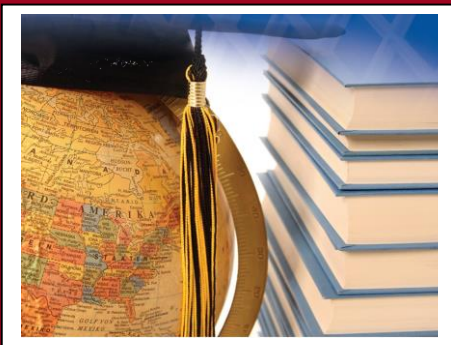


Carnegie Mellon University TARTANS ABROAD

STUDY ABROAD NEWSLETTER

CHRISTINE MENAND: EDITOR



Carnegie Mellon University
Study Abroad

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**Greetings from the
Office of International Education!**

Hello everyone –

It’s been a rainy and cooler summer than usual here in Pittsburgh, though it has been gratifying to watch the visiting students enjoy their time on campus. When I would feel sad for visitors on some of those bad-weather days, I would still always see students having a good time - cavorting on the cut, laughing in the UC, playing tennis, or just relaxing at the various eating areas on campus.

And I realize, WE need to make the most of our own time.

The same goes for all of you abroad. For me personally, I don’t recall if my study abroad experiences in Moscow and London were especially cold or rainy. What I remember is the people, the places, the events. I hope the same is with you! Make the most of this time abroad. Live in the moment – and remember this is a time you will never forget. When you wake in the morning, think of how this day can be especially memorable, how you can make a difference in your life and others in a positive way! Most of you are abroad for academics and/or internships most likely, but get out into the community and experience culture and life.



Overall - enjoy and experience! And remember - we look forward to seeing you at our **Welcome Back Reception**, Thurs. Sept. 3rd, 4:30pm, Danforth, Cohon Center.

Christine Menand
Assistant Director, Study Abroad & Exchange Programs

*“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”
-Marcel Proust*

KEEP LISTENING

JUNE 3, 2015 - BLOG

MINNAR XIE, ISTEP: BANGALORE INDIA

It's been an incredible 10 days in India so far, and the team is just beginning to get settled. Last week we toured and met the teachers at both the Mathru School for the Blind and the Mathru Center for the Deaf and the Differently Abled (colloquially referred to as "the school" and "the center"). While the school has been open since 2000, the center recently opened in 2012. They are 4 km apart; just far enough to be make traversing the distance something worth planning around.

For the first week the team lived in separate locations, the boys Erik and Amal were staying in a guest room at the school while Maya and I stayed at the center. This meant that Maya and I were shuttled back and forth each day from the school where we worked and the center where we lived. These twice-daily 15-minute drives gave us an opportunity to gain a glimpse into the life of Ms. Muktha, the founder and headmistress of both the school and the center.

Born in raised in a village, she is one of 8 siblings and the only educated daughter. When she was just 22 she got into an autorickshaw accident, which left her handicapped. She mentioned how in Indian society, to be disabled is very stigmatized. As a young woman she was

not marryable, and she alluded to how in her life she had experienced "all sorts of terrible hardship." Her disability takes effort to notice now: she hardly walks with a limp and has a truly commanding presence wherever she goes.

So much of her life and her story is inspiring, and reminds me that behind each individual we meet is a much more complicated story. Ms. Muktha has so much love for her son, teasing him and bringing him up often. We learned last week that her son was an abandoned baby on her doorstep, and when she found him he was very ill and in bad condition with stomach problems. He is an incredibly vibrant and energetic boy now, no different from any other 10-year old. She believes that he brought all the luck in her life, and that after his arrival everything in her life started to work out.

Once, we asked about why she had selected some of the teachers to be part of our study and not others. In response she made it clear to us that running this school is more to her than simply providing women and others with jobs: it's about doing something for their lives.

One teacher, she has a physical disability and is very shy and "hesitant about everything." Through getting her involved in our projects

Ms. Muktha hopes to build this teacher's confidence. Another teacher, she is very compassionate for the students and Ms. Muktha wants to keep building her skills in teaching visually impaired students. She mentioned that in all of the teachers she hires, she does not look at their grades (despite India's obsession with test scores—the front page of the local paper featured a huge spread of a student obtaining extremely high marks). Instead, she chooses those who care for the students and are committed to their learning.

Maya and I became close to one of the cooks. One night, she began to tell us about her life. She does not have a father, and her only sibling is a blind sister. Knowing the difficulty this society has against the disabled and single women, I can only imagine. Her mother and her sister live quite far away, a 100-rupee bus ride. "Education is most important," she mentioned several times to us, "but me, no education." Remarkably, when we first met her she spoke no English at all and had asked me if I knew any Hindi (I was sorry to say no). Yet over the course of a few days she somehow managed to pick up pieces of English, perhaps from other cooks and staff members, and was able to communicate basic sentences and expressions with us. When she mentioned her lack of education again to us, we told her that

The best dreams happen when you're awake!

**CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE –
MINNAR XIE...**

she was a “fast learner” (students are classified as “fast” or “slow” learners and teachers are frank about this). When she heard this, she put her head down, overcome with emotion. My heart hurt, heavy with empathy. It reminded me how important the role of education is, and how even more crucial are the efforts to make society more accessible and equal.

[opposite right: The students from the Mathru Center for the Deaf and Differently Abled, (Bangalore, India) walking back from the park on a Saturday.]



The Mathru Educational Trust is such an important institution, transforming the lives of women and the disabled in society: two groups that have traditionally been marginalized in India. It is amazing to watch blind teachers and other physically disabled teachers confidently lead classrooms, a blind man single-handedly run the computer lab and teach all of the computer classes, and the school operating with a predominantly female administration. I am grateful for the opportunity and privilege I have of being here and learning from the lives and experiences of everyone around me. Everything I have encountered so far has taught me to keep listening, and to keep being present.

IT'S OKAY TO GET LOST... RIGHT?

JUNE 24, 2015 - BLOG

SHANNYN RINKER. SIT STUDY ABROAD MOROCCO

As I said before, the Medina in Rabat is like a maze. There are a few main streets but to find them you have to be willing to wander for a bit. This morning, I had my plan. I needed to get from Rue Bouqrone, where I am living, to Bab Chellah. I was confident I knew where I was going. I made my way down the empty streets (early in the morning only a few people are around) and I loved the quietness of the space. I arrived at an intersection of some sorts, thinking to myself, "uhmmmm, sure! This is it." So I made a left turn. A few minutes later, I realized that I made the wrong turn. I thought about going back, but I was too far into the depths of the Medina. If I had turned around, I would have been just as lost as before. So I kept moving and asked for directions along the way. With the help of some friendly shop keepers and a bag lady, I made it safely to Bab Chellah. (After looking up directions on GoogleMaps, I found out that Bab Chellah is an easy five minutes away from the house...I was going an extra thirteen minutes through the Medina. Whoops!) – *To read more, visit [Shannyn's blog](#).*

“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Name _____		Address _____		College _____		
Last _____		First _____		Middle (if applicable) _____		
Department & Major _____		Additional Major (if applicable) _____		Minor (if applicable) _____		
Term/Year Abroad (Example: Fall 14) _____		Study Abroad Provider and/or Institution Abroad _____		City/Country _____		
Study Abroad Course Number and Course Title (under complete the course)	USL Course Number (Equivalent)	USL Course Credit	Approval For (indicate Gen. Ed. category if applicable)	Department Representative (Print)	Department Representative (Signature)	Notes
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Student Name (Print) _____			Student Signature _____		Date _____	
Parent Academic Advisor Name (Print) _____			Parent Academic Advisor Signature _____		Date _____	
Study Abroad Advisor Name (Print) _____			Study Abroad Advisor Signature _____		Date _____	
USL Program Code _____	USL Course Number _____	USL Entry _____	USL Entry _____	USL Entry _____	USL Entry _____	

**SATC
(STUDY ABROAD TRANSFER CREDIT)**

If you made changes to your course registration abroad and have not already made arrangements with your academic advisor(s) please use the [follow up SATC form](#) to update your courses.

Please complete all categories including URL's to specific courses. Once complete WITH signature approvals, make sure to email this new form to goabroad@andrew.cmu.edu.

Reasons to Study Abroad

Top 10

1. Learn about yourself and become more self-aware.
2. Boost your self-confidence and independence.
3. Learn another language.
4. Learn about your own country.
5. Expand your worldview.
6. Strengthen adaptability, communications, and team-building skills.
7. Enhance your career opportunities.
8. Experience another culture firsthand and enhance your cross-cultural competency.
9. Make new friends from around the world.
10. Travel.

Source: "A Student Guide to Study Abroad" by Stacie Nevadomski BerdanDr. Allan Goodman, Sir Cyril Taylor.

BLOGS FROM ABROAD

<http://carnegiestudentkiel.tumblr.com/>

Adam Simpson, DAAD Rise Fellowship, Kiel, Germany

shannynraetravels.weebly.com

Shannyn Rinker, SIT Morocco, Rabat, Morocco

<http://theunexpectedlab.org/surrounded-20>

Joseph Hill, Glasgow Scotland and the Prague Quadrennial, Czech Republic

“Nobody can discover the world for somebody else. Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond and we cease to be alone.” – Wendell Berry

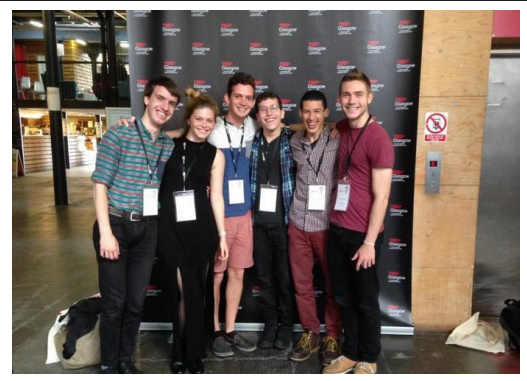
TARTANS *CURRENTLY* ABROAD



Photos from Ananya Rajgarhia (above) & Maria Navarro-Gutierrez (below), Juntos service trip, Rosa Grande, Nicaragua.



(above) Jenna Houston, Unite for Sight, Chennai, India. Photo 1: This was taken as an optometrist checked a young boy's eyes for muscle movement with a phone's flashlight at a government school in northern Chennai, India. Photo 2: This was taken on Market Street of Tamil Nadu in Chennai, India. The girl was the child of a food shop worker.

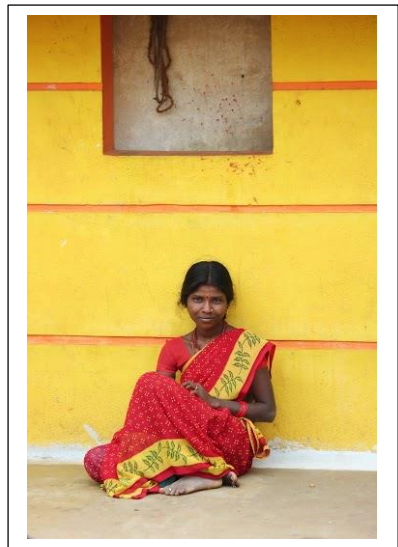


Joseph Hill, performance group from TEDx Glasgow, UK. (Joe is 3rd from right). A combined group of students from various institutions who created and performed this summer.

Ian Asenjo, Pitt in Brazil, Florianopolis, Brazil (photo taken in Blumenau, Brazil)



"We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us." – Anonymous



*Some of our [2015 Photo Contest Winning Photos](#).
Submit your photos for the [2016 contest](#)!*



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“All you’ve got to do is decide to go, and the hardest part is over.” - Tony Wheeler