

The International Symposium celebrates Beloit College as an international college. In this eleventh annual event, 54 student presenters and 43 faculty sponsors and moderators will directly participate as Beloit students share their international studies with the community.

The Symposium is organized by
George Lisensky, Chemistry Department,
with special thanks to Doreen Dalman.

Grant Opportunities for Student Abroad, Field Research, Internships, Volunteering, and other Projects

<http://www.beloit.edu/oie>

Venture Grants (*for sophomores*)

Grants of up to \$2000 for self-designed projects undertaken following the sophomore year that engage with "local" communities. International projects may also be funded, especially when the project includes a meaningful connection to the local. The application is due before Spring Break.
<http://www.beloit.edu/initiativesprogram/venture/>

Study Abroad Enhancement Grants (*for projects undertaken during study abroad*)

To support critical engagement with local environments leading to a better understanding of the lived realities of the host culture(s), through projects and other experiential learning activities. Average award \$250. Application Deadlines: mid-August, mid-January, and the Monday after midterm break of the preceding semester.

International Education Grants

Weissberg International Human Rights Grants

These grant programs support experiential learning related to the program theme and are aimed primarily at juniors and seniors. Deadlines: Monday after midterm break of the preceding semester. Average award: \$1,500.

Ivan and Janice Stone Travel Scholarships for Study Abroad

This scholarship provides funding to make study abroad possible for students who could not otherwise afford to do so. Students approved to study abroad are automatically screened for these scholarships; no application is required. The scholarships are made possible by a bequest from Ivan and Janice S. Stone.

Information on additional funding opportunities for *summer activities* can be found at
<http://www.beloit.edu/lapc/funding/>

Information on financing *study abroad* and *domestic off-campus study* can be found at
http://www.beloit.edu/oie/off_campus/financing/

Many of the students presenting in this International Symposium received funding for their projects and studies from one of these programs. Many thanks are due to the donors who make these opportunities possible.

The word cloud on the cover was created by G. Lisensky using the Symposium abstracts and www.wordle.net.
The larger the font for a given word, the more frequently that word appears in this book of abstracts.

RICHARDSON AUDITORIUM, MORSE-INGERSOLL HALL		
Moderator: Joshua Hall, Department of Economics & Management		
8:40	Joshua Hall	Opening remarks
8:45	Jane Choi	Behind the Mask of Unity: The Complex Relationship between Black and Colored Racial Groups in Post Apartheid South Africa
9:10	Liz Chiquoine	No One Wants to be Here... and I Get It: The Brain Drain in South Africa
9:35	Katherine Miller	Maternal Healthcare at Manguzi Hospital, South Africa
10:00	Kyle Dallman	A Clash at the Common: a Case Study on Urban Discontent in Cape Town, South Africa
10:25	Break	

Moderator: Matthew Tedesco, Department of Philosophy & Religion		
10:35	Matthew Tedesco	Opening remarks
10:40	Angeline Kasia Peterson	Hip Hop as a Political Discourse for Marginalized Youth in Dakar, Senegal
11:05	Valmai Hanson, Addie Washington	<i>Nungi fii rekk</i> : Encountering Sense and Self in Dakar, Senegal
11:30	Cameron Dieter, R. Madeleine Hallberg, Taylor Grace Silar, Khusrav Mahkamov, Sara Jones, Andreina Patilliett	Discussing Discussion: A Panel on Intercultural Interaction
11:55	Break	All campus photo, Eaton Chapel at noon. Coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies!

Moderator: Rama Viswanathan, Department of Chemistry		
12:40	Rama Viswanathan	Opening remarks
12:45	Kidan Araya	Black...Like...Me? Analyzing the Black American Experience in Cameroon
1:10	Yoon Joo Joanne Cho	Why NGOs in Mozambique Have Chosen Bricks and Bras
1:35	Patrick Firme	The Play's the Thing: Character Analysis as a Tool for Adjusting to Life in Ghana
2:00	Sara DeLong	The Process of a Non-Religious Artist Creating Religious Art in Ghana
2:25	Break	

Moderator: Catherine Orr, Department of Women's & Gender Studies		
2:35	Catherine Orr	Opening remarks
2:40	Megan Slavish	Health, Nutrition, and Non-Communicable Diseases in Botswana: Overshadowed by HIV/AIDS?
3:05	Emily Johnson	Competitive Single-Party States in an Era of Urbanization: Land Reform as Leverage? A Case Study of Botswana and Uganda
3:30	Emily Verburg	Liberal Arts in Disconnect: Rwandan Rejections of My Senior Thesis
3:55	Break	

WOOD ROOM, MAYER HALL		
Moderator: Scott Lyngaas, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures		
8:40	Scott Lyngaas	Opening remarks
8:45	Matthew Floyd	A Tale of Two Wars
9:10	Elise Giammanco	Coming to Terms with the Past: The Memorializing of the Gulag in Russia
9:35	Hana Vacková	"Doing some good?" A Critical Reflection of Volunteering Abroad Through My Experience at Þykkvabæjarklaustur and Árnes, Iceland
10:00	Ozgun Kilic	Organic Synthesis and Cultural Observations in Finland
10:25	Break	
Moderator: Katie Johnson, Department of Biology		
10:35	Katie Johnson	Opening remarks
10:40	Jennifer Gilbertson	Biocompatible Dry Adhesives Mimicking Gecko Spatulae for EEG Electrodes
11:05	Edward Folk	An Innocent Abroad: The Oscillating Modernization of Turkey
11:30	Laurel Marshall	In the Heart of Jerusalem
11:55	Break	All campus photo, Eaton Chapel at noon. Coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies!
Moderator: Ellen Joyce, Department of History		
12:40	Ellen Joyce	Opening remarks
12:45	Maren Banda	Navigating Cultural Boundaries at an Orphanage in Rural Guatemala
1:10	Dongping Jing	Caring and Educating Special Needs Orphans in China: Observations from my Summer Internship in Tianjin Children Welfare Institution
1:35	Tamir Abdel-wahab, Kun Cleo Zhang	Islam in China and Chinese Muslim Minorities
2:00	Weston Anderson	Create Your Own Study Abroad: An Internship-Based Immersion Experience in Southern China
2:25	Break	
Moderator: Charles Westerberg, Department of Sociology		
2:35	Charles Westerberg	Opening remarks
2:40	Andrew Dimond, Aaron Tiesling-Rusch	A World Apart, but Are We Really? Two Cross-Cultural Psychology Comparisons of Japanese and Americans
3:05	Lena Davis	Ghosts and Death in Modern Japan
3:30	Carrie Ellis	The Illegal Wildlife Trade in Southeast Asia: Perspectives from a Volunteer Intern at the Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue Center, Sulawesi, Indonesia
3:55	Break	

ROOM 150, SCIENCE CENTER		
Moderator: James Rougvie, Department of Geology		
8:40	James Rougvie	Opening remarks
8:45	Maureen Hanzel	The Killing of Whales: Developing an Opinion of International Importance
9:10	Geoffrey Pratt	Space Plants! A Research Experience at the Controlled Environment Systems Research Facility at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada
9:35	Christopher Koch	Caring for the Physically Disabled and Mentally Handicapped in Kingston, Jamaica
POSTER SESSION: These poster presentations will occur simultaneously, please talk individually with the presenters.		
10:00	Christina Moore	Comparison of Health in Three Countries
	Janelle Perez	<i>Les Élections Françaises</i> : The Reactions of Young Voters in Nice and Toulon, France
10:25	Break	
Moderator: Larry White, Department of Psychology		
10:35	Larry White	Opening remarks
10:40	Nofiya Denbaum	From College Student to Lead Teacher— Cultural Differences Between Ecuador and the United States
11:05	Samantha Holte	Cutting <i>caña</i> : Fair trade/Organic Cooperatives as a Part of Sustainable Development in Rural Ecuador
11:30	Diana Gutierrez-Meza	<i>Habla Serio, Sexualidad Sin Misterios</i> : Can a One Size Sex Education Program Fit all Ecuadorians?
11:55	Break	All campus photo, Eaton Chapel at noon. Coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies!
Moderator: Shannon Fie, Department of Anthropology		
12:40	Shannon Fie	Opening remarks
12:45	Anthony Humberto Otey	The Marvelous City
1:10	Simone Stadler	The Changing Face of Transgender/Transsexual Rights in Argentina
1:35	Claire Alrich	Culture, Communication, Creation: How to Speak to Art in Buenos Aires
2:00	Alissa Anderson	A Look Into Food History and Eating Habits in Minas Gerais, Brazil
2:25	Break	
Moderator: Olga Abramkina, Department of Physics & Astronomy		
2:35	Olga Abramkina	Opening remarks
2:40	Colleen Doyle	Who's Got the Power? A Reflection on Knowledge and Privilege at Sea in the Polynesia
3:05	Helena Tiedmann	Sustainability in Tasmania's Forests, SIT Study Abroad: Sustainability and Environmental Action
3:30	Megan Slavish, Liz Chiquoine, Savannah Augunas, Ellie Daniels	Study Abroad Reflections: South Africa, Thailand, Botswana, and the Ocean through Film

Tamir Abdel-Wahab '13**(with Kun Cleo Zhang)**

Major: International Relations

Minor: Chinese

Sponsors: John Rapp and Daniel Youd

Honolulu, Hawaii

1:35 Mayer**Islam in China and
Chinese Muslim Minorities**

Our presentation will focus on the role Islam plays among Muslim ethnic groups in China's Yunnan province. We will use the experience we gained from our two weeks spent there in the summer of 2011, as well as our own personal experiences and interactions with the Chinese Muslim community. The presentation will focus on Muslim experiences of daily life and how Muslims in China maintain their religious values in a society where their culture is in complete contrast to that of the mainstream. As one of the most ethnically diverse provinces in China, Yunnan provided an excellent example of daily interactions between different cultures. That province also highlights the differences among different Muslim groups and the difficulty of applying a pan-Muslim classification. We will then explain the shortcomings caused by the government's official classification scheme of fifty-six ethnic groups and how this scheme can actually create a divide between personal and legal identifications.

The final part of our presentation will include our personal experiences during the trip, including the differences we observed in the state-run mosques versus non-government mosques, the Muslim minority friends we made, differences in *qingzhen* (halal) and non *qingzhen* restaurants, and our experience visiting a mosque during Ramadan. As a foreign Muslim and a native Han, respectively, we found that it was impossible for us to leave ourselves out of the equation. In the end, as we hope to show, our own identities directly affected our interaction with the people we observed during our research project.

Claire Alrich '13

Majors: Dance; English (rhetoric)

Sponsor: Chris Johnson

Evanston, Illinois

1:35 SC**Culture, Communication, Creation:
How to Speak to Art in Buenos Aires**

Exploring communication through art has always been of interest to me. Living in Buenos Aires this past spring, a city where the native language was not my own, changed my perspective on communication. When faced

with this place of unfamiliarity, I looked to art because it has been a constant in my life, a means of expression that is both fulfilling and effective. It is a way of finding myself when I feel lost.

I looked to fill my life in Buenos Aires with as much art as possible, a total immersion in the artistic culture of the city. Tango, aerial dance, contact improvisation, African dance, drum circles, choreography, ballet, performances, painting collaboration, bookmaking, living room dance parties, and many conversations all made up my experiential research into the communicative potential of art. What I came away with was the understanding that while art is not the universal language it is often heralded as, it does have the power to create a world independent of verbal communication. A world that when inhabited facilitated a more profound connection with others. It provides an opportunity to express myself in a way neither English nor Spanish has yet to match, and enriched my entire experience abroad.

In my presentation I'll discuss my observations about the connections between art and communication. Specifically I will focus on the classes I took at the Instituto Universario Nacional del Arte, the experience I had of aerial dance with the Brenda Angiel Dance company, and the summer intensive I completed with members of the Pina Bausch company (Tanztheater Wuppertal).

Weston Anderson '13

Majors: Economics; Literature

Sponsor: Steve Wright

Broomfield, Colorado

2:00 Mayer**Create Your Own Study Abroad: An
Internship-Based Immersion Experience
in Southern China**

It is possible to develop individualized study abroad experiences that consist of classes, research, internships, immersion experiences, homestays, and travel. These self-designed experiences can be a rewarding and challenging alternative to traditional study-abroad programs, especially for highly motivated individuals looking for a distinctive international experience.

This presentation will provide practical advice to students interested in designing a personalized study-abroad experience, as well as examine the advantages and disadvantages of self-designed experiences compared to traditional programs. Homestays and internships in particular provide immersive environments for language acquisition and increased cultural understanding.

There are resources on campus available to students who want to design their own study abroad programs. Students can even earn course credit and get funding to finance their trips. However, more could be done to encourage and support students who want to develop individualized abroad experiences.

Alissa Anderson '13

Jamestown, New York

Majors: Comparative Literature; Dance

2:00 SC

Sponsor: Jennifer Esperanza

A Look Into Food History and Eating Habits in Minas Gerais, Brazil

As one looks at the cuisine of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, we might ask DOES Brazil have a “national cuisine”?

Minas Gerais is the second most industrialized state in Brazil, following São Paulo. European settlers first mined this area for gold in the 17th century and today, Minas Gerais is the fourth wealthiest state in Brazil. Its ideal agricultural land has made it a chief exporter of beef to major Brazilian cities and much corn, beans, rice, and cassava are also grown here. Traditional mining (*mineiro*) culture differentiated food choices in Minas from bordering states early on. With a more temperate climate and the inability to catch fresh sea food, miners in Minas Gerais traditionally ate (and continue to eat) rice, beans, cheeses, and beef.

This presentation will examine the food history of Minas Gerais and include observations from my study abroad experience in the region. I compare food offered at the university, in homes, and at popular restaurants, including fast food. By comparing and contrasting the various meals offered in these settings, I will evaluate questions raised by food options and eating habits and explore whether regional cuisine reflects ethnic diversity of the state.

Kidan Araya '13

Sacramento, California

Majors: International Relations; Environmental Studies

12:45 MI

Sponsor: Rachel Ellett

Black...Like...Me? Analyzing the Black American Experience in Cameroon

When President Barack Obama visited Ghana in 2009, he talked about the infamously warm welcome of African-Americans by Africans as they “return” to their ancestral motherland. But is this really the experience of Black Americans in Africa? I use my experiences studying

abroad in Cameroon to understand the complexities of negotiating Africa as a black American. As I traveled from the western mountains of Cameroon, to the capital city, to the predominantly Muslim northern Sahara, and into the tropical forests of the south, the varying, conflicting interactions, conversations, and situations I experienced as an African-American tremendously impacted my study abroad experience beyond expectation.

In my presentation, I will analyze examples of conversations with Cameroonians and their comments on my race, skin color, body, and beauty, as well as their views on the African-American experience, and discuss how these conversations reshaped my opinions on what social privileges I may hold not only in Cameroon, but at home in the United States. I will reflect on how my Black American identity shaped my interactions with host families, my research experiences, and my ability to culturally assimilate. I will also discuss what it was like to be the only black student in a study abroad program that seemingly was created to be a white space and how I addressed problems and navigated through challenges posed by staff and classmates regarding race.

Savannah Augunas '13

see page 20

Maren Banda '15

Beloit, Wisconsin

Major: Modern Languages; International Political Economy

Sponsor: Jingjing Lou

12:45 Mayer

Navigating Cultural Boundaries at an Orphanage in Rural Guatemala

I spent part of the summer of 2012 in an orphanage in rural Guatemala examining a wide range of subjects. On the macro level, I examined Guatemala's education system and structure of adoptions. On the micro level, I examined two distinct subjects: education within this one particular orphanage as well as the cultural differences between the Guatemalan orphans and a group of Wisconsin high school student volunteers. While my project covered an extremely broad range of topics for my symposium, I will be presenting specifically on respecting cultural boundaries while researching and studying abroad.

The summer of 2012 was my third visit to this orphanage and my fifth year in communication with the orphanage. I was extremely fortunate to be able to do research at a location where I had a strong relationship built with the community. However, it took a long time to build that relationship. For most of the students from Wisconsin, it was their first time to the orphanage. For

many it was also their first time out of the country. I observed how the Guatemalan students and Wisconsin students interacted and pressed cultural boundaries while observing how the Wisconsin students navigated a culture different from their own.

Cultural sensitivity is extremely important when learning abroad. Knowing how to build respectful relationships, explore your research, and maintain sensitivity is an extremely delicate balance. As a volunteer abroad, knowing how to navigate delicate situations without yet knowing all of the cultural cues is an extremely important skill. Everything is culturally relative and it takes time to go through the process of enculturation.

Liz Chiquoine '13

Reedsburg, Wisconsin

Major: Health and Society

9:10 MI

Minor: African Studies

Sponsor: Marion Fass

**No One Wants to be Here... and I Get It:
The Brain Drain in South Africa**

With the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world and a struggling underfunded health system, South Africa faces many issues when it comes to health care.

The Brain Drain is a phrase that defines the increasing tendency of hospital staff and personnel to remain in urban areas after graduation resulting in a maldistribution throughout South Africa. To combat this trend, South Africa has implemented many new policies to encourage and even force rural medical service for new graduates over the last decade. Though these programs have been researched, implemented, and well-documented things just don't seem to be working.

After spending 3 weeks in a rural hospital, I witnessed these programs in action and the difficulties that rural medical institutions face. Let's just say, it is understandable why people don't want to stay.

My symposium will examine the South African policies that have been implemented over the years and their effect throughout South Africa. I will apply these policies to the hospital I volunteered at to attempt to understand why the hospital staff does not want to work there and how to get them to stay.

Liz Chiquoine '13see page 20

Yoon Joo Joanne Cho '14

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Major: International Relations; History

1:10 MI

Sponsor: Beth Dougherty

**Why NGOs in Mozambique Have Chosen
Bricks and Bras**

This summer I had the opportunity to intern with Habitat for Humanity (HFH) Mozambique and Project Purpose (PP). Through this experience, I got the chance to understand how they operate through donations and see the challenges they face as humanitarian aid organizations. Habitat for Humanity is a worldwide NGO that focuses on providing housing and a safe environment specifically for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). PP is a much smaller NGO started by an individual that helps former and present Mozambican prostitutes stay off the streets by distributing donated bras. Like many NGOs, these two organizations run their programs and projects through donations. Habitat for Humanity often co-sponsors housing programs through big donations received from developmental organizations or through funding from big corporations; in addition to the donated bras, PP receives a lot of private independent donations. Outside funding makes it possible for both groups to launch pilot programs, purchase materials, and cover administration fees. However, even with the available funding to start up projects, NGOs may be unable to pursue them due to the lack of personnel or other factors that hinder the implementation of projects. For example, HFH is unable to build as many houses as it wishes due to the lack of labor and PP faces difficulties in delivering bras that have been collected. Therefore, I will focus on how these NGOs operate and the difficulties they face in pursuing their goals. I will also reflect on the controversial issues of the presence of humanitarian aid organizations in Mozambique and how they indirectly prevent the flourishing of the Mozambican economy.

Jane Choi '14

Cape Town, South Africa

Major: Anthropology

8:45 MI

Sponsor: Lisa Anderson-Levy

**Behind the Mask of Unity:
The Complex Relationship between Black
and Colored Racial Groups in
Post Apartheid South Africa**

Over the summer, I was part of group that conducted cultural diversity workshops designed to promote unity in underprivileged schools in Cape Town, South Africa. When

we addressed discrimination and division within the school, strong emotional reactions surfaced among the students that pointed at deep separation between the black and colored students due to the interaction between language, culture and socio-economic status. The colored people are understood to be a mix of European, Malay, Indian and Khoi-san and are also understood to lack their own “authentic” culture, and they use Afrikaans, a language similar to Dutch, the language of the colonizer of South Africa. Conversely, many black South Africans speak Xhosa and are understood to have a more “authentic” culture of their own. This authenticity in conjunction with racist ideologies of Apartheid has led some black South Africans to see themselves “pure-bred” and to derive pride from this designation. Furthermore, the authority of the country lies in the black government’s hands in the post Apartheid era, leaving the underprivileged colored groups feeling underrepresented while the black groups have been seduced by the illusion of power: power that stems from political representation and an illusion of greater socio economic status through the governments’ black economic empowerment policies for people who were once placed at the lowest rung of the social hierarchy. This illusion of power has increased the segregation and discrimination between poor black communities and colored communities. These latter groups remain dissatisfied by the lack of attention given by the black government. In my symposium, I will examine how the tension and the discrimination between the groups are evident in classroom settings. Furthermore, I will deconstruct the operation of race in South Africa and focus on the feelings of exclusion among poor colored groups who lack political body to represent their rights.

Kyle Dallman '13

Cincinnati, Ohio

Major: International Relations

10:00 MI

Sponsor: Rachel Ellett

A Clash at the Common: a Case Study on Urban Discontent in Cape Town, South Africa

In late January of 2012, undercurrents of dissatisfaction with Cape Town’s ruling political party, the Democratic Alliance (DA), came to a head as furious citizens marched through the southern suburbs of the city to a green known as Rondebosch Common. The citizens had planned on protesting the lack of opportunities for Cape Town’s non-white citizens while at the Common in a “Land, Housing and Jobs Summit,” but were met with

police batons and armored vans. In an astonishing show of force, some protestors were beaten, others were covered in blue dye being sprayed from hoses, and everyone present at the Common was arrested with no charge. Images of the protest filled the news, with many reporters and citizens noting the similarities between the march and the brutal crackdowns of the apartheid era of 1948-1994, when South Africa was fractured along racial lines and on the verge of civil war.

Using original interview and primary data, this symposium will investigate the motivations of the attempted protest on Rondebosch Common, presenting evidence to illustrate how underlying discontent with the DA and their policies of unequal service delivery between black and white neighborhoods of Cape Town are to be blamed for the citizen’s anger so many years after apartheid’s end. Further, it will argue that the decision to march on Rondebosch - a wealthy, white neighborhood - itself makes this particular demonstration different from the many that have occurred in South Africa.

Ellie Daniels '13

see page 20

Lena Davis '13

Brookfield, Wisconsin

Major: Japanese Language and Culture

3:05 Mayer

Sponsor: Akiko Ogino

Ghosts and Death in Modern Japan

Have you ever seen a ghost? I asked this question of people while I studied in Japan, and found both people who told me about their own experiences with ghosts or those of someone they knew, and people eager to inform me of the archetypes for ghosts in Japan. Although a belief and interest in the spirits of the dead may be inconsistent with many religious beliefs prominent in Japan, it reveals other threads of thought about the afterlife. At this symposium, I will discuss prominent views of the afterlife within Japan, how these views fit within the major religions of Japan, and personal experiences with ghosts I heard from individuals I met in Japan.

Sara Delong '15

Concord, Massachusetts

Majors: Studio Art; Health and Society

2:00 MI

Sponsor: Marion Fass

The Process of a Non-Religious Artist Creating Religious Art in Ghana

Last June, I traveled to Ghana to volunteer in an orphanage, and to create community artwork. I spent my time at the Drifting Angels Orphanage in Tsito, Ghana, a small town in the Volta Region. My trip revolved around the creation of artwork that involved the children in the orphanage, while addressing the role of community learning. This experience challenged my knowledge as a community artist, but even more so transformed my perspective on religion and its capacity to influence a community.

This symposium explores my artistic process of creating a large mural that represents the values of the orphanage. I will address the internal conflicts that arose as I painted a piece that connected with those who lived at the orphanage, while also aligning with my identity as an artist. I spent the first two weeks taking in the Ghanaian culture, learning about the stories of the children and their incredible faith in God. The next two weeks I focused on painting a mural that captures the role of community education in their lives and how it influenced my beliefs. For the first time, I created art that didn't solely revolve around my outlook on the world, but rather incorporated those views of another community. My experience was originally about painting community art, but developed into acknowledging my non-religious beliefs in a religious community.

Nofiya Denbaum '13

Fairfield, Iowa

Majors: Spanish; Education and Youth Studies (track 1)

10:40 SC

Sponsor: Sylvia Lopez

From College Student to Lead Teacher— Cultural Differences Between Ecuador and the United States

After two semesters of studying in the bustling capital city of Quito, Ecuador, high up in the Andes mountains, I spent three weeks in a small beach town called Montañita. There I taught English, an experience made possible through the generous support of an International Program Grant. Moving from Quito to Montañita, a popular tourist destination, was a big transition for me due to size, geographic location, and linguistic differences.

In Montañita, I got a deeper view into the life and culture of the town than the typical tourist by interacting with the community and volunteering.

Along with another American, I took on the job of lead teacher for four different classes of four-, five-, and six-year-olds at the local elementary school. As a lead teacher, I created lesson plans and taught the children every morning. In the afternoons, I coached nine- to eleven-year-olds in volleyball and basketball.

This symposium addresses the difficulties I faced while teaching and how I overcame them. I also reflect on how the culture influenced the process that I went through to obtain the volunteer opportunity at the school. I describe the structural and organizational differences between the school in Montañita and schools in the US and share my observations about the children's behavior both in class and during sports time. In addition to learning about cultural differences between Quito and Montañita and Ecuador and the US, audience members will learn about how the whole experience has impacted my thoughts about life after Beloit.

Cameron Dieter '16

see page 20

Andrew Dimond '13

Oriental, North Carolina

(with Aaron Tiesling-Rusch)

Major: Psychology

2:40 Mayer

Minor: Japanese

Sponsor: Kristin Bonnie

A World Apart, but Are We Really? Two Cross-Cultural Psychology Comparisons of Japanese and Americans

Last year we studied abroad in Akita, Japan, where we conducted two cross-cultural psychological experiments. We compared the results of the Japanese participants to participants we recruited here at Beloit.

In the first experiment, we investigated interhemispheric transfer time (IHTT), or the time it takes for information to cross from one side of the brain to the other. The speed of IHTT matters because important information may need to be quickly assessed by each hemisphere, due to their processing specializations. We were particularly interested in whether the Japanese people would demonstrate a different IHTT, since they use the kanji writing system, which requires more bilateral brain activity than English. We ended up finding that IHTT is not different between Japanese and Americans.

In the second experiment, we had participants complete a numeric Stroop task. This task tests how well

the brain can inhibit responses to irrelevant stimuli. The results of the Stroop effect can act as a measure of executive function. With this experiment, we were also interested to see if there were any differences between the two groups but more specifically if the two groups differed with their native versus non-native alphabet. What we found was surprising, each group was equally showed similar Stroop Effect regardless of what alphabet was used. Not only that, but the Japanese students were faster, overall.

Colleen Doyle '13

Major: Anthropology

Minor: Geology

Sponsor: George Lisensky

Wheaton, Illinois

2:40 SC

**Who's Got the Power?
A Reflection on Knowledge and Privilege
at Sea in the Polynesia**

Sailing from Tahiti to Hawaii in two months during SEA Semester's SPICE Program (Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Ecosystems), I expected many of the challenging geographic, academic, and environmental differences that I encountered. However, the most enlightening parts of my experience I could never have expected. At Beloit, students simply say, "give it to me," and knowledge is poured out to them by professors. However, in my brief experiences, I encountered time and again the shocking response, "But you haven't earned it." My interaction with a vehement Raiatean navigator on board the Robert C. Seamans lead me to a wealth of unintended curriculum questioning the presumption and privilege of American college students.

Carrie Ellis '13

Major: Psychology

Minor: Biology

Sponsor: Kristin Bonnie

Chicago, Illinois

3:30 Mayer

The Illegal Wildlife Trade in Southeast Asia: Perspectives from a Volunteer Intern at the Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue Center, Sulawesi, Indonesia

The Indonesian island of Sulawesi offers some of the richest biodiversity in all of Southeast Asia. Many of its native plant and animal species are found nowhere else on earth, a fact which has attracted scientists and laymen alike for hundreds of years. However, this aspect of rarity has also made Sulawesi a prime target of the illegal

wildlife trade, an underground global network that currently threatens the biodiversity and conservation of millions of species worldwide. While most Southeast Asian nations have laws in place that prohibit the trade of endangered or threatened species, lack of funds and resources for strict law enforcement allow the trade to continue. Additionally, if live animal wildlife en route for trade is fortunate enough to be besieged by law enforcement officers, the challenge that follows is deciding what's to be done with the capture.

Fortunately, this is why places like the Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue Center in Northern Sulawesi exist. Founded in 2001 by Dr. Willie Smits of the Masarang Foundation, Tasikoki was created for the purpose of temporarily housing wildlife that has been intercepted from the illegal trade. The center's ultimate goal is to rehabilitate the animals and either release them back into the wild or find them a more permanent captive residence. Tasikoki is currently home to a large variety of birds, primates, mammals and reptiles whose care is maintained solely by volunteers and local Indonesian workers.

In this symposium I will discuss my two-week experience living and working at Tasikoki as a volunteer intern, as well as the relationship between the illegal wildlife trade and Indonesia's current biodiversity status. I will also present possible suggestions for combating the illegal wildlife trade, from small-scale enhancements at Tasikoki itself to broad-scale global perceptions about exotic wildlife.

Patrick Firme '13

Michigan City, Indiana

Major: Theatre Dance and Media Studies, Performance

1:35 MI

Sponsor: Rachel Ellett

The Play's the Thing: Character Analysis as a Tool for Adjusting to Life in Ghana

While studying abroad at the University of Ghana-East Legon, I was offered a role in *The Father* by August Strindberg. As an actor, and someone who generally enjoys performing in a variety of contexts, I jumped at the opportunity. I was the only member of the production from outside of West Africa. In it I played a doctor who came from far away to take care of a retired army captain. Although I did not realize it at the time, my character played an important role in adjusting to my life in Ghana. That is because the situations he faced were very similar to my own.

Artists often feel a connection between their art and the life experiences they are going through at the time. To

paraphrase Hamlet, the play was the thing that caught my consciousness about my place in Ghana. While my character adjusted to a new environment, he assessed his situation to make objective decisions, I had to do the same to make Ghana a place of my own. Our roles in our places were vastly different, but the ways in which we navigated them were similar. Like the doctor I portrayed, I took my skills from the stage and applied them to my new surroundings. I found that having presence onstage to relate to the audience, was no different from establishing a presence in Ghana to relate with those around me.

Matthew Floyd '13

Bagley, Wisconsin

Major: International Relations

8:45 Mayer

Minor: Spanish

Sponsor: Daniel Bruckenhau

A Tale of Two Wars

This project will be about the inter-relation and overlapping of events between the Spanish Civil War (Guerra Civil) and World War II. It will include a brief history of the Guerra Civil and events in the city of Guernica, the Mediterranean Sea and the air above Spain. It will have specific emphasis on the international power struggle and the military tactics that Hitler tested in the civil war and perfected in World War II.

Also included will be firsthand stories and accounts from George Orwell (Homage to Catalonia) and Ernest Hemingway (For Whom the Bell Tolls) and some of my own experiences while studying abroad in Spain.

Edward Folk '13

Lebanon, Illinois

Major: Biological Chemistry

11:05 Mayer

Sponsor: Theodore Gries

**An Innocent Abroad: The Oscillating
Modernization of Turkey**

Turkey, one of the oldest inhabited parts of the world, is in a state of transition to a new identity which profoundly impacts its people's lives. I would argue that many aspects of this transition are in limbo between improvement and regression. Based on my experiences studying in Turkey, I believe that economic progress; gender, ethnic, and socio-economic class equality, and religious freedom are all in a state of liminality. I will compare my observations of Turkey's modernization movement with those presented by Orhan Pamuk in his book, *The Museum of Innocence*. Pamuk, a Nobel Laureate in Literature, is internationally considered an expert on Turkish culture and society. In this book, he

discusses the intricacies of life in Istanbul: the people, the culture, and the history as well as its transitions throughout the years.

Elise Giammanco '13

St. Louis, Missouri

Majors: Psychology; Russian

9:10 Mayer

Minor: Legal Studies

Sponsor: Donna Oliver

**Coming to Terms with the Past: The
Memorializing of the Gulag in Russia**

There are memorials around every corner in Moscow. As artfully talented as the Russians appear to be at commemorating their past, they also have a way of suppressing the darker, more destructive events that have occurred within their country. The Gulag originally referred to the Soviet Union government agency that oversaw forced labor work camps during the Stalin era. From the time he came to power in 1928 until his death in 1953, it is estimated that some 18 million people passed through the Gulag camps under Stalin. The years 1937-1938 specifically signify a turning point, where prisoners in camps were not only "accidentally" killed, but also would be deliberately worked to death or executed. Despite the abundance of memorials commemorating the lives of influential individuals within Russia's immense history, the victims of the Gulag are only now starting to be publicly memorialized within the city of Moscow and other parts of the vast nation.

This presentation will be based on my Moscow "Cities in Transition" Project, which in turn evolved from my first summer McNair research project. While in Russia, I observed the Russians who visited these memorials and how they acted at these sites. I examined what information was being presented to the public and where the museums and sites were physically placed in Moscow. I explored the levels of knowledge that young Russians possess about their country's dark history. I researched active organizations that were pushing for more public awareness about the Gulag and the need for more adequate memorialization. Finally, I even had a chance to tour the last Gulag left in Russia today.

Jennifer Gilbertson '12 Manhattan Beach, California
Majors: Chemistry; French
Sponsor: Brock Spencer
Professor George Malliaras (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de St. Etienne)
10:40 Mayer

Biocompatible Dry Adhesives Mimicking Gecko Spatulae for EEG Electrodes

My summer in the south of France was filled with not only French cuisine and Mediterranean weather but also geckos. Geckos, or more specifically gecko feet, are able to climb up walls, glass, hanging overhead us seemingly effortlessly. While I wasn't playing with actual geckos, I was using the concept of gecko feet to develop the technology to enhance EEG electrodes.

Electroencephalography (EEG) electrodes record the electrical activity along the scalp, rendering them important tools in diagnosing the cerebral origins of neurological disorders such as epilepsy. Compared to other methods of neural activity monitoring, EEG is a noninvasive and inexpensive technique. An inherent weakness of EEG recording is their weak signals and their poor long-term skin adherence.

This project developed a polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) dry adhesive which has been coated in a conducting polymer, poly (3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene) doped with poly(styrene sulfonate) (PEDOT:PSS), to increase the accuracy and durability of the electrodes. The polymer is cast onto a mold fabricated from photoresist, which is an inexpensive method and allows large-scale fabrication.

Modeled after naturally occurring adhesives such as gecko footpads, the synthetic micro-pillars are reusable, less irritating than current adhesive pads, and can stay on the skin for much more extended periods of time. The biocompatibility of the adhesive is important for certain populations such as infants and the elderly who have very sensitive skin. The creation of microstructures on the surfaces of the electrodes increases the surface area of the electrodes and therefore increases the conductivity and lowers the impedance of the electrodes.

Diana Gutierrez-Meza '13 Madison, Wisconsin
Major: Health and Society
Minor: Women and Gender Studies
Sponsor: Nancy Krusko
Ledy Acosta (Ministry of Health of Pastaza, Ecuador)
11:30 SC

***Habla Serio, Sexualidad Sin Misterios:* Can a One Size Sex Education Program Fit all Ecuadorians?**

Hablar Serio (real talk) is the new way of talking about sex in order to reach Ecuadorian teens. This new "teen approved" way of talking about sex emerged after reports from the Ministry of Health of Ecuador showed that during the past 10 years, there has been a 78% increase in pregnancies among girls ages 10 to 14 years and an increase of 11% among adolescents ages 15 to 19 years. This trend is especially problematic among indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian women. Since pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among adolescents are a major public health concern in the country, under the National Family Planning and Pregnancy Prevention Strategic Plan (ENIPLA) the campaign *Habla Serio, Sexualidad Sin Misterios* (real talk, sexuality without mysteries) emerged.

During the summer of 2012, I served as an intern in the Ministry of Health of Pastaza, Ecuador. Since *Habla Serio* was fairly new to this Amazon region of the country, I worked with the campaign at sexual health fairs, gave presentations to middle and high school students, and administered questionnaires on the perception of reproductive health education among students, parents, and teachers. This symposium will cover my experiences and interactions with mestizo and indigenous teens when trying to talk openly about sex. In this presentation, I will also examine the effectiveness of this sexual health campaign in Pastaza, a very ethnically and culturally diverse region. Questions that will be explored include: to what extent is *Habla Serio* effective in reducing teen pregnancy in the country as a whole and I want to examine in more detail how the program worked with indigenous teens in the Amazon region. In particular, I will focus on issues surrounding language barriers, culturally different ideologies, religious opposition, and parental disagreement.

R. Madeleine Hallberg '16 see page 20

Valmai Hanson '13**(with Addie Washington)**

Majors: Literary Studies; French

Sponsor: Steve Wright

Madison, Wisconsin

11:05 MI***Nungi fii rekk: Encountering Sense and Self in Dakar, Senegal***

The neighbor's blaring radio and an empty shell of a building: avenues through which we tried making sense of our thoughts, our emotions, and ourselves in the spaces and sounds we experienced in Dakar, Senegal. Tandem to discovering different parts of the city, we found ourselves in a diversity of roles; we arrived as just students, but transformed into friends and family. In navigating our semester, we were humbled by Senegalese values and the beauty of the Wolof tradition of hospitality, *teranga*. The external world informed our evolving mindsets, and each place we lived and worked – school, our homes, the markets, clubs – all directly affected this internal process. Each day, we embraced the attitude of *nungi fii rekk*, we are here only.

Our concluding projects for Dakar in Transition illustrated our distinctive perspectives on living abroad: one through communal sounds, the other through unfinished spaces. By taking tangible cues from the world around us, we individually presented our understandings of Senegalese culture in our everyday lives.

Maureen Hanzel '13

Major: Ecology, Evolution and Behavioral Biology

Sponsor: Carol Mankiewicz

Glenview, Illinois

8:45 SC**The Killing of Whales: Developing an Opinion of International Importance**

Whales may be some of the largest animals to roam this planet, but they are an under-recognized resource for human social development. Their contributions are seen in technological advancements, fashion, politics, and even philosophical contemplation. Advancements in all these sectors of society was made possible by the killing of hundreds of thousands of whales

As a budding marine biologist I am obsessed with that special connection that humans have with whales and I am concerned for their future. Whales play an integral part to the health of our oceans, but are being threatened by a variety of environmental factors. Increasing water temperatures, rising toxin levels, and reduction of breeding populations by humans hunting them are just a few of the current issues. On the other hand, whales are

rich in nutritious fatty acids, provide oil for light and heat and play an important role in cultural traditions. These are the factors that challenge.

To understand the current status of whaling, I am taking an interdisciplinary approach to develop a more professional opinion. Drawing from my emotional and scientific experience, classical literature, current international policies, cultural traditions, and biological research I will have a greater understanding of the subject and where I stand. Roy Chapman Andrews, a previous Beloit, wrote: "I regret to end this book. Writing about whales has again brought back to me the intense interest of their study. You see them for only a few brief moments above the surface. Then they are gone, and you wonder what goes on down in the depths of the ocean" (All about Whales). I want to follow in the footsteps of Andrews to discover how I fit into whaling.

Samantha Holte '14

Major: International Relations

Minors: Spanish; Russian

Sponsor: Pablo Toral

Minneapolis, Minnesota

11:05 SC**Cutting *caña*: Fair trade/Organic Cooperatives as a Part of Sustainable Development in Rural Ecuador**

Sugarcane is a major crop in sub-tropical Ecuador, and production varies from huge factory farms to small farms of several acres. It is made into many versatile products, including sugar and ethanol, which in turn can be used in fuel, cosmetics, food, and alcoholic drinks.

This symposium explores my work with a nongovernmental organization called CRACYP (Corporación Red Arborizadora Campo y Progreso) that promotes sustainable development in the small town of Jilimbí, Ecuador where I spent six weeks in May and June after studying abroad. Sustainable development aims to preserve the environment in order to meet future needs, and often takes a local, bottom-up approach to address global problems such as poverty and lack of education.

A main branch of the organization involves CADO, Consorcio Artesanal Dulce Orgánico, a cooperative owned by the farmers in the Jilimbí area and run by CRACYP. The cooperative is certified FairTrade/Organic and buys the alcohol from the farmers and sells to socially aware cosmetics companies. Being a member of the cooperative has many benefits, including a higher, fixed price per liter of alcohol, health insurance, microloans, and quality equipment. However, there are tradeoffs that can

sometimes only be seen through the farmers' perspective.

Through interviewing farmers and employees in the organization, I discovered that it was difficult to communicate some of the long-term development goals of the organization to the farmers, especially when these goals did not give an immediate tangible result or involved a considerable amount of extra effort. Finding the right balance between knowledgeable leaders and someone who has the respect of the local farmers was a precarious maneuver that occasionally tipped in favor of one over the other, and was dependent on ethnicity, education, and socioeconomic background. However, even with the struggle to properly communicate, the cooperative unites farmers and gives them the opportunity to become owners of their own destiny.

Anthony Humberto Otey '13 New York, New York

Major: Comparative Literature

12:45 SC

Sponsor: Diane Lichtenstein

Claire de Obaldia (New York University in Paris)

The Marvelous City

During the 2011-2012 academic school year I studied abroad in São Paulo, Brazil and Paris, France. In Brazil I audited courses in architecture, and in Paris, during the summer of 2012, I used my experience to explore the ways in which the architecture of a city such as Paris has reflected and informed its inhabitants' mental and physical selves, from the 19th to the 21st centuries. Specifically, I examined the concepts of the *flâneur*, French Cartesian thinking, the French centralized government, the mind-body relationship with mental and physical landscapes, and conceptions of space. The goal of this research is to examine the role architecture plays in our everyday lives and how it can be used to shape our ideal societies in the future.

Dongping Jing '15

Tianjin, China

Major: International Relations; Economics

1:10 Mayer

Minor: Mathematics

Sponsor: Jingjing Lou

Caring and Educating Special Needs Orphans in China: Observations from My Summer Internship in Tianjin Children Welfare Institution

What is the institutional care of orphans like in China? This is a less studied topic. There is hardly literature studying the daily life, care, and education of orphans in China, a fact that reflects the lack of attention in both the

scholarly field and the media on this topic.

My presentation, based on my working experience in the Children Welfare Institution in a coastal city of China in summer 2012, will give a detailed account of education, daily care, therapy training, and public activities for the special needs orphans in this institution. In particular, drawing from three episodes from my working experience, I will discuss existing problems with the care for and education of orphans as well as the activities that I appreciate in this institution. I will conclude with what my findings suggest about institutional care in China in general, and also draw some parallels with the similar issue in U.S.

For episode I, I will discuss the social attitude toward special-needs orphans and the challenges to include children with disabilities in the regular school education system. In episode II, I will discuss the lack of quality and professional caregivers in this welfare institution and most of the welfare institutions in China, the reason for that, and its impact. Episode III will epitomize the irony of the way many people in China view orphans and events related to them. They want to do something good for charity, but they don't necessarily invest the time to know or care about what is really going on. I will discuss Chinese society's perception of charity and how it impacts the way of institutional care of children.

Emily Johnson '13

Takoma Park, Maryland

Major: International Relations

3:05 MI

Minor: African Studies

Sponsor: Rachel Ellett

Competitive Single-Party States in an Era of Urbanization: Land Reform as Leverage? A Case Study of Botswana and Uganda

With increased urbanization, the traditional power base of African elites is subject to change and transition. Dominant ruling parties, which have historically derived a vast amount of support from rural populations, now face different challenges in the context of rural-urban demographic shifts. Land reform has been and continues to be a powerful tool leaders use to garner popular support and further political legitimacy. Although extensive literature exists on the political drivers of rural land reform, research surrounding the political factors influencing urban land policy remains limited. Using the case studies of Kampala, Uganda, and Gaborone, Botswana, this research aims to answer:

What are the most salient domestic political factors

driving the design and formation of peri-urban land policies in sub-Saharan Africa?

Combining secondary sources and primary government documents with fieldwork conducted in Gaborone in Spring 2012, I identify and analyze the domestic political drivers of contemporary land reform in urban areas.

Sara Jones '16

see page 20

Ozgun Kilic '13

Major: Biological Chemistry

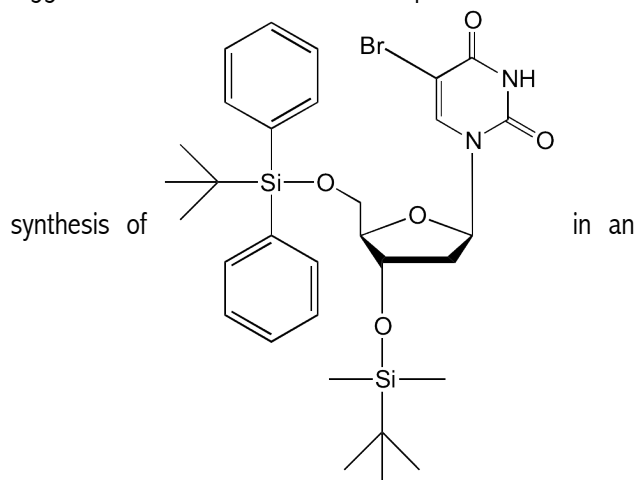
Sponsor: George Lisensky

Izmir, Turkey

10:00 Mayer

Organic Synthesis and Cultural Observations in Finland

Finland is a Scandinavian country with a unique language, a population of 5 million and a homogeneous society. I come from a city on the Mediterranean Sea with 4 million population and I chose to study abroad in Finland because the University of Helsinki is one of the biggest research universities in Europe. I worked on the



organic chemistry laboratory from my first week in Helsinki until the last day while I took several chemistry courses and explored the culture. I observed some differences in the teaching style and how the laboratory functioned. The educational differences in University of Helsinki were partially due to being in a bigger university, partially due to being in Europe and partially due to being in Finland. They had master students working in the research laboratories since it was a big research school and the exchange students were heavily from EU countries due to their laboratory collaborations. Higher education is free for everyone due to the value Finnish culture places on education.

My observations are filtered by my experience as an

American college student and a Turkish citizen. I will talk about my laboratory project and the structure of my classes but I will also mention the peculiarities of Finland such as having a unique language, daylight ranging from 4 to 21 hours and saunas in every house.

Christopher Koch '14

Houston, Texas

Major: Biochemistry

9:35 SC

Sponsor: Demetrius Gravis

Caring for the Physically Disabled and Mentally Handicapped in Kingston, Jamaica

My ten day stay in Kingston, Jamaica was spent volunteering for Missionaries of the Poor (MOP). MOP is a nonprofit organization that runs six long term care centers for the physically disabled and mentally handicapped, free of charge. These centers are in the South Side division, which is the second most dangerous part of downtown Kingston.

Nearly all of the residents staying in these centers are unable to work and have no family to help care for them. Residents are fully dependent on MOP for food, shelter, and medical care. In addition, MOP relies solely on donations for food, medications, and supplies. I saw the opportunity to volunteer for MOP as a meaningful way to help care for residents as well as gain a firsthand experience of how a non profit care center operates in an area with crime and poverty.

In preparation for my stay, I became a certified nurse assistant in Houston, Texas. Certified nurse assistants are commonly employed in long term care centers, and part of the training involves working in a long term care center. Working at a care center in the United States allowed me pinpoint the differences in which MOP manages its residents with AIDS, diabetes, and other illnesses that require specialized care and resources, especially when only one monk in the organization has professional medical training.

I learned what it is like to be a resident at MOP as well as what it is like to work there. Overall, I was impressed with the care that residents of the centers received given the lack of supplies, staff, and training. This care resonated throughout the community and I witnessed a coming together of the community, religious or not.

In the Heart of Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem and the study of biblical and rabbinic texts lie at the core of Jewish culture and Identity. At the same time identity conflicts, competing narratives, and ongoing struggles for resources have perpetuated divides between Israel and neighboring countries, Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims, as well as between secular and religious Israelis. While in Israel over the summer, I studied conflict resolution and social justice at Yeshiva (Jewish Studies Institute) in Jerusalem where we attempted to reconcile some of the deep conflicts faced by individuals, groups, and nations within the region through in-depth text study of various Jewish, Muslim, and Christian interpretations of sacred texts. These were used as the basis for understanding and addressing current conflicts in the region and provided the framework for an exploration of the ways in which these conflicting groups see themselves, the world, and each other. This approach opened up a dialogue about the possible ramifications of reconciliation efforts with regards to the context in which current conflicts in the region are both viewed and addressed.

Maternal Healthcare at Manguzi Hospital, South Africa

Manguzi Hospital is a district hospital on the northeast coast of South Africa, just south of the boarder to Mozambique. Manguzi Hospital provides health care for a huge rural population from South Africa and Mozambique. During my time abroad I was able to spend three weeks at Manguzi Hospital and observed many procedures and interactions between patients and healthcare staff in the hospital. While there I witnessed 15 births and their outcomes.

Maternal healthcare ranges in quality throughout the world. South Africa is especially unique in the vast inequality of health services provided in the public and private hospitals. In Manguzi Hospital, a public hospital, midwives typically deliver and provide post-natal care for

the mother and child. However, their practices are more in line with a medical model of birth. While physicians provide care in high risk situations, some of these situations may have been prevented with a true midwifery model of care.

In this presentation I will describe the interaction between Manguzi Hospital's two available health care practitioners (nontraditional midwives and physicians) and how this framework for birth affects the health of the mother and child in the surrounding region of South Africa.

Comparison of Health in Three Countries

Health and health care can vary greatly even within the same region. I experienced these differences during my studies in three countries (Mexico, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua). All have universal health care but have established different ways of implementing care for the entire population. These countries face unique challenges with regards to problems such as treating infectious and chronic diseases, building infrastructure, and establishing inclusive health policies that consider women and minorities.

In this poster presentation, I will look at the demographic factors, politics, and policies that can affect outcomes including maternal and infant mortality and life expectancy. Nicaragua, the poorest of the three countries, faces problems with funding, including supplying basic medications such as aspirin. They struggle to provide care for women and children and their restrictive abortion policy has resulted in an increase in maternal mortality. Costa Rica, in contrast, has built a strong public health infrastructure by eliminating military spending and focusing on education and health. Mexico has recently implemented policies that demonstrate their commitment to prevention for all citizens but it is still limited.

These and other comparisons that I will discuss illustrate how government policies address the challenges of providing care with limited resources.

Janelle Perez '14

Chicago, Illinois

Majors: Education & Youth Studies; Political Science **Poster 10:00 SC**

Sponsor: Bill New

Les Élections Français: The Reactions of Young Voters in Nice and Toulon, France

On May 6th 2012, France elected François Hollande as their new president. The South of France had mixed feelings about having a candidate from the Socialist Party win. However, there were many who were optimistic about the change in leadership. My project focused on the various views of young voters in the south of France and their overall reactions post-election. I specially looked at two cities: Nice and Toulon where majority of voters support *Le Droit* (The Right). I spoke to many young voters at a local coffee shop that my host family owns to learn about issues that they supported or were against, why did they voted for their specific candidate, and where do they see France politically in the near future.

Angeline Kasia Peterson '13

Moscow, Idaho

Majors: Anthropology; French

10:40 MI

Sponsors: Jennifer Esperanza and Scott Lyngaas

Hip Hop as a Political Discourse for Marginalized Youth in Dakar, Senegal

"Rap music is a contemporary stage for the theater of the powerless," states Tricia Rose, Professor of African Studies at Brown University. Marginalized youth around the world have long turned to the language of rap and hip-hop to express their social discontent, but nowhere has their discourse been more powerful than in the city of Dakar, Senegal. As is true with many countries in Africa, the recent rapid growth in population has resulted in a "youth bulge" in Senegal. A large demographic of Senegalese youth simultaneously reaching working age are met with little opportunity in a society dominated by the older generation. Students graduate from university only to find themselves unemployed and unimportant within the current political agenda.

I studied in Dakar, Senegal, in the spring of 2012 during a pivotal presidential election. Through exploration of the city during campaign season and exposure to Senegalese media, I observed the prevalence of music as a language for urban youth to express their hopes for the future. Young Dakar musicians used hip hop to address the false promises of past politicians, the educational crisis, unemployment, poverty, immigration, and religious corruption.

I was intrigued by the creative use of French and city Wolof and the role that certain urban identities played in Dakar's political hip hop scene, and was inspired to research further into this form of expression that cultural anthropologists call "thug realism." Using a linguistic and anthropological lens I will analyze the use of hip hop music by Senegalese youth as a political discourse of resistance against their social and economic marginality. I will also demonstrate the importance of this discourse in the construction of the self and a global identity.

Geoffrey Pratt '13

Columbia, New Jersey

Major: Environmental Biology

9:10 SC

Sponsor: Yaffa Grossman

Mike Dixon (University of Guelph)

Space Plants! A Research Experience at the Controlled Environment Systems Research Facility at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada

In this presentation, I will tell you the tale of my travels, my triumphs, and my failures as I attempted to research the technologies that could provide food to some of the most desolate areas of the world, and just maybe feed us, when we travel to another planet. This is the story of the summer of 2012 at the Controlled Environment Systems Research Facility.

Over the course of the summer I was a research assistant at the Controlled Environment Systems Research Facility at the University of Guelph in Ontario Canada. While there, I worked on a variety of research projects.

I aided in the formal study on the effectiveness of a symbiotic fungal fertilizer supplement designed to improve the survival rates of transplanted trees. While the study ended somewhat tragically, it taught everyone involved a valuable lesson in the hazards of untested equipment.

In a more mechanical project, I worked with an engineering student to construct an automated testing apparatus to stress test a newly developed "ion sensitive optrode", a device which is capable of detecting not just the presence of specific chemicals in a solution, but also their concentrations. The work we did may someday prove vital to the controlled regulation of the chemical fertilizers in green houses, and the instruments are light enough that they could potentially be carried in space craft.

I was also assigned a personal project, to determine the spectra of sunlight that came through a vast assortment of experimental plastic and glass plates for greenhouses. Though apparently simple, the assignment

proved extremely difficult, as the sun has a tendency to move.

All of these projects and more will be described in great detail in this symposium presentation.

Taylor Grace Silar '16 see page 20

Megan Slavish '14 Beloit, Wisconsin
Major: Health and Society 2:40 MI
Minor: Political Science
Sponsor: Marion Fass
Bill Moseley (Macalester College)

Health, Nutrition, and Non-Communicable Diseases in Botswana: Overshadowed by HIV/AIDS?

Botswana is a small country in Southern Africa that has been associated with successful democracy and development relative to the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. However, Botswana's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is the second highest in the world, with 24% of its population infected.

While infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS have had a significant impact on this small country of two million people, non-communicable diseases, which are typically caused by lifestyle choices such as smoking and physical inactivity, are also important, especially because many of them can be prevented with changes in behavior. The World Health Organization estimates that non-communicable diseases will surpass infectious diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. Thus, it is important to prevent non-communicable diseases before they match the staggering presence of HIV/AIDS.

One risk factor for non-communicable diseases is poor nutrition. Botswana is considered a middle-income country by the World Bank, yet problems of food security and malnutrition are rampant in both urban and rural areas.

I conducted research about food consumption in two areas of Botswana: the capital city Gaborone and the rural town Mochudi to investigate how diets vary in rural and urban areas, something that has profound implications on health outcomes due to Botswana's rapid urbanization. As people move away from villages where healthier, traditional food is dominant and into urban areas like Gaborone, unhealthy convenience food becomes more readily available.

I utilized a convenience sample to ask 20 participants qualitative and quantitative questions about what food they ate, how much they ate, their perception of healthy

food, and other risk factors for non-communicable diseases, such as smoking and lack of physical activity.

This presentation will discuss HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, and corresponding policy recommendations for Southern African governments, community organizations, and individuals within the context of my research from Botswana.

Megan Slavish '14 see page 20

Simone Stadler '13 Portland, Oregon
Majors: Health and Society; Theatre Arts 1:10 SC
Sponsor: Marion Fass

The Changing Face of Transgender/Transsexual Rights in Argentina

On May 26th 2012, the Argentine government passed the Gender Identity Law, granting an array of legal rights to transgender/transsexual individuals that had previously been kept from them. For many, this piece of legislation marked a turning point in the fight for trans rights in a country where the average life expectancy for a trans person is 35. However, many Argentines argue that policy changes nothing without a shift in social ideology and that, in the case of trans rights, it may be a long time before true social equality is gained.

In this symposium I will explore two different perspectives on the social position of trans persons in Argentina. On a macro level I will discuss the rights granted by the Gender Identity Law, the likelihood of effectively protecting these rights, and the law's implications for future social change. On a micro level, I will discuss my experience with Mocha Celis, a high school designed to provide trans students with a space safe from the extreme discrimination that they face at other schools, on the streets, and in their own homes.

While the law now guarantees trans individuals the same access to employment as cisgender persons, the majority of students at Mocha Celis still work as prostitutes because they cannot find work anywhere else. What does this say about the power of law over ideology? Is it only a matter of time before the law's effects are seen, or must change start at the grassroots level?

Helena Tiedmann '13 Warren, Connecticut
Majors: Environmental Geology; Political Science
Sponsors: Sue Swanson and Pablo Toral

3:05 SC

Sustainability in Tasmania's Forests, SIT Study Abroad: Sustainability and Environmental Action

I spent the Spring of 2012 completing the SIT Australia: Sustainability and Environmental Action study abroad program focused primarily in New South Wales, Australia. Through its experiential learning, home stay and independent study project components, the program effectively educated students in the most pressing sustainability issues in Australia and the world today and approaches to creating a more sustainable world. I gained a more complete sense of my ecological self in terms of sustainability issues and actions as well as independent research experience from the program.

While traveling in Tasmania with the program in February, my interest in the debate over Tasmanian forests' use and protection and forestry policy grew, and I began to focus on Tasmanian forests in my research. I returned to Tasmania alone in April-May 2012 and conducted 18 interviews with a variety of participants regarding the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), a policy designed with the hope of ending the debate between the forest industry and environmental groups over Tasmania's forest that has continued for over thirty years.

Results of these interviews revealed predictions for a reduced or reformed forest industry and a transition to plantation forestry. Frequently raised issues included the expansion of reserves, lack of hope for a settled conflict, investment in the Tasmanian economy, inadequate reserve management funding, impacts on affected sectors and industries, and intensified forest production. Most participants noted the politics and polarization of the debate and the complexity of the problems surrounding an attempted solution and did not believe the Tasmanian economy or community would truly be able to thrive without a lasting resolution. The research experience was an excellent opportunity to apply my Beloit and SIT education in the field while focusing on a complex environmental, social, and political topic relevant to my interest in sustainability.

Aaron Tiesling-Rusch '12 Green Bay, Wisconsin
(with Andrew Dimond)
Major: Psychology
Minors: Japanese; Math
Sponsor: Kristin Bonnie

2:40 Mayer

A World Apart, but Are We Really? Two Cross-Cultural Psychology Comparisons of Japanese and Americans

Last year we studied abroad in Akita, Japan, where we conducted two cross-cultural psychological experiments. We compared the results of the Japanese participants to participants we recruited here at Beloit.

In the first experiment, we investigated interhemispheric transfer time (IHTT), or the time it takes for information to cross from one side of the brain to the other. The speed of IHTT matters because important information may need to be quickly assessed by each hemisphere, due to their processing specializations. We were particularly interested in whether the Japanese people would demonstrate a different IHTT, since they use the kanji writing system, which requires more bilateral brain activity than English. We ended up finding that IHTT is not different between Japanese and Americans.

In the second experiment, we had participants complete a numeric Stroop task. This task tests how well the brain can inhibit responses to irrelevant stimuli. The results of the Stroop effect can act as a measure of executive function. With this experiment, we were also interested to see if there were any differences between the two groups but more specifically if the two groups differed with their native versus non-native alphabet. What we found was surprising, each group was equally showed similar Stroop Effect regardless of what alphabet was used. Not only that, but the Japanese students were faster, overall.

Hana Vacková '15 Olomouc, Czech Republic
Major: Undecided
Sponsor: Jingjing Lou

9:35 Mayer

"Doing some good?" A Critical Reflection of Volunteering Abroad Through My Experience at Þykkvabæjarklaustur and Árnes, Iceland

In popular discourse, international volunteering is often presented as inherently good. Many non-governmental organizations offer attractive short-term volunteer trips, commonly targeted at the demographic of

college students. By emphasizing the numerous advantages of doing volunteer work abroad (improving a language, giving back to the environment, helping a community in need, etc.), NGOs present volunteering as an alternative to mainstream tourism and a responsible way of engaging with the global community.

Since any international experience is highly desired by many college admissions and future employees (to the point where it is almost taken for granted), it is increasingly important to examine the underlying motives and implications of doing volunteer work abroad and its impact on local communities. Using critical literature review on international volunteering and reflecting on my own month-long experience at two farms with the volunteer organization SEEDS Volunteering for Iceland, I will identify some common myths pertaining to volunteer work abroad, and encourage potential to-be-volunteers to make informed choices before they head off abroad to "do some good."

Emily Verburg '12

Madison, Wisconsin

Major: Political Science

3:30 MI

Sponsor: Beth Dougherty

Liberal Arts in Disconnect: Rwandan Rejections of My Senior Thesis

This summer I traveled to Rwanda to participate in a human rights seminar in the Kigali and Kibuye provinces. I approached the experience confidently as I had taken some classes on Rwanda and written my senior thesis on the country's post-genocide politics. As a result of my studies I had formed opinions on regional politics and had become increasingly critical of the current ruling regime, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

Upon my arriving in Rwanda I quickly realized that I would have to re-evaluate my strong stances on the RPF, especially if I wanted to remain on a speaking basis with the Rwandan students in my delegation. The release of a critical Human Rights Watch report days before my arrival created a tense environment where my political views were often considered to be uninformed and ignorant western criticism. Over the course of the month long seminar I was repeatedly challenged to negotiate tense conversations while still remaining true to the unpopular, controversial, and stubborn opinions I had formed through my studies. I was also forced to acknowledge my irrelevance as a western outsider attempting to comment on the politics of an economically successful post-colonial government. This symposium will detail the difficulties and

frustrations I encountered in my quest to apply my Beloit College education in a real context while remaining respectful of my Rwandan friends.

Addie Washington '13

River Falls, Wisconsin

(with Valmai Hanson)

Majors: Sociology; Comparative Literature

11:05 MI

Sponsor: Steve Wright

***Nungi fii rekk*: Encountering Sense and Self in Dakar, Senegal**

The neighbor's blaring radio and an empty shell of a building: avenues through which we tried making sense of our thoughts, our emotions, and ourselves in the spaces and sounds we experienced in Dakar, Senegal. Tandem to discovering different parts of the city, we found ourselves in a diversity of roles; we arrived as just students, but transformed into friends and family. In navigating our semester, we were humbled by Senegalese values and the beauty of the Wolof tradition of hospitality, Teranga. The external world informed our evolving mindsets, and each place we lived and worked – school, our homes, the markets, clubs – all directly affected this internal process. Each day, we embraced the attitude of *nungi fii rekk*, we are here only.

Our concluding projects for Dakar in Transition illustrated our distinctive perspectives on living abroad: one through communal sounds, the other through unfinished spaces. By taking tangible cues from the world around us, we individually presented our understandings of Senegalese culture in our everyday lives.

Kun Cleo Zhang '13

Jiaxing, China

(with Tamir Abdel-Wahab)

Major: Mathematics; International Relations

1:35 Mayer

Sponsors: John Rapp and Daniel Youd

Islam in China and Chinese Muslim Minorities

Our presentation will focus on the role Islam plays among Muslim ethnic groups in China's Yunnan province. We will use the experience we gained from our two weeks spent there in the summer of 2011, as well as our own personal experiences and interactions with the Chinese Muslim community. The presentation will focus on Muslim experiences of daily life and how Muslims in China maintain their religious values in a society where their culture is in complete contrast to that of the mainstream. As one of the most ethnically diverse provinces in China, Yunnan provided an excellent example of daily

interactions between different cultures. That province also highlights the differences among different Muslim groups and the difficulty of applying a pan-Muslim classification. We will then explain the shortcomings caused by the government's official classification scheme of fifty-six ethnic groups and how this scheme can actually create a divide between personal and legal identifications.

The final part of our presentation will include our personal experiences during the trip, including the differences we observed in the state-run mosques versus non-government mosques, the Muslim minority friends we made, differences in *qingzhen* (halal) and non *qingzhen* restaurants, and our experience visiting a mosque during Ramadan. As a foreign Muslim and a native Han, respectively, we found that it was impossible for us to leave ourselves out of the equation. In the end, as we hope to show, our own identities directly affected our interaction with the people we observed during our research project.

Sponsor: Roc Ordman

11:30 MI

Cameron Dieter '16

Portland, Oregon

Major: History

R. Madeleine Hallberg '16

Forest Lake, Minnesota

Major: International Relations

Taylor Grace Silar '16

Blue Bell, Pennsylvania

Major: Psychology

Minors: Anthropology; Sociology

Khusrav Mahkamov '16

Rockford, Illinois

Majors: International Relations; Russian

Khujand, Tajikistan

Sara Jones '16

Maryville, Wisconsin

Major: International Relations

Andreina Patilliott '16

Paris, France

Majors: Biochemistry; Political Science

Discussing Discussion: A Panel on Intercultural Interaction

If there is one thing anyone can talk about, it would be themselves. We all have experiences with other cultures, whether we consider it or not. Whether you were born and raised in Central Asia or rural Wisconsin, you have, at some point, had an experience with another culture. Some of us have lived abroad, some of us have lived with international students, some of us have just seen movies about China. Regardless, it is these everyday international experiences define and frame our outlook on the world. These "ordinary" international perspectives are

often overlooked, but in many ways, these experiences are more powerful than run of the mill study-abroad stories because everyone has them. It is important for us to understand how to properly communicate what we think with each other. Discussion between individuals is the most powerful way to share experiences, but how we go about that can be complicated. This panel will talk about each of our respective perspectives, but also how we believe the dialogue should occur. The value in discussing these oft-overlooked events is self awareness and an increased understanding of why we think the way we do about other people.

Sponsors: Elizabeth Brewer and Joshua Moore

3:30 SC

Megan Slavish '14

Beloit, Wisconsin

Major: Health and Society

Minor: Political Science

Liz Chiquoine '13

Reedsburg, Wisconsin

Major: Health and Society

Minor: African Studies

Savannah Augunas '13

Camden, Maine

Major: Health and Society

Ellie Daniels '13

Portland, Oregon

Major: Environmental Biology; Studio Art

Study Abroad Reflections: South Africa, Thailand, Botswana, and the Ocean through Film

We will share adventures, struggles, and insights about study abroad through a collection of short films created during Josh Moore and Betsy Brewer's IDST 201 class. This unique screening will give audience members a visual glimpse of what it means to study abroad, from learning to navigate as a temporary sojourner and getting accustomed to completely different notions of time to exploring relationships with people and places and staying afloat.

- Liz Chiquoine, SIT Community Health and Social Policy in Durban, South Africa
- Savannah Augunas, CIEE Development & Globalization in Khon Kaen, Thailand
- Megan Slavish, ACM University Immersion in Gaborone, Botswana
- Ellie Daniels, Semester at Sea, Ocean Exploration

BeAbroad!

Information Sessions: Wednesdays during the Common Hour

Creating a Plan: Thursdays at 4:00, Office of International Education

Individual Advising: x2269 or ois@beloit.edu

www.beloit.edu/ois