Faculty Report

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Faculty/Rank - Professor
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College - Arts and Letters
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Proposal title – Alternative Spring Break-South Africa

Country/ies visited – South Africa (Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Soweto)

Institution visited - CITC University, US Embassy, Pretoria Secondary School, Chris Hani School

Dates of travel – March 27 – April 7, 2009

Number of student participants: 14

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded
(list titles, countries and dates): 2003- 2008 – South Africa
1999, 2003 – Ghana, West Africa

Have all required reports been submitted? Yes

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: College of Arts and Letters

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

The purpose of the trip is to expose students to the issues of race, class and gender in a living laboratory- South Africa. Also, students work with young people in Soweto, Langa and Pretoria who are struggling with academic, health and economic issues. We volunteer in orphanages, youth centers, AIDS clinics and middle schools. Last year, we also painted houses in Kliptown and supported the Kliptown Youth Program. All majors/minors are welcome.

\textbf{Travel report:}
I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity

II. In preparation for the trip abroad

We collaborated with groups at SDSU (Women Studies Department) and Diego City Schools (Crawford High School) and the US Embassy – South African Mission and the M.A.D. Foundation (Make A Difference Foundation. These contacts were in person and via email. We have had a long standing relationship with the US Embassy and they assist us in making sure that the programs and projects we engage in are legitimate and viable. In some cases, they are intricately involved in the projects as embassy workers and volunteers.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity

Students are exposed to various universities and because this is a short term trip, we have no long standing contacts with any university. Thus far, all major and minors have been involved in the program and are attracted to the work that we do. Majors/minors in ISCOR, Africana Studies and similar programs with study abroad requirements find the program attractive and beneficial because it fits into the lifestyle of the home bound student.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?

Thus far, we have had students increase their interest in Africa study abroad programs. This past year, one of our 2008 ASB students spent the semester studying in Ghana. This semester, a 2009 ASB student is studying in Costa Rica. Another of the Alternative Spring Break Student was motivated to expand her interest and study abroad in Ghana, too. This program allows students to develop an appreciate for Africa and whets their appetite for a more in depth study/learn experience.

V. Additional Information

All information should be sent to The Office of International Programs via e mail:

oip@mail.sdsu.edu