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College of Business, Prairie View A&M University

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Educational Field Trip in South Africa (March 2017)

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A group of PVAMU students and faculty, led by Dr. Lawrence McNeil and Mr. Danny Harvey, attended a week-long field trip in South Africa during Spring Break 2017. The trip was designed to broaden the participants' cultural horizon, as well as to provide greater understanding about one of the most important emerging economic powers in the world. The students generally felt that the trip was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to broaden their educational, cultural, and intellectual perspectives. The rest of this article highlights selected excerpts from the participants' assessment of the trip and a few photographs from the trip.



The PVAMU group with Nkozi Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela, outside parliamentary building in Cape Town.



I connected with my roots from the people, food, and museums we visited... This trip was educational with hands-on experience with global economics, and we also mixed business with pleasure by indulging in South African safaris and mountain adventures.

-- Jasmine Stith

This trip was educational, adventurous, full of networking, and hands on.

One of the main lessons I took from this trip was truly understanding the definition of economics and that is the production, consumption, and transfer of funds. -- Bria Plattenburg

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Editor's Note

Greetings. It gives us great pleasure to bring to you the 50th issue of the *Prairie View International Business Digest*, an electronic quarterly newsletter produced by the Center for International Business Education.

This issue features three sections. The first section (*Educational Field Trip in South Africa*) presents a brief report on an educational field trip to South Africa by a group of our faculty and students. The second section (*Latest U.S. Trade Statistics*) presents up-to-date statistics on U.S. trade with the major trade partners. The final section highlights current global business/trade news and events. Please note that all URL links are active and you can go directly to a section from the Table of Contents on the first page.

We hope you continue to find this e-newsletter a valuable channel for important information relating to international business. We believe our efforts will inspire greater number of local firms to seek out new global business opportunities. Should you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your support.



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Editor

Training Workshops for High School Educators

We are resuming our globalization training workshops for high school educators at the PVAMU Northwest Houston Center. The attendees will receive teaching tips and materials suitable for course and curriculum design, unit and lesson planning, and Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved credit for Continuing Professional Education (CPE). This will be our first time offering the workshop at our northwest location (9449 Grant Road, Houston, TX 77070; <http://www.pvamu.edu/northwest/>), which is conveniently located within easy reach of the northwest Houston corridor at the intersection of Grant Road and HWY 249.

Since 2005, we have offered a number of training workshops at the main campus that were attended by over 150 high school educators from many local ISDs. We hope these workshops will encourage greater number of local high schools to appreciate the value of global learning and scholarship, and prepare their students for constructive leadership in the global community.



Standing next to Nelson Mandela's prison cell on Robben Island is not only surreal, but gives you a glimpse into his dreadful experiences. The fascinating and rich cultural heritage all meant to be discovered are not only intriguing, but extremely diverse.

-- Bianca Michelin

There was a perfect blend of learning and having fun on this tour... I believe that, in the time we were there, we were able to maximize our time and capture a perfect snapshot of the real South Africa and not what is portrayed in Hollywood.

-- Keena McIntosh



In such a short time, you will experience an abundance of things and come back with a new perspective of life... To take advantage of this trip is to broaden your horizons and experience life in a new way.

-- Rebekah Preston

My experience in South Africa is one that will forever be remembered!... This trip truly showed me that although America is thousands of miles away, we still face the same struggles as our brothers and sisters in South Africa.

-- Dalya Sanders

I learned so much about the history of South Africa, which is actually pretty similar to the black history in America. I was able to experience beautiful scenery and people. The food was great!... Since South Africa, I have the urge to visit the rest of Africa.

-- Tamiah Robertson



Latest U.S. Trade Statistics

The tables below contain selected U.S. trade statistics for the last five years (2012-2016). The data were collected from the websites of the U.S. Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade>) and Office of Trade and Industry Information (OTII), Manufacturing and Services, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (<http://tse.export.gov>).

Table 1: Total U.S. Exports, Imports and Trade Balance (Billions of \$)

| Trade Category | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Exports - Total | 2,218,989 | 2,293,457 | 2,376,577 | 2,261,163 | 2,212,079 |
| Exports - Goods | 1,562,578 | 1,592,002 | 1,633,320 | 1,510,303 | 1,459,667 |
| Exports - Services | 656,411 | 701,455 | 743,257 | 750,860 | 752,412 |
| Imports - Total | 2,755,762 | 2,755,334 | 2,866,754 | 2,761,525 | 2,712,639 |
| Imports - Goods | 2,303,749 | 2,294,247 | 2,385,489 | 2,272,868 | 2,209,592 |
| Imports - Services | 452,013 | 461,087 | 481,264 | 488,657 | 503,047 |
| Trade Balance - Total | -536,773 | -461,876 | -490,176 | -500,361 | -500,560 |
| Trade Balance - Goods | -741,171 | -702,244 | -752,169 | -762,565 | -749,926 |
| Trade Balance - Services | 204,398 | 240,368 | 261,993 | 262,203 | 249,365 |

Table 2: Top 5 Merchandise Export Markets for the U.S. (Billions of \$)

| Partner | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. Canada | 292.65 | 300.75 | 312.82 | 280.61 | 265.96 |
| 2. Mexico | 215.88 | 225.95 | 240.33 | 235.75 | 230.96 |
| 3. China | 110.52 | 121.75 | 123.62 | 116.07 | 115.78 |
| 4. Japan | 69.98 | 65.24 | 66.88 | 62.44 | 63.26 |
| 5. U.K. | 54.86 | 47.36 | 53.85 | 56.11 | 55.40 |

Table 3: Top 5 Merchandise Import Partners for the U.S. (Billions of \$)

| Partner | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. China | 425.62 | 440.43 | 468.48 | 483.24 | 462.81 |
| 2. Mexico | 277.59 | 280.56 | 295.74 | 296.41 | 294.15 |
| 3. Canada | 324.26 | 332.50 | 349.28 | 296.16 | 278.07 |
| 4. Japan | 146.43 | 138.58 | 134.50 | 131.36 | 132.20 |
| 5. Germany | 109.23 | 114.34 | 124.18 | 124.82 | 114.23 |

Table 4: Total U.S. Merchandise Trade Balance (Billions of \$)

| Partner | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| World Total | -730.45 | -689.47 | -735.19 | -745.66 | -735.46 |
| U.S. Merchandise Trade Surplus: Top 5 Partners | | | | | |
| 1. Hong Kong | 32.02 | 36.68 | 35.01 | 30.37 | 27.52 |
| 2. Netherlands | 18.36 | 23.34 | 22.23 | 23.36 | 24.23 |
| 3. U.A.E. | 20.31 | 22.18 | 19.29 | 20.54 | 19.03 |
| 4. Belgium | 12.07 | 12.83 | 13.82 | 14.68 | 15.25 |
| 5. Australia | 21.59 | 16.85 | 15.98 | 14.14 | 12.69 |
| U.S. Merchandise Trade Deficit: Top 5 Partners | | | | | |
| 1. China | -315.10 | -318.68 | -344.86 | -367.17 | -347.04 |
| 2. Japan | -76.46 | -73.34 | -67.63 | -68.92 | -68.94 |
| 3. Germany | -60.42 | -66.98 | -74.81 | -74.85 | -64.87 |
| 4. Mexico | -61.72 | -54.60 | -55.41 | -60.66 | -63.19 |
| 5. Ireland | -25.98 | -24.86 | -26.18 | -30.41 | -35.95 |



Global Trade & Business: Current News and Events

- [Miscellaneous Tariff Bills Public Comment Period Opens](#)
- [Africa: A Middle-Class Market of 350 Million People](#)
- [Ring in 2017 with a Focus on Foreign Direct Investment](#)
- [SEDC: Taking a Regional Approach to Promoting FDI](#)
- [Finding Foreign Buyers Through eCommerce Sales Channels](#)
- [South Korea Submits Intent to Participate in Asia-Pacific Data Transfer Agreement](#)
- [Largest Annual U.S. Government Trade Mission Heads to Southeast Europe](#)
- [Partnering to Support America's Independent Music Industry](#)
- [International Buyer Program Select Recruits Buyers and Supports U.S. Exhibitors at the National RV Trade Show](#)
- [ITA Supports the National Association of Home Builders 75th Anniversary and 2017 International Builders Show](#)

Source: *Tradeology*, International Trade Administration Blog (December 2016-January 2017)



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If you would like to receive an electronic version of this newsletter, contact Dr. Rahim Quazi at 936-261-9225 or rmquazi@pvamu.edu



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CIBE | <http://www.pvamu.edu/business/alumni-friends/center-for-international-business-education/>

PVAMU College of Business Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement

The Prairie View A&M University College of Business strives to be among the best regional business schools in the nation by empowering students from diverse backgrounds to reach their full potential.

Mission Statement

The Prairie View A&M University College of Business provides students from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds with education that helps them become business professionals and leaders who are ethical, entrepreneurial, productive, and prepared to succeed in the global economy. The College achieves excellence through quality teaching, research, service, and engagement with the business community.



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