



Recent Xavier Graduate Travels to Mali

This past summer, I travelled to Bamako, Mali to conduct anti-malarial training under Drs. Donald Krogstad and Ousmane Koita, whom are both world-renowned researchers in anti-malarial research. I stayed in Bamako from early June to mid-August. The goal of my project was to determine how native Malians metabolized a candidate anti-malarial drug, AQ-13 to determine the drug's efficacy. To prepare for my research project, I met with my Tulane mentor, Dr. Krogstad a few times during the spring semester to write my protocol and submit various other supporting documents to the Tulane Institutional Review Board (IRB) to get my project approved. Due to the complexity of my project, my entire project submission was not approved until late July, even though I submitted it in early May. Thus, my research did not start until the first week of August.

Prior to my trip, I held many misconceptions about Mali. I knew that the country was predominantly Muslim, so I assumed that everyone would be dressed very conservatively and all of the women would be wearing a *hijab*, covering their hair and neck. This was not the case. Only one of the young women, who worked in the laboratory at the University with me, wore a *hijab*. Also, I assumed that since Mali is considered to be a third-world country, the majority of the people that I would meet would be poor. This was not true either. Many of the people that I interacted with in Bamako were either wealthy or seemingly middle-class, but not poor. However, I did see many people who did not have much money, along the drive to Timbuktu, which was about 15 hours outside of Bamako through the Sahel and Sahara deserts.

Overall, I enjoyed my MHIRT experience. Even though, I did not accomplish a great deal of research, I still learned a great deal inside and outside of the laboratory. I learned how to do thick smears, as well as examine them to test if a person is infected with a disease or not. I also learned how to survive in a culture that is very different from my own, which is helping me as I am currently working as an English Teaching Assistant in France. I would definitely recommend MHIRT to anyone who wants to expand their horizons and is seeking personal and intellectual growth! So, *bonne courage* (good luck) with the application and **bonne voyage!!!**

~ Valerie Peirre



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Overseas Medical Education

For many students the MCAT examination is an insurmountable barrier to a career in medicine. For those who nonetheless insist on medical careers, there are alternatives to consider. [Google two web sites 'Foreign Medical Schools' and 'International Medical Schools' both offer lots of information.] The former provides information on reference materials and financing. The latter features approximately 100 pages of information on schools and financing. One program not referenced is the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, Cuba. In anticipation that the Obama administration will soon lift the embargo against study in Cuba, www.ifconews.org may be an interesting site to visit.

INTERCULTURAL CHALLENGE

One of the unique aspects of the presidential primary season in 2008 was the attention given to the biracial heritage of our new president and his multicultural upbringing. The broad media analysis of President Obama's international experience is remarkable in itself. The president is truly a global citizen and has become a role model for students and internationalists alike. Obama comes along when the country needs a cross-culturally competent communicator to promote "soft power" and to address the sensitive economic, social and political issues which have hardened other countries against U.S. policies. The president would be my choice as a symbol of the importance of intercultural communications in both our daily lives and the life of the nation. Today intercultural encounters are common place; they occur within neighborhoods, in face-to-face encounters, in business, travel and on college campuses. Those instances of cross-cultural engagement are reason enough for any undergraduate course on Intercultural communications.

We live in a time when the need for intercultural competence has never been greater. Whether or not Xavier students choose careers in medicine, the military or Government; whether their first job is with the Peace Corps or a company doing business in the developing world; there will be pressure to demonstrate that one can manage through the complex web of intercultural communications patterns on a daily basis. That is why foreign language skills are so important and, coupled with a study abroad program, Xavier alumni can acquire the keys to culture, and future success. The journey begins on campus. Xavier is blessed with the presence of Asian, African, European, Caribbean and Islamic cultures. The challenge is for us to engage one another.

(From a NAFSA article by Martin Tillman, John Hopkins U., School of Advanced International Studies)



Farewell to Ambassador Charles Baquet

The staff of the Center of Intercultural and International Programs (CIIP) would like to thank Ambassador Charles Baquet for his years of service and contributions. Ambassador Baquet was the director of the CIIP department and has only recently retired. His dedication to promoting international programs has had a tremendous impact on many. We would like to bid him farewell on behalf of all the readers and students he has helped throughout the years.



To China and Back

Ni hao!

My name is Ninma Fearon and I am currently a senior at Xavier University of Louisiana. I spent the summer of 2009 in Suzhou, China as a Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) program participant carrying out research on health disparities. Suzhou is located in the center of the Yangtze Delta, in the south of Jiangsu Province, with Shanghai to the east. Suzhou is an ancient city with a 2500 years' history, known for some of the most beautiful gardens in the world, including the Humble Administrator's Garden, and traditional waterside architecture.



My research project involved the study of a Mongolian population in Inner Mongolia, China, where I partnered with a Tulane student and analyzed the relationship between Metabolic Syndrome and cardiovascular diseases. Currently, these are two major health disparities that are on the rise in China and according to the recent studies, metabolic syndrome is becoming a worldwide epidemic. Our study revealed that MS is associated with gender, age, overweight, family history of hypertension.

During my entire stay, I lived on campus at Soochow University and it was comfortable. Majority of the population relies on trains, buses and bicycles as their method of transportation all of which I found to be convenient in terms of the number of people.

I was a bit apprehensive about the food because I was in a new environment but it was not hard adapting to it. Chinese food, as you may know, consists mainly of rice, noodles, dumplings, and vegetables.

My favorite dish was sautéed asparagus, with stir-fried tomatoes eggs and rice. Foreigners easily have access to local favorites such as McDonald's, Pizza Hut, and Starbucks!!

After I completed my project, I travelled to Beijing for 5 days. Although it was an 11-hour train ride it was well worth it. I visited some of the famous historic sites such as the Temple of Heaven, visited by the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties for annual ceremonies of prayer to Heaven for good harvest; and the Forbidden City located in the middle of Beijing. It was the Chinese imperial palace from the Ming Dynasty to the end of the Qing Dynasty and today, it houses the Palace Museum. I proudly climbed the famous Great Wall, which stretches for 8,851.8 km (5,500.3 mi) from east to west of China. It is known as one of the Seven Wonders of the World and is China's most appealing attraction. I visited a few other cities including Shanghai, the metropolitan city of China.



Overall, I had a wonderful experience getting to know more about Chinese culture and their way of life. I learned a bit of Chinese as well, and the good thing was not allowing the difficulty stand in the way of gaining a true understanding of what China has to offer. I would definitely encourage every student to take advantage of opportunities such as this one, because there's so much more to learn outside of what we all read in books and see on TV.

~ Ninma Fearon

Important Deadlines for Scholarships



MARCH 2010

IIPP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: All liberal Arts majors!!! MUST SEE this site:www.uncf.org/iipp . This program provides under represented minorities with the educational and training experiences critical to entry and advancement in the field of international affairs. Fellowships cover tuition, fees, books, housing, travel and stipends. (Parents do themselves a disservice not considering this one.)

APRIL 2010

The Gilman Scholarship, for students at Xavier on Pell Grants, enables students to pursue academic studies abroad. Students receive \$5,000. against the cost of a program for a semester study abroad starting next fall semester.

Apply at: <http://www.iie.org/programs/gilman/apply/spring.html> .

MAY 2010

The **Fulbright Scholarship** application process opens the first week in May.

September 2010

The Gilman Scholarship Program invites Xavier students on Pell Grants to apply for funds to finance a semester study abroad. September application is for travel in the Spring semester. See: <http://www.iie.org/programs/gilman/apply/spring.html>

October 2010

The Fulbright Scholarship—The Fulbright program aims to increase mutual understanding between citizens of the United States and peoples of other countries. It equips future American leaders with the skills they need to thrive in an increasingly global environment by providing funding for one academic year of study or research abroad. Please visit: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org>

Also Fulbright's podcast: <http://us.fulbrightonline.org/podcast.html>

Note: The Fulbright application season opens May 1st and close mid-October. With summer jobs and summer school, four months of the application process could be lost. It is recommended that students begin developing their research / study proposals during the second semester of their junior year. Students should look to their department chair or academic advisor for assistance with the application process.

November 2010

Luard Scholarship—A junior year at a British University. The award includes round trip transportation, tuition, room & board, books and necessary expenses for the academic year. The scholarship is offered by the English-Speaking Union of the United States to students attending UNCF schools, Howard and Hampton Universities. Application deadline is last week in November. See: <http://www.esuus.org>

December 2010

The Jet Program—The Japan and English Teaching program promotes international exchange between Japan and other nations. NOTE: This program is for graduating seniors. Application deadline is the first week in December. See: <http://www.jetprogramme.org>

JANURARY 2011

Mount Sinai Int'l Program: A 12 wk summer program for minorities underrepresented in the sciences. Apply on-line at:

http://www.mssm.edu/cpm/education/iep_monority/ . (Deadline late January)

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program: Managed thru the Ralph Bunch Center of Howard University, this program offers graduate assistance that will eventually lead to careers in international affairs. Contact Patricia Scroggs at: pscroggs@howard.edu or apply online for late January at: www.howard.edu/rjb/rangelprogram.htm

FEBRUARY 2011

Middlebury College Language Scholarship - Middlebury's Language School is offering summer scholarships for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) .Those interested in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish should apply. Applications are due early February. See: <http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/lc/applications/> .

Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program: Managed by Howard University, it is designed to provide undergraduate students with deeper appreciation of current issues and trends in foreign affairs, greater understanding of career opportunities in international affairs and enhanced knowledge and skills to pursue such careers. Application deadline is early February. Contact Patricia Scroggs at: pscroggs@howard.edu or apply online: www.howard.edu/rjb/rangelprogram.htm

