



STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 02** Director's Perch
- 03** Cardinals Beyond Borders
- 04** *My Spring Break in South Africa and Swaziland*
- 05** Global Ambassador Program
- 06** *Taking the CLS to India*
- 08** Welcome Back Reception
- 09** Photo & Video Contest
- 10** Upcoming Events

A MESSAGE FROM THE (NEW) DIRECTOR'S PERCH



Hello Cardinals!

My name is Kyungsik Irene Shim and I am the new Director for the Study Abroad Program.

Let me introduce myself. Over the past twenty-plus years, I have been engaged in international education with, most recently, serving as the Director of Global Programs for the School of Planning, Design and Construction at Michigan State University. Throughout my career, I have worked with, many partners in Asia and Europe, as well as leading projects in Eastern Europe and Africa, mostly funded by the government, academic institutions and industries in the U.S. and the world.

I have been involved in all aspects of international initiatives and programs including strategic planning development and operation, short-term training program development, management, and evaluation, students and professional's recruitment and management, study abroad/away programs, establishment of partnerships, and development and administering dual and hybrid degree programs.

I have developed and led a number of study abroad and away programs both as lead faculty and as an administrator and am very excited to be working at Lamar with all of you to further enhance our study abroad programs.

Please stop by at our office anytime and let us share our thoughts on the Cardinal's study abroad programs.

CARDINALS BEYOND BORDERS



Are you interested in making new friends? Join the Cardinals Beyond Borders program! During the Fall 2017 semester we had over 80 students from 13 different countries participate.

Students have the opportunity to make new friends from different cultures while participating in activities and events hosted by the Office of Study Abroad. All participants are matched up with a buddy or buddies whom they will get to know throughout the program along with all the other participants.

Program Cost:
FREE!!

Application Deadline:
August 29, 2018

Types of Events:
Welcome Night, Game Night, Food Night, Bowling, BBQ Party, and More!

To apply:

Go to www.lamar.edu/studyabroad and look for Cardinals Beyond Borders under Student Information.



Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa in *South Africa and Swaziland* Spring Break 2018

I was recently blessed with the opportunity to study geography in South Africa and Swaziland and it was truly an unforgettable and eye-opening experience. Who doesn't dream of visiting Africa? I have never been to a country where the majority of the population isn't white, so South African and Swazi cultures were foreign to me. It was incredibly exciting to have the opportunity to experience a different culture rather than simply reading about it.

When visiting a new country, one of the most important things to do is to try local food! South Africa has a lot of unique food—like braai (African barbeque) and ostrich. I enjoyed almost everything. I was very surprised to learn that South Africans have actual ostrich farms. The idea was, and still is, very bizarre to me. Who knew that you can see ostriches in pens on the side of the road like cattle in Texas?

Something I absolutely loved about Africa was the wildlife and natural scenery. It was beautiful! I took so many amazing pictures. Seeing the spectacular view from Table Mountain, getting to pet a sea lion, watching the African penguins sunbathe, seeing wild animals like elephants, giraffes, and zebras—it was something I'll probably never get to do again.

Overall, my experience in South Africa and Swaziland was something I'll certainly never forget. Study abroad programs like this one are helping me to broaden my horizons, see the world, and become more culturally aware. It was an opportunity I am very thankful for!



- Casey Smith
Business Management



What Is It?

The Global Ambassador Program (GAP) is a great way for study abroad alumni to share their study abroad experiences with their fellow Cardinals. Every semester, a handful of students are selected to represent the Office of Study Abroad at a variety of international campus events. All students who have studied abroad on a Lamar University faculty-led or semester exchange program are encouraged to apply for the program.

What Do You Get Out Of It?

In addition to a Certificate of Recognition for successful completion of the program, you will also gain professional career experience in marketing, social media, public relations, and international education, the opportunity to have articles, blogs, and pictures published and promoted on social media and in the Study Abroad Newsletter, and the opportunity to share your international experience with the Cardinal community!



**FALL SEMESTER
APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

AUGUST 29, 2018

Melissa Torres

CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, 2018



Year: Junior

Major: Speech and Hearing Sciences

Where are you from?: My family is from Mexico, but I grew up in Houston! #htowntilidrown

What exactly is the Critical Language Scholarship?

The CLS Program is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion program that designed to promote rapid language gains, and rich cultural experiences. Its fully funded by the US Department of State and is focused on foreign languages critical to increasing a globalized workforce, national competitiveness, and diplomacy.

Was it difficult to win the scholarship?

I'd say yes—really difficult! It has an acceptance rate of less than 10%, making it one of the most competitive scholarships in the US and the most prestigious language programs for U.S. citizens... so the odds weren't exactly in my favor. The application process was really long and tedious.

Where are you going and what language will you be studying?

I'm going to Jaipur, India for a little over two months to study Hindi!

What will you do while in India?

I'll be staying with a host family in Jaipur and taking classes at the American Institute of India Studies. Plus as many cultural and site-seeing activities as I can fit in!

What are you looking forward to the most while you're there?

Learning Hindi, of course! But I'm also extremely excited for all of the cultural activities like cooking and dancing classes. India has such rich culture and its going to be amazing to experience all of that first hand!

How did you find out about the CLS and why did you decide to apply?

The Study Abroad Office had pamphlets and Brittney Crossley encouraged me to apply. I was thinking about it, and then the Reaud Honors College sent out an email as well and I went by Dr. Dodson's mantra... I already had the no. I had nothing to lose at that point, so I went ahead and took a leap of faith and applied!

How do you think receiving the CLS and the work you'll be able to do because of it will benefit you in the future?

I hope to one day do humanitarian work in Audiology, particularly in Latin America and South Asia. I found my passion in Hearing Sciences and started developing a cultural background in Deaf Studies, and clinical backgrounds specific to hearing sciences and disability inclusion. After participating in study abroad programs and internships, I realized that people's wisdom is proficient in developing countries with many insights to offer; however, these people often lack the access to education and resources that would help them live healthier, more meaningful lives. As a native Spanish speaker who was taught English later in life, I navigate through everyday obstacles usually without hesitation, so it is easy to take for granted the extent of the community I can reach due to my language proficiency. My immersion into Deaf and Signing communities opened my eyes to communication as a key component to cultural competency, critical to humanitarian efforts. Invariably in diplomacy, people focus heavily on policy, land, and resources. But as an aspiring humanitarian audiologist, I heavily focus on the communities served and the needs of the people. Humanitarianism is quintessential to diplomacy because it focuses on the best interests of vulnerable populations. I decided to do this program because Hindi is the 4th most spoken language in the world. I already know English and Spanish, and I am currently learning Sign Language, so with my career goals, it just made sense to learn Hindi as well.

Learning a new language and jumping into a new culture feet first is really scary. Aside from the obviously scary things like being in an entirely new place with no one I know for such a long time, I personally expect my greatest challenge to be navigating language acquisition as an introvert. Given that learning a new language entails practicing by speaking with locals and my classmates, this program will require an extensive amount of social interaction which at times can be overwhelming. I'm not really discouraged though, because in spite of the fact that large groups are not necessarily my preference, I thrive in smaller groups. Introversion can be a difficult thing to navigate, but I have come to realize a gift that comes with it is an increased receptiveness compensating for a lack of expressiveness. Coping strategies I personally find effective and essential to my success include journaling and delving in music and art, which India has an abundance of. I expect several aspects of this journey to be challenging, but I'm fully confident that because it will force me to step out of my comfort zone, I will also grow as an individual.



Welcome Back Reception

The Office of Study Abroad invites all returning study abroad students & faculty to the Welcome Back Reception. You'll be able to reconnect with friends made abroad, share your memories with the Global Lamar community, learn about ways to apply your study abroad experience to your future academic and career goals, and enjoy snacks and refreshments.

Wednesday, September 12, 2018
4:00 – 5:30 pm
Library 6th Floor (to be confirmed)

2018 STUDY ABROAD Photo & Video Contest

PHOTO CONTEST

DIRECTIONS:

Submit up to 5 of your best photos taken abroad. Email them to bcrossley@lamar.edu

CATEGORIES:

- Best Overall Photo
- Best Selfie/Photo of Self
- School Spirit Abroad

VIDEO CONTEST

DIRECTIONS:

Show us your creative side with a 2-4 minute video from your study abroad program. We want to see the amazing places you've visited and all the new things you've learned about. There's no set category, so feel free to be creative! Submissions should be in mp4 format via usb stick to the Office of Study Abroad!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS SEPT. 14, 2018

THE WINNER OF EACH CATEGORY WINS A PRIZE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

27th - 31st - Welcome Back Week
29th - CBB Deadline
29th - GAP Deadline

SEPTEMBER

12th - Welcome Back Reception
14th - Photo & Video Contest Deadline

OCTOBER

24th - Fall Study Abroad Fair

WE'LL HAVE STUDY ABROAD INFO
TABLES EVERY TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, & NOVEMBER!
(LOCATION TBD)

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR
PHOTO FOR OUR FALL 2018 ISSUE?

Email submissions to
studyabroad@lamar.edu

CONTACT US

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Room 108A

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Friday

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