Background and Overview

This was the ninth running of the AYSPS Maymester Studies Abroad in South Africa Program since 2001. The 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. There were a total of 12 participants in this year’s program. There were eight undergraduate students and four graduate students. Ten of the 12 students were from GSU and two were from Morehouse College. In total, eighty-six
students have participated in this program since its beginning in 2001. This edition of the program was significant for a number of reasons.

- First, this was the first year in which all participants had to take the program for course credit. As a result, this was the most prepared group of student travelers ever. Prior to departure students were given a test on the history of South Africa and many of them had also gotten a significant start on their course papers and essays.

- Second, a concerted effort was begun to spotlight youth development in South Africa. In support of this initiative we had visits and discussions at the Boys and Girls Club of South Africa in Soweto, Nkosi’s Haven HIV/AIDS Orphanage in Johannesburg, and at the University of the Western Cape’s Student Enrolment Management Unit.

- Third, presentations at the University of Pretoria were given by veterans of AYSPS programs—Nara Monkam (PhD Economics ’08) and Jacques Kibambe Ngoie (transient graduate student in PAUS Spring ‘04).

- Fourth, the Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, Dr. Brian O’Connell spoke to our group.

The overall 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 pre-departure lectures 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 five 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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the role of property taxes in francophone Africa. The lectures were presented by faculty at the University of Pretoria and at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Tours included visits to Robben Island, Sun City, the Lesedi Cultural Village, the Cape of Good Hope, penguin colonies at Boulders Beach, Haute Bay, 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 three museums that highlighted various aspects of the anti-apartheid struggle-- the District Six Museum, the Hector Pieterson Museum and the Apartheid Museum.

**Detailed Itinerary**

**Tuesday, May 15th**

We caught Delta Airlines flight 200 at 8:05 PM

**Wednesday, May 16th, Day 1: Pretoria-- Gauteng Province**

We arrived in Johannesburg at 5:25 PM. We were met outside of the customs area by our tour director, Mr. Shaheed Raffee. After exchanging our dollars for rand at the airport kiosks we travelled to Hotel 224 in Pretoria, about 45 minutes away. We had dinner and spent much of the rest of the evening unpacking and attempting to shake off jet lag.

No activities were planned.

**Thursday, May 17th, Day 2: Pretoria-- Gauteng Province**

**Morning:** We travelled to the Department of Trade and Industry. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is South Africa’s macroeconomic policy setting agency. We were greeted by Mr. Leslie Fick, Director of the DTI Learning Centre, who proceeded to give us an excellent overview of DTI and the challenges facing the South African economy. He mentioned that a major goal of DTI is to alleviate poverty and to lessen inequality. Ms. Bianca Mokuena, Deputy Director of Monitoring & Evaluation, provided us with a comprehensive synopsis of Industrial Policy in South Africa. She mentioned that this was a relatively new initiative that was just getting underway. Next, Tina Reddy from the International Trade and Economic Development Division of DTI emphasized that trade policy must support South Africa’s industrial development, the upgrading of South Africa’s labor force and increased value-added of exports. Our discussions ended with a presentation by Malose Letsoalo, who focused on South African and American trade relations. After the presentations and discussions we were hosted to a lunch by Mr Leslie Fick and other members of the DTI staff.

**Afternoon:** We visited the Voortrekker Monument and the Union Building. 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!). The Union Building is where the executive branch of the government resides. It was designed by the architect Sir Herbert Baker and symbolically represents the coming together of the British and Afrikaner people to form the Union of South Africa in 1910.

**Evening:** We attended a play at the State Theatre in downtown Pretoria called “The Black Hermit”. The play commented on some of the social forces and pressures facing post-apartheid South Africa, including tribalism, corruption and continued racism.

**Friday, May 18th, Day 3: Pretoria, Johannesburg-- Gauteng Province**

**Morning:** We travelled to the University of Pretoria for our morning lectures. Dr. Andre Jordaan greeted us upon arrival and directed us to the lecture hall. Professor Jacque Kibambe Ngoie spoke to us about the unfulfilled economic promise and political instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The DRC is the most mineral rich country in Africa, yet it is among the poorest. Poor leadership has undoubtedly contributed to its dismal economic performance. Professor Nara Monkam focused her lecture on the role of property taxes in francophone Africa. She highlighted a number of reasons why the property tax hasn’t caught on as a major revenue generator at the local level. Drs. Jordaan, Ngoie and Monkm have strong ties to AYSPS. Dr. Jordaan was a visiting scholar in AYSPS several years ago, while Dr. Ngoie was a transient graduate student in PAUS in Spring ’04 and Dr. Monkm earned her PhD in economics 2008.

**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 has more than three dozen orphans. One out of every eight people in the world living with HIV/AIDs resides in South Africa. We were joined in our visit by a study abroad group from St. Johns University in New York.

**Saturday, May 19th, Day 4: Pilanesburg-- Northwest Province**

**Morning:** We headed for Pilanesburg National Park, which is two hours away in the Northwest Province. Pilanesburg is a game reserve with multiple lodging compounds for visitors. The park is situated on the eroded remains of an extinct alkaline crater, one of only three in the world. Along the way we decided to make a couple of stops. One was to take in the breathtaking views of the Hartbeespoort Dam and the other was to stop by the roadside markets at “Chameleon Village” to test our bargaining skills.
Afternoon: After arriving at the Mayane Lodge at Pilanesburg we went on a safari in our van. We were able to see zebras, giraffes, rhinos and quite a few varieties of African antelopes close up. From a distance, we saw a small herd of elephants.

Sunday, May 20th, Day 5: Pilanesburg-- Northwes Province

Morning: We went on a formal game drive at 6:30 in the morning. It was awfully cold sitting in our open-air vehicle. During the first hour or so we saw no animals of interest. However, we did see a most gorgeous sunrise. Eventually, we saw more rhinos, zebras, several varieties of African antelope and some giraffes. Some in our group even claimed that they saw a leopard. (It looked more like a rock with spots to me.) However, to our collective disappointment, we didn’t glimpse any lions. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all.
**Afternoon:** A short distance away from the game reserve is *Sun City*. *Sun City* is a resort with its own hotel, golf course, casino, theater, restaurants and shopping arcades, beach and water park. It was a place to relax and have a little fun. “What happens in Sun City stays in Sun City.”

**Monday, May 21st, Day 6: Lesedi-- Northwest Province**

**Morning:** After a leisurely breakfast we packed up our vehicle and headed for the Lesedi Cultural Village. Along the way we stopped by the roadside markets at “Chameleon Village” to once again test our bargaining skills.

**Afternoon:** We arrived at the Lesedi 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, our group spent the night in scattered sites between the Basotho and Ndebele compounds.) After the tour of the tribal settlements we participated in tribal dances, simulated warfare, and were treated to an African feast. Crocodile, kudu, impala and goat were on the menu. Most everyone felt adventuresome and enjoyed the fare.

![Eric latches on to a Zulu Maiden](image1)

![Candace and Tiffany at Lesedi](image2)

**Tuesday, May 22nd, Day 7: Johannesburg & Soweto— Gauteng Province**

**Morning:** We 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. A special temporary exhibit honoring the life and contributions of Nelson Mandela was also on display.

**Afternoon:** After lunch we travelled to South West Township (Soweto). Soweto is the largest Black township in South Africa and was the home of Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond
Tutu for many years. While in Soweto we visited the Hector Pieterson Museum. This museum pays homage to the June 16th, 1976 student uprising against apartheid and is named after one of the students that was killed during the protest. The student uprising changed the course of South African history and accelerated demands such as those for the release of political prisoners, the unbanning of political organizations and the formation of a new democratic South Africa. After the first democratic election in 1994, 16 June was declared “Youth Day” to commemorate the contribution made by South Africa’s youth to the struggle against apartheid.

The highlight of our trip to Soweto was the visit to the Boys and Girls Club. We were hosted by Mr. Casey Bridges and his staff. He explained to us how the Boys and Girl Club was attempting to instill confidence and notions of hard work and self-reliance in the youth. The teens of the club presented an act of the play *Sarafina*. It was outstanding. One of our student travelers, DeShaun Bennett, is the Southwest Regional Youth of the Year for the Boys and Girls Club of America. He generously shared the story of his life challenges and how the Boys and Girls Club helped him to become the successful young man he is today. It was a very powerful message and I believe that it inspired everyone who was in attendance.
Our Group at the Boys and Girls Club of Soweto
(DeShaun Bennett is on the far left)

Wednesday, May 23rd, Day 8: Cape Town--Western Cape Province

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 1:50PM. We were met at the airport by our tour organizer, Mr. Muhammad Khan, and our driver and tour guide for this portion of our trip, Nadhmie Edries. They whisked us off to our hotel in the city. The Holiday Inn Express Hotel is located in the Green Point section of the city and about 10 minutes away from the waterfront. After settling in, we went to the waterfront for dinner and shopping.

Thursday, May 24th, Day 9: Cape Town--Western Cape Province

Morning: We went to the University of the Western Cape where we were met by Ms. Cheryl Pearce, Director of the Student Enrolment Management Unit. The Student Enrolment Management Unit is concerned with student academic preparedness, admission and retention, and career guidance. After discussing developments and challenges in youth education in South Africa, Ms. Pearce introduced us to Dr. Alan Christoffels, head of Bioinformatics and Health Genomics. Dr. Christoffels took us on a tour of the new science facility. It was very impressive. Following the tour, Mrs. Pearce arranged a meeting with the student leaders of the university. We had some good discussions and an exchange of ideas. We were joined in this meeting by
Mrs. Judith O’Connell, head of the National Business Initiative’s schooling/education program in the Western Cape and wife of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape. Later, the Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University came by to see us. He challenged the students not only to be good stewards of the environment but also to take responsibility for its future.

Afternoon: After lunch Mrs. O’Connell accompanied us to the Amy Biehl Foundation. The Amy Biehl Foundation is a non-profit organization whose programs are focused on developing and empowering young people in the townships. The foundation provides educational and cultural activities that offer students healthy alternatives to the negative influences with the aim of producing well-rounded future leaders and entrepreneurs.

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1 The National Business Initiative is a voluntary group of leading national and multinational companies, working towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa through partnerships, practical programs and policy engagement.

2 Amy Biehl received a Fulbright Scholarship in 1992 and traveled to South Africa to work for the future of a multiracial democracy. On August 25th, 1993, her life was cut short in an act of political mob violence in the township of Guguletu outside of Cape Town. Four young men were convicted and sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment for her murder. Through the process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the young men applied for amnesty. Determined to honor Amy’s love of South Africa and belief in the process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its outcomes, Amy’s parents, Peter and Linda, went to South Africa to participate in the Commission’s hearings, where they chose to support amnesty for the youths. The men were granted amnesty and released from prison. In 1997, Amy’s parents launched the Amy Biehl Foundation in Cape Town.
Friday, May 25th, Day 10: 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.

Afternoon: After lunch 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 past 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.

Saturday, May 26th, Day 11: Cape Town-- Western Cape Province

Morning: We started the day with a visit to the Cecil Rhodes Memorial which provided some wonderful views of the city. Our next stop was in the townships of Manenburg and Guguletu. Manenburg was a township that was developed for the Coloreds of the Western Cape and Guguletu was developed for the Blacks. In Guguletu we saw small memorials dedicated to the aforementioned Amy Biehl and the Guguletu Seven. The Guguletu Seven were young anti-apartheid activists who were ambushed and killed by South African Security Forces in 1986. We lunch at a place called Wembly’s, which was Cape Town’s version of the Varsity here in Atlanta.
Afternoon: After lunch we traveled to the winelands. We visited Stellenbosh and stopped by the Spier Wine Estate. We were treated to a wine-tasting session while we were there. From Stellenbosh we traveled to Frenchhoek. Frenchhoek was settled in the late 1600s by Huguenots who had fled Europe. There we viewed the Huguenot Memorial.

Evening: We ended our day with a dinner in Langa Township. The dinner was at a place called Lelapa. Sheila, the proprietor, told us her story about how she started off working as a domestic for 40 rand a month. A turning point came when she noticed a receipt that showed that her employer had paid 40 rand for a couple of bottles of wine and a packet of cheese, the equivalent of her monthly wage. From that moment on she was determined to make a better life for herself. Through sheer determination and pluck she started up a restaurant business out of her house. Today she has expanded her business to three adjacent properties and is doing extremely well. By the way, the food was excellent. It was actually the best that we had during our entire stay in South Africa. A very good time was had by all.

Sunday, May 27th, Day 12: Cape Town--Western Cape Province

Morning: This is the very last day of our journey. We started off with a cable car ride to the top of Table Mountain. From there one can see all over the city and far into the Atlantic Ocean. We then headed to the famous Cape of Good Hope. The Cape of Good Hope is about two hours from the city and there are many spectacular vistas along the way. On the way to the Cape we
dropped by Haute Bay to get in some last minute souvenir shopping. A couple of us took advantage of the boat ride to Seal Island. Once we made our way to the Cape of Good Hope, 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. Some of us 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. We ended our tour with a ride up to Signal Hill to get a view of the city from another high vantage point. The views were breathtaking. It was a fitting end to a wonderful trip.

![Coni at Boulder Beach](image1)

![The View from Signal Hill](image2)

We caught the KLM flight to Amsterdam at 11:35PM.

**Monday, May 28th, Day 13: Arrival**

We arrived in Amsterdam at 11AM. Our Delta flight to Atlanta departed at 4:55PM and arrived at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport around 8:00 PM, the end of a long and rewarding journey.
# 2012 Economic Studies Abroad in South Africa

## Program Participants

Glenwood Ross II  
**Director**  

Bess Blyler³  
**Deputy Director**  

### Name & Classification  
**Major**

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³ Ms. Blyler did not travel with us; however she was instrumental in the ultimate success of the study abroad experience. She provided excellent planning and organizational support for the program. We owe her a considerable debt of gratitude.