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Highlights from Havana!

By: Christina Evert  
Major: Communications  
Semester at Sea

One of my most memorable ports on Semester at Sea was created traveling through Brazil with the three girls who became my best friends from the trip. We went through the extreme highs of hang gliding off cliffs overhanging the ocean to the lows of having our credit card information stolen; yet the entire port was an adventure that I will never forget. I think the intensity and spontaneity of traveling together helped create a bond between us that will never break.

A second highlight from my time abroad was the farewell ceremony hosted for our ship campus by the university students in Havana, Cuba. Not only was it amazing to interact with the Cuban students, but it was the perfect way to celebrate one last time with everyone we had become close to throughout our voyage abroad. We celebrated the new found friendships we made in Havana while sharing one last evening out with our shipboard community. It was truly unforgettable.
Keelee’s Atlantic Voyage

By: Keelee Martin    Major: Marine Science    Minor: English    Semester at Sea

Certificate: Marine Option Program

My time abroad is still changing my life. I am still revealing lessons that I learned and finding out how to apply a more worldly way of thinking into my life. My Fall 2014 Voyage through Semester At Sea took me to 16 countries. When I left, I had not been anywhere out of the U.S. and I had no idea what was waiting for me. I got to see some incredible sights: the Eiffel tower, Christ the Redeemer, the Colosseum—but my most favorite moments were where I could just exist in the place. Hiking in the Tijuca rainforest, walking on the beach in Civitavecchia, and roaming the backstreets of Barcelona. In these moments I wasn’t distracted by what I was “supposed” to do, and I could just be.
I found some real human connections when I was in port. For me, that was the most eye-opening. Some were really good, where we could communicate in the same language and some were less desirable, where I was bombarded with sales pitches or pleas for money. These encounters took a heavy emotional toll on me and often left me feeling unsettled and unsure of how I should have responded. I saw poverty for the first time on this trip. In Morocco and Brazil, I questioned what “civilized” really means and who gets to define that. In my Gender and Society class, on the ship, I faced the issue of white privilege, which I hadn’t ever dealt with. Every day held something new for me to feel and think about.

I’m still adjusting to reality, but am able to incorporate some of the things I learned abroad into my daily life here. I do long for the days of coming into a new port before the sun has risen and chanting *E Hō Mai*, as a new place comes into view. I miss the quiet moments alone on the observation deck, long talks with my roommate, the smiling faces on the ship and the bittersweet feeling pulling away from port back into the unknown.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to study abroad and I believe everyone should be able to go.

This means you!
Aloha! I recently went to Chung-Ang University in Seoul, South Korea for my study abroad. On my trip I enjoyed myself tremendously. I’ve made so many friends and had so many different experiences while being there. South Korea is one of the most affordable places that I have ever been to. You can literally get through the day by using $10 for all three meals. There is also always something to do, whether it be the festivals that they are holding around town, or the site seeing of various temples and so forth. You will never be bored there. Lastly, their transportation system is amazing. There is no need for a car. You can simply get around Seoul by subway, bus or even taxi, and [they are] all very affordable. These are just some of the things that made my stay in Korea so very enjoyable because of the affordability and accessibility of the city.

One of the biggest things that I have ever learned on this trip to South Korea is to get out of your comfort zone. Before leaving for Korea I was so nervous. I never caught an airplane by myself before, so being that I was going to a different country all by myself, not knowing any part of the language was so very terrifying. [Though] after getting there, making many different friends, and experiencing the things that I did this past semester made me so happy that I went out of my comfort zone.

All of my experiences that I have made are so very priceless and I would never change or alter my decision to study abroad in any way. This experience abroad has been so very life changing and I am so blessed to have gotten the opportunity to experience what I have done.
My name is Nathan Pallett and I studied abroad on the Semester at Sea program.

My favorite experience on Semester at Sea by far was our few days spent in Cuba. I have never felt so much for a people and a country before in my life, it is all that I can think about. I believe, Cuba is purposely and maliciously held back from joining the world as a developed country due to the US embargo.

From the perspective of some Americans, Cuba is a poor miserable country with desperate and unhappy people. However, during my visit in Cuba, I knew this was not true. Many Cuban’s are proud, happy, and spirited. The wealth of their nation is not measured in the stacks of paper they hoard, but the pride and spirit they have in themselves and their nation. Cuba’s unemployment rate is at 3 percent and they have a 90 plus percent literacy rate. Also, according to Canadian students on the ship, Cuba apparently has one of the world’s best health care systems. This was astonishing for me to see and hear.

During our stop in Cuba, I had the opportunity to visit two universities, the University of Havana and the University of Pinar del Rio. Each university is currently conducting research on sustainable practices in Cuba. During the visit we were able to learn about the research each university was conducting on new sustainable practices in Cuba. We also learned about the Cuban government, the inefficiencies within the government and policy changes that the Cuban government is enforcing to eliminate the inefficiencies.

There is so much we could learn from Cuba and I could write forever on what I learned and saw. I hope and pray that the embargo is lifted soon. The world has so much to give Cuba and Cuba has quite a bit to give back to the world.

As a University of Hawaii at Hilo Agriculture undergraduate student, I would have never thought that I would have gotten the chance to see so much of the world. I am so thankful that words cannot explain how I feel and how I have grown after such an amazing experience.
Adventures on the High Sea!

By: Mike Dowsett  Major: Kinesiology & Exercise Science  Semester at Sea Minor: Political Science

Last fall impacted my life in such a powerful way that I would never have expected to be this moved by it. People come up to me and ask, “How was Semester At Sea?” I try to formulate a short answer that they can understand, but I still can’t seem to find the words to express the emotions. It really is something that you have to experience to fully understand, and because of that, it’s difficult to pick just one experience that I would like to share. Every story was equally memorable, but since I can only pick one, I will share what it was like to cross an entire ocean by boat.

Most people on study abroad will share an experience they had while in country, but that is too easy for me. I want to share something that few people in their lives will ever experience.

When I first heard of the idea of crossing the ocean by boat, it sounded totally normal. What we were about to do didn’t really hit me until that evening when we pulled out of Barcelona, saying goodbye to land (and fresh fruit) for the next two weeks. The first few days were life as usual on the boat, with classes going on, social events continuing and lazy hours of the day just watching the ocean pass you by. After about day five, that’s when what you are really doing hits home. You walk out on to the observation deck to get some of that much needed tropical sunshine and all you see is blue and white. Blue sky, white clouds, blue ocean and white bow wake. It is truly an incredible feeling not having anything around for literally hundreds of miles except for the occasional cargo ship and pod of dolphins or whales. I mean where else can you experience this AND be studying. Witnessing sunrises and sunsets became an everyday thing.
It is tradition for the pollywogs (unbaptized subjects) to be doused with fish guts, then to jump into the sea (on-board saltwater pool), and then to kiss a fish before climbing back onto land. This is followed by kissing King Neptune’s ring, and then being knighted. After all of that, the person is ready for the final step...shaving his/her head. Many people didn't want to do this, but because I come from a maritime family, I felt more compelled than ever to take part in this hazing-like ritual. So, my three closest friends on the ship and I [got] in line and [got] our heads buzzed completely bare. I have never done this before so I didn't know what to expect.

Keep in mind this whole event is in full view of all [the] students, so it is somewhat of a show. Once it was all over, we were now officially baptized and ready to continue our journey as shellbacks. It may sound cliché, but I really did feel reborn [as] a new person. The old pre-Semester At Sea me would never have been outgoing enough to try this. The Semester At Sea Fall 2014 voyage changed me in ways I didn’t think possible and taught me things about myself I didn’t know were there to be learned.

The **adventure continues**

next stop, Rio De Janeiro.
Hello Hello From Hungary!

By: Alyssa Loving

Major: Mathematics

When I left United States soil for the first time, as my plane pulled away from Chicago, my last stop in my home country, I had no idea what to expect. My destination, Budapest, Hungary, could hardly have been farther away from the place I had always called home, Honomu, Hawaii, USA. In fact, Budapest was a full 12 hours time difference away from my home (at the beginning of my trip, 11 by the time I left). I only remember vaguely hoping that my semester would include making new friends, epic classical music, and weekend trips to neighboring European countries. As it turned out, happily, all of these would become part of my study abroad experience.

Wandering over the Danube on a chilly afternoon

Exploring Budapest with friends on All Hallows Eve

But looking back, the moments I treasured most took me entirely unawares.

Autumn coming up and tapping my shoulder with golden leaves and cool breezes as I walked to school in the morning, getting acquainted with the different moods of the Danube river, walking the bridges of the city, navigating the convenient but sometimes confusing metro, pointing to order a golden brown loaf of Jewish sweet bread in some cozy pékség full of tempting Hungarian and Jewish breads and pastries, impromptu visits to street markets with newly made friends from church...
studying in a Turkish teaház, learning that studying means friends, soft lights, the gentle tinkling of tea things, and the most delicious hot cocoa I had ever experienced, and really hard math problems. My main reason for going to Budapest was to study math, since they host a renowned program for aspiring mathematicians. [Unexpectedly], I gained so much more than just what I learned in those classes. All those little moments of surprising splendor, the loveliness which I was pressed into seeing by the utter dearth of the comfortable and the familiar, all of it was so foreign that the beauty of it all was forced into my hands. The experience has left me with a wider place within myself with which to hold the wonders that are always around me.

Heading to Vienna, Austria with fellow classmates and friends

An accidental day in the UK, following a cancelled flight left me with a ridiculously long layover and the unintended opportunity to experience Winter Wonderland in London.

Trying to snap a photo of my breath. I was so excited that I could see it.
Moments to Remember

By: Gail Klevens

Major: Linguistics
Minor: English
Certificate: TESOL and Educational Studies

Semester at Sea was the defining moment in my return to college. It was filled with challenges that I was not completely prepared for. I had traveled most of my life, being an Air Force brat born on a navy vessel and a vessel captain myself, and I thought I was a very seasoned traveler. This voyage showed me that you can never truly understand what it is to visit 18 cities in 16 countries in 4 months while trying to maintain your grades and see the true beauty of each place and its people. While many students felt it was important to travel to all to other cities and places while in port, they never really saw the port cities. Some of these places were absolutely stunning and more receptive to the visitors they received. And then there were some students who thought that having a great time was to imbibe in each port to the point of recklessness and losing privileges and in some instances being sent home.

I traveled with a couple of students from UH Hilo and we had a great time getting to the vessel in England. We spent three days visiting the sites of London prior to boarding the ship in Southampton. As we continued on to each country I found myself asking myself, “where did we just visit”, “what country did we just leave”, “we are in another one already?” At times it was overwhelming for me and I could not imagine how others, that were not regular travelers, were dealing with the situation.

The most memorable moments for me were the ones where we were simply sitting and enjoying a great sunset like in Roma, Italy. On the streets of many of the places we visited there were street musicians and in Italy we saw the most incredible sunset while we sat on a bench and listened to a street musician played Beatles music. In Warnemunde, Germany we spent almost an entire day watching the invasion of the moon jellyfish in the canal, which we were told happens only once a year. In other areas we were exposed to immense poverty, like some areas in Brazil and Morocco, that made us stop and really appreciate where and how we live.

In Cuba we were police escorted on 17 busses to a reception of hundreds of students lined up to greet us at the University of Havana. The streets were lined with people waving to us and greeting us as we were transported through the city to the school. It was something of a spectacle considering our country’s history with Cuba.

In each port something different awaited us as we descended the gangway. Sometimes it was an assault by taxi drivers, in others it was people not used to seeing 600 young students invade their small towns. Although we usually had a pre-port briefing and a few students from the cities would join us prior to arriving in their cities and give us information about their cities, it was always similar to opening Christmas presents when we finally arrived in port and were allowed to disembark.
Then there were times like in Gdansk, Poland, where things were difficult on a personal level. I was not looking forward to getting off the ship in this port due to family ties to this part of the world. My grandmother on my mothers side was from Poland and had lost most of her family in the war there. I was extremely close to her and when she passed I found myself a bit lost and this became one of the most difficult times in my life. But I did finally get off the ship and ventured into Gdansk and had an incredible time watching the street musicians, conversing with people, strolling through the streets and taking wonderful pictures of the area. It was a needed experience and taught me much about myself and my preconceived notions about this wonderful country and its people. I am much more at peace about my grandmothers passing now.

I cannot explain in words how I watched and recorded the two girls I left Hilo with grow into outstanding, independent young women! Of all the things I experienced this was the best thing to watch unfold. For me, I grew in my cultural awareness a bit more, I experienced things on board that I would not wish to repeat, but I would love to do it again and in fact was saddened to leave the vessel.
A New Perspective

Kayla Bernel
Major: Computer Science
Semester at Sea

Semester at Sea has led me to a whole different perspective about myself and that is “I can do whatever I put my mind too”. I am proud to say I finished Semester at Sea with many new friends and amazing stories to tell.

Students Currently Abroad

Spring 2015

University of Stirling
Brittany Boyd
Amy Chang
Colin Lang
Emily Wallingford

University of Tromso
Dashiel Stevens

University of Victoria
Johann Kuipers
Autumn Chong
Richard Nakamura
Cullen Mandrayar

James Cook University
Doug Fitzpatrick

Semester at Sea
Robin Lockwood
Ka’iulani Kamau
Raelyn Eckert

University of Ruyukyus
Tiana Honda
Krystle Koshiyama

Seinan Gakuin
University

Tokyo Gakugei
University

Christopher Jones
Anela Nishimoto

Hokkaido University
Jamie Yugawa

Nanzan University
Bryce Miles-Leighton

Rikkyo University
David Gentry

Korea University
Cheyne Yonemori
Jannah Pante

Meio University
Kayla Ing

Hankuk University
Kyle Jones

Chung-Ang University
Kala’i Grothmann

Sogang University
Loredel Areieta

Kayla riding a bike through Le Havre, France with her first two friends on Semester at Sea, Keelee and Gail.
The Center for Global Education and Exchange is excited about the cohort of students studying abroad this semester. For many, it is the first time out of the US, and for others, even the first time out of the State of Hawai‘i! There are yearlong, semester and short-term programs. Many students participate in an exchange program where they pay UH Hilo tuition to study abroad. There are numerous possibilities. Stop by SSC E202 and meet with an advisor to learn about the opportunities to study abroad.

Warmest aloha,
Carolina Lam, Director of Global Education
Audrey S. Furukawa
Study Abroad Scholarship

The Audrey S. Furukawa Study Abroad Scholarship will enable eligible students to begin their global education journey, open infinite doors of opportunity and to promote world peace. As a life long resident of Hilo, Audrey S. Furukawa values the opportunity to give back. With the support from her family and friends, Mrs. Furukawa has established a scholarship which will enable students to study abroad & explore the endless horizon.

Ms. Furukawa spent over 30 years as a faculty member and administrator at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. She retired in 2008 from dual positions as Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, and Director of the Center for global education and exchange, which she established in 2005.

Eligibility Requirements:
» Applicant must be enrolled as a full time classified student at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.
» Applicant must have 24 University of Hawaii at Hilo Credits at the time of departure
» Applicant must show academic merit as demonstrated with a minimum 3.2 GPA
» Applicant will study abroad for at least one semester.
» The applicant must not have studied, traveled of lived abroad for more than one month.
» The selected student must return to UH Hilo upon completion of the study abroad program.

Semester at Sea Scholarship

The University of Hawaii at Hilo Semester at Sea Scholarship Program is a cooperative partnership between the University of Hawaii at Hilo and the Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE). This Scholarship will cover 60% of the total program fee for an economy priced cabin (price varies by semester); The University of Hawaii at Hilo Financial Aid Office will assist students with financial aid options to cover the remaining 40% of the program cost.

Eligibility Requirements
» Student must have a 3.0 University of Hawaii at Hilo Cumulative GPA
» Student must be a classified full-time student the semester before they go abroad.
» Student must have completed 24 University of Hawaii at Hilo credits prior to intended study abroad term.
» Student must return to the University of Hawaii at Hilo after the Semester at Sea voyage for at least one semester at UHH in or to complete community service requirements.
The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program was established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000. This scholarship provides awards for U.S. undergraduate students who are receiving Federal Pell Grant funding at a two-year or four-year college or university to participate in study abroad programs worldwide. The Gilman Scholarship Program accepts applications two times per year. Ideally, students should begin their application one full semester before their study abroad program is scheduled to begin. The program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go by supporting undergraduates who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State sponsor the Gilman Scholarship Program. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly, sympathetic, and peaceful relations. The Gilman Scholarship Program is open to U.S. citizen undergraduate students who are planning to study abroad. The program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go by supporting undergraduates who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints.

**Gertrude E. McVickar Endowed Excellence Scholarship**

The UH-Hilo Gertrude E. McVickar Scholarship is an endowed scholarship in memory of a woman who believed that an opportunity to be transplanted into an unfamiliar country and culture would lead to a more tolerant and peaceful world. She also believed that all students should be encouraged to participate in international exchange programs. Recipients must be full-time undergraduate students with a declared major and acceptance into a study abroad program of at least one semester, as pre-approved by the UH Director of Global Education.

**Eligibility Requirements:**
- Full-time and classified undergraduate students with a declared major
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above
- Duration of exchange must be at least one semester to a pre-approved program by the Director of Global Education
- Scholarship recipient must return to UH Hilo upon completion of the study abroad program for more information
- Contact CGEE office

**The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program was established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000.**
Scholarship Recipients

Spring 2015 Semester

Two University of Hawaii at Hilo students venture on a 112-day educational visit to 15 cities in 12 countries on a voyage around the world, courtesy of the Semester at Sea program.

Raelyn Eckert, a Marine Science major, and Kaiulani Kamau, a Kinesiology and Exercise Science major, began their global adventure when they departed on January 7, 2015. They each received a Semester at Sea Scholarship in the amount of $14,370.

The Semester at Sea Scholarships are made possible by the University of Hawaii at Hilo’s partnership with the Institute for Shipboard Education.

Spring 2015 Voyage:

Around the World

January 07, 2015 — April 29, 2015

112 Days, 15 cities, 12 Countries

Sand Diego, CA, United States
Yokohama, Japan
Kobe, Japan
Shanghai, China
Hong Kong, China
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Singapore, Singapore
Rangoon, Burma
Cochin, India
Port Louis, Mauritius
Cape Town, South Africa
Walvis Bay, Namibia
Casablanca, Morocco
Southampton (London), England
## Upcoming Semester at Sea Voyages

### Fall 2015 Voyage: Atlantic Exploration

- September 13, 2015 — December 21, 2015
- 100 Days, 11 cities, 10 Countries
- Southampton (London), England
- Civitavecchia, Italy
- Naples, Italy
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Piraeus (Athens), Greece
- Barcelona, Spain
- Casablanca, Morocco
- Salvador, Brazil
- Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
- Panama Canal Transit, Panama
- Puntarenas, Costa Rica
- San Diego, CA, United States

### Spring 2016 Voyage: A Voyage Around the World

- January 05, 2016 - April 15, 2016
- 101 Days, 15 Cities, 11 Countries
- Honolulu, Hawaii, United States
- Yokohama, Japan
- Kobe, Japan
- Shanghai, China
- Hong Kong, China
- Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Singapore, Singapore
- Rangoon, Burma
- Cochin, India
- Port Louis, Mauritius
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Tema (Accra), Ghana
- Takoradi, Ghana
- Southampton, (London), England

### Fall 2016 Voyage: The Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Beyond

- September 13, 2016 - December 22, 2016
- 101 Days, 12 Cities, 12 Countries
- Dakar, Senegal
- Salvador, Brazil
- Havana, Cuba
- Panama Canal Transit, Panama
- Callao, Peru
- Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Puntarenas, Costa Rica
- Ensenada, Mexico
Center for Global Education & Exchange

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University of Hawaii at Hilo
200 West Kawili Street
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Phone:
(808)932-7488/7489
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Deadlines

Fall Term &
Academic Year
October 1st

Spring Term &
Summer
March 1st

Applications are due 1 year prior to intended study abroad term

Panorama By:
Kirstie Naone & Alyssa Loving

Featured Global Vulcan:
Joshua Tarbox

Joshua studied abroad at Pontifica Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro in Brazil during the fall 2013 semester. He graduated from the University of Hawaii at Hilo in spring of 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. He is now serving in the Peace Corps in Samoa.

Your adventurous journey does not need to end after you study abroad. Look for more opportunities to explore the world!

CGEE Staff:
Peleiupu Thomas—Program Coordinator
Renee Iva David—Office Assistant
Becky Zheng—Study Abroad Advisor
Kirstie Naone—Study Abroad Advisor

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Background Picture: Kilt Rock in Scotland, UK