

# SLU Summer Zimbabwe Program Offers An Adventure

**Joe Kerper**  
Senior News Editor

Interested in going to Africa over the summer? Check out SLU's summer Zimbabwe program.

The program runs from May 20 to July 2. It lasts for six weeks as opposed to a full semester, and is ideal for those students who would have a hard time fitting a full semester of international travel into their schedules according to Dr. Patricia Alden, the SLU Zimbabwe Director.

Alden thinks that "being in Zimbabwe is a good way to test whether Kenya or India makes sense for you, or whether you want to go in an independant direction."

Alden wants students to realize that this program is very unique, it "is organized around a topic you choose—it's really an independant study component—the program can accommodate the interests of a lot of people."

Students have most afternoons free for independant work, and are encouraged after 10 days in Zimbabwe to pick a topic that interests them, to be the basis for future study.

The program, which is run in conjunction with the University of Richmond, costs \$5,200.

Alden pointed out that the program's price is the equivalent of a summer-school term plus international airfare, so she considers it a good deal.

The program fee does not cover

pocket money, money for additional travel when in Zimbabwe or travel to and from the Newark Airport.

One of the best parts of the program, Alden says, is "staying with a Zimbabwean family in a rural village, sharing their lifestyle, helping with agricultural work, [and] learning a little Shona language."

It is something that tourists typically can't see, she said. Students live with Zimbabwean families for the entire six weeks; they spend a week with a rural family.

Additionally, visiting the Mana Pools, the only game park in Africa where you are allowed to walk as opposed to being driven in a sight-seeing vehicle, is something that many participants never forget.

"Our groups have tracked a lion that came by our campsite early one morning and gave a roar loud enough to wake everyone up in a hurry; elephant, cape buffalo and impala abound in this park," explained Alden. The program includes a 4-day camping expedition through this park.

Another interesting facet of the trip, according to Alden, is visiting Great Zimbabwe. Great Zimbabwe is the country's most impressive architectural project south of the Sahara.

It is a huge walled city built in the 1300s and subsequently abandoned for unknown reasons. In

fact, Zimbabwe in the Shona language, means "stone house." An anchaologist travels with the students to Great Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwe program is built around an intensive 2-unit interdisciplinary course called "Zimbabwe:

Nation and Culture." The course is centered in Harare, Zimbabwe's English-speaking capital.

Faculty members will be drawn from St. Lawrence, the University of Richmond and the University of Zimbabwe.

For more information on the Zimbabwe Program call Dr. Alden at (804) 289-8319 or email her at [pald@music.stlawu.edu](mailto:pald@music.stlawu.edu). Applications may be submitted until April 1.



Photo by Matt Siber

Dr. Patricia Alden, Director of the SLU Zimbabwe Program and her husband.

**FROM THE CREATOR OF "SCREAM"**

**"YOU'LL BE HOOKED FOR LIFE!  
IT'S SCARIER THAN 'SCREAM'!"**

**"AN EDGE-OF-YOUR-SEAT THRILLER!"**

AWFUL FEAR  
RIDICULOUS  
OCCASIONS  
AND THREATS

**"DON'T MISS THIS  
SENSATIONAL  
THRILLER!"**

**I KNOW  
WHAT YOU DID  
LAST SUMMER**

## Zen Meditation at St. Lawrence

Come Join the North Country Zen  
Center and Meditate!!!

**Wednesdays  
6:45pm to 8pm  
In Herring-Cole**

**ALL ARE WELCOME  
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**

Questions?/INFO? Call JOSH x6734

**BRUCE WILLIS** **RICHARD GERE**

**THE Jackal**

**SIDNEY POITIER**

www.thejackal.com