ODI Scholars: “What I Did This Past Summer”

Over the summer, many Ohio State students headed to regions far and wide to do something amazing over their break. Here’s what some of our ODI scholars did!

India Brown, a senior Young Scholars student majoring in Philosophy and Psychology and minoring in Theatre and African and African American Studies, participated in several trips this past Maymester. The first, Global May Uganda, took her to cities in Uganda and to Makerere University where she studied the culture, people, and politics of Uganda. A few highlights of her visit were seeing traditional dances, taking a sunset tour of the source of the Nile and Lake Victoria, and a walking safari in Mburo. India said about Uganda, “From the Mbeira rainforest with swinging monkeys and biting safari ants to the waterfalls and sunsets, it was a very beautiful place.”

India’s second trip was to Camp Ramapo for Children in Rhinebeck, New York as a Camp Supervisor. For her third summer there, India helped train and manage counselors to successfully care for the welfare of special needs and behavioral campers, organized activities that worked on motor skills and teambuilding, and helped teach life-skills through daily routines and positive reinforcement.

Jennifer Patritti Cram, who is majoring in Molecular Genetics, is on an Office of Diversity and Inclusion Morrill Scholars Excellence Scholarship and participated in ODI’s Bridge Program last year. Jennifer will be working this summer in Dr. Helen Chamberlin’s laboratory in the Molecular Genetics Research Project in a project involving cell signaling networks, which are important regulators of cell division and growth. However, it is not known if cell signaling pathways can function together in different ways to result in the same natural outcome. Jennifer’s project will address this question, using a comparison of the model organism nematode C. elegans with a related species C. briggsae. An expected outcome of this project will help to open a new window for cancer treatment and help develop personalized medicine for people who suffer from this disease.
Bryanna Dickson, an Economics major with International Development and Somali minors, participated in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion’s Bridge Program last year. Her study abroad was with the three-week Global May Uganda program this summer, one of many study abroad opportunities offered during Ohio State’s May session. Bryanna’s group studied at two main locations in Uganda: the capital city, Kampala, and the rural town of Jinja. Bryanna, along with other Ohio State students, attended classes at Makerere University and completed group projects on international development issues. She also had the opportunity to take part in a variety of cultural and extracurricular activities including a trip to the U.S. embassy in Uganda, a visit with Ugandan parliament, and visits to museums and shrines.

Industrial Design major Michael Gundich is an ODI Young Scholar and an ODI Bridge Program participant. Along with a group of OSU students, Michael headed off this summer to London and Ireland for a three week trip. While on this trip, Michael had several community service and service learning opportunities. He also saw all of the great things that London and Ireland have to offer. Michael was very excited before he left, saying, “This will be my first international experience and I cannot wait to go.” Once Michael returns, he will be meeting with design companies in Cleveland in the coming weeks with the hopes of securing an internship. Michael will also be doing freelance artwork in his free time over the summer with a couple of murals lined up.

ShaRayna Oree, who is majoring in Human Development and Family Science, is an upcoming fourth-year Young Scholar who attended the South Africa History and Culture Program, traveling to Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. While in Africa, ShaRayna visited places where she experienced the everyday lifestyle of the native people and learned about the history that contributed to their current livelihood. While in South Africa, ShaRayna celebrated her 21st birthday, went white-water rafting in the Zambezi River, and visited a primary school. One of the themes of the trip was the history of Apartheid and how it has affected modern-day society, and visiting the Apartheid Museum offered the opportunity to place everything into historical perspective. ShaRayna said of her time in South Africa, “There were many eye-watering moments, jaw-dropping moments, heart-wrenching moments, joy-filled moments. However, most importantly, I experienced moments of self and societal revelation. The trip was so amazing and life changing that I plan to return in the near future.”
Kayla Ridley, a Communications major minoring in English, is an ODI Young Scholar and Bridge Program participant. Kayla recently returned from a study abroad program in South Africa and Zimbabwe during the May Session. While there, Kayla, along with two professors and eleven other female students, studied the culture, society and history of these countries. One of the “highlights” of her trip was nearly getting attacked by a family of baboons. Kayla also zip-lined across the Zambezi River and white-water rafted down its streams. She danced with the children in the township of Lunga in Cape Town at the Happy Feet Youth Dance Center and tried the popular food dish called Koodo, which is antelope cooked on top of a bed of rice. Upon her return to the United States, Kayla commented that she “enjoyed the fellowship of some of the most amazing people and experienced some of the most adventurous activities” in her life.

For this past Mayterm, Briana Smoot, a junior Freshman Foundation Scholar majoring in Psychology with a minor in Human Development and Family Science, had an amazing opportunity to study abroad with the psychology department in London and Paris. During her time in London, she visited the Tower of London, Charles Darwin’s house, The London Eye, Freud’s Museum, and Shakespeare's Globe Theater to see *The Tempest*. Briana also visited the University of Cambridge and saw the rich history and tradition that are still valued today. Her favorite part about London was when she visited the Bethlem Museum and Archives and reviewed case studies from the 1800s of patients with psychological disorders. After ten days in London, Briana traveled by the Eurostar to Paris where she visited Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, University of Paris La Sorbonne, the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Palace of Versailles, and saw the Giulio Cesare Opera performance at Opera Garnier. When the trip concluded on May 28th, Briana and a few friends traveled to Rome and made an adventure of their own!