

March 9, 2020

Dear Class of 1955,

First, I would like to thank you for your donation that helped me study off-campus in the Bahamas. My two week experience in The Bahamas has changed my perspective on tourism and how my actions (no matter how large or small) may impact others. During our time in The Bahamas my class spent 10 days on the island of New Providence and 5 days on San Salvador. Each island allowed for the exploration of how tourism and the history of the Bahamas influences contemporary Bahamian life.

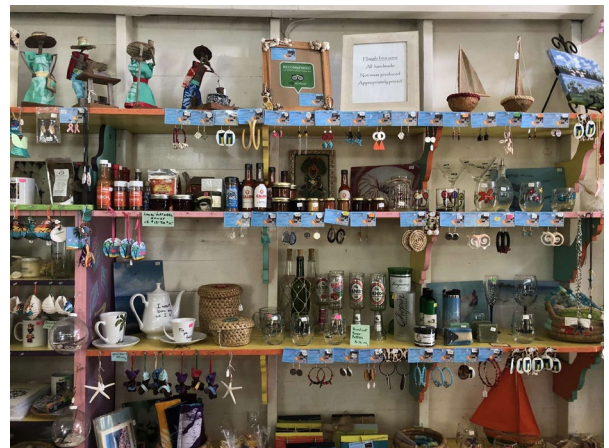
While in The Bahamas, my class visited and observed a variety of places. For example we went to mega-resorts, such as Atlantis, niche tourists destinations, such as Sivananda Ashram Yoga Retreat, and ecotourism places, such as the Blue Lagoon. At each place we visited we were able to speak with local Bahamians as a class and individually. These interactions allowed me to practice my field skill of interviewing; specifically asking carefully worded questions and allowing the interviewee to guide the conversation towards what interests them. In general, the variety of places that we visited, people we observed, and individuals we spoke with provided me with a broad scope of how tourism influences Bahamians on a large and small scale.

In conclusion, my course, ANT 222 (Applied Anthropology), greatly contributed to my academic and professional goals due to this course providing me with the opportunity to have some experience with anthropological field work. A day that had a large impact was when we went to Doongalik Studios Art Gallery and spoke with artists, farmers, activists, and local Bahamians about life in the Bahamas. Then, we went under the bridge near downtown Nassau to talk to the Mailboat staff as well as random fish boats that were docked there. Here, we were able to speak with

Bahamians about tourism, the Bahamian fishing industry, and their daily lives. While asking a fishermen questions I had about tourism and the fishing industry, I realized my passion for field work. I discovered that I love being in the field where I am able to gain knowledge of perspectives on topics I am studying that I would not have outside of the field.

Thank you again!

Tessa Stolz '22



The outside and inside of the Craft Cottage at Doongalik Studios Art Gallery in Nassau,
New Providence



Downtown Nassau in the morning
before cruise ships arrived

My favorite chef, Ronnell, and I at her restaurant in
Nassau



On top of an old
Lighthouse on Blue Lagoon

One of my professors, my classmate, and I cleaning up
East Beach on San Salvador



Me trying on a Junkanoo headpiece at the
EduCulture (Junkanoo) Museum