



**Africa Bound – Part 1
Friday, June 23, 2017**

Welcome friends, family, students, and colleagues. This blog is a result of my television and movie fanaticism. By way of introduction, let me explain. My name is Geralyn Drayton and I am a three-time breast cancer patient and survivor. For the past seventeen years I have been battling and conquering this insidious disease. Quite naturally, I believe one inevitably thinks of dying and considers his/her immortality when faced with the diagnosis of cancer. Such was the case for me back in August 2000.

Yet, as anyone who knows me can attest to, **I AM NOT** the type of person who dwells on the negative. When life handed me lemons in the form of my cancer diagnosis, the only obvious reactions and responses for me were to trust in God, remain positive, keep smiling, and start making some lemonade. These are the things I did for the next ten years until my second occurrence in October 2011.

Now, anyone who knows me well also knows that I am a cinemaphile (a lover of movies) and a television fanatic. Having seen "The Bucket List," a Rob Reiner hit starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson in 2007, coupled with this second occurrence in 2011, I decided to write a bucket list of my own. Traveling overseas was the number one item on my bucket list. Break that down further, visiting the continent of Africa made the top three places that I wanted to visit; Africa was nudged out slightly by Paris, France and Frankfurt, Germany, respectively.

Fast forward to March 2, 2017. Bucket list item 1c is fast becoming a reality. I received my acceptance into the Virginia State University (VSU) Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Seminar in Senegal. That one hope, prayer, nearly impossible dream of visiting Africa will be accomplished this year. I am Africa bound!