

Summer 2009

**The Study Abroad**

**Handbook:**

[www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/before/handbook.html](http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/before/handbook.html)

**Follow-Up SATC:**

[www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/satc](http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/satc)

**Websites to explore**

**Great travel products:**

[www.umabroad.umn.edu/products/index.html](http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/products/index.html)

**Articles on returning home:**

[www.glimpseabroad.org/](http://www.glimpseabroad.org/)

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Carnegie Mellon

# Tartan Travels

**STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER**  
CHRISTINE MENAND, EDITOR

## Greetings from OIE!

Dear Students:

Greetings from Pittsburgh! We are delighted to bring you our Summer edition of the Study Abroad Newsletter. We hope you enjoy this latest issue.

While the summer time is a less hectic time of year for our office, Emily Half and I have been busy working on some interesting projects that we hope will provide better service to students, faculty and staff. Our webpage has also been updated, <http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad> and we hope you will take a look at it.

We are also busy preparing for our fall Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, October 8th, from 11am-3pm. Please contact our office if you would like to be involved in this event. Your experience abroad is a wonderful showcase of the opportunities available for prospective study abroad students. As with last year, the Study Abroad Fair will coincide with International Festival.

Many of you worked with Brynn Cunningham, our Graduate Intern, and Sue Jean Ko, our Student Assistant on your preparations for your time abroad. Both students are off for the summer and we wish them well. Brynn is working in California this summer after traveling across the US, vacationing in Costa Rica, and working in Honduras where she participated as a staff member in a short term abroad experience with another university. We look forward to hearing about her travels upon her return.

Sue Jean is busy taking three courses this

summer on campus. Unfortunately, we will not be having a Student Assistant next semester, but are overjoyed to have the chance to work with Sue Jean in her new capacity as Multicultural Intern within the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

In the newsletter you will find two stories from current students regarding their exciting times abroad. Julia Kang has just completed her experience as a university exchange student at Keio University in Tokyo, Japan. Julia writes about the wonderful calm and peace that can be found within Japanese parks. Rotimi Abimbola, current Student Body President, is interning in Tanzania, and provides a glimpse into the new iSTEP program. Rotimi is interning with a core group of students on a unique project at the University of Dar Es Salaam.

We hope you also enjoy the winning photographs from the Study Abroad Photo Contest! We hope that their stories and photos inspire you to seek educational opportunities accompanied with memorable adventures in new and exciting cultures!

Overall, we hope that the information in this issue is helpful as you prepare to return from studying abroad. We welcome anyone who has stories, photographs or ideas to submit them to [goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu).

Warm regards,  
Christine Menand  
Coordinator of Study Abroad and Exchange programs

## Study Abroad Photo Contest Winners



You Abroad Category Winner  
Louisa Jauregui, New Zealand



Landscape Category Winner  
Gwendolyn Barr, Switzerland



People Category Winner: Ashley Kilp, India



Honorable Mentions  
(clockwise from left):  
Min Lee-  
China; Alex  
Brant- Spain;  
Diana Bush-  
Argentina;  
Eda Altiok-  
Croatia; and  
Jessica Wille,  
Morocco.



More than 200 photos were submitted by returning study abroad students for the 2009 Study Abroad Photo Contest. Featured here are the winners and honorable mentions. All photos will be displayed on the Study Abroad website <http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad>



## Julia Kang: Parks in Japan



Julia Kang, a rising Senior, is studying at Keio University, one of our University Exchange partners, in Tokyo. This photo was taken at one of her favorite parks, Ueno Park in Tokyo.

### Parks in the Cities

One of the things that I have noticed during my stay here in Japan is that the Japanese people love parks and gardens. At first it was surprising to see trees and flowers in the middle of a complex of streets and office buildings; but I have come to love strolling through the parks. I cannot agree more how helpful they can be as a place to relax in our busy and stressful life.

It is said that there are around six-thousand parks and gardens in Tokyo. Most of them are free of charge, although some gardens have a small entrance fee (which, I think, is worth the money) to go see the beautiful Japanese style gardens.

I have been to many parks, but Ueno Park stands out in my memory as my first park in Japan. Ueno Park is located next to the Ueno station in Tokyo. The first time I came here was during the Hanami season around the beginning of April. The word *hanami* means looking at flowers, and consequently the hanami season is the perfect time to enjoy the cherry blossoms at local parks. People gather with family and friends under the heavy branches for picnic and parties, while enjoying the

beautiful cherry blossoms both in full bloom and falling.

Yesterday when I went to the Ueno Park, there were less people than compared to my first time. Still many people were enjoying a walk down the park and a break from city life. Street performances were being held here and there, as well.

Various temples and shrines can also be found in the parks. Ueno Zoo, Tokyo National Museum, the National Science Museum, and the National Museum of Western Art are also just a short walk within the park, so there are lots to enjoy at Ueno both for the local family and students.

If there is more time left on your hands even after all of these attractions, take a look at the Ameyokocho Market. This can provide some more insight into the everyday lives of Japanese people, and the livelihood of the bargain markets in Japan.

Ueno may not be as glamorous as some other areas in Tokyo, like Ginza, but it is a definite must-go spot if anyone happens to be in Tokyo.

## Transfer Credit: Follow-Up SATC's

If you have made changes to your course registration abroad and have not already made arrangements with your academic advisor(s), please use this Follow up SATC Form to update your courses. This form can be found online at <https://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/satc/> and is webISO protected.

Please complete all categories, including URLs for specific courses. You will automatically receive an email with the changes you are proposing. Once we receive the completed form we will send it to relevant academic advisors. Advisors will review courses and send you confirmations of approval where appropriate.

### VISIT OUR NEWLY UPDATED WEBSITE AT

[www.cmu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad)

### TO SEE THE FOLLOWING:

- Helpful information on managing re-entry shock and marketing your abroad opportunity.
- E-Peer Advisory list. Please email [goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu) to add your name!
- Photo Gallery, where you can submit your photos!
- Student Perspectives from students just like you.
- Our Study Abroad calendar of events.



## Study in Australia Video Contest

Australian Education International, North America, would like to announce their *Study in Australia: 2009 Video Contest*.

The contest will run from 23 April to 22 July 2009. Our sponsor, STA Travel, has donated some exceptional prizes for the first and second place winners. The prizes are as follows:

- (1) Grand Prize: Two Round-trip plane tickets to Australia
- (2) Second Prize: One \$500 STA Travel Voucher
- (3) Third Prizes: Three winners will receive one Ipod Touch 32GB Player (2nd Generation)

Contest participants must be United States or Canadian citizens or permanent residents. There are no age restrictions (age 17 or under must have parental signature). Anyone who has studied in Australia, is thinking about studying in Australia, or simply has a general interest in Australia is eligible to submit a video.

Videos must be at least 1 minute long; a maximum of 3 minutes. Videos must incorporate all three Study in Australia brand themes. (1) Live - Cultural experiences or opportunities in Australia, (2) Learn - Academic experiences or opportunities, and (3) Grow - As an individual.

Complete details can be found on their website at:

<http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/northamerica>

## Language Learning Course Offered

The Modern Languages Department will offer a fall 2009 course that focuses on second language learning while abroad. The course, "Language Learning in a Study Abroad Setting," is open to students who have had at least two years of second language study in any language other than English. Students are not required to have studied abroad.

The following topics will be addressed:

-Assumptions/myths about study abroad; the linguistic environment of the learner; comparisons of different types of oral and written language gains in study abroad versus the home country setting; attention will be given to individual students' attitudes and perceptions about their language learning experiences; strategies for improving learning while abroad and at home; and pedagogical recommendations for maintaining language gained while abroad.

Course content includes several fieldwork assignments and a research paper on a personal interest related to the course topic. Efforts will be made to tailor assignments to individual student's interests.

## Making the Most of Your Experience Abroad!

There are plenty of ways to bring your experience back when you return to Carnegie Mellon.

- Attend the Welcome Back Reception.
- Help out with Information Sessions.
  - Serve as an E-Peer Advisor.
- Publish your journals, short stories, or poetry.
  - Enter the 2010 Photo Contest.
- Use your experience to complete a senior thesis.
- Apply for a Fulbright, Rhodes or Marshall scholarship.
- Continue your experience with an international internship.

For more details on how to further your study abroad experience when you return, to submit writings, photos or advice for publication in the next edition of *Tartan Travels*, or to share your suggestions on how to make this newsletter better, please send an email to [goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu).

We look forward to hearing from you!

### Contact Information:

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<http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/>

Counseling & Psychological Services

Phone: 412-268-2922

<http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/counseling>

Housing Office, Lisa Hartman

Phone: 412-268-2139

Email: [ldippold@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ldippold@andrew.cmu.edu)

<http://www.housing.cmu.edu>

HUB & Financial Aid

Phone: 412-268-8186

Email: [thehub@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:thehub@andrew.cmu.edu)

<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/>

UC Information Desk

Phone: 412-268-2107

## Useful Information

### Helpful Links:

Center for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Disability Travel Resources

<http://www.makoa.org/travel.htm>

GLBT Resources

[www.gaytimes.co.uk/HotSpots/GayGuide.html](http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/HotSpots/GayGuide.html)

Let's Go Travel Resource

[www.lets-go.com](http://www.lets-go.com)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette

[www.post-gazette.com/](http://www.post-gazette.com/)

Sexual Assault Advisors

[www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/SAA](http://www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/SAA)

The Tartan

<http://www.thetartan.org/>

Travel Advisory Notices

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

Women's Resources

<http://userpages.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html>

### Religious Groups:

Buddhism

[www.buddhanet.net/](http://www.buddhanet.net/)

Christianity

[www.uccf.org.uk/students/](http://www.uccf.org.uk/students/)

Hinduism

[www.hinduismtoday.com/](http://www.hinduismtoday.com/)

Islam

[www.islamicfinder.org](http://www.islamicfinder.org)

Judaism

[www.wujs.org.il/](http://www.wujs.org.il/)

## Rotimi Abimbola: A Tanzanian Internship

I am spending my summer working overseas. I have been in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for almost 6 weeks conducting needs assessment for three ICTD (Information Communication Technology for Development) projects. The ground work that I am doing has presented me with many new and exciting challenges. Everyday is a learning experience which reassures me that my future career must be centered around a firm commitment to the progress of the African continent, and the lives of its people.

The work that I am doing is part of iSTEP (short for innovative Student Technology ExPerience), an internship program launched this summer by TechBridgeWorld. TechBridgeWorld (<http://www.techbridgeworld.org>) is a research group at Carnegie Mellon that innovates and implements technology solutions to meet sustainable development needs around the world. Seven interns and I are working in a multidisciplinary globally-distributed team to research community needs and create relevant and accessible technological solutions for three communities in Tanzania.

During this summer's work we are collaborating with our Tanzanian partner, the University Computing Centre (<http://www.ucc.co.tz/>), based at the University of Dar es Salaam. Together we are working on the following three projects:

1. Developing a mobile phone application

to help social workers to provide enhanced services to AIDS orphans and vulnerable children

2. Developing culturally-relevant educational technology and games for enhancing child literacy

3. Evaluating and enhancing an Automated Braille Writing Tutor for visually-impaired students

Our team has just passed the halfway point in our internship experience, and all three projects are well underway. I along with four other team members are working on the ground in Dar es Salaam; two of our team members are working remotely on projects from the Pittsburgh campus; and one member is working remotely from the Doha campus.

In identifying the needs of the three communities, our team has spoken to various community members, including a Tanzanian government official, as well as administrators and teachers from two local primary schools. Having conducted a preliminary needs assessment, we have also embarked on the technical work on each project. Our team continues to learn the ins and outs of research and field work as we work closely with the TechBridgeWorld team to navigate the challenges that arise and to create innovative solutions. We also benefit from the advice of several faculty and staff advisors who have volun-

teered to help us with these projects.

For more information on iSTEP 2009 please visit: <http://www.techbridgeworld.org/istep2009>

You can follow our blog at: <http://isteptanzania.wordpress.com/>, and on Twitter ([http://twitter.com/istep\\_tanzania](http://twitter.com/istep_tanzania)) and Facebook, as well, (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/iSTEP-Tanzania/82662118493>).



## Carnegie Mellon

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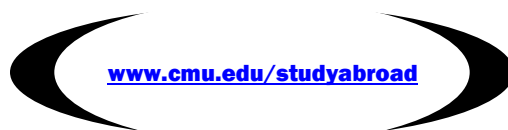
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Education

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[www.cmu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad)