



Almost done?!

Welcome to the final edition of News from the Boland for Fall 2012. It has been a remarkable semester with some shifts and changes, as well as a jam-packed calendar. After the group returned from Spring Break, they have had to don a new Stellenbosch rhythm, one that focuses on the 'business end' – exam time. Still, all have managed to fit an incredible number of activities into the schedule including; 3 documentaries at the Tri-Continental Film Festival, Heritage Day celebrations, and a visit to the nearby eco-friendly music festival, Rocking the Daisies. In addition, as the weather improves, we've returned the focus to the outdoors.

Into the Wild

On September 30th, the group headed to Cape Town for the popular Lionshead Full Moon Hike. A gorgeous day contributed to high spirits as CIEE Stellenbosch joined hundreds of others on top of this Western Cape landmark for snacks and views. Though incoming cloud forced us to descend prior to moonrise, we caught it in full splendour as we rounded the mountain on our way down!



On October 13th, we tackled the moderate Two Waterfalls hike in nearby Jonkershoek. Owing to high rainfall recently, we were treated to a stunning display.



Finally, on October 26th-28th, we will be visiting Kogelberg Nature Reserve. We will stay in the largest section of the reserve, at the newly built Oudebosch Eco Cabins. The cabins are eco-friendly, with key points being: grey water runoff from the showers, planted roofs for cooling/heating, the use



of recycled and/or renewable materials, and an eco-pool which uses aquatic plants instead of chemicals to keep the water clean. The weekend is envisaged as a celebration of the term, as well as a last chance for the group to

come together and share at the end of a fruitful semester!

From the students

One of the most important parts of the study abroad experience is learning to ‘mine’ your experiences for knowledge. The view taken by CIEE Stellenbosch is that contact and ‘experience’ is not good enough – each student must reflect critically on their experience in order create a better sense of what it is they’ve learnt. Hence the group has recently been reflecting on their experiences in South Africa. Here are some of the experiences in the students’ own words:

“Stellenbosch has taught me how to stop and smell the roses, take in the scenery...” *Naa, Georgetown University*

“What many non-Africans fail to realize is that South Africa has a lot to offer to the world, and the world's inability to see how special South Africa is, is very upsetting.” *Cam, Babson College*

“I have learned the importance of forcing myself to see all the different sides of something, rather than focusing only on a few aspects and ignoring the rest in between...” *Chris, St. Lawrence University*

“Being here, now, in South Africa is an incredibly fascinating time to see transformations and relationships between genders and races” *Aldyn, Portland State University*

“Amongst other things, I have learned how liberal my cultural background is” – *Tim, Georgetown University*

Sustainable Stellenbosch: How does the town and university fit in with our program?

Many would ask “why study sustainability in Stellenbosch?” The answer is simply that issues of sustainability are global, complex, and context-dependant. As we move into a century that will increasingly be concerned with these vital issues, Stellenbosch and Stellenbosch University are at the forefront of sustainability-oriented research and initiatives in South Africa.

[Stellenbosch University's Hope Project](#): “The sustainability of human life and livelihoods the world over are under threat from ecological degradation and extreme poverty. Humanity’s over-exploitation of fossil fuels and other natural resources has resulted in climate change, with negative consequences for those at the wrong end of skewed patterns of resource distribution.”

[The Sustainability Institute](#): “Surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Cape's towering mountains and rooted in an agricultural community needing to break free from its' racial past, the Sustainability Institute provides a space for people to explore an approach to creating a more equitable society that lives in a way that sustains rather than destroys the ecosystem within which all society is embedded.”

Totsiens and hambani kakuhle!

Joe Warren, Acting Resident Director