LAD performs at La Hora de Familia. Cynthia Vele ’17 and Abel deLeon Sanchez ’18
How would you describe your OUS experience?

“I would describe it as an amazing opportunity because I got to make wonderful friends” - Samira

“It really showed me what to do and what not to do and because of OUS I feel more prepared for what I am doing now” - Irvin

How has OUS prepared you for college?

“OUS taught me to live independently, away from my family and to take charge. I learned how to manage my time effectively” - Jorge

“OUS helped me adjust to the vigor of college assignments and helped me develop certain skills such as communicating with my professors” - Adam
Last spring I enrolled in ALST 380: Movements for Social Justice in South Africa. At the end of the semester I had the opportunity to travel to Cape Town and Durban for 3 weeks with my class. While in South Africa, we considered the ways in which social movements have transformed the country, especially in the post-apartheid era. Coincidentally, just a few weeks before our trip, students at the University of Cape Town began protesting to have the bronze statue of British colonialist, Cecil Rhodes, removed from campus. The statue not only represented the oppression of blacks in South Africa but was also a symbol of the institutionalization of racism on campus. Eventually, the students were successful and the statue was removed. Once in Cape Town, we were able to see the space where the statue once stood but all that was left was a spray-painted shadow of Cecil Rhodes.

In addition to social movements, the idea of “studying abroad” was something that was constantly in our minds while traveling. Much of our critique comes from how marketable and expected the trend of studying abroad has become at schools like Colgate. Students expect to gain something meaningful from their semester away while unknowingly (or knowingly) imposing their views on people and ignorantly taking from the country they are in. One thing I had a lot of difficulty with was coming to terms with the amount of privilege I had as an American in certain parts of South Africa, something I am not used to experiencing in the United States. The way we dressed and talked, and the fact that we moved around in a giant group were clear indicators that we did not fit in. Because of this, we were automatically categorized a certain way especially in terms of class.

The ways in which we learned throughout the trip were incredibly unique and special, which is what made this experience so rewarding. Although the lectures we attended were incredibly necessary, the way that I was able to understand everything we were seeing and learning about was through the people I met on the trip who were so generous and welcoming. We visited various historical sites, were taught by inspiring scholars, spent a lot of time outdoors, ate a lot of good food, journaled, questioned, laughed and most importantly, we all grew as people and scholars in our own ways. It is difficult to summarize all of my feelings about my experience in South Africa in just a few short paragraphs, especially because I am still in the process of understanding some of them today. However, I am so glad I was given the opportunity to travel to South Africa and I definitely hope to visit again sometime soon!
The following 31 OUS Scholars have achieved a 3.30 or higher GPA while successfully completing at least 3.75 course hours in the 2015 spring term. Congratulations to these students for their academic excellence.

**OUS Scholars with High GPA in 2015 Spring Term:***

- Dahiana Acosta '16
- Mekedelawite (Maya) Atakilti '15
- Alexis Beamon '17
- Nina Cook '17
- Marielba Casabona Rivas '15
- Lokelani (Loke) Cummings-Watanabe '15
- Jennifer Dias '16
- Allana Edwards '18
- Ricky Fernandez '18
- Larissa Grijalva '17
- Elena Havas '15
- Kevin Iglesias '17
- Jia Bao (JB) Lei '17
- Romelia Loaiza '17
- Manuel (Manny) Medina '17
- Jehdeiah Mixon '18
- Noufo (Stephanie) Nabine '16
- Tram Nguyen '16
- Jessica Pearce '18
- Estrella Rodriguez '17
- Samantha Rodriguez '17
- Cyerra Roldan '16
- Melina Rosado '16
- Providence Ryan '16
- Aishwarya Teegala '16
- Natasha Torres '15
- Sherry Tran '15
- Charity Whyte '16
- Maria Vorobyeva '18
- Hassan Zahir '15
- Sahara Zamudio '17

This semester for Family Weekend, OUS Scholar, Carolina Batista '17, became inspired to create a space for Spanish-speaking parents. Professors associated with the Spanish language, Latino culture, and/or identifying as Lations were there to lend their support for this wonderful event. Members of administration and staff from various departments and programs were also present to celebrate this achievement. Vice President and Dean of the College, Suzy Nelson, offered welcome remarks, with Professor Anne Rios-Rojas (Educational Studies) translating from English to Spanish. John Paul Ortiz, assistant dean of admission, also shared remarks in Spanish and then English to the gathered crowd. The event was hosted at La Casa. Guests were treated to Mexican food from La Iguana and also a terrific dance performance by the Latin American Dance Group (LAD).

The event was a great turn out. Parents were able to ask questions comfortably to faculty and administration in their native language. Carolina created the first of many spaces to include families from Latino backgrounds in the Colgate community.
Auspicious
[aw-spish-uh s]

adjective
1. promising success; propitious; opportune; favorable:
an auspicious occasion.
2. favored by fortune; prosperous; fortunate.

Origin: 1600-10; < Latin auspici (um) auspice + -ous
[excerpted from dictionary.com]