

# ***Hampton Globalized... An International Affair***



## **PETER ODEGBAMI: FROM STUDENT ATHLETE TO GRANTS AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR**

Hampton University has been the "land of opportunity" for Peter Odegbami.

Peter Odegbami arrived to the United States in 2014 as an 18 year old freshman to play on Hampton's Tennis team, and immediately knew that he had been given an opportunity others longed for. Peter has been determined to succeed from the beginning and proved this by graduating within the top 15% of his class in May of 2018. He majored in Economics and became one of the co-founders of Generators Inc. Peter certainly did not hesitate at the thought of working at his alma mater. He is now a part of the Grants Management Team at Hampton University. By hiring a recent graduate who is also an international student, Hampton University continues to prove that it is "The Standard of Excellence" and future for our students. Peter has shared, "Being a student athlete taught me responsibility, time management, and teamwork; which are all a part of the foundation I used to co-found Generators Inc. During my senior year, the International Office staff was pivotal in my personal and professional development. I am very excited to take my next step and give back to the Hampton University community by starting this new position as the Grants and Contract Administrator."

**"Attending Hampton University has provided me with numerous opportunities I never could have imagined."**



### **INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHTS:**

<b>Mr. Peter Odegbami</b>	<b>1</b>
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## CIERA RUSSELL: TRAVELING THE WORLD ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME

“I recently had the chance to study abroad in England for five weeks during the summer of 2018 with a program called Advanced Studies in England. For five weeks I lived in a flat at the heart of the historical and beautiful city of Bath, where I took two classes towards my BA in English and traveled across the country. It was an amazing experience, unlike any other that I have had and I will forever be grateful that I was able to go.

Every weekend we went somewhere different. We journeyed from Bath (which is packed with dozens of amazing things to enjoy on its own) to Stonehenge, London, the University of Oxford, and to a Welsh town filled with used bookstores (my own personal Heaven). If I were to summarize everything I did we would be here all day. And, I took so many pictures... just way too many pictures. I also had the privilege of experiencing everything with some pretty amazing people.

As a black woman studying abroad the first concern for me, before finances, was how they would treat black people. Even

after doing research, and seeing how relaxed everything seemed to be in Bath, I was still nervous. I had no idea who anyone was when I got there. For all I knew, I could have been the only person of color on this trip.

Thankfully I was not, but if I had been I would have been ok. I stayed in Linley House, with seven other lovely girls who I clicked with almost immediately. We still keep in touch, and became almost like a family.

For me, studying abroad has always been a personal goal. The first thing I looked at when applying for colleges was the study abroad programs each school offered. I want to see the world because I know that there is so much to experience and so many different ways to look at life outside of the United States. Studying abroad is not cheap but there are many scholarships opportunities available!

People of all backgrounds should consider taking the chance to get a view of our world from another perspective. Studying abroad, in my opinion, is the best way to do so, especially as an

African American woman. That is why I plan on going abroad again in 2019. I'm choosing between New Zealand and Italy. I've got the travel bug!”

—Ciera Russell



## WILLIE T. EVANS II : A SUMMER TRIP TO BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Willie Evans traveled to Beijing, China during the Summer of 2018. Throughout the course of that trip, he took courses at Beijing Institute of Technology, where he learned about Chinese culture. His enriching experience, during his month abroad, opened his horizons and expanded his mind. While in China this past summer, Willie learned the importance of traveling and the beauty of different cultures around the world. As he was catching his breath during a walk on the Great Wall of China, eager young children approached him and wanted to take picture because they were fascinated by Willie's outward appearance. Mr.

Evans took that opportunity to appreciate their inquisitiveness. He stated, “Visiting China was a life changing event that helped me become more educated on another nation and also grow as a man.”

Mr. Evans is now planning a trip to do community service in Liberia during his winter break, where he will assist teachers, tutor students, distribute school supplies, and more. As a Criminal Justice major, he is also planning to study abroad in London on a faculty– led trip by Dr. Idonia Barrett. Mr. Evans wants to make a difference and he has already

begun his journey of impacting the world.

The International Office at Hampton University is extremely proud of Willie's eagerness to travel the world and learn the importance of multiculturalism.



## HU FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD 2018 SPRING BREAK EXPERIENCE

The study abroad experience to Italy provided students with an experience to see global operations around the world, in areas such as business and technology. Students were able to observe first-hand how technology can be used to increase efficiency, reduce expenses to increase profits. Given the academic rigor of the trip to Italy, it was essential that students understood global exchange rates and personal finance.

Collaboration was a key aspect of the study abroad trip to Italy. Though the groups were large in size, students were required to explore Rome and Venice with a minimum of four students per group. Students were provided with a list of interesting sites, based on the opinions from students who participated in the course previously. Students were also equipped with Google maps, which pinned the sites, along with descriptions of what students could expect during their travels.

Navigating Rome and Venice, with the use of Google maps, gave students the opportunity to increase their confidence to explore other cultures with the use of technology. Alongside Google maps, they were connected to the group leader, Dr. Karen Maxwell, Chair of the Department of Management, Dr. Sylvia Rose, Assistant Dean of the School of Business, and Dr. Glenda Evans, Assistant Professor in the School of Business via a phone application called GroupMe. GroupMe made communication between all 30 members on the study abroad trip easy by providing an option to reach the chaperones and group leader at any time, while in Italy.

The students used technology to see sites such as the Colosseum, the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, and many other Roman sites. They were accompanied by Italian Tour Guides for the major sites, such as the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel. One highlight of the study abroad trip to Italy was the opportunity for the entire group

to participate in an Italian cooking class in Rome. The students learned to make pasta and gelato from scratch! This study abroad program provided a platform for students to participate in a global initiative that supports the University's initiative for students to study abroad.



## HU DEGREE LANDS GERMAN-ITALIAN STUDENT IN LONDON

One of Hampton University's German-Italian international students, Elisabeth Kuester, will be graduating one semester early with a GPA of 4.08. Ms. Kuester plans on traveling the world for the first half of 2019. Once she completes her travels, she will be employed at Goldman Sachs in London, where she will use her Accounting degree to work as an Investment Banking Analyst in their merger and acquisition team. Ms. Kuester came to Hampton University as freshman on the sailing team, following her brother Maximilian's footsteps who is now a first year graduate student at Cornell University. Elisabeth is grateful for the opportunities Hampton University has provided her during her time in the United States.



## WORLDWIDE ALUMNI: SERVICE IN HAITI— A MESSAGE FROM ALYSSA BARBER



teach five days a week, English Discussion Club (EDC), a club of English speakers of all levels to practice having real life conversations together, and a youth mentoring development program that will launch later this month.

The biggest takeaway from my time here is not what I have given to Haiti but what Haiti has given to me. Haiti has allowed me to grow in new directions and has opened my eyes to new possibilities. My first time in this beautiful country was not the same as my experience the second time around. I initially came to Haiti thinking that people here needed me because of the “poor Haiti,” mindset. I learned though, that Haiti is too rich in culture and values to be poor. The amount of talent and ability that I see here on a daily basis is overwhelming. People are overflowing with desire and untapped potential. The “know how” I have witnessed subdues any misconceptions I may have had before. Nonetheless, the resources that people have access to are still extremely limited. I have had an amazing time acting as a catalyst for change in several local communities, where I work to truly impact and make a difference in people’s lives.

—Alyssa Barber

For more information and stories about local initiatives, please visit <http://www.creativelybiased.com/living-and-learning>

“During the past four months, I have worked as a consultant for two organizations, Light for Living International Ministries, INC. and Frontier Projects Haiti. I play a large role as a key decision maker in each of the initiatives that the two aforementioned organizations work together to promote and manage. These initiatives include but are not limited to; “Love Community Home,” a local orphanage, “Love Family Homes,” a program that sponsors children in their homes and provides monthly food parcels and educational support, “Bouvier Christian School,” a small school at the top of a mountain in an impoverished community, and “Libellule Training Academy,” a program designed to teach single mothers and students a trade, in order to become self-sufficient. I have

been able to manage how things run here on the ground and I have encouraged conversations about the direction of both organizations for the future. In short, I have done a great deal of social work through care for families and children. I look for needs and assess ways to fill those needs efficiently. I have looked into the day-to-day operations and budget of our initiatives, and I have been able to create opportunities for people where it seemed that there were no opportunities available. My work has allowed me to inspire and encourage those around me during a time when I thought I would simply be teaching. My time in Haiti has been so much more than a job. I have also been able to develop “Learn English with Alyssa,” an ESL program for beginner and intermediate English learners, in which I

**"I am very proud of the selfless work Alyssa is doing for others. Through our conversations, can feel her passion for this mission."**

**—Mrs. Carolina Butler, Coordinator, International Office**