

# jesseworker

Dakar, Senegal

**JESSE'S MAJORS:** Anthropology and African Studies

**YEAR/TERM ABROAD:** Summer 2005

**REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM:** I was fresh out of an African History course, I had always wanted to visit Africa, and Senegal seemed like a great place to start. I was particularly drawn to this program because of the individualized project-based research that would complement the coursework. It gave me a terrific opportunity to do socio-cultural field work. Also, I am a fan of West African music.

**FAVORITE CLASSES:** Wolof and West African History and Politics



Jesse Worker poses with some Senegalese friends in front of their graduate student dormitory at Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar.

**DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION:** I lived in a dormitory with Senegalese graduate students who were very friendly and helpful. I liked this arrangement because it gave us the opportunity to make friends with college-age students, which greatly enhanced the cultural exchange. I made lasting friendships during my six weeks living in the dorm.

**GREATEST CHALLENGE:** Chasing away gastro-microbial invaders. I would definitely advise students to follow the guidelines on eating safely.

**BIGGEST SURPRISE:** How easy it was to make friends and the level of hospitality that you encounter everywhere you go. Also, I was impressed by the level of camaraderie and respect between young men.

**WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT:** I wish that I had studied more Senegalese history, particularly related to Cheik Anta Diop, Leopold Sedar Senghor, and other prominent figures of Senegalese culture and politics.

**GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS:** Go abroad at least once.

“I highly recommend for students to investigate all the avenues of available funding so that you can *go for at least a semester.*”

**ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS:** I would have stayed longer. I did have the chance to return to Senegal independently to finish my research, but I highly recommend for students to investigate all the avenues of available funding so that you can go for at least a semester.