

### **Upcoming Events:**

I 1/06 - GES Workshop
I 1/07 - Study Abroad Meet and Greet
I 1/12 - How to Afford Study Abroad Workshop
I 1/13 - Spending a
Semester Abroad Panel
I 1/14 - Broadening
Horizons Student Panel
I 1/15 - Crossing Paths, Crossing
Cultures International Photo
Competition Ceremony and
Reception

## Scholarship Info:

#### Spring 2013 Deadlines:

International Education Fee Scholarship (IEF): October 26th

#### Boren Campus Deadline: January 11th

For additional information on these scholarships, please visit the Study Abroad Programs website. Also check out the Georgia State University Scholarship Resource Center for additional scholarship opportunities.



"The World is a book, and those who do not travel, only read one page."

-St Augustine

# Georgia State University Study Abroad Programs

#### Volume II, Issue 3

#### October 2012

# Coming Soon: International Education Week!

It's here once again! The Office of International Initiatives will be hosting its annual International Education Week, 5 fun filled days of any and everything global. With over 30 events during International Education Week (November 12 – 16), this year is sure to be the best yet! Join us for How to Afford Study Abroad Workshop and Study Abroad Student Panels. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome! The week will be capped off with the Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures International Photo competition Ceremony

<u>Country Taskforce Forums:</u> Monday: Turkey – 4 p.m., Speakers Auditorium

Tuesday: South Africa – 4 p.m., Senate Salon Wednesday: China – 4 p.m., Speakers Auditorium Thursday: South Korea – 12 p.m., Speakers Auditorium Friday: Brazil – 10 a.m., Speakers Auditorium

and Reception. (see below). In ad- own of dition, OII will be sponsoring three abroad!

additional awards for 2012 International participants: The Study Abroad Student of the Year Award, International Student of the Year Award, And Faculty Award for Global Engagement! Winners will be recognized during the International Honorary Luncheon on November 14th. With so many awesome events highlighting the celebration of international cultures and world travel, you won't be able to wait for your own opportunity to study abroad!

# Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures

# International Photo Competition

Attention all returned study abroad students and current international students: the Crossing Paths, Crossing Cultures photo competition is almost here! This annual competition, ceremony, and exhibit seeks to bring together the cross-cultural experiences of our study abroad students and our international students studying at Georgia State University.

Returned students were able to enter up to three photographs in the categories of Daily Life, People, and Places. This year the ceremony will take place on November 15th at 5PM in the Student Center Ballroom. Guests will enjoy a reception featuring live entertainment, food, and a fantastic exhibit. You can visit the Office of International Initiatives website for more information. Until then, check out some pictures from our Student Spotlight! And flip to pg. 2 for his full interview!



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# We Are Not the Only Ones Who Put On a Fright Fest!

**Did you know** all across the globe, there are other countries with festivals similar to our Halloween? Check out how some of these international holidays really bring some fright of their own!

# China: The Hungry Ghost Festival

The Hungry Ghost Festival is celebrated in China during the seventh month of the



Chinese calendar. During this time it is believed that restless spirits freely roam the

earth. These

ghosts, according to Chinese tradition, never received a proper burial from family members, and therefore temporarily live amongst their descendants in order to have homage paid to them. Family members will set an extra place at the table for them, preform rituals, and make altars in the name of the living. Upon the final day of the celebration, they send floating lanterns along rivers to guide the spirits back to the underworld.

## Mexico: The Day of the Dead

The Day of the Dead celebration (known as Día de los Muertos in Spanish) takes place in Mexico primarily on November 1st and 2nd. The first of the month is used in order to mourn the loss of deceased children, whereas the second is primarily for adults. Family and friends celebrate by preparing the favorite foods of the dead (including sugar skulls as a welcome gesture), spending the night at the grave site,



and leaving blankets and pillows around the home so the deceased can In larger cities, however, much of the American-style customs of Halloween are starting to emerge – children dress up in costumes and travel to neighbors for candy.

## Nigeria: The Odo Festival

The Odo Festival is carried out in the northern Igbo villages in Nigeria. The biannual festival occurs in three distinct stages: the Odo (deceased village members) make their return in a welcoming celebration, stay di-

rectly amongst the living for six or more months during which time they visit their ancestral homes, and are then parted in



an extremely emotional ceremony. In preparation for the Odo's departure, the lgbo villagers put on an elaborate, theatrical performance in the market square. The performance, known as the Awuru Odo, tells the story of the deceased lives as well as their time spent back on earth.

# Student Spotlight: Marcus Kernizan



Tell us about your program! What made you decide to study abroad, and what factors

study abroad, and what factors helped you chose the location or subject of your program?

My study abroad program centered on policy studies in Europe. We studied countries such as France, Germany, and Belgium. Many of our class studies would include guest lecturers and visits to many governmental sites [like] the European Parliament. I've always wanted to study abroad since freshman year. In my junior year I saw that I had a chance to actually do it, so I put effort into planning it and did it. I chose this program and location because it directly fit into the academic plan for my major.

What type of financial aid did you receive? How did you use your scholarship award to help fund your trip? What advice would you give to future IEF/ GES candidates?

I was able to receive the IEF scholarship. This scholarship helped me pay off a portion of the program cost. It was a huge relief for me, because it made it easier for me to pay for other things like my flight, and books.

#### What was your most memorable experience from your program?

My most memorable experience was at a Concentration camp. This was also the saddest part of the trip. All of my life I have been learning about concentration camps and the Holocaust but to actually visit the place where these activities took place was unreal. Some of the people visiting this camp at the same time as us were the grandsons and granddaughters of the victims. This was truly a sad day for

## Why do you think study abroad is an important part of the college experience for all students?

the entire group.

I believe studying abroad completes the collegiate experience for all college students. After studying abroad I realized that you cannot learn everything in a classroom setting. You have to branch out and learn about other parts of the world. As technology advances we will not only be interacting with Americans, but with people from all over the globe. When you study abroad not only do you learn the course information, you also have a hands on opportunity to learn about cultural differences.

# Where in the World?



Do you know which country is considered the birthplace of Halloween? Can you guess based on the picture above? Leave the answer on our Facebook page!

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