Happy New Year Cardinals!

While some of you have been traveling this winter, the rest of us had the opportunity to enjoy a few rare snowfalls in Beaumont. It was a wonderful sight and a great way to end 2017 and move forward into 2018. The Office of Study Abroad experienced a few changes last semester, including the relocation of the office and the departure of the Director of Study Abroad. For those of you that did not know Dr. Palis personally, he was always a great source of knowledge and travel stories. I’m sure I speak for all of us when I say he will be missed, but we're happy to have known him and the Cardinal community benefited greatly from his experience.

To ring in the new year and all the changes that will be coming this spring, the Office of Study Abroad has a fantastic variety of events and opportunities for students to take part in during 2018! I encourage you all to look at the Upcoming Events section of the Study Abroad Newsletter and join us at any or even ALL of our events this semester. We will be taking part in Welcome Back Week with the Spring Study Abroad Fair and the Korean Culture Club’s Runningman Challenge, both free and fun ways to start off 2018.

With some amazing programs going to India, South Africa, Japan, and more, 2018 is looking to be a fantastic year for us and I hope all of you will have the opportunity to join us in our adventures.

Brittney Crossley
Acting Assistant Director of Study Abroad
SPRING STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Thurs. – January 18th
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Dining Hall Lawn

@GlobalLamar
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: $10
Covers all food, activities, and transportation to off campus events.

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

Types of Events:
- Welcome Night
- Game Night
- Food Night
- Bowling
- BBQ Party
- And more!

Spring Semester closed.
Check out the summer newsletter for Fall Semester information!
# Program Profiles

## Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa

- **GEOL 2376 or GEOL 4301**

Geography of Tourism covers a different form of tourism each week and we’ll focus specifically on how each type pertains to Africa, including nature-based tourism, dark tourism, food tourism, medical tourism and sex tourism. World Regional geography provides students with an overview of many of the world’s regions including Sub-Saharan Africa. Excursions will include a hike up Cape Town’s Table Mountain, shopping at local markets, a visit to Robben Island, and two game drives in Kruger National Park. You'll also meet with the US Ambassador to Swaziland, the manager of a game reserve, and a doctor who works with HIV/AIDS patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>March 7 – 18, 2018 (Spring Break)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee:</td>
<td>$3,250 + Tuition and Fees</td>
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</table>
| Contact: | Dr. Sarah Schwartz  
sschwartz@lamar.edu |

## Art Appreciation in Russia

- **ARTS 1301**

During this course, which explores fundamental concepts such as the Elements of Art and Principles of Design, students will be introduced to the rich cultural and political history of the former Russian imperial capital St. Petersburg, also known as the 'Venice of the North'. St. Petersburg will be used as a tool to uncover a deep strata of intellectual and artistic discourse from the 18th Century to the present. Excursions will include visits to the Hermitage Museum, Russian Museum, the Winter Palace, Mariinsky Theater, Yusupov Palace, and the Church of Spilled Blood.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates:</th>
<th>May 13 – 22, 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Fee:</td>
<td>$2,700 + Tuition and Fees</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Contact: | Prof. Richard Gachot  
gachotrm@lamar.edu |
**Drawing in Japan**  
*ARTS 4392*

This course will be taught at Beppu University and will utilize the studio spaces in the Department of Literature, which includes facilities for fine art and design courses. Additionally, the course will be taught at specific sites in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara. Unique cultural activities in Beppu will include visiting Bungotakada to see a Medieval Japanese landscape and wear clothing from the period, rice planting, and learning about various Japanese art styles, including Ink Painting, Manga, and Animation. Throughout the journey, students will draw in response to their experience in Japan. Suggested assignment plans will be provided for students with various levels of drawing experience - there are no art course prerequisites!

**Dates:** May 31 – June 16, 2018  
**Program Fee:** $3,550 + Tuition and Fees  
**Contact:** Asst. Prof. Chris Troutman  
c troutman@lamar.edu

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**Literature in Japan**  
*ENGL 4334*

The first week of the program is based in Hiroshima, where our partnership with Yasuda Women's University offers students unique opportunities to learn in a parallel collegiate atmosphere, complete with home stays with local families. Students will then travel by shinkansen to Kyoto and Tokyo. Learning the language and encountering culture in an intimate, authentic setting will inform and enhance the study of Japanese literature, the topic of the program's course. This course will move beyond the typical discussions of the relations of America and Japan and the ethics of using the atomic bomb during WWII in an effort to provide a multi-faceted introduction to Japanese literature and to examine the ways in which the echoes of war influence contemporary writers.

**Dates:** May 25 – June 15, 2018  
**Program Fee:** $3,900 + Tuition and Fees  
**Contact:** Prof. Jennifer Ravey  
jennifer.ravey@lamar.edu
Fear is a Ridiculous Reason Not to Study Abroad!

By Devan Cramer

I know you’re probably asking yourself why on earth you would ever want to travel to Japan. If I am being completely honest, I asked myself that same question about a hundred times before my trip. I had honestly never put Japan anywhere on my travel list. I wasn’t particularly interested in the culture and I didn’t know Japanese. If you want some more honesty, I also had some very inaccurate, preconceived notions about Japanese culture and Asia in general. The decision to take this trip was a complete whim, one of those “leap of faith” moments that can either go really well or end in flaming disaster. Luckily, it turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made.

The people, the culture, the food (oh my goodness the food!) all of it was incredible. The thing I loved most was also the thing I was most scared of before going - my homestay. I am a fairly shy person, so the thought of living with a family of strangers, most of whom did not speak English, was daunting to say the least. But my host family welcomed me into their home and did whatever they could to make me feel comfortable. They didn’t change their regular schedules, so I had the opportunity to experience normal, everyday life with them. We went to school, we went shopping at the mall, and we even had sleepovers. When the end of the week came, I didn’t want to leave them. It has been over a year and I still keep in touch with them.
As a picky eater, I was a little nervous about the food in a country that was so foreign to me, and this was partly where my preconceived notions came in to play. I had always associated Asian countries with unclean cooking environments and strange, unidentifiable foods. I could not have been more wrong about that. Japan is one of the cleanest countries in the world. In fact, some of the best food I ate in Japan came from gas stations! Japanese gas station food is actually better than a lot of restaurant food in America. A beef and rice bento or an onigiri rice ball from a 7-Eleven beats an American gas station burrito any day. Of course, some of the food was a little bit strange and different, but I learned that if I wasn’t willing to try new things I would have missed out on some of the best things Japan has to offer.

I went on the study abroad program with the idea that I would not say no to any food offered to me and it was the best decision I made on the trip. My host family taught me how to cook gyoza (dumplings) and Hiroshima style okonomiyaki (vegetable pancake). You also have to be prepared to eat more noodles than you ever have in your life. I ate a variety of different things from food stalls and had no idea what I was eating, but that was part of the adventure. Bravery was a must on this program and it paid off tenfold. The country itself is beautiful beyond belief. My host sisters took me biking through Onomichi and it was quite possibly the most exhilarating yet peaceful moment of the trip. We had a fantastic time just riding around and sitting beside the ocean and hiking the mountain to see the shrines. The entire trip was such an amazing learning experience because we were able to do things on the study program that most people don’t have the opportunity to do when they travel to Japan. The best part was that I got to learn things while doing them instead of sitting in a classroom.
Global Ambassador Program

The Global Ambassadors 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!

Spring Semester Application Deadline: January 12, 2018
Fun in the Sun!
By Emily McCall

No matter where you are in New Zealand, you are never very far from the sea! For every beautiful range of hills, there is always an equally breathtaking stretch of beach to match it. The New Zealand coastline offers numerous fun and unique experiences for tourists, many of which my study abroad group got to experience firsthand on our trip. These exciting activities included swimming with dolphins, kayaking with seals, and surfing! Along with fantastic tourist adventures, the country’s coasts also offer some of the most delicious seafood I have ever tasted, with things like muscles and fish n’ chips being offered at many of the restaurants we visited. My trip to New Zealand was a once in a lifetime experience that I will treasure for the rest of my life, not only did it allow me to see first-hand the extensive and diverse natural beauty of the country, but through our group it also allowed me to make some amazing new friends along the way! None of this could ever have been possible without the Lamar University Office of Study Abroad!
New Zealand 2018
Presented by the Korean Culture Club

RUNNINGMAN CHALLENGE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2018 @2PM IN THE REC CENTER

Compete in games and challenges to see who can win the final Name Tag Elimination Challenge!

For more information or to sign-up and guarantee a spot, email lamarkcc@gmail.com
**Upcoming Events**

**January**

12th - Global Ambassador Program Application Deadline

15th - Study Abroad Fee Grant Deadline (Spring Programs)
Applications for SAFG and additional funding due by 5:00 pm.

18th - Spring Study Abroad Fair
Dining Hall Lawn
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

19th - Runningman Challenge
Indoor Soccer Court - Rec Center
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Study Abroad Info Tables
Library Entrance
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**February**

13th - REDtalk: Gaining Global Competence
Landes Auditorium (Galloway Building)
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm

Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Study Abroad Info Tables
Library Entrance
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

22nd - Spring Break Pre-Departure Orientation
Price Auditorium (John Gray Center)
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Mandatory orientation for all students studying abroad during the spring semester.

**March**

1st - Summer Program Deadline
Applications and deposits due for summer programs by 5:00 pm.

1st - Carter Innovation Fund Summer Deadline
Applications for CIF due by 5:00 pm.

6th, 7th - Study Abroad Info Tables
Library Entrance
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

15th - Study Abroad Fee Grant Deadline (Summer Programs)
Applications for SAFG and additional funding due by 5:00 pm.

**April**

26th - Summer Pre-Departure Orientation
Price Auditorium (John Gray Center)
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Mandatory orientation for all students studying abroad in the summer.

**Contact The Office of Study Abroad**

John Gray Center
Herman Iles Building A, Room 108A
409-880-7060 / 7013
studyabroad@lamar.edu
lamar.edu/studyabroad