

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
2018-2019

Dear Alumni,

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Greetings from sunny Flagstaff and the Northern Arizona University campus! At the end of each semester during the international student graduation celebration, followed by the commencement in the Walkup Skydome, I had an opportunity to meet each of the international graduates and I'm reminded of the incredible network of NAU alumni, like yourself, we have around the world. I'm quite certain that in 1899 when NAU was founded, the university leadership could have never imagined that NAU would today have over 150,000 alumni living and working across the globe as ambassadors, politicians, CEO's of Global Fortune 500 companies, leaders of non-profit humanitarian organizations, Olympic athletes, entrepreneurs and teachers; just to name a few.

If you've not visited the NAU campus in the past five years, you'd most certainly be amazed by the campus development from north to south. The innovative spirit of students and graduates continues to define NAU and the rapidly changing and global educational environment is constantly challenging us to aim higher, go further and have a global impact. Nelson Mandela wrote "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

NAU's global impact is ever expanding and we're constantly amazed and honored by the accomplishments of our alumni. If you have not already, I encourage you to join the alumni family, stay connected for updates and opportunities to be a part of the global alumni network.

Sincerely,



Daniel Palm
Associate Vice Provost
Center for International Education

OPT & CPT ALUMNI 2017-2018

Congratulations to the students this past year who were accepted to placements for
Optional Practical Training (OPT) or Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

OPT Alumni

Sheherzad Aamir

Ammar Yasser Almarhoon

Inaki Belloso Ausin

Jersus Jose Colmenares

Siqun Dan

Alina Maria Davidescu

Honghong Dong

Abdulrahman Tareq Enani

Romy Ghanem

Masahiro Hayase

Xingguo Huang

Yayue Huang

Urte Kazakeviciute

Ignacio Losada Carreno

Nghi Nguyen

Aliaksandr Novikau

Mavis Quansah Amissah

Enrique Ruiz Soto

Carlyn Helena Schmidt

Abdulrahman Tareq Enani

Rami Samir Shehata

Lorna Louise Thurston

Melanie K Townsend

Diana Marcela Umbarila Zamora

Ali Valehi

Huan Yu

CPT Alumni

Toshio Asai

Yawen Deng

Emma Lauren Grimsrud

Monica Y Manzur

Soo Hyun Park

LinkedIn

Stay connected

to what's happening at NAU and with other alumni at
our NAU International Lumberjacks LinkedIn page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8556911>



INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BY: BRUCE WANG AND KATHLEEN McKEIVER

In 2008, Han Lin, a Construction Management student from China, chose to pursue an international education experience at Northern Arizona University. In his three-year study at NAU, Han not only gained practical and professional knowledge, but he also sought opportunities to engage in the NAU and Flagstaff community. While the initial culture shock proved daunting, Han discovered the value in adapting to the diversity of his new environment. As time passed, he learned to be bold, diligent and keep a positive attitude, all skills that aided him in his success. Han graduated from NAU in 2011, achieving a 3.92 GPA, as well as department recognition as an outstanding student in Construction Management.

Upon completion of his bachelor's degree at NAU, Han returned to China to explore an alternative professional path, accepting retail work in a Chinese based South Korean cosmetic company. Within three years, Han quickly advanced to the position of general manager of e-commerce. Through the course of his work, Han discovered aloe vera skin care products made up over 30% of the company's world market shares, and as general manager, the average monthly sales of his promoted brands increased over 700,000 yuan (\$103,000 USD) within six months.

While China has the ability to grow aloe vera, a well identified domestic brand did not exist. In this, Han recognized a profitable opportunity and resigned from his position in the South Korean company. Over the next year, Han diligently researched high-quality aloe vera growth and processing entities as his vision started to take shape. Attracted by his professionalism and drive, a research team with over 20 years' experience in the aloe industry joined Han on his entrepreneurial quest. Han and his family relocated south to Hainan Island, an ideal location for aloe vera growth and production, and his dream finally began to take shape.

In 2016, after much dedication and effort, Han and his



team founded All About Aloe, an aloe vera skin care company producing diverse aloe vera products such as gels, toners, facial masks and cleansers. It is worth mentioning All About Aloe is the first domestic brand to incorporate raw material cultivation and processing, finished product processing, brand marketing sales and post-consumer support all within the same company.

In only one year, All About Aloe's sales reached 1.8 billion yuan (264 million USD). November 11th, is the largest online shopping date in China, known as "double 11 festival." On November 11th 2017, All About Aloe's earned nearly 200 million yuan (29.3 million USD) in sales. Based on this success, All About Aloe is working to expand their aloe vera planting base through this year.

Han Lin is confident All About Aloe will continue to grow and expand while retaining its reputation as a high quality skin care product proudly "Made in China." Reflecting upon his years of studying in both China and the US, Han said that he was inspired by his international experience at NAU, which prepared him to be a globally competent individual who brings positive changes to the community and the world he lives in.

NAU Students Abroad

2017-2018 Academic Year

Where Did They Go?

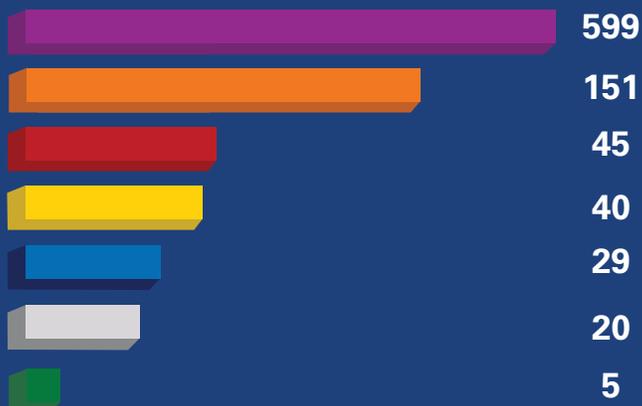
NAU Students represented our university in 43 different countries across the globe.



Who is Studying Abroad?

Breakdown by the Numbers

Ethnic Background



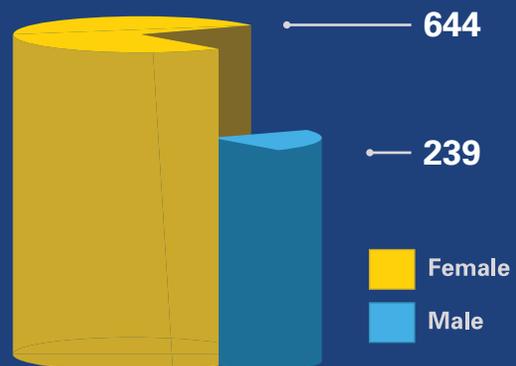
Total NAU Students Abroad



Honors



Gender Breakdown





◀ After Mary’s experience, she started her own business and traveling three to four months at a time while running her new online marketing business.

INDEPENDENCE & COURAGE

BY: MARIEL GOBLE & DYLAN RUST

It takes courage to travel to a country you’ve never been before, let alone for five months. But for Northern Arizona University alumnus Mary Grace Hammett, that act of courage led to another: starting her own business.

Mary Grace had not considered studying abroad until she visited her cousin in Australia. There, she found her cousin was friends with many Koreans in Australia, and she soon found herself interested in Korean culture and drama. When she returned to the USA she decided that she wanted to have an experience abroad, even if she didn’t speak Korean.

How was her experience abroad? “It was empowering,” says Hammett, “I never wanted to leave. It is now connected to any decision I make. I practice adapting to culture and people, language, food, etc. It is like hopping into a movie.”

Even though she didn’t know people at the university when she arrived, Hammett learned that she could get out of her comfort zone and push herself to learn and grow. “I was so scared at first but it was the most incredible experience. I walk around strong and independent,” Hammett says.

After she graduated from NAU, Hammett got a job in downtown Phoenix as a compliance analyst. However, after how her experience abroad affected her she knew she couldn’t keep doing a desk job; she was desperate to keep traveling.

Hammett realized she could “start my own business, be my own boss, have confidence and motivation. If I can live for five months abroad and adapt I can do anything.” That led to Hammett seeking out a friend from Germany who mentored her regarding how to build a business network. Hammett now has her own online marketing business that she uses to showcase

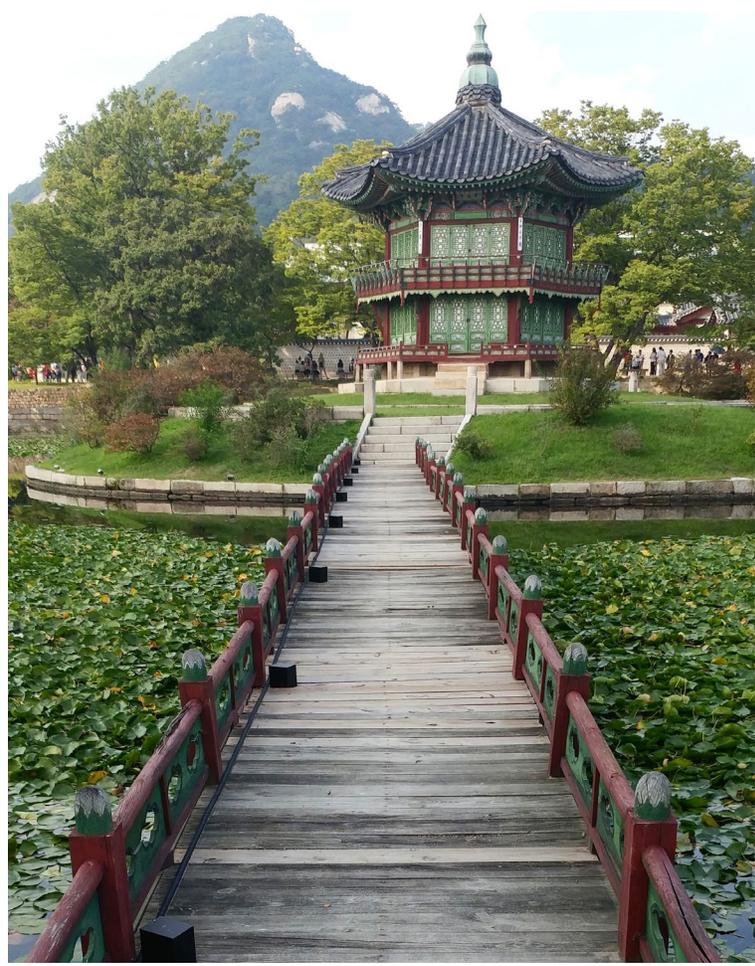
products and bring products to multiple online platforms. It required a lot of hard work and time management, but she is proud she can live the lifestyle she wants.

Now, Hammett is traveling three to four months at a time while running her own business.

If someone is thinking of starting their own business, Hammett says, “Patience and motivation are going to be your best friend. It takes a while and there will be days if you are not sure if you can do it or be successful but don’t give up. It’s hard to see the end but remind yourself...that you are capable.”

To anyone who is thinking of studying abroad, Hammett has simple advice: “Just do it!”

“I am proud of this, it is my ideal lifestyle.”



▶ Mary Grace swimming with sharks.

NAU Ranks High for Long-term Study Abroad

Northern Arizona University made an entry into the vaunted Open Doors report by the Institute of International Education. In the most recent Open Doors report, NAU ranked 17th in the United States for number of students who participated in long-term duration study abroad from a doctorate-grating university. Credit for this achievement goes to Center for International Education's Interdisciplinary Global Programs and Education Abroad divisions.



Culture Nights a Big Hit

The 2018-2019 academic year saw a revamp to the Culture Night model, with three Culture Nights hosted throughout the year, each focusing on two countries at once. Culture Nights featured China and Mexico, Saudi Arabia and South Korea, and France and Sri Lanka. Students from the countries provided booths with information about their countries and also gave presentations or performances throughout the evening. Nearly 750 people participated in these events throughout the year.

Author and Human Rights Activist Speaks at NAU

It was a special evening at the International Pavilion when noted author and human rights activist Ishmael Beah spoke at NAU. On April 5, 2018, Beah spoke about his experiences growing up in Sierra Leone and becoming a child soldier. Since that time he has published two books and has become a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Children Affected by War. He spoke about being a child soldier and the importance for people to speak against injustice and help those in need. This event was sponsored and organized by the International House Student Club.

Students Experience Professional Basketball at Phoenix Suns Game

The Phoenix Suns hosted their first International Night on April 6, 2018: a night focused on celebrating international students at the universities and community colleges in Arizona. Over 70 international students from NAU participated in the event, which featured a professional development session and prize giveaway before the game as well as tickets to see the Suns play against the New Orleans Pelicans.

New Degree Programs at NAU

NAU is creating two new degree programs that will start in 2019. The new bachelor of data science will be offered through the Department of Mathematics and Statistics starting fall 2019. The data science program will focus on storing, accessing, and manipulating data, as well as using data for modeling relationships and drawing inferences. Graduates from the program will be able to pursue careers in fields such as market research and medical diagnostics.

Starting spring 2019, the new master's of international education leadership will be offered through the College of Education. This degree program was developed in collaboration with the NAU Center for International Education, and will prepare students for careers in international recruiting, study abroad advising, international student services, professional training programs, or management of other international education areas.

Two New Buildings at NAU Slated to Open Fall 2018

NAU is excited to have a new residential building for first-year Honors students open this coming fall semester. The 204,656 square foot state-of-the-art building will feature student rooms, eight classrooms, an Honors writing center, faculty offices, an Honors student support center, and an exercise facility.

In addition to the Honors College building, NAU's new recital hall is scheduled to open in October 2018. This 26,863 square-foot recital hall expansion and renovation will be located between Ardrey Memorial Auditorium and the Performing and Fine Arts building. The building will include a 250-seat recital hall, a choral rehearsal room, an instrumental rehearsal room, an instrument library, and a choral library.



INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES 2017-2018

NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

- MEXICO: 2
- BELIZE
- CANADA
- JAMAICA

MEXICO

VENEZUELA

BRAZIL

SOUTH AMERICA

- BRAZIL: 2
- VENEZUELA: 2
- COLUMBIA

EUROPE

- GERMANY: 11
- HUNGARY: 2
- LUXEMBOURG: 2
- FRANCE
- MOLDOVA
- SWITZERLAND
- SPAIN
- TURKEY
- UNITED KINGDOM

GERMANY

LUXEMBOURG

HUNGARY

GHANA



5
RUSSIA

25
CHINA

3
SOUTH KOREA

46
KUWAIT

3
PAKISTAN

4
EGYPT

18
SAUDI ARABIA

4
INDIA

3
MALAYSIA

6
INDONESIA

ASIA

- KUWAIT: 46
- CHINA: 25
- SAUDI ARABIA: 18
- INDONESIA: 6
- MALAYSIA: 5
- RUSSIA: 5
- INDIA: 4
- PAKISTAN: 3
- SOUTH KOREA: 3
- AFGHANISTAN
- ISRAEL
- JAPAN
- VIETNAM

NEW ZEALAND 4

AFRICA

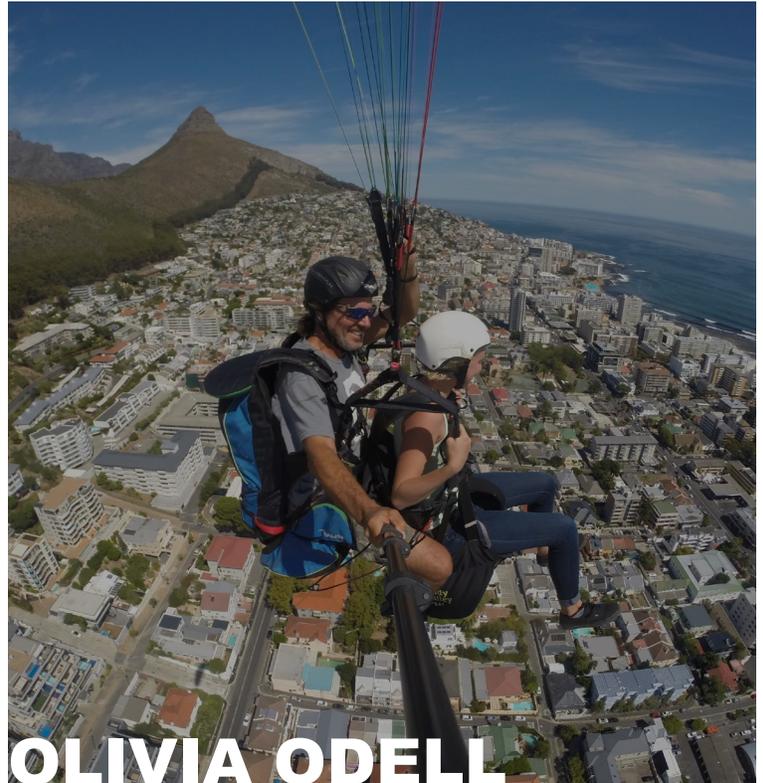
- GHANA: 8
- EGYPT: 4
- KENYA
- MALAWI
- RWANDA
- SOUTH AFRICA

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

I step off of a plane into an unknown land and am greeted by a rush of hot air smacking me in the face. Three plane rides and 36 hours away from home, I'm quite delirious and contemplate taking a quick nap standing up, but the bustle of customs and the thrill and anxiety of adventure coursing through my veins keeps me alert. I'm flagged down by a South African holding a sign with my name, and am ushered into a corner with a dozen or so other bleary eyed Americans. Within minutes I'm staring out the window of a van watching startlingly beautiful mountains, gated estates, and lush vineyards streak by. Then not a mile down the road, a vast array of what appears to be shipping containers stretches on for miles, with scraps of metal haphazardly arranged to form roofs, and a mess of telephone wires and satellite dishes fighting for space on top.

This juxtaposition of wealth and poverty was only the beginning of the two worlds I saw over my semester abroad. Over the next seven months I would grapple with questions of wealth, class, race, and politics. South Africa is a beautiful country, with over a dozen languages and many cultures. It is in the process of addressing widespread inequality caused by over four decades of apartheid. These facts, and the country's economic growth in recent years, make for a complicated society full of many types of people and many questions about what South Africa will make of itself in years to come. Despite these intriguing, if not heavier questions I was challenged with abroad, I thoroughly enjoyed myself in many ways. From singing the national anthem at rugby games, to having Braais with locals, to feeding ostriches, to bungee jumping off of the tallest bungee jump bridge in the world, to catching a glimpse of a great white shark, there was never a dull moment. South Africa offers beautiful mountains to climb, beaches to relax on, hundreds of wine farms, and the chance to see rhinos, lions, giraffes and zebras. South Africa is all of these things: the vacation destination, the sites, the adventure, but also the challenging questions, and a rich culture.

Studying abroad was the best decision I made in college. It helped me to grow in so many ways, and helped me to learn in a way that I never would have been able to if I had not pushed myself to leave my comfort zone. So many students I speak to are deterred from studying abroad because they think it is not possible for them financially. I understand that very real concern, but I want to tell you that it is possible. NAU offers a variety of ways that your financial aid can go towards your program abroad. Additionally, there are dozens of scholarships



available for those willing to seek them out, from local NAU scholarships to the national level Gilman Scholarship, which have made it possible for thousands of students to achieve their study abroad goals. If the fear of the unknown excites you, if you are curious as to how another culture lives, if you want to pursue a language, or if you just want a challenge and an adventure, then take the chance.

You won't regret it.

Olivia Odell
Stellenbosch, South Africa
Spring 2017



IN THEIR OWN WORDS



My name is Yuan Ren graduate from Tianshui Normal University and Northern Arizona University. Once by chance, I read a program introduction of the 1+2+1 program at the school bulletin board of Tianshui Normal University. Actually, before eighteen years old I was never far away from home. I even never traveled alone without my family. When I first told my mother about this program, she was so worried about everything. At first she did not agree, but after talking with my professor she learned the process of 1+2+1 program. She believed this kind of connection was a good design for my personal university career. On another hand, she trusted this program about safety. When I first landed on the land of the United States, I could feel no sense of the uneasiness in a strange place, but some familiarity because the friendly people I met at Flagstaff! I still remember the first morning I walked around NAU. I started to think why am I here far away from my friends and family? At the point, a woman ran to me, gave a sweet smile to me and said good morning. She invited me join her jog. Along the way, she gave me a lot of advice and warmth. I will never forget how lovely that day was and how sweet her smile was.

After two years of education experience at NAU, I have learned the differences of education systems between the

Chinese universities and the U.S. Universities. Thanks to the 1+2+1 program which gave me a deep understanding of this. The Chinese way of education mainly depends on the class on imparting knowledge and infusion, more attention to cultivate the students' respect for knowledge and memorizing, and how to build the knowledge system. Students must be clear to recite, for example, various mathematical formulas needed to learn by heart; every student should have strong ability of calculation. Moreover, in the United States education experience, no matter what kind of the formula was mentioned, any course will help students write formulas on the exam paper. Each student does not need to recite it, and the teacher will help students to understand the formulas. They will derive a formula with the student. For the American system of education, schools pay more attention to training students to use and grasp knowledge of practical application ability. Professors encourage every student to have a critical spirit, dare to put forward objection, and train to develop and create new knowledge. During my first year, I was always too shy to share my own opinion. My professor told me he was happy to listen to my ideas. During their office hours, they gave me a lot of help. Finally, I gradually began to raise my hand up during the class. I actively participated in class discussions with my classmates. During this three years at NAU I not only gain knowledge, but also gained friendship. Through the education experience at NAU, I have a better understanding that when you treat everyone with respect and kindness you are not only improving your work relationships, you are making deposits in your future.

Fortunately, now I work at an international school as a teacher. My department is American Senior Education, all my students will apply to American universities. I am so appreciative that I can be a good "bridge" for all my students. I give them what I have learned from the NAU, and hope they also can find their dream.

Yuan Ren
Flagstaff, Arizona
Spring 2017

*This article was edited for clarity.

// If the fear of the unknown excites you, if you are curious as to how another culture lives, if you want to pursue a language, or if you just want a challenge and an adventure, then take the chance. You won't regret it. //

- Olivia Odell

