THE ADVENTURE BEGINS HERE

Start your online application at www.marist.edu/international today!
A MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
Dr. John E. Peters, Dean

Academic Year 2013-2014 marks the 50th anniversary of Marist’s study abroad programs. Such an occasion may be a good one to share a short story.

I was recently reorganizing some files in my office (a healthy endeavor as time allows, highly recommended), and came upon some files I had somewhat embarrassingly labeled “Interesting Old Stuff.” I created these files when I first came to Marist four years ago, by way of working through a well-seasoned filing cabinet in the corner of a storage closet. The contents included old office memos, postcards, photographs of students in various countries, and most interestingly, handwritten letters from decades past—the writings of former Marist study abroaders to International Programs staff.

The cultural and historical references in these materials provide an interesting read on the life and times of Marist students abroad over the past 50 years. I enjoyed reading through a handout, “Study Tips for the USSR,” a typeset office memo noting that Marist was setting a new record by sending 30 students abroad in a single year (MIP now sends well over 500 students abroad per year and another 68 are currently studying toward a bachelor’s or master’s on the Marist Florence campus), and a letter from a student apologizing for spelling errors as she hadn’t thought to pack her dictionary for the train ride from England to Ireland. It is clear that some things change.

Yet, brushing off outdated references to former technologies, favorite TV shows, and the ghosts of U.S. presidential administrations past, much of the spirit and enthusiasm for what can be gained through study abroad remains the same. Study abroaders revel in the power of overseas study to push the boundaries of one’s “comfort zone,” two words that not so unexpectedly feature in many of the 2013-2014 Globetrotter contributions.

It’s not that study abroaders seek to be “uncomfortable” per se. Rather, the point is that it can be empowering to walk into an unfamiliar academic and cultural environment and be pushed to grow, adapt, and challenge assumptions. It’s a process full of highs and lows, critical thought, and exploration. This enthusiasm for the overseas experience can manifest itself in very different ways as one speaks with Marist study abroad alumni, and it’s our job as the Marist community to help students think through and analyze the significance of their overseas study for their academic, personal, and professional development.

In addition to the intellectual and professional spheres, as alumni will undoubtedly attest, study abroad is simply an amazing way to meet new people and develop friendships that will last a lifetime. I count among those I met through my own study abroad experience of many years past (a number of those aforementioned presidential administrations ago), several close friends and professional colleagues. For that matter, I even met my spouse (of 20 years) while I was studying abroad, which I use as something of a joke when I warn outgoing Marist study abroaders that anything’s possible.

International Programs has a rich history at Marist and enjoys a strong tradition, not only in terms of the past 50 years of the Marist International Programs office, but dating back to the Marist founders, who were an international community. It’s an honor to be part of this tradition, and MIP staff look forward to being part of the next 50 years as we strive to make ongoing improvements to our programs and to continue to offer innovative and exciting opportunities for generations of Marist students to come.

As French novelist Marcel Proust wrote, “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes.” We emphasize this point with students as we prepare them for study abroad as well as in the debriefing of their experiences. And indeed, while study abroad does take one to new lands, perhaps more important is that it provides a challenge to continuously refine the way one sees the world as new perspectives, beliefs, and customs are confronted. It is in this regard that those of us who work in international education find study abroad to be an indispensable part of a liberal arts education.

I hope you enjoy the 2013-2014 issue of Globetrotter magazine. Herein you will find essays and other contributions from study abroad alumni and Marist faculty and staff, as well as an interview with Marist President Dennis J. Murray. Some beautiful photographs, many taken by Marist students, are offered as well.

We look forward to seeing you, in Poughkeepsie or abroad!
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **About Us** .............................................. 1
- **The 411** .............................................. 2
- **A Note on Traveling** ............................. 4
- **Parliament was my Workplace** .......... 5
- **Marist in Madrid** ............................... 10
- **Mexico** .............................................. 12
- **Cuba** ............................................... 14
- **Easter Island** ...................................... 20
- **Photastic!** ........................................... 22
- **Taking the Leap in Florence** ............. 24
- **Venice Biennale** ................................. 28
- **Senegal** ............................................. 30
- **Paris: Two Stories** ............................ 32
- **Australia** ........................................... 34
- **Study Fashion in Paris at Marist-Mod’SPE** 36
- **London Olympics** ............................... 37
- **Florence Summer Pre-College Program 2013** 38
- **Oman** ................................................. 40
- **Blast from the Past** ............................ 42
- **Where in the World?** ......................... 44

---

**Marist International Programs**
Marist International Programs

Marist International Programs (MIP) promotes international engagement and academic, personal, and professional development through rigorous, reflective study abroad, overseas internships, and international campus programming.

MIP offers a variety of study abroad experiences that support a broad range of educational objectives, with affiliated programs on six continents. These experiences are open to all Marist students meeting eligibility criteria and upon successful application. A number of Marist programs are open to non-Marist students as well. We offer semester, full academic year, and short-term programs, enabling students of any major to study abroad and complete degree requirements within their four-year plan.

Be more than a tourist: experience what it means to live and study abroad!

Marist-Lorenzo de’ Medici Programs

Marist College in partnership with Istituto Lorenzo de’ Medici is the only U.S. college or university offering a full branch campus in Florence. Marist-LdM offers several bachelor degrees, a master’s degree program, a one-year study-abroad Freshman Florence Experience (FFE), traditional semester study abroad, and the Summer Pre-College Program for rising high school juniors and seniors. Bachelor’s degrees in studio art, art history, conservation studies, digital media, fashion design, interior design, and Italian are currently offered on the Florence campus, as well as an MA degree in museum studies. Each of these degrees and programs takes full advantage of, and interacts with, the unique cultural, historical, and educational environment that is Florence, Italy, and Southern Europe.

MIP Staff
Dr. John E. Peters, Dean
Carol Toufali, Senior Coordinator
Jerre Thornton, Coordinator
James Morrow-Polio, Assistant Coordinator
Ruth Watts, Office Assistant

MIP Office
(845) 575-3330
international@marist.edu
www.marist.edu/international

Marist-LdM Staff
Dr. John E. Peters, Acting Dean
Vanessa Nichol-Peters, Director
Brad Miller, Assistant Director
Christie Alfaro, Assistant Director
Jennifer McLain, Assistant Coordinator
Stephanie Elmessaoudi, Resident Director
Julianne Homola, Resident Director
Joseph Giacalone, Executive Director of International Admission
Deborah Holtman, Assistant Registrar
Diane Ralston, Office Assistant

Marist-LdM Office
(845) 575-3330 (Academics)
(845) 575-3226 (Admissions)
lmitaly@marist.edu
http://italy.marist.edu
Want to Contribute?
If you went abroad or are planning to go abroad, you can be a Globetrotter contributor! Take some beautiful photos, write an inspiring essay, and submit your work for the next issue. Contact MIP for more details at international@marist.edu.
You’ve seen them on campus. In Marist classrooms giving presentations. Standing behind tables in Dyson, Donnelly, Hancock, and the Student Center, recounting adventures accompanied by open laptops displaying tens (or hundreds) of photos from abroad. You may also have seen their social media handiwork, through the MIP Facebook site and Twitter feed. Or perhaps you’ve seen them working on important projects and offering vital assistance in the MIP offices on the second floor of the Hancock Center. Who are these people? They are the Marist International Programs student workers.

At Marist, the international or “abroad” experience does not commence with successful application to study abroad and then end upon completion of a single semester abroad. For alumni of Marist's international programs, ongoing engagement with international and intercultural perspectives takes many forms. For some study abroad alumni, this takes the form of formally working for MIP upon completion of an abroad experience. For a still greater number of students, it takes the form of volunteering as a study abroad ambassador and volunteer, helping to share the value of the overseas experience.

Our work is strengthened through the unique contributions of our study abroad student workers and volunteers. Their assistance in helping us to run the strongest programs possible is greatly appreciated. Here’s a list of the MIP and Marist-LdM student workers who offered assistance in the 2012-2013 academic year. Due to space considerations, we cannot list the tens more who have volunteered in the past year with our fall and spring study abroad fairs, orientations, and other activities. But you know who you are, and to each of you, we say: thank you!, grazie mille!, domo arigato!, shukran!, merci!, jai-ruh-jeff!, vielen dank!, and ¡muchas gracias!

Are you an MIP alum interested in working or volunteering with the international programs office at Marist? Drop us a line at international@marist.edu and find out how you can get involved.

Letters from the Editors

I remember getting home from class, dropping my books on the desk, pocketing a few euros for a croissant and coffee, and leaving everything else behind in order to wander the city of Rome. There were fruit markets, torch lights, incredible art, the most beautiful and picturesque architecture, sprawling ruins, and delicious food in the ugliest restaurants. I loved the espresso and the old crumbled churches.

Rome is a city made of stories and memories; history is alive there. Yet the moment you get to the next city, you encounter a whole new personality, and you have no choice but to experience it with an open mind and heart. Maybe that’s why you get to know yourself when you’re abroad. I had no idea that I would ever read Harry Potter in Italian or that I was just terrible at catching flights. It’s an opportunity to surprise yourself and fall in love with absolutely everything around you.

Ryan Zaccaro

Danielle Ferrara

Studying abroad brought to life the landscapes, art, and edifices of the world I had only been exposed to in films, pictures, and books. Woody Allen’s Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Hemingway’s A Moveable Feast, and, yes, Hugh Grant’s Notting Hill all instilled images and expectations of the countries to which I traveled. Barcelona was as beautiful as expected, the Eiffel Tower as grandiose, and London as charming; yet I found the greatest appreciation in those things that have little exposure. I found the countryside in Wales, for example, unparalleled by any other landscape, and one of my favorite days in London entailed a solo trip to the grave of Romantic poet William Blake. Although we feel an obligation to visit these popularized aspects of international travel, we will find that unique adventures are the most valuable. With this, I encourage exploration of the unusual, as there is a whole world beyond what is presented in movies and books.

Globetrotter
A NOTE ON TRAVELING
James Morrow-Polio

Each time I travel, I have a recurring thought: “I hate traveling.”

I am currently on a plane with a baby crying behind me, a man coughing next to me, someone sneezing from a hidden corner of the plane, and an omelet breakfast that is dangerously close to being classified as “inorganic.”

I have spent the previous five days in the Andes hiking more than six hours per day, sharing a small two-person tent, getting rained on, and sharing a latrine tent with 16 other hikers and 24 support staff. I have not had a full night’s sleep in a week, my legs ache, I have several cuts—some of which are infected—and I still have a crushing headache from altitude sickness.

The punch line? I miss it already. Travel is a premier facilitator of personal growth, and I cannot get enough.

Initially, I was disappointed that my whole group consisted of Americans. If I had wanted to spend time with Americans, I would not have gone all the way to Peru. However, I was forgetting a crucial lesson: cultural exchange can happen anywhere you go, provided you open yourself up to it. This is a skill I learned in my time abroad as a Marist undergrad (I graduated in 2012), and it is the most enduring and advantageous ability that resulted from my time overseas. By eliminating fixed expectations and truly opening up to a new experience, and by giving yourself to the environment, you can soak up a level of understanding that is, as Mark Twain once said, “fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.”

“Each time I travel, I have a recurring thought: ‘I hate traveling.’”

Further, I am realizing that, however broad our understanding of the world may be, any static environment is impossibly limiting; our opinions and points of view are directly related to where we wake up in the morning. When we engage with people and experience things outside of our corner of the world, we invariably begin to think differently, hone new skills, and become more comfortable in pushing ourselves to grow. This drive to engage is what makes study abroaders different. The skills we develop while studying, living, and traveling overseas are the reason we are often hired over peers who have never been abroad, why we adapt more quickly and are more comfortable in uncomfortable situations, and why we work well with others who might share little common ground with us. Developing these skills is, in fact, one of the main reasons we go abroad in the first place, and why every time we travel we are effectively studying abroad again.

Knowing this, along with the importance of constantly pushing yourself further to grow and learn, is why at times I actually find myself enjoying the crying baby behind me, the remarkably tasteless food served on airplanes, and a leaky tent at 3 a.m. during a thunderstorm on the Peruvian mountainside.
Until my semester in London, I had spent more time working with pizza than Parliamentarians and couldn’t imagine myself feeling comfortable striding through centuries-old gilded halls alongside Lords and Ladies. Yet these were not even the most amazing parts of my semester studying with the Hansard Scholars Programme. While the setting of my new life was invigorating, nothing could have surpassed the reward of feeling at home as a Parliamentary staffer in the House of Lords, and a student at the London School of Economics.

London commuter trains are filled with people reading daily newspapers, and people who recognized my accent sometimes asked me questions about American politics such as: the significance of upcoming U.S. presidential elections to the U.K.; the nuances of the American healthcare debate; and how constitutional amendments are passed in the States. Keeping up with the British perspective on politics was no small feat, and the Hansard professors were able to help with that. Our group, comprised of about 20 students from the U.S., attended British politics classes organized specifically for the program. Our professors explained the background issues of British politics, as well as the cultural perspectives which informed those issues.

The importance of understanding what made British politics so, well, British should not be understated. Hansard classes helped me to keep up with affairs at my internship in Parliament. Being a Parliamentarian is work-intensive, and there are very few interns in Parliament. In fact, I was the only intern assisting the Baroness. By keeping up with affairs I was able to gain more responsibility. Initially, I provided her with research on issues in debate; eventually, I had the opportunity to draft speeches for her. Sometimes we received feedback from foreign embassies or charities on the speeches I had contributed to. Knowing that I played a part in what the public heard was surreal.

Before my internship ended, a colleague of the Baroness took me aside to tell me that I had made a huge difference and would be missed. I had started to fit into Parliament, and I grew to do things which I never thought I would be capable of doing. Parliament had changed me, and I was proud to have made a difference in Parliament as well.

Sometimes I worried that I chose an “easy” place to study abroad by going to an English-speaking country; I could have gone somewhere farther away with fewer connections to America’s roots. This worry was unfounded; I was challenged by myself and others every day in Parliament, and discovered that I can help leaders make a difference. I explored and came to love a new place as my home. This feeling amazes me more than all the gilded halls of Parliament.
Greystone, home to the offices of Marist College President Dr. Dennis J. Murray, was not a Marist building I had occasion to enter during my undergraduate years at the College. Now, however, as a graduating senior, I find myself entering the impressive stone house to interview President Murray on Marist’s international programs. Together with MIP Assistant Coordinator James Morrow-Polio, I am introduced to several staff and assistants before we sit down with President Murray in his office.

“Students who go abroad are more flexible,” explains President Murray as we commence our interview with an inquiry on the value of studying abroad. For Dr. Murray, education abroad fosters flexibility as well as self-reliance, and offers students the opportunity to practice and hone these skills in new environments. These experiences bolster personal and professional maturity, confidence, and resilience.

Dr. Murray is pleased that so many Marist students are able to take advantage of the abroad experience during their Marist years. A great deal of his enthusiasm for education abroad lies in the opportunity for students to further develop “intellectual and practical experience,” and to “transact business in another country, and maybe even in another language.”

The conversation then shifts to Marist’s reputation as one of the leading schools in the nation for study abroad. President Murray’s remark, “if we do something, we want to be really good at it,” seems appropriate, since Marist ranks highly and has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute for International Education (IIE) for its strong study abroad program. President Murray also reminds us of Marist’s historic roots: the founders of Marist, the Marist Brothers, belonged to an international community. For Marist, this means that “the founders were in France and traveled the world, and today, we are carrying on the tradition.”

Marist has strong study abroad affiliations with leading educational institutions around the globe, and at present, approximately 40 percent of Marist students study abroad during their undergraduate careers (some more than once!). The most popular destination for Marist students is Marist’s branch campus in Florence, Italy, run in partnership with Istituto Lorenzo de’ Medici (LdM). The Florence branch campus offers a variety
of programs, including semester, academic year, and summer study abroad, a freshman-year program, and full bachelor’s degrees in studio art, art history, conservation studies, digital media, fashion design, interior design, and Italian, as well as an MA degree in museum studies.

“To students sitting on the fence, unsure if they should study abroad or not, President Murray suggests, ‘Don’t overthink it . . . just do it.’ ”

While international engagement has become a distinguishing characteristic of Marist College, and while international travel indubitably comes with the president’s job, Dr. Murray’s enthusiasm for traveling began long before he became president of Marist College. “I caught the travel bug when I was really young,” President Murray explains, and he and his wife, Marilyn, have always been fascinated with different cultures.

We asked President Murray to share an experience from his own international travels, one event that he found particularly memorable. In the late 1990s, Dr. Murray was invited to a private mass with Pope John Paul II in Vatican City: “There were about 13 people there, and one of the Marist Brothers was being recognized.” President Murray then shared with us the history of the zucchetto, a small, round cap worn by the clerics of the Roman Catholic Church. Upon meeting Pope John Paul II, one could present him with a zucchetto, and receive the one on his head in return. President Murray has the Pope’s zucchetto as a keepsake and was eager to send us a picture of the event. Thinking about the experience, Dr. Murray explained that in the ceremony and discussions, one was able to see many different cultures that were there, “not only for the religious aspect, but also for the historical importance.”

In regards to the advice President Murray offers Marist students considering an abroad experience, he referenced the discussions he routinely has with Marist alumni. “I travel around the country meeting Marist alumni, and one of the things most commonly mentioned” is the abroad experience. “International education has something for everyone,” and study abroad shows a “graduate school or employer that this person went out and did this and saw the world.” To students sitting on the fence, unsure if they should study abroad or not, President Murray suggests, “Don’t overthink it . . . just do it.”

President Murray’s hope that students will continue to take advantage of abroad opportunities resonated firmly in his tone, as he further stated that students should “express no hesitation.” As a souvenir from our meeting, Dr. Murray offered a piece of paper with the well-known, and quite apropos, quotation attributed to St. Augustine: “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.”
For all students contemplating a semester or a year abroad, consideration will always be the cost of these studies. While most study abroad opportunities offered through Marist International Programs have costs comparable to study on the Marist campus in the United States, there are several unique study abroad scholarship opportunities for current Marist students and for graduates—when the urge to return abroad recurs. Listed below are the details for these remarkable funding opportunities.

If you are interested in pursuing any of these, you should take special note of application deadlines and requirements, and be sure to contact the Graduate School and Fellowship Advisor in the Center for Career Services. Advance preparation for these opportunities is absolutely essential!

Contact us: In person in the James A. Cannavino Library 332, by phone at ext. 3547, or by e-mail at career.services@marist.edu.

RESOURCES TO GET ABROAD…NOW!

**BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**
The Gilman Scholarship focuses on students with demonstrable financial need (indicated by receipt of Pell Grant funding) and has some preference for students targeting less traditional destinations (outside of Western Europe and Australia/New Zealand). Length of stay must be at least four weeks, but the program emphasizes longer-term programs of at least a semester. The scholarship awards up to $5,000 with an additional $3,000 available for those studying a language considered by the State Department to be of “critical need.”

Deadlines are twice a year, in October and in March.

[www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman)

**BOREN SCHOLARSHIP**
The Boren Scholarship emphasizes longer-term study abroad, less commonly taught language acquisition, and less traditional destinations—countries which are of central concern to the U.S. State Department in terms of national security considerations. Students with little to no mastery of the host country’s language are encouraged to apply. The Boren awards up to $20,000, and recipients take on a service obligation to work following graduation for a year in any office within the U.S. government. Applications are due in early February.

[borenawards.org](http://borenawards.org)

RESOURCES TO GET ABROAD…LATER!

**FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM**
The Fulbright funds nine to eleven months of research abroad or the same amount of time for Fulbright recipients of grants for teaching English in another country. Countries under U.S. State Department travel warnings are not included in this competition. Students devise their own research proposal; the proposal must be one that can be completed in the allotted time, one that promises to enhance binational, bicultural understanding, and one that the student is equipped (both linguistically and intellectually) to pursue. Virtually any field of study is viable for a Fulbright proposal, although individual countries often have research priorities and restrictions. Research proposals require that the applicant receive the endorsement of an in-country host affiliation related to the student’s topic.

English Teaching Assistantships are offered in a somewhat more restricted number of countries; ETAs offer placements in schools or universities according to the host country’s needs. Language mastery requirements for the ETAs vary from country to country.

All prospective applicants for the Fulbright face a deadline falling in mid-October of the senior year or October of any year following graduation.

[us.fulbrightonline.org](http://us.fulbrightonline.org)
THE “BIG FOUR” U.K. ADVANCED STUDY SCHOLARSHIPS

• THE GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP
  www.gatesscholar.org

• THE GEORGE J. MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP
  www.us-irelandalliance.org

• THE MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP
  www.marshallscholarship.org

• THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP
  www.rhodesscholar.org

While these four opportunities are slightly different from each other in some respects, what they have in common is their purpose and high standards for the applicant. All four fund graduate study in the United Kingdom, and all four expect applicants to be academically strong students with demonstrated leadership qualities and a commitment to the betterment of humanity. The applicant needs to have a clear rationale for studying at a specific university in the United Kingdom, as well as a compelling reason for studying in the country itself. All four of these foundations expect that recipients will one day assume leadership roles in their respective fields of endeavor. The Gates Cambridge supports two or more years of study at Cambridge University. The Mitchell Scholarship is tenable for a year of advanced studies at any Irish university. The Marshall Scholarship funds either one or two years of graduate study at any university in the U.K. and Ireland, while the Rhodes Scholarship is for master’s-level study at Oxford University. All of these competitions have deadlines in October of the senior year.
MARIST IN MADRID
Alirio Gonzalez
This past summer has been one of the hardest of my life. Looking back, I wish I had prepared myself better for the metaphorical brick wall I would be hitting upon my return to New York. I miss everything about Madrid—the tapas at El Tigre, the metro system, my twin host brothers, the bread with every meal, the night life, the language, the Spanish jamon, everything. I miss it all, and the hardest part about this summer has been knowing that I will one day return but not knowing when that day will come.

Living in the center of Spain for four months proved to be the most rewarding experience of my life and the only regret I have is that I didn’t study abroad for the full year. The first week was spent walking around the city with our resident director Dr. Isabel Carrasco, learning as much as possible about Spanish culture and living in Madrid. At the end of the week, I had to look down to make sure my legs were still on because we walked and walked, and then walked some more. The week was packed with sponsored activities including a flamenco show, dinner at a tapas bar, and visits to all the main attractions of Madrid. We were kept so busy that the transition couldn’t have been any smoother. Throughout the semester, the Madrid program also funded several trips and activities to cities throughout Spain as well as a trip to Morocco through Morocco Exchange. These were great opportunities for all of us in the program to get to know one another better as well as for us to explore other parts of Spain. Prior to leaving for Madrid, none of us in the program had been friends while at Marist yet many of us became closer than I thought possible while being abroad. We spent almost every day together and relied on each other when it came to adapting to foreign situations.

I was fortunate to receive a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for my semester abroad and while in Madrid, my friends and I were also able to travel throughout Europe on our three-day weekends and during school holidays. I was blessed to have the chance to ride a camel in Morocco, eat my weight in chocolate and Belgium fries while staying in Brussels, walk the streets of Milan and Venice, and visit the cities of London, Paris, and Lisbon. The connection I felt with Madrid, however, became stronger and stronger after each trip. I began to feel traces of homesickness for Madrid whenever I would leave, and returning to my host family after a weekend away was always comforting.

Some of my cherished memories from my time abroad are the meals I shared with my host family. One of the biggest adjustments to life in Madrid was the change in meal times. Lunch and dinner were served every day at three and ten, respectively. I would sit down in the living room with my two 25-year-old host brothers and we would watch the Simpsons in Spanish while talking about current events in Spain. On the day of my departure, one of my host brothers said “un abrazo de oso” meaning a big bear hug. One of the best things about the Marist in Madrid program is the opportunity to live with a host family and the chance students have to develop such strong connections with their families. Living with my two host brothers and host mom allowed me to be completely immersed in Spanish culture. They taught me how to make paella and Spanish tortilla, explained to me all the nuances of life in Madrid, and made my life in Spain that much harder to leave.

Living in Madrid allowed me to fully understand the concept of a 24-hour city and looking back I don’t know how I was able to force myself to board the plane home in May. From taking a tour of the Real Madrid stadium to seeing the works of Goya and Velazquez displayed in El Prado to sitting in an outdoor café eating churros y chocolate, Madrid is the city that keeps on giving. We were never bored and I think it would have been impossible to ever be bored. The liveliness of the city by day is paralleled at night as people begin making their way home just as the sun begins to rise. My “life abroad” quickly became my regular, normal, day-to-day life and it was hard to miss the life I had become accustomed to in the States. The flight back to New York left me confused, frustrated, and unsure of what “home” really meant. Since being back, I can’t help but be constantly invaded by thoughts of when I’ll be walking through the Puerta del Sol again and the unknowingness of my return is haunting. Leaving Madrid, I felt as if I was betraying myself in leaving a place that had given me so much and changed me in the greatest way possible.

When we were all sitting in the Nelly Goletti Theatre at pre-departure orientation in the fall, we were told, “This will change your life, permanently.” I don’t think any piece of advice could ring truer. I returned to New York with a greater awareness of myself, of how big the world really is, and how important it is to always try new and unfamiliar things. I became cognizant of my role as a global citizen and developed an appreciation for non-processed food. I would recommend for anyone to go and study abroad—wherever it may be. It may be one of the greatest things you can do for yourself as an undergraduate.

The Madrid Program is open to both Marist and non-Marist students!

For more information, visit: www.marist.edu/international.
There was a time I thought I would never have the opportunity to study abroad, but . . . never say never, as they say. When I first heard of the Whale Shark Ecology MIP short-term study abroad program offered by Dr. Luis Espinasa, and that the course would entail studying whale shark ecology in Mexico, and that I would have the opportunity to swim with creatures that were up to eight times my size, how could I not go?

While cruising down the Mexican Gulf coast on our first boat ride of the program, I started to feel a little hesitant at the thought of jumping into the water with an animal with the word “shark” in its name. But before I could talk myself out of it, we received instructions from our guide and professor, and we jumped off the boat. I was in the direct path of a whale shark and would have a perfect opportunity to swim alongside it. Amidst an adrenaline surge, I suddenly found myself less than two feet from the head of the whale shark, the world’s largest species of fish. When I looked back I was amazed to see that the end of my swimming fins were only barely past its gills and the rest of its body could probably fit another eight of me down its side. This animal was so docile that it just kept swimming along as if I were not there, with my camera, trying to catch every moment. Thankfully, I was not on the whale shark’s menu and it steered away from me as I continued to pretend to be a pilot fish by its side.

In addition to our whale shark adventures, we also had the opportunity to explore Mexican culture on the island of Holbox. At night, Dr. Espinasa, my classmate Connor Cattafe, and I would often go to the town square and play pickup basketball games with the locals. Eventually, everyone would gather for dinner not at a restaurant but at a taco truck in the middle of the town square. I already miss the taste of the pork tacos from that truck; I wish I had that recipe!
Going on a short-term study abroad program was one of the best decisions I made at Marist College. Studying whale shark ecology in Mexico and swimming with whale sharks increased my appreciation for the incredible diversity of animals on this planet. I urge all students to take advantage of the many (sometimes eccentric) opportunities that Marist has to offer, whether it be studying abroad for a semester or full academic year, volunteering at home or abroad, or perhaps even going to Mexico to swim with whale sharks longer than school buses.
University of Havana: Cuban and Caribbean Studies Program

The Cuban and Caribbean Studies Program is jointly administered by Marist College and Academic Programs International (API) in collaboration with the University of Havana. Coursework includes Cuban and Caribbean culture, art, cinema, literature, history, philosophy, economics, politics, and sociology. Students also participate in an interdisciplinary course covering the culture, politics, and economics of the Caribbean. Academics are complemented by educational excursions to various sites in Cuba to learn more about the greater context of Cuba in relation to the Caribbean and to the world.

For more information visit: www.marist.edu/international.

John Bonoff, Fall 2012

The opportunity to study at the famous University of Havana was an incredible experience. It allowed me to meet people my age from all over the world and receive an education 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Taking classes, walking the streets, going to events, and traveling all over the island were activities that allowed me and other students to develop a deep connection with the island and each other.

I hold my time in Cuba as the most valuable of my college experience, and I urge everyone to pursue with full force any whisper of a chance to go to this great place.

Simon George, Fall 2012

The Cuban people are incredibly passionate about their culture, and life in general, and are almost always open to conversation on any topic. I learned that I am capable of integrating myself into a totally new culture, as well as learning a language well enough to make local friends of any age. No matter where you go, people have the same aspirations of friendship and community. I learned so much more Spanish than I could have ever imagined. I feel like I have more social confidence in Spanish and otherwise. I learned a lot about Cuban and Latin musical styles, which I will definitely bring to my professional music career.

Nicholas Luppino, Fall 2012

To study abroad in Havana is not for the faint of heart. It is a whirlwind, with contradictory social constructions and subtle beauty, all why I chose Cuba. Without all the luxuries, it can be a test of endurance, but life in the Caribbean can be simple and refined. Cuba, and Cubans, are resourceful.

The house I live in is very nice, even a step or two above the living conditions of most Habaneros. There’s running water most all the time, even hot water, but once in a while, I get home and need to shower and have to wait for water. It’s something you learn to deal with. The phrase “no hay” (no problem) is common here.

To compensate for lack of “things,” Cubans have no qualms about asking for help— or giving it to others, for that matter. I’ve seen strangers go miles out of their way to be kind to me. Once, I asked a woman selling newspapers on the street if I could sit and read a couple paragraphs to see if it interested me enough to buy it.
that day. I had barely sat down next to her before a woman who was selling peanuts wrapped in copy paper paid her for my paper. Though there are only a handful of things that cost less than a newspaper, her simple act of kindness was profound, especially taking into consideration how little she earns selling peanuts.

One of the best things about living in this culture is how easy it is to become immersed as a student. My ID acts as a passport into museums, art galleries, concerts, theatre, and expositions of all types, where the price of entrance is usually cut down to the equivalent of 50 cents in U.S. dollars. On the other hand, those who visit Cuba on vacation can pay 10 U.S. dollars or more for the same event. Though Cubanos are generally friendly to anybody crossing their path, I’d say their more genuine relationships are reserved for travelers living in their country for an extended period of time. I relish the openness the people have for conversation and friendship. To be a wallflower to Cuban life would be considered a waste of time.

On a final note, before I’m served dinner the chefs usually say “buen provecho,” which translates to “take advantage.” I often reflect on this. Although I may be served a plate of wonderful food, life can change with the blink of an eye. I’d like to think the saying applies to all walks of life, and not just at mealtimes. In a world with a history of oppression, where the majority is living well in spite of extremely low wages, Cubans wear this suit strikingly. So, what I’d say to anybody considering an adventurous study abroad program is this: take advantage.

**Glenn Yoder, Fall 2012**

If you are up for the challenge of a different culture and language, Cuba has so much to offer culturally, as well as providing an incredible opportunity for personal growth. As both a musician and an aspiring Spanish speaker, I could not have asked for a better experience.

**Sarah Yates, Spring 2013**

Since studying abroad in Cuba, I have noticed that I appreciate more in life. In school, I am able to better grasp complex concepts, because I learned to open my mind to new ideas and ways of thinking. I never could have imagined learning as much as I did. Not only do I now consider myself fully fluent in Spanish, but I am now more open to new concepts than I ever thought possible.

The Cuba Program is open to both Marist and non-Marist students!

For more information, visit: www.marist.edu/international.
Now in its second year, the Marist College–University of Havana study abroad program in Cuban and Caribbean Studies has received stellar reviews from participants. The program is run in collaboration with Academic Programs International (API) and enjoys growing interest from students at Marist as well as other colleges and universities. In addition to Marist, students on the program have come from schools such as the University of California at Berkeley, Oregon State University, the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Tufts University, The College of William and Mary, and Middle Tennessee State University.

Marist Communication major Lucitania Hernandez has (so far) studied abroad twice during her Marist career: once in fall 2012 on the Marist in Madrid program, with a second semester abroad in spring 2013 on the Marist Cuba program. She offers insights from her study abroad experiences in both countries.

What do you find is the most common misconception Americans have about life in modern Cuba?

The most common misconceptions that Americans have about Cuba are safety. When I first arrived in Havana, I expected to deal with pickpocketing, people stealing my bag, or other similar situations common with traveling, but I never did. I felt very comfortable walking by myself. I honestly felt safer there than I do in many U.S. cities that I visit.

What was your favorite activity in Madrid? In Havana?

My favorite activity in Madrid was spending time with my host mom. I absolutely loved her! She made my experience perfect with all the insight, love, and attention she gave me. We went out to eat together, and to different events throughout Madrid. I watched the news with her every week, and we always had great discussions. It was a great learning experience. My favorite activity in Havana was going to all the theaters, dance performances, movies, and other great cultural events throughout the city. In Havana, social events are extremely affordable. Every night there was always some interesting and educational event happening in Havana. I loved it!
Tell us something that you can only learn about Cuba from experiencing it firsthand.

One thing that you can only learn about Cuba by experiencing it firsthand is how open and generous people can be. I was amazed at how welcoming and giving the people were to me on a daily basis. I knew that I could approach anyone and they would help me to the best of their ability without expecting something in return. I would get on a bus and not know where to get off, and as soon as I asked someone, they would make sure that I knew where I was going. They would even offer their number in case I got lost along the way. The more I interacted with Cubans, the more I saw how much they share and how generous they are. This is something that I really admired, because it’s hard to believe that people can be so giving and trusting of strangers.

How did you hear about Marist’s program in Cuba?

I heard about Marist’s program in Cuba through the director of the Center for Multicultural Affairs, Ms. Iris Ruiz-Grech. Iris knew that I wanted to study abroad for a year, and that I wanted to experience two different countries. Once she told me about Cuba, I knew that I wanted to go. It sounded like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I couldn't let it pass me by.

What are the differences between Cuba and Madrid? What are the similarities?

Havana and Madrid are both unique in their own way, but have a lot in common. The people, food, music, dance, and environment have many differences. In Madrid, the people are very open, but only if they really know you, and this takes time. In Havana, the people are ready to share their life story with you, as if you were their best friend. In Madrid, I ate differently than in Cuba. In Madrid, I ate a lot of vegetables and bread; in Cuba, I ate rice, beans, and plantains. Music in Madrid was much more “American” than in Cuba, in that in Madrid I heard a lot of (U.S.) American artists, while in Cuba I listened to a great deal of salsa and reggaeton. I loved watching the way the Cubans move. They expressed themselves in every step. It was beautiful. In Madrid, I saw flamenco performances and they were also dramatic and powerful. It was inspiring to watch them as well. Havana and Madrid are both very different, but they do have something that unites them: Cuba was colonized by Spain and thus they share language, some foods, dances, etc. Each city is so beautiful in its own right, and I am very grateful to have been able to experience both.

What do you miss most about Madrid? Cuba?

What I miss most about Madrid is my host mom and the tapas. I really loved exploring Madrid whenever I wasn’t away traveling. My host mom was great because she knew so much about Madrid and she would recommend places for me to go. What I miss most about Cuba are the people and all the amazing and affordable cultural activities. I felt so comfortable throughout the city, and I was able to see interesting (and fun) events nearly every night!

Most students study abroad for a semester. Do you think spending a full year abroad has a unique benefit?

If you can spend a full year abroad, do it! It is a long time away from home but the knowledge that I gained from my experiences abroad is so valuable. I learned so much about myself and the world through every interaction and (temporarily) uncomfortable situation.

Any advice for students thinking about studying abroad?

The best advice that I would give someone who is studying abroad is to make the most of immersing themselves in the country and culture. There is more to studying abroad than going out with friends. The goal is not to find and replicate U.S. culture overseas—if you want to do this, you can stay at home and accomplish the same thing! You have to be open to changing your American ways and broadening your view. Be open to new and sometimes uncomfortable experiences. They will change you!
Confession: I haven’t done a real push-up in 15 years. (I did try one in a yoga class a few years back, and let’s just say it didn’t go well.) But here I am, wheezing up and down on the red tile floor as I try to count 30, my elbows groaning like old plumbing. Florence has gyms but they’re rather expensive, and so when I got here a month ago I resolved to stay in shape—okay, get in shape—the old-school way: waking up early every morning, doing push-ups and sit-ups, and grabbing my iPod to head out the door for a nice, long, chug of a run. Maybe along the way I’d leap a park bench or even shadowbox a little, Rocky II style, only without the mob of screaming kids tailing me the last few miles.

Okay, I haven’t really run in a long time, either.

Downstairs, I step outside my door and give a sleepy nod to the newsstand guy on the corner as he drops today’s papers into the wooden racks. It’s our morning ritual: I nod or say buongiorno, and he points at my fancy white running shoes and smiles, shaking his head like I’m that crazy nephew he loves but will never understand. From the perplexed look on his face, I’m guessing jogging in the dark isn’t an Italian craze just yet. But this is my favorite time in Florence, the precious two or three hours of early morning before it wakes up and realizes it’s a city. I click “Play” on my iPod and start where I left off yesterday: Queensryche’s classic album Operation Mindcrime, a good thumper of a soundtrack, perfect when you’re that stranger in a strange land. And when you’re a 300-pound stranger with a steep hill to climb, well, you take all the help you can get.

I make a left on Via Panzani and slowly pick up speed, running right down the middle of the wide, cobblestoned street before I make the sharp turn onto Via di Tournabuoni, heading south towards the river. There will be more twists and at least one double-back before I actually see the Arno; when it comes to navigating Florence, you realize there are no straight lines. At 6:00 a.m. the city belongs to the sanitation workers and delivery vans, along with a few of us crazy nephews. Right now this is my Florence, when its tangle of ancient avenues is empty and free to explore. It’s a completely different city than at noon or midnight, and this is probably why I’ve kept my crazy promise to run every day. I’m always looking forward to waking up and seeing something for the very first time. (If this were Poughkeepsie, let’s face it, I’d have stayed in bed.) Today I’m doing one of my favorite routes, crossing the river at the Ponte alle Grazie and winding my way up the Viale Michelangiolo to the ancient church of San Miniato, perched high above the city. My breath always comes out hard and ragged as I crawl the last few yards to the top. The view from here, as you might imagine, is worth it.

Living in Florence this short amount of time, I already know I am a different person. I’m finding it’s easier to keep those promises I always make to myself. You know the kind: we call them resolutions. We pick a date on the calendar and wag our finger at the sad person in the mirror and say, this is it, you. This is the end of your excuses. This is the day you change your life for good. You will eat better, you will organize that archaeological dig of a desk, and for the love of God you will finally unfriend Creepy-Stalky-Smelly-Work-Friend-Guy or Girl on Facebook. And yes, you will work out more. Two weeks later, of course, our resolutions die quiet deaths and we’re back on the couch re-watching Dawson’s Creek DVDs, eating a cold bucket of KFC and Nutter Butters with our arm around Creepy-Stalky-Smelly-Work-Friend-Guy or Girl. But there’s something about immersing yourself
in a different culture that makes it all easier. Here in Italy, the eating better part is easy enough: listen, the tomatoes I buy at the Mercato Centrale aren’t anything like the tomatoes I see back home. These actually taste, well, like tomatoes. And when in Poughkeepsie would I ever say with a straight face, I love eggplant and carrots? But I do now. Here, I can stop by the fresh pasta place tucked into the Via Palazuollo and buy a whole kilo of potato gnocchi for only a few euro. In Italy, somehow a guy like me even gets to be a good cook.

Yes, I am definitely someone different here. When we step outside our normal lives, I think we see more clearly those things that really matter. I’ve realized travel can be a lot more than simply experiencing a new place on a map; it can be a transformation. Moving out of my comfort zone is the best way to find out who I really am. And it might be the only way.

“When we step outside our normal lives, I think we see more clearly those things that really matter.”

By the time I make it back across the river, the street vendors are rolling their chunky wooden carts back into position for the day, getting ready for the late summer choke of tourists. The men grunt as they push the carts into the Piazza della Republika from their secret warehouses outside the city center. They do this ritual every single day. These are thick, burly guys who don’t talk much. Guys who don’t make eye contact with you as they work. Guys who don’t need to do push-ups.

It’s a little before eight when I find my own street again and stop on the corner, bending over to catch my breath. I have to side-step a few times; the sidewalks are now full of people getting to work. The sun is hot and there’s sweat in my eyes, but I feel good. The newsstand guy smiles again and we complete our own daily ritual when I pull out a two-euro piece and ask for a big bottle of fizzy water. What I actually say is, “Vorrei acqua gassata, per favore,” right out of the guidebook.

When he puts the bottle on the counter he always replies in English: “One big, fizzy water for the runner.” Today he throws in a Mars Bar on the house, but he’s still shaking his head. His kind eyes are saying, somehow the crazy nephew made it back in one piece again.

Behind us, I hear the familiar sound of rolling suitcases coming out of the hotel across from my building, their little plastic wheels grinding against the stone sidewalk like a slow freight train. The pale faces on the folks dragging the luggage say it all: now we have to leave. They’re all headed for the Santa Maria Novella train station and then to the airport at Pisa or Rome, flying back home to New York or Northern Ireland or Nanjing after a quick week seeing the amazing sights of Florence. Of course, they didn’t get to see the same city I see every morning.

Take it from me: you have to work just a little harder to see a different Florence.
When I undertook the BA in conservation studies at Marist College-Lorenzo de’ Medici in Florence, I (perhaps understandably) expected my studies to focus on Italy and the Italian context. However, as if studying art conservation in Florence, Italy—the birthplace of the Renaissance—wasn’t enough, at the end of my senior year I was afforded a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Easter Island (Chile), to gain additional hands-on experience in my professional field. Essentially, this was an opportunity for me to “study abroad while studying abroad!”

I was chosen along with three other students from the conservation and restoration programs to join and assist Marist-LdM Professor Lorenzo Casamenti in important conservation work on the island. Professor Casamenti travels to Chile each summer to teach conservation, as well as participate in various conservation projects. For a small group of lucky students, this translates into a unique chance to further apply classroom knowledge and experience to a real-world setting. We would embark upon a conservation project restoring Moai—the famous statues of Easter Island, which suffer from damaging lichen (or fungi) and are in danger of being lost forever. While I would be missing my graduation ceremony to participate in the project, I did not care in the least; I felt as though I was in the right time at the right place, and that I couldn’t let this opportunity pass me by.

We flew from Pisa to Paris and then took a 14-hour flight to Santiago, Chile. We descended among the jagged, misty Chilean Andes and were greeted at the airport by the lovely Simone Racz, who is the directora en Escuela Artes Aplicadas (director of the School of Applied Arts) in Santiago, Chile. Ms. Racz somewhat became our “mom” for the trip. We were also greeted by an Italian man with armloads of camera equipment. He seemed to know our professor.
It was at this point that my classmates and I learned that our project was going to be filmed for a documentary to be aired on Italian television. Although this brought on a bit of nervousness, we generally agreed that the trip was becoming even better than we had imagined.

We took a short break from traveling and spent the night in a lovely hostel in Santiago. We roamed the colorful streets, watched donkeys cross busy highways like pedestrians, and savored the delicious aromas of Chilean street food. We ended up at Santiago’s Mercado Central (Central Market). The abundance and variety of produce was staggering. It was around lunchtime so we headed to the second level of the market where you can sit down and order food. We tried a little bit of everything: fresh fish, sautéed potatoes, pico de gallo, fresh vegetables, and washed it all down with a fresh mango smoothie.

The next day started with an early drive back to the airport. The last leg of our travels was a five-hour flight from Santiago to what may seem the middle of nowhere in the Pacific: Isla de Pascua, more commonly known as Easter Island. We were greeted by warm, balmy weather. After a pit stop at our hotel we piled in a van to visit our work site. Many more people were there as well—it wasn’t just going to be us working: members of CONAF, the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture, were going to be helping as well as providing supervision: the site is highly sacred. All of the participants stood around the statue while a traditional Rapa Nui blessing ceremony was performed.

We worked on one particular statue located on Playa Anakena (Anakena Beach). This statue, as well as many others around the island, was riddled with lichen: fungus that essentially eats away at the stone. Our proposed plan of action was to treat the lichen growth with a chemical mixture formulated by Professor Casamenti in partnership with Italian conservation scientists. This mixture would not only kill the lichen, but would also be absorbed into the stone and slow future lichen growth. Working on a two-level scaffold built around the statue, our team of conservation volunteers carried out multiple applications of the chemical mixture with large brushes, massaging it into the stone’s surface. Once the first round of applications was complete, we wrapped the entire statue in plastic wrap and left it overnight. The plastic wrap provided a non-porous covering that would prevent the chemical mixture from evaporating before it had time to work its magic. When we removed the plastic, we had to then remove the now-dead lichen, by hand, with small, dental-like hooks and picks. This was tedious, but to be successful in conservation and restoration activities, one must love such tedious work (or at least appreciate all aspects of the process). As some areas proved harder to clean, we would spot-treat with the mixture and wrap again. With cameras constantly rolling, we spent five days working on the statue, continuously treating, wrapping, and cleaning. By the end of the trip, it was amazing to see the change in the statue, and it feels great to have had a part in the process.

We only worked on one statue, and many other statues on the island need help as well. We took samples from other statues to examine for possible future treatment, but more important, supported and aided by our collaborative efforts, our local affiliates in Chile are now laying out a plan to restore and preserve more of these famous and mysterious landmarks for future generations to learn about and experience.

To learn more about the Easter Island restoration project, view the documentary film: http://bit.ly/15PIsLe (or search: Rapa Nui LdM Restoration).

Working as part of the Easter Island statue restoration team was one of the most rewarding and exhilarating experiences I had as part of my studies at Marist-LdM, and I am truly grateful that I took a chance in following this academic path. By way of next adventures, I am happy to report that this fall I have started a master’s program in conservation at University College London, and who knows where the path will lead me next!

The BA conservation studies program is open to both Marist and non-Marist students!

For more information, visit: www.marist.edu/international.
If you had told me two years ago that I would be living in Florence, Italy, today, I wouldn’t have believed you. Not for a second. I came to Florence to undertake the Marist–Lorenzo de’ Medici Master of Arts program in museum studies, but here I am, sitting in my new office, listening to the midday church bells during lunch break, and feeling nostalgic as I jot down these ruminations. I am lucky to call Florence my home, and more fortunate to report that after graduating from the MA program, I landed an exciting job in my field of study. The journey from a weary, bright-eyed grad student to Italian-loafer-wearing, espresso-sipping director’s assistant for the Marist-LdM Museum Studies program was not a straight path; there were bumps along the way.

Curveballs and surprises enrich the journey, and make for a story worth sharing. By allowing my career to take its own course, seizing opportunities, being patient, and working hard without thinking too much about it, things have fallen pleasantly into place. Letting go of the grand notion of a defined path opened doors for a life and career in Florence.

My story starts with arriving in Florence with too much luggage, end-of-August heat, and disbelief that I’d arrived in Florence from the U.S. to complete a master’s degree. Looking back, my fears and anxieties were foolish on many levels. My professors did not merely stand and lecture...
on textbook museological issues. Professors, from the director of the Pitti Palace to the director of the Palazzo Strozzi, taught from personal knowledge and experience. They shared successes and failures and provided us with insights into what works and what doesn’t. From private tours of museum archives to exhibition opening invitations (and the occasional post-class rendezvous at a wine bar), our professors did not only see us as students, but as contemporaries, and rising professionals. In connecting with each professor on a personal level, the master’s program enriched my understanding of what it would take to succeed, and inspired me for the exciting road ahead.

Beyond the enriching academic experience and many professional connections I made, friendships came easier than I had expected as well. I found myself with individuals who are also passionate about our chosen field. Through museum explorations, group projects, and evenings filled with discussions, laughter, and delicious local food and wine, we took full advantage of all that Florence has to offer.

After the first year of coursework, I moved on to a summer internship and thesis research. While my peers and I all pursued multiple internship options (in Italy and elsewhere), I envisioned myself thriving best at one particular institution right in the center of Florence: The Centre for Contemporary Culture Strozzina. I had taken a course with the director, Professor Franziska Nori, who I found inspirational. I was taken by her view of the museum as a platform for addressing contemporary issues from a critical and analytical standpoint. I corresponded occasionally with Professor Nori in the months following her course and also continued my Italian language study with a museum employee. He practiced his English, and I practiced Italian; it was a win-win. Getting to know Strozzina staff on a personal level and sharing my interest in their organization, I gained the internship.

While networking, patience, and assistance from program staff led to my internship, what I remember most from the MA thesis experience are long days (and nights) reading, writing, reflecting, discussing, and rewriting. I spent hour after hour typing away at my little desk in Florence, taking breaks by watching the autumn rain come down in buckets outside my window. A roommate had an electric guitar, so I often wore earplugs while writing, and herbal tea and dark chocolate kept me going. The process was all-consuming. I dreamed new ideas in my sleep, and I kept notebooks during yoga classes. The end result was a document of which I am proud, and one that I can say I put all my effort into completing. I’ll never forget the day my friend Kathryn and I defended our theses together in the little church attached to our school, with our colleagues there to support us in the audience.

In the weeks after graduating, I was offered freelance work at the Strozzina and a post-fellowship with Marist-LdM. The post-fellowship with Marist-LdM led to a resident advisor position with the Marist Summer Pre-college Program for American high school art students. As the program came to a close in July, I thought August would be my last month abroad, as nothing seemed to be coming together for the fall. And then, by sheer luck, or hard work, or both, Lorenzo de’ Medici offered me the director’s assistant position in the Marist-LdM MA Museum Studies program.

As this new chapter in Florence has begun, I have come to see that no matter where one is in life, when we know we are capable of what we set our minds to—even if the end goal is unclear—happiness and success are the consequences of our actions. My journey will continue to take me in new unplanned directions, and I look forward to the meanderings. In this moment, however, I am thrilled to be exactly where I am.
VIETNAM
AN AMERICAN IN HO CHI MINH CITY
Philip Lopez
I think when most Americans hear “Vietnam,” they first think of a war, and then perhaps of a seemingly mysterious country. When I first told my parents, family, and friends I was doing everything I could to spend a semester in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, their reactions ranged from confused to terrified. But Vietnam was the only place I wanted to go. To a political science student with a passion for politics and 1960s America, Vietnam seemed the ideal place to study abroad. I wanted to see something new, experience a life different from my experience heretofore, study abroad in a country off the beaten path, and live in a place that had once been the center of international attention.

During my stay in Ho Chi Minh City, everyone in our program was paired with a Vietnamese roommate. Our roommates helped us experience the “real” Vietnam by taking us around the city to their favorite food spots, providing us with Vietnamese perspectives, and showing us how Vietnamese college students hang out. Being an American in Vietnam could have lent itself to some awkward, uncomfortable, or guilty feelings. The strange thing, though, was that whether I was in the city or traveling through the country, I never experienced any ill will from local people. Rather, they were usually excited to see foreigners, curious about where in America I was from, and genuinely interested in what I had to say about Vietnam. This was on my mind when our program guide, Vien, invited one of the Vietnamese roommates, another American student, and me to the War Remnants Museum, a museum about the “American War,” as it is called in Vietnam.

When we arrived at the museum, we saw some old tanks outside and fighter jets on display. I was excited for what I thought I was about to see and learn regarding weapons used during the war, the way those involved lived, and other typical war museum items. When we entered the non-air-conditioned building, the silence was overwhelming. We climbed the stairs to the first exhibit. Outside the exhibit entrance sat both international and Vietnamese travelers. Most were looking down; one was crying. It was clear from that point that this was not going to be the typical museum experience. The museum was mostly a photographic documentary of the war, with exhibits ranging from “Aggressive War Crimes” to “Agent Orange.” The images I saw were horrific and will stay in my mind forever.

“To a political science student with a passion for politics and 1960s America, Vietnam seemed the ideal place to study abroad.”

As we left the museum, I thought, “What happened to this country was horrible, and yet the people from my experience are so nice and welcoming to travelers, including Americans. How is that possible?” This thought stuck with me, until I finally got my answer on a student and roommate trip to the Cu Chi tunnels. There, we saw how the Viet Cong soldiers lived, learned the dangers and hardships they faced, ate the foods they ate, and even crawled through some of their tunnels. After the tour we all stopped for lunch and were instructed to talk with our roommates about what we each knew about the war and to share knowledge and perspectives. It was during this time that one of the roommates, Neg, told me her family’s story.

Neg’s father’s family had a similar last name to one of Vietnam’s past royal families (Nguyen). When the communists first took over in the north, people with such last names were being jailed and executed. His parents fled south to escape the Northern Vietnamese and assumed the last name of her grandfather’s friends who had died. In leaving the north, they not only left behind their family name, but their home and lives in the town from which they came. Neg’s mother was about 15 years old when the conflict started. Her mother remembers when the Americans first arrived, before the fighting began. She joined a group of villagers who prepared food for the soldiers, including rice and dumplings. At first she was afraid of these “foreign invaders,” but then she saw their kindness to some of the kids. They would occasionally give the local children candies, cookies, milk, or dollar bills. Then the real fighting started, and the Americans and Vietnamese who were once friends in their community became enemies ordered to kill each other. Her mother expressed that this was truly sad for her.

After hearing both of Neg’s parents’ stories, I began at last to understand something about this war—what it did to affect others, and what it meant for this country. I thought back to my confusion of how the people of Vietnam could be so nice and welcoming to travelers, including Americans, after what “we” had done to them. Then it became apparent that war, especially the Vietnam War, is much more nuanced than “us vs. them.” During this terrible episode there were certainly bad things done to Vietnamese by Americans, but there was also cruelty by Vietnamese against Vietnamese, as well as dehumanizing moments from combatants and civilians on all sides. It was then that I learned something about Vietnam. To truly understand the country today, and why things are the way they are, one has to understand something about perspective. And perhaps when the Vietnamese people I met welcomed me so hospitably, they were not welcoming me as a former enemy, but rather as a future friend.
A note from Prof. Ed Smith, 2013 Marist-LdM Venice Biennale Director:

In summer 2013, program participants came from Marist College, College of Charleston, Institute of American Indian Arts, Paris College of Art, and Kansas State University. Faculty were drawn from Marist and LdM, and two guest speakers visited the program from North Glasgow College. The studios were open six days a week, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and participants worked day and night in their assigned studio spaces, while taking time to explore and draw inspiration from the Biennale. The program consisted of intense studio work as well as written and oral art history presentations focusing on the 2013 Venice Biennale. The culmination of the program was an exhibition of the work of the participating students.

2013 Participant Comments:

“Thanks again for an amazing month–it’s changed my life for the better. I’m not trying to be dramatic, but I really think it has shifted something in me.”

“This experience was truly amazing, never thought in a million years I could be in Venice, Italy.”

“Thank you again for a wonderful experience, it was simply fantastic!”

The Venice Biennale: Intensive Summer Experience is a four-week combined studio art/art history program offered jointly by Marist College and the Istituto Lorenzo de’ Medici (LdM). The program offers participants from Marist and other institutions a unique opportunity to explore and immerse themselves in the world’s oldest and most prestigious art exposition, drawing inspiration from the city of Venice and works of global contemporary artists featured at Biennale sites. Course methodologies include a combination of on-site lectures, studio art workshops, and critiques designed to engage students in the exploration of contemporary art and culture. Each participant is assigned a studio space, and participants have the opportunity to develop a body of studio work while experiencing Venice, including museums such as the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Gallerie dell’Accademia, Scuola San Rocco, Punta della Dogana, and the Biennale festival. Participants also explore Venice’s outlying islands and other significant sites in the Veneto region.

The schedule follows that of the Venice Biennale and thus is offered every other year, with Marist and LdM collaborating on the program in 2009, 2011, and 2013. The next Marist-LdM Venice Biennale program is thus scheduled to be offered in summer 2015, so plan ahead . . . or if you can’t wait that long, sign up for one of our other unique offerings in academic year 2013-2014 (see marist.edu/international for more details)!
SENEGAL
Three Days in Mboumbaye
Kendra McKechnie
Armed with a few bottles of clean water, a roll of toilet paper, a mosquito net, and as much courage as I can muster, I am dropped off in the pouring rain, which supposedly brings good luck to travelers, in a remote village on the coast of Senegal where electricity and running water are not to be found. My new family encouragingly rambles in the local language, Wolof, as they show me my room. By the light of dying flashlights, I stand next to my bed and offer my bravest face. I am holding my wrapped-up mosquito net as though it were a precious child, trying to figure out how in the world I am going to attach the thing to the smooth concrete walls of my room. Like a race car pit team, my family members scoop the net from my hands and ensure that it is hung properly and tucked in on all four corners of the mat that will be my bed. Satisfied with their work, the family leaves my room with broad smiles and gentle pats on the shoulder. Welcome to the Senegalese village of Mboumbaye!

Although protected from malaria-bearing mosquitoes, my net does nothing to block out the many noises of the Wolof village. Throughout the night I am randomly awoken by cats fighting, goats chit-chatting, a radio blaring, the Muslim morning call to prayers, babies crying, and other, less distinguishable noises. When I emerge from my room in the morning I am given a small bench to sit on for breakfast. Eating my piece of bread and drinking my cup of mint-green tea, I am surrounded by more children than I can count as they help me attempt to learn their names.

Despite the designation of French as the national language, not a single person in my family here speaks French, and my Wolof is limited to a few key phrases: “Sournaa”—I’m full, “Jërëjef”—Thank you, and “Degguma Wolof bu baa”—I don’t speak Wolof well. When those phrases do not suffice, I resort to charades to communicate everything from “How can I wash myself?” to “No, I’m sorry, I don’t want to marry you.” I also learn very quickly how powerful a smile can be when I am at a loss for words.

Village time progresses very slowly thanks to the fantastic heat of West Africa. Much of my day is spent lying on mats, or playing with my host siblings. Occasionally, I help my host mother de-shell small shellfish which are popular in the village. Around lunch time, my host sister invites me to watch her cut up a fish for our meal which is shared among the entire family in one big communal bowl. I am taught how to roll the food into a ball to eat using my right hand, following Senegalese manners. The next day, another host sister comes to me, takes my hand, wraps it in tape, mashes some goo on top, and wraps it in a plastic bag. Unfortunately I have just lost the use of my hand for the next several hours, but in the end she reveals a beautiful henna design.

It is incredible how hospitable the Senegalese people are, even when you do not share or fully understand their culture, and even when you do not speak their language! Despite my inability to communicate, I never lack that which I need. My family has an incredible sense of hospitality; it is an important Senegalese value, called “Teranga.”

On my last night in the village, my sister comes into my room holding a pink outfit: an embroidered top, skirt, sparkly shoes, and pink barrette similar to those I wore in kindergarten. I dress, she does my hair, and we are off to the Sabar dance circle! The Sabar drum beats deep in my stomach as we settle into our chairs in the circle. At first, I just sit back and watch—timid as I have no sense of rhythm. The style of dance that can be found in a Senegalese Sabar is astonishing. It is fascinating to see how quickly these women can move and how much joy they have in the expression of dance.

Eventually, I see a move I can do. So there I go, dressed in my pink outfit into the middle of a Sabar circle to dance for the entire village of Mboumbaye! Quelle expérience!

Kendra McKechnie spent a semester studying abroad in Senegal, as well as a semester in France.
When I would tell people I was going to spend the fall semester in Paris, France, their eyes would widen. “You’re going to love it!” To which my reply would be, “Yes, I’m very excited.” But in the back of my mind I was, in fact, incredibly anxious about being away from home for four months. I said goodbye to my family and boarded my plane. I cried on the flight out, despite attempts by the nice man seated next to me to comfort me. I was incredibly nervous, but I had a brave reputation to keep up. No time for tears!

Upon arrival, I transferred to my hostel, and after a few days of orientation, the time came to meet our host families. My anxiety grew as I sat with other students waiting for our host families to pick us up. After about two hours, my program director introduced me to a tall grey-haired man: “I am Christophe Bouzoud, how do you do?” he said as he politely carried my bags outside to a car, where my host mother was waiting. She had a big smile on her face as she cried. Christophe explained, “She always gets emotional when a new student arrives.”

Weeks went on, and I struggled with the French language. There was so much I wanted to say, ask about, and understand; I often became frustrated when I ran into a roadblock with my vocabulary. Christophe worked long days, and with the boys at school, I found myself most often conversing with my host mother, Sabine. She was amazing! I’m not sure if it was the mother in her, the French in her, or just the Sabine in her, but she always had a way of understanding me—no matter how broken my French. She made sure I had coffee in the morning, fresh linens to come home to at night, and everything in between. She could talk to me for hours on end if I let her. If I didn’t know what to say, or how to say it, she would keep talking and working with me, not giving up until we both understood.

“Here, here, close your eyes before you say it again,” she would tell me when she was helping me to perfect my pronunciations; this way, I wouldn’t be self-conscious as I performed the exaggerated facial movements necessary to perfect my R’s. I attended French grammar, phonetics, and literature classes throughout the semester, but I can honestly say I learned the most just by sitting and speaking with Sabine, and by listening to her as she chatted away with her neighbors each day.

It came to be about mid-semester when I told Sabine that my mother planned to visit for two weeks at the end of the month. It was going to be my mother’s first time in Europe, and without hesitation, Sabine offered to let her sleep in the house. When my mom arrived, Sabine arranged my room to accommodate two perfectly made beds and a second fresh set of towels. The first morning after my mom’s arrival in Paris, we woke up to an entire spread of breads, croissants, pain-au-chocolats, jams, and cereals in the kitchen. Sabine drove us on tours throughout the city, directed us on places to go, and offered us meals every day.

My mother does not speak French, and Sabine very little English, but it was amazing to see how well they communicated. “Quatre enfants?” “Yes, four kids!” They bonded over the fact that both of them had four children, and they could speak at length with lots of hand gestures and the occasional translation from me. The day my mom was to take her early morning flight back to the states, Sabine woke up even earlier to make croissants for us and to say goodbye.

Of course, when it was my turn to leave the Bouzoud family in December, I could not stop crying. I was sad to leave my life in Paris, but at the same time, I was overwhelmed by how fortunate I felt. I realized I could be 4,000 miles away from home and still find my family. Sabine often told me how she thought she and my mother got along so well because they had raised their children similarly, and it was true; I may have traveled all that distance by myself, moved into a home of total strangers, and been surrounded by a language not native to me, but I still was able to find myself at home.

Sabine reminds me of this each time she signs her e-mails to me: “Ta maison en France est toujours ouverte pour toi et tu peux avoir la clé quand tu le veux.” (“Your home in France is always open for you and you can have the key whenever you want it.”) For this, and so much more, I am grateful.
I did not envision living with a family when I chose to go abroad. I was going on my third year of college, and I felt completely independent in my off-campus house. I was not compelled by the idea of living under someone else’s roof or obeying someone else’s rules. I wanted my experience to be a time of complete freedom, without anyone keeping tabs on me. I also knew that I had to study abroad in Paris. Everything I had heard and researched about the culture drew me in. French had been my language of choice throughout school, and I wished to become fluent. When I began researching programs, I realized that the only way I could go to Paris and graduate on time with all core requirements met was to enroll in a program with an obligatory homestay. It had to be Paris, so I decided to “bear” with a homestay. I would have to make the most of it. In the end, however, the homestay I initially resisted turned out to be an experience that I would not trade for a penthouse apartment on the Champs Élysées.

I was placed in a homestay with Parisians who simply radiated what it was, and how cool it was, to live and grow up in Paris. They were awe-inspiring in so many ways. I lived with a woman and her daughter, though there were also two other older daughters living elsewhere in Paris. Though I did not live with the entire family, French families are traditionally close and visit one another. I saw my host mom and her three daughters often, and they trusted and welcomed me into the family as if I were one of them. They did not impose on my life at all. They gave me freedom, while being there for me and willing to talk about anything. They taught me an extremely important value in that sense; they were never too busy to talk. They were never too busy to have a full, meaningful conversation. I had countless talks with my host mom about the difference between education in France and in the United States. She had been a teacher for almost 30 years, and I am studying to become one. The apartment did not have a television, so free time was all about music, books, and conversation. They taught me to see what is important in life: spending time meaningfully by enjoying one another’s company, and enjoying all the beauty that life has to offer.

“I was placed in a homestay with Parisians who simply radiated what it was, and how cool it was, to live and grow up in Paris.”

As I was leaving my host family’s apartment at the end of a wonderful semester, I had managed to pack what I thought was my entire life into two suitcases. I happily told this to my host mom, after stressing over this daunting task for most of my final days in Paris. At that moment, my host mom said one simple sentence that I will always hold with me: “If it was your whole life, you wouldn’t need suitcases—it would just be you!” These words sum up my entire experience overseas. Life is not about how much you accumulate over time, or the amount of space those items occupy. The French have a really good idea of how to enjoy life to the fullest; what matters most is what’s in your heart, and how you choose to spend your time. I hope I will always spend it wisely in enjoying art, music, food, and the people I have and love around me.
I was incredibly nervous leaving the United States for the first time to spend an entire semester abroad in Australia. I was only a sophomore, and further, I had been unable to attend some of the pre-departure orientation meetings. Naturally, my mother was just about ready to jump into my suitcase and go with me.

I had been accepted to my first-choice university in Australia. Being busy at Marist kept the trip off my mind; the semester in Australia would not begin until February. I felt that I had plenty of time to prepare for the experience. Before I knew it, February came, and I was boarding my Qantas flight to Melbourne. My trepidation came a little late, as I wondered how a shy girl like me was supposed to travel to one of the farthest possible points away from New York. I have lived in the same house all my life and struggled to adjust to a college that is only an hour and a half drive from my home. I usually do not enjoy drastic changes and now I had 25 hours to sit on a plane and contemplate how I was to tackle this new experience in the land down under.

When I reached my new home I dropped my suitcase and forced my jet-lagged self to socialize with the other international students. Soon after my arrival, I realized that I had to stop hoping and waiting for wonderful people to approach me; I had to make it happen. I tried my best to show people what a kind, funny, and caring person I am. By later in the week, I had grown comfortable chatting with other people from around the U.S. at our orientation on the beach in Lorne. These were interesting discussions, but I had gone abroad to embrace an unknown culture and to investigate what it means to be Australian. I wanted to learn about Australian identity beyond the kangaroos and Steve Irwin. I didn’t come to Australia to be the same person and to do the same things I do in the United States. I had to make sure I opened my mind and senses to all the newfound possibilities.

I didn’t have to wait long to challenge myself by meeting Australians; in my second week, eight Australian roommates moved into our residence.
Some were second-year students and had already adjusted to university life. Some international students immediately began to lock themselves in their single bedrooms, and though I was intimidated too, I remembered that I had come to Australia to challenge myself. So I left my door open all day and when my door wasn’t open, I was sitting in the lounge talking to people. During orientation week, I participated in every event. We had a “Res V Food Challenge,” which comprised going up in front of everyone and completing a crazy task. I had to chug some vile concoction of vinegar, yogurt, lime juice, and apple cider—while blindfolded.

Over time, another Marist student on the program and I became known in the residence as the international students who hung with the Australians. Who knew I would be running around Melbourne on a scavenger hunt at three in the morning with Vegemite smeared all over my face? I began to form close bonds with all of my housemates. They became my second family, and because of them, I did not feel homesick once. Additionally, just by talking with different students in my classes, I became friends with several Australians who lived off campus.

By becoming inseparable from my Australian housemates and other new friends, I gained insight into what it means to be Australian. Some of my best memories are of us sitting in our living room talking. Australians are very open, and my friends were just as fascinated by my culture as I was by theirs. Questions and topics would vary from what prom was like to different brands, MTV, obesity, and the spelling of mom (or was that mum?). I was able to see where the surfing company Billabong got its start in Geelong, as well as the beautiful wonders of Tassie. I learned to get into everything one hundred percent. When we had themed events, I was out at the thrift shop, getting the most obnoxious clothes and accessories for the most original and crazy outfits. When we attended footy matches, I had my jersey on, slapping five with the guys when we scored, and I was never too afraid to eat kangaroo or Vegemite.

My best advice for future Marist study abroad students would be to keep a journal. My journal helped me stay organized and think through what I was experiencing. I will also look back on all of my amazing Australian adventures years from now. Despite my initial trepidation prior to leaving the U.S., over time I came to draw my own path and have adventures I will never forget. The experience flew by as I enjoyed snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, holding a koala, riding trams until the end of time, munching on Tim Tams, and jamming out to Gotye. My only regret is that I stayed for only a semester and not the entire academic year. I have already decided I want to attend grad school in Australia, and I am saving up every penny to visit and spend more time with my second family!
Interview with Courtney Osborne
Marist-Mod’Spé (Fall 2012)
Columbia College, Chicago

What have you enjoyed about the program?

I really enjoy the fact that in the Marist-Mod’Spé program, our teachers are professionals currently working in the industry. Not only are they great teachers, but they have up-to-date, firsthand information and skills relevant to the fashion industry.

How has the program been helpful academically?

The Marist-Mod’Spé program has given me the opportunity to take my learning outside of the classroom. Each week we attend new industry events. Even though attendance is a requirement, we are eager to go and be a part of the French fashion community. Some of these events include fashion trade shows such as Première Vision, TexWorld, and Paris Sur Mode; exhibits such as Louis Vuitton and Marc Jacobs at the Louvre; and the new Balenciaga and Comme des Garçons showing.

What are some of the skills you have gained through the program, and through studying abroad more broadly?

Through this program, I have improved my skills in communicating with industry professionals. In our product development course, our professors were the creators and designers of Les Garçons, a men’s underwear brand in Paris. We were offered the chance to work as their assistants by attending the Première Vision fabric expo and ordering samples of fabric for their fall/winter 2013/2014 line. The Marist-Mod’Spé program has also given me a better understanding of the process of trend forecasting, analyzing trends and their relevance in different categories of fashion, and helped me develop a better eye for merchandising stores, collections, and windows.

Studying abroad was a great experience on a personal level, too. Living abroad and immersing myself in the culture has forced me out of my comfort zone, and this has allowed me to experience all that Paris has to offer. In addition, living in Europe has opened up the opportunity to travel and experience other countries and cultures as well.

Is there anything else you’d like to say?

Studying abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. As a fashion student, having studied the industry in Paris while enrolled in a French school taught by industry professionals is a great way to set yourself apart once you start looking to land your dream job. I am so happy I made the decision to study abroad in Paris through Marist at Mod’Spé!
I studied abroad in London and watched the city prepare for the summer Olympics. I was able to soak up the Olympic atmosphere with the help of my “Sporting London” class, which comprised history lectures on the Olympics, rugby and football tutorials, and field trips to landmarks from the 1908 and 1948 London Games. I had an amazing teacher, Professor Helen Curtis, whose passion for the Olympics and British sport was infectious. Although I am a devoted USA fan, it was refreshing to gain a different perspective on Olympic teams, especially the host team. When the time came to watch the history of London in the opening ceremonies, I was captivated, because I had been taught all about British sport and the Great Britain Olympic team.

I took the class through the Foundation for International Education (FIE), which works in partnership with Marist International Programs. As part of the course on the Olympics, we visited and received instruction at many of the 2012 Olympic venues, including Wimbledon, Wembley Stadium, and, of course, the Olympic Park. An area had been created for tours to view the new stadiums and arenas in East London. There were people of all ages taking in the new buildings, and everyone was clearly excited for the Games. I was excited to see the stadium where opening ceremonies would be held, as well as the Aquatic arena nicknamed “The Wave” (swimming events are by far my favorite to follow).

The abundance of stores filled with London 2012 apparel and Olympic memorabilia triggered much excitement. I grew fond of the Olympic Mascots—Mandeville and Wenlock—that advertised on plates, shirts, tea cups, and even plush toys. I loved that they were named after two important figures in the Olympics; Wenlock was named after a man who participated in the first Olympic Games, and Mandeville after the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in England, which helped produce the 1948 Olympics. Learning about the mascots’ histories helped me further appreciate London’s culture as I watched the Games from home.

While I studied in London prior to the Olympic commencement, a friend from my hometown attended the Games. He raved about the city’s excitement, “It was hard to distinguish the difference between the venues and the regular streets of London. There was celebration wherever you went, from Hyde Park to Olympic Park.” He could feel the national pride from all countries and fans involved in the Games. My friend’s favorite moment was being inside the Olympic Stadium with 80,000 people from all over the world. He said, “It was amazing to be in a stadium with people from so many different countries. Everywhere I went I met someone new. It’s not every day you meet people from Zimbabwe and Canada on the tube!” Speaking with my friend, I felt the excitement from his stories and could almost picture myself back in London!
July 2013 marked the second summer of the Marist Summer Pre-College Program in Florence, Italy, in collaboration with the Lorenzo de’ Medici Institute, where 19 high school students from across the U.S. earned three Marist credits studying studio art, fashion design, or interior design over a two-week period. For these lucky teenagers, the Marist study abroad experience began at age 15-17. The majority of the daytime saw the students focused either in class or in open studio time, but they quickly learned (as do so many Marist undergrads) that Florence itself functions as an open-air classroom; for example, during one particular session, studio art students spent their class time contemplating Michelangelo’s masterpiece of Renaissance sculpture, the David. Fashion students, when not crafting their portfolios, found themselves deep within the Ferragamo and Gucci museums, while interior design students were granted access to exclusive showrooms and design houses as inspiration for their own creations.

Class sessions were accentuated by afternoon and evening cultural activities. Students climbed all 463 steps of Florence’s magnificent Duomo, took a sunset gondola ride on the river Arno, and sampled over 10 different gelato shops during their two-week sojourn! Three full weekends contributed to their cultural immersion. Students had the good fortune to dine with perhaps one of the most famous butchers in the world, Dario Cecchini, in his shop in Chianti. They hiked and swam along the seaside cliffs of the Cinque Terre, and biked atop the medieval walls of the bustling town of Lucca. And, what would a summer trip to Tuscany be without a visit to the leaning tower of Pisa with historical fodder provided by a most memorable tour guide and linguist, speaking one of his nine languages?

Florence buzzed with summer energy at their return, and these students took their brief moments of respite in residence halls normally populated by Marist first-years who take part in the Freshman Florence Experience. In fact, one of last year’s Summer Pre-College students began her Marist undergraduate experience this fall right back in the same Florence residence where she spent two weeks prior to her senior year of high school. What effect might Florence have on you?
Information on Marist’s 2014 Summer Pre-College Program will be posted soon online. Watch for updates, and see you in Florence! http://www.marist.edu/summerinstitutes/programs

Here is a sampling of comments from 2013 participants:

**Annie Bilinski**

“After only two weeks I have made some of the closest friends. That combined with the educational portion made this a trip of a lifetime. I wasn’t ready to leave!”

**Francesco Desapio**

“This experience truly helps a person discover how they will feel about studying abroad. It gives you a good sense of the academic life and culture surrounding the city. This has been an experience I will never forget. Florence is such an amazing city for studying and learning about something that you love.”

**Sophia Donofrio**

“I think it is important to learn how to be ‘comfortable with being uncomfortable’ and being here in a foreign country, away from everything I know, has definitely taught me just that. I’ve grown so much over the past two weeks, more than I ever could have in an entire summer at home.”

**Carly Lembo**

“Coming into this program, I knew I would love it but didn’t realize how much. It wasn’t just the ‘Italy’ part about it but the whole experience made me more confident about college and being away from my family. Between making friends, the day trips, class, and college-like living, I regret nothing.”

**Anonymous**

“Summer Pre-College in a different country was the best decision I ever made. Meeting people from different states and sharing interests with them helped make this experience unforgettable. I wish my friends at home had this opportunity because it will change the rest of my life.”
Studying abroad in Oman through Marist International Programs (MIP) and the Center for International Learning (CIL) in Oman has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I have always loved to travel, so the opportunity to study in Oman was so amazing that at first, it seemed unreal. The people in Oman are friendly and have made me feel welcome in their country, which has modernized while keeping its culture, traditions, and religion part of everyday life. I decided to do a homestay, and I must say this definitely helps to learn the Arabic language faster. I love walking on the street with my friends and speaking to local people in Arabic. People are so happy to know that Americans are actually trying to speak their language. I found that being as immersed as possible is key to better understanding the people of Oman.

There is so much to see in Oman: goats running across the street, abandoned villages in the mountains of Jabal Al-Akhdar, camel and horse riding, off-roading in the desert and on the beach, cliff-diving competitions, the amazing architecture of the Sultan Qaboos Mosque and the Opera House, and so much more. I have slept in tents in the desert under the star-filled sky, jumped off cliffs into fresh water in Wadi Shab, and climbed to the tops of mountains to see beautiful scenery. These are moments that I will always cherish.

For the Muslim holiday Eid, I traveled to visit my family in Egypt, and it was interesting to compare two Arabic cultures. I realized that both are rich in their traditions and values, and it was fascinating to see how they interact with each other.

“At first, I was scared to come here because the culture in Oman is very different than American culture; however, when we are put out of our comfort zone, we deal with it, and we grow from it.”
countries and notice the differences between the people, their colloquial Arabic dialects, and the infrastructure of each country. In addition to being a great educational and adventurous experience, studying abroad in Oman has also helped me better understand my own religion and culture. I made memories in Oman with people who were once strangers and now we are all so close.

If the opportunity to study abroad is given to you, I recommend you go for it. At first, I was scared to come here because the culture in Oman is very different than American culture; however, when we are put out of our comfort zone, we deal with it, and we grow from it.

Study abroad in Oman. I promise it’s a decision you will not regret!
It has been five years since I lived in Italy and it remains one of the greatest experiences of my life. I had the opportunity to return to the best decision I made at Marist was going abroad.

Kelly Gallucci
Class of 2011
Marist College - Lorencio de Medici
Freshman College - Florence Program (ITF)
Our crossing of the Atlantic took 9 days by ship from New York City to Southampton, England and then another day to Le Havre, France. The trip was memorable, the accommodations Spartan and the food tolerable. Life on board was activity driven; I gravitated to music: that’s me in the onboard band shot, the guitar player on the right. We sailed on the 17th of September 1967 from NYC and sailed home mid-June 1968. Mind you, this was before the internet, Twitter, cheap air fares, Priceline, and cell phones, but we all managed to somehow survive.

Steve Johnson
Class of 1969
England and France

The Marist Abroad program changed my life. I went to England with a group of Marist students, and the experience broadened me so greatly in terms of development of personal strengths, my political sensibility, and in offering opportunities for European travel. The experience helped me to handle the rigors of graduate school by further exposing me to the ideas of literary masters, who changed my way of seeing the world.

Joan Marie Seery
Class of 1981:
England, Oxford University

My reason for attending Marist College was primarily based on its international programs, and it was one of the best decisions of my life. I studied abroad in Dublin, Ireland and had what many of us had: the experience of a lifetime. Since graduation, I began pursuing a master’s degree in the field, and now work in a master’s degree in the field, and now work in an international education with a focus on American University in study abroad at American University in Washington DC. To say that my study abroad has helped to shape my life would be an understatement.

Matt Sacco
Class of 2007
Ireland, Dublin Business School

Avigliano is first Marist student to intern in English Parliament

by Liam Shelton Staff Writer

Internships are an integral part of education for many Marist students. This year, one student will intern in the English Parliament in London. Avigliano, from Long Beach, NY, is completing 15 credits of his political science/mathematics degree in London this semester. In addition to those studies, Avigliano will be working alongside Civil Rights, which represents the UK in Parliament.

Avigliano had to consider several aspects of his life when making the decision to leave Marist. “I didn’t want to return to the same things I was studying at Marist. It felt like I gave up my friends and family,” he said.

Avigliano was able to grow abroad because of an organization known as AFS. Fifteen years ago, he received a scholarship to attend Marist College. AFS is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships for students to attend universities worldwide. AFS is also known for its language immersion programs, which allow students to live with host families and learn the local language.

Today is all what we have, but Marist has allowed me to fill every day with the purpose that allows me to develop as a person. Today’s twenty-year-olds who are considering study abroad are at a crossroads. I say choose life, and experience it all.

Brendan Mooney
Class of 1971
Marist in Madrid
Where in the World are Marist Students?
(Past Five Years)

**FRESHMAN FLORENCE EXPERIENCE AY 2012-13**
- Micaela Albright
- Nicole Amoral
- Elizabeth Ashe-Kollar
- Gretchen Bechard
- Patrick Bellardino
- Jane Body
- Phoebe Bradbury
- Cody Brooks
- Allanah Rose Collat
- Alexa Comuniello
- Morgan Debaise
- Brian Doyle
- Elena Eberwein
- Maasai Ephriam
- Margaret Etchart
- Chelsea Flaherty
- Jennifer Florence
- Sarah Fox
- Melina Gaglias

**SPRING 2012**
- Taylor Groo
- Hannah Kim
- Jenna Kunze
- Christopher Lempka
- Stephanie Martin
- Meredith McCormack
- Julia Meinsler
- Jessica Mello
- Cristina Munoz
- Christina Nicholas
- Eric Niermeyer
- Melissa Parker
- Tessa Perry
- Gianna Popola
- Michael Priore
- Anna Rains
- Rebecca Ramirez
- Iveliz Rivera
- Graham Rossi
- Bianca Ruma
- Chad Saettler
- Anna Shaw
- Kerianne Stewart
- Tonya Sumner

**AUSTRALIA**
- Aaryn Vaughan
- Kevin Venkatesh
- Marion "Elise" Walker
- Brennan Weiss
- Tesa Zaorski
- Kyle Zwiazek

**CHINA**
- Aimee Li

**COSTA RICA**
- Abigail Jones
- Amelia Tarlton

**CZECH REPUBLIC**
- Alex Gobright
- Mobolaji Sadare

**FRANCE**
- Melanie Banks
- Madison Callaro
- Nicholas Stitt

**GERMANY**
- Anto Martinovic

**IRELAND**
- Caitlin Collier
- Bridget Christie
- Nicolas Davis
- Brianna Donnelly
Erica Bernabe
Christopher Caballero
Lauren Cole
Lauren Damiani
Jaclyn Doino
Irina Gales
Jessica Hasapis
Lauren Hickey
Caitlin Landsman
Tanner Leventhal
Courtney Morrissey
Meagan Miraldi
Amelia Reynolds
Chelsea Rigby
Kelly Rucendo
William Shanz
Jessica Sturtevant

UNITED KINGDOM
Katherine Adams
Valerie Ammirati
Geoffrey Andreu
Dana Boscarino
Elizabeth Bradley
Alexandra Brittingham
Leah Butterwick
Matthew Cassara
Vivian D’Andrade
Lia DelGregorio
Erik Grazetzer
Justin Gutwetter
Victoria Huntsinger
Erica Iuliano
Juliana Kiley
Robert Marotta
Emily McGaughey
Mary O’Donnell
Allison Pasquale
Christine Richter
Elizabeth Schneider
Katherine Shafer
Peter Steiner
Nicholas Welki

AUSTRIA
Molly Swan

CHILE
Siobhan Pakorney

COSTA RICA
Hilary Wiggins

CUBA
John Bonoff
Simon George
Nicholas Luppino
Glenn Yoder

CZECH REPUBLIC
Joseph Connolly
Mobolaji Sadare

FRANCE
Giovanna Baffico
Nicole Garland
Marlee Giglio
Kathryn Hill
Amy Jacaruso
Kathryn Knutson
Kolby Kyff
Elora Laughrey
Jessica Martin
Amy Martinez
Kendra McKechnie
Emily Marshan
Courtney Osborne
Samantha Saul
Scott Van Hise

Greece
Amy Burns

IRELAND
Meghan Condon
Emma Flynn
Kathryn Foley
Meghan Ludouceur
Meghan Massaroni
Kiley Ogden
Connor Rowley
Daniel Wagner

ITALY
John Akey
Matthew Albano
Christina Alfert
Brandon Alvarado
Christina Angilleta
Jesse April
Caitlyn Aranguren
Samantha Artale
Dylan Arthur
Emily Bagnell
Alyssa Barricelli
Nicole Bischoff

Kerri Boccard
Ruth Lee Bonventre
Jeana Bosco
Bianca Bossbaly
Danielle Breakfield
Alana Broly
John Brown
Bryan Bunzel
Mary Buonocore
Douglas Cafran
Ryan Calvi
Vincent Caruso
Adrianna Celli
Marin Cleary
Annie Colvin
Liana Comito
Christopher Connolly
Erin Conover
Daniel Conroy
Eric Croci
Darcy Cullinan
Collette Cunningham
Justin D’Angelo
Josephine Dalia
Robert DelPizzo
Michael DiNunzio
Natalie Dowd
Kaitlyn Dunn
Melanie Epstein
Nicole Esposito
Joanne Falce
Paige Farina
Nicholas Ferrante
Christina FitzMorris
Robert Flood
Amanda Forgione
Caitlyn Foster
Kelsey Frawley
Shannon Gittitz
Michael Gosselin
Daniel Grabarz
Robert Grubic
Colleen Griffith
Jillian Griffin
Catherine Guerci
Sarah Gumaer
Constance Haggerty
Kaylyn Hanel
Joshua Helm
Alyssa Helman
Olivia Henry
Tyler Hub
Catherine Hynes
Amanda Ippolito
Kathryn Johnston
Andrew Kazer
Karan Katsel
Bailey Knapp
Alyssa Kosinski
Tracey Krause
Natalie Lesko
Amanda Lewis
Carolyn Lizza
Nicole Lopiparo

Connor Layas
Laura Lucchesi
Lauren Maddock
Gabriella Magamas
Anne Major
Alexandra Makowski
Logan Manning
Alyssa Manzi
Kathleen Maritato
Amanda Markowski
Lauren Marsiglio
Chelsea Mattson
Alanna McGrane
Rita McNeil
Claire McSherry
Erin Melia
Melissa Menges
Elizabeth Moreno Jimenez
Brittany Morganti
Brendan Morris
Katherine Myers
Lauren Neeson
Jennifer Nelson
Emily Nugent
Kevin O’Donnell
Dillon Orr
Erica Oswiecky
Michelle Pallotta
Nicholas Passaro
Danielle Patota
Kristen Pecci
Elise Penge
Marguerite Pinheiro
James Princiotta
Thomas Pustorino
Michelle Rahtelli
Joseph Ricciardi
Christina Rinaldo
Robert Romanowski
Ariella Romeo
Alexandra Rooney
Gabriela Rosales
Alyssa Rossi
Francesca Rossi
Kerri Salmon
Alexandra Sarlo
Jeffrey Scott
Michael Scrudato
Karilyn Seyffert
Flavia Siciliano
Grace Sin
Olivia Simzer
Courtney Smith
Nicole Smith
Lauren Snow
Deirdre Spilane
Anna Tartaron
Kelsea Ulrich
Paul Vance
Kristie Verola
Steven Verola
Kristin Vogel
Shannon Vogel
Thomas Ward

FALL 2012
AUSTRALIA
Taylor Bombard
Tiffany Calo
Theresa Filippini
James Foote
Jennifer Guzzardi
Nicholas Hull
Andrew Maloney
Courtney Millar
Nicholas Panagakos
Kassie Powers
Ryan Smith
Anna Yegorova

AUSTRIA
Molly Swan

CHILE
Siobhan Pakorney

COSTA RICA
Hilary Wiggins

CUBA
John Bonoff
Simon George
Nicholas Luppino
Glenn Yoder

CZECH REPUBLIC
Joseph Connolly
Mobolaji Sadare

FRANCE
Giovanna Baffico
Nicole Garland
Marlee Giglio
Kathryn Hill
Amy Jacaruso
Kathryn Knutson
Kolby Kyff
Elora Laughrey
Jessica Martin
Amy Martinez
Kendra McKechnie
Emily Marshan
Courtney Osborne
Samantha Saul
Scott Van Hise

GREECE
Amy Burns

IRELAND
Meghan Condon
Emma Flynn
Kathryn Foley
Meghan Ludouceur
Meghan Massaroni
Kiley Ogden
Connor Rowley
Daniel Wagner

ITALY
John Akey
Matthew Albano
Christina Alfert
Brandon Alvarado
Christina Angilleta
Jesse April
Caitlyn Aranguren
Samantha Artale
Dylan Arthur
Emily Bagnell
Alyssa Barricelli
Nicole Bischoff

Kerri Boccard
Ruth Lee Bonventre
Jeana Bosco
Bianca Bossbaly
Danielle Breakfield
Alana Broly
John Brown
Bryan Bunzel
Mary Buonocore
Douglas Cafran
Ryan Calvi
Vincent Caruso
Adrianna Celli
Marin Cleary
Annie Colvin
Liana Comito
Christopher Connolly
Erin Conover
Daniel Conroy
Eric Croci
Darcy Cullinan
Collette Cunningham
Justin D’Angelo
Josephine Dalia
Robert DelPizzo
Michael DiNunzio
Natalie Dowd
Kaitlyn Dunn
Melanie Epstein
Nicole Esposito
Joanne Falce
Paige Farina
Nicholas Ferrante
Christina FitzMorris
Robert Flood
Amanda Forgione
Caitlyn Foster
Kelsey Frawley
Shannon Gittitz
Michael Gosselin
Daniel Grabarz
Robert Grubic
Colleen Griffith
Jillian Griffin
Catherine Guerci
Sarah Gumaer
Constance Haggerty
Kaylyn Hanel
Joshua Helm
Alyssa Helman
Olivia Henry
Tyler Hub
Catherine Hynes
Amanda Ippolito
Kathryn Johnston
Andrew Kazer
Karan Katsel
Bailey Knapp
Alyssa Kosinski
Tracey Krause
Natalie Lesko
Amanda Lewis
Carolyn Lizza
Nicole Lopiparo

Connor Layas
Laura Lucchesi
Lauren Maddock
Gabriella Magamas
Anne Major
Alexandra Makowski
Logan Manning
Alyssa Manzi
Kathleen Maritato
Amanda Markowski
Lauren Marsiglio
Chelsea Mattson
Alanna McGrane
Rita McNeil
Claire McSherry
Erin Melia
Melissa Menges
Elizabeth Moreno Jimenez
Brittany Morganti
Brendan Morris
Katherine Myers
Lauren Neeson
Jennifer Nelson
Emily Nugent
Kevin O’Donnell
Dillon Orr
Erica Oswiecky
Michelle Pallotta
Nicholas Passaro
Danielle Patota
Kristen Pecci
Elise Penge
Marguerite Pinheiro
James Princiotta
Thomas Pustorino
Michelle Rahtelli
Joseph Ricciardi
Christina Rinaldo
Robert Romanowski
Ariella Romeo
Alexandra Rooney
Gabriela Rosales
Alyssa Rossi
Francesca Rossi
Kerri Salmon
Alexandra Sarlo
Jeffrey Scott
Michael Scrudato
Karilyn Seyffert
Flavia Siciliano
Grace Sin
Olivia Simzer
Courtney Smith
Nicole Smith
Lauren Snow
Deirdre Spilane
Anna Tartaron
Kelsea Ulrich
Paul Vance
Kristie Verola
Steven Verola
Kristin Vogel
Shannon Vogel
Thomas Ward
ARGENTINA
Grace Hill

AUSTRALIA
Nicholas Agudelo
Alexander Berube
Audra Brady
Victoria Brophy
Nicholas Ercolano
Christina Ferrara
Hunter Flatt
Stephanie Guatatuma
Gar Jin Hung
Emily Kesselmeyer
Connor Letcher
Therese Lowery
Danelay Lydon
Sean McCarthy
Emielia Peach
Tyler Pope
Elizabeth Saravo
Katherine Scott

CHINA
Bryce Crumlish

COSTA RICA
Jemma Fadum
Bryant Race

CUBA
Lucitania Hernandez
Allison O’Brien
Sarah Yates

FRANCE
Blair Gage
Paige Malengo
Jennifer Molgano
Amanda Pichiarallo
Jamie Plukas
Samanta Reilly
Kathryn Rogers
Leslie Sullivan

GERMANY
Caterina Armenter

INDIA
Margaret Crateau
Joceilyn Espinal
Melisa Rios

IRELAND
Ryan Conboy
Alison Crippen
Michelle Cronolly
Madeleine Grossman
George Murphy
Brendan O’Shea
Corinne Parols
Jenna Snyder
Scott Yeagliante
James White
Hanna Yando

ITALY
Imani Abdus-Salaam
Jenna Agatep
Sean Ahearn
Christina Ayson
Nicoles Brouws
Kathleen Berghorn
Lucy Beuchert
Rebecca Bush
Sinead Byrne
Elizabeth Carmello
Erin Cavan
Megan Cifuni
Nicoles Cote
Emily Cressitelli
Nicole Crupi
Leslie Del Mastro
Carol Elvy
Brittany Engbarth
Michelle Ferrell
Kerry Flanagan
Caitlyn Foglietta
Nicole Foschino
Samuel French

JAPAN
Kaitlyn Bracken
Thomas Crescenzi
David Fitzpatrick
Morgan Machuta

NEW ZEALAND
Eric Kaufmann

OMAN
Miy Mahran
Devin Teson

SPAIN
Julia Agger
Mario Baggio
Kerianne Baylor
Carly Butwell
Lukas Chacho
Sara Connery
Stephanie Coughlan
Jaclynn Defina
Harrison Drouin-Reed
Taylor Foreman-Niko
Eleanor Guerin
Stephanie Habersaat
Lucitania Hernandez
Dylan Kershaw
Alexandra Klaben
Alexandra Loesch
Amanda Luccarelli
Andrea Menchini
Matthew Michaud
Angela Michos
Rachel Peterson
Janene Starr
Annamarie Vines
Kathleen Wicks

SOUTH AFRICA
Nijla Mingo
Jasmine Simmons
Georgia Yourieff

SPRING 2013

UK
Michaela Abate
James Arama
Katherine Arlotta
Sara Belliz
Jennifer Bennett
Kerry Bennett
Emily Bernard
Stuti Bhatt
Lauren Bland
Caelene Jay Bulan
Christian Callaghan
Charlotte Catania
Michael Clausen

Cara Coleman
Kristen DeBelle
Katherine Farley
Madeline Farrey
Jennifer Ford
Hannah Fuller
Megan Gaglio
Cristina Giappone
Jenna Grande
Stephanie Gray
Kelsey Hamaguchi
Kathryn Hardcastle
Mary Hudac
Michael Kryger
Angela Liporace
Blanca Lograno
Julianne Marcus
Linnea McMath
Taylor Mead
Nicole Millon
Blair Merullo
Claire Moaney
Michelle O’Rourke
Emily Piekarski
Lauren Roach
Jennifer Santilippo
Ariana Santana
Colleen Sheldon
Katherine Shoemaker
Forrest Simms
Nicolette Spellanzani
Marissa Walton
Lauren Wennell
Brooke Wickham
Kristen Witkowski
Jeffrey Woronick

ARGENTINA
Grace Hill

AUSTRALIA
Nicholas Agudelo
Alexander Berube
Audra Brady
Victoria Brophy
Nicholas Ercolano
Christina Ferrara
Hunter Flatt
Stephanie Guatatuma
Gar Jin Hung
Emily Kesselmeyer
Connor Letcher
Therese Lowery
Danelay Lydon
Sean McCarthy
Emielia Peach
Tyler Pope
Elizabeth Saravo
Katherine Scott

CHINA
Bryce Crumlish

COSTA RICA
Jemma Fadum
Bryant Race

CUBA
Lucitania Hernandez
Allison O’Brien
Sarah Yates

FRANCE
Blair Gage
Paige Malengo
Jennifer Molgano
Amanda Pichiarallo
Jamie Plukas
Samanta Reilly
Kathryn Rogers
Leslie Sullivan

GERMANY
Caterina Armenter

INDIA
Margaret Crateau
Joceilyn Espinal
Melisa Rios

IRELAND
Ryan Conboy
Alison Crippen
Michelle Cronolly
Madeleine Grossman
George Murphy
Brendan O’Shea
Corinne Parols
Jenna Snyder
Scott Yeagliante
James White
Hanna Yando

ITALY
Imani Abdus-Salaam
Jenna Agatep
Sean Ahearn
Christina Ayson
Nicoles Brouws
Kathleen Berghorn
Lucy Beuchert
Rebecca Bush
Sinead Byrne
Elizabeth Carmello
Erin Cavan
Megan Cifuni
Nicoles Cote
Emily Cressitelli
Nicole Crupi
Leslie Del Mastro
Carol Elvy
Brittany Engbarth
Michelle Ferrell
Kerry Flanagan
Caitlyn Foglietta
Nicole Foschino
Samuel French

JAPAN
Kaitlyn Bracken
Thomas Crescenzi
David Fitzpatrick
Morgan Machuta

NEW ZEALAND
Eric Kaufmann

OMAN
Miy Mahran
Devin Teson

SPAIN
Julia Agger
Mario Baggio
Kerianne Baylor
Carly Butwell
Lukas Chacho
Sara Connery
Stephanie Coughlan
Jaclynn Defina
Harrison Drouin-Reed
Taylor Foreman-Niko
Eleanor Guerin
Stephanie Habersaat
Lucitania Hernandez
Dylan Kershaw
Alexandra Klaben
Alexandra Loesch
Amanda Luccarelli
Andrea Menchini
Matthew Michaud
Angela Michos
Rachel Peterson
Janene Starr
Annamarie Vines
Kathleen Wicks

SOUTH AFRICA
Nijla Mingo
Jasmine Simmons
Georgia Yourieff

SPRING 2013

UK
Michaela Abate
James Arama
Katherine Arlotta
Sara Belliz
Jennifer Bennett
Kerry Bennett
Emily Bernard
Stuti Bhatt
Lauren Bland
Caelene Jay Bulan
Christian Callaghan
Charlotte Catania
Michael Clausen

Cara Coleman
Kristen DeBelle
Katherine Farley
Madeline Farrey
Jennifer Ford
Hannah Fuller
Megan Gaglio
Cristina Giappone
Jenna Grande
Stephanie Gray
Kelsey Hamaguchi
Kathryn Hardcastle
Mary Hudac
Michael Kryger
Angela Liporace
Blanca Lograno
Julianne Marcus
Linnea McMath
Taylor Mead
Nicole Millon
Blair Merullo
Claire Moaney
Michelle O’Rourke
Emily Piekarski
Lauren Roach
Jennifer Santilippo
Ariana Santana
Colleen Sheldon
Katherine Shoemaker
Forrest Simms
Nicolette Spellanzani
Marissa Walton
Lauren Wennell
Brooke Wickham
Kristen Witkowski
Jeffrey Woronick

ARGENTINA
Grace Hill

AUSTRALIA
Nicholas Agudelo
Alexander Berube
Audra Brady
Victoria Brophy
Nicholas Ercolano
Christina Ferrara
Hunter Flatt
Stephanie Guatatuma
Gar Jin Hung
Emily Kesselmeyer
Connor Letcher
Therese Lowery
Danelay Lydon
Sean McCarthy
Emielia Peach
Tyler Pope
Elizabeth Saravo
Katherine Scott

CHINA
Bryce Crumlish

COSTA RICA
Jemma Fadum
Bryant Race

CUBA
Lucitania Hernandez
Allison O’Brien
Sarah Yates

FRANCE
Blair Gage
Paige Malengo
Jennifer Molgano
Amanda Pichiarallo
Jamie Plukas
Samanta Reilly
Kathryn Rogers
Leslie Sullivan

GERMANY
Caterina Armenter

INDIA
Margaret Crateau
Joceilyn Espinal
Melisa Rios

IRELAND
Ryan Conboy
Alison Crippen
Michelle Cronolly
Madeleine Grossman
George Murphy
Brendan O’Shea
Corinne Parols
Jenna Snyder
Scott Yeagliante
James White
Hanna Yando

ITALY
Imani Abdus-Salaam
Jenna Agatep
Sean Ahearn
Christina Ayson
Nicoles Brouws
Kathleen Berghorn
Lucy Beuchert
Rebecca Bush
Sinead Byrne
Elizabeth Carmello
Erin Cavan
Megan Cifuni
Nicoles Cote
Emily Cressitelli
Nicole Crupi
Leslie Del Mastro
Carol Elvy
Brittany Engbarth
Michelle Ferrell
Kerry Flanagan
Caitlyn Foglietta
Nicole Foschino
Samuel French

JAPAN
Kaitlyn Bracken
Thomas Crescenzi
David Fitzpatrick
Morgan Machuta

NEW ZEALAND
Eric Kaufmann

OMAN
Miy Mahran
Devin Teson

SPAIN
Julia Agger
Mario Baggio
Kerianne Baylor
Carly Butwell
Lukas Chacho
Sara Connery
Stephanie Coughlan
Jaclynn Defina
Harrison Drouin-Reed
Taylor Foreman-Niko
Eleanor Guerin
Stephanie Habersaat
Lucitania Hernandez
Dylan Kershaw
Alexandra Klaben
Alexandra Loesch
Amanda Luccarelli
Andrea Menchini
Matthew Michaud
Angela Michos
Rachel Peterson
Janene Starr
Annamarie Vines
Kathleen Wicks

SOUTH AFRICA
Nijla Mingo
Jasmine Simmons
Georgia Yourieff

SPRING 2013

UK
Michaela Abate
James Arama
Katherine Arlotta
Sara Belliz
Jennifer Bennett
Kerry Bennett
Emily Bernard
Stuti Bhatt
Lauren Bland
Caelene Jay Bulan
Christian Callaghan
Charlotte Catania
Michael Clausen

Cara Coleman
Kristen DeBelle
Katherine Farley
Madeline Farrey
Jennifer Ford
Hannah Fuller
Megan Gaglio
Cristina Giappone
Jenna Grande
Stephanie Gray
Kelsey Hamaguchi
Kathryn Hardcastle
Mary Hudac
Michael Kryger
Angela Liporace
Blanca Lograno
Julianne Marcus
Linnea McMath
Taylor Mead
Nicole Millon
Blair Merullo
Claire Moaney
Michelle O’Rourke
Emily Piekarski
Lauren Roach
Jennifer Santilippo
Ariana Santana
Colleen Sheldon
Katherine Shoemaker
Forrest Simms
Nicolette Spellanzani
Marissa Walton
Lauren Wennell
Brooke Wickham
Kristen Witkowski
Jeffrey Woronick
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Program/Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TANZANIA</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christine Healy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNITED KINGDOM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily Baksa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Barron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teresa Bellantoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kerry Bennett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethan Barnardone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caitlin Bracken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caitlin Burke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tara Burke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samantha Cariani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Cordeiro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kaitlin DiBella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrew Eisgruber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathryn Herbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Larkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Li</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessica Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel McGale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kara O’Rourke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victoria Saperstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Stein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erin Steinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Molly Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessica Tardif</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ian Tivnan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher Was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINA</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINA: Business in Shanghai and Beijing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Joanna Gavin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. David Gavin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vincent Chiado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connor Cocopardo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Coghlan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ryan Farrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew Ferrando</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicholas Iannicelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Lindsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Morano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dylan Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cody Scalzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glenn Shapiro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jenna Snyder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew Sokoloff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Tyree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whitney Viola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ronald Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINA, HONG KONG, AND TAIWAN: Communication</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Subir Sengupta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ryan Harkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kolby Kyff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexandra Makowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephanie Pennachio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nguyen Pham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jillian Tompkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHINA, HONG KONG, AND TAIWAN: Graduate Business Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Beate Klingenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shalee Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas Mannino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morgan O’Byrne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dain Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENGLAND: Shakespeare in London</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Richard Grinnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Sean Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nelson Benitez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kristyn Berger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessica Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Austin Drakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shannon Duncan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacquelyn Eschenberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Granfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katie Halpin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alyssa Hurley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alessandra Mazzella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catherine Natali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniel Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EUROPE: ROTC</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. John McBride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patrick Curry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kyle Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teresa Fleming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew Grieve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessica Kent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jorge Medina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christina Sutton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ryan William</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRANCE: Paris in the Age of Impressionism</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Anne Bertrand-Dewsnap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aimee Beltramini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicolette Caan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephanie O’Adamo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Kaplan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paige Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lauren Zaknoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRANCE: Paris Fashion: Atelier to Marketplace</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Radley Cramer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michaela Abate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Curley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danielle DeZao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elissa Fell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Caitlin Finck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessica Fladung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taylor Macur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madeline McCabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Megan Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Megan O’Malley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alison Pattis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicole Rodgers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wentao (Lucas) Song</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kimberly Trentalance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lauren Wennell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND: Literature of Ireland and Northern Ireland</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Tommy Zurhellen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrea Andersen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brittany Chillingworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Justin Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James Lyles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samantha Mcinerney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mallary Meerauiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Newman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Rudden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ITALY: Global Fashion: Florence and Venice</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Sonia Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marisa Abbattista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daniella Buckley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natalie Mannarino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Odachowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathleen O’Dell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alyssa Duelliste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jillian Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCOTLAND: A Photographic Survey of Ancient Castles and Abbeys</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. James Luciana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stace Contompasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AlyssaGreco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christine Healy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anthony Haffed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danielle Koltz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Larkin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katherine Stebbins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HAWAII: Culturally Responsive Education**

- **CHINA:** Business in Shanghai and Beijing
- **EUROPE:** ROTC
- **FRANCE:** Paris in the Age of Impressionism
- **FRANCE:** Paris Fashion: Atelier to Marketplace
- **IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND:** Literature of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- **ITALY:** Global Fashion: Florence and Venice
- **SCOTLAND:** A Photographic Survey of Ancient Castles and Abbeys
TURKEY, ITALY, AND GREECE:
Epic Voyages: Art and Literature of the Ancient Mediterranean
Dr. Thomas Goldpaugh
Prof. Richard Lewis
Nina Ainembabazi
Nicole Bender
Zoe Christopher
Abby D’Amulfo
Kaila Gagnon
Kara Gifford
Lauren Hirschhorn
Matthew Holva
Kristen Kurre
Alexandra Loesch
Julie Maio
Katelyn Roberts
Megan Rutkowski
Shannon Slocum
Christina Sutton
Brandon Vargas
Miguel Vasquez
Kristina Vucetic
Athena Xenakis

FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS:
Van Gogh’s Journey
Prof. Richard Lewis
Daniel Bernardone
Nicole Childers
Samantha Cillo
Lauren Emory
Kaila Gagnon
Elise Humphries
Natalie Pagano
Kaitlyn Pedalino
Jacqueline Trauring
Mary Waterfield

IRELAND:
Dubliners: The Literature of Ireland and Northern Ireland
Prof. Tommy Zurchellen
Dr. Sally Doig-McNulty
Daniel Blossom
Kerianne Caprara
Stephanie Levine
Conor Lynch
Kevin Manning
Abigail Sauers
Samantha Sprague
Danielle Truzzolino

ITALY:
Venice Biennale
Prof. Donise English
Prof. Richard Lewis
Prof. James Luciana
Prof. Ed Smith
Alana Colucci
Gabrielle DeFonso
Reem El Sayed
Jennifer Kuehl
Mari Anne Lau
Paige Lewis
Edward Majkowski
Alexander Marinescu
Heather Beaumont
Brittany Hill
Monte Little
Veneron Yazzen

ITALY AND SPAIN:
Global Fashion Trends
Prof. Sonia Ray
Stephanie Bonifacio
Jamie Brenner
Kirsten Carbone
Brooke Else
Andrea Knight
Chloe Mayone
Emily Miles
Megan O’Malley
Kristal Seidita
Erika Vizvary
Casey Zipp

SPAIN:
From El Camino to Seville: Travelling in Time
Dr. Patricia Ferrer
Dr. Lea Graham
Kerry Coughlin
Alberto Frometa
Sarah Greenberg
Emily Lohse
Mary Clare Manfred
Andrew Runne
Liseth Toro

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL:
Business in Barcelona, Madrid, and Lisbon
Dr. Joanne Gavin
Dr. David Gavin
Kelly Amarsson
Tamiota Atkins
Ryan Berg
Juliana Battini
Kourtney Bucklin
Megan Callahan
Cameron Christoffel
Benjamin Deligniero
Paul Fix
Deidre Frazier
Rachel Gordon
Melanie Greco
Molly Judge
Robert King
Lauren Lamadore
Francesca Nardone
Thomas Price
Amanda Stagnaro

2013 SHORT-TERM

ENGLAND:
Shakespeare in London
Dr. Richard Grinnell
Brittany Carpenter
Kristin Casey
Stephanie Conte
Diana Dubs
Laura Eberhard
Lauren Garner
Christine Gehrelin
Stephanie Graham
Kerry Haggerty
Marra Kassman
Xiaofeng Lin
Melissa Meehan
Melina Puzzo
Christopher Rouse
Jacquelyn Simard
Kelsey Taylor

FRANCE:
Paris Fashion: Atelier to Marketplace
Prof. Radley Cramer
Shalyn Baum
Trina Cardamone
Morgan DeBaise
Gabriella Fox
Sarah Fox
Sarah Gaudio
Victoria Miritello
Michelle Prisciotta
Montana Sclavos
Mengyao Tang
Calli Tepper

FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS:
Van Gogh’s Journey
Prof. Richard Lewis
Daniel Bernardone
Nicole Childers
Samantha Cillo
Lauren Emory
Kaila Gagnon
Elise Humphries
Natalie Pagano
Kaitlyn Pedalino
Jacqueline Trauring
Mary Waterfield

GHANA:
Community Health
Prof. Amy Cobill
Dr. Neil Fitzgerald
Hasseb Arroon
Eric Gambardella
Audre Hirtelon-Booker
Matthew Kirk
Michael Kastner
Nicolie Kukhar
Sharon McDowell
Maxwell Moser
Thomas Pustorino
Alyssa Scott
Andrea Wicks
Hilary Wiggins

GHANA:
Psychology and Sociology
Dr. John Scileppi
Dr. Maureen Fitzgerald-Riker
Prof. Christina Vertullo
Kaitlyn Devrous
Christina FitzMorris
Chloe Goodnough
Michael Schweitzer
Meghan Slavin
Kaitlyn Weinstein

HAWAII:
Culturally Responsive Education
Dr. Katherine Trela
Dr. Doreen Saccomano
Christianne Bendl
Nicoles Boscetti
Lauren Bosco
Brionna Carey
Madison Chiavetta
Dana Colella
Meghan Condon
Rachel Diandra
Kaitlyn Dixon
Alyssa Donofrio
Hannah Fernandez
Danielle Goring
Sara Heller
Leanne Klarer
Kathleen Marino

IRELAND:
Dubliners: The Literature of Ireland and Northern Ireland
Prof. Tommy Zurchellen
Dr. Sally Doig-McNulty
Daniel Blossom
Kerianne Caprara
Stephanie Levine
Conor Lynch
Kevin Manning
Abigail Sauers
Samantha Sprague
Danielle Truzzolino

ITALY:
Venice Biennale
Prof. Denise English
Prof. Richard Lewis
Prof. James Luciana
Prof. Ed Smith
Alana Calucci
Gabrielle DeFonso
Reem El Sayed
Jennifer Kuehl
Mari Anne Lau
Paige Lewis
Edward Majkowski
Alexander Marinescu
Heather Beaumont
Brittany Hill
Monte Little
Veneron Yazzen

ITALY AND SPAIN:
Global Fashion Trends
Prof. Sonia Ray
Stephanie Bonifacio
Jamie Brenner
Kirsten Carbone
Brooke Else
Andrea Knight
Chloe Mayone
Emily Miles
Megan O’Malley
Kristal Seidita
Erika Vizvary
Casey Zipp

SPAIN:
From El Camino to Seville: Travelling in Time
Dr. Patricia Ferrer
Dr. Lea Graham
Kerry Coughlin
Alberto Frometa
Sarah Greenberg
Emily Lohse
Mary Clare Manfred
Andrew Runne
Liseth Toro

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL:
Business in Barcelona, Madrid, and Lisbon
Dr. Joanne Gavin
Dr. David Gavin
Kelly Amarsson
Tamiota Atkins
Ryan Berg
Juliana Battini
Kourtney Bucklin
Megan Callahan
Cameron Christoffel
Benjamin Deligniero
Paul Fix
Deidre Frazier
Rachel Gordon
Melanie Greco
Molly Judge
Robert King
Lauren Lamadore
Francesca Nardone
Thomas Price
Amanda Stagnaro

Photo: Lauren Orichio, Paris, France
“Travel has a way of stretching the mind. The stretch comes not from travel’s immediate rewards, the inevitable myriad new sights, smells and sounds, but with experiencing firsthand how others do differently what we believed to be the right and only way.”

Ralph Crawshaw, MD