

THE SCHOLAR SHIP HAS GONE!!!! What Is The Scholar Ship?

Dear Prospective Student,

We regret to inform you that The Scholar Ship has been unable to secure funding necessary to continue the program at this time.

The Scholar Ship has been hailed as a bold experiment in international and global education. To be sustained, bold experiments need time to be adopted and accepted. In a few short years, the program has demonstrated to the academic community worldwide that its ambitious, innovative learning model made a significant impact on the development of participants' intercultural competence and leadership skills. These qualities are essential for success in the global workforce and a prerequisite for global citizenship.

As we know, innovative learning models cannot be created alone; they require collaboration. We are grateful for the opportunity to have worked with prestigious partners in developing and delivering our first two voyages. In addition, we are grateful for the chance our students and our partners took to participate in a program without a track record. Making this dream real has been intrinsically exciting, not only for us, but more importantly for the hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and partners who have experienced it firsthand.

We apologize to those who have been adversely affected by this news. We will be working with those students who have enrolled in our September 2008 and January 2009 voyages. Our intentions are to identify alternative options for the upcoming terms. All fees and documented out-of-pocket expenses will be refunded to current applicants.

The story of The Scholar Ship lives in each person associated with it. You have been especially important as a co-writer of the story. We hope that you will continue to co-write the story and sincerely elicit any insights or ideas you have for its continuation.

Sincerely

The Scholar Ship Team



An Intercultural Wedding Celebration At Sea

On a beautiful March day off the coast of Western Africa, The Scholar Ship community celebrated its first official wedding. Officiated by the ship's captain, intercultural communications professor Kerstin Pilz and her partner Giovanni Cocco were married on the ship's aft deck.

The entire community participated in the intercultural wedding, dressing in creative traditional attire while a band of students and staff played and staff members escorted the wedding party. As soon as Kerstin and Gianni were pronounced husband and wife, the ship's whistle blew – a perfect maritime moment. After the captain presided over the traditional ceremony, Academic Dean Pat Masters led participants in a Buddhist ceremony. The Moroccan students then led everyone in a Moroccan wedding dance.

After the ceremony, all proceeded to the Lido deck for dinner, more traditional dance performances by students, the cake-cutting, and the couple's first dance as husband and wife. Kerstin threw her bouquet from the upper deck ... directly into the pool. Undeterred, an eager student jumped in after it!

We were thrilled to be able to celebrate our wedding at sea with the entire TSS community – we will remember this day for the rest of our lives," say Giovanni and Kerstin, the January 2008 voyage's most celebrated couple.



Academic Program

Today's global organizations are seeking young professionals with genuine international experience and the ability to operate successfully across cultural, political and linguistic boundaries. The Scholar Ship's curriculum has been designed to develop the intercultural competence and leadership skills of our students.

The undergraduate and postgraduate programs run concurrently over the course of a semester and require:

Participation in a Learning Circle – similar to a university department – which explores themes in various academic areas of interest. Undergraduates may choose from five Learning Circles, and postgraduates choose from three. The study of core subjects which are central to intercultural learning. Undergraduate students study Global Issues as well as Intercultural Communication. Postgraduate students study the required subject within their Learning Circle.

The study of elective subjects to complement core subjects and to fill the four-subject requirement of the program.

—If you've come looking for an extraordinary study abroad experience, you will certainly find it here.

The Scholar Ship is a globally recognized academic program aboard a dedicated passenger ship specially transformed to host undergraduate and postgraduate students on semester – long voyages around the world. Participants from diverse cultural backgrounds come together to co-create life – changing experiences that develop their intercultural competence and foster friendships reaching the far corners of the world.

Our experiential-based program provides students an extraordinary opportunity to integrate education and travel unlike any other program. As we travel from country to country over a semester, students live and learn in a dynamic multicultural environment aboard our ship. When in port (average visit is seven days), students participate in academic field study, community service, shore excursions and independent travel.

To succeed in this increasingly interdependent world, you need more than linguistic abilities. You need the intercultural knowledge and understanding that comes from experiences among many cultures. This is what The Scholar Ship can offer you.



A Letter From the President

The world of international education has significantly evolved in my 30+ year career in the field. I have witnessed universities extend their international reach through the development of branch campuses abroad, island programs and even through online learning initiatives. The perception that the world is smaller is due in large part to these very same efforts. That we now live in a "global village" is truly no longer a perception – it is a reality.

As an educator, I have been asking myself how we can prepare students for success in the complex world in which we live today. If we can develop students' intercultural competence so they can operate successfully across cultural, political and linguistic boundaries, our ability to benefit from the prospects of a harmonious global village will increase exponentially. No matter your involvement in international education, be it as a student, advisor or professor, exciting opportunities worldwide await you.

I would argue there is no short-term program better positioned today than The Scholar Ship to deliver the type of personal and career-enhancing experience that forward-thinking students demand.

Backed by Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., The Scholar Ship is a collaborative initiative with leading universities and organizations around the world.

I personally invite you to consider a voyage aboard our ship to experience a world of difference!

With best wishes,

Dr. Joseph D. Olander
President

Alumni Interview

We sat down with some of the alumni to learn more about their experiences during their voyage aboard The Scholar Ship. Here's what they had to say...

Ricky Alexander
California, USA

—How did The Scholar Ship change your views of the world?

—The Scholar Ship changed my views of the world dramatically. Through immersion in a multitude of cultures around the world as well as on the ship, I came to better understand and appreciate the diverse ways in which culturally unique populations perceive the world. I also gained a new awareness about the individual variation that exists even within a culture and how stereotyping and biases perpetuate systemic social injustice in our world. In addition, learning about new cultural landscapes first-hand allowed me to grapple with my own identity and the preconceptions inherent to my background and experiences. Living with people from over forty countries and visiting four continents around the globe allowed me to reflect deeply upon my core values and begin to discern a global ethic by which I wish to live my life.

—What was your favorite part of the program?

—While it was the integration of all of the program's elements that made it such a wonderful experience, my favorite part of the journey was making the social climate created onboard the ship. It allowed me to be my full self, share some of the happiest moments of my life, and make best friends whom I will cherish forever. The environment created onboard is unlike any other I have ever experienced before. I loved all the student events and just hanging out with the amazing people I met. I truly have memories and treasured friendships that will last a lifetime.

—How do you think The Scholar Ship has prepared you for your future career?

—The Scholar Ship has prepared me for a future career by instilling in me the leadership ability and intercultural communication skills needed to succeed in a world shaped by our diversity. It taught me to embrace and celebrate difference; moreover, I learned that our personal and cultural differences can and should be used as unique strengths and not as divisive wedges. In order to succeed in the private sector, the political arena, the non-profit world, or most any other career in the 21st century, an ability to harness the creative power of cultural diversity is imperative.

—How do you describe The Scholar Ship to people who ask about your experience?

—I describe The Scholar Ship as an opportunity of a lifetime. I tell people that The Scholar Ship absolutely transformed my life in so many ways. The program empowered me to discover the best in myself and others. I was inspired to follow my passions, through travel, activism, service, and personal growth. I would not be the same person were it not for the impact of the The Scholar Ship on my life. I walked off the ship on the last day with lifelong friendships, an empowering ethic of justice, and a new sense of self that has already allowed me to realize personal goals that were simply unattainable before this experience.

Participation in four compulsory Academic Field Programs during port calls. Subjects (classes) have been carefully incorporated into our Subject Catalog from the catalogs of member institutions of our Consortium of Academic Stewards. Academic Teaching Staff is also drawn from these institutions, other academic partner institutions, and from other institutions worldwide.