

Javelinas Abroad!

A Newsletter from the Office of International Studies and Programs

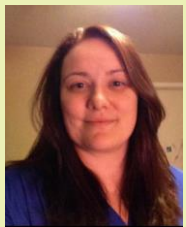
Issue 1

Spring 2017

Meet the staff at Office of International Studies & Programs



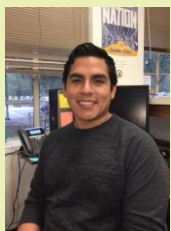
Peter Li,
Director



Nicolette Dacke,
Program Coordinator



Kevin Cepeda
Office Assistant



Nathan Hernandez
Office Assistant

Welcome from the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Welcome back to TAMUK! We look forward to seeing many of you enjoy study abroad experiences during the next few months. Besides being fun and exciting, research tells us that study abroad experiences are among those experiences having the greatest impact on college students. Your study abroad experience will be memorable, will broaden your horizons, and will look good on your resume. Best wishes for spring and summer, 2017!



-Dr. Duane Gardiner

Welcome Nicolette Dacke, new OISP Program Coordinator

OISP is excited to welcome Nicolette as our new Program Coordinator! Since officially taking over the program coordinator role early this month, Nicolette has been spending time to know the staff, and meeting with the director to revamp the upcoming study abroad programs.

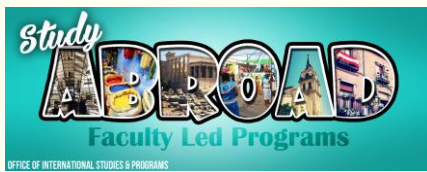
Nicolette has over 10 years professional experience within higher education with 6 of those years specifically focused on program implementation and coordination. As Program Coordinator, some of the areas under Nicolette's responsibility include advising students on study abroad opportunities, working with faculty in coordinating programs and assisting the director with exchange visitors. Having an international background herself, Nicolette is Panamanian and was born in Panama City, Panama before moving to Texas as a child. She has also traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Mexico City, Mexico and Hanoi, Vietnam.

Nicolette is located in RM 111 in Robert Cousins Hall on the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus. Come by to welcome her to our department and to find out what you can do to become a #JavelinaAbroad!

Friendly Tip from the OISP Office

Tip #1 Apply for a [U.S Passport](#) at least 3-4 months prior to your trip abroad! Contact our office or visit our website for more details.

(Cont'd on next page)



How STUDYING ABROAD Changed My Perspective

As Blogged by Belize Study Abroad
Program Participant on
TAMUKSGC.blogspot.com

The restrooms were located outside of the market, trash was thrown on the floor, and the sink for hand washing was separated from them. I spoke to a man named Jose (in Spanish) who asked my name, where I was from, and what I was in Belize for.

He wished me luck on my journey to provide speech-language services to the children of Stella Maris and granted me a warm farewell.

When we arrived in Punta Gorda, the girls and I decided to take a walk in the hopes of finding a pharmacy and ATM. Although Punta Gorda does not reflect a commonly visited area for tourists, a man named Andrew laughed and shouted, "Not those, they are too small" as we picked coconuts from a tree. Without hesitation he jumped down from the gate he was resting on, climbed the tree, and grabbed the best coconut he could find, cracked it open, and gave it to us to drink. He provided us with some knowledge of the fruit and described their various qualities such as color, size, and shape to reflect different species. It is incredible to (1) realize this is something quite common in the country of Belize and (2) that although they are consumed in the U.S. most of us are unaware of the beauty behind it all. What a pleasant way to begin emerging in the culture and ways of life in a Belizean Village. ☺



TAMUK CSDO graduate students with the students of Stella Maris School in Belize City, Belize

Upcoming Programs:

Semester, Country of Study, Faculty Name and Tentative Dates

Winter Intersession 2016:

1. **BELIZE**, Dr. Alan Seitel, Dec 31-Jan 14, 2017

Spring 2017 Semester:

2. **HAITI**, Dr. So'Nia Gilkey, April 8-15, 2017

Spring Intersession:

3. **AUSTRIA**, Dr. Joseph Jones, May 15-29, 2017
4. **GERMANY**, Dr. Hans Schuman, TBA

Summer I:

5. **BOLIVIA**, Dr. Randy Powell, June 05-July 06, 2017
6. **GEORGIA**, Christopher Rabe & Ulan Dakeey, June 10-24, 2017
7. **MEXICO**, Dr's. Monica Ratcliff & Norma Guzman, June 10-25, 2017
8. **PERU**, Stan Hodges, TBA
9. **PUERTO RICO**, Dr. Maria Hernandez, June 9-July 1, 2017
10. **CHINA to INDIA**, Dr. Harmmeet Singh, June 17-July 1, 2017
11. **SCOTLAND**, Dr. Steven Bain, Tentative June 20-28

Summer II:

12. **SOUTH AFRICA**, Dr's Nirmal Goswami & Brenda Melendy, July 6-24, 2017
13. **SPAIN**, Dr. Lori Kupczynski, Tentative July 18-30

I began the morning with slight hesitancy. Hesitancy to leave Placencia; a village of happiness, trust/security, and familiar faces. In some aspects Placencia began to feel like home, throughout the day (morning, noon, and night) we were greeted with, "Good morning girls, enjoying your stay" and "Did you find everything you need." Throughout our walks from place to place the people of Placencia set up their shops and vending merchandise with families in tow, women began hand washing clothes and hotel bedding, men worked as carpenters, and the children were self-entertained by their parents side.

After devouring Belgian waffles for breakfast, the girls and I decided to visit gift shops to purchase souvenirs for our family and friends. Along the way I encountered a woman named Juanita who was selling hand woven crafts such as baskets and bracelets from her backpack. She described the morning as "slow," yet her face radiated with hope and positivity. I have seen nothing less among the people of Belize, which serves as a reminder to be grateful and humble always. We soon parted ways, and boarded the bus to Punta Gorda.

After a few hours we made a quick stop in Bella Vista where I experienced a bit of culture shock. Upon exiting the bus I saw a woman picking through what seemed to me like trash, she emptied bottles and cans and stored them in a handmade sack.



Dr. Alan Seitel & his students at Belize University located in Central America

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