

CAROLINA
passport

SPRING 2008



AGRADU *By Marissa Hall*

Advocates for Grassroots Development in Uganda



Hindu temple in Kampala.

There is a growing appreciation for the ability of locally-based organizations to effectively implement sustainable development. Although larger-scale development efforts, such as the Millennium Development Project and USAID and World Bank programs, receive much funding and attention, smaller grassroots organizations are often better attuned to the needs of their communities.

How can UNC students become involved in these kinds of initiatives from so far away? After traveling to Uganda more than three years ago, senior Jonathan

Pourzal began developing an answer to this question.

Jonathan started an organization called Advocates for Grassroots Development in Uganda (AGRADU), which works to support indigenous grassroots organizing in Uganda. The initiative supports internships for UNC students and funds three different community-based organizations (CBOs) each summer. Jonathan said that working with AGRADU “is a way of partnering with the groups, supporting their work, and using student efforts to do so.”

Jonathan’s interest in Uganda stemmed from his involvement with the United Move-

ment to End Child Soldiering (UMECS) in Washington, D.C., which provides assistance to child soldiers involved in a 20-year civil war in Northern Uganda. His mentor at UMECS encouraged him to visit the country during the summer after his freshman year. Jonathan said that the trip was an invaluable impetus for the formation of AGRADU.

After acquiring grant funding during the following school year, Jonathan and AGRADU co-founder Jennifer Monroe backpacked through Uganda in the summer of 2006 to set up the internship program by “researching, networking, and



Summer 2006; Busina, Eastern Uganda: AGRADU founders Jennifer Monroe and Jonathan Pourzal meet beneficiaries of one of AGRADU's Ugandan CBO partners, FOC-REV.

Top: Children at the Kyabologo Parish Orphanage.

Middle: Danika Barry with an HIV-positive couple and their children in front of their home.

Bottom: Children in Keytume.

seeing what's possible." They visited various CBOs to determine which were the most effectively organized and receptive to outside help. Ultimately, they selected three organizations that advocate, among other issues, sustainable development, HIV/AIDS treatment and education, and microfinance initiatives: Centre for Environment Technology and Rural Development, Kyetume Community Based Health Care Programme, and Friends of Christ Revival Ministries.

After establishing partnerships with the three organizations, they prepared the first group of students for their internships and raised funds for each CBO. Through bar nights and a fair trade crafts fair, AGRADU successfully raised \$450 for each organization to invest in the community. Jonathan's minor in social entrepreneurship was influential in developing his philosophy toward development assistance. "We try to prevent that our funding create any kind of dependent relationship between us and the organization, which is why we don't call it 'charity,'" said Jonathan. "It needs to be an investment. For example, the money could be invested into a microfinance scheme or

a co-op, anything that would yield returns that could be reinvested."

Also crucial to AGRADU's mission is the principle of working directly with already-established CBOs. Despite their initial goal of introducing new programs, Jonathan and Jen concluded that it would be better to tap into Uganda's already-rich civil society. They chose to work with CBOs that were more connected to their communities than the larger non-governmental organizations.

In summer 2007, an inaugural group of five interns spent seven weeks working with the three selected CBOs. The interns have continued to work with AGRADU upon their return, and AGRADU will send six new interns to Uganda this summer.

Austin Hill is a senior psychology major who worked with Friends of Christ Revival Ministries (FOC-REV), located in the Busia District of Eastern Uganda. FOC-REV works toward awareness, mitigation,

care and support of HIV/AIDS-affected communities.

Austin's internship at FOC-REV marked not only her first trip out of the country but also her first airplane trip. Unlike the other four interns who offset the majority of travel costs with grants, the entirety of Austin's funding came from donations from her small hometown of Lewiston, N.C. Coming from a small town helped her raise funds because, as Austin explains, "the people who didn't know me personally know my uncle or my grand-



View outside the Kyetume CBHCP Resource Center.



Danika Barry at the orphan support group microfinance ceremony.



View of the Kyetume countryside.

mother. And everyone was so proud that I was going to Uganda.”

“One of the best parts of working with FOC-REV was the organization’s hands-on approach to public health,” said Austin. “For instance, I got to shadow HIV-positive public health workers, who met with other HIV-positive community members to teach them to care for themselves.”

Living in Uganda gave Austin a new perspective on being American. “Here at UNC, we’re exposed to all kinds of cultures, but until you go somewhere where you are the minority, I don’t think you can really appreciate what is here in front of you,” she said. “Even though we complain, we’re really so fortunate.”

Danika Barry, a senior from Colorado, worked with Kyetume CBHC last summer. Her decision to travel to Uganda originated from an interest in public health. “Uganda is an example of highly successful civil society organizing, especially in controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic. After previously being in Vietnam, which has a very controlling government and not a lot of civil society organizing, I wanted to see what effective grassroots organizing looks like,” Danika explained.

Danika said that her experience at Kytembe left her with the impression

that Ugandan CBOs are most effective in addressing the public health needs of their communities. “I really feel that nobody else could be doing the sort of work that they’re doing. They truly know their population and can therefore provide the most appropriate and comprehensive forms of care,” she said.

At Kyetume, the diversity of Danika’s responsibilities reflected the wide scope of the organization’s programs. Shortly after arriving, she was placed in charge of evaluating Kyetume’s microfinance program, a task for which Danika felt “unqualified.” However, after doing some frantic research and extensive interviewing with microfinance group members, she discovered that the microfinance program was actually losing money because of several banking oversights. After compiling a report with the help of a Ugandan student and translator, Danika made several recommendations that allowed Kyetume to correct the problems and begin growing the microfinance pool.

Although some of Danika’s responsibilities, such as grant-writing, were mainly office-based, she also was able to work hands-on with several programs. Through field visits, she saw the positive effects of

microfinance projects. A woman named Teo left a strong impression; a microfinance loan helped her support her 12 children through a firewood collection enterprise.

Overall, the experience was extremely educational and influential for Danika. “AGRADU is unique in that interns get

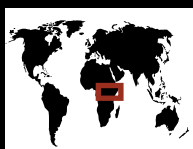
the chance to become a part of the organization, which puts precedence on the CBO’s goals,” she said. “Furthermore, we’re able to invest the money we raise without dictating exactly how it’s used. It’s so important that

organizations have this flexibility with their funding. And the reason why is that we’ve been able to establish a relationship of trust with each organization. That’s so much more important than a written contract.”

For more information about AGRADU, contact Jonathan Pourzal at Pourzal@email.unc.edu or visit www.agradu.org.

Marissa Hall is a senior International Studies major from Winston-Salem, N.C. She studied abroad in Singapore in 2005 and in Ecuador in 2006.

“Here at UNC, we’re exposed to all kinds of cultures, but until you go somewhere where you are the minority, I don’t think you can really appreciate what is here in front of you.”



UGANDA
Population: 30,262,610
Capital: Kampala
Language: English

Think you can't afford a study abroad experience? Think again.

Here are just some of the scholarships available at Carolina. Visit global.unc.edu for more information.

PROGRAM: Burch Fellows Program
DESCRIPTION: For students with self-designed off-campus experiences pursuing a passionate interest.

REQUIREMENTS: Full-time undergrads who have completed at least 1 but not more than 6 semesters. Must have 2 semesters at Carolina following the Fellowship experience.

STIPEND: up to \$6,000

DEADLINE: February 15

MORE INFO: www.burchfellows.unc.edu

PROGRAM: Class of 1938 Summer Study Abroad Fellowships

DESCRIPTION: For students who need support to pursue independent career or personal projects outside the U.S.

REQUIREMENTS: Sophomores, juniors or seniors planning on 5th year of coursework with financial need. Must be a U.S. citizen.

STIPEND: \$3,500

DEADLINE: February 25

MORE INFO: oisss.unc.edu/services_programs/1938/

PROGRAM: C.V. Starr International Scholarship

DESCRIPTION: For students who have strong financial need to undertake an independent internationally-oriented experience during the summer.

REQUIREMENTS: Undergrad students must be eligible for Pell Grant and have min. 2.8 GPA; grad students must NOT be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and have demonstrated financial need.

STIPEND: up to \$5,000

DEADLINE: March 20

MORE INFO: gi.unc.edu/funding/cv-starr-ugrad.html

PROGRAM: Frances L. Phillips Travel Scholarship

DESCRIPTION: For students with individual, self-designed/directed international travel experiences for 2 to 6 months.

REQUIREMENTS: Juniors/Seniors in the College of Arts & Sciences with financial need. Must be a U.S. citizen and have attended high school in N.C.

STIPEND: up to \$7,000

DEADLINE: October 15

MORE INFO: www.unc.edu/depts/travel/

PROGRAM: Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship

DESCRIPTION: For students to pursue independent summer projects that benefit South Asians.

REQUIREMENTS: Full-time undergrad or grad students.

STIPEND: up to \$3,000

DEADLINE: February 29

MORE INFO: mgf.uncsangam.org/

PROGRAM: Study Abroad Office Scholarship Opportunities

DESCRIPTION: For students to participate in study abroad programs approved by the College of Arts & Sciences.

REQUIREMENTS: Full-time undergrad students accepted in a study abroad program. Specific requirements vary.

STIPEND: Varies

DEADLINE: Early Feb. for summer/fall programs; late Sept. for spring programs.

MORE INFO: studyabroad.unc.edu

PROGRAM: Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships

DESCRIPTION: For students to carry out research, mentored scholarship or creative performance projects during the summer.

REQUIREMENTS: Full-time undergrad student in good academic standing. Projects must last at least 9 weeks (min. 20 hrs/wk).

STIPEND: \$3,000

DEADLINE: March 1

MORE INFO: www.unc.edu/depts/our/summer_research.html

PROGRAM: Travel Fellowship Fund

DESCRIPTION: For students pursuing personal enrichment through travel experiences outside the U.S. for 2 to 6 months.

REQUIREMENTS: Full-time upperclassmen in good standing with at least 51 semester hours (min 27 at UNC-CH). Must be a U.S. citizen. Travel itinerary must include at least 4 days in London. Cannot be used for participation in formal study abroad programs.

STIPEND: up to \$4,000

DEADLINE: March 30

MORE INFO: studentaffairs.unc.edu/what_we_do/travel.html

PROGRAM: UNC Entrepreneurial Public Service Fellowships

DESCRIPTION: For students carrying out summer projects that employ innovative, sustainable approaches to complex social needs.

REQUIREMENTS: Returning full-time undergrad or grad students. Projects must have a UNC faculty advisor and include a community partner.

STIPEND: up to \$3,000

DEADLINE: February 1

MORE INFO: www.unc.edu/cps/fellowships/epsfellowships/

PROGRAM: Undergraduate International Studies Fellowship

DESCRIPTION: For students from underrepresented groups pursuing international travel or study.

REQUIREMENTS: Full-time second-term freshmen, sophomores and juniors from underrepresented groups.

STIPEND: \$2,500

DEADLINE: March 30

MORE INFO: Call the Stone Center at 919-962-9001.

PROGRAM: Honors Thesis Research Grants

DESCRIPTION: For students carrying out research for senior honors thesis projects.

REQUIREMENTS: Undergraduate students performing research for senior honors theses.

STIPEND: min \$500

DEADLINE: Varies by department.

MORE INFO: www.honors.unc.edu/thesis_grants.html

PROGRAM: Phillips Ambassadors Program

DESCRIPTION: For students participating in study abroad programs in Asia approved by the College of Arts & Sciences.

REQUIREMENTS: Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit, with consideration for financial need.

STIPEND: up to \$7,500

DEADLINE: Early Feb. for summer/fall programs; late Sept. for spring.

MORE INFO: studyabroad.unc.edu/phillips

PROGRAM: CGI International Internship Awards

DESCRIPTION: For students who wish to implement a summer internationally-focused internship.

REQUIREMENTS: Sophomore, junior or senior students returning to UNC. Graduate students pursuing a master's degree.

STIPEND: up to \$4,000

DEADLINE: March 20

MORE INFO: gi.unc.edu/funding/internship-award-ugrad.html

PROGRAM: Carolina Undergraduate Health Fellowships

DESCRIPTION: For undergraduates to create self-designed health-related project abroad.

REQUIREMENTS: Full-time returning undergrad students. Projects must have a health-related focus.

STIPEND: up to \$4,000

DEADLINE: March 20

MORE INFO: gi.unc.edu/funding/health-fellowship.html

TRAVELING HEELS

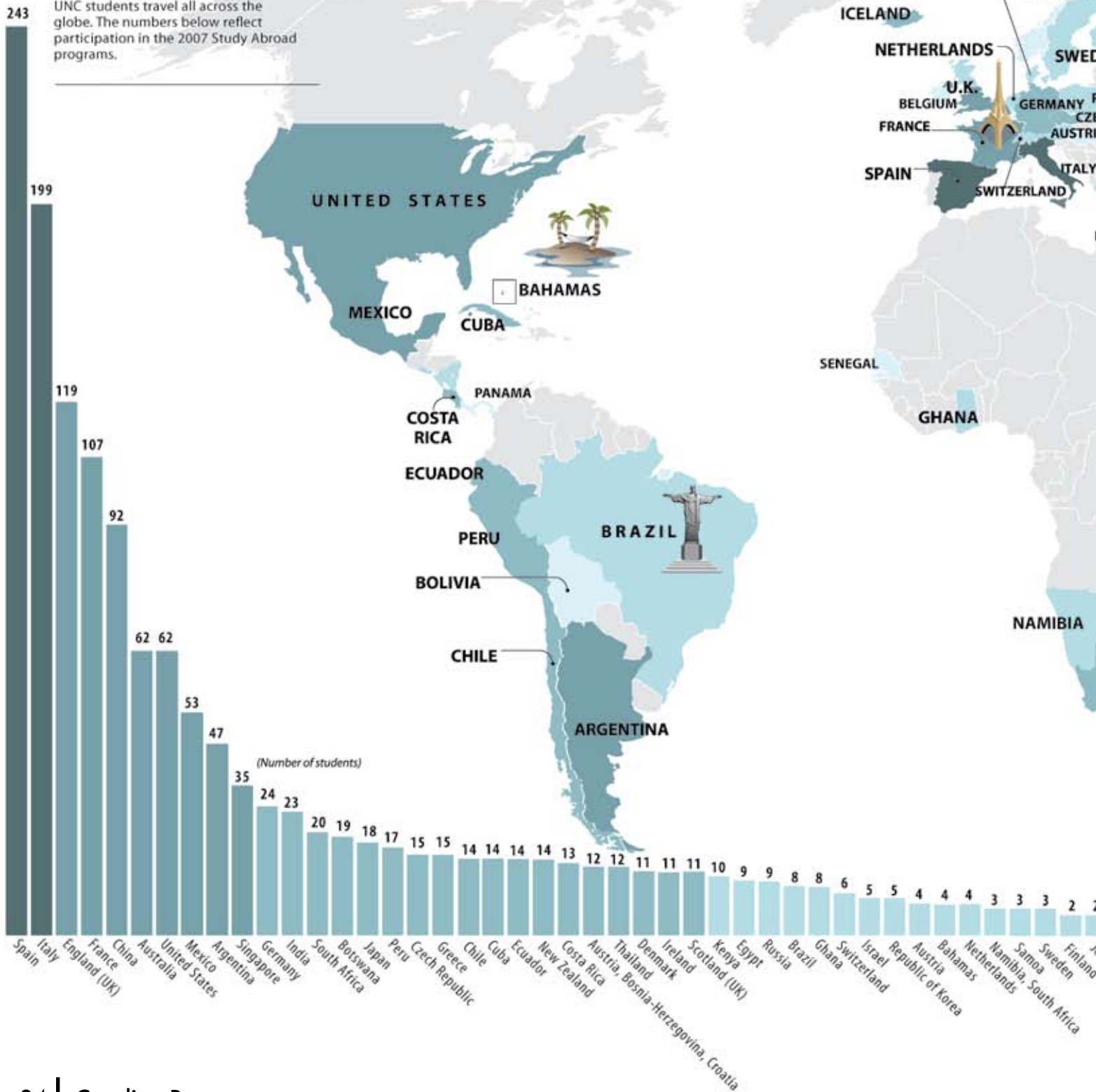
Spring, Summer and Fall 2007

The Study Abroad Office at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill provides opportunities for students to travel all across the world. The map shows the diverse travel experiences by students in the program. This does not include international programs offered by other departments.

Map colors correspond to the bar chart below.

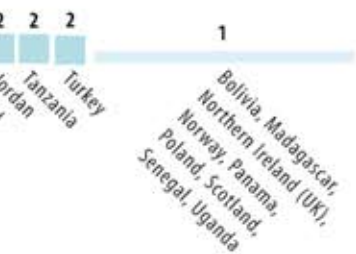
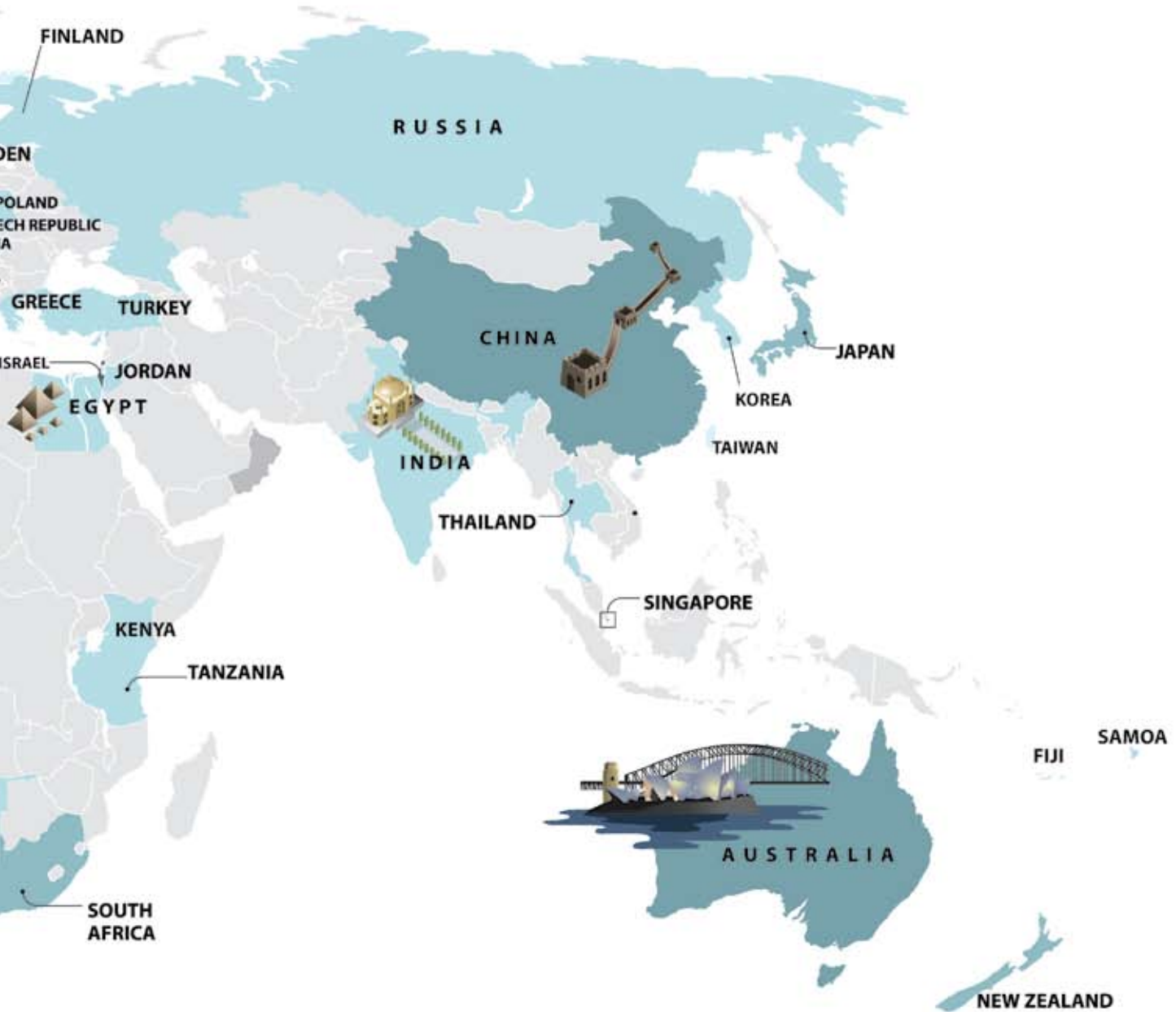
BY THE NUMBERS

UNC students travel all across the globe. The numbers below reflect participation in the 2007 Study Abroad programs.



1,394 STUDENTS

57 COUNTRIES



SOURCE: Mark Nielsen, Assistant Director for Information Systems in the Study Abroad Office



UNC
GLOBAL



Photo by Anika Anand

In Cuzco, Peru, two young girls sit in the hot sun for hours trying to sell Andean dolls to tourists passing by. The dolls cost 50 cents each.

GLOBAL.UNC.EDU
