

# Study Abroad Connections

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## Message from the Director

Welcome to the Spring 2014 issue of Study Abroad Connections. In this issue we highlight our new semester program in Shanghai, China with an introduction written by UHM Law Professor Alison Conner, the first Faculty Resident Director for the Shanghai program. We also feature two students - Mick Jower, who participated in the Spring 2013 Seville, Spain program and applied to extend his Study Abroad experience into Fall 2013, and Glenda Supnet, who participated in the Spring 2013 London, England program. Clearly, studying (and living) abroad, and being exposed to the world and different cultures and languages, is a transformative and rewarding experience in more ways than one.

Sincerely,

*Sarita Rai*  
Sarita Rai

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## Shanghai Sojourn

**Alison Conner**  
**Resident Director, Shanghai, Spring 2014**  
**Professor, William S Richardson School of Law**

In Spring 2014, the Study Abroad Center will launch an exciting new program in Shanghai. Although the Center already runs a popular summer language program in Hainan, this is the first semester-long program to be offered for our students in China. While in Shanghai, we will be based at Tongji University, which was founded in 1907 and has long been known for its excellence in science and engineering. Tongji is now a top-rated comprehensive university, with programs in law, business and the liberal arts, so students will be able to take courses in Chinese culture, society and economics as well as study the Chinese language.

Shanghai is a dynamic modern city; it's not only China's most important commercial and financial center, but also an exciting center for fashion, art and movies. Tongji University's international campus is located in the Yangpu district, a convenient setting with easy access to Shanghai's excellent subway system. Shanghai's famous Bund, Nanjing Road's shopping and theaters, the Shanghai Museum and the former French Concession district (still quite atmospheric) can all be reached via Tongji's subway line. Students in the program will also be able to visit historical cities nearby, including Suzhou, which is known for its traditional gardens, and Hangzhou, home of the beautiful West Lake.

I've loved Shanghai since 1982, when I lived in the city for the first time. Even after all these years (and so many short and long stays there), I still find it an endlessly fascinating city. Shanghai is always reinventing itself, but despite the constant change you can find plenty of history if you know where to look. I can't think of a better place to see and experience China today, and I'm thrilled that our students will now have such a terrific opportunity to live and study in China—and to find their own special Shanghai, just as I found mine.

*Below: Prof. Conner at the Bund in Shanghai 1983, and the Shanghai Bund in 2013.*



*“Shanghai is always reinventing itself, but despite the constant change you can find plenty of history if you know where to look.”*

## Spotlight On...



**Mick Jower**  
**Seville, Spain**  
**Spring 2013 & Fall 2013**

I've always been intrigued with the thought of living in another country, experiencing a different culture, and learning a language, so the opportunity to study abroad in Spain while simultaneously receiving UHM credits towards my degree and Spanish minor was a complete no-brainer.

This past spring has been an enriching and fulfilling experience. Sevilla is such a beautiful city with well-preserved history, a vibrant atmosphere, friendly people, and an inspiring and unique culture. Not to mention being immersed in the culture is the most absolute efficient way to learn the language. Learning the language firsthand in a Spanish environment is completely different from learning Spanish in the US from only a classroom setting. After class, you're able to practice what you've learned and apply it in various situations with local Spaniards. It makes it way more fun! Living with a Spanish host family was one of the best parts of studying abroad as it helped me to learn the language and become part of the culture by adopting their style of living. Plus, my host mother cooked paella every other week, who wouldn't want that!! Most importantly though, my Spanish host family has grown to become my family and I'm very fortunate to have been placed with them.

The program in Sevilla is well organized with excursions within Andalusia to Granada, Cordoba, Ronda, and Jerez. In addition, attending Semana Santa and La Feria de Abril during the spring are MUSTS. I've never experienced anything like Sevilla's Holy Week or their traditional weeklong fiesta of La Feria. Both were incredible, and must be experienced firsthand.

One of the best incentives of studying abroad is the opportunity to travel on weekends and breaks. Europe is filled with so many beautiful countries and amazing cultures so take advantage of it! It's always been a dream of mine to travel and see as much of the world as possible, so during the summer I decided to embark on a six-week long European backpacking adventure covering eight countries and a cruise covering three. Without a doubt the most amazing thing I've ever done. It was truly dreamlike and unreal to actually visit some of the world's most famous landmarks as I've only seen them through pictures and videos. I was able to visit the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, the Louvre, climb to the top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris and to the top of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, enjoy the beaches of Mallorca and Tenerife, go to the top of castles in Sintra, Salzburg, and Prague, visit the ruin pubs in Budapest, indulge in pasta, pizza, and gelato all over Venice, Florence, and Rome, see the Coliseum and Vatican, sample amazing Belgian and German brews, spend a day on the island of Santorini, learn how to navigate public transportation throughout Europe, and most of all, meet and make so many friends from all over the world.

Going abroad and being immersed in a new culture and language has not only opened my eyes to the world beyond the U.S., but more importantly, I've learned a great deal about myself and my desires for my future. My time abroad has allowed me to grow academically and as a person, and hands down one of the best experiences of my life. The opportunity to study abroad is one of the best things that a college could offer a student and I feel that this has been my most rewarding semester of college thus far. So my advice, study abroad. Just do it, you won't regret it.

*"Going abroad and being immersed in a new culture and language has not only opened my eyes to the world beyond the U.S., but more importantly, I've learned a great deal about myself and my desires for my future."*

**Glenda Supnet**  
**London, England**  
**Spring 2013**

Studying abroad has been a dream of mine since I was young girl. I knew that my college years would not be complete if I did not take a semester off to learn in a foreign country. It was until my third year at UH that I realized the importance of finally turning my long awaited dream into reality.

The study abroad program in London, England exceeded far beyond my expectations. It helped me understand what it is truly like to live independently and how to adapt to any unfamiliar setting. London exposed me to a different world, a melting pot of diverse cultures and rich traditions. I got to meet people and create new friendships from all over Europe and tasted their different cuisines. For once, I was the outsider, the American girl with an American accent and through that, I quickly gained a new perspective on life. I grew up in an underrepresented community on the Westside of Oahu, so going to a four-year university was a huge milestone in itself. However, studying abroad and traveling the across Europe brought new light to my eyes and from what I see, a completely new world of possibilities for myself.

The study abroad program in London, England was the most challenging endeavor I have ever experienced and I am proud to say it ultimately enhanced who I am as an individual and my goals in life for the better. The school I had the privilege to attend was Roehampton University. What makes Roehampton so exceptional was how much they rely on their students to account for their own education. From what I experienced, they didn't assign much homework or quizzes; they mainly base the students' grades on a final exam or final exam paper. It was interesting to be involved in different ways of learning, meeting once a week, three hours each week—unlike UH where we are accustomed to attend classes several times a week. I acquired a great sense of self-discipline for my learning and that is something I can certainly apply to my business courses in the upcoming semesters.

Studying abroad in London furthered my interests and is now the driving force to all my academic and professional goals. As much as I didn't want to leave London, I could not wait to apply what I learned from my international studies and experiences to my job and academics. I gained an immense amount of confidence when I communicate knowing that I have so many stories of my adventures to share. With my experiences from abroad in my back pocket, I believe I have more to offer to future career opportunities. In short, the study abroad experience reinforced who I am on many levels. I am the girl who has ambitions and is motivated. I am the girl who traveled to eight different countries (England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, and Italy) in three and a half months, an event I dreamt of doing my whole life. I took advantage of every opportunity I encountered. For instance, I tried Haggis in Edinburgh, Scotland and poured the perfect pint of Guinness in Dublin, Ireland. I climbed over 600 steps up the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France and rode on a gondola down the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy. I accomplished a lot of my lifelong goals in such a short time that I feel my hunger to explore had just only begun.

Who I am now and who I will be in the years to come is credited to my experience living and studying in London. I am no longer afraid to explore and see the world on my own as there is so much I have yet to adventure. There are many moments and stories I wish I could share but it is simply one of those things that has to be experienced rather than explained. I highly recommend studying abroad to anyone who is even slightly considering it. There is not a day that goes by when I don't think about London and wanting to go back. Being in London was an invaluable, yet expensive experience -- but it was worth every cent. For three months of my life, I actually believed London was my home. The famous monuments, the British accents, the people, the culture, the Harry Potter sites, and the endless amount of fish n' chips will forever be a part of me that I will never forget. London was such a turning point in my life and I am so grateful for having experienced such an impeccable journey in the world.





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Dare to Discover,  
Dare to Learn, and  
Dare to Understand

## Spring 2014 Calendar at a Glance

**Study Abroad Fair**  
Fri, January 24  
9:00am - 2:00pm  
Hawai'i Hall Front Lawn

**Informational Meetings**  
Mon, January 27 - Mon,  
February 10

**\$500 Scholarship  
Deadline**  
Fri, February 14

**Summer 2014  
Application Deadline**  
Tues, February 18

**Year-in-Japan  
Application Deadline**  
Mon, March 3

**Fall 2014 Application  
Deadline**  
Tues, April 1

## Meet the Resident Directors

... and the exciting courses they are teaching abroad!

### Summer 2014

**Mendoza, Argentina**  
**Tony Torralba** [torralba@hawaii.edu](mailto:torralba@hawaii.edu)  
*Curriculum Studies, College of Education*

**Hainan, China**  
**Julie Jiang** [lijiang@hawaii.edu](mailto:lijiang@hawaii.edu)  
*EALL - Chinese, College of LLL*

**Angers, France**  
**Jacob Huss** [jacob@hawaii.edu](mailto:jacob@hawaii.edu)  
*LLEA - French, College of LLL*

**Lille, France**  
**Phillip Ooi** [ooi@hawaii.edu](mailto:ooi@hawaii.edu)  
*Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
College of Engineering*

**Paris, France**  
**Jon Goldberg-Hiller** [hiller@hawaii.edu](mailto:hiller@hawaii.edu)  
*Political Science, College of Social  
Sciences*  
POLS 333: Advanced Topics in Global Politics:  
"Global Cities"

**Berlin, Germany**  
**Christine Malsbary** [malsbary@hawaii.edu](mailto:malsbary@hawaii.edu)  
*Institute for Teacher Education,  
Elementary Program, College of  
Education*  
ITE 360: Multicultural Education

**Florence, Italy**  
**Lois Yamauchi** [yamauchi@hawaii.edu](mailto:yamauchi@hawaii.edu)  
*Educational Psychology, College of  
Education*

**Kōbe, Japan**  
**Susan Mikami** [susanmikami@gmail.com](mailto:susanmikami@gmail.com)  
*Pediatrics, JABSOM*

### Fall 2014

**London, England**  
**Krisnawati Suryanata** [krisnawa@hawaii.edu](mailto:krisnawa@hawaii.edu)  
*Geography, College of Social Sciences*  
GEOG 322 (W): Globalization and the  
Environment  
GEOG 422 (W): Agriculture, Food and Society

**Paris, France**  
**Judith Mills Wong** [jmills@hawaii.edu](mailto:jmills@hawaii.edu)  
*Financial Economics and Institutions,  
Shidler College of Business*  
BUS 313: The Economic and Financial  
Environment of Global Business  
FIN 305 (W): Problems of Business Finance,  
European Focus

**Delhi, India**  
**Miriam Sharma** [sharma@hawaii.edu](mailto:sharma@hawaii.edu)  
*Asian Studies, SPAS*  
ASAN 320I (W): Asian Nations: India  
ASAN 493 (W): Globalization in Asia: India and the  
"New" Middle Class

**Florence, Italy**  
**Kristin McAndrews** [mcandrew@hawaii.edu](mailto:mcandrew@hawaii.edu)  
*English, College of LLL*  
ENG 313 (W): Life/Food Writing - A Taste of Italy:  
An Exploration of Life and Food in Florence  
ENG 380 (O): Folklore and Literature - The Italian  
Myth, Folktale, Fairytale and the Contemporary  
Legend

**Kōbe, Japan**  
**John Szostak** [szostak@hawaii.edu](mailto:szostak@hawaii.edu)  
*Art & Art History, College of Arts &  
Humanities*  
ART 380: Early Art of Japan - Buddhist Art and  
Visual Culture  
ART 381: Later Art of Japan - The Rise of  
Japanese Modernity

**Seville, Spain**  
**Reece Jones** [reecej@hawaii.edu](mailto:reecej@hawaii.edu)  
*Geography, College of Social Sciences*  
GEOG 335 (W): Politics, Nations and States  
GEOG 435: The Political Geography of Oceans