaiian language, which made it difficult for me to navigate. When you think of Hawaii, you also don't think about the major homeless problem or the poverty of native Hawaiians. My parents visited me in Oahu during Christmas break, and we were surprised to see the juxtaposition of wealthy tourists living in opulence compared to poor locals living in a tent community. During my time at UH Hilo, a large protest movement was held to prevent the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) from being built on Mauna Kea, the most sacred mountain in Hawaiian culture. There was also signs of racism towards caucasians because of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy many years ago. Staying in Hawaii for a year was an eye-opening experience that allowed me to view Hawaii from another perspective.

But I fell in love with the Big Island. I loved the fresh produce from the Wednesday and Saturday farmer's market. I loved biking all over town, except when it rained--which was quite often. I loved picking fresh fruit, like guavas, bananas and oranges. And who could not enjoy being able to go to the beach in the middle of winter? The reggae music on the radio was wonderful. And yes, I even fell in love in Hawaii, with a local boy.

Living in Hawaii was truly like living in a beautiful dream: Driving with my girlfriends to Makalawena, this gorgeous white sand beach on the other side of the island, where we would sleep in hammocks next to the crashing waves. Jumping off a forty-foot cliff into crystal clear water. Hiking to the edge of a volcano in the middle of the night, where a friend threw a pineapple into the lava as an offering to the fire goddess Pele. Learning to scuba dive and hearing whales singing underwater. Discovering a secret waterfall. Driving a moped for four hours in Oahu to watch the Triple Crown surfing competition on the North Shore. Or volunteering in Kauai to help conservation efforts and seeing the Napali Coastline.

Traveling also helped me become more comfortable with myself. I had to open up to accept everything Hawaii has to offer, and I tried my best to accept every opportunity that came my way. I believe that the world is full of endless possibilities if you only choose to accept them into your life. Hawaii was a beautiful adventure in my life, one that I will never forget.

SARAH KEIR '18
Dublin, Ireland
University College of Dublin
Summer 2016



1. Southpoint Cliff Jumping // 2. Howth, Dublin, Ireland from the view of a cheap Ryan Air flight // 3. Cliffs of Moher, Ireland



EMERALD ISLE

From the first time I went to Europe, I knew I wanted to study abroad while in college. Turning my dream into a reality was an experience of a lifetime. During my first trip abroad, I fell in love with Ireland. The people were kind, the country itself was absolutely beautiful, and the culture always ensured a good time was had by all!

Studying abroad in Ireland was a truly amazing experience. I stayed in an on-campus apartment with 11 other individuals. I made lifelong friends from all across the U.S., Europe and Australia just from my housing. University College of Dublin is a massive university so I was able to experience a different style of learning than the small setting at Ramapo. I had the opportunity to take five courses, all of which transferred back to classes I needed to graduate. I even received 25 credits for it all, putting me ahead of the game.

One of the classes I took led to me traveling throughout Ireland. The field trips allowed for me to see sites of Ireland I might have otherwise overlooked. I also joined an International Students Society which allowed for even more affordable travel throughout the country.

During my stay, I visited nine other countries and went to 11 major cities. I saw people from around the world and I am definitely feeling a lot more well-rounded and independent now. My favorite part about the traveling, aside from being able to see monuments and fabulous architecture, was experiencing different food. I tried haggis in Scotland, sangria and paella in Spain, real Italian pizza and Trippa alla Romana. I tried food that I would have been reluctant to try at home.

I really stepped out of my comfort zone the entire time I was in Ireland and traveling around Europe. I have grown so much and I hope to continue to travel through the Roukema Center as well as on my own. Study abroad was the perfect way of staying on track with school while also being able to experience the world in a way I have never experienced before.

MARAL TEZCAN '18

London, England
CIEE Global Institute
Summer 2016

LONDON CALLING:

City of Dreams

Visiting England was a lifelong dream of mine, one that was finally fulfilled when I studied as an International Business major in London. Spending my summer of sophomore year in the City of Dreams was the best academic decision I have made since attending Ramapo. While sightseeing at locations such as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Stonehenge and Kensington Palace, I learned valuable life lessons and made memories that will last a lifetime. The city of Bath was my favorite place to visit as it known for its Roman-built baths and similar appearance to Italy with Georgian architecture.

The class I took in London--British Business in a European Context--was extremely fascinating especially in light

of the Brexit of the European Union. As a result of Brexit, the value of the pound dropped significantly while I was abroad from about \$1.50 to \$1.30, in which has been the lowest since 1985. The pound losing its value was great news for Americans in London (as a shopping spree came to mind) but a disaster for the citizens of the UK as the value of their money was deteriorating.

I also was fortunate to visit other cities in Europe during my time abroad. These cities included Prague, Czech Republic and Paris, France. Both cities were breathtaking and full of history and elegance that I am thankful to have had the chance to see firsthand. Studying abroad taught me that there is so much more to the world and one must go out and explore life. My advice to students studying abroad is to experience as much as possible, speak to locals, and soak up each new exciting place one day at a time.



Top to bottom: 1. With a guard at Windsor Castle! // 2. In front of the Elizabeth Tower, AKA Big Ben

LAUREN KUBLER '18

Dublin, Ireland
University College of Dublin
Summer 2016



Left to right: 1. Selfie // 2. Samantha and I jumping for joy as we finally made it to Ireland // 3. Samantha Buse and me visiting the Cliffs of Moher

FINALLY *Ireland*



MERYL DORAIS '17
Dublin, Ireland
University College of Dublin
Spring 2016



Went on a day trip to the Wicklow Mountains, Ireland. This is Glendalough's Upper Lake.



A "telefon" booth next to the Bunnratty Castle, Ireland



Carrick-A-Rede Bridge in Northern Ireland. You have to walk across a small bridge over the ocean. So scary, but it had an awesome view.

The LUCK of the IRISH

There are so many countries to choose from if you are seeking to study abroad. So, why did I choose Ireland? I am not Irish, nor have I ever been out of the country. My answer: why not? Studying in Ireland was the best decision I ever made. From the open green hills filled with white specks of sheep to the random downpours of rain and double rainbows, Ireland was the perfect choice for me.

The Irish were welcoming and friendly, and the Irish music always played throughout the city streets, creating a relaxing environment that was easily enjoyable. Fortunately, I was in Ireland during the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, a monumental time in Irish history. It was celebrated by a weekend parade in Dublin's city center, full of decorations, theatrical performances and documentaries that were broadcasted, while hundreds of Irish flags covered every inch of the city. The Irish culture radiated within each person, creating a sense of belonging during my stay.

The majority of my time, aside from being in the classroom for my business courses, was spent traveling around Ireland and throughout Europe. I took advantage of the Irish bus system almost every day. When getting off the bus, I was always greeted with a warm "cheers!" That simple word motivated me to visit some of the most beautiful places around Ireland including the Cliffs of Moher, Giants Causeway, the Wicklow Mountains, Kilkenny Castle, the Dublin Zoo, Dunmore Caves and much more. Each destination was breathtaking. There just aren't any words to describe what I saw without distorting the images that are now in my memory. All I can hope for is to one day go back to this beautiful country and relive some of the moments I experienced. I was very fortunate to be part of such a life-changing experience. The luck of the Irish was definitely on my side.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



Markoni Acharya Nepal •

Talal Afandi Saudi Arabia •

Celal Abbas Akbaba Turkey •

Araz Alizada Azerbaijan •

Seint Sandy Aung Burma •

Aayush Bade Shrestha Nepal •

Dinesh Anand Baskar rao India •

Anusha Basnet Nepal •

Arjun Bastola Nepal •

Anuj Bastola Nepal •

Ashmin Bhandari Nepal •

Safal Bhandari Nepal •

Jijeebisha Bhattarai Nepal •

Niraj Bhattarai Nepal •

Plamena Yaneva Bletsova Bulgaria ••

Anna Maria Ivanova Boycheva Bulgaria •

Sanjay Kumar Chhetri Nepal •

Samip Dahal Nepal •

Carola Di Tolle Italy •

Anishke Dissanayake Sri Lanka •

Simeon Ventsislav Dorelov Bulgaria •

Camilla Estevao Brazil •

Yuansong Fu China •

Hristo Genadiev Ganchev Bulgaria •

Stefan Genadiev Ganchev Bulgaria •

Bold Erdene Gankhuyag Mongolia •

Achyut Gautam Nepal •

Prateek Gautam Nepal •

Victor Gospodinov Georgiev Bulgaria •

Ashish Ghimire Nepal •

Roger Sourav Gomes India •

Aleksandar Ivaylov Goranov Bulgaria ••

Thit Hein Burma •

Htet Wai Yan Htut Burma ••

Yousuf Jamil Bangladesh •

Abish Jha Nepal •

Shuli Jiang China ●

Sushant K C Nepal ●

Ruby Karki Nepal ●

Anamika Khanal Nepal ●

Anurag Khanal Nepal ●

Jivan Kharel Nepal ●

Nischal Khatri Nepal ●

Siyoung Kim South Korea ●

Zin Me Ko Burma ●●

Sashka Valerieva Kotzeva Bulgaria ●

Sujil Maharjan Nepal ●

Patricio Jose Mejia Nelson Honduras ●

Stanislav Minev Bulgaria ●

Bibhash Mulmi Nepal ●

Maria Georgieva Nenkova Bulgaria ●

Ivaylo Ivaylov Nenovski Bulgaria ●

Vivek Pandey Nepal ●

Manasbi Parajuli Nepal ●

Dipalben Bhaktdas Patel India ●

Santosh Paudel Nepal ●

Georgi Plamenov Petkov Bulgaria ●

Ingyin Moe Phyu Burma ●

Sarwajaya Bahadur Prasai Nepal ●

Karina Rampal India / Saudi Arabia ●

Amish Regmi Nepal ●

Bishal Regmi Nepal ●

Rajat Sainju Nepal ●●

Vidupa J. Samarasinghe Sri Lanka ●

Raghav Prem Sehgal India ●

Omer Vehbi Seven Turkey ●

Princep Shah Nepal ●

Prasiddha Shakya Nepal ●

Rojina Shrestha Nepal ●

Safal Shrestha Nepal ●

Rojan Shrestha Nepal ●

Abdulai Gad Swaray Sierra Leone ●

Sagar Thapa Nepal ●

Binayak Thapa Nepal ●

Abhinav Thapaliya Nepal ●

Talita Tito DaSilva Brazil ●

Pragun Ratna Tuladhar Nepal ●

Thanuka Dananjaya Deegau Udumulla Arachchilage Sri Lanka ●

Thanuri Diviyupthi Dananjana Udumulla Arachilage Sri Lanka ●

Anupama Upadhyay Nepal ●●

Utkarsh Uprety Nepal ●

Bahar Uydu Akalin Turkey ●

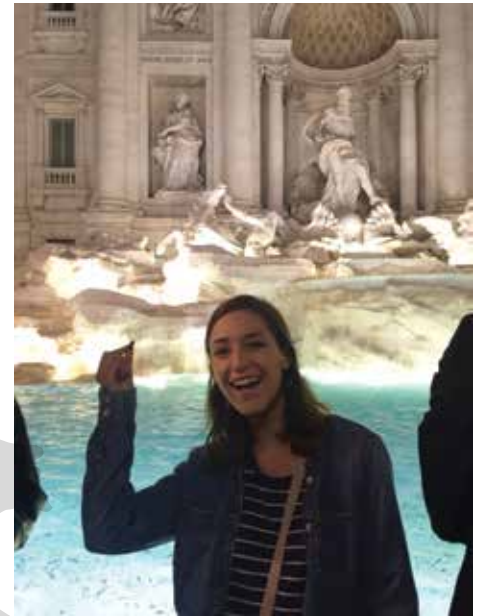
Marie-Fleur Van den Heuvel Netherlands ●

Nikita Zabotin Russia ●

KEY FOR MAJORS:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| ● Biochemistry | ● Computer Science | ● Information Technology Management | ● Literature | ● Music |
| ● Bioinformatics | ● Economics | ● International Business | ● Marketing | ● Nursing |
| ● Biology | ● Engineering Physics | ● International Studies | ● Masters in Educational Technology | ● Psychology |
| ● Business Administration | ● Environmental Science | ● Law and Society | ● Management | ● Sociology |
| ● Chemistry | ● Environmental Studies | ● Liberal Studies | ● Mathematics | ● Theater |
| ● Communication Arts | ● Finance | | | ● Undeclared |

KELSEY BRENTNALL '17
Rome, Italy
John Cabot University
Summer 2016



Left to right: 1. Touring the ancient ruins in Rome // 2. Sketching on of Rome's many pieces of art // 3. Wishing I could stay forever at the Trevi fountain

ROME-ING Around

I took two classes while studying abroad in Rome for Summer Session I, both of which offered a unique perspective of the country that became my home for six weeks. As an art major, I was thrilled to be taking a course titled, "Drawing: The Rome Sketchbook." This class was exactly what the name stated: twice a week we would meet at different museums, monuments, and beautiful places around Rome to sketch what we saw. I remember the first day of class we met in the classroom and then ventured around the corner to a bridge adorned with classical sculptures. As I sat and sketched, I had numerous tourists take pictures of me and my artwork and try to converse with me in their native languages. It was

truly an unforgettable memory from Rome. It was also fulfilling to be able to visualize sculptures, like the Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, or paintings like the Sistine Chapel, that I've learned about in my art history courses.

My other class was "Rome: the Modern City." This course title was interesting to me because Rome is very much an ancient city, boasting its ruins in the Roman forum and ancient architecture like the Colosseum. However, this class became so important for me to truly understand the place I was staying. In this course, we again ventured throughout Rome to learn about the history that created the modern social and economic

landscapes of the city. It was with this knowledge that I was able to fully immerse myself and appreciate the culture of Rome, rather than see the city through the eyes of a tourist. One area that we touched upon during the course was the Slow Food Movement founded by Carlo Petrini, which began in Rome. After a McDonald's was built at the base of the famous Spanish Steps in 1986, Petrini decided that it was time to encourage the consumption of "slow" food rather than fast food. This idea simply meant enjoying locally-grown foods. This idea influenced me to shop at local markets and enjoy the fresh produce of Italy during my time there, and has continued to impact my eating habits back at home.

ADAM CHOINSKI '18

London, England
ISA / University of Westminster
Summer 2016

I fell in *love* with the city of *London*



Left to right: 1. At Dover Castle // 2. At Parliament and Big Ben // 3. At the top of St. Paul's Cathedral

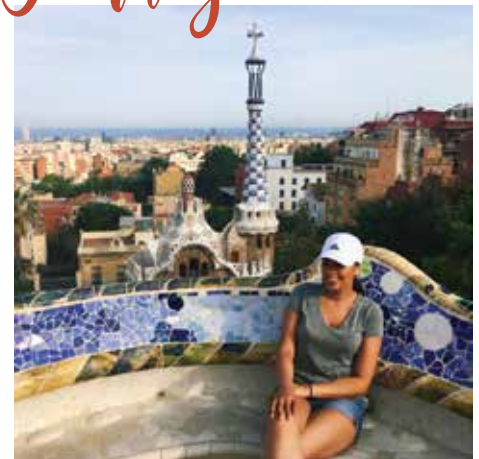
DAYRA CERDA '17

Barcelona, Spain
ISA / Universidad Autónoma
de Barcelona
Summer 2016

¡Hola! My name is Dayra Cerda and I am a senior majoring in Business Administration, concentrating in Marketing. During the summer of 2016, I set off on the adventure I always wanted. Studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain, was truly the fulfillment of a dream. During my time there, I lived with a host family that cooked delicious Spanish food and made me feel like I was at home. I studied with International Studies Abroad (ISA) and was a student in Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. I was enrolled in two classes, which were very interesting. Barcelona is a great city with beautiful

beaches, delicious food, fun nightclubs and friendly people. There was always something to do in Barcelona, from visiting Antonio Gaudi's mosaic buildings to attending music festivals, shops, bars and restaurants. On the weekends, I traveled to Paris and Switzerland and many cities around Spain, including Costa Brava, Girona and Sitges. When deciding to study abroad, my biggest concern was financial aid. However, with the help of study abroad scholarships I was able to make my journey come true. As an official Global Roadrunner, I encourage everyone to study abroad even if it's for a couple of weeks or even a whole year! I have made memories and new friends from all over the globe to last me a lifetime and I will cherish it forever. ¡Vale!

Journey COME TRUE



Sitting in Park Guell overlooking the large expanse of Barcelona

ALYSSA DEL TURCO '18
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix
Spring 2016



Left to right: 1. First performance with UVI dance team // 2. Floating at a St. John beach // 3. UVI Welcome sign

MY EXPERIENCE **Abroad**

I am a junior psychology major at Ramapo. I spent last semester at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix campus, through the National Student Exchange program. I was blessed with the opportunity to have this experience at very little extra cost once all of my academic scholarships and student loans were applied by choosing the plan B payment option. The amazing and life-changing experiences I had in my four months on that island are completely indescribable, but I'll do my best to share the highlights of my trip in hopes of inspiring others to take the journey of their dreams.

From lush green mountains and the tropical rainforest to clear turquoise water and sparkling white beaches, there was a cultural element to St. Croix that taught me more about our world than any class or seminar. Although there were not many stores or commodities, and the things we often take for granted were harder to come by, there was a community-like friendliness to the island that connected all the islanders and kept spirits high. The locals greet one another every time they cross paths with "good mahnin," "good aftahnoon," and they seem to genuinely care for each other. There is a radiant warmth to the everyday atmosphere that made me feel comfortable and at ease.

The University I stayed at had a lovely, air-conditioned spirituality room with a beautiful view of the palm tree-lined drive up to campus. I spent countless hours of peace and purification in that room. I also shared a room with a local who brought me to her home on Easter for classic Caribbean church and cuisine. The countless special connections and lifetime friends I made in that magical place will stay with me always.

In addition to spending free time at the beach, I participated in several other activities on St. Croix such as volunteering at the local animal shelter, working with the Woman's Coalition to develop a program against domestic violence, participating in the LGBT pride march on the "day of silence," and even joining the University dance team! I was worried at first about being an outcast, but all the girls were so welcoming and helpful and made me feel so at home. I also enjoyed many cultural festivities unique to the Virgin Islands such as the agricultural fair, "Jump Up" cultural celebration, St. Patrick's Day parade, and St. Thomas Carnival. All of these events consisted of people filling the streets with celebratory music, Caribbean food trucks, vendors, parties and fun.

I learned many lessons about our world during my time on St. Croix, but I also learned valuable things about myself and my path along the way. Living in a place where bugs are inescapable; there is no Walmart or Wawa or Starbucks; clean water and air conditioning are luxuries; your bedroom wall is made up of several screens with shutters; and "life essentials" are difficult to come by. This taught me to appreciate the little things many of us take for granted in our country. Ultimately, the main lessons I took from living on an island for four months were to allow things to simply exist as they are, to collect experiences instead of things, and to realize that we don't always need the things we think we need. I also learned to surrender and let go of things beyond my control, to balance on the constantly shifting sand under my feet, and to ride on top of the waves of whatever happens around me rather than letting them suck me under. I have never felt so loved and at home in such a short period of time as I did on St. Croix. I fell in love with my NSE experience so much that I will be returning to UVI for another semester in the spring. NSE has expanded my boundaries and altered my perspective on life in the most profound way. If you are thinking about studying abroad or participating in an exchange program, I would definitely advise you to visit the study abroad office, seek out whatever opportunities await you, and live out your dream. As Ray Bradbury once said, "Stuff your eyes with wonder, live as if you'd drop dead in ten seconds. See the world. It's more fantastic than any dream made or paid for in factories."



Clockwise: 1. Spent the day navigating around Vatican City // 2. Trevi Fountain // 3. One of the orientation activities was teaching us to navigate around the city and the Colosseum was one of our stops



CECILE CARTY '17
Rome, Italy
John Cabot University
Summer 2016

ADVENTURE OF A **LIFETIME**

I spent most of my time at Ramapo dreaming of one day studying abroad. I often would get discouraged, thinking it would never be a possibility for me. But ultimately everything worked out for the best and I was able to spend a month in the summer studying abroad in Rome and it was one of the most unforgettable moments of my life.

I was nervous before my trip--I do not speak Italian and I thought that it would be difficult to overcome the language barrier--but it ended up being a lot less challenging than I expected. Many of the people in the town of Trastevere where I stayed spoke English, but were happy to include some Italian when I spoke to them so I could learn some of the native language. The area is full of life, especially at night when people are out on the streets taking in the local entertainment and restaurants. My weekdays consisted of attending classes, which I enjoyed with other study abroad students from the United States as well as Italian and other international students.

All the major monuments such as the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Vatican City and the Trevi Fountain were in walking distance, which made exploring a pleasure. I loved learning about Roman history and art, which I found at every turn! Before going abroad, one of my goals was to volunteer while I was in Rome. I had the opportunity to do so at Casa Internazionale Delle Donne, a woman's shelter where I taught English to a group of women of various ages. That was probably one of my favorite things. The women were great and I was so happy that I was able to help them learn.

One of the main reasons students hesitate to study abroad is cost. I almost let that stop me but I pushed through. In fact, my sister asked me when I would ever get an opportunity like this again and I realized she was right! If I did not take the leap I ultimately would regret it. It was an amazing experience that I will treasure always. Now that I am back home I am constantly thinking about my experience and how much I cannot wait to go back. Hopefully, I will.

Ramapo Offers Summer Study Abroad Program to Ghana

NURS 365: Public Health in West Africa

BY JARROD GARCIA '19

Next summer, Ramapo will be sponsoring a study abroad program in Sub-Saharan Africa entitled "Ghana: Public Health in West Africa" in partnership with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, or KNUST, in Kumasi, Ghana. The program will run from May 14 to May 29. Open to students who have an interest in healthcare or social sciences, as well as non-nursing majors, the program is an opportunity to experience different healthcare environments, while gaining an introduction to Ghanaian cultures.

"Ghana and its people offer a wonderful opportunity to experience a rich cultural fabric in a welcoming, dynamic setting," Ramapo President Peter P. Mercer said. "KNUST is a comprehensive university with strong programs and facilities; I recommend it heartily."

The program, led by Ramapo professor Elaine Patterson and Assistant Dean of Nursing Kathy Burke, is in keeping with the College's mission of international education, intercultural understanding and experiential learning. Students will be exposed to how the politics, history, culture and economics of Ghana have an influence on the country's own healthcare. Students will also have a chance to interact with members of the local and international healthcare communities,

as well as Ghanaian students and academicians.

"The clinical work in public health in the environs of Kumasi is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all healthcare students," Burke said. "Culturally, Ghana is rich in experiences that give students a broader understanding of the history of the slave trade."

Prior to departing the U.S., participants will attend a two-hour orientation session, along with fifteen hours of online instruction. A Ghanaian nurse will provide students with background on Ghana's politics, healthcare, recent history and infrastructure. Standards of behavior and proper protocol will also be discussed.

While in Ghana, students will reside in and visit three main locations: Kumasi, Cape Coast and Accra. Features of the program include guided tours and excursions to a variety of places, such as the Boabeng Fiema Monkey Sanctuary, Kintampo Waterfalls, Elmina Castle and Kakum Park.

"Being a nurse for two years now, I can see the importance of how my international experiences during college have enhanced my experience as a nurse," said Jennifer Alfonso '14, a Ramapo alumna and registered nurse at The Valley Hospital. "I'm usually the go-to resource on my

unit when we have patients with English as their second language. Learning about different countries and cultures has made me a more culturally competent nurse."

At the end of the course, students will have the ability to draw comparisons between American and Ghanaian cultures, analyze Ghana's specific health needs and understand the differences between the healthcare systems and practices between their own country and that of Ghana.

"Traveling to Africa and experiencing the varied cultures within the continent is invaluable. The warmth of the people and climate is exceptional, as is the exposure to all the cultural differences. A trip to Sub-Saharan Africa is a life changing experience," Burke said.

The cost of the program is \$4,750 for New Jersey residents and \$5,825 for non-New Jersey residents. The price includes tuition fees for four credits, round-trip airfare from New York to Ghana, lodging, entrance fees, field trips, international health insurance, orientation, an Immigration Entry Visa, preparatory and administrative costs and most meals. The deadline to apply for the program is March 1, 2017. Generous scholarships are available.

For more information, students can contact the Roukema Center in ASB-123, or visit www.ramapo.edu/international.





Nuri Muqsit '16



Maral Tezcan '18

PERILLO SCHOLARSHIP Helps Students Study Abroad

BY JARROD GARCIA '19

Perillo Tours, established in 1945, is perhaps best known for its trips to Italy. The company became widely recognized for a series of popular TV ads which featured chairman Mario Perillo as “Mr. Italy” throughout the 80s and 90s. In recent years, however, Perillo Tours has expanded to include “Learning Journeys,” which concentrate on travel as a learning experience. The Perillo Study Abroad Scholarship builds on this idea by helping students cover the costs of going abroad.

The scholarship was started in 2016 by Steve Perillo, the company’s third generation CEO, and is administered to students by Ben Levy, Ramapo’s Director of International Education. In its initial year, four Ramapo students were selected as recipients: Nuri Muqsit '16, Gabrielle Quinones '19, Altondra Williams '16, and Maral Tezcan '18. Jessica Miller '18 has been named as a recipient for 2017.

The company is noted for making travel an easy and comfortable experience. But, according to Perillo himself, the degree to which college students are removed from their usual routine is the real value of travel. “Besides having to face new languages and cultures, the simple decision to go is already a sign of growth and confidence. Absorbing a new culture enriches their entire life,” Perillo said.

Maral Tezcan, an International Business student, was able

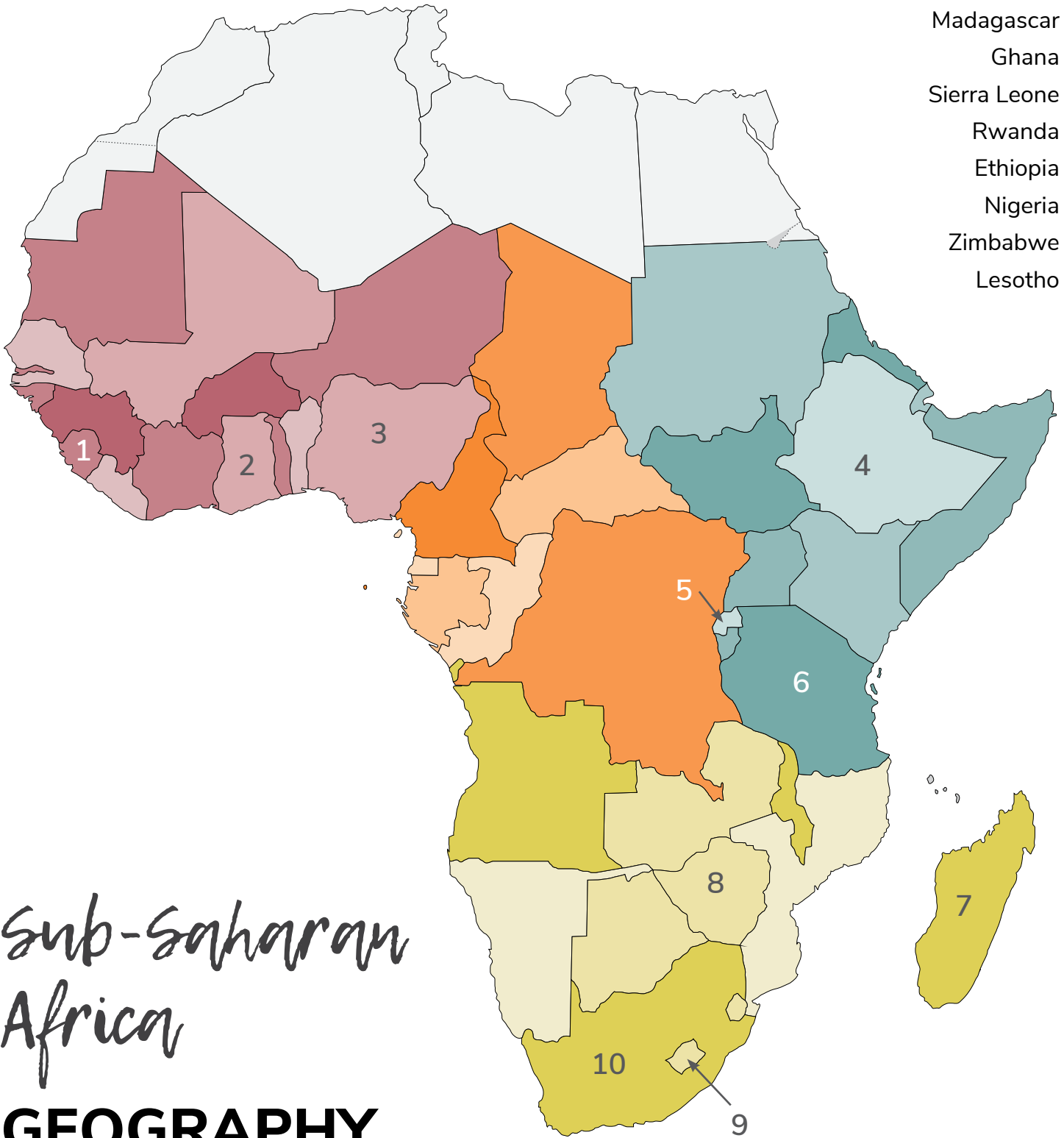
to go to London under the scholarship. “The Perillo Study Abroad Scholarship allowed me to pursue my long-time dream of studying abroad in London,” Tezcan said. “It is extremely vital to gain personal experience abroad to understand how the business world is evolving in different countries – and Perillo helped me accomplish this goal. In London, I was able to push myself out of my comfort zone to get the best experience possible, growing as a student as well as a future business professional.”

While Tezcan went to England, Gabrielle Quinones '19 studied abroad in Africa. “The Perillo Scholarship enabled me to walk in the shoes of someone from another country,” Quinones said. “I learned more about myself as well as the field of social work. I was empowered and learned the importance of community unity and the strength of family. One of my memories from that trip was going to the Kumasi Street Children’s Project. I absolutely loved spending time with the children and staff. The experience really opened my eyes, and it truly was a dream come true. I never thought I would be able to study abroad, but with the Perillo Scholarship, I was able to!”

For more information about the Perillo Study Abroad Scholarship, students can visit: www.ramapo.edu/scholarships/single/perillo-study-abroad-scholarship

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