

## FROM EVERY QUARTER

Xavier Gomez Maqueo Joachin refers to himself as “a citizen of the world” after attending Exeter’s five-week UPPER SCHOOL program this summer. A regular student at Colegio Mexico-Americano, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, he dubs his Exeter Summer School experience as “life-changing.”

“It’s amazing how people from different cultures and different religions can live together in the same place peacefully,” he continues. “It’s like a miracle of globalization.”

Vanessa Milost Gonzalez concurs. The Brazilian, who will graduate from high school in November, says, “I’m going back home with the certainty that everything is so much bigger than we can imagine.... It changes completely the way you face the situations in your life.”

Idah Savala knows this better than most. The 16-year-old left her home in rural Malawi, Africa, to attend Summer School. She left a village where there is no electricity and where most girls her age don’t attend school because they are often already married with children. “I have learned so many things,” she says of her time at Exeter. “I have seen so many things I have never seen before.”

Idah, Vanessa and Xavier attended the largest Summer School program to date along with 741 middle school and high school students—40 percent of whom were from foreign countries. “I’m not sure there is a more diverse summer program anywhere in the world,” says Ethan Shapiro, director of the Summer School. “A lot of kids who would never think about going to boarding school for their education will think about a summer program. We’re able to reach a whole spectrum of kids that we normally wouldn’t be able to reach.”

Idah, Vanessa and Xavier would not have been able to come to Exeter if it were not for the scholarships they received. They were among 15 international students given aid for the summer session; most students from abroad pay full tuition. Fifty percent of domestic Summer School students receive financial assistance from the Academy, ensuring that “youth from every quarter” of the U.S. are given an opportunity to study at PEA.

In the last two years, Shapiro has been working to expand the availability of aid to highly qualified financial-need students from foreign quarters, recognizing that “diversity within our international population is [also] important.” Efforts have focused on building relationships with other schools and organizations, and with regular session alumni/ae. PEA collaborates with Xavier’s school, Colegio Mexico-Americano, thanks to an Exonian who brought the two schools together. Idah’s tuition was underwritten by PEA after former trustee Claude Hoopes ’68 introduced Shapiro to the nonprofit Advancing Girls’ Education in Africa, which sponsors Idah’s schooling in Malawi. Hoopes also paid for Idah’s travel to the U.S. Wolff Klabin ’92 brought together a group of alumni/ae from Brazil—which included Amanda Klabin Tkacz ’97, Rose Klabin ’96, Ana Gabriela Pessoa ’99 and



(Above) Vanessa Milost Gonzalez (left), with instructor Sean Sennott, is all smiles in her Social Psychology class. (Right) Xavier Gomez Maqueo Joachin (right) listens thoughtfully in his USA: Exploring American Culture class.



Alyssa Lorch ’88—to fund half of Vanessa’s scholarship.

Shapiro is hopeful that such partnerships will continue to emerge in the coming years and that more and more international students will have access to aid. “The more financial aid you have, the more opportunity you have to get the kind of kids that can really benefit from the experience,” Shapiro says. “We want to celebrate the diversity and continue to have that be a prime takeaway for the students—and I think it certainly is.”

For Xavier, living in Ewald dorm and rooming with a student from Turkey was particularly meaningful. He says they would stay up for at least half an hour every night and talk about their different cultures, comparing what was similar and what was different. At the end of the program, they exchanged soccer T-shirts from their respective home countries as an emblem of their friendship.

Xavier says he has met friends that he will have for life, and they are from not only Turkey but also Germany, France, the U.S. and several other countries. Of the Harkness experience, he says it is “the most awesome educational system. When you are at the Harkness table, you are able to discuss and learn about other perspectives...and that makes you grow as a person.”

Vanessa took *Global Economics* at Exeter, which solidified her decision to major in the subject in college. The class, and her time on campus, demonstrated for her how “everything is so intertwined.” It is this interconnectivity that she likes, and how the ability to see things on a global scale “challenge(s) the different stereotypes that we have for many people from many nations. You get to know them and you even ask them how something is, and it’s very different from what [other] people say.”

Idah will continue to challenge stereotypes in Malawi. She does not want to marry or have children yet, but continue her schooling so that she can become a doctor and provide care to other Malawians. She believes the science classes she took at Exeter have helped her move toward that goal.

—Karen Ingraham

View a slideshow of the 2009 summer session and learn more at [www.exeter.edu/summerschool](http://www.exeter.edu/summerschool).