**International Connections at Pitt 2013***Hosted by University of Pittsburgh University Center for International Studies’ Asian Studies Center, African Studies Program, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Russian and East European Studies, European Studies Center, Global Studies Center, and International Business Center*  
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**Program Schedule**

9:30 – 9:45 Arrival and Breakfast

9:45 – 10:00 Welcome Remarks – Leslie Smedley, Study Abroad Office

10:00 – 11:00 Student Panel

11:00 – 11:10 Break

11:10 – 12:00 Breakout Sessions with Academic Advisors

**Student Panelist Biographies**

**Kendra Brumfield** is pursuing a Master of Public Administration with a major focus on Public and Non-Profit Management, along with a Graduate Certificate in African Studies. She completed her undergraduate degree in International Studies and Global Diplomacy with a minor in Political Science and regional specializations in Africa and the Middle East at Louisiana State University. Fluent in French, her experiences abroad include Senegal, Kenya, and Namibia. She hopes to pursue a career that involves traveling across Africa.

**Breanna Durham** is an English Writing major with a minor in Korean. She has studied abroad in Seoul during the summer of 2013 while on a Nationality Room Scholarship. Breanna is a member of the Black Action Society and editor of the group’s student magazine, Blackline, which features original student poetry, articles on politics and issues affecting Pitt students, music reviews, opinion pieces, and interviews.

**Celia Gonzalez** is a senior majoring in Russian with a certificate in Russian and Eastern European Studies. She participated in PITT’s Summer Language Institute two summers ago, studying Russian at Moscow State University. Originally a microbiology major, she enrolled in an elementary Russian class for fun and ended up pursuing it full time. With her passion of the Russian language and culture, she hopes to teach Russian to American university students.

**Sanaa Ahmed** is a senior majoring in Psychology with minors in Chemistry, Sociology, and Japanese and a certificate in Asian Studies. She is the president and founder of the Pitt Origami Club, and she has studied abroad in Tokyo, Japan. She is hoping to combine her interests in Japan and psychology through studying attitudes towards pop culture in Japan.

**Yuen Ping Lau** is a senior majoring in Urban Studies and Communications with a minor in Japanese. Ping is a native speaker of Cantonese, and her study abroad experiences include the Semester at Sea summer program, as well as Chinese University of Hong Kong and Korea University.

**Academic Advisors**

**Leslie Smedley** has been an undergraduate study abroad advisor at Pitt since 2003, and has over 20 years of experience in helping international students and scholars coming to Pitt to study as well. She studied abroad in Strasbourg, France while a senior at Penn State and also speaks French, Spanish, and German.

**Tiwanda Taylor** has served as an academic advisor in Pitt’s College of Business Administration for over ten years. Her extensive knowledge about the undergraduate business curriculum and resources available within the University has helped her work with over 2,000 students. In addition to advising, Ms. Taylor served as a Program Assistant to students who participated in the International Internship Program in Madrid, Spain.

**Macrina Lelei** is the acting Director of the African Studies Program at Pitt and an adjunct professor in the School of Education, where she received her PhD in Administrative and Policy Studies. She teaches courses such as Education in Africa and Comparative and International Education as a part time faculty, and works with Pitt students interested in African studies. She is originally from Kenya.

**Elaine Linn** is the undergraduate and graduate student advisor for the Global Studies Center at Pitt, and also serves as director of outreach for the Consortium for Educational Resources on Islamic Studies (CERIS), a 30 member consortium of institutions of higher education and community organizations in PA and Ohio. Elaine has led study tours for K-12 and university teachers to Egypt, and she serves as the faculty advisor to the Muslim Student Association and FORGE, a student club that works with refugee families in the Pittsburgh area. Elaine speaks French and Arabic.

**Susan Hicks** is the Program Manager and Undergraduate Advisor for the Center for Russian and East European Studies. She assists students in selecting courses, language training, and arranging internships or study abroad to fit students’ academic and personal interests. Susan has a PhD in Anthropology from the University of British Columbia, and studies indigenous politics in Russia, especially in relation to international and global indigenous movements. Susan speaks Russian, Yakut (a language spoken in the Sakha Republic, part of the Russian Federation), and Spanish.

**Jenn Murawski** is the undergraduate advisor for the Asian Studies Center at Pitt, and she also coordinates the K-12 and community outreach programs, including student career events, community film series, and volunteer opportunities for students interested in international studies. She also participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program for two years as an elementary school and junior high English teacher in Japan. Jenn speaks Japanese and she has also studied Mandarin Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.