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

~Saint Augustine
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During my study abroad at Tokyo Japan, one thing that really caught me by surprise was how crowded the trains would get. In the morning during my commute to my university, I had to catch four different trains. In the morning these trains would be jammed packed. As soon as the train doors open, the people would then sprint out running up the stairs, then back down the stairs to catch the train about to leave at the other platform. At night the trains usually stop running at around 12pm, and do not reopen until 5am. The last train is called shuden, usually the shuden is also the most crowded trains to ride. The most crowded train I ever rode on was the shuden from Ikebukuro station. I was smashed between so many people. The only part of my body that I could move at that time was my head slightly. There was also one time around 4:37pm one day; I experienced riding an empty train. This was the first and only time I had seen an empty train car.

One morning on my way to school, I was standing next to a middle age Japanese woman, and my friends. I noticed she was drawing something while standing on the moving train. I was very curious to see what see was drawing, but she was covering it up. As soon as she let her guard down, I took a peek. And to my surprise, it was me! She had my exact clothes, hair style and face. Only thing different was that I looked kind of animated! I didn’t know what to say, she then noticed that I saw the picture. She quickly covered it and ran out when the train stopped. After telling my friends about this, they thought she was a manga artist. So maybe I am now a manga character, all thanks to Japanese trains.
This past year was very busy, with me being involved in a lot of things during my time in Japan. Aside from continuing to study and use the Japanese language, I also was studying Japanese culture, specifically, the culture of Okinawa. While I was studying about the culture of Okinawa, I came across the traditional instrument that the people of Okinawa played, called the Sanshin.

The Sanshin came to Okinawa from China during the 15th century. However, during this time period, the Sanshin was usually played by court nobles rather than common people. In fact, everybody in the nobility of old Okinawa had to be proficient in playing the Sanshin, because every so often, an envoy from China came to Okinawa on official business, and the people in Okinawa had to entertain them when they did come. To the people of Okinawa, the Sanshin was extremely important to them. So much so, that after the ground war happened in Okinawa, the Sanshin couldn’t be made. Because of this, the people of Okinawa used whatever they could find to make Sanshins, such as empty cans, any kind of wood, and parachute strings from the US military waste. Today, the Sanshin is played by many people around the world, playing both the classical songs as well as the songs that were created by the common people.
As for me, I first learned about the Sanshin through a class that was offered by the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa. When I first heard the sound that the Sanshin produced, it was an interesting sound that made me want to continue to learn about this instrument. I also learned that people who play the Sanshin also had to sign in the Okinawan language as well. Through playing and singing, I was also learning what the people of Okinawa were thinking about through the lyrics in the song. Here is an example of one of the songs that I’ve learned:

Okinawa lyrics:
Tinsagu nu Hana ya
Chimi sachi ni sumiti
Uya nu yushi gutu ya
Chimu ni sumiri

English Translation:
Just as my fingernails are dyed with the color from the Tinsagu flower
My heart is dyed with the teachings of my parents

During my time in Okinawa, I also joined a club that played Yaeyama – (A style music) and had a chance to perform those types of songs that I learned. I continued to learn about the Sanshin, and then I took both the beginner level of the classical and modern style test and passed them both. I even received a license to teach the Sanshin. I’ve accomplished a lot during my time in Okinawa. I would like to go back to Okinawa to take the next level of tests, as well as learn more about the Sanshin.
By far one of my most memorable experiences in Fukuoka was my trip with my friends, Takako and Saki, to what is called "Canal City"; this really isn't a city at all, it is more of a mall of sorts but with a lot more pleasant scenery. We had all finished school around the same time (almost 5 in the afternoon) on a Tuesday (though we had none of the same classes, as international students have their own classes in English). It was a brisk and slightly cold late afternoon, but the walk to the local train station was pleasant enough. I had a great deal of fun having conversations with Takako and Saki, as this was a prime time for me to practice my Japanese and get to know my friends better. Originally I had first met Takako as my tutor, but she quickly introduced me to Saki who was obviously skilled at tutoring and they both helped me with my Japanese homework. Where was I? Oh yes, the train station. We made multiple switches from train to train to get to Canal City, and I probably never could have remembered the route on my own if not for them, as I am severely directionally challenged.

When we arrived at Canal City in Nakasukawabata, we had quite a bit of ground to cover as there were multiple floors to explore. There were many shops and festive Christmas decorations to take in, and so we did. One of the pictures I've included is of a white Christmas tree hanging by a large cable from the ceiling, which was quite a spectacle. After looking through some shops we became quite famished, and as per custom they insisted that I decide where to eat. After much deliberation I decided to indulge in one of my favorite foods, Japanese style ramen. These bowls of ramen are many levels above in quality from any ramen I'd ever had in America, so I simply couldn't help myself. We finished off the night by walking around the first floor which was full of decorations. We also took some pictures, one of which I included in this entry: Takako, me, and Saki by the Christmas decorations. It was nice to take in, as I will be in Japan during the Christmas season and I'd felt somewhat deprived of true Christmas cheer. When we said our goodbyes after we returned to campus I found myself hoping that there could be more outings like this in the future, for my experiences with good Japanese friends have been few and far in between because we are all so busy.
Christmas spirit at Canal City

Kyle with his Japanese friends
A few weeks into school, it was my friend’s birthday and so we decided to road trip it to Rotorua for the weekend. We went to see a show at one of their pubs in which Three Houses Down, Che Fu, and J-Boog would be playing, as they are her favorite artists. Kara and I jumped in with our friend, Shar-nie, her sister, and her cousin. We arrived in Rotorua about mid-morning, checked into our hotel and then we went to brunch. After brunch, in order to kill time before the concert, we went OGOing! Now, I highly recommend two things: go with friends as it is not only more memorable, but because it’s kind of pricy you and your friends can split the costs and that you should take extra pair of clothes as you’ll get wet. You’re driven by a worker to the top of a small hill with a huge plastic ball towed at the back. Once at the top, the worker fills the smaller ball inside with some water and then you jump in. He then zips it up, pushes the ball and you roll down the hill. Since it’s filled with some water, you don’t tumble with the ball, you kind of swoosh back and forth in the water. It was so much fun and I can’t wait to do it again! Afterwards, we went back to the hotel, got ready and went to the concert, which was a blast as well!
Semester At Sea

Semester at Sea is a pioneer and leader in global comparative studies- a critical educational component in an increasingly global world. We partner with the University of Virginia, the nation’s second-ranked public university, to select exemplary deans and faculty, create engaging course curricula, and explore the world with a unique, comparative studies focus. Semester at Sea is much more than a cruise; it’s an educational journey. 

~The Experience of a life time~  
~First-Class Global Education~

COUNTRIES VISITED

1. A= Montreal, Quebec, Canada
2. B= Casablanca, Morocco
3. C= Tema, Ghana
4. D= Cape town, South Africa
5. E= Port Louis, Mauritius
6. F= Chennai, India
7. G= Penang, Malaysia
8. H= Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam
9. I= Hong Kong / Shanghai, China
10. J= Yokohama / Kobe, Japan
11. K= Hilo, Hawaii, USA
12. L= Puntarenas, Costa Rica
13. M= Panama Canal Transit, Panama
14. N= Santo Tomas de Castilla, Guatemala
15. O= Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

Fall 2011 Voyage

Spring Semester 2012
Near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, one of our Semester at Sea trips stopped at the sacred Batu Caves. Batu Caves is filled with Hindu temples. A giant statue hundreds of feet tall stands beside the entrance to the caves. The entrance itself is reached after a climb of 242 steep steps. The staircase is covered with monkeys. Malaysia is a really hot place and I had it in my mind to bring a bottle of water with me. Halfway up the stairs I felt a small grab at my hand. I turned and looked down to see a monkey staring straight up into my face! He wanted my water! I turned to keep walking up the stairs and he snatched the water from my hand with fingers that felt just like a little human being’s. To the astonishment of myself and the trip leader he started drinking my water right in front of me!! I gained a newfound “respect” for monkeys that day.

"Unique Encounter"
Scheherazade Folley-Regusters
Semester at Sea—Worldwide
Major: Performing Arts-Dance
The one thing you can predict about participating on Semester at Sea is that it is almost completely unpredictable. During the summer I dedicated a lot of time reading, organizing using every resource available to me to prepare but the experiences and encounters I had at sea and in port were always a surprise that required flexibility and a spirit of adventure.

The learning experience on SAS is phenomenal! Imagine reading an article about the apartheid in South Africa for a class discussion, waking up the next morning and travel through Cape Town seeing and feeling the familiarity of what you read. It is the kind of thing that neither a textbook or classroom can provide. In my scholarship essay I wrote that I wanted to make an impact on people’s lives around the world. I was absolutely surprised that the people of the world made a bigger and more significant impact on me. The service trips, the Moroccan ladies on the train, the beach dancing in Ghana, cooking with Xhosa-speaking ladies at a township in South Africa, the children’s singing, bargaining at Vietnamese markets and many more— all these moments impacted and touched my heart. I felt things I never realized I was capable of feeling. It is fascinating that while cultures are unique from each other people still find deep connections through humor or other emotions and causes. Maybe people are not as different from each other as they often seem. Maybe we relate to each other more than we think and thus we share a responsibility to serve and learn from each other.

This past fall semester I discovered myself through the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s Fall 2011 address in South Africa—“...I am made for connection, for companionship, for community.” Indeed I am made for the world.

As the first Samoan student from UH Hilo on SAS I encourage all my Pacific Islander peers to study on SAS. Jump out of your comfort zone and fall in love with the world!
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 is to cover 60% of the total program fee for an economy priced cabin (price varies by semester); The UH-Hilo Financial Aid Office will assist students with financial aid options to cover the remaining 40% of the program cost.

Eligibility Requirements:

» Must have at least 3.0 UH-Hilo Cumulative GPA

» Student must be a classified full-time student semester before time abroad.

» Must have completed 24 UH-Hilo credits prior to intended study abroad term.

» Student must return to UH-Hilo after Semester at Sea voyage for at least a semester at UH-Hilo due to community service requirements.

Deadline:

» February 1st (for Fall)

» October 1st (Spring)

Selection Criteria:

» Student with diverse cultural background

» Preference to First-Generation students

» A well written personal statement

» Excellent recommendation letter
Audrey S. Furukawa 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. The deadline is the last Friday in February. As a lifelong resident of Hilo, Audrey S. Furukawa values the opportunity to give back. With the support from her family & friends, Ms. 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 UH-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.

**Requirements:**

- Applicant must be enrolled as a full time classified student at UH-Hilo.
- Applicant must have 24 UH-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, or lived abroad for more than one month.
- The selected student must return to UH Hilo upon completion of the study abroad program.

**Selection Criteria:**

- Academic achievement including honors and awards.
- Personal statement
- Service Project Proposal
- Letters of Recommendation
- Preference will be given to Hawai’i high school graduates
- Finalists will have an interview with the scholarship committee
### UH Hilo’s Spring & Summer 2012 Global Vulcans

Happy Year of the Dragon! All of us at the Center for Global Education and Exchange are 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 year-long, 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 PB9, Room 6 and meet with an advisor to learn about the opportunities to study abroad.

Warmest aloha,
Carolina Lam
Director of Global Education

#### Spring 2012

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Semester at Sea & IFSA Scholarship Recipient

Kadian Shaw (Semester at Sea, Worldwide) was a recipient of the Semester at Sea scholarship and the IFSA scholarship. For the IFSA scholarship Kadian received a scholarship in the amount of $2,500. Eligible students for the IFSA scholarship are first-generation college students.

Center for Global Education and Exchange Student Workers

Back Row (left to right)
Eric Santos, Peleiupu Thomas, Jaymen Laupola

Front Row (left to right)
Erik Olter, Allena Ikehara, Winona Chen, Rachel Cabanilla
Contact a staff member from the Center for Global Education and Exchange to discuss your options for study abroad. Plan ahead so you have ample time to make sound decisions on your future.

Study Abroad Application Deadlines
*Note: Deadlines are 1 year advance
Fall Semester & Academic Year: October 1st
Spring Semester & Calendar Year: February 1st
Summer: March 1st