Background and Overview

This was the sixth running of the Economic Studies Abroad in South Africa Program since 2001. This program is designed as a follow on to the spring semester course, *The Economy of South Africa*. Both the study abroad program and the semester course are joint projects between the economics departments of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (AYSPS) at Georgia State University (GSU) and Morehouse College. The aim of the Study Abroad Program is to present students with a broad understanding of the workings of the South African economy, its infrastructure, its environment and its governance. Through a series of lectures, in country discussions with industry and public officials, and site visits, the program participants examine the process of economic and social development, as well as South Africa’s role in the global marketplace. The program also addresses South Africa’s current socio-economic challenges, such as
unemployment, poverty, economic inequality and the AIDS epidemic. In addition, the program is designed to introduce the students to cultural traditions and important moments in South African history and political development.

The program started off in Atlanta with a historical overview of South Africa and a pre-departure lecture on the general state of the South African economy. The following two weeks were spent in South Africa. While in South Africa time was split between the Pretoria/Johannesburg area in Gauteng Province, the industrial center of the country, and the Cape Town area of the Western Cape Province. During the course of our stay, we attended seven formal lectures and had numerous site visits and cultural/historical experiences. The lectures primarily focused on various aspects of the economy of South Africa. However, scholars also touched upon economic developments in Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In addition, an expert on women and gender studies discussed the role of women and gender dynamics in South Africa from 1900 to present day. The lectures were presented by the Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, faculty at the University of Pretoria and at the University of the Western Cape, and officials at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Tours included visits to Robben Island, Table Mountain, Kristenbosch Botanical Gardens, Sun City, Shimansky Diamonds, the winelands of Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, and Paarl, the Lesedi Cultural Village, the Cape of Good Hope, penguin colonies at Boulders Beach, Seal Island, and the Pilanesberg Game Reserve. In addition, we had extensive city tours of Pretoria, Soweto, and Cape Town where we were exposed to much of the history and diverse culture of the country. Particularly interesting were visits to Nkosi’s Haven, an AIDS orphanage, where students were confronted with the direct impact of the disease, and to two museums that highlighted various aspects of the anti-apartheid struggle-- the District Six Museum and the Apartheid Museum. In addition, we had the privilege of visiting the informal settlements in the Langa Township.
Detailed Itinerary

Wednesday, May 23rd

We caught Delta Airlines flight 34 at 4:10 PM

Thursday, May 24th, Day 1: Pretoria, Gauteng Province

We arrived in Johannesburg at 4:05 PM. After collecting our bags, going through customs and exchanging dollars for rands our driver and tour guide, Mr. Shaheed Raffee, drove us to our hotel in Pretoria which was about 45 minutes away. We stayed at the Arcadia Hotel.

This was a day for us to catch up on our jet lag. No activities were planned.

Friday, May 25th, Day 2: Pretoria and Johannesburg—Gauteng Province

Morning: Our first lecture was given by Dr. Robert Brown, Counselor for Political Affairs for the American Embassy. After welcoming us to South Africa, Dr. Brown gave a general overview of the South African Economy and the current political situation. In his remarks he touched upon a number of critical areas that are impacting the economy, including unemployment and HIV/AIDS. He challenged the students to have an open mind as they observe and learn about the South African people during the course of their stay in the country. After the lecture we visited the Voortrekker Monument. The Voortrekker Monument is a national icon for Afrikaner South Africans. On December 16th, the anniversary of the battle at the Blood River, Afrikaners from all over the country stream to the Voortrekker Monument to commemorate the - in their view - most important event in the history of South Africa. The building is constructed in such a way that just on that day at 12 noon a ray of sunlight falls onto the Shrine of Honour in the Heroes’ Hall. It bears the inscription: "Ons vir jou, Zuid Afrika!" (We for you, South Africa!).
**Afternoon:** We drove to Johannesburg where we visited *Nkosi’s Haven*. There we met Gail Johnson, the director, who explained that the concept and philosophy of *Nkosi’s Haven* is to insure that HIV/AIDS infected mothers and their children remain together for as long as is needed in a normal, accepting, non-judgmental environment. In addition, *Nkosi’s Haven* allows the children on the mother’s request to remain in the care of *Nkosi’s Haven* when she has passed away. *Nkosi’s Haven* currently accommodates 12 HIV/AIDS infected mothers and 47 children—8 of whom are HIV infected and 24 who are orphans.

**Saturday, May 26th, Day 3:** Pretoria, Gauteng Province

**Pilanesburg, Northwest Province**

**Morning:** We departed Pretoria for Pilanesburg National Park, which is in the Northwest Province. Pilanesburg is a game reserve with multiple lodging compounds for visitors. The park is situated on the eroded remains of a 1200 million year old extinct...
alkaline crater, one of only three in the world. On the way we stopped by an arts and crafts market and tested our bargaining skills.

**Afternoon:** We arrived in the early afternoon and after checking into our lodges our tour director decided that it was a good idea to take us out in our van into the reserve to view game. We saw quite a few elephants and rhinos on this drive.

![Image of elephants and rhinos](image1.png)

**Saturday, May 26**th, **Day 3:** Pilanesburg, Northwest Province

We were joined for the morning Safari in Pilanesburg by Toni Mosley, Morehouse College’s Director of Public Relations, Elise Durham, Morehouse College’s Manager of Media Relations, and Kevin Hill, videographer and president of *igigo Communications.*

This time we were in an open-air vehicle. It was uncomfortable because it was cold, made all the more bitter by the wind. After all, this is late fall / early winter in South Africa. However, our discomfort was eased somewhat by seeing a number of wild and exotic animals within short throwing distance from our vehicle. In the evening, after dinner, Shaheed built us a campfire. We spent some time there just sharing our thoughts and having fun.

![Image of wild animals and a campfire](image2.png)

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1. This group stayed with us for three days and accompanied us to Pilanesburg, Sun City and the Lesidi Cultural Village.
Sunday, May 27\textsuperscript{th}, Day 4: Pilanesburg and \textit{Sun City}—Northwest Province

A short distance away from the game reserve is \textit{Sun City}. \textit{Sun City} is a resort with its own hotel, golf course, casino, theater, restaurants and shopping arcades, beach and water park. There’s plenty to do. After testing our luck in the casino, we relaxed and took in a movie and enjoyed the sights.

Monday, May 28\textsuperscript{th}, Day 5: Lesidi, Northwest Province

\textbf{Morning}: After a late breakfast we headed for Lesidi Cultural Village. Along the way we decided to once again bargain for gifts and souvenirs at the roadside markets.

\textbf{Afternoon}: We arrived at the Lesidi Cultural Village just in time to put our bags down and catch the 4 pm tribal show. The tribal show was part presentation and part performance depicting the history and cultural traditions of the Zulu, Xhosa, Ndebele, Pedi and Basotho people of South Africa. After the show, we toured the various tribal housing settlements and got introduced to the respective tribal customs. (Incidentally, we spent the night in the Ndebele compound. These are the colorful people of South Africa.) After the tour of the tribal settlements we were treated to an African feast. Crocodile, kudu, impala and goat were on the menu. Most everyone felt adventuresome and enjoyed the fare.
Tuesday, May 29th, Day 6: Pretoria and Johannesburg--Gauteng Province

**Morning:** We left Lesidi at the crack of dawn in order to make our 9:30 AM appointment at the Department of trade and Industry back in Pretoria. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is South Africa’s macroeconomic policy setting agency. Mr Leslie Fick, Director of the *DTI Learning Centre*, provided us with an excellent overview of economic growth, employment and equity issues concerning the South African economy. Mr. Wamkele Mene discussed South Africa bilateral and multilateral trade agendas. After a detailed discussion about the mechanics of the *Broad Based Black...*
Economic Empowerment Program (B-BEEE), Roydon Frost, analyst in the Executive Management Unit of the DTI, gave us his take on the South African economy.²

Afternoon: We traveled to Johannesburg and toured the Apartheid Museum. This is an amazing place. Through the use of various forms of visual media, the Apartheid Museum transports the visitor from the beginning of the apartheid era in 1948 to its end in 1994. It chronicles the development of race-based policies and the evolution of domestic and international anti-apartheid protests.

Wednesday, May 30th, Day 7: Pretoria and Soweto--Gauteng Province

Morning: At the University of Pretoria, we attended three lectures. The first lecture, which dealt with the history of land reform in Zimbabwe, was presented by Dr. Margaret Mabugu, Assistant Professor of Economics. The second lecture focused on economic developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and was presented by Dr. Marie Obako. Dr. Andre Jordaan, Associate Professor of Economics gave a macroeconomic overview of South Africa.³

² B-BEEE is South Africa’s affirmative action program. One of its major goals is to bring about significant increases in the numbers of black people that manage, own and control the country’s economy.
³ Dr. Jordaan was a visiting faculty member in 2002 in the Economics Department of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University.
Afternoon: We traveled to South West Township (Soweto), where we visited the Mandela House and Regina Mundi Catholic Church. Soweto is the largest Black township in South Africa and was the home of Nelson Mandela for many years. Regina Mundi was not only a house of worship for Soweto Blacks during the apartheid era; it was also a place refuge and a place where protest strategies were formulated.
Wednesday, May 31st, Day 8:

After a relaxing morning we caught a plane for Cape Town. Cape Town is 800 miles away from Johannesburg. It’s about two hours by air. We arrived in Cape Town at 2 PM. We were met at the airport by our tour operator, Mr. Muhammad Khan, and he whisked us off to our hotel in the city. The Hotel St. George is located in the city center and is really convenient to the waterfront. After settling in, some of the students explored the area around the hotel, while others went to the waterfront for dinner and shopping.

Friday, June 1st, Day 9:

Morning: Dr. Desiree Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Women and Gender Studies at the University of the Western Cape traced the role of women in the struggle for racial equality in South Africa from 1900 to present day. She also presented very insightful observations concerning gender dynamics in the country. After the lecture we left to catch a boat for Robben Island. Robben Island is the compound where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years in prison. Once on the island we had a bus tour which took us pass the lepers’ church and graveyard, Pan African Congress leader Robert Sobukwe’s prison house, warden’s village and the lime quarry where prisoners worked. After the bus tour we actually entered the prison and visited Mandela’s jail cell (see photo below).

Afternoon: After returning from Robben Island we visited Shimansky Diamonds which is located on the Cape Town waterfront. In addition to being a diamond and jewelry retailer, Shimansky Diamonds also imports raw diamonds and cut and polishes them in a factory on its premises. We were able to observe some of the diamond cutters and polishers at work. A small museum detailing the history of diamonds and gold in South Africa was very informative and worthwhile. Later in the afternoon we caught a cable car to Table Mountain. Table Mountain has a flat top, hence its name, and is the centerpiece of the city. After taking in the views and getting a bite to eat at the Dizzy
Dassie Restaurant on the top of the mountain, we rode the cable car down and left for our hotel. In the evening, we attending a play at the Baxter Theatre on the campus of the University of Cape Town entitled “Beneath Silent Waters”. This play focused on the various challenges faced by Black women in present day South Africa, including, HIV/AIDS, sexual violence and racism. As it turned out the subject content of this play dovetailed perfectly with the discussions that we had with Dr. Lewis earlier in the day.

Saturday, June 2nd, Day 9: Cape Town, Western Cape Province

Morning: We visited the District Six Museum. Up until the 1970s, District Six was home to almost a tenth of the city of Cape Town’s population. District Six was largely populated by “colored” and Indian people. In 1965, the apartheid government declared District Six a “whites-only zone”. More than 60,000 people were forcibly uprooted and relocated onto the barren plains of the Cape Flats. In the process, over a century of history, community life, and achievement against great odds, was imperiled. The District Six Museum Foundation was established in 1989 and launched as a museum in 1994 to keep alive the memories of District Six and displaced people everywhere. Below is a picture of our tour guide, Muhammad Khan, explaining the magnitude of the forced removals. Later in the morning we visited Langa Township. Langa Township was established in 1927 as a labor camp for migratory Black men who were brought to Cape Town under the permit system. Langa is a vast mixed-income Black community. Housing ranged from simple middle-income single family housing to impoverished multi-family dormitory styled living quarters and single family shacks.
Afternoon: We ended the day with a visit to the winelands of Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, and Paarl, where we lunched, visited the Huguenot Monument and experienced wine-tasting at one of the estates.
Sunday, June 3rd, Day 10: Cape Town, Western Cape Province

Morning: Today we headed to the famous Cape of Good Hope. The Cape of Good Hope is about 2 hours from the city and there are many spectacular vistas along the way. On the way to the Cape we decided to take a boat ride to Seal Island. Seal Island is a small land mass located about 4 miles off the coast of South Africa in a body of water known as False Bay. The island is occupied by cape fur seals and a few sea birds. Back on land, we still had about an hours drive to the Cape. Once there, we took lots of pictures to prove to friends and family that we stood at the place where many great explorers, including Vasco da Gama, had been. A short distance away from the Cape of Good Hope is Cape Point. Cape Point is a mountainous mass of land that overlooks and protrudes into the ocean. In fact, from the lighthouse that sits atop Cape Point one can view both the Indian and the Atlantic Oceans. The restaurant that is located at Cape Point is called the Two-Oceans Restaurant. We had a wonderful lunch there.

Afternoon: Upon leaving the Cape we traveled to Boulders Beach to take a look at a penguin colony. Many people don’t realize that South Africa has penguins. After viewing the penguins we went back to Cape Town and dropped by Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. The gardens are nestled at the foot of Table Mountain. Within the gardens is an exhibit of Zimbabwean stone sculptures.
Monday, June 4th, Day 11: Departure

We flew back to Johannesburg where we caught our 6:45PM flight back to Atlanta.

Tuesday, June 4th, Day 12: Arrival

We arrived at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport around 8:20 AM, the end of a long and rewarding journey.
2007 Economic Studies Abroad in South Africa
Program Participants

Glenwood Ross II -- Director
Caroline Griffin -- Deputy Director

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