



Journal of

Study Abroad Experiences



The Belize Program



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Unsolicited manuscripts are welcomed from all students who studied abroad and their faculty. The deadline for submission is usually two weeks after the study abroad program and the articles are submitted to the Office of International Education (internationaleducation@asurams.edu). The study abroad stories should contain information on the countries of study, objectives of the study abroad program, courses taken, major tours, program activities, experiences, cultural lessons learned and one or two recommendations. The stories should be told in two pages with 4-6 pictures included.

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Editor's Note

With a renewed commitment to academic excellence, Albany State University is creating more access for students to enhance the quality of education they receive before graduation. This volume of Global Issues is yet another evidence of great international experiences from students who studied abroad in different countries: China, Costa Rica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Most of the students are first generation students who have never flown before. Their stories might not be exhaustive, as each student has a limited space to convey a month's experience; however, they



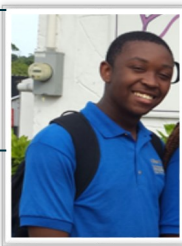
provide us a bird-eye view of the students' experiences and their perspectives of the world they witnessed for the period of their study abroad. This Issue also provide the faculty members' summary report of courses taught, cultural trips, and program outcomes. I invite you to read these enlightening stories, which also provide a rich resource data for international education research, program development and instruction.

Nneka Nora Osakwe, PhD

**Director, ASU Office of International education
Chief Editor, Global Issues**

DOING BUSINESS IN BELIZE

By Mr. Akintunde G. Monds
Business Administration



ABSTRACT

The objective of the program was to learn about and be immersed in the economy of Belize. Two courses were taken – *International Business* and *Internship for Business*. While on the study abroad, we toured and met with executives from the Belize Natural Energy, the Belize Tourism Board, the Belize Trade and Investment Development Services (Beltraide), the U.S. Embassy, and a host of small- and medium-sized businesses. Each business meeting provided me with a wealth of information that allowed me to better understand business in general, and international business, more specifically. In addition, the internship opportunity at Beltraide in the Belize-Invest sector allowed me to conduct research and gain some on-the-job training. The study abroad spanned June 15, 2016 to July 14, 2016.

Keywords: economics, entrepreneurship, international business, investment.

INTRODUCTION

Business in Belize is the foundation upon which the country grows. Ordinary people run almost all businesses in Belize from the bus drivers and street vendors to the construction and realty companies. All citizens are looking to find a way to improve their lives through entrepreneurship. With minimal regulations governing development and standards, individuals have to be willing to self-regulate to retain customers who will go elsewhere if the products are not safe or if the quality is less than excellent. Self-regulation is a method of providing the best quality product without having to be regulated to do so. Street vendors who want to retain customers are able to do so simply by providing the best quality products.



Entrepreneurship in most cases has been passed down from generation to generation including skills and innovations to make doing business easier. One sure way to identify whether a country is more or less free on the economic freedom scale is to identify the number, type, and level of street vendors that exist – Belize has several.

This paper aims to share with you some of the experiences that have helped to shape my knowledge of Belize, not from a tourist perspective, but more from the perspective of a would-be investor and/or entrepreneur in Belize. Upon arrival in Belize, we were met by our driver, Mr. Awe, son of Mr. Joe Awe, a historian and professor at Sacred Heart Junior College. Mr. Awe was more of a peer to all of us, but his knowledge and experiences growing up in Belize meant that he would be our teacher for the 2-hour drive from the airport located in Ladyville, Belize to our “home” in San Ignacio, Belize.



SUMMARY OF COURSES

During the study abroad two courses were taken – *International Business* and *Internship for Business*. Both courses are required for the completion of the undergraduate degree in Business. Both course grades would transfer from Albany State University to my home institution, Morehouse College.

The *International Business* course required that we write multiple essays, using the Mason-Mitroff Assessment Model, from the readings found in the textbook entitled “*The Economic History of Belize*” by Bulmer-Thomas (2012). Each week we immersed ourselves in the culture and each week we immersed ourselves in the textbook, learning and reading about the history of the Belizean economy, politics, culture and environment. Another book that we were introduced to was “*Taking Stock: Belize at 25 Years of Independence*” by Jaime J. Awe (2007).

The *Internship for Business* course required that we gather 75+ hours at a worksite. Some of our internships were confirmed before we arrived in Belize. However, most of the sites were confirmed after our arrival. The goal was for a team of students to intern at

the same location so that we could travel through the country in pairs. Three students interned at Hot Mama's, a small independent hot sauce manufacturer; two healthcare students interned at the La Loma Luz hospital; and two of us interned at Beltraide.

“Each experience by each student was different, but one lesson learned is that all of life's experiences are what you make it – either good, or bad ”

At the end of the internship, my supervisor evaluated my performance. Although I did a great job on my deliverables, my supervisor was honest in letting me know that I need to be less quiet and more engaged on the job site.



Internship Day 1 – Headed to work in our Business Attire

In addition to the course and the internship requirements, we had to write a children's book using a free online tool called Lulu.Com. The children's book had to be about an entrepreneur, economics, or about our trip. Finally, we had to blog, develop a PowerPoint presentation, and teach primary school children how to write Minecraft code during our service-learning project. We also took crayons, candy, toys, and coloring books to donate to the children of Belize.

Economy

My first trip to Belize has energized me to find a way to invest in and grow a business in the beautiful country of my grandfather. My greatest motivation is the desire to help build the economy from the bottom-up by engaging the people in learning more about entrepreneurship and helping to teach and train young adults about the importance of the entrepreneurial way of thinking – something learned through my participation as a Unconf/Koch Scholar while a student at Morehouse College.

The Unconf/Koch Scholar Program teaches students about the importance of entrepreneurship, innovation, and economics. In addition to scholarship funds, the program allows us to work in an online environment/portal to complete entrepreneurship curriculum, dialogue

and network with peers from other HBCUs, but more importantly allow us to meet annually at the Unconf/Koch Summit so that we can participate in hands-on activities with successful entrepreneurs.

Lessons learned in the Unconf/Koch program are applicable to my study abroad trip to Belize. Upon our arrival, the lessons on entrepreneurship became clear as we were transported from the Belize Airport to San Ignacio, Belize. Observing the road-side vendors and the street-cart sellers was a clear indication that entrepreneurship in Belize was alive-and-well, but not without its challenges.

The Belize economy is growing, however, the most obvious challenge that I noticed while abroad is that the presence of foreign investors can be good or bad. Foreign investment is bad in Belize because many of the local Belizeans are “priced out” of the market because they cannot afford to purchase real estate and land in their own country. Investment is good because foreigners (i.e. Americans) can purchase land and homes in Belize and simultaneously use local Belizeans to help keep the property clean and secure. This provides income for the local Belizeans who do not have a formal education.

Belizeans who have a formal education, come to America to work and save, and then are able to retire to Belize and purchase the necessary land and homes to help sustain the country.



Hot Mama's contributes to the local economy

Tours

We toured both business and cultural facilities. Our business trips included visits to: Belize Natural Energy (BNE), Belize Tourism Board (BTB), Beltraide, Hot Mama's, and the U.S. Embassy. All of these tours were educational and allowed me to learn about the economy and the business. For example, at BNE, we learned about oil and energy as well as how technology is used to help businesses expand. BTB taught us about the tourism sector of Belize and the regulations that are in place to help tourists enjoy their stay.

Beltraide representatives spoke about the economy and investment of Belize, as well as showing us what it takes to start a business in Belize. Hot Mama's is a hot sauce company founded by an American that is growing and beginning to expand its export and outputs. Finally, the U.S. Embassy is in charge of U.S. visas and immigration as well as being of help to any U.S. citizens that are in need of getting a home.



Touring Belize Tourism Board (BTB) office in downtown San Ignacio, Belize

Our **cultural** trips allowed us to explore the country in a way that allowed us to be more like tourists. We visited the Iguana Sanctuary located at the San Ignacio Hotel, Xunantunich Mayan Ruins, the Spanish Lookout Mennonite Community, Cave Tubing, Zip Lining, Snorkeling. Each of the cultural trips was a confirmation of the role that tourism plays in the entrepreneurship ecosystem, and evidence that the large numbers of Americans that travel to Belize are on vacation.



Touring Belize Natural Energy (BNE) with Ms. Nicole



the Iguana Sanctuary located at the San Ignacio Hotel;

Culture

Belize is a “semi” free country since gaining its independence from Britain on September 21, 1981. This young country promotes its ability to have an easy economy in which people can start a business. The culture is very friendly and open with trusted relationships; however, many Belizeans do not trust those in government. Unlike the USA, there are very few government programs that provide free healthcare, free schooling, or free housing. In Belize, you must work to eat. With a “melting-pot” of many cultures, there is not a lot of obvious racial tension as many Mayans, Mexicans, Belizeans, and Caribbean’s have blended families. The community supports itself by using local farmers to produce and to keep traditions alive. Hard work is evident as well as play, with school and other activities.

Application

As I learned more about the economy of Belize and international business I was inspired to start a business there. The growing economy is a perfect learning ground for new entrepreneurs. The tourism and housing markets are the most likely to grow exponentially in the next few years. Taking advantage of the knowledge from the Belize Study Abroad trip is vital to starting a Belizean business. Learning about the culture and economy gives all potential entrepreneurs a great building block. Investing in developing Latin American countries is an excellent way to build wealth while also serving people within the African Diaspora.

The service-learning opportunity to work with the children and the opportunity to learn about the Belizean culture has inspired me to apply to participate in the Haiti Spring Break Alternative Trip to be held March 10, 2017 to March 19, 2017. During this trip, I will learn more about the Creole people, culture, and language which is similar to that of Belize. More importantly, I will donate school supplies, shoes, and clothes and I will help to build a school while in Haiti. Interestingly, Haiti and Belize are located in Latin/Caribbean America.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this program was very educational. I learned a lot about the Belizean culture and economy. Furthering my knowledge of Belize would be beneficial as I plan to make a trip abroad each year. The program was excellent and having the opportunity to learn more about international business will benefit me for years to come. I would recommend the program to any student interested in learning, working, and serving in the beautiful country of Belize.

CULTURES AND ADVENTURES OF BELIZE



By Ms. Emberly J. Clark
Business Management

ABSTRACT

The objective of the study abroad program is to learn about another country's culture, and its educational system. There were three courses offered. However, participation in two of the courses were of more importance: International Business and Business Internship II. We did a total number of 7 tours: BTB San Ignacio Welcome Center, San Ignacio Hotel & the Green Iguana Conservation Project, Market Day, Xunantunich Mayan Ruins, Mystic River Tours, Ambergris Caye, and the Hot Mama's Hot Sauce Plant. There is a total of 5 business meeting: Belize Natural Energy (BNE), Belize Tourism Board (BTB), Beltraide (BTECH), the U.S. Embassy, and the Center for Engaged Learning Abroad. This trip was filled with significant learning experiences and exciting adventures. We also had one service learning activity where we showed the kids how to code the Minecraft game.

Introduction

Arriving in Belize was an exciting moment, the start of another adventure and the beginning of exploring another culture. Walking off the plane and riding all the way to San Ignacio was a total culture shock. Observing a completely different culture is a mind-altering experience. Their foods and eating style is particularly opposite to that of the American culture. Most of their foods consist of rice and beans. For instance, the Belizean dinner comprised of chicken, slaw or potato salad, and a mix of rice and beans. While abroad for a month, we all had the opportunity to expand our knowledge on Belize by going on tours, engaging in business meetings and attending classes of our choice. Each week, we use the advice given at the meeting and apply them to everyday life.

Summary of Courses

International Business and *Business Internship II* were the courses of choice. Both were taught by Dr. Kathaleena Monds. *International Business (BUSA 4105)* is a course taken to better our learning on businesses in Belize and to develop our abilities to manage international situations. Class lectures were held at Sacred Heart Junior College and/or Galen University. During class, we took the time to work on Minecraft for the coding workshop later on and we also worked on our lulu book, which we was about entrepreneurship.

Business Internship (BUSA 4100), provided an opportunity for me to intern at Hot Mama's – a competitor of hot sauce products and rival to Marie Sharps. At Hot Mama's, a worker Jovian has been organizing and managing the property of both Hot Mama's and Ham's Restaurants, giving me the opportunity to learn and partner with him and learning the art of managing a business. Also, while interning at Hot Mama's, I was given the opportunity to associate with some of the workers and get to know their position at Hot Mama's and how they contribute to the sauce making.



Tours

Our first tour in Belize was at the BTB Welcome Center located in downtown San Ignacio. We viewed a short promotional video and it had clips of different activities around Belize for tourist to interact or attend. The next day, we went to San Ignacio resort hotel to their Green Iguana Conservation Project where some of us held and fed the iguanas.

Our first meeting was at Belize Natural Energy. We learned about Mike Usher and how they named their oil wells in memory of him. Belize Natural Energy is located in Spanish Lookout which is one of the Mennonites communities. Nicole was our tour guide for this trip and she was very informative and knowledgeable on BNE. The oil company was established in 2005 a year after Mike Usher died and that led them to name all the oil wells after him.

Our next meeting was at the Belize Tourism Board (BTB). We had five speakers. Although they were very informative, one presentation that really stood out to me was that of Shola because she kept us laughing and entertained throughout her entire presentation. All the speakers spoke about their position at the Belize Tourism Board. This meeting showed us how tourism can positively affect a country's economy.

The following weekend was market day. So, we walked around the market to purchase fruits and souvenirs. Afterwards, we planned to swim but Mother Nature had other plans for us. Going to market day enlightened us on how different cultures could get together and collectively sell their products.

On Father's day, we took a long journey to Xunantunich Mayan Ruins. It was an amazing beautiful sight. Xunantunich is the second highest of the Mayan ruins in Belize. To get to Xunantunich, we had to ride on a hand cranked ferry and take a one mile hike to the ruins. Then, we had to climb up the ruins which was a tortuous climb but upon reaching the top, we had no regrets.



Our next excursion was to the Mystic Tours. We toured one of the Mayan caves while cave tubing and zip lining. This was another exciting adventure. Our tour guide, Aby, was very kind and generous. Going cave tubing was very enjoyable and so was learning about how the Mayan's used the caves for sacrificial ceremonies for the gods and how they gathered their source of water from the caves. It was also interesting to see how the bats used their poop to make holes in the top of the caves for sleeping. After cave tubing, we adventured on to zip lining which was a scary experience .

On our third week, we traveled to Belize City to visit Beltraide. A person named Hero gave an excellent presentation on Beltraide and what they were all about. Their mission is Enhancing Belize's prosperity by fostering investor's confidence entrepreneurship, business growth, and innovation. It was notable how they support entrepreneurs here in Belize and how they help them every step of the way in developing their business. Beltraide is very determined to assist others with their needs and completing their mission. For instance they assist others with getting a job, buying land and creating business plans.

Later that week, we visited the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan where we met with Nathan Bland. Nathan informed us on how important it is to intern while we were still in school. It was also invigorating to hear how he travels every two to three years and it is always somewhere new. .

Ambergris Caye is one of the Belize islands that we escaped to over the weekend. It was a beautiful sight to behold. The following day, we prepared for snorkeling. Johnathan, our tour guide, took us out into the Caribbean Sea. After snorkeling, he took us to a



coral reef and showed us where a boat restaurant was.

Service Learning

Today was one of those days where we had to get an early start to prepare for a service learning workshop. The workshop was at the University of Belize, so we were able to see parts of their campus life. It was an enjoyable moment, getting to interact with some of the kids and to see the smiles on their faces when they received prizes or answered a question correctly. Interacting with and showing them Minecraft was a memorable moment.



Application

After leaving Belize the plan is to utilize the information and knowledge gained from this trip to prepare for the future. All the information and learning experiences will be an excellent developer in helping me better my career goals of becoming a future business owner. Having the opportunity to intern at Hot Mama's has given an insight on pros and cons of owning and running a business.

It is very important to have customer service and communication skills when working with employees and customers. From all the meeting we attended, I learned that important to intern and build your resume while you are in college. Whatever your field of learning may be you should always love and enjoy what you are doing.

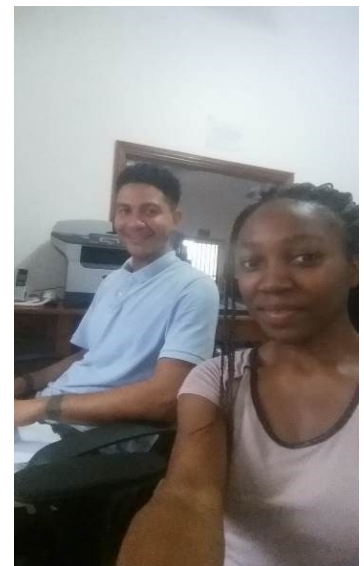
Conclusion

This learning experience had been both fun and educative. Being able to be a part of this study abroad program was an incredible experience, getting to meet new people, learning about a different country. This is something that should be recommended to every college student. Getting a chance to interact with some of the Belizeans and getting to know them and their way of living has been very memorable and life changing.

Culture

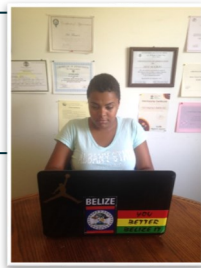
Belize is comprised of many cultures, Garifuna, Mestizo, Mennonites, West Indian, and Mayan decent. Belize is said to be the melting pot of cultures. As we walked down the streets and took the busses, we saw the extent of the diversity in Belize. Belizeans are also very talented. As we toured through Belize, we saw a lot of individuals building and or adding on to their homes. In most of the shops, the merchandise sold are handcrafted by the store owners.

Belizean culture is completely different from that of the Americans. There are not many franchise restaurants like we have here in America, but they have a lot of street vendors. Prior to our first group dinner when we arrived here in Belize, we all decided to try new things while studying abroad. Most of the foods in Belize are unusual and out of the ordinary. Iguana for instance, for them is a delicacy and they call it bamboo chicken.



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By Ms. Elyssa Bernee' Sims
Business Management



Abstract

The objective of this study abroad trip was to obtain knowledge through the four pillars: entrepreneurship, service-learning, economic education, and internship while embracing another country and its various cultures. There were several courses offered during this month; however, my participation reflected Business Internship II. There were approximately eight tours that we participated in including: San Ignacio Welcome Center, San Ignacio Hotel & Resort Iguana Conservation Project, Market Day, Belize Tourism Board, Xunantunich Ruins, Mystic Tours, Ambergris Caye, and Hot Mama's Hot Sauce Plant. Each one of these excursions allowed the group to learn about a new culture and about one another. There were a total of five business meetings that we attended: Belize Tourism Board, Belize Natural Energy, Beltraide, U.S. Embassy and Center for Engaged Learning Abroad. Attending these business meetings permitted the students to gain knowledge on international business, their processes,



Introduction

During a month spanning from June 15, 2016 to July 13, 2016, a group of seven students and myself studied abroad in Belize, Central America. Throughout the month, there were opportunities to engage in excursions, learn more about the Belizean culture, participate in business meetings to understand the corporate world abroad, and provide service to those in the communities. The fulfillment of my participation on the trip was done through a course called Business Internship where my involvement consisted in a nonpaid internship at a local small business, right outside of San Ignacio, Belize. During this month, we went on several business meetings that solidified what we learned in our courses and it also gave us an insight, from an international stand point, how to participate in excursions that will take us out of our comfort zones, how to put our trust in one another, and how to be open minded. We embraced the culture of Belize with open hearts to gain the full experience of what this melting pot of cultures has to offer .

Course

Business Internship 4100 is a senior-level course that provided students with the opportunity to engage in a supervised career related work experience to obtain the skills needed that cannot be taught in the classroom. This course has allowed us to gain knowledge and training needed to be successful in our desired professional careers. Completing this course included being placed at a local Belizean business and enduring seventy hours of interning. During the month that we were working in our nonpaid internship, we completed a number of tasks depending on the focus of our degree program. Business Internship has prepared me for graduate school and permanent employment because it has allowed me to decide on what graduate program to apply for and what characteristics to look for when looking for a career. Working at a nonpaid internship from 8am-4pm has given me a reality check. Working those hours is not something that interested me, but it is a path that may need to be experienced to be successful in the career field of my choice. You have to start somewhere!

Internship

Hot Mama's Belize was the selected internship for myself along with two of my classmates. We have a major in Business Management, so there were three to four different projects that were assigned to each individual to complete upon departure depending. The tasks that were assigned to me were to create a policy handbook, a marketing strategy, job descriptions for each employee, and a brochure of what the company has to offer. These assignments were not as easy as they sound because the company is small and still developing. *Hot Mama's Belize* has been successful since their start up; however, they still have room for improvement. Wilana Oldham, my supervisor and the CEO of the company, was very hands on in assisting us with our short term goals while interning. In the past semesters at the College of Business, participating in courses such as Small Business Management and Principals of Marketing played a major role in the success of these projects that I undertook. There have been courses where I felt like I would not be able to apply the curriculum to a real life problem; however, there have been some pieces of knowledge obtained from each of those courses which I was able to apply to my internship.

Darlene Rhaburn, the general manager at *Hot Mama's Belize* exemplified what it meant to be in a position where extra responsibilities had to be taken on to ensure that the company reaches its greatest potential. When we took classes, we are often asked "What is leadership and what characteristics does a leader possess?" She reflected what my answer to this question always states, "A leader is an initiator, outgoing, problem solver, quick on their feet, great communicator, organized, well spoken, and open to the ideas of others". You will never know what it takes to run a small business until you have worked in one or in this case interned. This internship really changed my perception of what a small business consists of. With our contributions, we helped Mrs. Oldham and the staff by implementing what we have learned in our undergraduate careers to ensure the success of this small international business.



Tours and Excursions

Upon arrival into Belize, we visited the Belize Welcome Center located in downtown San Ignacio, Cayo District. During this time, we were able to learn more about the culture of Belize and what it has to offer, which led us to Xunantunich. Xunantunich, otherwise known as the "Stone Lady" is the second highest Mayan ruin in Belize. The Iguana Conservation Project was one of the best excursions that the group participated in because it allowed the group to encourage one another to step outside their comfort zone. In the same day as the iguana exhibit, the group visited Sacred Heart Junior College for a Tertiary Symposium that touched on conflict resolution regarding different issues between Belize and Guatemala. The Mystic Tours excursion was more geared toward relaxation, fun, and a small amount of fear. During this outing we went cave tubing and zip lining which required a great

amount of hiking. After two weeks of internship, business meetings, and homework, we were awarded the opportunity to go to Ambergris Caye/ San Pedro and Caye Caulker for a weekend visit. We were fortunate enough to be visiting the islands during the 2016 Lobster Fest on Caye Caulker. There were cooks from all over Belize setting up for a weekend full of lobster cooking contests, dancing, and fun. In the same day we traveled to San Pedro via water taxis to snorkel with the creatures of the Caribbean Sea.

There were several business meeting that we attended to gain insight on what it takes to run a business, small or big, in Belize. The Belize Tourism Board (BTB) is located in Belize City and their agenda focused on the importance of tourism to their country and what they look at as far as number of nights stayed by tourists, their residence, and other demographic information’ Each business meeting allowed us to think not only on an international business level, but also on an economic scale. Following BTB, we visited the Belize Natural Energy where we toured Spanish Lookout and learned about the history of energy and oil in Belize. The cool thing about this business meeting was seeing the plant sites where the oil is extracted and touring the control room where they have a bird’s eye view on all the vessels, trucks traveling with the oil, and loading docks that are located further down South. The following meeting was at Beltraide in Belmopan which is located between San Ignacio and Belize City. Beltraide is a government subsidized company that focuses on improving Belizeans investments into the country and encouraging entrepreneurship, business growth, and innovation.

Towards the end of our one month stay we visited the United States Embassy to understand the importance and role of U.S. government officials on the Belizean soil. Nathan Bland briefly shared with us his role at the Embassy, but more importantly he enlightened us on his experiences from college up until this experience in his career. . Our final business meeting was with the Center of Engaged Learning Abroad. C.E.L.A. is a Belizean organization that provides study abroad services for students and faculty internationally. Ms. Adamson was such a delight to listen to because not only has she founded this organization, but also founded Galen University. Galen University is one of two four year institutions in the entire of country of Belize.

Business meetings like these are those that enlighten us about such things that we are oblivious to. Her presentation set off an epiphany about how economics, education, and business are intertwined, which helped an international student, like myself, make correlations.

Service Learning

One of the four pillars of learning included on this study abroad trip was service learning, which allowed us to give back to children in the community in which we are staying or a neighboring district. We were able to engage with students ages 9-11 and teach them how to code on one of the most popular video games. Prior to the workshop that the we participated in, Minecraft was foreign to my ears and since video games are not something that interested me, there was a sense of hesitation while trying to learn how to code. After doing research and participating in a workshop, there was a sense of relief and confidence, relief expressing that as a group we were capable of teaching this to young children and confident that we would be successful in doing so. Service learning has always been the most memorable part of my study abroad trip because I got a sense of joy giving back to a community that is not mine. To teach children about computer science in a fun way is the best way to learn because it will stick with them forever. The most teachable moments, whether you are a child, young adult, or adult, are when you are having fun doing something you love.



Culture

British Honduras, was the name of Belize before the country gained their independence on September 21, 1981. This beautiful and lively country is comprised of a variety of different cultures including Mestizo, Mennonite, West Indian, Mayan decedents, Garifuna, and even a growing Asian population. The primary language spoken here in Belize is English but they also speak Creole and Spanish. Belize offers a vast amount of cultural knowledge.

While walking around the downtown area, we were surrounded by so much diversity, whether it was different food vendors, or the Rastafarians selling their arts and crafts, or even the West Indian restaurant that was home to both Indian and Belizean style cuisine. A part of being in another country is learning, adapting, and being optimistic about their cuisine. A typical Belizean dish consist of rice and beans, plantains, and chicken, but for less than five Belizean dollars which is two dollars and fifty cents. We can purchase panadas, tostadas, quesadilla, burritos, or salbutes from a local entrepreneur for a cheaper price.



developed around four pillars including: service learning, internship, entrepreneurship, and economic education and innovation. The objective of the program was for students to experience a different culture and understand the economy and how business is transacted in another country. There were three courses offered: International Business, Business Internship I and II, and Principles of Microeconomics. These courses provided an outlook on business in Belize and allowed students to learn how to conduct and view business from a different cultural, economic, social, and global perspective. In addition, the objective was to ensure that students received hands-on experience by working in a foreign market.

Introduction

During the course of 28 days, seven students gained the opportunity of studying abroad in Belize, Central America and experiencing the culture, participating in beautiful excursions, and participating in informational business meetings. The following essay provides a summary of the courses, tours, and concludes with ways in which the study abroad expanded my understanding of economics and entrepreneurship from a developing country's perspective.

Conclusion

Throughout this past month, the knowledge that has been obtained through internship, entrepreneurship, service learning, and economic education has been that most that I have learned about my personal self and professional aspirations since starting college. Studying abroad has allowed me to appreciate my education, and the experience that doing so brings. Without participating on this trip, we would not have made international connections and experiences, we would not have been able to say we helped young children become more knowledgeable about software programming, or even say we ate bamboo chicken (iguana). A month goes by extremely fast when one is around people you enjoy, when one is learning about one's peers and oneself, and or when one is embracing another culture. This has been the best experience of my collegiate career and I would strongly encourage anyone who yearns wanderlust to take advantage of what Albany State International Education has to offer.

TAKING FLIGHT TO BELIZE

By Ms. Rashadyya Mashiah Edge
Healthcare Management

ABSTRACT

The study abroad program, held during the summer 2016 in the country of Belize, was de-



Tours

The San Ignacio Welcome center was a great introduction for our time spent in Belize. The Tour presented us with what activities to look forward to, the different cultures, and places to visit in Belize. There is no comparison to the amazing sites in Belize. Iguanas and monkeys are not animals that you would see on a regular basis, but in San Ignacio they are something that is typical.

Touring the Iguana Conservation Project was the first excursion the group encountered. This was such a beautiful and very hands on experience that changed views about being afraid of reptiles. Seeing an iguana on the streets while walking into your favorite restaurant is not as common as seeing a cat or dog in the States. The Tertiary Symposium at Sacred Hearts Junior College discussed the construction of a wall between Guatemala and Belize to prevent Guatemalans from taking Belize's resources. It was very interesting to hear how important and passionate the students of Sacred Hearts and Galen University felt about Belizean resources being taken away from them. Attending this was important because it was nice to witness how college and university students are involved with resolving issues pertaining to their country and their resources needed for everyday life.



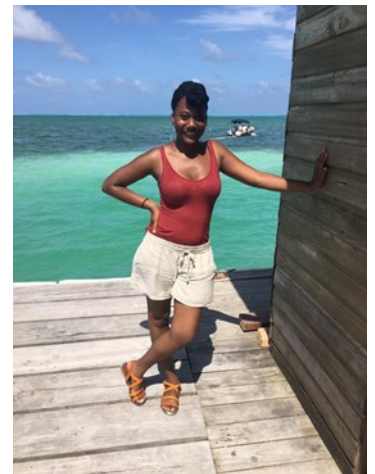
It was beneficial to our studies as study abroad students in Belize to learn about how Guatemala is a threat to Belize and about how students of Belize are reacting to another countries threats.

One of the business meetings consisted of visiting the Belize Tourism Board (BTB). BTB was the most interesting and influential business meeting for this week. It gave insight on how important tourism and American money is much needed in Belize's economy. Tourism is what keeps the money flowing in the country.

According to the BTB statistics, about 63% of their tourist are from the United States. Meeting with BTB somewhat informs students on the importance of ensuring your customer is satisfied and comfortable.

Another meeting that influenced our thinking was with Beltraide. Beltraide influenced our thinking about how important it can be to invest in Belize. Beltraide helps individuals find areas around Belize to invest their money in. They assist with setting up business plans and starting up businesses. They give people ideas on how to market their business and assists them with financing. Hero Balani gave a wonder presentation and examples of how important investing in Belize. Balani is a young manager which is only a motivation for us to excel as future entrepreneurs and managers.

Visiting San Pedro somewhat taught us an economical lesson. San Pedro is nothing like San Ignacio, where we lived for the entire month. The scenery was much nicer and there were more things to do than in San Ignacio. San Pedro has very many attractions that tourist engage in



throughout the year such as snorkeling, scuba diving, and parasailing, just to name a few. The barrier reef is a main attraction in Belize and is a major source of economic stability to San Pedro by attracting tourist from all over America. This excursion demonstrated how important tourism is to Belize and how money can make a difference in restaurants, shopping centers, hotels, and other things.

Conclusion

Studying in Belize was a great opportunity and experience. We now understand how the economy is and how different the culture is from the States. The business meetings were very important with giving us some guidance about what having a business is all about and

how important your consumers are to the economy. After graduation, many of us will be on to new ventures, not only being managers but business owners as well. Our internships also gave us an outlook on what to look forward to in our careers. Participating in projects such as creating a fire plan or something as simple as designing a checklist are all important aspects of being a part of an organization.

Business Information Systems

► By Ms. Raven Cierra Burden

Conquering Belize: Exploring Entrepreneurship, Traveling, and Interning



ABSTRACT

The study abroad program to Belize, Central America was structured around four pillars: service-learning, entrepreneurship, economic education, and internship. Service learning is simply a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service. We participated in a service learning activity by hosting a Minecraft workshop to teach primary school students how to program in an effort to increase the number of students interested in STEM fields. Entrepreneurship education is a lifelong learning progression. Entrepreneurship is simply a persons' willingness to develop and grow a business venture. We had the task of writing a children's book about an entrepreneur living in Belize. Economic education activities allowed us to learn about the local and global economy through our International Business readiness. Finally, serving as an Intern at Beltraide in the Marketing and Information division gave me insights into learning new skills, applying concepts from the classroom, and building a professional resume, all while networking amongst people of different cultures.

INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 2016, seven students had the opportunity to further their knowledge and study abroad in the country of Belize, Central America. This report provides an overview of the three courses that were taught, the many different tours in which we were involved, the business meetings we attended, and the internships we were able to participate in. Each experience gave us the opportunity to learn about the different cultural aspects of Belize, to gain a better understanding of how to adapt, learn, and to apply our knowledge in an international setting.

This study abroad offered three courses that each student was able to take part in. We were only obligated to choose two out of those three courses; however, some students elected all three. The three courses that were taught were *Principles of Microeconomics*, *Business Internship*, and *International Business*, all of which were taught by Dr. Kathaleena Monds. The *International Business* course was designed to discuss the contemporary problems, issues and opportunities within international business from different conceptual and practical viewpoints. We were required to read the text called, *Taking Stock: Belize at 25 years of Independence, Volume 1*, as well as, required to take weekly exams over the text as evidence of our understanding of the knowledge gained.

Being on ground in Belize while taking this course allowed us the opportunity to take what we were learning over the weeks and relate it to the everyday task, events, and traveling we were doing throughout the country. We were able to use the economic concepts we were taught to gain a better understanding of the different economic crisis going on within the country.

The *Business Internship* course was designed to introduce us to the work environment, as well as, to give us the opportunity to gain valuable insights into organizational and managerial practices and operations done within a company setting. We were required to complete a minimum of 70 hours at our internship location. All of us were placed at different intern locations such as, *Hot Mama's Hot Sauce Plant*, *Beltraide*, and *La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital*. These internships gave us the chance to use and apply knowledge gained from our previous courses to complete the tasks that we were assigned. Therefore, we have all had different learning experiences from different company perspectives that we will be able to apply to our future careers.

With the knowledge gained from these courses, more specifically International Business, we were able to look at Belize from different aspect while we were there .

Tours

During our time in Belize, we had the opportunity to participate in 7 tours (excursions) and 5 business meetings with different agencies. On Friday June 17, 2016 we took a trip to *Sacred Heart Junior College*. When we arrived, we were able to join in and listen to a symposium that was talking about the troubles going on between Guatemala and Belize. The symposium was nice for us to attend because, we gained deep insight on a sensitive topic in Belize. We were able to hear accurate information delivered from different individuals, such as the Dean of Galen University. This symposium helped us better understand the reasons why the border separating Guatemala and Belize is so hard to get cross. We were also able to listen to how different individuals in Belize felt about the trouble going on. They were in a way able to vent to show how they were feeling.

On Sunday June 19, 2016 we headed to the *Xunantunich Archaeological Reserve* sculpture, or better known as “the Stone Lady”. This reserve is Belize’s 2nd largest sculpture in the country reaching 130 ft. A group of us



managed to make it to the very top of the sculpture, and seeing the scenery from that high was absolutely breathtaking. After being able to stand in front of the sculpture and ponder on how amazing it was, it made us come to the realization that individuals built it with their bare hands. The sculpture is an epitome of this saying: “anything is achievable when you set your mind to accomplish the task.”

On Tuesday June 15, 2016 we had our first business meeting with BNE, *Belize Natural Energy*. Ms. Nicole Wood, who gave a great presentation, informed us on the history and the growth of BNE, from their start up in 2005 until now. We were also able to tour the facility as well as visit the very first oil well that was drilled for the company named Mike Usher #1. With Ms. Nicole’s knowledge of the company, she was able to help us understand the process it took for BNE to become a successful company. This You will never know until you take the leap forward to do so, and when you do 9 times out of

10 your benefit will be greater than your very first investment. This meeting also helped us understand that Belize’s energy doesn’t just come from within the country. They get their energy from parts of Mexico and parts of Guatem



“This meeting also helped us understand that it is okay to invest your time and money into a project, even if you are not sure you will succeed. “

On June 23, 2016 we had a business meeting with the *Belize Tourism Board (BTB)* in Belize City, Belize. We followed a thorough itinerary of very distinct presentations from different members that make up the BTB. We listened to presentations ranging from the Ministry of Tourism, Cruise and Destination Planning, Quality Assurance, and the Marketing Unit. Hearing all of the work that was being done within each department with the limited amount of people seemed stressful, but the workers definitely love what they do. Attending this meeting, and then being able to travel to San Pedro, we were able to put together what we learned at the meeting on ground. We were able to see where more than half of Belize’s income comes from, which is tourism. We were able to see economically where the money the tourist spends goes, in terms of its benefit towards the country’s development. Compared to where we were living in San Ignacio, Belize, San Pedro was a bit more built up. They had more resorts, hotels, restaurants, gift shops, etc.; you could tell it was a major tourist destination.

After the meeting with the BTB, we headed for another excursion: Zip-lining and Cave tubing. This excursion definitely built a strong bond between the group. A few of us were afraid to Zip line in particular and needed lots of encouragement and motivation to get across those lines. It was truly a learning experience for each of us, to not only trust the people we were with along with the tour guides, but also to step outside of our comfort zones to explore new things.

On June 28, 2016, we had a meeting with a representative from the company *Beltraide* at one of its locations in Belize City. We tuned in on a presentation by Mr. Hero Balani touching on the different units that make up the company Beltraide. He really caught the groups' attention when he started touching on the topics of investing in Belize and the many different opportunities and incentives that can be gained in doing so. He specifically opened a lot of eyes when he spoke on the retirement opportunities and benefits in the country, even though we are all still very young, time does not slow down. We could definitely relate this presentation to our entrepreneurship pillar. This is because being that the country is still undergoing development, the needs of the country are endless ranging from boat docking stations to community centers. Therefore, there are many areas open for entrepreneurship and creativity.

On June 30, 2016, we had a meeting at the United States Embassy in Belmopan, Belize with Mr. Nathan Bland. Mr. Bland gave us some very valuable information, not only on some of the things going on in Belize, but also on our futures. We talked about a few of the many crisis the country is going through, one in particular was the concept of correspondence banking and how it is altering the country's income. For our last business meeting on July 8, 2016, we had met with Mrs. Nancy Adamson, one of the founders of Galen University. With her previous experience as a dean, she was very relatable to talk with and knew exactly how we were feeling. Her conversation helped us understand the importance of believing in an idea and going about developing it regardless of success or failure.

Our last project on ground was to participate in a workshop for Minecraft coding at the University of Belize. We were able to help children complete a Minecraft hour of coding. The kids were so excited to be able to learn such a valuable skill. We were also required to complete the lesson before we were able to help teach it and it is a good thing that we did because we learned a valuable skill as well that we could not only use to help the children complete the lessons, but also use in our future endeavors. Being involved with the kids at such young ages and teaching them how to

code shows you there are no limitations or age requirements to learn new skills. We are now able to teach our families and friends how to Minecraft code, of course only if they are willing to learn.

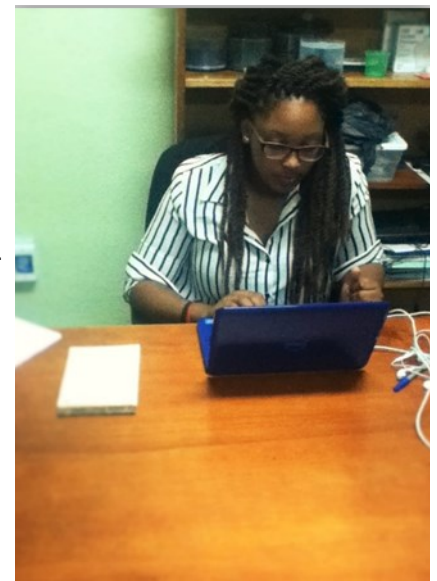


Culture

While being abroad, one sometimes have to be open minded about trying to adapt to the different cultural perspectives of a foreign country. Being in Belize was a challenge at times: trying to adapt, specifically dealing with food and the way of living. As soon as we stepped foot off the plane, we knew that we were not in the United States anymore. The scenery of the land was totally different: the roads, housing, and businesses were totally different, and even the airport. There are also many different ethnicities in Belize that range from Mennonite, Mestizo, Garifuna, Mayan, West Indian, and Creole, which probably explains the many different food variations and the cultural practices.

Conclusion

Everyone is not willing to get out of there comfort zone and travel to another country for a long period of time, 30 days to be exact. Trying to adapt to a different culture and basically living within a community one is accustomed to is difficult. The excursions helped us to understand that it is okay to step outside of your comfort zone and do something you are not use to, the meetings helped us to



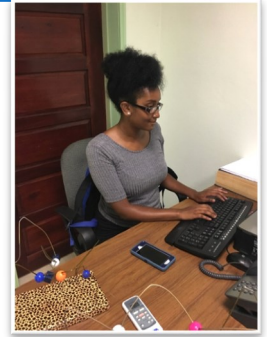
understand how to relate Belizean cultural practices and economic situations to ours, and the service learning helped us to understand that providing service is something that is very much cherished and appreciated by not only the people we provided the service to, but for the country as a whole.

The Power of Entrepreneurship in Belize -By Shakema Yvonne Hayden

Healthcare Management

ABSTRACT

The objective of the Belize study abroad program was to give students the opportunity to take their university courses in another country, while learning about that country's culture, language, and people. While abroad, there were a total of three classes that were offered, including: Microeconomics, International Business, and Healthcare Practicum. There were a total of nine tours, seven business meetings, and one service-learning project. The places that we toured were the Ignacio Welcome Center, Iguana Conservation Project, Xunantunich Mayan Ruins, Belize Zoo, Mystic Rivers, Ambergris Caye, Hot Mama's Hot Sauce Plant, AJAW Cacao Demonstration, and Cahal Pech Swimming. The business meetings that we attended were Sacred Heart Junior College, Belize Natural Energy, Mennonite Tour of Spanish Lookout, U.S. Embassy, BELTRAIDE, Belize Tourism Board, and Center for Engaged Learning Abroad. Last but not least, we completed a service-learning workshop by teaching primary school children how to program the language that supports the development of Minecraft – a popular application that is played



Introduction

On June 15, 2016, a group of students were given the opportunity to study abroad in Belize for four weeks. During our trip, we were able to visit a wide range of Belizean historical, archaeological, educational, and business sites. We were also able to take full advantage of the three courses that were being offered, which were *Microeconomics*, *International Business*, and *Healthcare Practicum*. The purpose of the study abroad centered around four pillars – service learning, internship, economic education and entrepreneurship education.

Summary of Courses

The course objective for *International Business* (BUSA4105) was to introduce contemporary problems, issues, and opportunities in international and multinational organizations. This course was taught by Dr. Kathaleena Edward Monds in a non-traditional manner. Course content was learned from both materials absorbed from the readings in the textbook, but more importantly, we engaged in learning about International Business by visiting and dialoguing with business owners in Belize.

The course objective for *Microeconomics* (ECON2106) was to introduce students to concepts that will enable them to understand and analyze the structure and performance of the market economy. Economics tends to bombard students with drawing supply and demand curves; however, the aim of this course was to help me gain a better understanding of microeconomics through entrepreneurial activities. Microeconomics focuses on the decisions that organizations and individuals make in regards to the prices of goods and services and the distribution of resources. It takes into account the

interaction between the buyer and seller along with factors that may have an impact on the decisions made by buyers and sellers. All of this information is used to decide what to produce in the market and how much to charge for it. The course content utilized the textbook by Dr. James Gwartney entitled "Public and Private Choice" that was supported by online materials developed by the Foundation for Economic Education. Finally, the course objective for *Healthcare Practicum* was to introduce students to the business environment by placing them on jobs that will allow them the opportunity to gain valuable insights into actual organizational and managerial practices and operations. The Hospital Administrator for the region, Mrs. Bernadet Seaver, supervised the first part of the practicum. We met at Western Regional Hospital (formerly Belmopan Community Hospital) in Belmopan to receive our assignment of creating a fire plan and fire policy for the hospital. Unfortunately, this was the only assignment that she had available to us, so we had to look for other intern opportunities. We visited a total of four places, which were the Spanish Lookout Clinic, Santa Elena Medical Center, Integral Medical Clinic, and La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital. Luckily, the Nurse Manager was able to offer a position. While interning at La Loma Luz, we were responsible for creating a nurse policy and toys for the children entertained in the waiting room. We also had the opportunity to redo the hospital's preoperational checklist. This was very important because all of these assignments were relevant to my future career goals of working in the OBGYN unit.

Tours

During the first week of the program, we went on three tours and attended one meeting. The first tour was at the Ignacio Welcome Center on Thursday, June 16, 2016. We watched an informative video that provided an overview of the culture, economy, history, and diversity of Belize. The timing of this tour was perfect. This is simply because it showed us what to expect during our visit and helped us get familiar with the San Ignacio Town.

On Friday, June 17, 2016, we sat in on a meeting that was held at Sacred Heart Junior College. This meeting made us aware of the recent problems involving bilateral challenges between Guatemala and Belize. Although the challenges are not completely the same as that of the United States with Mexico, it was interesting to see how some of the challenges were relatable. Students from all tertiary colleges within the country attended this meeting. During this event, networking with other students was encouraged.

On that same day, we also went on our third tour to the Green Iguana Conservation Project located at the San Ignacio Hotel. We were a little nervous to go into their habitat, but we eventually got over our fears. We got to hold, feed, and take pictures with a number of different iguanas that varied in size and age. During the tour, they explained to us the importance of conserving and looking after the endangered Green Iguana species in Belize. We learned that, in Belize, iguana is called bamboo chicken and is considered to be a delicacy. Looking back, this was a perfect example of a concept that we learned in microeconomics: Tragedy of the Commons.

During the second week of the program, we went on two business meetings and one tour. On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, we had a business meeting with Belize Natural Energy. This was a very interesting and informative meeting. Our tour guide talked to us about the history of oil in Belize. It's amazing how Belize did not have an oil source of their own until 2005, but now they are the biggest provider in Central America. During the business meeting, our tour guide also gave us a tour of Spanish Lookout. It was interesting to see how different the Mennonite community was in comparison to the other parts of Belize that we have seen .

“It was an epiphany on how well our communities would be in the United States if we all worked together and put in the same amount of effort as the Mennonites.”

During the last week of our trip, we did three tours, a service learning workshop, and one business meeting. The service learning workshop was definitely one of my favorite excursions. Teaching and interacting with the children was a great experience for me. I'm glad that we were able to introduce them to the mind-craft software and open their eyes to computer programming. This is something that personally made me feel good. It was a way for us to give back to the Belizean community. This is simply because it can open a lot of doors for them in the future and will allow them to continue to express their creativity. Another excursion that I really enjoyed was the tour of Hot Mama's Hot Sauce Plant. This tour excited and motivated me even more to become an entrepreneur. We got to see first hand the amount of hard work and creativity that went into the business. This really opened my eyes to that fact that entrepreneurship is something that will take a lot of patience and time.

Culture

Belize gained its independence from Britain on September 21, 1981. The country is small with over 200 islands with a population of about 380,000 people. The culture of Belize is very rich and diverse. This is simply because of the country's unique mix of ethnic variation, which includes Mestizo, Garifuna, European, Mayan, Creole, Asian, Middle Eastern and Hispanic. The diversity of the culture



is mainly reflected in the culinary choices, which includes Belizean, Mexican, Indian, and Chinese dishes.

Another big part of the Belizean culture is entrepreneurship. I always imagined businesses being located inside of a building, mall, or plaza. However, during my stay, I have met a number of different entrepreneurs who work vigorously on the side of the street, on the sidewalks, on the bus, and at the bus stops. They are willing to work long hours, stand out in the heat and rain, and plead in order to persuade buyers into purchasing their products. This experience has truly showed me the true definition of entrepreneurship.

This study abroad experience was amazing and I will take everything that I have learned and apply it to my everyday life.



Beautiful Belize

By Tarrisa Simmons



ABSTRACT

Along with six other students, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Belize, Central America during the Summer 2017 semester. The Belize 2017 Study Abroad Program was focused on four key areas: economics, internship, service-learning, and entrepreneurship. I was enrolled in two classes: Business Internship I—in which I created and helped launched a customer loyalty campaign program for the Guava Limb Café as a non-paid marketing intern—and International Business—which was taught by Dr. Kathleen Monds. As we lived in San Ignacio, Belize for five weeks, we went to the following business meetings: Belize Natural Energy (BNE), Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE), U.S. Embassy in Belize, and the Belize Tourism Board (BTB). The program also incorporated the following excursions and activities: Xunantunich-Mayan Ruins, cave tubing, zip-lining, an African dance workshop, the Green Iguana Conservation Project, snorkeling in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, watching a theatrical production entitled, “Mo-Jo and the Say-so”, swimming in Cahal Pech Resort Hotel’s pool, visited Hot Mama’s Hot Sauce Plant, and had the opportunity to go to the AJAW cacao demonstration. We also had the opportunity to complete our service learning project at the Cornerstone Foundation—where the organization is aimed at improving the lives of Belizean citizens. Overall, I am extremely grateful for everyone who contributed a donation towards the program and my tuition because I would not be where I am today. My study abroad experience was an amazing, life changing, eye-opening, once in a lifetime event that I will never forget. It has given me the clarity, direction, and self-confidence I need to help me succeed in life.

INTRODUCTION

“Where is Belize?” Belize is the only English-speaking country located in Central America. It is a small, developing country that borders Mexico and Guatemala. As I lived in San Ignacio, I observed local Belizeans from different demographic backgrounds such as: Hispanic, Chinese, Mennonite, and Creole. One of the main cultural difference is that “goodnight” is used as a greeting instead of an expression you say to someone right before bed. I believe that almost everyone sleeps, eats, and



breathes entrepreneurship. I can recall the days when I walked down the street of Burns Avenue. There were people walking around selling jewelry, riding bikes selling “meat pies”, sitting down waiting for customers who needed shoe repairs, and setting up food stands. Other entrepreneurs lived in two story buildings whereas their business would be either downstairs, upstairs, or both.

For example, a lady who lived a few houses away, sold candy and other goods to the children afterschool on the lower level and had her laundry services on the upper level. By reading the required text, “Taking Stock: Belize at 25 Years of Independence” and attending various business meetings, I learned that Belize gained its independence from Great Britain on September 21, 1981. Great Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II is featured on their currency—the Belizean dollar—which is also has a 2:1 exchange rate ratio in comparison to the U.S. Furthermore, oil, tourism, and agriculture are the main contributions to their GDP. I chose to study abroad in Belize because I would be able to learn more about the corporate world through the perspective of a developing country and earn college credit towards my Marketing degree. I was enrolled in two courses: International Business and Business Internship I. International Business was taught



by Dr. Kathleen Monds. Most of our class meetings would be held in Sacred Heart Junior College on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-3pm. Throughout the week we would

have to complete numerous assignments .

On June 15, we had a tour at BNE. During our BNE tour, I learned that BNE is the only energy company in Central America to produce LPG (liquefied petroleum gas). The firm does not own any oil, but instead serves a contractor that explores and extracts oil in various locations. Oil has a major contribution to the GDP and their population. In fact, our tour guide—Nicole Wood, BNE Marketing and Communication Officer— informed us that the population was 250,000 before oil reserves were discovered. Today their population is about 350,000. On July 16, we went to the U.S. Embassy which is located in Belmopan, Belize. After we rode the bus for about 1.5 hours, we met J. Nathan Bland who is the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission.



I learned that U.S. government takes good care of the citizens who stay in Belize. However, if an American citizen was to break the law, he/she would have to abide by the consequences of the Belizean government. The U.S. would not bail out or interfere with the Belizean law. So, it's important to not commit the crime, if you can't do the time. Furthermore, I also learned that during election season, the U.S. has a protocol to alert or notify American citizens to vote at the U.S. Embassy. On July 13, we went to BTB and met our tour guide Karen Pike. She gave us a lot of background information about Belize. I learned that the Belizeans do not have health insurance. They believe that prevention is the best medicine. Life expectancy is about sixty years of age because like most developing countries, HIV/AIDS is one of their biggest problems. The crime rate is also significantly high. Belizeans also have health issues related to diabetes because their country has an abundance of fruits and fried foods. In addition, Belize's minimum wage is \$3 BZE.

As for my internship, I had the opportunity to intern at the Guava Limb Café which is a privately-owned restaurant by Chaa Creek Resort. Under the supervision and mentorship of Roberto Harrison, I created and helped GLC to execute their customer loyalty campaign program. Every promotional content (i.e. flyers) that I designed, he would always provide positive feedback. Although my creations were appealing to the eye, I learned that it is important to understand that every single detail matters in a flyer. In terms of the font type, fonts style has a psychological effect on the human mind that an organization's products/services are inexpensive and affordable. The cursive fonts give the idea that the company sells high-end products/services. The colors used in promotional content also matters as well. For instance, in my original flyer, I had green font color to match the green in the guava plant. I learned that green was not a good color to choose for three reasons: 1) it did not match their brand, 2) green could mean that the food is bad or makes people ill, and 3) the color could also portray that the food is economically-friendly or organic.



During the last week of the program, we had our service-learning project at Cornerstone Foundation—an organization that is aimed at improving the lives of their community. Before their children's summer program began, we gave them a fresh, new look. We repainted three tables, three benches and

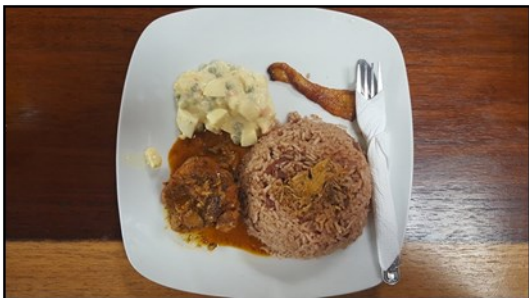
decorated them, the wall blocks with new artwork, and even their garbage bin altogether. Dr. Monds and I repainted their garbage bin—which was really an old, white deep-freezer with the words “garbage bin” on it. We painted the base green and added cute artwork to it.



After we spent about two days and approximately 8 – 10 hours total in the hot sun completing our project, I can honestly say that it was a pleasure to give back from the heart while having fun at the same time. It felt good to know that Albany State University's Belize 2017 study abroad students have literally left our mark in San Ignacio, Belize.

My experience has given me clarity, direction, and has inspired me to pursue my master's degree and become a professor at a university/college.

Throughout the five weeks we were in Belize, we worked hard and played harder. The program included excursions and I had the time of my life. In fact, we did the following activities: cave tubed, zip-lined, snorkeled in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye with sharks, participated in an African dance workshop, walked to San Ignacio Hotel for the Green Iguana Conservation Project where we held and fed the iguanas, watched an amazing theatrical production entitled, "Mo-Jo and the Say-so", swam in Cahal Pech Resort Hotel's pool, visited and climbed Xunantunich - Maya Ruins, visited Hot Mama's Hot Sauce Plant, and had the opportunity to go to the AJAW cacao demonstration.



Traditional Belizean dish

After I departed from Belize, I spent a lot of time reflecting on my experience. I learned a lot about Belize and even things that I did not realize about myself. I can recall how stressed I was earlier this year because I did not have a clear understanding of my post-graduation academic or career goals. I felt as if I devoted so much time to my household obligations that I did not even have the time to think about myself. I know that my family loves me and wants the best for me, but what they do not realize is that they have hindered me from realizing my full potential. My experience has given me clarity, direction, and has inspired me to pursue my master's degree and become a professor at a university/college. I will be graduating on December 9, 2017 and I can honestly say that I feel so happy and more confident about myself. I am so thankful that I studied abroad in Belize because now it's time for me to break the chains, spread my wings, and see how far I can fly.



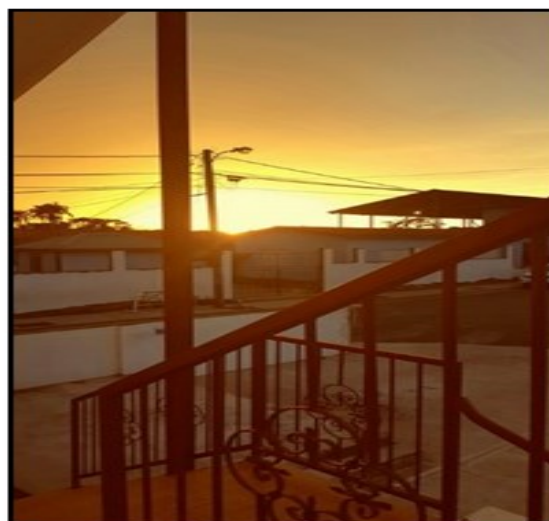
My Belizean Home



Streets in Belize



Lush green Belize



Gazing into the beautiful Orange Sky



By Sheba Jackson
Food in Belize

Business

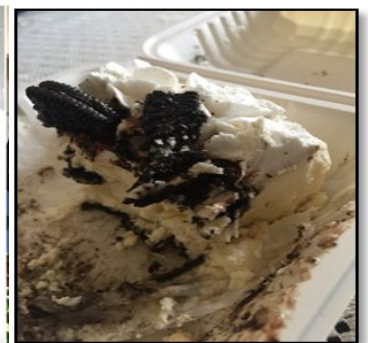


I worked on a children's book for local entrepreneurs in Belize and I got the chance to meet a local restaurant owner named Pop's. His restaurant is also named Pop's. The food there is awesome, especially their ham and cheese omelets (IHOP has nothing on them!) and he has the best fried jacks in town.

Apparently fried jacks are traditional Belizean food, and you can pretty much find them everywhere. I fell in love with them the very first time I tried it. It is interesting because everyone I have met so far makes their Fried Jacks differently. Now, there was a little bit of hesitation the first time I saw a fellow classmate order one. It took about a week for me to try my first Fried Jack, but when I did try it, I was not disappointed.

Interning was amazing. I never would have thought I'd be as eager to go to an internship and be as excited as I was. I think it's just the fact that I look forward to learning things that could be useful in real life, on my resume, and in my career. We worked on crimping wire connectors, and although we basically know what to do, I still have not mastered it yet. I plan on completing that goal before my internship is over.

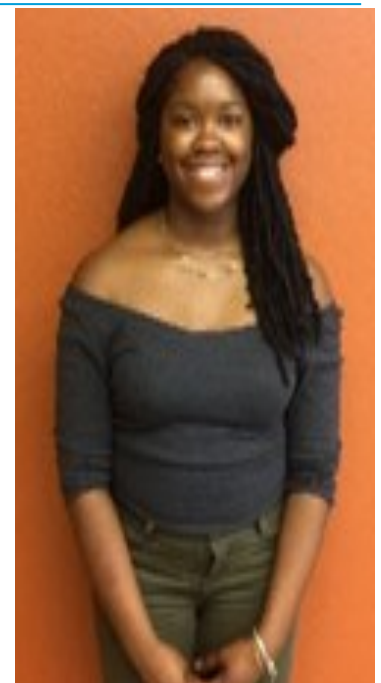
During lunch breaks at our internship, we have the option of ordering food through email, which is awesome. They provide different menus every day. Sometimes when I don't feel like eating a big lunch, I go to the market the next day to buy food to prepare lunch myself. I visited the market and purchased bananas and granola. I'm a huge fan of granola, it is something I eat all the time when I'm at home. When I saw that the Mennonites made granola I had to purchase a bag and I'm in love. They cook, make yogurt, and bake so much bread and desserts for Market Day every Saturday.



EXPLORE BELIZE

By Markia Brown (Junior Marketing major)

I have only been in Belize for a week but I feel like it has grown so much on me that I feel like I have become a native. At first adapting was a little difficult because of the cultural differences back at home. I do not usually walk everywhere but it has become enjoyable. I voluntarily walked up the hill in the picture, Xuanantunich. Both outcomes were incredible. I got to experience a breathtaking scenery and take some beautiful pictures. I never knew walking could be such an exercise until now. The great thing is that I will be in a better shape once I get back home.



I also had a little trouble adapting to the taste of another country's food. The food was not bland but it just was not the normal fries, chicken wings, and pizza that I am used to. It took me a while but I found my favorite dish. Stew chicken with rice and beans with extra gravy. The gravy makes it even more sumptuous. I ate this meal 5 times during my stay in Belize.



One of the most important things that I adapted quickly was to always carry water around with me. Back home drinking water was not a problem with me but it is a necessarily being in Belize. With all that we

do daily, being hydrated helped so much. I never felt light headed and no one passed out.



Another difference I noticed was the bad plumbing system. When I first got to Belize, I thought why do they have so many holes in the street? Why are some holes

green looking? It rained a whole lot and I saw the drains in action .

In Belize, this is the closest I have been to farm animals. So far, I have held a baby chicken, seen roosters,



horses, goats, and cows. It's exciting for me because I have seen and read about them but I do not actually interact with them. I have always wanted to work on a farm. I heard about how hard it was to do so because one had to get up early. I rode a horse once and it was scary since horses are so big. I enjoyed it so much and horses are such gentle animals. I think when I get older I will buy a horse.

Back home, I have never seen as many stray dogs as I have seen in Belize. I am a dog lover but I know I cannot



touch, feed, or take any of these dogs with me. It breaks my heart because these dogs pretty much are defending themselves. They do not have an owner to feed or shelter them.

One thing that I saw consistently in Belize are lots of trash on the streets. Trash ranging from different types of



plastic, bags, plates, etc.



I love Belize!

By **Chelissia Sumbry**
Business Information System
Sophomore

Learning Experience in Belize

TOURS AND INTERNSHIPS

I visited an archaeological site called the Xunantunich Mayan Ruins. We took a bus to the location, caught a ferry and walked all the way to the Xunantunich Mayan Ruins site. It took us twenty minutes to get there and walking up the hills were very tiring for me. However, I pushed myself and made it to the site.

The most interesting part of that day was learning interesting facts about the Xunantunich Mayan Ruins. I learned that the name Xunantunich derives from the Yucatec Maya language and means “Stone Lady”. During this study abroad trip, I was amazed at how much knowledge I gained and I became curious as each day passes.



I interned at Ariston Marketing Co. and it was an amazing experience! Ariston Marketing Co. is a company designed to assist tourists and individuals interested in traveling an easier way to book fun excursions in Belize. The employees at Ariston assist individuals by answering

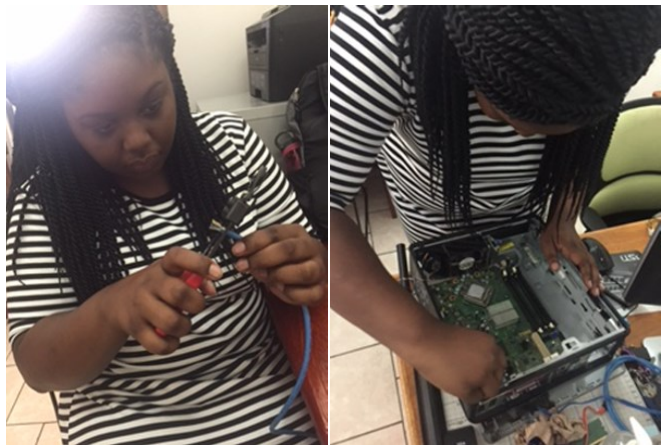
calls and booking adventures on computers. Behind the scenes were the Information Technology Department; they fixed any problem that may occur with all of the equipment used at the company. I was lucky enough to be chosen to work in this department.

I met my supervisor, Omar Valdez, who is the Network Administrator for the company. I got the chance to shadow him around the company to see the tasks he completes on a daily basis. He taught me how to trouble shoot computers. I managed to trace and



correct faults in all of the computers he assigned me to fix. It was an amazing experience and I became eager to learn more at the company.

I also learned how to do a variety of things involving computer hardware and software. I learned how to disassemble and reassembled computers, clean a computer’s hardware, uninstall and install software on computers, and change rams to different computers. I completed these tasks with ease. Justin, the company’s assistant manager also showed me how to crimp wire connectors. This was a very difficult task. Whenever I crimped wire connectors, I had to make sure that all of the wires are in order by color and that the wires are securely placed in a plastic clip. If the wires aren’t secure in the clip, I had to start all over again. Justin informed me that when he crimped wires for the first time, it took him three hours. He told me that I have plenty of time to master it so we moved on to our next tasks.



At San Ignacio, we had a wonderful time. We went to class and talked about our research topics. I decided to write about how technology can hinder your interaction with others and what technology tools are used abroad. I thought that this would be a great topic to talk about because often times people don’t realize how often they are not socially interacting because they are too busy on the internet. I eventually wrote an awesome research paper that will allow individuals to become more aware of how technology affects social interaction.



MY HUMBLING YET PHENOMENAL EXPERIENCE IN BELIZE

-By Dewayne Gurley

Abstract

The program objective of the Belize Study Abroad trip is based around four pillars: *Entrepreneurship, Internship, Economics, and Service Learning*. The purpose of the program is to equip participants with education, hands-on experience, and exposure to international business, and fundamental skills of entrepreneurship. Some of the skills I have improved on while studying abroad in Belize are researching and planning, problem-solving, entrepreneurship, adaptability, communication (written & oral), confidence, time management skills, and creativity skills. Through this program, I have learned perseverance, resilience, and rapport building skills. The reason why I was able to develop and better these particular skills were because of the courses I took: International Business and Internship for Business. International Business provided a platform where one can view contemporary problems, issues and opportunities in international business from conceptual and practical viewpoints which were discussed. Case studies, real-world business examples, research, readings, and scenarios were provided to develop my ability to diagnose and develop solutions to management situations facing international and multinational organizations. Internship for business offered me the opportunity to experience a business working environment (Internationally) in my aspiring professional career (Marketing), with an opportunity to gain valuable insights into actual organizational and managerial practices and operations. Through such experiences, I can better correlate my academic experiences with my future educational studies, and professional career in Marketing. The educational, and internship experience alone would not have given me the entire international experience without the excursions. The excursions were based around a broad culture in Central America. Belize is known as a melting pot of culture. We experienced cultures like we never have before. There were a diversity of music, food, dance, lifestyle, etc. Most tours consist of the history of the Mayans which are traditional civilizations of Mesoamerica. Ancient Mayan's were skilled farmers and architects. Today many Mayans live modest, keeping their ancestors' tradition alive and recognized. Also, the Mayans are a highly respected group of African descent known as the Garifunas. This group of African descent faced many challenges such as oppression, inequality and demoralization, and yet they still arrived in Belize with an optimistic purpose to serve their new homeland and to develop their new nation. You can find Garifunas in San Ignacio and Dangriga. Studying abroad taught me a few things: simply traveling to another country can enhance a person's determination and one should never judge someone based off American standards, Government assistance isn't mandatory, and a third-world (developing country) has lucrative opportunities for the benefit of both a foreign individual and Belizeans. My overall experience was humbling, yet phenomenal (Un-Belizable).

Introduction

As a first generation college student and as an African American, my experiences have involved facing the obstacle of limited financial resources, not having college-educated parents, being stereotyped, and being perceived as a young black male with low expectations. Studying abroad has help me to expand my academic and life-goals and to never settle for mediocrity. Studying abroad helped me dispel the myth plagued by so many of my peers as poor, lazy, and unmotivated. My experiences in Belize has rendered me with experiences and opportunities that did not only shed a more positive light on people in general, but on African-American males in particular. Studying abroad in Belize has enable me to gain valuable experience, insight on new cultures, life experiences, allowed me to find new interests, encouraged my personal development, and improved my written communication skills. Additionally, I developed my creativity skills by self-publishing a children's book. The reason I chose Belize was because it is a culturally diverse country. It is also the home of

West-Africa descents (the Garifunas) whose ancestors migrated along the coast of Belize to avoid enslavement. The proximity of the country to Georgia was another reason that ignited my desire to travel abroad. It gave me a home away from home feel, because the people were so hospitable. Belize is English-speaking, but rich in other languages such as Kriol, Garifuna, and Spanish. Engaging in the study abroad in Belize has afford me the opportunity to understand how culture plays a role in Global Marketing as a Marketing major.



Cultural and International Experience

I have learned that the world is filled with both information and experiences more than I considered existed. Travelling to Belize afforded me an opportunity to learn about the melting pot of culture. Belize taught me about varieties of food, music, dancing and gathering which is the foundation of all culture. I learned that though diversity may be prominent aspect of one's own ancestry, it is important to know where one comes from and embracing one's own heritage is imperative. Hospitality is not just a Southern thing: it's worldwide. What I've learned based on my international experience is that in a developed country or developing country either way people are determined to live better lives. The experience of a third-world country environment that is less equipped with evolving technology unfolded a reality that people appeared happier than that of most Americans. I was humbled when I saw a 10-year-old selling coconut water along the highway. I realized that ambition doesn't have an age and one should have no excuse to not be an entrepreneur.

Courses Taken

While abroad I was enrolled in two courses International Business and Internship for Business both taught by Dr. Kathaleena E. Monds, specifically International Business. The International Business class was held on Sacred Heart Junior College campus in an open-air style classrooms. Our first week in Belize class were held Tuesday- Friday, 9AM-3PM, after that week classes were held Tuesdays & Thursdays (Friday as an Alternative, San Ignacio Public Library). My internship of business course took place at Hot Mama's Belize Hot Sauce Factory, where I was an intern in the Sales and Marketing Department, but I experienced the process and production side of the business. I along with another ASU student worked three days out of the week, from Monday to Wednesday and on Friday from 8AM- 4PM. My responsibilities were research and planning, create a marketing strategy to broaden brand awareness, and conduct a survey. The purpose for both courses was to enhance both my perception and experience on the program four pillars- economics, internship, service-project learning, and entrepreneurship.

Tours

The tours were the foundation of my study abroad trip experience. There was a total of 10 tours, which were spread throughout the 34 days in Belize. Belize Tourism Board (BTB) at San Ignacio Welcome Center was where we received an introduction to the history of Belize. Then we had our actual tours of San Ignacio, and different places within the district, as well in other districts. We entered the world of Little Jurassic Park at the San Ignacio Hotel & the Green Iguana Conservation Project. We pet, fed and held iguanas and small dinosaur like creatures. Xunantunich (zoo-nun-tu-nich) Mayan Ruins, an Ancient Maya archaeological site located in western Belize. We received a lot of cardio that day, but the destination was well worth the walk. We climbed El Castillo Pyramid, 130 rocks, and at the top is where we proclaimed, "I'm on top of the world!" At Mystic Rivers Tours-Cave Tubing and Zip lining, we explored the rain-forest which contains many herbs and plants that are used today for healing chronic illnesses. We also tasted the foods that the Mayans ate for survival in the jungle like coco nuts and termites.



Once we made it through the rainforest we entered the waters, where we went cave tubing through what is known in the Mayan history as “Hell”. It was given that name because of its pitch-black darkness. They would also practice rituals alongside the cave waters. After the cave tubing, we flew along the forest, one by one, ziplining. The experience was exciting and we all had a fair share of adrenaline rush that day. Who knew flying through the rain forest would be so easy. Ambergris Caye-San Pedro was a trip that allowed us to relax a little from all the work we had been so busy with. We road on boats, snorkeled, swam with sharks, danced, and ate delicious island food. I never knew an island that had so many golf cart drivers until I went to San Pedro’s, but the mini vacation was great.



Cahal Pech Resort is where we had the chance to cool off at the



pool. Being in a hot environment while exploring San Ignacio took a lot out of us in just a few days, so visiting a local resort on the hills was just the relaxation we needed.

Market Day is the day farmers, vendors, and other entrepreneurs set up shop in downtown San Ignacio. We had access to fresh fruits and vegetables, traditional made products (i.e. bread, granola bars, chocolate, butter etc.), herbs etc.



Sacred Heart Junior College, a two-year college in San Ignacio, Belize is where class took place. We had the opportunity to listen and speak with the Dean Mr. Fermin Magana. We receive important information, and advise pertaining to entrepreneurship in Belize. Hot Mama’s Hot Sause Factory, my place of internship, is where some of Belize finest Habanero Pepper Sauce is produced and distributed from. The land not only is the home of the factory, but also some of its very own herbs and pepper. The tours taught me a lot, I plan to utilize my knowledge and experience to help me succeed in my rest of my undergraduate journey Albany State University, future career, and to inspire others to travel out of the country.



Conclusion

Studying abroad has helped me to expand my academic, and life-goals to never settle for mediocracy. The program objective four pillars: *Entrepreneurship, Internship, Economics, and Service Learning* forced me out of my comfort zone, which allowed me to grow. The skills and experience I have acquired will be used consistently throughout my educational and career pursuit. The courses and tours has enhanced both my perception and experience. Through such experiences, I can better correlate my academic experiences with my future educational studies and professional career in Marketing. As a first generation college student of African-American descent, my experience abroad has created a link that will give many that I come in contact with a chance to hear about my journey from the beginning to the end, with hopes of enhancing a desire deep within that person to allow them to grow by stepping outside of their comfort zone. I am grateful for the opportunity being presented to me, and grateful for all the support that I did receive when decided to travel to Belize. I now have 34 days worth of experiences, adventures, knowledge, and spiritual awakening stories that I have gained from another country. Though my time is up, I can never say goodbye to Belize; more like until next time.



Each year the aim of the Belize Study Abroad is to engage students in activities that support four pillars – economics, entrepreneurship, service-learning and internships. Each year brings about a greater understanding of economic freedom and an opportunity for students to demonstrate their applicability of “book knowledge” while interning abroad. What seems to be a common “take away” is a clearer focus on the importance of international business and how culture, society, history, politics, and people play an important part in the success of business.

Students complete a wide-range of tasks during their internships, ranging from the development of strategic plans to understanding every step of the supply chain in the manufacturing of high-end hot sauce products. The use of information systems and technology helps them to expand their knowledge of how M/S Excel can be used for data analytics and how Adobe Photoshop can be used in Marketing new products and services. This summer, the following Belizean partners have accepted our students as interns during the summer program.

Hot Mama’s Hot Sauce – students assist with the squashing of mangoes that are an essential ingredient to the Mangonero (mangoes + habernaro peppers) sauce. Students also develop a marketing strategy for brand awareness; create a jingle/slogan; conduct and disseminate surveys to obtain feedback from would-be customers (Dewayne Gurley, Senior, Marketing major and Keshun Lawson, Junior, Marketing major). Last year, three ASU students interned at Hot Mama’s, including Emberly Clark (Management), Jamarius Willis (Supply Chain) and Elyssa Sims (Management).

Guava Limb Café (owned by Chaa Creek Resort) – students develop a customer loyalty program for locals and international customers in an effort to create an incentive for return and repeat customers (Tarria Simmons, Senior, Marketing majors).

Ariston Marketing Company – students assist with the hardware and software requirements needed to maintain the computers used by the network marketing team (Chelissia Sumbry, Junior, Information Systems major; Sheba Jackson, Senior, Information Systems major).

San Ignacio Hotel and Resort – students provide support in helping management convert information from M/S Excel to fit SAGE 50 template, an accounting software. Students assist with Accounts Payable (Autumn Griffin, Junior, Accounting major). In addition, students develop a marketing brand for the Medicinal Trail Tour and are working on a bird watch flyer (Markia Brown, Junior, Marketing major).

In past study abroad programs, other student placements were made at **Belize Trade and Investment Development Services** (Akintunde Monds-Management major and Raven Burden-Information Systems major), **La Loma Luz Hospital** (Shakema Hayden and Rashadya Edge-Healthcare Management majors), and **Galen University** (Keith Hicks-Management and Andre Steadman-Marketing majors).

To date, the Belize Study Abroad has met the needs of all six disciplines in the College of Business by placing students on global internships. The program coordinator is currently working to develop a 2+2 Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation with Belizean partner institutions.

If one were to drive 44 hours and 4 minutes along the southern coast of Georgia headed west and then travel south through Texas, one would reach the beautiful country of Belize, Central America. And while this mode of transportation is not recommended, it took more than 2,400 miles for three Albany, Georgia natives to form a bond that did not take place until they traveled across borders. Even small town Albany, Georgia makes connecting with people, with similar goals and aspirations, a challenge. What millennials must understand is the importance of getting to know people. People matter. The dominance of texting and the use of time-consuming apps and TV have robbed young adults from creating relationships that are both beneficial and healthy.

Each of these study students believes that competition among their high schools pushed them to be better. Club competitions in FBLA pushed them to be prepared, to be innovative, and to do better than the students at the other schools. What is interesting, is that each of them are learning via courses taken abroad (International Business and Internship for Business) that competition is good for the economy and forces businesses to also be better, innovative, and provide the best quality product/service at the lowest price. Studying abroad has strengthened their personal and professional acumen, something that ASU deems essential to graduating prepared students to meet the demands of the global economy.



Class Session at Local Library

DR. KATHALEENA MONDS

Professor of Information Systems

Co-Director, center for Economic Education/Small and Minority Entrepreneurship

Study Abroad Coordinator Faculty Report



In Belize, Central America the nature of economic markets is seen in the various ways in which people travel, communicate, and engage in commerce. Standing in the center of Burns Avenue in San Ignacio Town, Belize is evidence of the organic order that is created when markets are free; that is, absent government regulations. The presence of street vendors – many of whom are selling the same products or foods – allows the consumer to decide which vendor to support based on two factors – price and quality. Standing in line to wait with others while the vendor prepares for another economic frenzy is essential in understanding the nature of supply and demand and the nature of markets.



Local entrepreneur selling items to schoolchildren

What is refreshing is how the absence of regulations allows markets and competition to soar. There are no battles for space to sell goods. Vendors provide tables for setting up and chairs for their customers. The service is fast and the food is both inexpensive (\$1BZ for 3 tacos, 3 grachaches, or \$1.50BZ for tamales) and delicious. Repeat vendors at repeat locations create ease of access for the consumer so they are aware and accustomed to finding the items they seek each day. In fact, some service providers like the Belize Shuttle Company, recognize the importance of “competitors working together”. In doing so, the entire economy can thrive and organizations are able to support and supplement the customer experience.



Competition is good for the economy as encouraged by this local entrepreneur.

Engaging a group of Business majors in a global experience that allows them to identify how economics, entrepreneurship and information systems are used is an excellent teachable moment for them to explore the Index of Economic Freedom, real-time. Upon arrival on June 11, 2017 students learned about the oil industry via a business meet-

ing hosted by Mrs. Nicole Wood of the Belize Natural Energy (BNE). BNE first discovered oil in Belize in 2005 in the Spanish Lookout Community (a Mennonite community). The presence of BNE contributes to the economy of Belize. Students participating in the program.

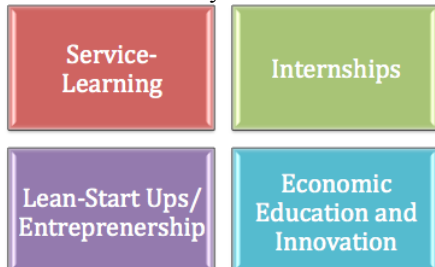
Each week is met with a new discussion about the economic impact of small to medium size (SMEs) businesses on the local economy. The Saturday Market Day is another excellent example of how “hustle” is demonstrated by local Belizeans who are eager to sell their fresh produce to consumers.

Visits to the Xunantunich Mayan Ruins and the Green Iguana Sanctuary topped off the week’s historical and environmental lessons, respectively.



Small to medium size enterprises (SMEs) in Belize, Central America have a unique opportunity to both boost the economy and serve as a model for other would-be entrepreneurs to follow. Key to the success of any business in the ability to keep expenses low, utilize innovation to surpass the competition, and secure human capital to increase profitability.

Belize Study Abroad Pillars





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Mr. Mark Hankerson—Coordinator, Writing Center (East Campus) & Instructor of English

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Vincent Mcpherson— Japan
Dewayne Gurley—Belize
Autumn Griffin—Belize
Markia Brown—Belize
Keshun Lawson—Belize
Cierra Green— India
Jasmine Smith— India
Autumn Bryant— India
Ladiamond Lett— South Africa

ASU GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (2018-2012)

	NAME	CLASSIFICA-	MAJOR	ACADEMIC	COUNTRY
1.	Tamia Hurst	Sophomore	Sociology	2018	Trinidad and Tobago
2.	Asia Clemmons	Junior	Social Work	2018	Trinidad and Tobago
3.	Nikesia Patrick	Sophomore	Psychology	2018	Trinidad and Tobago
4.	Jasmine Sparks	Senior	Teacher Education	2018	Japan
5.	Vivia Johnson	Senior	Psychology	2018	Trinidad and Tobago
6.	Aleshia Thomason	Junior	Nursing	2018	India
7.	Jamarius Allen	Senior	Supply Chain & Logistics	2018	Belize
8.	Edward Carter	Junior	Business	2018	India
9.	Jasmine Smith	Senior	Nursing/Spanish	2017	India
10.	Ladiamond Lett	Junior	Visual and Performing Arts	2017	South Africa
11.	Cierra Green	Senior	Nursing	2017	India
12.	Keshun Lawson	Junior	Marketing	2017	Belize
13.	Markia Brown	Sophomore	Marketing	2017	Belize
14.	Autumn Griffin	Sophomore	Accounting	2017	Belize
15.	Dewayne Gurley Jr.	Junior	Marketing	2017	Belize
16.	Autumn Bryant	Junior	Nursing	2017	India
17.	Vincent Mcpherson	Senior	English	2017	Japan
18.	Amber Barnhill	Senior	Early Childhood Education	2016	Spain
19.	Essence Harris	Junior	Mass Communication	2016	China
20.	Caryn Ivey	Senior	Mass Communication	2016	China
21.	Jamarius Willis	Junior	Business	2016	Belize
22.	Brandi Simpson- Warren	Sophomore	Mass Communication	2016	China
23.	Brenda Simpson- Warren	Sophomore	Mass Communication	2016	China
24.	Cameron Brewer	Junior	Mass Communication	2016	China

25.	Brandon Thomas	Sophomore	Social Work	2015	Trinidad and Tobago
26.	Kayla Belcher	Junior	Spanish	2015	Costa Rica
27.	Catiana Foster	Senior	History	2015	Costa Rica
28.	Kristal Israel	Junior	Mass Communication	2015	China
29.	Angelica Troy	Senior	Sociology	2015	France
30.	Shaqeira Wilson	Junior	Spanish	2015	Costa Rica
31.	Amanda Hardeman	Junior	Social Work	2015	Trinidad and Tobago
32.	Luticha Haley	Senior	Social Work	2015	Trinidad and Tobago
33.	Ireka Jordan	Sophomore	Biology	2015	Costa Rica
34.	Keith Hicks	Senior	Business Management	2015	Belize
35.	Shenelle Forde	Senior	Mass communication	2015	China
36.	Japonica Reese	Sophomore	Nursing	2015	Costa Rica
37.	Taisha McBride	Senior	Mass Communication	2015	China
38.	Amber Kennedy	Senior	Mass Communication	2015	China
39.	Gwendolyn Dorsey	Junior	Social Work	2015	Trinidad and Tobago
40.	Dafene Brown	Senior	Political Science	2015	Japan
41.	Brittany Green	Junior	Marketing	2015	Belize
42.	Keandris Hogan	Senior	Sociology	2014	Trinidad and Tobago
43.	Nickala Kendrick	Junior	Social Work	2014	Trinidad and Tobago
44.	Charles Mcginty	Senior	Mass Communication	2014	Trinidad and Tobago
45.	Candice Price	Junior	Social Work	2014	Trinidad and Tobago
46.	Sidney Wilson	Senior	Middle Grades Education	2014	Trinidad and Tobago
47.	Tahari Hart-Sanders	Sophomore	Nursing	2013	China
48.	Jonathan Payton	Junior	Business Management	2013	China
49.	Jennifer Swan	Sophomore	Arts	2013	China
50.	Tyla Jordan	Sophomore	Spanish	2012	Costa Rica
51.	Bianca Ward	Junior	Business Management	2012	China

NOTES

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BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

June 1 – 30, 2018

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 - **International Business**
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 - **Economics**
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