

**Trip Report for the
2008 Economic Studies Abroad in South Africa Program
Submitted By
Dr. Glenwood Ross, Director**



(2008 Study Abroad Participants at the Cape of Good Hope from Left to Right: Ly Eldridge, Delwyn Ray, Brandi Barnett, Adam Golden, Olamide Adeosun, Hajir Khoshbou, Jeryn Turner, Jeffrey McLeod, Fred Shelton, Laura Salm, Dr. Glenwood Ross, Emerson Girardeau, Dr. Melvinia King, Calvin Burney, Derrick Johnson, Jarell Grady, Michael Blevins, Clay Darden, Jerome Frederick, Justin Houser, and Dionte Driskell)

Background and Overview

This was the seventh running of the Economic 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. This edition of the program was significant for a number of reasons.

- First, this was by far the largest group of participants since the inception of the program. In total there were 21 travelers to South Africa—19 students plus one Morehouse College faculty member and myself. In total, seventy students have participated in this program since its beginning in 2001.
- Second, this tour included our first ever visit to the University of the Witwatersrand—one of the leading universities in South Africa.
- Third, a concerted effort was begun to spotlight leadership and its role in economic development.

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 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 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 Mauritius, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The lectures were presented by faculty at the University of Pretoria and at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. One of the highlights of our tour was a visit and discussion at the *African Leadership Academy*, whose mandate seeks to transform Africa by developing and supporting future generations of African leaders.

Tours included visits to Robben Island, the Slave Lodge of Cape Town, the Gardens of the South African National Gallery, Sun City, Malay Quarters, Seidelberg Wine Estate, 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 Pieterse Museum and the Apartheid Museum. In addition, we had the privilege of visiting the informal settlements in the Langa Township.

Detailed Itinerary

Tuesday, May 20th

We caught Delta Airlines flight 34 at 3:45 PM

Wednesday, May 21st, Day 1: Pretoria--

Gauteng Province

We arrived in Johannesburg at 4:35 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 our hotel in Pretoria, about 45 minutes away. We spent much of the evening unpacking and attempting to shake off jet lag.

No activities were planned.

Thursday, May 22nd, Day 2: Pretoria--

Gauteng Province

Morning: We travelled to the University of Pretoria for our morning lectures. The first lecture was given by Professor Albert Makochekeka. His lecture focused on recent economic and political developments in Zimbabwe. He touched upon some of the serious challenges that Zimbabwe faces including, a dramatic drop in agricultural output, capital flight, brain drain and hyperinflation. The second lecturer was Professor Riaan de Lange, who centered his discussion on the current state of South Africa's economy. After the lectures we were treated to a play that focused on the unrecorded history of the ancient Iron Age people of Mapungabwe Hill in Limpopo Province, South Africa.



(L to R: Justin Houser, Prof. Albert Makochekeka, and Dr. Ross)



(L to R: Brandi Barnett, Prof. Riaan de Lange, and Dr. Ross)

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 Sir Herbert Baker and symbolically represents the coming together of the British and Afrikaner people to form the Union of South Africa in 1910.

**Friday, May 23rd, Day 3: Pretoria, Johannesburg--
Pilanesburg--**

**Gauteng Province
Northwest Province**

Morning: We travelled to the University of Pretoria for our morning lectures. Professor Chris Naraidoo gave us an economic overview of Mauritius, one of Africa's more stellar performers, both in terms of governance and the economy. This lecture was in sharp contrast to that given by Professor Jacque Kibambe which focused on 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.

Afternoon: We drove to Johannesburg where we visited *Nkosi's Haven*. There we met Jane Mwase, the resident manager, 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 two dozen orphans. One out of every eight people in the world living with HIV/AIDS resides in South Africa. After our visit to the orphanage we headed for the University of Witwatersrand where we met Professor Seeraj Mohamed, Director of the *Corporate Strategy and Industrial Development Research Project*. Professor Mohamed's lecture was on jobless growth in South Africa, a theme we are quite familiar with in America.



(L to R: Jerome Frederick, Brandi Barnett, Laura Salm and Calvin Burney)

After picking up Dr. Melvinia King, *Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies at Morehouse College*, from the Oliver Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg 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 a 1200 million year old extinct alkaline crater, one of only three in the world.

Saturday, May 24th, Day 4: Pilanesburg--

Northwest Province

Morning: We went on a game drive at 6:00 in the morning. From our open-air vehicle we saw plenty of rhinos, zebras, several varieties of African antelope and even some giraffes. However, to our collective disappointment, we didn't glimpse any lions or elephants. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all.



(African Antelope)



(L to R: Derrick Johnson, Justin Houser, Michael Blevins, and Olamide Adeosun)

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. There's plenty to do. After testing our luck in the casino, we relaxed, took in a movie, saw a floor show called "Let There Be Rock", enjoyed the sights, and tested our luck at the casino again. "*What happens in Sun City, stays in Sun City.*"

**Sunday, May 25th, Day 5: Pilanesburg--
Lesedi--**

**Northwest Province
Northwest Province**

Morning: After a late breakfast we headed for Lesedi Cultural Village. Along the way we decided to stop by the roadside markets at "*Chameleon Village*" to 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 among the Zulu, Xhosa 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.



(Jeffrey McLeod with mother and child at Lesedi Tribal Village)

Monday, May 26th, Day 6: Soweto--

Gauteng Province

Morning: Today we traveled 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. In the morning we toured Walter Sisulu Square and visited Regina Mundi Catholic Church. Walter Sisulu Square contains a monument to the 1955 “*Freedom Charter*” – a basic human rights declaration by the African National Congress (ANC) that eventually formed the basis of South Africa’s current constitution. Walter Sisulu was one of the giants of the anti-apartheid movement. He, along with Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, established the *Youth League*, which had a dramatic impact on the direction of the ANC. Regina Mundi was not only a house of worship for Soweto Blacks during the apartheid era; it was also a place of refuge and a place where protest strategies were formulated.



Afternoon: After having lunch at Sakhumzi’s Restaurant, where we dined on quite a variety of African dishes (including barbeque flavored tripe), we visited the Hector Pieterse 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.

Tuesday, May 27th, Day 7: Johannesburg—

Gauteng Province

Morning: This morning we had an exciting visit and tour of the African Leadership Academy (ALA). This visit was arranged by Emerson Girardeau '08 and Dr. Melvinia King of the Leadership Center at Morehouse College. We were hosted by Mr. John White '07. Mr. White, along with the dean of the academy--Dr. Chris Khaemba, explained that facilities will open in September 2008, and that ALA will bring together the most promising 16 to 19 year old leaders from all 54 African nations for an innovative two-year program designed to prepare each student for a lifetime of leadership on the continent. Students will be selected to attend the academy based on merit alone and will complete a curriculum with a unique focus on leadership, entrepreneurship, and African studies.



(John White '07 in foreground with sports jacket and Dean Khaemba in rear in argyle sweater.)

Afternoon: 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 Black consciousness movement leader Steve Biko was on display.

Wednesday, May 28th, 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 2 PM. We were met at the airport by our tour operator for this portion of our visit, Mr. Muhammad Khan, and he whisked us off to our hotel in the city. The Ritz Hotel is located in the Green Point section of the city and about 10 minutes away from 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.

Thursday, May 29th, Day 9: Cape Town--

Western Cape Province

Morning: This morning we took a ride up to Signal Hill to get a view of the city from a high vantage point. The views were breathtaking. (Incidentally, there was a cloud hovering over Table Mountain our entire stay in Cape Town so we weren't able to take advantage of the sights from that vantage point.) Next, we toured the gardens of the South African National Gallery. We ended the morning with a visit to the *Slave Lodge*. This building was originally constructed to house the slaves of the Dutch East India Company. It is one of the oldest 17th century buildings in Cape Town. The Slave Lodge was built by the slaves themselves.

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. Back on shore we had a dinner engagement in Langa Township. The dinner was at a place called *Sheila's*, named after the proprietor. Sheila 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.

Friday, May 30th, Day 10: Cape Town--

Western Cape Province

Morning: This morning we visited the colorful *Cape Malay Quarters* of Cape Town. Many of the inhabitants are descendants of the people from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Malaysia, who were captured in the 17th and 18th century and enslaved by the Dutch East Indian Trading Company. Many were Muslims and others were converted to Islam by the Cape Malay Muslim community. Next, 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. On the next page is a picture of our tour guide, Muhammad Khan, explaining the magnitude of the forced removals. We ended the morning with a tour of 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: This afternoon we traveled to Paarl and visited the Seidelburg Wine Estate. After being given a lecture and tour of the wine-making process we had a wine tasting session and a very good meal.

Saturday, May 31st, Day 11: 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 dropped by Haute Bay to get in some last minute souvenir shopping. Unfortunately, the boats to Seal Island were not operating because of rough seas. 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*. We had a wonderful lunch there.



(Dr. King at the Cape of Good Hope)

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.

Sunday, June 1st, Day 12: Departure

We flew back to Johannesburg where we caught our 6:40 PM flight back to Atlanta.

Monday, June 2nd, Day 13: Arrival

We arrived at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport around 8:00 AM, the end of a long and rewarding journey.

2008 Economic Studies Abroad in South Africa Program Participants

Glenwood Ross II
Director

Bess Blyler¹
Deputy Director

Melvinia King
Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies, Morehouse College

Name & Classification

Major

Clark-Atlanta University (C)
Georgia State University (G)
Morehouse College (M)

Adeosun, Olamide (M)--	Rising Junior	Economics
Barnett, Brandi (G)--	Senior	Finance
Blevins, Michael (M)--	Rising Senior	Economics
Burney, Calvin (M)--	Rising Senior	Psychology
Darden, Clay (G)--	Senior	Finance
Driskell, Dionte (M)--	Rising Junior	Sociology
Eldridge, Ly (G)--	Alumnus	
Frederick, Jerome (M)--	Senior	Economics
Girardeau, Emerson (M)--	Alumnus '08	Philosophy
Golden, Adam (M)--	Alumnus '08	Economics
Grady, Jarell (M)--	Rising Senior	Marketing
Houser, Justin (M)--	Rising Junior	Marketing
Johnson, Derrick (M)--	Rising Senior	Business Administration
Khoshbou, Hajir (G)--	Senior	Economics
McLeod, Jeffrey (M)--	Alumnus '08	Business Administration
Ray, Delwyn (G)--	Senior	Economic Development
Salm, Laura (G)--	Alumnus	
Shelton, Fred (M)--	Rising Senior	Management
Turner, Jeryn (C)--	Alumnus	MBA

¹ 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.