GFE Awards Help Students Gain Global Health Experience

A Global Field Experience (GFE) is a unique opportunity for Rollins students to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained through their first year in school in low-resource or high-disparity settings around the globe. A GFE is a minimum of six weeks and is traditionally conducted during the summer between years 1 and 2 of the academic program. Students then return to their coursework with greater understanding of how to engage in public health practice and more confidence in their abilities.

To prepare for a GFE, students work closely with faculty and mentors to identify projects related to their specific areas of public health and geographic interest. Students then work with an organization to identify a specific role that the student can play in support of the project's goals and objectives. In the past, students have carried out a wide variety of projects on topics ranging from HIV voluntary counseling and testing, food consumption patterns, and the spread of avian flu.

Global field work has been carried out in collaboration with highly respected organizations such as CARE, UNICEF, Save the Children, Population Council, and the World Health Organization.

GFE Funds are awarded to students on a competitive basis and generally range from $800 – $2,200. The application process includes submitting a detailed proposal for the project the student intends to undertake with the support of GFE funding.
Networking 101
It’s all in who you know!

You hear a lot about networking in the U.S.
Networking is about building relationships and is a key strategy for career development.

When it comes to the world of work, there is some truth to the saying, “It’s not what you know, but who you know.” For that reason, networking — developing a set of contacts with whom you build relationships, share information and provide support — is a critical part of career development. Networking can occur in both informal and formal ways, and a strong network comprises both professional and social connections.

Informal social networks include friends and acquaintances, current and former coworkers and people you meet at social events and activities. Formal networking involves joining groups, such as professional and alumni associations.

Networking Events

The idea of networking may be new to you and in more formal networking situations, you may feel nervous and like you don’t know what to say. While we are all accustomed to being friendly and engaged with people we know, we see networking as a something like a job interview, so it’s easy to think that we need to act differently. The good news is you do not have to act in an unnatural or insincere way when networking. The truth is that the best way to approach networking is simply to be friendly and curious.

Be Friendly

Remember that it is not up to others to seek you out; it is your job to be open and reach out to others in order to get things started. If you are at an event, offer a sincere compliment (“I’ve heard really good things about your organization’s work”) or a friendly remark (“The food here is really great”). Be yourself and focus on relaxing and being sociable. You may have to push yourself to be a bit more outgoing than usual, but when you show others you are a warm and friendly person, they will be more open and relaxed with you as well.

Be Curious

Focus on getting to know others. Networking is often more about listening to what people say than saying the right things; take the time to get to know people and connect with them. When you show that you are interested in learning about others’ ideas, interests and needs, they will be more interested in yours as well!

ASK QUESTIONS!

Everybody likes to talk about themselves; the more you let others talk, the more interesting they think you are! So, if you want to make a good impression, ask questions!

Acing the Interview

In the U.S., it is common for interviewers to ask situational questions designed to determine how you behave under challenging circumstances. These “situational” questions often start with “Tell me about a time when you...” The interviewer will ask you to reflect upon you previous work and school experiences and explain how you handled a particular situation. These questions usually ask about how you handled a difficult teammate or coworker, dealt with disappointment or failure, demonstrated leadership or acted in a creative way to solve a challenging problem. The idea is to get a sense of the way you think, your values and your ability to navigate difficult situations. Some examples include:

Tell me about a time when you...
made a mistake at work/in school. How did you handle it?
had a teammate who did not do his/her share of the work. How did you deal with it?
started down one path but had to change course. How did you handle it?
received negative feedback from a supervisor. What did you do with the information?
did not have all of the resources you needed to complete a project. How did you handle it?

To be prepared, before the interview think about challenging situations at work/school in which you handled problems and prepare to talk in detail about a few experiences. Focus on what specific actions you took to manage the problem and produce a successful outcome.
Spotlight on Staff

Yasmin Zaki

Yasmin Zaki is an ESL instructor working with the Saudi students in the King Abdullah Fellowship Program. Yasmin enjoys working with the group because she learns a lot about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its culture and people. Though she grew up in Atlanta, Yasmin’s family is from Egypt and she has worked and studied there for nearly two years. She also spends many summers there with her family. In 2013, Yasmin earned a Master’s Degree in Applied Linguistics and Teaching English as a Second Language from Georgia State University, and her professional experience includes teaching English in Egypt and at ELS language centers in Atlanta. Yasmin speaks Arabic and loves to travel, and one of her favorite things about Emory is the diversity of people with whom she is able to interact every day. Yasmin also likes to spend time outside camping and hiking. On the weekends, Yasmin loves to spend time with her family and friends, as well as her dogs, Luna, Zoe and Scooby. Next time you are in the Global Health department, stop by and say hello to Yasmin!

Looking Ahead...

Spring Break Spots with Southern Charm

Savannah, GA
For a century and a half, Georgia’s oldest city has flourished as an antebellum beauty of moonlight and magnolias. Savannah is also home to several colleges and universities, including the prestigious Savannah College of Art and Design. For more information go to: Visit Savannah

St. Simons Island, GA
St. Simons Island is home to wonderful unspoiled beaches, art galleries, a variety of entertainment and shopping options, and many restaurants, including places serving fresh seafood. For more information go to: Visit St. Simons

Charleston, SC
The city hosts beautiful antebellum architecture and plantation landscapes. There are great views of the Battery and the French Quarter from Waterfront Park, and beautiful gardens at Middleton Park. At night, many tourists take a ghost tour of the city. For more information go to: Visit Charleston

RSPH Spring 2016 Career Fair

SAVE THE DATE FRIDAY 02/ 26/ 16
NEWS from Emory’s Office of International Student Life

Conversation Partner Program

Applications for the Conversation Partner Program (CPP) are open until January 24th here. The CPP matches international students, staff, and faculty with domestic students, staff, and faculty in order to practice English conversation skills, promote friendship, and increase cross-cultural communication.

Global Debate Tournament

The Global Debate Forum will be hosting the second annual intercollegiate International Student Debate Tournament for Undergraduate and Graduate Students in the Southeast on Saturday, February 13th from 9 AM to 4 PM. No debate experience is required. Topics include: free speech at universities, expectation of countries to accept refugees, and climate change guidelines in developing countries. Registration fee is $20. Go here to register.

International Graduation Ceremony

The Annual International Graduation Recognition Ceremony will take place on Friday, May 6th from 5:30 to 8:00 PM in the Woodruff Health Sciences Administration Building Auditorium (WHSCAB). For more information, go here.

Rollins Welcomes 2015-16 CHE Fellow Gihad Mahgoub

Each year, the Emory University Center for Humanitarian Emergencies offers a one-year accelerated MPH fellowship program for mid-career professionals from low- and middle-income countries affected by conflict. The Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (CHE) Fellowship builds the capacity of non-US based responders in the event of complex humanitarian emergencies through training in epidemiology, rapid health assessment, surveillance, surveys, data analysis, and monitoring and evaluation, as well as a collaborative operations research project.

This year’s CHE Fellow is Gihad Mahgoub, a physician from Egypt. Gihad has a background in mental and reproductive health in emergencies and, as part of her fellowship she is working with staff in the Emergency Response and Recovery Branch (ERRB) of in the Division of Global Health Protection of the CDC. Her projects include research on mental health services for women in Haiti who have abortions and “near-miss” obstetric complications – complications severe enough to result in death for women who do not receive timely medical care.

Over winter break, Gihad also participated in the week-long course on health in complex humanitarian emergencies facilitated by EERB staff. Though the course, students learn to evaluate epidemiological data in the context of CHE and develop strategies responsive to the diverse cultural values and traditions of the communities being served. Learning takes place through lectures and students’ active participation in simulation exercises.

When she returns to Egypt, Gihad plans to continue her work through investigating the prevalence, screening and surveillance of Hepatitis C in that country.

For more information on the CHE and other fellowship programs, go here.
Winter Break
Home and Abroad

Roaa Jumbi celebrated New Year's Eve with friends and family in Saudi Arabia.

Gihad Mahgoub and her husband celebrated her sister’s wedding in Egypt.

Ha Bo, Chaohua Li, John Nepiyala, Chang Lin, Iju Shakya, Malocho Phoso, Joyce Beyamu, Yingyi Zhang and Barwani Msiska went to Skyview and Centennial Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta.

Humphrey Fellows Dilya Khudaykulova and Sahla Mahjabin joined members of Sahla’s host family to see the “Nutcracker” at the Fox Theater.

Zhifan Sang and Xiaochang Ge traveled to Mexico, Argentina and Peru.

Taketo Tanaka met a robot named “Pepper” in Japan.

Philip Oppong-Twene, Maame Winful and John Gharbin visited Centennial Olympic Park.

Yufan Chen went snowboarding in Keystone near Denver, Colorado.

Quran Wu, Yufan Chen and friends watched the Peach Drop on New Year’s Eve in downtown Atlanta.

Eman Almaghaslah’s children hung out at the Georgia Aquarium.

Shreya Kothari had fun with family at home in India.

Gihad Mahgoub and her husband celebrated her sister’s wedding in Egypt.

Philip Oppong-Twene, Maame Winful and John Gharbin visited Centennial Olympic Park.