



alumni profile:

JEREMY DELA CRUZ

16



reflections from abroad:

ERIN DU BEE

6



PUSHING>BOUNDARIES
INTERDISCIPLINARY>INTERCULTURAL>INTERNATIONAL



RAMAPO STUDENTS'
REFLECTIONS FROM
ABROAD **4**



FALL 2014
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS **11**

WORLD EXPO
RECAP ... **12**



SUMMER OF
A GOOGLER .. **14**



ALUMNI
PROFILE **16**



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT PROFILE **17**



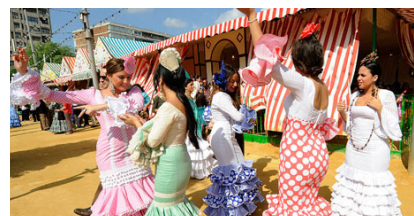
IN THIS ISSUE:

RAMAPO UNPACKED
FALL 2014

SEMESTER
IN INDIA .. **18**



FACULTY
PROFILE **21**



COUNTRY IN FOCUS:
ITALY **22**

FINDING A QUALITY
PROGRAM ... **24**

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MEET THE NEW GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Originally from Michigan, I have lived the past three years in Seville, Spain, working with a University's online program. I graduated from Cornerstone University with a degree in Spanish for Secondary Education. I am now studying for a Master's in Counseling for Student Development Administration with Indiana Wesleyan University online, focusing on culture shock and re-entry shock for study abroad students. I am excited to be at Ramapo College and look forward to taking advantage of all the area has to offer, including hiking and being outdoors. Come see me in ASB-123 to learn more about studying abroad or to brush up on your Spanish skills.

- Katie Wiggins
Graduate Assistant, RCIE

The Roukema Center for International Education is located in the Anisfield School of Business, Suite-123.
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RAMAPO STUDENTS'

Reflections From Abroad

MY WANDERLUST has grown

Once I stepped off the plane of my first solo flight at Vaclav Havel International Airport, I was greeted by foreign words and familiar symbols. Moments later, I found myself in a taxi, riding on cobblestone streets past landscapes I had only seen in photographs. My eyes widened as the cab drove by the Prague Castle and the Charles Bridge in the distance. I **never imagined** I would make it to the city of my dreams this early in my life.

For the next three weeks, I would share an apartment with another study abroad student and a local Charles University student. It was down the street from the Prague National Theater – Národní Divadlo – on a street name so difficult that even locals had difficulty with the pronunciation. My flat sat in a corner of the city center, far enough to get an inexpensive meal, but still in walking distance to most tourist attractions. For instance, the Dancing House, was three blocks down from where I stayed.

I took two courses during my stay, Survival Czech Language and Contemporary Czech Culture, an excellent combination to compliment a new territory. As I learned new phrases to use in shops and restaurants, my anthropology professor showed the class different parts of the area through art, music, and literature. Some excursions through my culture class included a lecture given by scholar Noam Chomsky, a legal graffiti site, a tribute concert to Franz Kafka's *The Castle*, a contemporary art museum dedicated to postmodernism, and a tour through the Prague Botanical Gardens.

Outside of the class, I explored local culture through museums, galleries, statues, gardens, and architecture. For instance, I visited the Tim Burton exhibition and Salvador Dali gallery in the Old Town Square and attended a concert of a popular American rock band, *Against Me!*, at a popular music club outside of Wenceslas Square. On the other side of Vltava, the river that

divides the city into New Town and Old Town, is the historic John Lennon Wall. In 1988, young Czechs used the wall to write graffiti, out of frustration over the communist regime. Around the corner, were two awesome literary spots: Shakespeare and Sons, a bookstore dedicated to publications printed in English, and the Kafka Museum.

On the weekends, I had the opportunity to travel around Europe. The program included a trip to Brno, about a three-hour train ride from Prague's Main Train Station, Praha Hlavní Národní. Before the split of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the historical Czech lands were divided into Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. While Prague rests in Bohemian territory, Brno resides in Moravia, as the second largest city in the Czech Republic. Additionally, I traveled to Paris through the program's intercultural excursion weekend and independently to Copenhagen to visit family.

It was quite a culture shock coming back to the United States, after spending nearly a month in a country previously ruled by a communist government. While I originally thought this trip might satisfy my curiosity for travel prior to my departure, now, my wanderlust has grown. I hope to travel more in the near future, especially after graduation. I am truly grateful for the skills I've learned abroad to adapt to a foreign culture and learn a new language.

TOP

1. Prague Botanical Gardens
2. View of Prague from one of the city's highest points

BOTTOM: LEFT TO RIGHT

3. The Dancing House, a few blocks down from my flat
4. National Theater, down the street from my flat
5. Building by the Prague Castle in Old Town, across the river
6. Astronomical Clock in the Old Town Square at night



Danielle Corcione '15

CIEE: Central European Studies

Prague, Czech Republic

Summer 2014



a postcard is unable to do it justice



Ireland is one of those countries where a postcard is unable to do it justice. The beautiful landscape filled with green rolling hills and vast amounts of sheep make for a breathtaking view. From the Cliffs of Moher to the Blarney Stone to the cobblestone walkways lining the streets of Dublin: there is just so much to see. I was lucky to experience so much that Ireland had to offer during my two-week study abroad program. My study abroad experience at the University College of Dublin's Nursing Summer School was incredible! I learned the differences between the Irish and the U.S. healthcare systems. The program consisted of outside lecturers from all different fields of healthcare throughout the different counties of Ireland. The school also provided us with a variety of activities that allowed us to see first-hand the Irish culture. Looking back on this experience, one highlight that comes to mind is when UCD brought all the nursing students together to cruise around Killiney Bay. We had the opportunity to explore the piers at Dun Laoghaire and watch the sunset. It was moments like that when I had to tell myself "put the camera down, and just take it all in." My study abroad experience is something that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Not many people can say that they had the opportunity to live in another country and experience a different lifestyle, but I was fortunate to do so.



1. Colleen, Megan & Jess - Touring the Wicklow Mountains
2. Feeling like I'm on the top of the world on the Ireland Coastline
3. There are sheep everywhere in Ireland! I finally was able to get my hands on one.
4. The beautiful Dun Laoghaire sunset after our cruise around the bay
5. Colleen, Jess & Megan by the UCD Sign - Our new home for the next two weeks

Erin DuBee '16

ISA Liberal Arts, Business, and Media Studies
University of Westminster
London, England
Summer 2014

The London Life: A MIXTURE OF ALL THINGS BRILLIANT

My very first day in London was filled with a mixture of exhaustion and excitement. After waiting for four hours in the airport, my study abroad experience was finally about to commence. From the moment my new roommates and I put our bags down in our new flat, we went on a non-stop adventure. I was unaware at the time, but I was about to be immersed in an incredibly exciting culture filled with sensational experiences.

We immediately went on a walking tour of our area, which included the local Portobello Market. I was housed in the Notting Hill section of London, a very charming area containing many large Victorian townhouses. I could not believe that such a wonderful and extensive flea market complete with some of the best bargain shopping in London was a mere five-minute walk from my flat. This was just the first gift that London gave me.

As we traveled to explore the area surrounding our new school (The University of Westminster New Cavendish Campus), I was shocked to find that there was such a change in atmosphere between the quaint area of my flat in Notting Hill and fast-paced Central London where I would be studying. Surely they could not both be a part of the same city. I came to find, however, that this is the very essence of London.

My daily exploration of London involved a journey through an ancient city with an incredibly modern look. London was founded by the Romans in the first century AD, but the skyscrapers and busy streets do not give that impression.

The combinations of new and old means that London is filled with so many different

and exciting parts. On my way to the Tower of London, for instance, I was surrounded by new-age restaurants and shopping centers, and a few minutes later I came upon the grand fortress which was built in 1066 AD. This combination of historical monuments and a modern fast-paced lifestyle made me fall in love with London. The city offered me an opportunity to experience something different from the day before.

The city of London offers many wonderful attractions. "The tube" (known in America as the subway) enables travelers to access any part of the city. There are wonderful double-decker bus tours that can take you to the most scenic and famous tourist attractions such as Big Ben and Buckingham Palace. The city also contains beautiful gardens, such as Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park, to escape the busyness of the city.

Outside of London, the entire country of England is beautiful. Our guided excursions took us and me to the beautiful cliffs of Dover, with a grand castle overlooking the nearby coast of France. We also explored the historical city of Canterbury which houses a beautiful cathedral as well as intricately interwoven village streets interrupted by a river. Additionally, we had the opportunity to visit Brighton, a small beach town with an exciting pier and a beautiful Indian-inspired palace.

All in all, London is a wonderful conglomeration of old and new, energetic and peaceful, and even natives and travelers. The city offered me only positive experiences, and most importantly it gave me an experience that will last a lifetime. I am already planning to go back to London soon to see what other adventures and experiences this diverse city can offer.





PAGE 6:

1. Erin in front of Tower Bridge
2. The London Eye
3. Erin in front of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament

PAGE 7 CLOCKWISE:

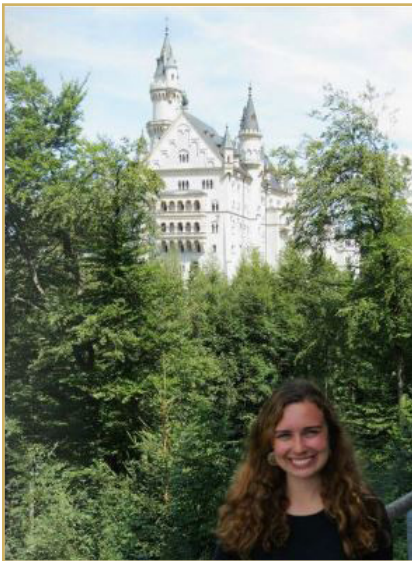
1. Central fountains in Kensington Gardens
2. Erin and fellow Ramapo students, Kathrina Pacheco and Micala Demchak on Brighton Pier
3. View of the Tower of London from the River Thames
4. Big Ben in the sunlight
5. Erin in front of Buckingham Palace
6. Erin and fellow Ramapo students Kathrina Pacheco and Micala Demchak on top of Dover Castle

Heidelberg, Germany

A Charming City to Study Abroad

Katherine Riccobene '16

CEPA: European Business & International Studies
Heidelberg, Germany
Summer 2014



CLOCKWISE:

1. Katherine at Neuschwanstein
2. Katherine with Nuremberg sausage and sauerkraut
3. Katherine at Heidelberg Castle and the Old Bridge

Heidelberg was a charming city and the best possible place for me to study abroad. There was always something for me to do in Heidelberg, even if it was just sitting on the Neckarwiese staring at the beautiful castle while I did my homework. It does sound cliché, but this study abroad experience has helped me grow as person and have more confidence in my everyday life.

The European Study Center itself really was a great place to live. From the friendly staff, to the historic buildings, to all the different students living in it, the European Study Center was my home in Heidelberg. From the castles, to the museums, to the winery, we saw it all with the program. The classes were flexible in giving students days off to travel around Europe. The German culture is very unique but relatively easy to adapt to for a study abroad student. The people of Heidelberg are so nice and willing to work with you through the language barrier, if there is one, considering so many of them speak English. I would definitely recommend this program to anyone who wants to have the experience of a lifetime during their college career.

THREE MYTHS ABOUT STUDY ABROAD

I CANNOT STUDY ABROAD BECAUSE:

It is too expensive.

Did you know that at least 50% of Ramapo College-approved semester study abroad programs are equal to or less than the cost of attending RCNJ.

I cannot fit it into my major/minor.

Did you know that Ramapo College students in all majors and minors have the academic flexibility to study abroad at some point during their four years at Ramapo. It requires early planning, but students in all majors/minors have the opportunity to study abroad.

I do not speak a language outside of English.

Did you know that at least 80% of Ramapo College-approved study abroad programs are instructed in English, regardless of the host country's main language? Most programs do not require a language pre-requisite.

DO NOT LET THESE MYTHS DETER YOU FROM PURSUING YOUR GOAL OF TRAVELING ABROAD TO STUDY, INTERN, VOLUNTEER, OR TEACH.

Krista Gormeley '16

NSE: University of Hawaii

Hilo, Hawaii

Spring 2014

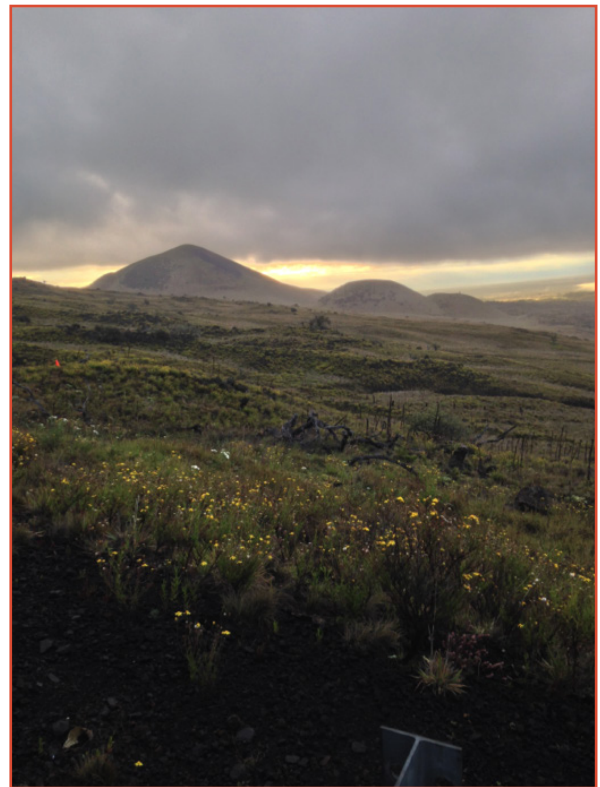
MY BLISSFUL JOURNEY

5,000 miles, a one-way ticket, a life behind me, and new journey ahead of me. **I did not know what to expect, I just knew change was imminent.** I was not sure if I was scared for change within myself, change within my life at home, or if I was just scared I would be homesick, but fear was inevitable. I never looked into the logistics of studying abroad until my sister brought up the idea of studying in Hawaii. I took a leap of faith and went along with the application process. The next thing I knew on August 15 I got my acceptance letter, and in the next blink of an eye it was January 13 and I was boarding my 12-hour flight to Honolulu.

By the time I got to the airport I couldn't wait to land in Hawaii and begin my new life on the most remote island in the world. New friends? New challenges? New people and customs? Foreign food? Yes. All of those came my way in my four months in Hawaii. Everyone pictures Hawaii as this tropical place where there are no problems. Contrary to popular belief I experienced more trouble my first few weeks in Hawaii than I ever had in my entire life. I had to learn how to get around with no car, adapt to a six-hour time difference, adjust to the many different customs of the Hawaiian lifestyle, and overall find a schedule that worked for me somewhere in between.

I saw the flames from one of the most active volcano's left on earth, swam with sea turtles as big as my kitchen table, swam at night with Manarays that had 16 foot wide wingspans, walked on beaches with white, green and black sand, along with many other life altering opportunities. None of this occurred to me when I was deciding whether Hawaii was for me or not. **You'll never know the small details that come with taking a leap of faith and studying abroad but I assure you it is all worthwhile.**

This new life challenged me in many ways. I had to overcome those challenges and learn to adapt. All the while these challenges changed me in the most positive way, a way I may never be able to explain. I cried, laughed, and met some amazing people along the way whom I'll never forget. My study abroad experience made a life-lasting impact on my whole universe.



Sunrise on top of Mauna Kea

Lee-Anna John '15

Ramapo College: India -

Development & Sustainability

Bangalore, India

Spring 2014

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND THE OPPORTUNITIES IT PROVIDES



RIGHT TO LEFT
1. Women's sanga group
2. Class in a peanut field

STUDENTS
DEVELOP A NEW OUTLOOK
ON THE WORLD AND THEIR
PLACE IN IT THROUGH
STUDY ABROAD

Since I was young I had aspirations to travel the world. Most importantly, I wanted to learn about other cultures. When I was three, I would tell my mother that I want to go to America to visit my grandparents; they were going to teach me about the culture and take me to the Statue of Liberty. I believed that traveling was as simple as the words leaving my mouth. I soon realized that nothing in this world is without expense. I could not simply wake up one day and leave as my innocent mind once believed.

Upon entering Ramapo College, I did a lot of research and was able to find the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program with the help of Ramapo's Roukema Center for International Education. After being reminded time and time again about the expenses of college and the even greater expenses of studying abroad, I was elated to find such a scholarship program.

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program was established in 2000 by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs under the International

Academic Opportunity Act. The scholarship provides awards to U.S. undergraduate students to participate in study and internships abroad. The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program gave me the opportunity to study abroad without having to worry about the financial burden. Not only did Gilman aid in my study abroad experience; through the program I have gained access to alumni networking and grants opportunities.

As a Gilman Scholarship recipient I feel that it is my duty to inform other students pursuing similar international experiences about the program. Without Gilman, my international experience would have been filled with financial limitations and worry. I am truly grateful for scholarship programs such as Gilman. These generous contributions cannot be measured quantitatively. Students develop a new outlook on the world and their place in it through study abroad.

FALL 2014 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LIST

Turki Abudullah Alotaibi | Saudi Arabia | Computer Science

Aytakin Asgarova | Azerbaijan | Master's -Environmental Studies

Arjun Bastola | Nepal | Computer Science

Aysu Bayrakci | Turkey | Psychology

Konstantin Beshirev | Bulgaria | Biology

Plamena Bletsova | Bulgaria | Economics

Inna Boycheva | Bulgaria | Computer Science

Maria Briones | Ecuador | Business Admin/Management

Tarik Celik | Turkey | Business Admin/Management

Roselaure Charles | Haiti | Communication Arts/ Digital Filmmaking

Rohan Chitrakar | Nepal | Computer Science

Young Min Choi | South Korea | Business Admin/Management

Nam Dang | Vietnam | MBA

Clifford Denis | Haiti | Physics

Katerina Djambazova | Bulgaria | Biology

Silvia Dominguez Cordero | Ecuador | Business Admin/Management

Maria Esteban Diaz | Spain | MBA

Yuansong Fu | China | Communication Arts

Aya Goma | Egypt | Biology

Aleksandar Goranov | Bulgaria | Chemistry/Environmental Science

Mustafa Hacisalihoglu | Turkey | Political Science

Htet Htut | Burma | Business Admin/ Management

Elena-Maria Ilieva | Bulgaria | Communication Arts

Shuli Jiang | China | Undeclared

Shazia K.C. | Nepal | Economics

Zuhal Kamaci | Turkey | Mathematics

Ruby Karki | Nepal | Biology

Shauharda Khadka | Nepal | Engineering Physics/Mathematics

Nischal Khatri | Nepal | Computer Science

Siyoung Kim | South Korea | Nursing

Zin Me Ko | Burma | Business Admin/Marketing

Sashka Kotzeva | Bulgaria | Theater

Rijesh Kumar | Nepal | Computer Science

Alexander Livadchenko | Russia | MBA

Saroj Maharjan | Nepal | Economics

Sujil Maharjan | Nepal | Mathematics

Stanislav Minev | Bulgaria | Computer Science

Arpita Mishra | India | Master's -Educational Technology

Maria Nenkova | Bulgaria | Economics

Ivaylo Nenovski | Bulgaria | Engineering Physics

Emmanuel Ojo | Nigeria | Contemporary Arts/Africana Studies

Thiri Oo | Burma | Business Administration

Vivek Pandey | Nepal | Computer Science

Binaya Panta | Nepal | Mathematics

Simon Petrov | Bulgaria | Business Admin/Management

Sarwajaya Prasai | Nepal | Environmental Studies

Bishal Regmi | Nepal | Computer Science

Rajat Sainju | Nepal | Engineering Physics

Lachezar Samanliev | Bulgaria | Undeclared

Omer Seven | Turkey | International Studies

Princep Shah | Nepal | Engineering Physics

Safal Shrestha | Nepal | Bioinformatics

Devinder Sodhi | India | Computer Science

Abdulai Swaray | Sierra Leone | Information Technology Mgmt.

Aashma Thapa | Nepal | Environmental Studies

Binayak Thapa | Nepal | Economics

Pragun Tuladhar | Nepal | Biochemistry

Thanuka Dananjaya Deegau Udumulla Arachchilage | Sri Lanka | Chemistry

Anupama Upadhyay | Nepal | Business Admin/Management

Aleksandar Vasilev | Bulgaria | Communication Arts/ Journalism/ Int'l Studies

Yunjie Xu | China | Engineering Physics

Sun Ah Yeo | South Korea | MSN -Nursing

Dobromir Yordanov | Bulgaria | Computer Science

Nikita Zabolotin | Russia | International Studies

Maria Zaderey | Russia | MBA

WORLD EXPO RECAP



CULTURE & FOOD

This year's World Expo, an event showcasing the many cultures of the world through food, performances, and games was a huge success. More than 600 students, faculty, and staff stopped by the Archway on April 25 to participate in various activities.

The International Food Festival offering up international fare in the dining halls was very well received, particularly when the Mariachi Oro de Mexico, led by Jose Uspango began their performance in the Birch Tree Inn.

Other performances featured by the Arch included a Brazilian Percussion Ensemble led by Amarildo Costa and a flamenco dancer, Krystina Cárdenas.

Along with the food served in the dining halls, tables representing various countries and cultures shared snacks and information, including baklava from Turkey, hot tea from South Africa, and candy and soda from Latin America and Spain.

Other tables offered goods for sale from Guatemala, games from Korea and Japan, and information on study abroad and international opportunities on campus.

Students attending the event also received free t-shirts and were able to enter a raffle for gift cards and goodies from Planet Swirl Frozen Yogurt, Angelo's Dessert & Espresso Cafe, Nicky's II Pizza & Deli, Eastern Mountain Sports, Holiday Bowl, and the Ramapo College Bookstore. Freshmen students were also able to participate in a drawing for a free passport.

The sunny spring day served as a beautiful backdrop for the various performances and activities and allowed international and domestic students, faculty, and staff to learn from each other about the great variety of cultures around the world and on the Ramapo College campus. Join us next year for our fourth annual World Expo on April 24, 2015.





SUMMER OF A GOOGLER

Dobromir Jordanov '15

From Sofia, Bulgaria

Summer Internship in Boston Massachusetts, 2014



In the Google office showing off his awesome Noogler hat



Boston skyline from Harvard Bridge

DAY 0: TRAVEL

Considering I spent seven hours traveling to Boston yesterday, you'd think I wouldn't be really enthusiastic about today. Add to that the loud party at the frat house I stayed in for the night and the super uncomfortable couch I slept on and you can see how today was one of those mornings. The only problem was there wasn't too much room for error considering I had a flight to the West Coast to catch in about two hours and I was still in my pajamas.

Fortunately, all was well and I managed to catch my flight to L.A., which was long and boring, forcing me to buy a whole bunch of movies. Let's hope I can reimburse that. On the other hand, minus the two hour layover, the flight to San Francisco was pretty cool. Flying over the West Coast is much more interesting than flying over Nevada, especially with a sunset.

Once I got to San Francisco, I made sure to call the hotel to inquire about my shuttle. Seems like I should work on my communication skills considering this morning I thought there was a shuttle and now - apparently there wasn't. Taxi it is! And I know I'm keeping this receipt as well. Once I got to the hotel I think I met my roommate but I can't quite recall because it was shortly followed by collapsing in bed. It was a horrible day.

DAY 1: FIRST DAY OF ORIENTATION

Mostly recovered from traveling, I woke up on my first Monday at Google... at 5:30 a.m. I think it was my roommate's idea - he wanted to make sure we were on time. We headed out for our 8 a.m. program at 6:30 in a limo (that's apparently the only shuttle the hotel had). As expected, we were there way too early and had to walk around the Googleplex for about an hour. When we headed back closer to 8 a.m., we met some other interns and saw the familiar limo again. Now we knew we were not the only Nooglers at the hotel (Noogler = New Googler - cute, right?).

The program was slightly delayed and started around 8:45. They gave us free breakfast, set up our accounts, started us off with some lectures, and gave us equipment. By the time all of that was done, it was early afternoon and it was time to meet our hosts (or, in my case, my host's buddy who happens to

be in Mountain View). We went to the nearby café (which is the Google way to say restaurant) and had the best free lunch in my life. He was really cool and told me a whole bunch of things about Google, YouTube, and Mountain View, and showed me around campus shortly after. He also showed me to my temporary desk right by his team in the YouTube building. **I had my own desk! It had my name on it. How cool is that?**

DAY 5: FINAL DAY OF ORIENTATION

This week has been incredibly busy. I've definitely learned a lot, but that was definitely not material to cover in a week. They must really think we're smart. Besides all of the buckets of knowledge poured over my head, the week had its nice highlights including several trips to the Baadal Café, featuring gourmet Indian cuisine and complete with professional waiters. I also got a chance to try out the G-bikes, which are communal bikes to get around the enormous Googleplex. Almost got hit by the Google self-driving car, but it was fun... Considering this was my last day here, I stopped by the Google campus store to pick up some souvenirs and this one awesome messenger bag. I was very disappointed that most of the cafés were closed for dinner on Fridays and I was forced to go the big, boring, generic food café in the center of the Googleplex. When I got back to the hotel, I had to say goodbye to my roommate since I was heading out at 4:30 a.m. the next morning.

DAY 6: GOING BACK TO BOSTON

Speaking of 4:30 in the morning, getting up today was horrible. At least I had the forethought to schedule a shuttle to the airport this time. I was at the San Francisco airport way too early, so I thought I'd pick up some souvenirs. I flew through L.A. again with a three-hour layover which gave me a chance to enjoy the local sushi. As before, the LA to Boston flight was basically flying over the desert for 7 hours, so I had to buy even more movies. Getting around Boston was an experience in itself, but I managed to successfully get to the frat house I was staying in for the summer at a reasonable hour.

DAY 8: FIRST DAY AT THE CAMBRIDGE OFFICE

Just like in Mountain View, I enjoyed the obligatory free breakfast and headed out to my desk (complete with a nametag, again). I met my team

and I started getting familiar with the product I'd be working on. Turns out, the YouTube bunch is a pretty cool one. We even had a Nyan Cat poster on the wall.

DAY 15: MOVING ALONG

I checked in some of my first significant code today. I had bits and pieces last week, but this was actually starting to move towards the goal. I also met with some other interns and we kind of formed this "community" would get together and play video and board games, watch movies, and kind of just hang out.

DAY 24: NEW STUFF TO EXPLORE

Construction on the new office extensions was officially completed today. Some of the new areas included a wellness center complete with massage and yoga/meditation rooms, fitness center, game and arcade rooms, and our own barista place (which makes unearthly coffee).

DAY 31: GOOGLE COMPUTER SCIENCE SUMMER INSTITUTE (CSSI)

Today I was trusted with the responsibility to teacher-assist (TA) a CSSI programming session. CSSI is a three-week summer program for high school kids interested in computer science and, apparently, being a Google intern is enough of a qualification to tutor it. It feels weird to be on the other side of that "teaching" experience. It definitely feels fulfilling, though.

DAY 38: THAT ONE KID WHO TOTALLY LOVED ME

As CSSI was moving forward, I realized I was actually making an impact since one of the kids was super excited every time I would come in to the TA sessions and really insisted that I have helped him succeed in the program (and was his favorite TA). Kinda feels good to be in that situation.

DAY 40: TA-ING OUTSIDE OF MY EXPERTISE

Today, CSSI kids were going over some electrical engineering. I had some basic experience and volunteered to TA that session as well, but I'll admit - it was a learning experience for me as much as it was for them. One thing I noticed is, since the camp was coming to an end, they had started to become very efficient at collaborating. It felt nice to see young kids really working hard together and being excited about computer science.

DAY 47: CSSI'S LAST DAY

I had a lot of fun, but today was the day I had to say goodbye to those wonderful kids. We had a nice closing ceremony and all of the individual groups presented their work for the summer. I was impressed with what

groups of three-four high school kids with no previous CS education could create in three intense weeks.

DAY 52: SOME PUBLIC RECOGNITION

I had a chance today to present my work so far in front of a relatively large group of YouTube full-timers. It was terrifying. It still went well.

DAY 58: UNEXPECTED SURPRISE

As I was looking for fellow Bulgarian Googlers in Cambridge, I was contacted by an American Googler who was learning Bulgarian. We met for lunch and spoke in fluent Bulgarian. I was very impressed by his command of the language and we scheduled another meeting for the future. I'm sure we'll see each other a couple more times.

DAY 72: COOL TECH GADGETS

Today, I got to try Google Glass. It's as cool as it looks. Throughout the summer I also had the chance to play around with some really cool tech toys lying around the office. If you want to experience borderline sci-fi technology, Google is a good place to be at.

DAY 80: CRUISE - WOO HOO!

The intern team at Google was nice enough to set up a farewell boat cruise around the Boston harbour before the first interns started leaving. The theme was a masquerade ball, which unfortunately doesn't work too well with glasses. Other than that, it was pretty fun and I got to see a lot more of Boston than I had while on the shore.

DAY 91: MOVING OUT OF THE FRAT HOUSE

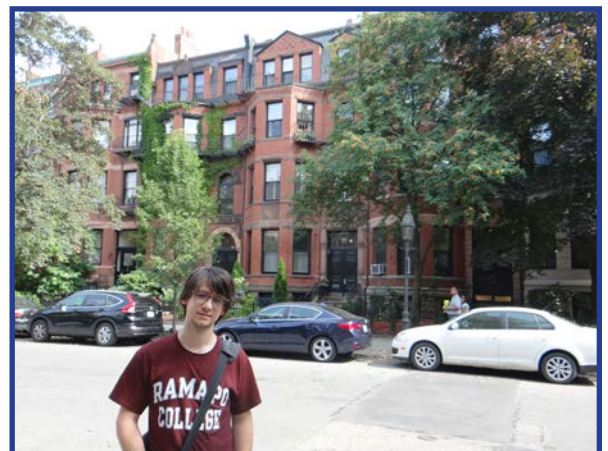
You know, living in a frat house while working full time was a pretty horrible experience. Social benefits aside, I regret the decision. So, I was relieved when the day came that I needed to move out to make room for the new MIT kids. I moved to a hotel in Harvard for the next week. Turns out, the general manager was a really nice Bulgarian lady and I got a free room upgrade. The new room was so much better than the frat house.

DAY 96: LAST DAY

It was an awesome summer, but, unfortunately, I had to say goodbye. As a nice, relaxing surprise for my last day, my supervisor had scheduled for me to present my final progress in front of a whole bunch of YouTube full-timers. It actually went better than I expected, and, overall, the day went pretty well. I even got a chance to have a farewell dinner and go bowling with fellow interns and Googlers. It was a nice way to complete the summer.



In front of MIT's Library



In front of an apartment building in downtown Boston

ALUMNI PROFILE

Jeremy Dela Cruz '11

Ramapo College: China Immersion Experience
Shanghai & Beijing, China
Spring Break 2011



Beautiful Chinese palatial architecture within the Forbidden City in Beijing



Our crew at the Bund overlooking the Shanghai skyline

Hello fellow Ramapo Roadrunners! My name is Jeremy Dela Cruz and I graduated with the class of 2011 with my Bachelor of Arts degree in International Business. I'm currently working for MINI USA as an Area Manager in the Southern California Market. Although my spring break study abroad experience was more than three years ago, I still have very vibrant memories of my time in China—from riding on the world's fastest train in Shanghai to getting lost in the enormous Forbidden City in Beijing. Why did I choose China and not a typical Spring Break to vacation somewhere?

I could have taken the vacation route, but I knew that it would be an authentic experience because I would be able to travel to China with Professor Huiping Li, who is a native to China. The fact that we have invaluable resources at Ramapo is such a fantastic opportunity to take advantage of. Studying abroad is a very rewarding experience that gives you an amazing opportunity to be exposed to different cultures and perspectives. The adventure pushes your personal limits and gives you memories that you will keep forever. My main purpose for going on this program was that I wanted to see the rapid growth and development of China for myself that they spoke of in my ASB.

The agenda for the study abroad program was rigorous. We met many of Professor Li's colleagues from the past who were living in Shanghai and even had dinner with an expat author who had been living and working in Beijing. These extremely knowledgeable and experienced business people gave our group valuable insight on doing business in China. The most interesting person we met on the trip was another fellow Ramapo alum, Michael Johnson.

After his time at Ramapo College, Michael relocated to China and started up many Subway franchises in Shanghai and Jiangsu Province before Subway

became very popular. We had lunch with him and he told us about his journey to the Far East. I was extremely fascinated and impressed by how Michael learned Mandarin and was totally immersed into the culture. I placed myself in his shoes and didn't know if I could be so bold in moving my whole life to China. Michael reminded me that anything is possible with hard work and taking advantage of every opportunity given.

The most valuable lesson I took away from the program was the importance of building a good network of people in your life.

In China, Guanxi, the interpersonal relationship and the importance of saving face, is the basis by which things are done (especially business). Observing how Professor Li was able to connect us with so many experienced business leaders solidified my belief in that. I now apply Guanxi in my daily life and have seen great results in my career and also my personal growth. Remember to always create connections and respect everyone you come across, no matter what walk of life they may be from.

Two very memorable cultural experiences that I had were climbing the Great Wall of China and going to the top of the Shanghai Financial Center, which is the second tallest building in the world, and tallest in China.

Both experiences were unique because they both symbolized the strength and growth in China at different times in history.

Traveling is life-changing and it gives you a new perspective and understanding of different cultures, beliefs and ways of life. Take advantage because Ramapo College offers so many excellent international study abroad programs and also alternative break programs. This will help you in your career and also your personal life. Happy travels.

TRAVEL
IS LIFE CHANGING,
A NEW PERSPECTIVE,
& UNDERSTANDING



Beautiful Chinese palatial architecture within the Forbidden City in Beijing



Riding the world's fastest train in Shanghai at 430km/h!



Temple of Heaven, a site visited for annual ceremonies of prayer to Heaven for good harvest



Conquering the Great Wall of China near Beijing

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROFILE

Jessica Clements

Exchange Student at RCNJ
From Anglia Ruskin University -
Cambridge, England
Spring 2014

BEYOND COMPARE

Coming from my little, countryside village in England called Stotfold, the opportunity to explore an area of America I had dreamed of my entire life, could not be ignored. I leaped at the opportunity and am so happy I did. **My time at Ramapo was absolutely beyond compare.** I couldn't have even dreamed my experience would be as incredible it was.

After a chaotic entry to America, due to a delay in receiving my visa, and a crazy race with my Dad to the airport, I made my flight with my friends Hazel Beale and Gareth Knight, who were also joining me on the exchange program at Ramapo.

We were welcomed with such warmth. Every scary step I took felt comfortable. I didn't feel scared or anxious, which was so relieving as my nerves were running very high in the build-up to coming over to Ramapo.

Being homesick was one of my biggest worries of the whole experience, as I have never really been away from my family for longer than two weeks. Taking the step to go to New Jersey for four months is one of the bravest things I have ever done, and I am so proud of myself. What really surprised me is that I did not feel homesick once during my stay at Ramapo. I believe this was mainly due to the combination of the

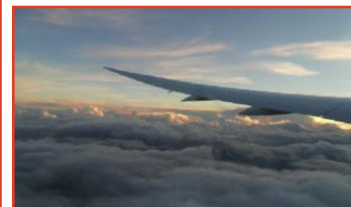
Study Abroad Office staff, who were always so welcoming, and helpful, my two fellow Brits, my professors, who were always so open to helping us, and, of course, the many wonderful friends I made during my stay.

One thing I discovered about myself throughout this process is that I am very good at overpacking, which was obvious on both arriving in New Jersey and also leaving, in which I'd managed to acquire a whole other suitcase of gifts from my travels.

While at Ramapo, I took every opportunity I could to explore New Jersey and New York, and even Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C., which was my highlight of the entire trip because I saw the outstanding statue of Abraham Lincoln.

I am so grateful for the opportunity I was given, to come and study at Ramapo, and am so glad I accepted it. I would have regretted not coming for the rest of my life, had I not. **This experience was one-of-a-kind and one I shall cherish for the rest of my life.** I overcame so many obstacles taking the leap of faith and going to Ramapo. It was, hands down, the bravest and biggest thing I have ever done, so far, and I couldn't be prouder of myself.

Thank you to everyone who helped me throughout my exchange, and to everyone that I met. I have so many wonderful memories from this whole experience. I wish I could do it all over again, exactly the same. One day, I will make it back to Ramapo.



CLOCKWISE:

1. Abe Lincoln Memorial
2. The Brooklyn Bridge by the Brooklyn Carousell
3. 'The Brits' (Gareth Knight, myself and Hazel Beale) outside the Rockefeller Center

CLOCKWISE:

1. Jessica Clements
2. The Ramapo Havemeyer Arch
3. On the airplane flying to Newark

SEMESTER IN INDIA



Jeff Bendett '15

Ramapo College: India - Sustainability & Development
Bangalore, India
Spring 2014



CLOCKWISE:

1. Me with a group of farmers from the state of Andhra Pradesh
2. This is our whole group that got to study, explore, and live in India standing outside the Mysore Palace
3. A monkey enjoying a quick snack outside of a temple in Mysore, India
4. Tribal school children waving goodbye after a midday visit



Andreina Santamaria '15

Ramapo College: India - Sustainability & Development
Bangalore, India
Spring 2014



CLOCKWISE:

1. Backpacking through South India with friends
2. Sunrise at river in Hampi
3. Navigating the streets of Hampi with Nicole Filiberti
4. Taken at Anajaneya Hill at the Hanuman Temple, believed to be the birthplace of Hanuman, the Monkey God
5. At Arpora Saturday Night Market with Nicole Filiberti and Justine Diaz in North Goa

Semester in India



Isabel Arreche '15

Ramapo College: India - Sustainability & Development
Bangalore, India
Spring 2014

- CLOCKWISE:
1. Tribal children wholeheartedly performing their native stick dance at the Children's College
 2. Observing an observer (Village woman of Andhra Pradesh)
 3. Sandstone view of Amber Fort, Jaipur, Rajasthan
 4. Pride (Jaisalmer, Rajasthan)



Marlon Becker '15

Ramapo College: India - Sustainability
& Development
Bangalore, India
Spring 2014

- CLOCKWISE:
1. Bonfire/Dinner at Fireflies. Students gathering to cook for each other
 2. One stop after the semester was over - Hampi in Karnataka
 3. Amazing ancient culture. Ellora Caves in Aurangabad

FACULTY PROFILE

Jackie Skrzynski

Assistant Professor of Art
Seville, Spain

Spending a year abroad changed the course of my life. It's that simple. I stood apart, took a break from the white noise of other people's expectations, and came back a different person. I was able to see my country and my culture as others saw it, and experience the hyper-reality of the unfamiliar.

I originally planned to go to an English-speaking country, but a friend gave me great advice. "Go for the most culture shock you can handle." I changed to my school's exchange program in Seville, Spain. At that time, I could barely find Spain on the map. I also decided to spend a whole year there rather than one semester, so I would have plenty of opportunity to travel.

Almost immediately, I fell in love with Spanish culture, especially the art and the dancing. These were most ardently visible during Semana Santa and Feria. Various parishes celebrate Semana Santa, or Holy Week, by carrying ornate "pasos" through the city streets. These pasos are huge floats staged with realistic statues that depict the passions of Christ. While I was raised Catholic and knew the story, I was unprepared for the intensity of the experience. Most of the statues date to the Baroque period, and all are extraordinarily lifelike. Once in a crush of people, I witnessed a young boy sing a beautiful saeta,

Take
a
BREAK
FROM
the
white
NOISE



which is like a wailing aria, to a statue of the Virgin. Everyone around me was crying. I saw long lines of men dressed, to my American eyes, like the Ku Klux Klan. They walked slowly through the streets flogging themselves as part of their penance. (The Klan copied their costumes from these traditional religious penitents.) The extreme physical and emotional displays fascinated me. After that mournful week came the Feria de Abril, a very different festival filled with traditional dancing, carnival rides and equestrian performances. Friends and I danced a regional folkdance, the Sevillana, every night and ate chocolate and churros at daybreak. (I am relatively certain classes were canceled that week.) These two very different experiences were perfect examples of what I found so inspiring about my time in Seville. The intensity of the artistic expression and the joyful celebration of dancing matched my own sense of who I was becoming. The time away gave me a chance to understand this. I could share many more moments from that year, especially from the months of traveling, but I will close with this thought. **Go abroad. You will never have a better time than now.**



TOP: Sevilla Feria de Abril
BOTTOM CLOCKWISE:

1. Feria de Abril

2. Sevilla Pasos

3. Feria

4. Semana Santa Penitentes called Los Nazarenos

COUNTRY IN FOCUS: ITALY

Italy is an ideal study abroad host location for students with diverse interests. Each city has its own unique history and character, from large modern metropolises to small medieval villages. The beauty, history, art, food and people have attracted study abroad students to choose to a few weeks to a few semesters studying in its prestigious universities. Italy has inspired some of the most famous historical thinkers and creators; we hope it will inspire you as well as you follow their footsteps.

The strong artistic tradition of Italy is spread throughout the country – many of its most famous works and sites are located in major cities. Rome is known for its historical sites – the Colosseum, the Pantheon, and the Forum. The convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan houses Da Vinci's "The Last Supper." Also in Milan is La Scala, the world capital of opera. Florence is known for the Duomo cathedral, as well as the Ponte Vecchio bridge, and Michelangelo's *David*, which can be found in the Galleria dell'Accademia.

The Italy study abroad experience provides a valuable opportunity to learn Italian. A variety of programs are available that are designed to immerse students in the Italian language and culture. Students that have already had some Italian experience will find many opportunities to strengthen their skills and work on their conversational abilities.

Italy's cities and universities give students a wide variety of opportunities to study every subject. In fact, its universities are the oldest in the Western world. Art and art history are popular fields of study, as are the classics (the study of all aspects of the ancient Greek and Roman world).

Italy has many unique advantages as a study abroad destination. Here are a few highlighted benefits why you should consider studying abroad in Italy:

> ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Be immersed in the lively Italian culture by learning Italian during your time abroad.

> FOOD

Italy's food culture has a world-renowned reputation of excellence.

> FASHION

Italy is a dream destination; the city of Milan is considered one of the world's fashion capitals.

> ATMOSPHERE

Travelers have fallen in love with the many beauties of Italy's cities and countryside.

> FAMOUS SITES

As one of centers of civilization, Italy is world-famous for its historical sites.

> ART

Art is integrated in every corner of every street you will walk, it is hard to miss.





PROGRAM LOCATIONS



RAMAPO'S STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES IN ITALY

> MILAN – UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA DEL SACRO CUORE

Exchange Program (Semester, Summer & Internship options)
Ideal for Business & Communications students

As the business capital of Italy, Milan provides business students many unique opportunities. Fashion students will be attracted to Italy for the world capital of fashion, Milan.

> FLORENCE – FLORENCE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

Approved Partner Program (Summer, Semester, January-term, month-long)
Ideal for Business, Liberal Arts, Design, Hospitality, Italian Language & Studio Art

> FLORENCE – STUDIO ARTS CENTERS INTERNATIONAL

Approved Partner Program (Semester & Summer options)
Ideal for students in the School of Contemporary Arts programs

> ROME – AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Approved Partner Program (Semester & Summer options)
Ideal for Business, Italian Language, Communications, International Relations, & Liberal Arts

> PERUGIA – UMBRA INSTITUTE

Approved Partner Program (Academic Year & Semester options)
Ideal for Gender Studies, Art History, History, Liberal Arts, Italian Language & Cultural Studies

> LECCE – UNIVERSITÀ DEL SALENTO

Approved Partner Program (Semester & Summer options)
Ideal for Italian Language & Cultural Studies

> SIRACUSA – ARCADIA UNIVERSITY SICILY CENTER

Approved Partner Program
(Academic Year, Semester, Summer & Internship options)
Ideal for Anthropology, Art History, Business, Environmental Studies, Environmental Sciences, History, STEM Research

For a full list of Ramapo's program options in Italy, please visit:

<http://goo.gl/jcC6QF>

or visit our homepage at:

ramapo.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.SimpleSearch

FINDING A QUALITY PROGRAM

Prior to participating in a study abroad program, students and their parents should take time to look at the different programs available for study abroad. The earlier you start researching programs, the better chance you will have to study abroad, include the coursework in your on-campus degree program, graduate on-time and apply for study abroad scholarships.

The following is a list of issues to consider and questions to ask when looking for a study abroad program that is the best fit for you.

COURSES AVAILABLE:

What courses can be taken abroad? How will they transfer back to Ramapo? Ask your major/minor convener or academic advisor for general education and elective courses.

TEACHING STYLE:

What style of teaching is used abroad? Is it similar to that at Ramapo or completely different?

HOUSING:

What type of housing is available? (family stay, dorm, apartment, etc.) In what housing environment would you feel most comfortable? How far from campus? Is it near public transportation?

COST:

What are the costs of the program? What is included/not included? (tuition, administrative fees, room and board, international travel, in-country travel and excursions, extra costs, visa fee).

WHERE:

What country/region/city do you want to study in? What type of environment are you looking for: big city, small city, countryside, rural?

HOW LONG:

Is the program available for a year, semester, summer, winter session, or spring break?

LANGUAGE:

Is there a language requirement for your study abroad program? Do you want to take language courses abroad?

INTERN/VOLUNTEER:

Do you want to participate in an internship abroad or volunteer abroad opportunity? What type of placement would want? Do you have the necessary language skills?

RESEARCH:

Are you interested in conducting research abroad?

SUPPORT SERVICES:

What types of support services are available to you abroad? Do you have academic accommodations? If yes, please let the study abroad office aware of those accommodations.

STUDY ABROAD ALUM:

Ask if you can speak with or contact recent program alumnae. These students are a great resource with a wealth of knowledge.