Expanding Study Abroad: Annie Weber ’15 Shares Her Experiences Conducting Research Abroad
By Michael Deleon ’18

“It definitely changed my outlook on life and what they went through,” said Annie Weber ’15, when presenting to a room of faculty and peers on her study abroad experience in Gulu, Uganda. Weber’s research was inspired by a course she took in high school on the Holocaust and modern day genocide and by her First Year Seminar course, Homelessness in America. She began volunteering at shelters and with the homeless for two years following this. Her research gave her the ability to continue her study of homeless populations. Weber’s research was published in SIT’s digital collection in fall of 2013.

Weber, who will graduate with a B.A. in Sociology from Gettysburg College this spring, traveled to Gulu in the fall semester of her junior year to study the phenomenon of street children in post-conflict northern Uganda. Through the School for International Training (SIT), Weber was given the opportunity to take on this independent research project for one month, including a part-time internship with the Charity for Peace Foundation (CPF).

“You’re stepping outside of your comfort zone with everything you do,” Weber added, remembering her time in Gulu. “You get to experience what it’s like to live a different lifestyle.”

This past March, Weber received the Katherine Davis Projects for Peace Grant in addition to SIT’s Alice Rowan Swanson Fellowship Grant. With these grants, Weber plans to return to Uganda this July to work with a non-profit called Educate for Change. She will be working on a project she developed titled “Sexual Health and Well-Being Information Camps for Girls in Northern Uganda.” In the future, Weber plans to attain a Master’s Degree in Social Work.
Spotlight on Professor Sandy Gill
By Jessica Lopez ’16

Professor Gill spent the fall of 2014 at Yale University as a visiting fellow in Cultural Sociology. While there, she worked on her book, We Didn’t Know It Was History Until After It Happened. The book examines how white southerners in Birmingham recall their past in a city infamous for resistance to desegregation. Most who write about desegregation focus on the impact of external forces such as Federal legislation. Professor Gill seeks a deeper understanding of the process of change by examining how individuals understand the social transformations they have experienced. The book reports on interviews with 20 classmates who attended high school in the midst of struggles over desegregation. Based on these interviews and an analysis of news from the time, the book examines how men and women reconstruct their pasts in order to develop a usable identity in the present.

It was a Gettysburg College student who motivated her to undertake this research. When interviewed for a project about the sixties, Professor Gill realized she rarely discussed her personal memories of Birmingham. This led her to seek a sociological explanation for this silence and directed her to the literature about difficult pasts.

Professor Gill praises her experiences at Yale. Seminars with Yale faculty and invited speakers deepened her grasp of contemporary issues in sociology. The superb yoga in New Haven energized her. She returned with a deep appreciation for the quality of a Gettysburg education. She says that many papers by seniors at Gettysburg are as strong as those written by Yale graduate students.

Making a difference – one tiny step at a time

Students in Professor Phua’s Global Sexualities class worked on Global activism projects that included raising awareness and funds for fighting against inequalities in countries outside of the US. Their projects included “Enough is enough: Raising awareness on rape in India,” “Stop Anti-Gay Laws in Uganda,” “Sex Trafficking in India,” “Sexual Violence against Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo,” and “Sexual Education in Indonesia.”
Student presentations at the 2015 Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting

Five sociology majors presented their work at the 2015 ESS poster session this year:

- Katie Patterson ’15, “Understanding Transnational Identity: Second Language Knowledge among Current Second Generation Immigrants in the US.”
- Anne Colby Skrabak ’15, “Infidelity and the Effect of Religiosity and Impulsivity.”
- Bridget Golato ’15, “Role of Relationships on Depression in School-Aged Children.”
- Emily Franklin Hall ’15, “Racial & Ethnic Segregation in the United States: Neighborhood Racial Composition Patterns Explained by the Perpetuation Theory.”

“I thought the conference was such a great learning experience, getting to present my paper and findings among other students. I also just enjoyed being in the city and having fun with other classmates.” Kendra Soule ’15

“I was nervous about answering questions at the ESS Conference, but I ended up having a lot of great discussions. It was also really exciting to see the research that Sociology students at other schools are working on.” Katherine Patterson ’15

Taking our education outside the Bubble

Professor Gill's “Theories of Social Change” class tours the Harley-Davidson factory to assess theories for organizing work in the US today.

Professor Phua’s “Global Sexualities” class visits New York City to understand how spaces could be sexualized.
Education outside bubble continues…

Not all work – Snow tubing with Professor Lair

Latest News:
William H. Johnson ’15 (aka Holt) received a teaching assistantship to attend East Carolina University’s Masters of Science in Exercise and Sport Science with a concentration on Sport and Exercise Psychology.

Claudia Artandi ’14 has been accepted into the M.S. in Marketing Communications program at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY.

Joseph W. Miller ’13 (with Professor Phua) published an article entitled “Gazing at Haw Par villa: Cultural Tourism in Singapore” in Shima: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures. This was a project he started right after his sophomore year at Gettysburg College.

Professor Charles Emmons received funding from the Gettysburg College Research and Professional Development Grant to research how alternative principles are possibly incorporated into the practices of individuals and even health professionals. He will be conducting interviews both in the US and in the UK in Spring 2016.

Making the List

Dean’s List
Mackenzie Aquino ’15
Quadirah Bell ’16
Isabelle Boguski ’15
Katherine Higgins ’15
Kimberly Longfellow ’16
Mairead McCarthy ’16
Brandon McTigue ’15
Mikaela Puth ’16
Samantha Reed ’17
Alexandra Richmond ’17
Nadejiah Towns ’15
Anne Weber ’15
Amy Whitehouse ’15

Commendation List
Shae Belenski ’17
Meghan Bernard ’16
Christine Betterly ’15
Mila Caplan ’15
David Carrillo ’16
Michael Deleon ’18
Laura Gradiska ’17
Emily Hall ’15
Sarah Kramer ’17
Katherine Krueger ’16
Gordon Prince ’15
Jhanvi Ramaiya ’17
Caroline Sharkey ’15
Anne Skrabak ’15
Email to faculty...

Professor Phua,

I got into UPenn!!!! I just wanted to say thank you so so so much for all of your help, especially writing a recommendation for me! Still waiting on VCU but good news so far! Thanks Again!

Emily Hall ’15

Hi Professor Emmons,
I hope you're doing really well. I have some great news, I was accepted into Manhattanville's M.S. in Marketing Communications program and my family and I are so excited.

Thank you again for your recommendation, I am so happy to be able to pursue my Masters! I will keep you updated on how the program is going.

I hope you have a great rest of your semester!

Best,
Claudia Artandi ’14

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Honors and Awards 2014-15

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Scenes from Sociology End-year Party with performance by Osiris M. Duarte ’15, our residential hip-hop artist

Managing Editors:
Miranda Wisor and Andrea Switzer

Supervising Faculty:
Voon Chin Phua and Charles Emmons