



***Embassy of the United States of America***  
*Port Louis, Mauritius*  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Career Fair in Curepipe**

**Port Louis, February 19, 2013:** The Embassy of the United States of America and EducationUSA Mauritius are hosting a Career Fair tomorrow, Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of February at the Townhall of Curepipe. From 15h to 18h, aspiring students will be able to go through some documentation, ask questions to the Education Adviser of EducationUSA Mauritius and talk to alumni of U.S. Universities.

**What we do at EducationUSA Mauritius**

At the Advising Center of EducationUSA Mauritius, we simplify the U.S. college application process. We have sessions for members, focusing on the SAT and the personal essay, choosing the right college and completing financial aid, as well as a pre-departure orientation, among other things. American campus life is as important as academics when it comes to getting a college (university) education, and since students are also allowed to work up to 20 hours on campus to supplement their budget, we also help prepare students for the full experience of studying and living in the U.S. They can hence fully benefit from what their institutions have to offer. For graduate students, we also have the Fulbright and Humphrey programs, which are sponsored by the U.S. government.

**About tertiary education in the U.S.**

U.S. institutions are world renowned for the quality of their education promoting critical and analytical thought, and are often at the forefront of academic research. With over 4500 accredited institutions, American universities are hard to rank, unless by very specific criteria, be it by program, research, classroom experience, professor accessibility, financial aid, etc. What is guaranteed though, in such a diverse system, is that the right fit can be found for any student.

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Campuses pride themselves on diversity amongst their students, as it is such a heightened experience when collaboration is multi-cultural, at a global level. Faculty also believe in intrinsic learning, and well outside the classroom walls. The student learns everywhere. American colleges are therefore dedicated to cater to student life, towards both Americans and Internationals alike, as most are staying away from home. There are facilities from housing and dining, to free transport in college towns, to healthcare and counseling, to social clubs and host families who welcome students during festivities, and so on. All these opportunities are introduced to the students during Orientation, right before colleges start. Tied into all this, is financial aid through the form of scholarships or work-study programs, to help needy students, and after graduation, students are allowed to work 1-2 years in their field, on a student visa, so they may gain experience.

Despite their different educational backgrounds, international students fare well in tertiary education in the U.S. The primary reason being the flexibility and breadth of content of a curriculum. This system takes into consideration that students' interests may change, or encompass more than 1 or 2 disciplines, and room is made to cater for that. Students are allowed to explore and grow. Graduating with a U.S. degree can give students an edge in the job market later, as they have been taught how to adapt to a variety of information – be it practical, technical or theoretical. They have also learned to work independently and in teams, and are excellent in communication and leadership. Students who finish their studies not only build a global network of contacts afterwards, but also remember their colleges fondly, and often take this dedication of enjoying work/learning with them later on in their careers.

## **Testimony**

### **Marvin, alumnus of La Roche College**

Marvin Chung Kwan Fan, 24, attended La Roche College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 2007. He finished a five year Interior Design program in four years and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design. During his studies, Marvin won multiple school design competitions called Positive Space. He was ranked first in interior design and first in Photography. Marvin believes that studying in the U.S. helped him *“grow and shape himself as a well rounded individual, who's got determination and a positive thinking.”* He also learned about leadership, team work and how to be more extroverted. Tutoring and Mentoring in the school's Academic Enrichment Division helped, as well as holding the position of President within the Globe Organization (multicultural organization on campus) and doing internships with an architectural firm. It is during his sophomore year, in 2009, that Marvin started photography. Since he loved it and was good at it, Marvin was the school's official photographer for a while. *“I took pictures for the local newspaper and did photos for cancer fundraising events”*, remembers Marvin. After graduating, Marvin came back to Mauritius to start his own business.

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### **Yuri, currently studying at Brown University**

Rohan Yuri Sanspeur, 19, believes that choosing Brown University to study is probably one of the most important and most judicious choices he has ever made. *“Here, I have come to meet extraordinarily multi-faceted individuals who shine intellectually, physically and spiritually. Take my roommate for instance; he aspires to become both a conductor and a chemical engineer by embracing a double major. Others at Brown are boldly creating whole new majors instead of complying with the already existing ones”,* states Yuri who adds that the degree of academic freedom coupled with the liberal nature of the engineering concentration spurred him to come to *Brown University*. *“It is believed that such an environment grows leaders who can make decisions for themselves and others, think analytically and view issues from different perspectives.”* What Yuri finds also amazing at Brown, is the ease with which you can approach world-class faculty and undertake research with them. Brown also encourages its students to explore outside the classroom whether it is through volunteering, research, creation of start-ups amongst many others. *“In that same spirit, I have applied for a summer program (Learning Enterprises) that is to be held in Mauritius. A bunch of college students will be teaching conversation-based English to underprivileged Mauritian children.”* Yuri says that these first ten months spent at Brown were made even better by the astounding facilities made available to students. *“From the latest technology in my Organic Chemistry labs to the squash courts and yoga courses, I have tried them all!”*

### **Contact details:**

#### **U.S. Embassy**

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Hours: Tuesdays (8am-12pm, 2pm-4pm) and Thursdays (2pm-4pm)

#### **American Corner**

Harper Lee Center

Carnegie Library, Curepipe

Tel: 676-733

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4pm

Useful websites: [www.mauritius.usembassy.gov](http://www.mauritius.usembassy.gov), [www.educationusa.info](http://www.educationusa.info), Facebook group: EducationUSA Mauritius

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