What an exciting year it has been here at Northern Arizona University as faculty continue to provide outstanding education to record numbers of domestic and international students. In early 2017 the Interdisciplinary Global Program, within the Center for International Education, was awarded the Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education. We were extremely honored to receive this international award as we continue to model excellence in international higher education.

While we continue to welcome international students to campus, I’m also amazed by you, our outstanding NAU international alumni. It is exciting to read of the incredible success and achievements that you as NAU alumni continue to attain. It is indeed a constant reminder that students are the center of everything that we do at NAU and we must all continue to do our part to challenge and mentor future generations.

We enjoy receiving updates from our alumni around the world and I encourage you to share your photos and stories and how your time at NAU impacted who you are today.

Sincerely,

Daniel Palm
Executive Director
Center for International Education
NAU Students Abroad
2016-2017 Academic Year

Where Did They Go?
NAU Students represented our university in 125 different cities across the globe.

Who is Studying Abroad?
Breakdown by the Numbers

Gender Breakdown

Honors Students/ Western Undergraduate Exchange

Total: 689 Students
- White: 462
- Asian: 25
- Asian White: 6
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 4
- Hispanic/Latino: 19
- Black/African American: 27
- Decline to Answer: 130

- Female: 527
- Male: 172

- Total Students: 689
- WUE: 175
- Honors: 84
In 2008, when China hosted the 29th Summer Olympics in Beijing, Hailun Borjigin came to study at Northern Arizona University from Beijing International Studies University as a China 2+2 program student, majoring in Chemistry. While he was at NAU, he showed strong a passion and commitment to academic performance and received the Nancy and Henry Wettaw Scholarship, the Hypercube Scholar Award, and the MVP Tutor Award from the university. In 2011, he earned his bachelor’s degree from NAU and was admitted to Virginia Tech’s Ph.D. program in Polymer Science and Engineering.

After finishing his doctoral program, Hailun returned to China and intended to apply what he had learned in the U.S. to developing 3D printing technology in China. At that time, Hailun teamed up with a few other chemists who also had study abroad experience, and established a 3D printing materials company, Sucheng Technology (SC Tech) in Beijing, China, which specializes in the stereolithography (SLA) 3D printing technology. Although some companies in China were also developing SLA, the research and development of this technology in China was relatively outdated. SC Tech targets the domestic SLA 3D printing market in its development of this unique technology, and is committed to building a 3D printing material company that provides other vendors, contractors and individuals with top-quality multifunctional 3D materials.

Recently, as the first expert of 3D printing photopolymers and applications, SC Tech launched its own IR&D brand - Raysin ™ and Rayheat ™ series. These two series of five products, in both technology research and material performance, greatly promoted the application of 3D printing in the manufacturing industry in China.

Under Hailun’s leadership, SC Tech is committed to innovating constantly, upgrading comprehensively of 3D printing material and related application through advanced techniques to provide a wide range of solutions and professional services for the manufacturing industry. Hailun Borjigin continues to build on the education he received at NAU to be successful in the 3D printing industry.
The Center for International Education’s (CIE) Interdisciplinary Global Programs (IGP) received the 2017 Institute for International Education’s (IIE) Andrew Heiskell Award for Innovation in International Education, establishing itself among fifteen years of leaders in the design of best practices of international higher education initiatives. CIE Associate Director Dr. Eric Deschamps and Assistant Director for IGP Lily Palm were on hand to accept the award on March 14th IIE’s conference in Florida.

IGP integrates language and culture study with undergraduate students’ professional majors and includes a year-long international immersion experience in both an academic and work setting. The purpose of IGP is to prepare students to work across disciplinary and national borders early in their careers in a language other than English. All IGP students have a minimum of two majors: one in science, engineering, business, or international affairs and another in language or cultural studies. NAU is the only higher education institution in the US to offer a program that covers the breadth of disciplines and the depth of immersion that can be found in IGP. “With IGP, we have an opportunity to prepare students to be linguistically and culturally adaptable professionals in today’s deeply interconnected world, both as individuals and as part of a highly diverse cohort with positive experiences around the world,” says the Director of IGP, Melissa Armstrong.

In an age when international education for domestic students is trending toward short term programs around the world in English, CIE is moving in an opposite direction. IGP and Education Abroad work in close collaboration to prioritize exchange opportunities for NAU students. When students study abroad on exchange programs, they enter the academic system of the host institution and navigate their international experience in a highly independent manner. Exchange programs have diversified NAU’s incoming international student community from partner institutions around the world, in addition to diversifying the outbound student cohort due to the achievable cost structure that exchange programs present. In the case of IGP and Education Abroad, innovation in international education and an achievement such as the Heiskell Award come down to a very simple premise: a better world is possible through the simple act of long-term language and cultural exchange for all students.

The Heiskell Award is the second international education award given to NAU in five years. In 2012 NAU won the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators.
When he arrived in Thailand, Mack was assigned to the Saraburiwittayakhorn (Sabawa for short) School, a school of approximately 3,500 students.

By: Dylan Rust

Would you travel to another country to work, without having any knowledge of the local language, or a degree in the field you would be working in? That’s just what Northern Arizona University alumnus Joey Mack did when he taught in Thailand this past year.

A native of Chicago, Joey Mack decided he was “ready to escape the busy urban life and find a more peaceful and outdoorsy environment” at Northern Arizona University. Mack enjoyed calling NAU home, but after four years he was ready for a new experience.

Upon his graduation from Northern Arizona University in May of 2016, alumnus Joey Mack decided to undertake the adventure of teaching overseas. Once he graduated, Mack said “I felt like I was missing an experience of seeing the world. I wanted to travel; however, I wanted to do so with a purpose, while still being inexpensive.” After conducting some research, he knew that he wanted to teach overseas and chose to teach in Thailand through Teach Abroad because of everything that he had heard about Thai culture, food, and landscapes.

When he arrived in Thailand, Mack was assigned to the Saraburiwittayakhorn (Sabawa for short) School, a school of approximately 3,500 students. Working in the Sawaba’s Foreign Language Department, Mack taught approximately twenty different classes per week regarding subjects ranging from Science and Health to Reading and Speaking and Conversation. “My schedule makes up to about 20 classes a week with 9 different lesson plans I prepare each week,” said Mack. Students in his classes are advanced learners who have English proficiency, and Mack found teaching them to be a fun and stimulating.

“Despite the challenging teaching role I find the students to be my joy. When I walk into every class each student stands up, smiles, Wai’s (a slight bow) you, and says “Goodmorning Teacha!” It is so heartwarming to be welcomed in such a respectful, honorable, and sweet way,” said Mack. He finished his teaching assignment in April 2017, and has returned to the United States with a new passion for teaching.

Mack plans to go to graduate school in the fall 2017 semester to study Counseling-Student Affairs. “I discovered through my teaching experiences in Thailand that I love mentoring and guiding students to success, and I thought what would be better than helping students at University?

Also, having two positive experiences with my jobs working in Undergraduate Admissions as a True Blue Ambassador and as a Campus Recreation Attendant, affirmed to me that student affairs was the right path of study for my future career,” said Mack.

Mack is grateful for his experience at Northern Arizona University, and how his time at NAU influenced his ability to work abroad: “NAU prepared me tremendously for this opportunity abroad…it opened my eyes to the beauty of diversity in our world…the academics at NAU provided me the excellent knowledge to share with my students as they learn about subjects like science and human health. Without a doubt, NAU prepares you with an exemplary education to utilize and share with the world. I am thankful for the experiences and opportunities I had being at NAU, and I will continue to carry the Lumberjack Legacy and spirit wherever I go.”

For anyone interested in teaching abroad, Mack has some advice. Based on his experience, teaching abroad is an effective way of traveling inexpensively, and there are few requirements. The primary requirement is to have a Bachelor’s degree in any field; no teaching experience or foreign language experience is necessary. Mack was especially happy with his experience through Teach Abroad, as well.

“Teaching in any foreign country comes with challenges,” said Mack, “however, if you stay positive and go in with an open mind and open heart, trust me, it will be one life changing experience.”

When he arrived in Thailand, Mack was assigned to the Saraburiwittayakhorn (Sabawa for short) School, a school of approximately 3,500 students.

This is Joey Mack at an organic farm in Thailand.
As savory scents from the International Pavilion auditorium waft into the lobby, the throng of people waiting outside grow anxious to try the variety of amazing delicacies prepared within. Once the auditorium door opens, attendees rush to different tables featuring food prepared by international students at NAU. The first annual International Food Festival was a hit, and showed the deep interest that students have for global cultures and cuisines.

The International Food Festival was just one event in a packed International Week schedule. The Northern Arizona University Center for International Education’s annual International Week took place from April 8th to the 15th, and featured the diversity and talent of the international student population at NAU.

The International Food Festival was one of the primary events on the “I-Week” schedule this year. Eight different teams of students worked with NAU Dining Services and Sodexo to prepare food for the first annual fair and cooking competition. The student teams represented the countries of China, Japan, France, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Lebanon, and Indonesia and Malaysia (combined as one booth). Over 460 people attended the International Food Festival, using their entry ticket to vote for their favorite booth. The student team from The Netherlands was thrilled to win the first annual festival.

The food festival wasn’t the only exciting event of International Week. The annual International Idol showcased 16 student talent acts and the “famous guest judges.” This year’s judges were NAU staff members who portrayed Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj, and “The Most Interesting Man in the World.” Students from around the world showed their talent in many ways, including musical performances, dance, martial arts, and even stand-up comedy. Over 350 people attended this year’s Idol. Congratulations to Svetlana Vikhnevich for winning this year’s top prize for her dance performance.

The International Festival boasted student booths from over 30 countries, as international students gave presentations about their country to attendees. This annual event is popular with the FACTS after school program for kids, and over 150 school-aged children attended the event to learn about other countries and meet NAU students from all over the world. International Week ended with the 2017 Chinese Cultural Showcase, presented by the Chinese Student and Scholar Association. The club presented over ten acts by their scholar and student members. Acts included traditional dance, pop and traditional singing, tai chi, and calligraphy. Guest performances by the NAU Wu Shu Team and a lion dance team from Sacred Mountain Fighting and Healing Arts were also highlights of the show.

The NAU International Week is a wonderful annual opportunity to showcase global cultures through NAU’s talented international student population. The NAU Center for International thanks all students who helped make the week special, and to everyone who attended the events.
INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES 2017

NORTH AMERICA
• MEXICO: 3
• EL SALVADOR

SOUTH AMERICA
• ECUADOR: 2
• TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
• BRAZIL

EUROPE
• GERMANY: 10
• SPAIN: 3
• SWEDEN: 2
• UNITED KINGDOM
• LUXEMBOURG
• ITALY
• POLAND
• BELARUS
• LITHUANIA
• ALBANIA
• CZECH REPUBLIC
Maria Nelly Gutierrez Arvizu
PhD in Applied Linguistics (2017) and MA Teaching English as a Second Language (2012) - both at NAU. Associate Professor at Universidad de Sonora, México

The faculty, researchers, staff, and friends at NAU have been nothing less than amazing. NAU provides an educational environment that allows students to have a well-rounded education. The experiences at NAU help us grow academically, professionally, and personally.

After graduation, I have been able to collaborate on research projects that have a direct impact on public education. Moreover, I have been able to assist graduate students in designing their research instruments and methods for their dissertations in Mexico. In the near future, I will be working with different institutions to aid Mexican students in developing their English skills through short stays abroad.

Rick Jamil, from Karachi, Pakistan

I majored from NAU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. I am currently working as a Software Engineer at FedEx in Colorado and attending Harvard University Extension online for my Masters in Information Management Systems. My favorite thing at NAU was the tightly knit and accepting community of students. Everyone felt at home together no matter where they were from. This sense of NAU being a “home” was promoted largely by the excellently run clubs and societies on campus.

My time at NAU was an eye opener for me. I got to spend time with many different people from varying places and walks of life be it in International Club, engineering building, Alpha Kappa Psi fraternity or the union while grabbing lunch from the Hot Spot. Attending NAU matured me so that I can communicate effectively at my work, embrace new challenges and accept people for who they are, not what they are. I met many lifelong friends during my time there, including my lovely wife. So whether it is connecting with other Alumni or cheering on the sports teams, years after graduation NAU remains a huge part of my life.
Biomedical Science, Chemistry, and Comparative Cultural Studies with Japanese majors
Year 2 Cohort, spending 2014 – 2015 year abroad in Fukuoka
Currently working in a lab at UCLA and beginning a graduate program in Japan
Emani was the first GSEP student to travel to Japan. She took Japanese language and culture courses at Kyushu University for her study semester and completed a molecular biology research project in the laboratory of Professor Miki Nakoto for her internship semester. As a member of the NAU Badjacks dance troupe, Emani continued with her passion for dance while abroad by exploring the wide variety of styles found in Japan. Upon returning to NAU, Emani conducted research on the intricate aesthetics of Japanese tea cakes as they relate to the seasons. After graduating from NAU in spring 2016, Emani returned to her hometown of Los Angeles and is working as a lab technician at UCLA on infectious disease research with the Yang lab. Emani will return to Kyushu University for a graduate degree in Biology in 2017 and is applying for support through the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT).

Electrical Engineering and French majors
Year 1 Cohort, spending 2013 – 2014 year abroad in Paris
Currently Electrical Engineering PhD student at Stanford University
Ricardo is one of the first group of trailblazing students to complete the Global Science and Engineering Program (GSEP) and also the first in his family to pursue a college degree in the US. Already a Spanish speaker, Ricardo chose French for his language of study. He took courses on Maxwell’s equations and Electromagnetism in French at Université Paris 6, Pierre et Marie Curie while teaching English to French middle school students. During his internship semester, Ricardo conducted research on semiconductors with Dr. Costin Anghel at the Institut Superieur d’Electronique de Paris (ISEP). While in Paris, Ricardo met his wife from Argentina and they together are pursuing their careers in Palo Alto, CA. Ricardo credits his unique GSEP experience to his entry into Stanford University’s doctoral program, where he studies specialized semiconductor devices under particle and electromagnetic radiation.
“DIFFICULT ROADS OFTEN LEAD TO BEAUTIFUL DESTINATIONS.”