

International ACCENTS

Volume XIV, Issue 2

Fall-Winter 2014 Events

Published March 2015



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

International Activity	2
From the Desk of...	5
Features	9
Short Term Scholars	9
Congratulations!	12

Office of International Programs
Washburn University
1700 College Avenue
Topeka, KS 66621, U.S.A.

Phone: 785-670-1051

Fax: 785-670-1067

Email: international@washburn.edu

<http://www.washburn.edu/ip>

International Activity

College of Arts and Sciences

Laura Stephenson, Dean

The College of Arts and Sciences continues to support international study and programs for our students and faculty. Two of our students had the opportunity to study abroad last semester. Riley McDougal, Psychology Major with a German Minor, traveled to Osnabruck, Germany in the summer and fall of 2014. Robert Miller, French Major, studied abroad in Clarmont-Ferrand, France during the fall 2014 semester. One of our faculty from the Music department, **Karen Benda**, traveled to Toronto, Canada in September 2014 to attend a workshop on the Alexander Technique. **Dr. Judith McConnell-Farmer** (Education) directed the Study Abroad in Belize Program which was held in Belize City and Caye Caulker, Belize, Central America, December 28, 2014-January 12, 2015. Twenty participants tutored children and volunteered in an orphanage in Belize City. They tutored at an island elementary and middle school and Roman Catholic in Caye Caulker (RCCC), Caye Caulker, Belize. They attended the *Belizean International Symposium in Education*, a four day conference and presented a team-

based power point. Dr. McConnell-Farmer gave the keynote presentation, "Lessons from my Travels: Perspectives on Early Childhood Education in China, India and Nepal", at symposium on January 2, 2015.

Her international service includes the following: Advisory Board Member of the *The Forum, Journal of The Oxford Round Table*. Manchester College, Oxford University. Oxford, UK; Board of Directors and International Member. Symposium Programme Committee. *The Belizean International Symposium on Education*. Belize City, Belize, Central America; Oversees Program Advisor, Board Member. *The Association for Childhood Education Practitioners, Nigeria (ACEP)*. Nigeria, Africa; Advisor Board Member; *Institute of Global Harmony (IGH)*. Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Sardarshahr, Rajasthan, India; and, Vice President and Member, Board of Directors. *OMEP-USA (Organisation Mondiale pour L'Education Prescolaire)*, *World Organization for Early Childhood Education and Care, United States*.

School of Business

Russell E. Smith, Associate Dean

Last year, 2014, was a milestone year in the School of Business's relationship with the School of Management at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology (WUST). The year witnessed a scheduled change in the leadership at the WUST School of Management and with it a renewed commitment to the partnership. The new dean, Professor Xudong Deng, previously had served as associate dean for academics. Former dean Kailing Pan will continue as a faculty member and as a member of the senior leadership of the school. The three associate deans are Yulian Qiu with responsibility for undergraduate academic administration and service, Zhiqing Zhang with responsibilities for research, academic development, graduate academic administration, and service, and Min Yu with responsibilities for human resources, logistics, and facilities and equipment management.

In May, Washburn School of Business Associate Dean Russ Smith visited WUST in recognition of the leadership change and to congratulate the new dean and his team, as well as to show support for the smooth continuation and expansion of the cooperation between the two schools. He also participated in meetings on research collaboration and stu-

join us on
facebook

Washburn University Study Abroad
&
Washburn University Office
of International Programs

Websites:

<http://washburn.edu/ip>
<http://washburn.studioabroad.com>



dent exchange, and met with WUST International Exchange and Cooperation Office Director Dianlei “Roger” Geng, who had visited Washburn in May 2013, as well as meeting with all previous WUST visiting scholars to Washburn at a dinner hosted by Vice President Jie Gu, who also had visited Washburn in May 2013.

Reflecting Dean Deng’s support for international cooperation, he appointed a new International Working Group (IWG) in the School of Management to be chaired by Professor Yunchuan Zhang (visiting scholar in 2006) and co-chaired by Professor Yong “Lisa” Liu (visiting scholar in 2010), with other faculty as members, including Professor Yun “Isabella” Cheng (visiting scholar in 2013). Professor Zhang will coordinate the WUST side of the BU 406 International Business and Entrepreneurial Experience class as well as the teaching roles of Professors Boncella and Stoica. Professor Liu will coordinate the student exchange program, including short-term exchange students and degree-seeking students under the “X+Y” program. Professor Cheng and the other committee members will participate in these efforts and can initiate other international projects.

The School of Business and the WUST School of Management are continuing programs begun eight years ago. Twelve Washburn students visited Wuhan for a week in May as part of Professor Michael Stoica’s BU 406 class to complete the in-company portion of their consulting projects and to give their final presentations. The class was organized into five project teams, each consisting of Washburn and WUST students. After the company visits, the team reports were presented at the *Eighth International Student Workshop Washburn University-WUST*. The class visited Shanghai and Beijing before arriving in Wuhan and visited Hong Kong and Macao afterward. Professors Bob Boncella and Michael Stoica are continuing to teach in WUST’s international business administration program (IBA) in a hybrid format. As of this writing, preparations are being made for the ninth offering of BU 406 to China, which will visit Wuhan this May. The School of Business has been pleased to host WUST School of Management marketing faculty member Lina Xu for a six-

month professional development program during the Fall 2014 semester and part of the Spring 2015 semester.

School of Law

Thomas J. Romig, Dean

In June 2014, Associate Dean **Aida Alaka** and Professor **Tonya Kowalski** conducted a workshop on legal analysis for law students, practitioners, and law teachers at our sister school in the Republic of Georgia, under the title: "Legal Writing Workshop V: Best Practices in Structure, Strategy, and Style," as part of the *National Center for Commercial Law* and USAID's *Judicial Independence and Legal Empowerment Project*, Free University of Tbilisi School of Law, Tbilisi, Georgia, June 12-14, 2014. They also presented "Best Practices in Government Report Writing," for the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in Tbilisi on June 11, 2014.

Associate Dean Aida Alaka returned to Georgia in December 2014 to participate in another teaching and learning workshop.

Alex Glashausser: In the fall, Professor Alex Glashausser had published: *Kokusai Fuho Koi, Yugamerareta* [*International Torts, Extraterritorial Distortion*], 48-2 *COMP. L. REV.* 1 (Tatsuya Kitai trans., 2014) (Institute of Comparative Law in Japan). It grew out of a presentation he made at Chuo University Law School in 2013.

Craig Martin: In August, 2014 Associate Professor Craig Martin taught an intensive course on comparative constitutional law at Osaka University Graduate School of Law and Politics.

He presented “Hopes Fulfilled? The Illegitimate Children Inheritance Case and Equality Rights in Japan” at the Law and Society Association Annual Conference in Minneapolis, in May, 2014.

Prof. Martin continued to engage in the public discourse in Japan over the re-interpretation of the war-renouncing provision of the constitution, publishing [op-ed articles](#), longer [feature articles](#), and providing interviews in [Japanese newspapers](#) and Korean [radio shows](#).



He will also have published in March, 2015, the article “A Means-Methods Paradox and the Legality of Drone Strikes in Armed Conflict”, 19 *International Journal of Human Rights* (2015).

Associate Professor **Freddy Sourgens** was the Managing Editor of *Investment Claims* (Oxford University Press). In addition, he was the Co-Chair of the *First Annual Oil and Gas International Investment Arbitration Conference*, Houston, TX; the Organizer/Moderator for the *New Developments in the Oil and Gas Sector* in Venezuela, and presented “Is the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties Dead in BIT Arbitration?”, for an Oxford University Press webinar. Prof. Sourgens also published a new book, *A Nascent Common Law* (Brill Nijhoff 2015).

School of Nursing Monica Scheibmeir, Dean

The School of Nursing was off to a busy 2014-2015 academic year with planning international learning experiences for students and faculty.

The fall semester included a week’s trip to Fukuoka, Japan where Susan Maendele, Crystal Stevens, and Dean Monica Scheibmeir, traveled with Baili Zhang, to meet the nursing faculty from Fukuoka, University. The visit provided a broad overview of the health care system in Japan. Included in the week-long trip was a visit to a Fukuoka Medical Center Hospital, which is owned and managed by the Fukuoka University Medical School. In addition Washburn visitors were given opportunities to see how community-based care for adults with dementia and rehabilitation needs were managed. Connecting with former Fukuoka nursing students who had traveled to Washburn University within the past two years was part of the week-long fun. Lots of sushi, tempura-prepared food, and laughter was had by all. The outcome of the fall trip will be the offering of an international elective course for nursing students from Washburn University to travel to Fukuoka, Japan.

In January, Dr. Bobbe Mansfield and Lori Edwards, along with members of the C.A.M.P. organization, traveled with 17 undergraduate nursing students to provide community and nursing-related services to citizens of Costa Rica. Dr. Mansfield’s birthday was

in January and she posted a picture of herself in Costa Rica with the caption, “Not a bad way to spend my birthday”. We couldn’t agree more. Plans are underway to prepare for another Costa Rica elective in January 2016.

February marks the month that the SON hosts the Japanese nursing students and faculty from Fukuoka University. Members of the staff and faculty have spent weeks planning the events for the faculty and students when they arrive in Topeka. This is the third year of the nursing exchange.

On April 22nd and 23rd, Drs. Debbie Isaacson and Jane Carpenter will be traveling to Dumfries, Scotland, to present their research entitled “Skill Validity Simulation Assessment” at the Scottish Clinical Skills Network 2015 Conference: "Innovation & Diversity in Multidisciplinary Clinical Skills Education"

In the summer of 2015, Drs. Cindy Hornberger and Shirley Dinkel are planning to provide a global health experience to doctoral nursing students in Guatemala. This is the second summer that the SON has offered this experience to graduate-level nursing students.

Finally, in the 2012-2015 year the SON wraps up the sentinel *Transatlantic Double Degree Program* (aka *TADD*). In December, the following four students who completed their BSN studies at Washburn, became eligible to receive their second bachelor’s degree from one of the three partnering institutions in Europe. Those students are:

- Tiana Byers
- Laura Jevons
- Olivia Shepherd
- Elizabeth Wiebe

In May, the final three Washburn University School of Nursing students who participated in the last year of the TADD program will graduate. Those students are:

- Grace Cramer
- Megan Giffin
- Dan Komiyama-Fakhrai

In total, 23 Washburn nursing students and 24 international nursing students representing the countries of Northern Ireland, Finland, and Hungary have completed all of the requirements of the double-degree program. Starting in the fall of 2015, a revised “TADD 2” program will start. There will be three students from MAMK University who will be spending an entire academic year here from Mikkeli, Finland. The School of Nursing hopes to send three nursing students to study abroad in Finland during the 2016-2017 academic year.

~~~

**Professor Deborah Altus** (Human Services) is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Communal Studies Association. The Association is planning its next conference to be held in 2016 in Tamera, Portugal.

## From the Desk of ...

### **Kelly McClendon**

#### **Lecturer/Coordinator, Intensive English Program**

**Mission statement:** The Intensive English Program (IEP) offers a series of English classes designed to assist international students in need of improving their English skills before being accepted into a degree program of the University. It also assists area residents whose native language is not English, to improve their ability to interact in the community, on the job, and succeed in the academic setting.

**News:** The IEP is in the final stages of the self-study for accreditation by CEA (Commission of English Language Program Accreditation). Also, the teaching staff grew to 12 in fall and was thus able to have a Best Practices Luncheon in November and shared ideas among colleagues.

**Additions:** Sarah Springsteen joined WU in August 2014 as the new full-time lecturer in the IE department. She came most recently from Arizona, but has experienced living and teaching in several coun-

tries, one of which was Saudi Arabia. We also have welcomed three new adjunct instructors: Ji Soo Abuehl, Claire Engelken, and Theresa Livingston.

**Numbers:** The IEP served 119 student in the fall. This is the first year with more Saudi Arabian students than Chinese students. We are also enjoying more diversity with students from Japan, Paraguay, India, Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Taiwan, Venezuela, and Mexico.

### **Heidi Staerkel**

#### **Coordinator of International Student Services**

In August, nearly 110 new and transfer international students began their studies at WU. China and Saudi Arabia lead our two largest student populations again this Fall, and we also welcomed students from all over Europe, DR Congo, South Korea and India, among several other countries.

I would like to recognize and congratulate our seven Fall 2014 graduates:

- **Ana Andrade Alvares de Lima** – (Brazil/Paraguay) - BA in Psychology
- **Muhannad Alsuwailem** (Saudi Arabia) - BBA
- **Enzo Fustagno** (Paraguay) - BBA
- **Dier Liu** (China) - BBA
- **Alejandro Salomon Rivarola** (Paraguay) - BA in Psychology and History
- **Yafei Wang** (China) - BBA
- **Erliang Zhou** (China) - Master of Liberal Studies (MLS)

To kick off this year’s *International Education Week* (November 17-21), the Office of International Programs (OIP) hosted another fantastic “Celebration of Cultures” in White Concert Hall on November 14. The students did an outstanding job sharing their cultures in many different ways, including a very moving performance of the Saudi national anthem, sung by the students from the audience. During the rest of the week, the OIP sponsored an Open House at the International House, organized students to share about their culture with table displays each day in the Memorial Union (featuring Saudi Arabia, Japan and Paraguay) and encouraged

the campus to wear international clothing at the end of the week.

What makes a WU education valuable to the international students who attend WU? Two of our recent graduates recently shared their thoughts with me about this:

*“Washburn University was the best experience I've had in my life. Since the education in my country is not very good, it helped me a lot to be prepared for the real world because I learned a lot of stuff that I can apply here in my country [Paraguay]. There are a lot of things to improve here and Washburn gave me the knowledge to be a better professional in my field. There are a lot of things I learned there that I wasn't aware, and that is why I feel very confident about the decision I made in my professional life because of the education I received at Washburn.”* ~ Enzo Fustagno, BBA in General Business

*“The most valuable lesson that Washburn has taught me is that I can reach higher than I ever dreamed possible. I am proud to call myself an Ichabod because of Washburn's diversity initiative; it encourages students to think critically and engage in culturally relativistic thoughts. Washburn creates an environment that promotes learning and helps breed a more tolerant mindset. Washburn's diversity initiative has changed how I perceive the diverse situations that arise in life. I recently had my first job interview and after reviewing my answers with my potential employer, he informed me that it was this philosophy that positively influenced his decision to hire me. These outstanding characteristics acquired at Washburn University are what set me apart from others; it has forever changed me for the better.”* ~ Ana Andrade Alvares de Lima, BA in Psychology



Students from Japan and Nepal displaying

## Tina Williams

### Study Abroad Coordinator

Washburn Office of International Programs Welcomes Two New International Exchange Partners: Hallym University, South Korea & University of Tasmania, Australia.



### The University of Tasmania

**Location:** Hobart and Launceston, Australia

**Population:** 210,000 (Hobart) and 100,000 (Launceston)

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Website:** <http://www.utas.edu.au/international>

At the University of Tasmania students can choose courses in over 100 undergraduate degrees offered in six colleges: Fine Arts, Business, Education, Health, Science, Engineering and Technology. UTAS has over 29,000 students on two campuses located in Hobart, Tasmania's capitol city, and Launceston, the state's second biggest city. Each location offers unique and stunning environments. Nearly half of the Australian island state of Tasmania is designated as a national park or world heritage site. Tasmania's most breathtaking destinations, including Cradle Mountain and Tasman National Park are featured in the Lonely Planet's 1000 ultimate adventure guide. *“Tassie”* (as it is affectionately known) is mainland Australia's quirky and rugged southern neighbour with some of the planet's most astounding wilderness and scenery. – Lonely Planet

**Hallym University** is a private university established in 1982. The university consists of six colleges: Humanities, Natural Sciences, Information and Engineering, Social Science, Medical Science and Education and four graduate schools. A variety of courses

es are taught in English as well as a Korean Language Culture program for international students. The student population is about 8,000, with 700 faculty members. The university is in the city of Chuncheon, the provincial capital of Gangwon-do, and is located in a basin surrounded by many lakes, rivers and mountains. It is known as ‘The City Surrounded by Water’. Its close proximity and transport links to Seoul make Chuncheon a popular tourist destination.

### Hallym University



**Location:** Chuncheon, Gangwon-do, S. Korea

**Population:** 265,000

**Language of Instruction:** Korean & English

**Website:** <http://english.hallym.ac.kr/>

### Washburn’s Faculty-led Programs

As the number of faculty-led programs and study abroad participants grows so does the OIP’s commitment to provide quality services and resources. The Office of International Programs has offered a series of workshops to assist faculty with program development and the risk management involved in leading programs abroad. Topics covered in the workshops include: Program Development & the Application Process, Health and Safety Plans: Medical Emergencies, Student Health Concerns, Safety Considerations, and Crisis Management for On-site Emergencies and Communication. The workshops are offered to all faculty interested in developing and leading programs abroad.

### Winter Break Programs:

#### **Study Abroad In Belize –**

Dr. Judith McConnell-Farmer

#### **Costa Rica Service Learning –**

Dr. Randy Pembroke

#### **Costa Rica Nursing Perspectives –**

Dr. Bobbe Mansfield

#### **Nicaragua Service Experience –**

Dr. Richard Ellis & Michaela Saunders

#### **Haiti: International Medical Service –**

Professor Hillary Lolley

### Scholarships & Programs

The International Programs Scholarship Committee awarded 43 scholarships to students participating in the above mentioned winter break programs. In addition, nine students were awarded scholarships for 2015 spring semester programs in the following countries: Argentina, Austria, N. Ireland, S. Korea, and Spain.

### Study Abroad Re-Entry Workshop

Study Abroad students gain a global perspective on the world and strengthen their career opportunities. Students returning from Study abroad programs were invited to attend the *new* Study Abroad Re-Entry Workshop. The workshop sponsored by the Office of International Programs and Career Services provided students with instructions on how to identify and highlight transferrable skills and qualities that were developed during their time abroad. They learned how to add their international experience to their resume and had the opportunity to participate in a mock interview with OIP and Career Services staff.

***To learn more about WU Study Abroad visit:***

<https://washburn.studioabroad.com>





## **Andy Vogel** **International Student Recruitment and Retention Coordinator**

The “Celebration of Cultures” was a large success last fall—a sincere thank you to all those that attended, supported and performed in the event. A special acknowledgment goes to the International Club and the Japan, Nepal, China and Saudi Arabian table leaders.

We had fantastic fall trips and events, including an International Club BBQ after Homecoming (with our NEW GRILL donated by the International Center of Topeka), the Topeka Tour, Kansas City Shopping Trip, Kansas City Tour, Ranch Party and Tailgating. We also added a new event, the Konza Prairie Tour during the fall break. Special thanks to Barbara McCandless who organized and led our tour.

I was profoundly fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Paraguay, India, Japan and Nepal last fall to promote our new OIP programs and initiatives at WU. Consequently, we are welcoming our largest spring international intake of all time at WU this semester, 20 more than our highest previous year.

In Paraguay, Tina Williams (WU Study Abroad Coordinator) and I were able to meet over 1,000 students and their parents at a fair sponsored by the Comité Paraguay Kansas. We conversed with alumni, prospective students, university faculty and coordinators of the Paraguay/Kansas partnership. We promoted our *International Summer Institute*, study abroad partnerships, and our various programs of study and majors at WU.

In India, I visited the United States Education Foundation in order to begin some initiatives there. We have our first exchange student from our partner, Symbiosis International University, in India this semester. President Farley and WU staff, along with my study abroad group, have made several visits to Symbiosis University and we believe this is a move forward in our institution’s collaboration.

We are continuing to promote WU’s *International Summer Institute* in Japan with our partner in Tokyo. WU continues to see Japanese summer students

transfer back to WU after attending another university. This is a result of the relationships the students make with the WU and Topeka community members. Thank you for your efforts in making WU and Topeka such a friendly place.

We have a growing number of talented students from all over Nepal choosing WU to study MBA and Computer Information Science. I visited our partner institution in Kathmandu and had a meeting at the US Consulate. I’m positive that WU will benefit from the talented students we are recruiting from Nepal.

For spring, we will continue to forge relationships between WU and near abroad, local internationals from Muar Hill-Mount Academy, JCCC and Butler for campus tours and likely potential programs.

Our “International Bod’s on Bikes” program will be unveiled in its new 2.0 version this March as the Topeka Metro Bike-share. One hundred bicycles in several stations will be available for students, residents and visitors to check out. The technology for checking out the bikes is contained on each bike.

The PAIS, or Presidential Ambassadors for International Students, which is the new honor’s program for international students which started last spring continues to be of critical importance to retaining our internationals and helping orientate the new students. If you know an international student who needs assistance please advise them to contact their ambassador, or if you would like to nominate an excellent international student, please email [andy.vogel@washburn.edu](mailto:andy.vogel@washburn.edu) The PAIS regional list is as follows.

**China:** Xiangrui Zheng, Mairui Li, Jia Liu & Pui Fu Janice Ho

**Bahrain:** Hamad Nooh

**Russia:** Anzhelika Tolstikhina

**Japan:** Noriko Kubo

**Paraguay:** Dario Munoz Poletti

**Nepal:** Bikky Sah

**South Korea:** Hyoung il Kim & Minji Jung

**Saudi Arabia:** Maram Alsharif



## Features

### International Student Places First in Nall Speak Off

By Stephen Doubledee  
Speak-Off Coordinator  
Assistant Director Forensics/Lecturer  
Communication Studies

The Nall Speak Off was held by the Communication Department Fall 2015. Each semester, the top one to three speakers are selected from each Washburn University public speaking course to represent their respective classes in this competition. Finalists for this semester's competition are listed below in their respective order of placing and with their respective topics:

1. Yue Li (China) -"Meditation"
2. Meg Calvert-"Yoga"
3. Brooke Peele-"Slam Poetry"
4. Connor Dougan-"Controversial Theater"
5. Ally Rogers-"Celiac Disease"
6. Matt Pflughoeft-"Marijuana"

## Short Term Scholars Join WU Faculty

### My Experience at Washburn University

By Alexandra Kaplunenko  
Siberia, Russia

While traveling abroad, no matter how prepared you are for a new culture and people who are different from you, there will always be something unexpected that you will come across. When traveling for scientific purposes it is not just the cultural aspect but also the educational aspect as well. In this essay, if one can call it so, I want to focus on what the environment is like at



Washburn University, and how it differs from the University of Irkutsk. At least I will try to explain it the way I see it.

To give a better understanding of my surprise and excitement about being here, in Washburn, I should probably start with describing the University of Irkutsk, and the way in which the process of education is conducted therein; three aspects can be distinguished here: the student's aspect, the professor's aspect and the environmental aspect.

The student's aspect includes the way educational processes are organized, scheduling issues, the division into groups, and the decision as to which major to choose. This is the first point in which the differences will be rather dramatic. Russian universities do not give students a choice as soon as they apply for a certain major. It is the very process of applying that determines your future schedule, and that means the division into groups. In other words from the very beginning you are appointed to a certain group and these are people you will be studying with for five (it is four now) years. If you have problems with your group-mates – either put up with it, or drop out.

However, if you are lucky enough to build good relationships with others – your student life will be wonderful. A set group means that anytime you need help – you will immediately receive it, if something happens in your life – there are always your group-mates to help, if you don't understand something during the class – someone will always help you to look into it. You celebrate all the holidays together and by the time of your graduation you consider all of them your friends. Very often even after graduation many people from one group continue to work together – that is how strong those relations can be.

One of the most unpleasant things about Russian system of education is that you cannot choose classes you want to go to. That is what I really enjoyed about America as a whole – the choice. It is you who will decide what kind of a specialist you want to be and what classes you are interested in. Seven years ago, I applied for the University of Irkutsk in the desperate hope that there would be no mathematics and no informatics, subjects I was not really good at. How

wrong I was. If it was just for the first year it would have probably been fine, but I suffered through it for five years. So for me personally, the very idea of choice at Washburn University seems wonderful. Sometimes, however, I think that it probably would not have been the best decision for the majority of Russians as many just do not know what to choose, so the decision made for them seems kind of a way out. Adding to this point, there is a set schedule in Russian universities, and you are supposed to be present at all the classes on the list. Usually there are around three or four classes a day – an hour and a half each. In the University of Irkutsk the classes usually start at 8 a.m. which means that you are done with lectures and seminars by 1 p.m. (3 p.m. if there are more than three classes a day). This is the positive side of the Russian education system – you have practically the whole day for yourself.

What really matters to me, especially now, after gaining experience as a teacher, is the professor's aspect. I actually felt a little envious when I saw how professors work here and the treatment they receive. What I mean is – professors have their own studies where they can see students in case there is a problem, where they can actually work in peace, where they can keep all the educational materials they use for their lectures. In Russia there is just one room for all the professors within one specialty. Sometimes there is not even a place to sit - not to mention, that there is practically no way for student consultations - because the department room is always overcrowded. I was so very surprised at first, when I was “granted” my own office! I thought it was just because I was a foreigner or for some relative reason. Now I know that every professor has his/her “personal space”. This is the thing I wish we could learn from Americans – more respect for professors. It is very crucial also in terms of the level of education. The better conditions a professor has the better they will be prepared for a class, the better they can pass their knowledge to students.

And last, but certainly not least, is the point that seems to be of a special interest – the environment. Here, at Washburn University life seems more sedate – no real running about, and no overcrowded halls. Partially it is due to the fact, that students of

different majors study in different buildings. It is so very convenient and good! Such a division “distributes” students all over the campus and creates the impression of a quiet and serene environment. This impression is also created by the class schedule. When you are free to choose the classes you want to apply for it means that there is not a huge flow of students at once. Each has his/her own schedule, thus students come to the university building at different times – it might also be called an interesting way to “distribute” students. I really like this calm and neat tempo of life when you have time to think issues over, you have that precious time for yourself – something you really cherish. I cannot but mention here the very idea of campus. To my mind, it is an extremely convenient way of organizing the educational system. The university I come from does not really have it, which is very sad. Having everything a student needs in one place – the best thing is to improve the level of education and give students stimulus not just to master their knowledge in different fields, but also allow access to sports, investigate more, and develop their personality.

In conclusion, I want to say that each question, whatever topic it touches, has two sides. In this essay I have mentioned some of them that seemed of special interest. The opportunity for students to choose seems one of the most controversial (it is attractive in some ways, but will never work for people of certain character) but at the same time most impressive in terms of learning and experiencing something new. The way professors work here and the way they are treated made me a little envious, for me that is the model of how it should be. The general idea of environment corresponded to my character 100% - I enjoyed it more than anything else. At the end, I cannot but say that I am happy to be here and live the peaceful and calm life of Washburn University. I am still (and, probably, will always be) amazed by the choice the students have here, by the opportunities the university (as an educational institution) and university campus provide, by the advantages American professors have and the way they are treated. I am thankful for all the warmth I have experienced here. This has been an experience I will cherish forever.

## My Experience at Washburn University

By Lina Xu, China



I came from Wuhan University of Science and Technology, China, and have been at Washburn for six months. Being a bilingual teacher majoring in marketing, most of all I wanted to improve my English skill, so I sat in different classes. And my stay at Washburn offered me many valuable opportunities. As I am about to say

goodbye to Washburn, I want to say thanks to all my friends here.

First, I want to say thanks to the International House. The iHouse builds the bridge for all international students to their American dreams, providing all kinds of activities to mingle with Kansas residents. I will never forget the evening I spent in a farm in September. Stars were sparking in the sky, so clearly. We sat around the bonfire, tasting the delicious food, singing the gentlest songs with guitar. On another farm we played a game, our team got really nervous after an hour of circling in a corn maze and we felt joy when the exit suddenly appeared. And I also remember sitting on the hay bales, humming in the twilight, and the late autumn breeze bringing me the happiness of childhood. The trail of searching buffaloes taught me there was a kind of beauty named "broad farmland". And on my first visit to the Topeka State Capitol Building, touching the famous wall painting and observing the state senate meeting, I felt I was in a dream. All of this happened as if yesterday and the authentic Kansas life really impressed me.

Second, I should say thank you to all Washburn professors. I love the classes at Washburn so much! With only 12-30 classmates in each class, you can have the full attention of your professor. Meanwhile, the professors are so excellent. They are good at stimulating the students' desire to learn and leading the students to dive into the academic sea. Some of them are charming by their personality and rich experiences, while others are attractive by being easygoing and humorous. I really enjoyed my days as a student here. For each student, it is easy to find your passion in study and research.

Last, I want to thank all my classmates at Washburn. Together with you, I studied at Mabee Library deep into the night. Sitting with you, I enjoyed the football and the baseball competitions. Because of your encouragement, I was persistent in my workouts at the swimming pool and gym. Because of your invitations, I played midnight madness and experienced a real Halloween night... so many precious memories!

Today, the first snow of February makes the campus look like the realm of Narnia. It was my pleasure to board the trip to Kansas and to see the chronicles of Washburn. All the people in Washburn are so kind and I have had such a special experience. Goodbye my Washburn, may God bless all Ichabods in finding their faith and love here.



International Class of Fall 2014.

# Congratulations!

## 2014 WU Study Abroad Photo Essay Contest *And the winners are...*



### **First Place - \$100.00**

**Taylor Moore**, Senior, Psychology Major

"Coming Back to Life: Changing Perspective, Changing Lives"

WU Faculty-led Program: *Costa Rica Service Learning*, Winter Break 2014

### **Second Place - \$75.00**

**Stephen Stocks**, WU Law Student

"Ci Vediamo Presto"

Law Program: *Bologna, Italy*, Summer 2014



### **Third Place - \$50.00**

**Rachel Beiker**, Junior, Biology Major

"Discovery of Myself through Nicaragua"

WU Faculty-led Program: *Nicaragua Service Learning Experience*, Winter Break 2014

### **Honorable Mention**

**Stacey Korte**, Senior, Health Services Administration Major

"Follow My Feet"

WU Faculty-led Program: *International Healthcare Systems and European Culture*, Summer 2014



Click [here](#) to see the award winning photos and essays.

The Office of International Programs would like to thank all the students who participated in the contest as well as this year's judges: Jason Berryman (Topeka West High School Photography Instructor), Andy Vogel (WU International Student Recruitment & Retention), and Sue Taylor-Owens (WU Instructional Designer).