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International Activities

Prof. 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.

Dr. Bob Beatty (Political Science) spent thirty days in Ireland and the United Kingdom as part of his summer 2015 Sweet Sabbatical. In Ireland, Beatty studied and observed the campaigning that led up to the May 22nd national referendum on whether to legalize same-sex marriage (“Yes” won with over 60% of the vote). In the United Kingdom he spent time talking to newly elected members of parliament from the UK’s May 7th election.

Political Science students Jack Van Dam and John Shively experienced elections in the United Kingdom first-hand by participating and observing campaigns of all three major parties in the run-up to the May 7, 2015 UK parliamentary vote. The two students were in the UK as part of their Washburn Transformational Experience project which focused on examining how British elections differ from U.S. elections. Shively and Van Dam observed the Labour Party campaign in Croydon, England, the Conservative campaign in Buckinghamshire, and the Liberal-Democrat campaign in Sheffield. Their experiences were also documented in a feature article in the Topeka Capital Journal.

Dr. Alex Glashauser spent the summer of 2015 as a Visiting Scholar at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. He conducted research on international law and its interaction with the Alien Tort Statute, participating in scholarship discussion groups about that and other topics.

Dr. Norma Juma (School of Business) attended The International Conference held on February 23-24, 2015 in Pune, India at Symbiosis International University. She presented a paper entitled “The Hand in Hand’s Story of Making Micro Finance Work for the Bottom of the Pyramid” which she co-authored with Jennifer Sequeira, University of Southern Mississippi.

Dr. Juma also attended the International Academy of African Business and Development (IAABD). The conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya from May 13-16, 2015 and it brought together scholars, professionals, and graduate students from across the globe who are interested or actively engaged in the research and practice of business and economic development issues in the continent of Africa. She presented two papers, the first entitled “Identity Strategies of Immigrant Entrepreneurs: The Case of Indian Immigrants in East Africa” (coauthors Eileen Kwaresa and Diva Das, Bryant University). The second entitled “Social Bricolage: A Comparative Study of Three Regions in the Developing Countries” was coauthored with Joy Olabisi, Rochester Institute of Technology and Jennifer Sequeira, University of Southern Mississippi.

In June and July, Dr. KM Kwong was invited as a Visiting Professor to teach a summer course on social work practice and DSM-5 at Xiamen University’s (China) Social Work Department. The participants included the MSW and Ph.D. students and the local social workers. This meaningful visit was supported by the Office of International Programs. Besides giving lectures, Dr. Kwong had the opportunity to meet with different professors and students as well as social workers and agency directors after class to learn more about the challenges in the social work field and the recent changes of government requirements and policies on social work curricula and the teaching profession in China. This trip definitely opened up relationships with the department and the field agencies in Xiamen and also helped build the groundwork on micro practice knowledge and skills in mental health.
Dr. Klaus Ladstaetter (Philosophy) visited India from July 10th to August 11th, 2015. The main purpose of the trip was to teach a Philosophy of Language class in summer school at Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts (SSLA) in Pune, Maharashtra.

According to Aditya Nain, Faculty Head of the SSLA International Cell, the class “was a success, given the difficulty and technical nature of the material”. Furthermore, several ways to improve cooperation between SSLA and Washburn were discussed with Professor Nain.

Besides teaching, Dr. Ladstaetter enjoyed visiting the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and some landmarks of Dehli – all of which immensely contributed to his deeper understanding of Jainist, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, and Christian religions, their interrelations, and their overall impact on Indian culture.

Dr. Ladstaetter would like to extend many thanks to the Office of International Programs and to the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences at Washburn; without their support this enlightening and transformative journey would not have happened.

Dr. Judith McConnell-Farmer (Education) wrote one chapter, “Diversity in the Himalayan Mountains: Nepal, a Country of Sharp Contrasts: Geography, Culture, Society and the Education of its Children”. In Diversity in Early Childhood Education. P. Cook (Ed). UK: Cambridge Press. (In press). She directed the Fifth Annual Study Abroad in Belize Program, Department of Education, from December 28, 2014-January 12, 2015. Twenty participants tutored children and volunteered in an orphanage in Belize City. They tutored in an island elementary and middle school, 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. The study abroad program was held in Belize City and Caye Caulker, Belize, Central America.

She directed The Oxford Round Table: Childhood Education and Issues. Harris Manchester College.

Oxford University. Oxford, UK., July 19-22, 2015. Twenty-five participants representing the countries of Australia, Canada, China, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Zambia were in attendance including participants from 14 states within the USA. Eighteen papers and reflective discussions were presented at the Oxford Round Table. The focus of the Oxford Round Table was on the topic of the education and trends in early childhood education.

Dr. McConnell-Farmer directed The Oxford Round Table: Women and Education. Harris Manchester College. Oxford University. Oxford, UK., March 22-26, 2015. Sixteen participants representing the countries of Canada, Argentina, Australia, Japan, Philippines and the United States were in attendance including participants from eight states within the USA. Ten papers and reflective discussions were presented at the Oxford Round Table. The focus of the Oxford Round Table was on the topic of the internationalization of women in educational settings.

She directed The Oxford Round Table: Early Childhood, Language, Literature and the Arts. Harris Manchester College. Oxford University. Oxford, UK. March 15-19, 2015. Thirty-nine participants representing the countries of Australia, Canada, Croatia, Nigeria, The Czech Republic, Singapore, The Emerits Republic, Lebanon, Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates were in attendance including participants from 12 states within the USA. Twenty-nine papers and reflective discussions were presented at the Oxford Round Table. The focus of the Oxford Round Table was on the topic of the globalization of early childhood education, language, literature and the arts.

Dr. McConnell-Farmer presented the following papers at international conferences and one national conference:


McConnell-Farmer, J.L. & Cook, P. “Belize, Central America: Young Children’s Rights to an Education”. World OMEP 64th Conference,


Her international service includes the following:

Advisory Board Member of the Forum, Journal of the Oxford Round Table. Manchester College, Oxford University. Oxford, UK; Board of Directors.

International Member. Symposium Programme Committee. The Belizean International Symposium on Education. Belize City, Belize, Central America.

Advisor to the Nepal Education Support Trust USA (NESTUSA).

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.

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.


Dr. John Paul (Sociology/Anthropology) took a group of ten students to Iceland for a ten-day summer study abroad program. The students spent most of their days at the University of Iceland, in the capital city of Reykjavik, with university faculty and community activists learning about the political economy, the criminal justice system, and human and civil rights in Iceland. Additionally, students also met with various members of national and local government, including parliamentary members, city officials and various musicians, artists, and other cultural ambassadors.
Away from the classroom, students visited geysirs, viewed magnificent waterfalls and volcanoes and hiked a glacier. Other offbeat activities included whale watching, horseback riding, and swimming in geothermal pools.

Finally, Reykjavik is also renowned as one of Europe’s most lively cities where the students (and their professor) enjoyed the friendly pub and entertainment scene along with its 24-hour summer sunlight.

Thanks to a Sweet Sabbatical, Courtney Sullivan (Modern Languages) spent nine days in Montréal and Québec, Canada shooting video of historical monuments and cultural events such as the Fête nationale du Québec. She will incorporate the videos into her lectures on Francophone Canada in her language and civilization courses. She also scoped out potential sites to visit in a possible future travel/study course to French Canada. She then traveled to Aix-en-Provence, France to complete a 10-day long Professional Workshop for Professors of French at IAU College. Highlights included a fantastic linguistic and cultural immersion during a homestay (her house mother prepared several delicious Provencal dishes), a guided architectural tour around the city by an art historian/ archeologist, a dégustation of Provencal wines led by international wine expert Amy Mumma, a phonetics course led by a professional singer, and a visit to the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations in Marseille. She also spent nine days in Paris where she visited the Mémorial de la Shoah, le Musée Jean Moulin, and le Musée de la Résistance as possible sites to visit if the Women in WWII course she has co-taught in the past with Dr. Kerry Wynn is taught as a travel-study course. She also spent six days at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France checking references and completing the last bit of research on The Evolution of the French Courtesan Novel (forthcoming in 2016). She will deliver a Brown Bag lecture on Aix-en-Provence in the Spring of 2016.

Professor Yeqiang Wang (Art) did research on mixed-media paintings in museums in Madrid, Barcelona, Venice, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris and London during his Sweet Sabbatical from June 4 to August 5, 2015.

David Winchester (Serials Librarian, Mabee Library) spent June 3-July 2 on a Washburn University Sweet Sabbatical with a focus on World War I. He spent time in London, Cambridge, Ieper (Belgium), and La Boisselle (France). His focus was to visit British World War I military cemeteries near Ieper, and to then concentrate on those cemeteries along the Somme near La Boisselle. He visited some 80 cemeteries. From the photos he took he prepared a power point in which he spoke to the establishment of the Imperial War Graves Commission and the Creation of the British Cemeteries and Monuments in France. The title of his presentation was called, “Historic Remembrance, 1st July 1916, the Somme and its Cemeteries”.

Dean’s Report

College of Arts and Sciences
Laura Stephenson, Dean

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) actively promotes international study and programs for our students and faculty. Four of our students had the opportunity to study abroad during the spring 2015 semester: Spanish majors Tirzah Richards and Jessie Gayner studied at universities in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Spain, respectively; Political Science majors Jack Van Dam and John Shively observed the 2015 UK Parliamentary elections in London. CAS Faculty presented internationally: Professor Nan Sun (Computer Science) traveled to China to present workshops at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics while Music Professor
Tom Morgan performed as the jazz big band drummer with the IHS World Orchestra in Israel. Summer is a wonderful time to study and travel internationally and many of our students took advantage of the opportunities offered by our faculty: Art Professors Kelly Watt and Marydorsey Wanless organized a trip to Peru which included visits to Machu Picchu and the Amazon basin as well as the opportunity to see ancient and modern Peruvian art. Music Professor Gordon McQuere’s students were immersed in Russian music and culture with stops including Moscow and St. Petersburg. Sociology Professor John Paul’s class explored social inequality in Iceland. Political Science Professor Linsey Moddelmog headed a study abroad program to the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands to study domestic politics of European nations and international relations. Spanish Lecturer Georgina Tenny led a group of students to Salamanca, Spain to learn more about Spanish culture and language. Theatre Professor Paul Prece reprised his popular class taking students to see theatre productions and the arts of London. CAS students and faculty certainly traveled the world in 2015!

School of Business
Russell E. Smith, Associate Dean

Curriculum innovations in one of the School’s signature international courses, BU 406 International Business and Entrepreneurial Experience, were the major international accomplishments of the School of Business in spring-summer 2015. BU 406 has been offered every spring by Dr. Michael Stoica since its inception in 2007 in cooperation with long-time partner the School of Management at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology (WUST). In this course, Washburn and WUST students form teams and work together for most of the spring using social media, conducting research, gathering information, and analyzing the Chinese companies that are their clients. Then, each May, the Washburn students travel to China to meet their teammates and to finish and defend their projects. The teams continue to work in situ and to finalize their analysis and detail their recommendations. While in China they add cultural experience to the business experience gained and visit Shanghai, Beijing, and Hong Kong, as well as Xian or Macao in some years. The two innovations extend the participation of international partners in BU 406 to include students from two Belgian universities, the Catholic University of Leuven and PXL University College in Hasselt, thereby providing a richer experience for Washburn students. In the Washburn business curriculum, BU 406 is a business elective for all majors in the BBA degree program and can be used to meet the language/international experience requirement of the new BBA major area of concentration in international business.

The first innovation was the inclusion of students from a third school, PXL. University College, in the project teams in the spring 2015 China offering. PXL University College is a long-time partner through the Magellan Exchange. The U.S.-Belgian-Chinese mixed teams worked together on their projects from the beginning of the semester, using social media to overcome the challenges of working across three continents and widely separated time zones. In May the Washburn students met their Belgian colleagues in China and, following the established cultural itinerary, together visited Shanghai, Beijing, Wuhan, and Hong Kong. The tri-national teams worked together in Wuhan to visit the companies, finish the analysis, and formalize the conclusions, and to defend the project in a workshop where their client companies were participating.

Organizationally, the teams worked for five Chinese companies and included eight Washburn students, seven PXL students, and 17 WUST students. In addition to Dr. Stoica, participating faculty members included Professor Christoff Jans from PXL and Professor Yunchuan Zhang from WUST and his team of six faculty members who provided support and guidance to the individual teams.

Dean-level sponsorship of the tri-national offering of BU 406 originated in the June 2014 visit of Washburn Business Dean, David Sollars, to Belgium.
and was solidified with a Skype meeting of the three deans in early 2015, including Dean David Sollars from Washburn, Dean Xudong Deng from WUST, and Jean-Pierre Segers from PXL.

The second innovation within BU 406 was the development of a model where the two-country student team worked together in both countries. In this case, the partner school was Catholic University of Leuven. The student team worked for two companies in parallel, a U.S. company (Hill’s Pet Nutrition) and a Belgian company (ACE Packaging Company in Leuven, Belgium). The work was done throughout the spring semester, by means of social media and in situ. Belgian students traveled to Topeka at the beginning of March, together with the Washburn students, worked on a problem defined by the client. After leaving Topeka, the Belgian students continued to work with the Washburn students to finalize the project for Hill’s. In parallel, the team started working on the Belgian company project. The Washburn students traveled to Belgium in June where they finalized the work for the Belgian client and presented their findings in Leuven in front of an audience of instructors, students, and local businesses. The class had a cultural/business component with visits to Brussels, Bruges, Gent, Luxembourg, and Paris.

Organizationally, a single team was made up of six students from each school for a total of twelve. The responsible faculty member from PXL was Professor Robrecht Van Goolen, who accompanied the Belgian team member to Topeka for the Hill’s project in March. Dean-level sponsorship of this version of BU 406 came out of the June 2014 visit of Washburn business dean David Sollars to Belgium, where he met with his counterpart, Dean Luc van Hille of KU/University College Leuven. Partnership with universities in Belgium extends beyond BU 406. Instructors from the University College Leuven and Washburn are adjusting their international marketing syllabi to create more space in the calendar for Skype-facilitated joint classroom activities such as shared guest speakers and so that students can work together on international projects. Washburn and Leuven students in teams will develop country reports and debate cases throughout the spring semester 2016 supported by Skype and the internet. The Washburn School of Business continues its undergraduate exchange student activities with a third Belgian business school, the HEC at the University of Liege (a Magellan partner), and is in conversations to receive advanced graduate students as well.

Recent partner-school visitors to the School of Business include Dean Edit Lukacs from the University of the Lower Danube in Galatz, Romania, on her second visit to Washburn, for a week at the beginning of the semester (August 15-23, 2015) and also Associate Dean Vedat Bal from Celal Bayar University in Manisa, Turkey, on his first visit to Washburn and second visit from a representative of his university, also during the first week of classes.

From the Desk of …

Kelly McClendon
Lecturer/Coordinator, Intensive English Program

Greetings! This past spring and summer have been both busy and exciting. WU’s own Andy Vogel and Sean Stacey joined the Intensive English Faculty as adjuncts. That rounded us out to a team of 13. Also, the spring saw a new program start that provides a semester of preparation for students coming out of the Intensive English Program and going straight to a master’s in education. Congratulations to those who completed the semester and are starting their graduate work this fall! In February and March, over 40 Japanese students visited for a short study abroad term. Also in spring, the Intensive English Program submitted its program self-study to a specialized accreditation agency. And don’t forget summer! This summer we had our largest summer group come through from Japan and South Korea. Almost 40 students studied English language and culture here and toured the region.
Lately I was struck by a student’s mother’s gift to International Programs: a calligraphy painting with a play on words for ‘I-House’, which is the nickname for the International House. In Japanese and Chinese a word with the same sound as our word ‘I’ means love. Come check it out in the front desk area. I would say that love describes what my coworkers and all the instructors pour out to the international students.

Heidi Staerkel
Coordinator of International Student Services

As many of you know, since 1980, Washburn has welcomed students from Fukuoka University, in Fukuoka, Japan, to our campus for a short-term exchange program in the spring. This year, we were very pleased to also welcome 11 students from Chiba University of Commerce (CUC), in Chiba, Japan, during the same exchange period (February 14-March 8, 2015).

The Chiba students are majoring in Business at CUC and were able to visit a local business in Topeka, attend English and culture classes and visit various local points of interest during their stay. The highlight of the exchange program, however, is always the host family weekend. Students stay with a local family from Friday evening through Sunday evening, becoming a part of the family and sharing in their weekend activities. Students greatly value this opportunity to connect with local families in a meaningful way, practice their English and experience what “real American life” is like. We are so appreciative of our host families and how they warmly welcome these exchange students into their homes! If you are interested in learning more about weekend hosting opportunities through our office, please send me an e-mail at heidi.staerkel@washburn.edu.

Our office would like to recognize and congratulate our Spring/Summer 2015 graduates:

- Bahodur Abdukholiqov (Tajikistan) – MBA
- Tao Lei (China) – MBA
- Yaqi Tang (China) – MAcc (Master of Accountancy)
- Erliang Zhou (China) – MLS (Master of Liberal Studies)
- Murtadha Al Ali (Saudi Arabia) – BBA in General Business
- Ali Al Hassan (Saudi Arabia) – BBA in International Business and Management
- Jingqiu Deng (China) – BBA in Finance and Marketing
- Samvid Desai (Canada) – BS in Biology
- Binying Fang (China) – BBA in Marketing and Management
- Eduardo Guillen Sucre (Venezuela) – BS in Physics
- Minji Jung (South Korea) – BHS in Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Won Kim (South Korea) – BSN in Nursing
- Mairui Li (China) – BBA in Accounting and Finance
- Jia Liu (China) – BBA in Accounting and Finance
- Diego Morales (Paraguay) – BA in Mass Media
- Pedro Rolon Burt (Paraguay) – BA in Mass Media
- Yafei Wang (China) – BBA in Finance
- Yujie Zai (China) – BA in Mass Media
- Heng Zhong (China) – BBA in Finance and Economics

We would especially like to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the following graduates who received Latin and departmental honors:

- Summa Cum Laude: Jia Liu, School of Business Scholar
- Magna Cum Laude: Yuie Zai
- Cum Laude: Samvid Desai, Biology Departmental Honors; Minji Jung; Heng Zhong, School of Business Scholar
Tina Williams  
Study Abroad Coordinator

Study abroad connects the classroom to the world. Last year over 200 Washburn University students combined academic rigor with experiential learning through immersion in dozens of international destinations. Read about three WU graduates who made the most of their education abroad by continuing to apply their international experience to their education, career and lives in the Study Abroad Alum section of the newsletter. (page 22)

2015 Faculty-led Programs: Washburn University Faculty developed a dozen programs which departed during the spring and summer of 2015.

Spring:
- Haiti: International Medical Service – Professor Hillary Lolley
- United Kingdom: 2015 UK Elections – Dr. Bob Beatty

Summer:
- Barbados: Law Program – Prof. Tonya Kowalski
- Belgium & China: International Business and Entrepreneurship Experience – Dr. Michael Stoica
- England: Art & Theater in London – Dr. Paul Prece
- Iceland: Sociology in Iceland – Dr. John Paul
- Peru: Land of the Incas – Professor MaryDorsey Wanless & Dr. Kelly Watt
- Russia: Music in Russia – Dr. Gordon McQuere & Dr. Dmitri Nizovtsev
- Scotland: Comparative Justice – Dr. Tony Palbicke & Dr. Patricia Dahl
- Explore South Korea at Hallym University – Dr. Sangyoub Park
- Spain: Live & Learn in Salamanca – Professor Georgina Tenny
- United Kingdom, Belgium & the Netherlands: European Capitals – Dr. Linsey Moddelmog

Scholarships & Programs: The International Programs Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to students participating in the above mentioned programs. In addition students were awarded scholarships for individual 2015 summer programs in the following countries: Australia, Canada, China, England, Germany, Japan and Spain. To learn more about WU Study Abroad visit: https://washburn.studioabroad.com

Andy Vogel  
International Student Recruitment and Retention Coordinator

Three hundred! Last spring Washburn University had its highest international enrollment in its 150 years as a university.

International Programs largest numbers of students are still Saudi and Chinese but it is also diversifying its international student body with more Nepali, Japanese and South Koreans. WU is also attracting students from Johnson County Community College and Butler Community College with its new in-state diversity tuition waiver launched this spring.

International Summer Institute students. Photo submitted by Andy Vogel.

The International Summer Institute at Washburn University also had a record breaking number of students attending. The nine week program is looking to launch its new web page this fall and hopes to continue to see growth next summer.

I had the opportunity to attend the National Conference of the Association of international Educators in Boston this spring. It was a great opportunity for me to learn about professional development and implement some new strategies for student engagement at WU with our Presidential Ambassadors for International Students (PAIS) and the International Club.
Mark your calendars! The Celebration of Cultures will be this fall, October 30th, at White Concert Hall. Don’t miss it, as it’s sure to be another great night showcasing our students’ talents.

Topeka METRO has approved to double our capacity of the red bike-share bikes this year, so look forward to that. A special thanks to the host families, program assistants, program leaders, staff and organizations that have made this record breaking semester possible! Cheers!

Special tribute to Nepal: On April 25th (a day after the photo below) an earthquake of 8.0 magnitude hit Nepal and killed more than 9,000 people and injured more than 23,000. It continues to be hit daily with strong aftershocks. Washburn University will continue to stand by the people of Nepal and support our students through this difficult time in rebuilding its nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Nepal.

Presidential Ambassadors for International Students: The Presidential Ambassadors for International Students, or PAIS, met last spring to discuss initiatives to internationalize Washburn University and make the lives of the international students here better.

Most recently PAIS went through a day long Health and Safety Orientation training with the WU Police, WU Safety Planning & Emergency Manager Ron Rutherford and Office of International Programs staff. PAIS learned valuable insights into student’s success and safety and then provided a Health and Safety Orientation in their native language to the new international students arriving to WU. They also have been heavily involved in receiving, placing, and orienting the new students to school. Special thanks goes out to them for their efforts.

“Internationalists for the Future” is not only the exalted title of the new scholarship that the Office of International Programs can offer to students, but a dignified reflection of the life-long story of Allyn O. Lockner and Barbara J. McCandless, the founders of the endowment, and the endowment’s higher purpose. Mr. Lockner has been a supporter of Washburn School of Nursing and Physical Therapy program for a number of years as well as an active participant in the international life on campus, establishing multiple scholarships as a way of appreciation of the significant events of the past and the present.

The “Internationalists for the Future” endowment shall provide financial assistance to students in their final year of school with a GPA of 3.5 and above, that are properly enrolled, have good academic standing at Washburn University. The award may be used toward tuition, fees, books, living expenses as well as international travel expenses.
According to the Washburn Foundation, “For Allyn Lockner and Barbara J. McCandless, this scholarship is an investment in students from the United States of America and from other countries throughout the world who are promising future internationalists. They believe that internationalists can and will contribute to international communication, understanding, and collaboration that prevents or resolves international conflicts. They believe this scholarship is an extension of the investments others have made in them when they were students. The vision of Allyn and Barbara is that students who benefit from this scholarship will, in the future, also invest in promising future internationalists.”

The story dates back in time when a young farmer and high school student from South Dakota, Allyn Lockner, was struck with a skeletal muscle paralysis due to a disease of motor nerves that control the movements of the body which resulted in a hospitalization for over 20 months. During that time, Lockner was cared for by nurses that played a big role in his recovery as well as a physical therapist that helped him beyond physical healing by persisting in Lockner’s enrollment into the School of Liberal Arts even though the idea was initially resisted by him. “My dad told me he would set me up in a shoe-repairing job in my hometown”, Allyn says with a bit of a smirk. With the initial insistence of his physical therapist, however, Lockner decided to receive a higher education which resulted in a bachelor’s degree in Economics and Accounting. He earned his masters degree from the University of South Dakota in Accounting and Economics, and eventually attained his PhD in Economics in 1959. ”My physical therapist had a major influence in my life beyond rehabilitation. She took an interest in me, coming from a family where higher education was never discussed.”, Lockner recalls.

Upon graduation, Dr. Lockner was presented with career options in diverse fields. Throughout his career he held positions as a Director of Research, Financial Economist for the US Bureau of Census in Washington D.C., and Professor of Economics for South Dakota State University where he met his wife, Barbara McCandless. Since their marriage, the couple has had a variety of opportunities to travel around the world and the United States. During his year long sabbatical at South Dakota State, the couple spent two months traveling around Europe. In 1973, Allyn became Secretary of Environmental Protection for the state of South Dakota followed by a position as a Deputy Director of the Office of Surface Mining. Dr. Lockner also worked in the Kansas Water Office as well as Social and Rehabilitation Services. Since his retirement in 2001, he has written a book on state and local government reform and has spent the past two years doing research on clean water resources in the state of Kansas. Barbara McCandless has held positions as an Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Federal Tax Preparation.

“Throughout my life the world has always been engaged in wars, trying to settle the disputes between countries”, begins Dr. Lockner when explaining the main reason for his contributions. “The weapons that are available to countries to fight wars have escalated and have become far more destructive to the point of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.”. In his opinion, society must find better ways of settling the differences among nations, which begins with cultural education of the young generation, raising the chances of eliminating misunderstandings in times of international disagreements. “The best way I can do it at this stage of my life is to set up an endowment at Washburn University. The endowment is called “The Allyn O. Lockner and Barbara J. McCandless Endowed Internationalists for the Future Fund”.

Barbara J. McCandless and Allyn O. Lockner. Photo taken by Peggy Cramer.
Students Offer Care Abroad
By Brie Geffre
Office of the Dean
School of Applied Studies
(Article originally published in the
SAS Spring 2015 Newsletter)

Radiologic Technology lecturer teams with Topeka mission group to meet Washburn Transformational Experience goals and Haiti’s medical needs.

In November, lecturer Hillary Lolley led a group of four students and one fellow faculty member to Haiti on the first of what she hopes will be many Washburn Transformational Experience (WTE) trips as faculty advisor.

Lolley, a lecturer and coordinator for the Radiologic Technology program in the Allied Health Department, organized the trip in partnership with Haiti Lifeline. This Topeka organization travels to Haiti twice a year, taking medical teams to Lifeline Orphanage, in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti, under the leadership of Crystal Smith, Lifeline’s medical care coordinator.

Students assisted in treating the children in the orphanage, set up a free clinic to treat local villagers, and traveled to nearby Port-au-Prince to set up a temporary clinic in a local church.

Haiti does not have a well-developed health care system; any medical treatment is fee-based, and patients must provide their own supplies to the medical professionals. Students were able to treat patients’ current medical issues, as well as offer some preventative care through basic health education in the areas of hygiene and routine care.

Lolley, a 2005 graduate of Washburn’s radiology program, wanted to provide students with a practical mission experience. While many mission trips require a long-term commitment, anywhere from three months to a year, the students in her program usually can’t commit to that length of time. However, trips with Haiti Lifeline are only seven to nine days.

“I wanted to use an established organization that could provide students with a short-term experience,” Lolley said. “Through Haiti Lifeline, the kids at the orphanage get medical care every six months. On return trips, you’re able to see growth and progress in their overall health.”

Through WTE Allied Health, students can apply for this International Medical Experience. Once students have completed the application process and have been selected for the trip, they enroll in AL390, Special Topics “The Haitian Experience.” In this three-credit course, students conduct scholarly research on the economic climate, health care infrastructure and cultural beliefs of Haiti. Students also attend lectures that prepare students for working with underprivileged populations.

“[Hillary] did a great job preparing students to be of great help,” said Matt Vincent, Haiti Lifeline treasurer.

Both he and Lolley said they hope to continue to grow the partnership between Washburn University
and Haiti Lifeline. Currently, Haiti Lifeline reserves four to six positions on each of its medical missions for Washburn students and faculty and would like that number to grow as capacity allows.

Lolley and another group of students planned to travel to Haiti from April 24 through May 1. Vincent described Lolley as energetic, determined and kind. He said he believes her work in bringing Allied Health students to Haiti has given those students a new outlook on health care.

**We are not in Kansas any More**

*By Dr. Sangyoub Park*
*Sociology & Anthropology*

There was a little bit of extra excitement and nervousness in the air because this time I was taking students to my homeland. This was the very first summer study abroad program to South Korea and I had 12 participants including non-Ichabods. From the inception, I was confident that this would be a great learning experience for students since I developed an excellent program supported by the host school, Hallym University in Chun-cheon, Korea. What made this program even better was that students were able to receive two scholarships from Washburn and Hallym, respectively.

The program was based on lecture, hands-on activities, and field trips. During the two-week program, the students discussed a wide range of topics such as Korean culture, economy, and politics not to mention learning Korean language. They had the opportunity to experience Korean culture firsthand through multifarious activities including making kimchi, fermented spicy napa cabbage, and playing the jang-go, a traditional musical instrument. They learned how to become K-Pop dancers as well. Most of all, they made numerous field trips to various areas such as Seor-ak Mountain, the East Sea, Nami Island, the Korean Folk Village, Hite Jinro Brewery, Gangnam, the Blue House (a Korean version of the White House) and the list goes on. Some students even made the trip to the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone). Oh, I almost forgot - they watched *The Painters*, an innovative art performance. I was deliriously happy in that I was able to entertain my students and a live audience on stage, and there was no YouTube video or Instagram of me on that stage! Whatever happens in Korea, stays in Korea!

It was a great pleasure to witness how students were transformed through studying abroad. For example, they became experts on using chopsticks, appreciated a taste of kimchi, could say something in Korean, and understood multifaceted aspects of Korea. Korea can be simultaneously very traditional and hyper-modern, tranquil and turbulent, or static and dynamic. They begin to understand the true meaning of we-are-not-in-Kansas-any-more. Perhaps these are simply short-term impacts of study abroad, but this trip will make a great impact on their worldviews in the long run.

I am well aware that this study abroad program may be a once in a lifetime experience for the students. I did my best for them to have an educational and fun experience. Upon coming back to the States, they mentioned that they would like to revisit Korea and thanked me the memories they will not forget. It
becomes obvious that this study abroad was enriching and entertaining. It is no exaggeration to say that this was made possible through a collaboration of Washburn and Hallym. In fact, as an added bonus, 20 Korean students came to Washburn after our program. I hope these programs are the beginning of a long lasting relationship between the two schools. In particular, I hope more Washburn students can experience *kimchi-power* and Seoul, the city that never sleeps, in the coming year!

Attending a rehearsal of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra (one of the most prominent orchestras in the world) was another memorable highlight. Our students felt privileged to be able to look behind the scenes and see how some of the world’s best musicians get together to produce music of outstanding quality.

The musical aspect of the St. Petersburg portion of the program also included attending performances of Mahler’s Eighth’s Symphony, dubbed in the musical world “Symphony of a Thousand”, which was performed with the grandeur and showmanship so characteristic of Russian culture. And how can we forget the Swan Lake, the timeless ballet to a wonderful Tchaikovsky’s score, which has become almost a must for anyone visiting Russia?

A train ride through Russia’s countryside and spending three days in Petrozavodsk, a regional state capital 300 miles north of St. Petersburg, was quite a contrast to St. Petersburg’s grandeur, but nevertheless wonderful in its own right. This town, which we came to jokingly call “The Topeka of Northern Russia” was in fact twice as big as Topeka and boasted a rich musical life of its own. Many of us found stunning the fact that this midsize city houses its own music conservatory and not one but two professional orchestras! In Petrozavodsk, the group was given the chance to see the inner workings of a...
music school, a music college, but most of all we were grateful for the permission to attend performance exams in the conservatory. And the joint performance of the Folk and Symphony orchestras we happened to attend was truly unforgettable! We were also able to sit down with some of the local musicians over dinner and ask them all the numerous questions we had about what the life of a professional musician in Russia is truly like.

Our musical experiences in Moscow included a tour of the Bolshoi Theater and a visit to the Tchaikovsky house and museum. Performances that we heard and saw included an entirely sung service at the Christ the Redeemer Cathedral, a concert of Russian acapella singers, and a Tchaikovsky’s opera, “Eugene Onegin”.

Due to the small and therefore manageable group size, we could afford letting students pursue their specific interests within the field of music. Meaghan Hartley was interested in music therapy, and we were able to arrange – on a very short notice! – a meeting with one of the St. Petersburg music therapy center specialists. That woman, Natalya, generously gave her time to explain the specifics of the center’s activities and even conducted a demonstration therapy session for Meaghan.

On another occasion, Andrew Anderson and Drake Sackrider were able to attend a rehearsal of a Russian version of a small college jazz ensemble and interact with student musicians.

While the main focus of the program was on music, all three cities had a lot to offer in terms of cultural experiences. Both St. Petersburg and Moscow were at different times the country’s capitals therefore residences of Russian monarchs. Many cultural sites we visited seemed to emanate the rich Russian history. Hearing the Russian Orthodox chants inside richly decorated Russian churches, walking inside a palace formerly owned by Peter the Great, standing next to a famous painting at the Hermitage Art Museum, or seeing the burials of Russian tsars at the Moscow Kremlin or the Peter and Paul fortress all left an unforgettable impression on every program participant. There were also a night boat trip on the Neva river overlooking St. Petersburg’s artfully backlit waterfront and the museum of wooden architecture on the Kizhi Island, a world heritage site.

We enjoyed not only the touristic things but the everyday experiences: taking a sleeper train from Petrozavodsk to Moscow, enjoying the home cooked breakfast at a boutique hotel in St. Petersburg, or trying bear meat at the local ethnic restaurant in Petrozavodsk will never be forgotten. Taking a shot at Russian alphabet as well as words and phrases also produces many laughs and cheers within the group. Overall, the group’s mood stayed upbeat for the entire duration of the trip. We are also very happy to report that the trip was free of emergency situations. Furthermore, students reported in their post-program reflections that they felt quite safe throughout the trip and found Russians at large to be quite a friendly nation. (Surprise, surprise!)

In their post-program reflections, students overwhelmingly referred to their experience as “eye-opening” and expressed their desire to pass the Russian passion for music and culture, the musicians’ professionalism and drive for perfection, as well as other lessons they learned during the program on to their students here in the United States.

In conclusion, the entire group would like to thank the Office of International Programs as well as the music department and personally Dr. Ann Marie Snook for their generous financial and logistical support. Traveling overseas is never cheap, and without this generosity our students would not be able to have this amazing experience.
Hosting Japanese Students: Learning From Each Other
By Jiyoon Park
Fifth Grade Student at Indian Hills

Thanks to my dad (Dr. Park, a professor of sociology) and ICT (International Center of Topeka), I have had the privilege to interact with and help many international students over the years. This year I wanted to do something else. So, I asked my dad to host Japanese students. I was very excited to meet my host-Japanese students. In addition, I wanted to share this great opportunity with my neighbors. So, my dad asked them to join this hosting-Japanese-students project – or maybe my dad twisted their arms. During the two weeks, we hosted EIGHT Japanese students. We hosted eight girls!

During their stay, we made sure that they could learn English and American culture through lots of fun activities. I think we did our best because we were all tired after they left. For example, Mr. Bob and Mrs. Good took Risa, Yu, and Yuka to Lawrence to show the Life Star Air Ambulance station. Mr. Bob is a pilot there. Grandma K (Katherine) and Papa Tom took Mayuko to KU to hang out with their grand-daughter. And they went to the Spencer Museum of Art. It was also good because she got to see a bigger campus than Washburn. Mr. George and Mrs. Veronica went shopping with Tomami and Ayane at Legends. They bought many body lotions and soaps.

For me, I did many things with my host students. Saki, the first week student, and I did origami, played checkers, and shoveled snow together. It is funny that we were supposed to host her but instead she took care of me. My parents were busy helping my brother Jimin with his History Day project. He “procrastinated” (I have wanted to use this word for a long time) on his project until the last minute. With the help of Saki, Jimin made it to State History Day. With Tomami, the second week student, we cooked together and took her to the Topeka Symphony Youth Ensemble Spring Concert. I played the cello and Jimin played the viola.

Most importantly, every Saturday we had a potluck party at a neighbor’s house. This worked out well because both times we had a group that were really good friends. We played board games like Connect Four, Monopoly and Kendama. Eight-ball pool was also interesting to them.

In my opinion, the hardest thing for my neighbors was probably to remember all the names except Mr. Bob and Mrs. Good because they had two students with the same name, Risa – lucky! Overall, it was a great success. We all had lots of fun together. I hope it was an awesome learning experience for all eight students. But my dad said that it is not just Japanese students who learned American culture (Mr. Bob said that “If they come to my house, they are eating hamburgers”).

It was also a great opportunity for my neighbors and me to learn Japanese culture (I think Japanese people are very polite). Even though the goodbyes were sad, we will always know we had a great time. I hope I can meet them again. And I thank my neighbors for hosting eight amazing Japanese students. My neighbors are great people (“Watashino rinjingwa dodemo iidesu” in Japanese).

I strongly recommend you host international students when you have a chance! It will be an inspiring experience, especially if you have young kids like me!!!
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 Spring 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. Chen Chen – "Chinese Forced Marriage"
2. Dane Anderson – “3D Printers”
3. Zoe Stewart – "Citric Acid & Frogs"
4. Mary Johnson – “Autism”
5. Makayla Vargo – “Childhood Obesity”
6. Kayla Dillenbeck – “Concentration Camps”

Brown Bag International Lecture Series
Spring 2015

Jan. 28: Alexandra Kaplunenko
Russia and America: Myths and Stereotypes

Feb. 11: Rugena Hall and Susie Hoffmann
Vietnam: Tuk Tuks to Noodle Soup

Feb. 25: Toni Caldwell and Washburn Students
Haitian Happiness

March 11: Desmond Egan
Direct from Ireland: Meet Desmond Egan

March 25: Monica Scheibmeir, Crystal Stevens, and Susan Maendele
Nihon ha subarashii kuni desu or Japan is a Wonderful Country

April 8: Michaela Saunders
Nicaragua: A Transformational Experience in Grassroots Organizing and Social Justice

April 22: Marguerite Perret
Salt and Sea: Art, Research and A Cultural Tour of The Netherlands

New International Scholars Join Washburn Faculty

Dr. Yu-Fang Chen, a native of Taiwan, joined Washburn University as an Assistant Professor of Violin and Viola in 2015. Dr. Chen earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Music degree from Taipei National University of The Arts in Taiwan. In 2013, she received her Doctoral degrees in both Violin and Viola Performance from the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

Upon arriving to the United States in 2005, Chen has been actively involved in music activities. She was a member of the Kansas City Symphony, Des Moines Symphony, and Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. Her international performing career has taken her to Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Russia, South Africa, Estonia, German, Finland, France and the United States.

Not only a nationally and internationally claimed performer, Dr. Chen is also an enthusiastic educator. She holds an active and successful studio of violin and viola students. She was on the violin faculty of UMKC Pre-College Academy, Heartland Chamber Music Academy and Heartland Chamber Music Summer Festival.

Gladys Chow (MFA) Assistant Professor of Art, teaches courses in graphic design at Washburn University. Prior to joining Washburn University, she has taught courses in the graphic design program at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, and
introduction typography courses at the University of Texas at Arlington. Chow holds a B.B.A. from Simon Fraser University in Canada, and a B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Visual Communication from the University of Texas at Arlington. Her design and illustration work has been shown in exhibitions nationally and internationally, and continues to research cross-cultural influences on design.

Akhadian Sri Harnowo (Ph.D.)

joined Washburn University School of Business as an Assistant Professor of Production & Operations Management in August 2015. He received his Bachelor of Engineering from Institut Teknologi Bandung in Indonesia, his MBA from Rowan University, and his Ph.D. from Georgia Southern University.

Before joining Washburn University, Dr. Harnowo worked as a department manager and an operations manager at leading retail and manufacturing firms in Indonesia. Dr. Harnowo’s research interests are in intersections of operations and supply chain management with information technology. His interests include supply chain information technology, supply chain network complexity, and supply chain integration.

Dr. Martha Placeres

(DMA) is the new Director of Orchestras at Washburn University. She has a Bachelors Degree from the Puebla State Conservatory of Music in Violin Performance, a Masters Degree in Music Education from the University of Texas at Brownsville and a Doctorate in Orchestral Conducting from Texas Tech University.

Prior to joining Washburn, Dr. Placeres created and developed the string and orchestra programs at the University of Texas at Brownsville and was also involved in bringing string education to the city of Brownsville. As a conductor, Dr. Placeres has been featured with different orchestras in Mexico, U.S., Italy and Austria. In 2014 she was appointed the Executive Director of the American Symposium of Orchestral and Band Conducting at the Puebla State Conservatory of Music in Mexico. And in November 2008, she was given the “Woman of the Year in the Arts” award in the State of Puebla, Mexico.

International Summer Institute

Andy Vogel, Coordinator

The International Summer Institute at Washburn University had our largest summer enrollment to date. The nine week Institute had two main groups with students from all over Japan and an exchange cohort from Hallym University.

Students had local trips each weekend to various places such as, Worlds and Oceans of Fun, Royals game, Lake Shawnee for July 4th, Nelson Atkins, Legends, Capitol Dome Tour, Ranch party, Blues Festival, Steak House, Rescue Mission, Topeka High School, Country Club Plaza, 888 International Market, archery class, Burger Stand, local home stays and special dinners of sushi and Korean food respectively.

A big thank you goes out to James (Hallym University) and Miya (Sakae Institute), the homestay families - Andersons, Cornhills, Gimples, Perkins, Dr. Park and his family, as well as a special thanks to the Program Assistants Katelynn Rollins and Lauren Kapl for their tireless enthusiasm, organization, reliability and dishwashing.
International Summer Institute Student Testimonials:

“I really enjoyed summer camp with all my friends and the awesome leaders of the camp. I took the summer class at Washburn University, and learned about the United states’ culture. For instance I’ve learned about the drastic tornado storms. Also, I learned a lot of casual phrases, like “Seriously?”, “Really?” and “What’s up?”. Plus, I learned several idioms as forth “It’s raining cats and dogs.”, “You lost your marble.”, and “Actions speak louder than words.” Another thing, I have learned about is America is a peaceful place for international students. One hard thing I had to accomplish is adapting to English language, and I can almost understand English in different accent. One culture shock that came to my understanding in camp is America is very social, and where I come from “Silence is golden”. And, I have recognize everyone are very helpful, and always cheerful. Thanks to the staff, friends, and helpful classmates the Washburn University summer camp was so fun, and a great experience. I feel like I was able to grow in this short amount of time. Thank you trillions!”

- Miku Yasuda, Sakae Institute, Japan

“I enjoyed a very happy time in WU during summer camp. I loved everything! Some of my favorite things were class, fieldtrip and homestay! I could learn American culture and history in WU class and have an understanding of culture differences between America and Korea. Also, while I did various activities in class, I could improve my English skills. It was very thankful class for me. Next, during trip in Kansas city, I saw many beautiful things including ranch and capitol. Also, I enjoyed fun time in Worlds of Fun and baseball stadium. It was very important time to learn American characteristic directly! Last, one of my favorite things was homestay. My homestay family was Ken & Lynda. They were very kind! I had a very fun time with them. For example, playing the piano, listening music, fishing, swimming and going lots of beautiful places, and so on. I did many things. I could experience USA home culture and see house structure. It was interesting for me. They also gave me many gifts and letter. I never forget them, I always thank them. I really loved everything in WU during that session. I liked dormitory, campus, many programs and lots of things. Maybe, I will miss this summer camp everyday. If I have chance, I wanna come here again!”

- JaeHyung Jin, Hallym University Exchange Student, South Korea

International Summer Institute Students with coordinator Andy Vogel.
Photos submitted by AV.
Congratulations!

International Scholarship Recipients
Congratulations to the following students who were awarded various scholarships.

- ICT/William O. Wagnon Jr. Scholarship: Saud Alfaour & Binying Fang
- Dr. William H. & Patricia Zimmerman Scholarship: Guangyao Xi
- Stanley Curyea Memorial Scholarship: Arkadiusz Kozaczuk & Minji Jung
- Class of 1910 Scholarship: Irene Medina & Yi Zhu
- International Education Endowment Scholarship: Aaron McAlinden, Jue Wang, Xiaoyan Wang, Kun Xie, Erliang Zhou, Yujie Zai
- Hula International Student Scholarship: Shuhua Zheng
- Max Brickford Rotary International Education Scholarship: Fadwa Alharbi
- Washburn International Student Scholarship: Mariana De Almeida Yoshita & Yetiantian Yang
- Lauranna Russell Clothier International Programs Scholarship: Won Kim, Mairui Li, Jia Liu
- Class of 1912 Scholarship: Huimin Liu, Qiyao Li, Mengbai Lu
- Geneva Seybold Endowment Scholarship: Dario Munoz Poletti, Yaqi Tang, Fangfei Lu, Jing Wang, Yafei Wang, Di Xie, Bo Zhao, Xiangrui Zheng
- William H. Guild International Program Scholarship: Anantharaman Gurumurthy & Thilo Schlenker
- Dr. David C. Thurston Memorial Scholarship: Yueyi Sun, Charlotte Tanyi
- ICT/Betty Jo "Bo" Sheafor Scholarship: Lina Xu
- Dale A. Bradley International Programs Scholarship: Yuetian Yang

Phi Beta Delta
Honor Society for International Scholars

Newest inductee Andy Vogel (center) with fellow colleagues and co-sponsors Kelly McClendon and Baili Zhang.
Photo submitted by AV.
Minchao Cui (Nancy) studied at Washburn from 2009-2010 as an exchange student from Zhejiang Normal University—China (ZJNU). She graduated in 2011 in English and is now working as a translator for a photo club, Shangtuf Image and Art Club. This year in May she traveled with ten other Chinese photographers to Cape Town in South Africa. In July, she traveled to Marrakech, Morocco for the Third UPI Photo Festival. She hopes to have more opportunities to travel and to see the world.

Fanette Picchio came to Washburn University in 2009 as an exchange student. At the time, she was studying Applied Foreign Languages (English and Arabic) in France, and didn’t know her semester abroad was going to lead to major changes.

At Washburn, she discovered sociology and anthropology – along with many other things – and once back in France, she decided to complete her Bachelors Degree in Applied Foreign Languages and then continued to get another Bachelors Degree in Sociology/Anthropology. Afterwards she earned her Masters Degree, and today, she is about to enter her second year of her PhD in Sociology/Anthropology, investigating how disabled students are included in the French school system, and what it tells us about school and society in general. Washburn University might be on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, but while working on her PhD, she is reminded of her time at WU every day, and is most grateful for it.

Joy Pan was an exchange student from Shanghai Normal University - China (SHNU) from 2011 to 2012, and she returned to Washburn, after graduation from SHNU, as a degree-seeking student in Corporate Communication and Health Communication. Upon graduation from Washburn in the summer of 2014, she was accepted to graduate schools in Communication Studies and is currently pursuing her Master’s Degree in International and Intercultural Communication, Josef Korbel School of International Studies & School of Media, Film and Journalism Studies at the University of Denver. She is working her way to become an intercultural trainer and international education professional.

Joy Wang attended Washburn 2009-2010. In 2011 she graduated with a degree in Music Education and started her career as a music teacher at a middle school in her hometown of Quzhou, Zhejiang. Joy got married in 2013 and had a baby girl last May. Currently, she teaches grade six music and runs a mobile phone store which sells Apple, Samsung, Huawei, OPPO, HTC, Vivo and other brands. The store also includes a phone repair center. In addition to all of this she will be opening a restaurant this October.
Nader Saghir studied at Washburn in 2007 as an exchange student from the HEC-Management School of the University of Liège (Belgium). He graduated in 2010 in International Management and is now working as a chartered accountant in Luxembourg and is working on building his new house.

My name is Carolina Blair-Gomez and I studied at Washburn from 2009-2012, graduating from the Master’s Program in Clinical Psychology. I extended my stay, first through an OPT permit, then through H1B visa, working as a full time child and family therapist at Family Service and Guidance Center (from 2012 to 2014). My husband Solmer Alvarez (also an international student and alum of the Music Program) stayed to complete his Masters in Music at Wichita State University, graduating December 2014.

We had a beautiful baby girl, Isabel, who was born in Topeka in July 2013. We traveled back to our country of origin, Colombia, in January 2015 and are back in the swing of things, working and caring for our girl. I came back to work as a faculty member in the Psychology Department at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Medellin, Colombia, and aside from teaching, I also coordinate a one-year graduate program in Clinical Psychology and Mental Health, and I teach both in the undergrad and graduate level. My husband Solmer is teaching music as part of the Red de Escuelas de Musica de Medellin, a network of different music schools that teach music to low SES students in the community.

Carla (Gatlin) Appleton, Spain, Spring 2005, Study Abroad Advisor for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

I am a 2006 Graduate from Washburn and I studied abroad in Santander, Spain during my junior year. It was such a life changing experience that promoting study abroad became my passion. I currently work as a Study Abroad Advisor for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, sending students to Spain and Latin America. After I graduated from Washburn I lived and worked in both Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic for different non-profits. I moved to North Carolina to enhance my experience in the field of International Higher Education by studying for my masters and taking an internship in a Study Abroad Office. In 2012 I earned my Masters of International Studies from the North Carolina State University with an emphasis in Latin American Political Systems. My passion for international experiences is summed up in a quote by my favorite author Chaim Potok, he writes “You will never truly cross the frontiers of your own culture until you master the language of another”.

Karl Fundenberger, France 2007, Director of Bicycle Operations at Topeka Metro

In 2007 I had the opportunity to study abroad in Clermont-Ferrand, France. I arrived in the dead of winter, and jumped headfirst into intensive French studies. I had hours of homework every week. Eventually I started to venture out of the dorms, and doing my best to assimilate, I started to visit cafes and grocery stores. About halfway
through the semester, I discovered the Sunday Morning "Marché aux puces" -- the weekly flea market! I picked up an old road bike for 25€ and dramatically increased my range around the city. I started exploring the city, the suburbs, and the countryside. Clermont-Ferrand is surrounded by a ring of extinct volcanoes, so it's beautiful bicycling territory. I discovered decrepit old castles, natural ground water springs, and some of the most picturesque roads I had ever seen.

Outside of my studies, I did my best to meet people. Our little group of Kansas students became fast friends with a rock band called Typhoid Mary and they started inviting us into their homes and lives. Some of us still talk today, and when I went back to visit in 2011 my French friends hosted me for a week in their home. Travel is essential for discovering your own prejudices, and for realizing how silly they are. People are the same no matter where you go, but there is so much to learn from different cultures, different education structures, and different systems of government. It's hard to believe that the way you grew up isn't the only way the world can work - but travel illuminates this fact in a way that no classroom can.

Since that six-month adventure, I've stuck with bicycling and have realized how great a cross-cultural connector it can be, too. I don't use my French every day, but my love for exploring and sharing has never been stronger.

Emily Junhke, Semester at Sea 2013, Volunteer Public Relations Intern at the Hillsong Africa Foundation

I graduated from Washburn in December 2015 with a degree in Public Relations and Journalism. During the spring semester of 2013, I studied abroad through the Semester at Sea program. Instead of just studying in one place, I had the incredible opportunity to visit 12 different countries over the course of 106 days while living and taking courses on a ship. We visited Japan, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, Burma, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco and Spain. The places I saw, relationships I formed, and experiences I had during those four months were life-changing. I was stretched outside of my comfort zone, grew as a person and learned more about what it means to be a global citizen. I also fell in love with the city of Cape Town, South Africa. I remember writing in my journal, "I know I'll be coming back to this place!"

When my graduation from Washburn began approaching, I started to look for ways that I would be able to do just that. I wanted to find a way to use my degree to make a positive impact on others and also re-connect with a church I had visited while I was there the first time. A couple of months before my graduation, I was offered a volunteer public relations internship at the Hillsong Africa Foundation (HAF). HAF is a nonprofit organization created out of Hillsong Church that works to serve and restore vulnerable people and situations in their communities through projects in areas such as family strengthening, childhood development, skills development and relief and response.

I left for Cape Town and Hillsong in March 2015 and will be here until mid-December. As I'm sitting in the church cafe writing this article, it is amazing to look back and reflect on the journey that brought me here. I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today without Washburn and I'll always be thankful for my alma mater and the heart they have to see their students succeed both inside and outside of the classroom.