



# Longitudes & Latitudes

Lynchburg College International Programs Newsletter

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## Students experience the effects of war and centuries of art over winter break

*Study abroad programs to Vietnam and Rome prove eye-opening*

Christian F. Wilwohl, Off-Campus Studies Coordinator

Forty LC students kicked off the New Year while studying abroad in Vietnam and Rome, with both programs offered successfully for a second time.

Under the leadership of Dr. David Lipani, students examined the ravages of war in Vietnam and explored the Southeast Asian country's beautiful landscapes. The group was also fortunate enough to be accompanied by two Vietnam veterans who also happen to be LC alumni - Darryl Rhodes '64 and Dick Moore '63.

The presence of veterans on the trip served to counterbalance some of the information presented at Vietnamese sites depicting the war. Rhodes explained, "Our explanations of certain events presented the American viewpoint and provided insight that otherwise would not have been available to the students. For example, in the Museum of War Remembrances, one of the exhibits reported that Americans used 'toxic gas' on Vietnamese 'patriots' (Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army Regulars). I explained that the so-called toxic gas was in reality tear gas, which was used to flush VC soldiers out of tunnels from which they ambushed Americans, and while tear gas is certainly unpleasant, it was not deadly, as the word 'toxic' would imply."

Site visits also conveyed the impact of war to students in the program. "The War Remnants Museum truly opened my eyes to the atrocities committed during the war. It not only had a profound impact on

the soldiers' lives, but also affected the women and children of Vietnam," explained Kristin Bell '10.

Meanwhile Dr. Delane Karalow and Professor Barbara Rothermel guided students through the millennia of art, archaeology, monuments, and museums the 'Eternal City' has to offer. The experience also allowed students to appreciate firsthand the splendor of Rome and the Vatican – a city within in a city. In essence, students saw Rome as "a depository of memory and artistic impression," according to Dr. Karalow.

Describing her visit to St. Peter's Basilica, Jessica Moore '10 shared, "In school the emphasis on religion seems to reflect the negative such as the repression of people with different religious beliefs, or the wars such as the Crusades. But in St. Peter's, people could worship in a place created because of their religion, which made it really meaningful and beautiful."

In addition to museums, ruins, and cathedrals, students visited villas providing them a great opportunity to see how emperors and aristocratic families organized and embellished the space where they lived in their respective eras. Kim Davies '09 said, "I especially liked seeing the sculptures and fountains outside the villas, just as they were when they were first installed centuries ago."

Of course, no stay in Rome would be complete without a visit to the famous Coliseum with its well-preserved architecture and sense of history that one



Tim Wolff '09 and Elena Kritter '12 make their way through the Cu Chi Tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam war while Laura Middlebrook '10, Kim Davies '10, and Jessica Lee '09 enjoy a visit to Hadrian's Villa in Rome.



experiences walking through the vaulted corridors while gazing out over the interior. Kat Walker '10 commented on the spectacular architecture despite not liking what she learned about the treatment of animals during the time of its original construction and use.



## Scholarships will write a student's ticket abroad

Christian F. Wilwohl,  
Off-Campus Studies Coordinator

Today's students see the costs associated with study abroad and wonder how they could ever afford such an experience. This is especially true when LC institutional aid does not "travel" overseas. To fund their education abroad, many students rely on their parents' generosity, financial aid in the form of loans, personal savings, etc. Meanwhile, employers value language skills and the ability to interact with people from different cultures.

Students should not see cost as an insurmountable obstacle to study abroad. Instead, they should begin exploring their study abroad options early on in their college lives, and this research should include funding through scholarships. One award that many LC students should consider is the **Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program** for which federal Pell Grant recipients are eligible to apply. Currently, 23 percent of LC students receive such aid and, therefore, could receive up to \$5,000 to fund an overseas study program ranging from four weeks to a full academic year in duration. Students planning to undertake language study and/or complete a program in a non-traditional study abroad destination will be highly competitive for one of these scholarships.

For students looking to pursue careers in national security, the **National Security Education Program Boren Scholarship** would be an excellent opportunity to fund a semester of language and cultural study in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Russia, China, India, etc. **Amy Boyles '05** was awarded one of these scholarships to study Arabic in Jordan; she is currently working in national security and attributes her professional success to this experience. A similar scheme sponsored by the U.S. Department of State known as the **Critical Language Scholarship** affords students the opportunity to undertake summer study of Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Turkish, Hindi, etc. in countries throughout Asia and the Middle East.

Another funding option would be the **Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grant** for which students with high academic achievement (3.5 GPA) are eligible. Students do not have to be members of Phi Kappa Phi to apply. Study abroad service providers such as AustraLearn, American Institute for Foreign Study, International Studies Abroad, etc. also offer scholarships and financial aid to students enrolled in their programs.

In addition to national-level awards, LC offers scholarships to assist students with funding their study abroad experiences. The **M. Wesley Shoemaker International Study Scholarship** can provide students up to \$1,000 for study abroad that entails language study and/or an extended stay in a non-English speaking country. Over the past year, twelve LC students have received awards from the Shoemaker Scholarship as well as the **Kristy D. Overstreet** and the **Rosel H. and Elliot S. Schewel Study Abroad Funds**. Other awards available to LC students include the **Vanauken Fellowship Award** for history students studying at Oxford University, the **Rona L. Adams and Brian Adams Yates Scholarship** for English and history majors, and the newly established **David J. Lipani Study Abroad Scholarship** for students enrolled in an approved study abroad program.

### Your International Connections at LC

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**Charlotte Arbogast '10** is spending the semester in Salamanca, Spain with funding she received from LC and her study abroad program.



# Postcards from abroad

*LC students explore their world.*



**John Marks '10** visits breathtakingly beautiful Patagonia during a break from his studies this semester in Buenos Aries, Argentina.



**Erin Majerowicz '10** makes a new friend in Australia where she is spending the semester at the University of Adelaide.

## Bloggers Abroad

If you like what you see above, please visit LC's study abroad website and read about our students' international experiences this year in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, and Spain.

<http://www.lynchburg.edu/bloggersabroad.xml>

# Study abroad spotlight

*Gaby Niccolls '09 has seen much of the world with LC faculty and students.*

### Where have you studied abroad?

I have participated in seven programs here at LC. Freshman year I went to Vietnam and then that summer did the European Union trip. Sophomore year I went to India over winter break and then Argentina over spring break and England and Scotland during the summer. My junior year I went to Rome over winter break. My senior year I went back to Vietnam and Thailand.

### Which study abroad program was the most meaningful for you?

I think going to Vietnam was the most meaningful. When I went freshman year, I wanted to go just because I knew it would be so different than anywhere I had ever been before. And Vietnam was just that. It was a great experience, and I loved it so much that I decided to go back this past winter break.



Gaby enjoyed her second visit to Halong Bay in Vietnam, winter break 2008-09.

### What was the most interesting thing you encountered in your travels?

One day when I was in India, we took a riverboat tour and as we went through a small community, children ran along the side asking us for pens. When we asked our professor why they wanted pens so badly she told us that it was because they went to school but had no money for school supplies. I thought that was such a great thing to see, the fact that they still hold their education at such a high value even though they may not necessarily have a great deal of money to fund it.

### What has struck you as similar and different about other countries and cultures?

Going to places in Europe seems similar to our culture; places in the western world are very similar. But, when travelling to places such as India, Vietnam, and Thailand, I have seen many differences. They have many religions that are much more prominent than we see in our everyday life. And their religions also seem to hold more of a prominent part of their daily lives.

### How do you think your international experience will benefit you professionally?

I think that study abroad will help me a professionally. I would one day like to work for an international aid organization or become a study abroad coordinator. Being able to say that I have, firsthand, seen many countries and met many interesting people could help me.

### What advice do you have for LC students?

I would tell any student that they should study abroad at some point while they are in college. Not only are you able to travel with your friends and fellow students, but it is also a great way to encounter cultures and organizations that you would not normally be able to interact with if you were just to take a vacation. This is also one of the few times in life that you will not have jobs and other obligations that could prevent you from travelling for an extended period of time. Studying abroad was a great experience; I have made friends and seen wonderful things. I would not trade it for anything!



## Engagement News

Recent LC study abroad programs have created some romantic and memorable opportunities for “popping the question.” Danny Bruch '09 proposed to a speechless Nicole Lum '10 (above, left) last summer at Mt. St-Michel. The couple took part in the “How Wars End” program which took the group from London to Berlin. Nicole said, “I helped Danny pack, and I was with him the whole time while packing. I don't know how he got the ring to Europe without me knowing!” When asked about the experience, Danny shared that, “Getting engaged abroad is something I will never forget!”

Meanwhile, Stephan Zedlacher '09 and Cassie Gregory '09 (left visiting the Roman Coliseum) got engaged on the Spanish Steps in Rome during winter break's study abroad program to the “Eternal City.” Like Nicole, Cassie was surprised. “I wondered if Stephan would propose in Rome, but I wasn't set on the idea because I didn't want to get my hopes up,” she said. Unbeknownst to Cassie, Stephan was not about to miss this opportunity. “I had it planned out for several months and talked to Dr. Karalow and Professor Rothermel to take photos for us,” Stephan explained.

Both couples are hoping to have their honeymoons abroad and look forward to future travels together. Cassie Gregory even remarked on having the “big day” abroad, but realizes getting everyone to travel at the same time might be too difficult!

## International Notables

For her study abroad experience in Salamanca, Spain with International Studies Abroad (ISA), **Charlotte Arbogast '10** received ISA's Michaela Farnum Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Charlotte, along with **John Marks '10**, also received scholarship funding from LC's M. Wesley Shoemaker International Travel Scholarship. John is spending the semester in Buenos Aries, Argentina.

**Anne Stokes '11** was accepted into St. Catherine's College at Oxford University for fall semester 2009 through a program sponsored by the Institute for Study Abroad at Butler University. To assist with funding this opportunity, the LC History Department selected Anne to receive the Vanauken Fellowship Award, a scholarship designated for history majors accepted into study abroad programs at Oxford University.



LC welcomed the College's second visiting scholar from South Korean sister-school, Hannam University (HNU), this semester. Professor of physics **Dr. Youk Cho** and his family arrived in Lynchburg in mid-February. While on sabbatical leave from HNU, Dr. Cho plans to write a physics textbook and collaborate on some research with LC faculty. Dr. Cho's family along with LC faculty and staff gathered for a welcome lunch in early March (above: Dr. Cho, third from left, and his wife and daughter, center).

Fachhochschule Vorarlberg exchange student **Tamara Lins** (fall 2008) has secured a position with Norwegian company Hydro Aluminium. The company was so interested in Tamara's application that they paid for her round-trip airfare to Austria at the end of last semester so that she could attend a job interview and return to LC in time for final exams.



Shayvonne takes a break from her workout to pose for a picture near Shellenbeger Field.

## International student spotlight — Shayvonne Moxey-Bonamy

comes to LC from the Bahamas with a world of experience as a meteorologist and member of her country’s national volleyball team.

### What brought you to study at Lynchburg College?

A colleague of mine came to LC back in 2002-04 and recommended the College to me. So, I applied and enrolled as a full-time Access student majoring in environmental science. Working for the government as a meteorologist, I have traveled to Europe and China. There is so much work and education needed in the area of the environment. The Bahamas have many coral reefs, wetlands, and mangrove forests that are threatened by both human activity and natural disasters such as hurricanes. So, I’m looking to apply my background in atmospheric science to environmental issues and concerns when I return to the Bahamas.

### What do you think of American student life?

Overall, college life is the same wherever you go. Here at LC the students are friendly which truly was a huge surprise. They also seem pretty affluent which is admirable. People in developing countries are not as fortunate. Competition is extremely high to enter college, and excellence is placed above all else.

### How are Lynchburg and American culture different from the Bahamas?

There are lots of similarities like fast food, music, and clothing. Over 80 percent of tourists who visit the Bahamas come from the U.S., so there is huge American cultural influence. One distinct difference in culture that stands out is greeting people with “good morning, good afternoon, and good evening,” which we do in the Bahamas.

### How are you keeping yourself busy at LC?

Besides schoolwork, I “help” with the women’s volleyball team. I played for the Bahamas’ national team starting as a junior member and then transitioning to the senior team. Playing volleyball has allowed me to see most of the Caribbean and much of the Americas — Jamaica, Barbados, Puerto Rico, Canada, Columbia, Mexico, Guatemala, Surinam, and the U.S. The coaches, athletic staff, players, and parents have truly made me feel part of the team. Personally, I have also started working out the gym.

## LC students show how they “step out and serve”

*Global Gala raises funds and awareness for service initiatives on domestic and international levels.*

Annie Stokes ’11, STAND President

The Memorial Ballroom came alive at last semester’s Global Gala, an evening of learning and sharing which featured the sights, sounds, flavors, and stories related to LC students’ service experiences in St. Lucia, Haiti, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, and the Sudan. The event raised not only \$3,000 to fund initiatives in these countries but also awareness for the hardships these peoples face and how the community here in Lynchburg can serve their needs, even if they do not travel abroad to serve others.

Gala attendees “toured” visual displays depicting the difficulties faced by peoples in developing countries and listened attentively while LC students and alumna Rachael Tanner ’02 recounted their service experiences. As keynote speaker, Tanner spoke of her trips to Haiti as an undergraduate, the development of the annual “Hike for Haiti,” and her year

of service in the Caribbean nation following graduation.

“The primary speaker’s story was heartfelt and inspiring. I was also impressed by the various stories of the students from LC who stepped out and served. The gala really motivated me to get more involved with my world,” commented Roniann Laroque ’12.

With a theme of “step out and serve,” the event’s planners and speakers also wanted to emphasize that “stepping out” does not have to entail physical travel. During the gala, attendees were able to purchase fair trade items, find out information about local service initiatives, and earmark their donations for specific activities in recipient communities abroad. “It was widely expressed that in order to ‘step out and serve,’ you do not have to travel to a



Rachael Tanner ’02 shares her passion for serving others through her efforts on campus as an LC student and in Haiti.

developing country. It is important to find something you love to do and make it your passion,” said Tyler Julian ’11.

The student speakers included Carolyn Walsh, Laura Davis, Abraham Garang, Sara Hardin, all members of the Class of 2010, and Katie Latta ’12.



**LYNCHBURG**  
COLLEGE EST. 1903



Ji-yeon Kim, Jinyoung Kim, and Hyun Suk "Kevin" Lee proudly serve Korean cuisine during the International Food Festival last fall. The event also featured tasty dishes from Laos, Germany, and the Caribbean, just to name a few. Faculty, staff, and students turned up in such high numbers that food quickly ran out — a testament to the festival's popularity!

## Learn the world at Lynchburg College

*The study abroad program is an integral and indispensable component of the College's mission to:*

- *prepare our students for intelligent and whole-hearted participation in a **global society**;*
- *create a learning environment that respects and supports **broad diversity**; and*
- *create a learning environment that respects and supports **global understanding**.*

**The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.**

**~St. Augustine**

## Where will LC take you in 2009-10?

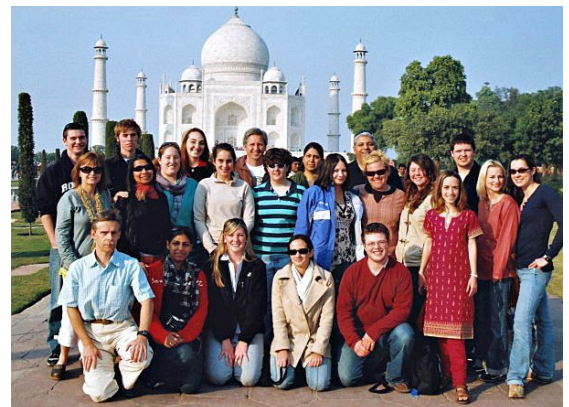
It's never too early to start thinking about study abroad. LC faculty and staff are busy preparing these exciting opportunities for next year:

**Winter Break - Rome - India**

**Spring Break - France and Italy - China**

**Summer - Australia - Austria**  
**- Costa Rica - Uganda**  
**- European Union Seminar**  
**- Quebec City - St. Lucia**  
**- South Korea - United Kingdom**

For more details visit [www.lynchburg.edu/studyabroad](http://www.lynchburg.edu/studyabroad).



The Taj Mahal and the Council of Europe are just a few of the wonderful places LC students will visit in 2009-10. Will you be joining them?

