**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Study Abroad!**
18 Countries and 80+ courses from which to choose!

**October 1, 2012:** Student applications open

**October 3, 2012 9-4 p.m.** Goins Building Rotunda: Pellissippi State Study Abroad Fair

**October 25-26, 2012:** TnCIS annual conference at Chattanooga State CC.

**December 3, 2012:** Student Early Acceptance deadline—gives students a $100 discount on the program fee and reserves a spot in the program.

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**THE TnCIS STUDY ABROAD ISSUE**

TnCIS Study Abroad programs now feature destinations where students can experience, as part of their academic journey, the joy of giving back to others. This issue features TnCIS programs during Summer 2012 to South Africa, India, and Spain. All three of these destinations included ways to serve the communities where students lived and studied. TnCIS’s 2013 Study Abroad courses featuring service learning will include Women In Society, Themes in Literature and Culture, Black Arts & Literature, Creative Writing, Intro to Theatre, Probability and Statistics, Elementary Statistics, Intro to Human Geography, Art Appreciation, Environmental Science, Theatre Appreciation, World Literature, and four levels of Spanish.

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**MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

“Service-learning is transformative—yes, we serve, but we also learn from whom we serve. Many critics of poverty issues blame those afflicted by it rather than dig deeper for root causes. Service-learning helps you discover what these causes really are. This kind of experience is what education is all about.” Samantha Ramsey—TnCIS student
**THE INDIA PROGRAM**

The India program this summer featured three destinations: Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. Twenty-five percent of students’ grades involved working with Taabar, a non-government organization (NGO) that rescues street children from train stations, where they are very often abandoned and wind up falling prey to prostitution and the drug trade. Students immersed themselves in the culture of the center that rehabilitates these children, participating in their classroom time in a variety of ways, including their geography lessons. The experience profoundly touched the lives of the children as well as the college students and their teachers. TnCIS plans to continue this important work with Taabar on future Study Abroad courses in India.

**THE SPAIN PROGRAM**

The Study Abroad program in Segovia, Spain, allowed students in conversational Spanish a rare bilingual experience linking expertise in practical medical skills with upper-level conversational Spanish. Students were able to deeply engage their listening and conversational skills in the Spanish language while assisting residents of a local home for the elderly with basic medical procedures like blood pressure monitoring. Professor Ana Hanson reports that the experience afforded students an inspiring and highly valuable service-learning opportunity in a real-world setting. Additional service-learning opportunities are planned for the 2013 program in Spain, including work with children for those in entry-level Spanish classes.

VISIT THE TNCIS FACEBOOK PAGE TO FIND OUT MORE!
Imagine witnessing one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world (including one of the largest penguin reserves in existence), but going beyond mere tourism by also being able to immerse yourself deeply into a culture through service to others for an authentic experience with the African concept of *Ubuntu*—a way of life that values human interconnectedness and compassion. Students part of the *Women’s Studies Study Abroad* course worked side-by-side with women and children rescued from domestic violence recovering and transitioning at the [Saartje Baartman Centre](https://saartjebaartmancentre.org) in Cape Town, South Africa. Students helped the Centre inventory clothes and supplies and participated with the women in dialogue, art therapy, self-defense classes, cooking, traditional dance, and much more. Students, professors, and college administrators from [Pellissippi State Community College](http://www.pstcc.edu) worked together with the Centre’s residents during this transformative course. Professor Elaine Oswald adds, “I was surprised by the level of openness and candor with which the women told their stories. It was inspiring to see how women carried on with their daily tasks of housework and raising children despite trauma and injuries, and without looking for sympathy or playing “the victim.” Pellissippi State Dean of Students, Mary Bledsoe, reflects, “I am now more aware of the similarities of the hardships, the tenacity of people, and the simple happiness that abounds in South Africa and our own country. The conditions in the townships and our own poverty-stricken housing projects in the cities, Appalachian families in the mountains, and sparse conditions on our Indian reservations were surprisingly similar—as were the determination, strength, and faith in creating a better life for their families.” Service-Learning will continue to be a strong part of this program.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED!**

**By the deadline, we need:**

1. Completed online application: (www.tncis.org)
2. Nonrefundable $100 application fee (paid at your home institution)
3. Official transcript sent to TnCIS by the registrar at your institution
4. Online recommendation form completed by professor

Eligible students *are enrolled or accepted at a TnCIS member institution* and *are in “good standing”—this includes academic and disciplinary matters* and *have completed a minimum of 12 college level credit hours* and *are at least 18.*

“Because of their service-learning experiences, many students decided to change their majors and enter careers that work for social justice. Students began to see that as college educated professionals they could change society, rather than helping just one person at a time.” Dr. Elaine Oswald—Women’s Studies