

# Global Initiatives

International Education Center Newsletter



## International Education Center Newsletter (January, 2014)

### **The President and the Provost visited Brazil to forge ties with Brazilian academic institutions**



From July 21 to July 31, Drs. Cheryl D. Dozier, President of Savannah State University and Reynold Verret, Provost and Vice president of Academic Affairs, visited Brazil to meet with academic and government officials to forge ties that would promote student and faculty exchange programs. The trip was consistent with the efforts of Obama's and Rouseff's administrations to strength cooperation between the United States and Brazil through educational exchange programs. Drs. Dozier and Verret visited the following academic institutions and governmental offices: the Catholic University of Salvador, The Steve Biko Institute, The Federal University of Bahia, Mackenzie University, the University of Sao Paulo, the University of Campinas, the Brasilia and FESO University in Teresopolis. Ministry of Education, CAPES, the University of

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In Salvador, Drs. Dozier and Verret donated school supplies to underprivileged Afro Brazilian students through the Steve Biko Institute. They seized the opportunity to make presentations on Africans in the Diaspora. One of the outcomes of this trip was the signing of MOUs with two Brazilian academic institutions. Other MOUs with additional Brazilian academic institutions are forthcoming.

**Dr. Sametria McFall Dickerson represented SSU in an exploratory trip sponsored by the HBCUs- Brazil alliance**



From August 19 to August 30, 2013, 16 members of the HBCUs-Brazil Alliance traveled to Brazil to establish connections with Brazilian academic institutions. As a member of this Alliance, Savannah State University was represented by Dr. Sametria McFall Dickerson, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Each member of the delegation was assigned to make presentations on their respective academic institutions.

The delegation visited academic institutions in the following cities: Sao Paulo, Campinas, Sao Carlos, Ribeirao Preto, Uberlandia, Goiania, and Brasilia. At each of these institutions, Dr. McFall Dickerson made a presentation on the history of Savannah State as well as its curriculum and degree programs. Dr. McFall Dickerson's trip resulted in strengthening our relations with several Brazilian Institutions including the signing of the MOU with the University of Ribeirao Preto.

**Dr. Naniuzeyi led a delegation composed of 4 Social Science Professors to Brazil**

Dr. Emmanuel Naniuzeyi, Director of the International Education Center, led a delegation composed of four social science professors to Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. The four professors, Drs. Mohamed Mukhtar, Felicia Bell, Diogo Pinheiro, and Pedro Rivera participated in a conference on the experiences of Blacks in the various regions of the Americas. The conference also allowed the SSU delegation to meet with officials and faculty of the Catholic University in order to discuss the ways the two institutions can promote cooperation involving students and faculty.



**Drs. Emmanuel Naniuzeyi and David Smith visited the University of Liberia**

In September 2013, Dr. Naniuzeyi, Director of the International Education Center, and Dr. David Smith, Interim Vice president of Student Affairs, traveled to Liberia with the Honorable Cynthia Blandford, General Consul of Liberia in Atlanta. During their visit in

Monrovia, Liberia, they met with the following officials: the Vice President of Ghana, the Foreign Minister, the Deputy Foreign Minister, the Minister of Commerce, the Ambassador of the USA in Liberia, the Country Director of USAID, the President of the University of Liberia, the Vice Presidents, the SGA leadership, and the faculty. Most of the discussions focused on how to promote student and faculty exchange programs. An establishment of some of our programs in Liberia was also on the menu of the discussions.

### **Savannah State University hosts the SGA leadership from the University of Liberia**



The President, Vice president, and Secretary of the Student Government Association at the University of Liberia were hosted by SSU in November 2013. They had the opportunity to visit classes, interact with our SGA leadership, address the university senior leadership at Tybee Island and attend the Southeast regional Model African Union conference at Columbus State University.

### **Savannah State University becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> academic institution in the state of Georgia to house the Confucius Institute**



The Headquarters of the Confucius Institutes in Beijing, China, has endorsed the establishment of the Confucius Institute at Savannah State University. This Institute is charged with promoting the teaching of Chinese language and culture in Savannah. The Institute will also promote business cooperation between Savannah and China by providing information on investment opportunities in China and Savannah. This will facilitate Chinese investments in Savannah and promote business trips to China. The Institute will also bring cultural groups from China to perform in Savannah. In addition to offering free Chinese classes for the community, the Institute will also serve students at SSU, AASU, and Georgia Southern University. The Institute will organize free trips to China for students who excel in Chinese classes.

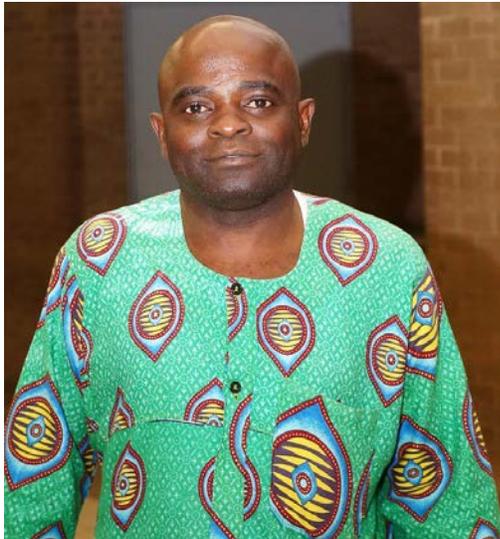
**Drs. Reynold Verret and Emmanuel Naniuzeyi traveled to China to finalize the agreement on the establishment of the Confucius Institute at SSU**



From January 2 to 10, Drs. Reynold Verret, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Emmanuel Naniuzeyi, Director of the International Education Center, visited China to meet with the officials at the Headquarters of the Confucius Institute in Beijing, China. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the agreement on the establishment of the Confucius Institute at SSU. The President of Jiujiang University, our partner

institution, and two other officials of Jiujiang University, joined Drs. Verret and Naniuzeyi at the meeting. Following this meeting, the two SSU representatives flew to Jiujiang to meet with Jiujiang University officials, faculty, and students. The Deputy Mayor of Jiujiang hosted a dinner on behalf of the two guests.

**A SSU international student interns at the French Consulate in Atlanta**



Felix Etinge, a resident international student from Cameroon, interned at the French Consulate in Atlanta from October to November, 2013. His assignment included arranging the performance schedules of the French artists who visited Atlanta during the France-Atlanta month, an event designed to promote and strengthen collaboration between France and the city of Atlanta. Mr. Etinge received high marks from the French General Consul because of his outstanding performance as Intern. Needless to say that Mr. Etinge represented SSU well and we should be proud of him.

## SSU's student exchange programs in Ghana and China continue to be attractive



Dr. Roenia Deloach, Associate Professor of Social Work, is currently at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) with 6 students for the 2014 Spring semester. This comes after our first exchange program that sent 16 students to Ghana, respectively in Kumasi and Cape Coast for the 2013 Spring semester. At the same time we had students in Ghana we had another 11 SSU students spend the spring semester at Jiujiang University in China. While most of the exchange students in China returned to the USA in May 2013, one student who was joined by another SSU student stayed in China for the whole academic year.



To the right- SSU students in Ghana

### Welcoming New International Students

This year we have welcomed 27 new international students to our campus. Our international student population continues to grow as we bring in exchange students from Brazil, India and Nigeria. Savannah State is now home to students from Canada, Sweden, Columbia, The Bahamas, India, Brazil, Burkina Faso, South Korea, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Togo, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameron etc.



#### The Fame!

My Chinese Experience

Antonio Polite,  
Exchange Student, Jiujiang University, China

Who knew that I would be famous before I actually got rich! I get my picture taken by random people throughout the day, here in China. Now I know how

Kanye West feels! Facebook isn't allowed, but I have a hunch that my face is all over the Chinese social networking site, QQ, along with Labron James.

Being in China I've met many friends. Many of them who wanted to use me for publicity for foreign schools and many who would use me just to learn English. I made the mistake by giving out my Chinese cell number the first 2 months I was here. My phone's notifications would buzz with WeChat messages from people who I've only seen once or never met at all! Things got so bad I had to change my number.

So far I've been in China for 9 months. My mandarin isn't superb, but I at least know enough to get around, buy things, and recognize when I'm being discreetly insulted. Here, if you want meat, it's either chicken or beef. I still don't know half the things I eat on a daily basis, but neither do the Chinese people.

One of my unexpected joys came from teaching English to Chinese primary students. I never considered being an educator, but after the salary negotiations I thought I would give it a try. I only teach 2 days out of the week and each one of my eleven 45 minute classes, except for one - they won't shut up-- leaves me feeling accomplished that I've somehow given back. Overall living in China has been a wonderful, growing, learning experience that I will never stop talking about. To see pictures and learn more about my experiences, visit my website: [Antoniop.com](http://Antoniop.com) and follow me on instagram: @apcustoms.

## 2013 Summer Notes from Study Abroad Students

### Trinidad & Tobago

By: India Morgan Student



After concluding a colorfully relaxing weekend in Tobago with my peers, we arrived back on UWI's campus late Sunday night to begin preparing for our last full week in Trinidad. We had an early rise Monday morning to continue work at our assigned agencies. Being at the Strategic Learning and Special Education Institute, for children with special needs and learning disabilities, I had the pleasure of enjoying a full day of starting the new weekly lesson plans for the high school children and assisting the lower level teachers with skill

building activities exercising sensory abilities. I was surprisingly amazed by how well the high school students grasped the materials that were at the level of a normal functioning adolescent. As we reviewed for their upcoming examination the academic competitiveness of the students was pleasantly refreshing to see in such young students. And like the average high school classroom there is always an individual who likes to lighten the mood, commonly referred to as the class clown. Unfortunately for the teacher this class has several, but she did a great job at

redirecting their off topic badgering so that the class could stay on task. After lunch I found myself tapping into my inner creativity as I attempted to keep the attention elementary school age, children entertained since we were not able to follow the regular mid-day schedule of outside free time because of the rain. I was able to successfully keep the children occupied for ten minutes before they bluntly suggested that they would rather play games than have me review colors and number with them. So I obliged knowing that I wasn't doing the best job at keeping their minds off not being able to go outside.

Being able to come to this Institute every day and work with these children humbles me every day! Some of the children here do not go home to the best living condition, for those who even have a home to go to. A handful of the children of this school are homeless, orphans given up at birth because of their disabilities. But even with all of their hardship when they get to the Strategic Learning and Special Education Institute they are regular children. Treated with love



and affection from all of the staff members and cared for as if they were all from one family. While they are here they get to run, laugh, play, and learn without the harsh looks and comments of a non-understanding society. For a few hours, out of every day, they are “My Pickney, Ma Mai.” My Children!

### **China/India**

By Inessa Bredeson

The study abroad program that I attended this summer was both educational and fun. It was filled with diverse activities and various experiences. The duration of six weeks spent in India and China gave me a chance to learn about the two countries' cultures, businesses, and the educational system.

When we arrived to Delhi, India, the representatives from Incentive Destination Company met us at the airport with a Savannah State University poster and traditional flower garlands for every student. It was very touching to experience this Indian welcoming ceremony in the very beginning of the trip.



The next day, we had a New Delhi city tour, and it was the first day we experienced a culture shock. There were so many people on the streets, colorful clothes, constructions, poor areas, huge palaces, and traffic that were very different from any other country I have visited. Narrow streets were filled with many different kinds of transportation including cars, buses,

motorcycles, scooters, bicycles, and rickshaws. The good thing was, we had very experienced and calm drivers navigating the bus in the traffic.

We visited many historic sites in Delhi. The first one was Qutab Minar or the Tower of Victory. It was very impressive. The view of the tower and surrounding buildings makes one wonder how people built it in the 12<sup>th</sup> century without proper equipment.



The visit to Bandhwari Village was also a very interesting and an eye opening experience. Here, parents send their children to school in large part, because the students receive uniforms and are fed during the day. Students study in simple buildings without air-conditioning.

Another memorable visit was to the Lotus Temple or the Worship House. The structure is in a shape of the lotus flower and can fit up to 1,300 hundred people inside. Following the Indian tradition, I took my shoes off and prayed in an assigned area. It was a time to reflect and meditate.

Visiting the Taj Mahal in Agra was definitely the highlight of India trip. A perfect combination of Indian and Persian architecture, Taj Mahal was built in loving memory of beautiful Mumtaz Mahal. In addition to visiting the site itself, we also went on a hot air balloon ride the following day.

Our visit to China was a great experience also. The Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors, and Olympic building were all very impressive to see. We visited three urban cities: Beijing, Xi'an, and Shanghai, which look very similar to big cities in Europe. I will treasure my memories of this trip for the rest of my life. The students in my group were amazing, the professor was great, and the people we met along the way were wonderful. I am glad I went on this trip despite many obstacles that were facing me at the time.



Costa Rica Rafting

## Study Abroad Fair Fall 2013

Our annual Study Abroad Fair was held in April and we were delighted with the interest of our students. More than 300 students came through the fair and were able to meet with the professors who will be leading trips for Summer, 2014.



It's not too late to join us for a summer abroad! This summer we will be travelling to Brazil, Costa Rica, China, Ghana, Liberia, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, as well as the United Kingdom. Please stop by our office in Colston Administration Building Room 116 or find us on the web at

<http://www.savannahstate.edu/academic-affairs/international-ed.shtml>



## Savannah State Receives Record Number of Gilman Scholarships in 2013

Savannah State students were offered record number of Gilman Scholarship for Summer 2013 Study Abroad trips. This scholarship provided awards for 11 of our students to visit and study in China, India, Costa Rica, Trinidad & Tobago and Brazil. Catherine Gonzalez was awarded a scholarship to spend a semester in China!

Joshua Joseph, Jacquelyn Pressley, Jeremy Wallace, Concetta Dotson, Diamonyese Brunson, Inessa Bredeson, Myles Lamar, Blessing Enya, Raven Hughey each was awarded scholarships for their summer trips abroad. Keep an eye out for them as they will be sharing information about Gilman around campus at various study abroad interest meetings.

### **Gilman Applications are being accepted now!**

The online application for summer 2014 and fall/AY 2014-2015 study abroad programs and internships is now open! The deadline to submit your application is March 4, 2014 by 11:59pm Central Time. All applicants will be notified via email of the status of their application in May. You can get additional information about the scholarship and requirements at <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program>

### **International Student's Association hosts a fall break trip to Atlanta**



Fall break was one filled with adventure for several international students, as well as traditional students from SSU. The group toured and shopped their way around Atlanta. We saw the exotic and sometimes creeping crawling creatures at Zoo Atlanta. We sipped sodas from around the world at the World of Coke. Everyone had a favorite drink, but the consensus was overwhelming that the drink named

Beverly was the worst! The fun didn't stop at soda sipping; we also saw the aquarium, an art gallery and a history museum. It was a great opportunity for international students to see and experience life outside of Savannah and good way to enjoy the company of traditional students as well. Everyone agreed this needs to become an annual trip!