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Experience

PARIS & CANNES, FRANCE - JUNE 2006

After three years of learning French and tasting French cuisine by way of my high school French teacher Madam DeFur, I was granted the opportunity to travel with my classmates to France. The students of Hill Regional Career High were ready to put what we learned to the test as we toured and explored Paris, Cannes & Tours.

SOUTH AFRICA & SENEGAL - JANUARY 2011

In January of 2011, my parents Dr. Leroy C. Williams and the late Patricia W. Williams were kind enough to treat me to an early graduation present as I prepared to complete my undergraduate degree from Morgan State University. That graduation present came in the form of cultural exploration by way of allowing me to follow my God sister Regina Boyd as she traveled with a group of ten others to CapeTown & Johannesburg, South Africa and Dakar, Senegal. The group of travelers was orchestrated by Dr. Brian K. Perkins and Out Of Africa Gallery Tours.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - APRIL 2012

When I lost my only sibling in July of 2008 of an underlying heart condition, I learned to cherish those around me. So when I discovered that a very close family friend, whom I have always considered to be more like a sister than just a friend, had been accepted to the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia to study for her masters I took that as nothing less than an invitation to visit. "Chanelle Dumas, I was on my way!"

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL - OCTOBER 2012

After I had such a stellar time traveling to Cape Town & Johannesburg, South Africa and Dakar, Senegal with Dr. Brian K. Perkins and Out Of Africa Gallery Tours I decided to travel with them one more time, but this time trekking across the continent of South America to discover the beautiful culture, cuisine, and customs.

CANCUN, MEXICO - APRIL 2013

In need of a mini vacation and with the use of my timeshare, I spent my 24th birthday at the beautiful Grand Mayan Resort in Maya Riviera, Mexico. Only leaving the resort to travel to Yucatán, Mexico to visit the Chichen Itza as well as the rest of the Mayan ruins.

ST. THOMAS, US VIRGIN ISLAND - AUGUST 2013

When I planned this family vacation I didn't quite understand how important and remembered it would become. This trip was simply my parents, my God sister, Claudette Senior, and myself traveling to our timeshare on the beautiful island of St. Thomas. We just didn't realize it would be our last family vacation with my mother in attendance.

DUBAI & ABU DHABI, UAE- APRIL 2014

I have a wonderful friend, whose birthday is only a few days before mine and in 2014 we decided to celebrate together by traveling to Dubai and Abu Dhabi for a little over a week. That wonderful friend is LaQuaya Cohen and we were also accompanied by her cousin Tahara Byrd.

BANGKOK & PHUKET, THAILAND - AUGUST 2014

After losing my mother to bilateral breast cancer I felt I wanted to donate some of my time to others yet still experience another cultural. So with the assistance of Cross Cultural Solutions I taught English for two weeks to the most beautiful 3 year olds at the Phithuksa Daycare & Preschool. I was able to give my body a relaxing weekend in Phuket before heading back home to the United States.

NAIROBI, KENYA - FEBRUARY 2015

Once again looking for another opportunity to volunteer I reached out to International Volunteers HQ (IVHQ) for the opportunity to build sports education in Nairobi, Kenya. Sports education because it coincided with the growth of the Christoph foundation. Once in Nairobi I was placed at the CMF Excellence Center primary school and the African Hope Center (AHC). The AHC is an orphanage where the children have lost parents due to HIV/AIDS.

ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA - APRIL 2015

Since losing my brother at the age of 19, I enjoy spending my birthdays immersed in another culture when afforded the opportunity. So, while volunteering in Kenya, I could not let a moment pass without making travel arrangements to visit another Eastern African country. What better way to spend a birthday than laying on a beach with views of the Indian Ocean?

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS - MAY 2015

In need of a deep breath and a moment of clarity during my transition from international volunteering and returning to the states, I decided to stopover in the Netherlands to enjoy European culture.

ITALY & SPAIN- AUGUST 2015

Embarking on my first cruise since I was seven on the Disney cruise, I decided to entrust my experience to Norwegian, setting sail through the Mediterranean. Departing from Rome and sailing through the ports of Florence, Pisa, Cannes, Palma, Barcelona and Naples, I explored European terrain with my good friend Tarena Gadsden. I truly experienced a one of a kind vacation.

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DECEMBER 2015

I'm not a person with a bucket list but one thing I simply can't pass up is a great deal. While volunteering in Nairobi I discussed the unforgettable site of the Northern Lights with some European natives. Once home from Nairobi I was browsing travel sites and stumbled upon a great package deal to spend 5 days in Reykjavik. I passed the news along to my God sister, Alexis Sizemoore, and next thing I knew I had a travel companion as well as my next adventure booked.

ST. JAMES, BARBADOS - MAY 2016

I do not pass on many opportunities to travel, especially when friends, that became family, give me the opportunity to come celebrate another year of life. This trip to Barbados with the Gadsden family was nothing but love, laughter & good eats!

LIMA & CUSCO, PERU - JULY 2016

On a journey to see my fifth new wonder of the world, I embarked on Peru to tackle the Machu Picchu. I traveled 8,000 feet above sea level, 7 hours by plane, 1 hour 45 minutes by train and 20 minutes by bus before arriving. I stood in line for 35 minutes in the rain to get into the sanctuary and walked a few miles up hill, but it was all worth the view. This once of a lifetime experience would not have been the same without my God sister, Claudette Senior.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA - AUGUST 2016

My caring spirit and my need to want to make a difference brought me to Bogota, Columbia. With the help of Emerging Voices by way of International Volunteers HQ, I was able to spend two weeks feeding the homeless at Hogar de la Madre Teresa and El Dormitorio de Hermana Sor Ladys. It is ironic that when you reach out to help others, you normally find yourself along the way.

NEW DELHI, INDIA - NOVEMBER 2016

Like a few of my past trips I sought India for the opportunity to give of myself and my time in hopes to not only teach others but to learn more about myself. I spent three weeks teaching a group of 6 eighth graders English, Math and Social Studies as they prepared for mid year exams. The school was located in a slum within Faridabad. When I wasn't giving of my time I was traveling around to Delhi, Agar and Jaiper which some may recognize as India's golden triangle.