

IXO student profile

Caitlin Cerra, a student from Northern Arizona University who is majoring in business economics, chose to come to AUS for her study abroad experience. She has spent a year here, coming in during Fall 2013 and will leave at the end of Spring 2014.

Caitlin said that she really loved it here. She had a great time going to Abu Dhabi with friends. She enjoyed visiting a heritage village and seeing the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.



How did you decide to study abroad at AUS?

I really wanted to live in a Muslim, Arabic-speaking country so I could learn more about Islam. I have read about Islam, but I never really knew how people necessarily lived it. I wanted to come here to see how people live Islam. I also wanted to know more about happiness and what people here, with such a unique and different culture, view happiness as.

Why do you think it's important to study abroad?

I think it's important to travel and be abroad. When you talk about trying to find the truth behind the meaning of life, you can't do that if you only know how to look at life from just

your point of view and your culture's values and traditions. You won't be able to get closer to the truth unless you look at life from a different point of view than your own and get to know the values and traditions of other cultures.

Caitlin said she found the culture here very appealing and comforting. She described it as a "blanket you want to cuddle up with at night". Caitlin said that people who come here really get what they want out of their exchange. She said she wanted to come here to challenge herself by really getting into the culture and has successfully managed to do so by making lifelong friends here.

Study abroad updates

IXO is now getting ready to say farewell to the current Spring 2014 batch of incoming students and to welcome the incoming students who are joining us for the Summer 2014 term.

Application deadlines for AUS students wishing to study abroad for the following semesters:

Deadlines for Spring Semester 2015

June 15, 2014 for the following partner universities:

- American University, Washington, DC, USA*
- George Washington University, Washington DC, USA*
- Kedge Business School, Marseilles, France
- Maastricht University Business School, Maastricht, Netherlands
- University of South Carolina Business School, USA

*Students applying to American University, Washington, DC and George Washington University are required to have a GPA of 3.0 and above. Other universities listed above require a minimum GPA of 2.5

August 1, 2014 for ISEP applicants

Deadlines for Fall Semester 2015

December 6, 2014 for all applicants

For more information on how to apply, visit:
http://isep.org/students/Apply/how_to_apply.asp; <http://aus.studioabroad.com/>

We hope that you will consider applying through IXO. Come in soon to discuss your options with an IXO Advisor located in the Main Building, Ground Floor, MG43 or MG45.

Faculty and staff dependants receive US scholarships

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff dependants who received tuition exchange scholarships to study in the USA during the 2014-15 Academic Year (and beyond):

- Amal Bahloul, Pepperdine University (daughter of Dr. Maher Bahloul, Department of English, and Raja Bahloul, Achievement Academy)
- Safet Mesanovic, Syracuse University (son of Mujo Mesanovic, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and Sevla Mesanovic, Wellness Program)
- Genevieve Melkonian, University of Southern California (step-daughter of Jack Swanstrom, Department of Art and Design)
- Adham Moustafa, American University, Washington, DC (son of Dr. Amer Moustafa, Department of Architecture)
- Gaby Toledo, University of Southern California, (daughter of Dr. Hugo Toledo, Department of Economics, and Ana Gavassa, Department of Mass Communication)
- Rhea Creado, Woodbury University, Burbank, CA (daughter of Aldrine Creado, Office of Financial Grants and Scholarships)
- Ivy Henson, Woodbury University, Burbank, CA (granddaughter of Susan Smith, Department of Mass Communication)

We congratulate them on their scholarships, and wish them all the very best for the upcoming academic year!

One Heart Source

One Heart Source, a grassroots, non-profit organization founded by university students, is currently accepting applications for their 2014 Volunteer Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Since 2008, over 750 international volunteers have joined One Heart Source in the pursuit of providing high-quality education and care for vulnerable children in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Students, both graduate and undergraduate, will greatly benefit from the experience of working, living and teaching in a different culture. The final application deadline is June 6, 2014.

As an OHS Volunteer, you will:

- integrate yourself into and work closely with members of the local community to create positive social uplift
- teach primary school students through a mentorship program, focused on building strong math and English foundations
- exchange ideas and culture with people from around the world
- lead after-school programs in non-traditional subjects such as dance, debate, art and sports
- work with a small, dynamic team of international university and graduate students
- develop yourself intellectually through leadership, service and dialogue

One Heart Source believe in creating lasting social change through education and human connection. We encourage you to take a step towards providing a more socially just future for some of the most marginalized communities in the world.

For more information and to apply online visit: www.oneheartsource.org/volunteer. Please contact One Heart Source representative Eric Jorgensen (eric@oneheartsource.org) with any questions!

IXO outings

Recently, IXO celebrated the birthdays of two of our team, Grace Morales and Osama Mafraji on April 24. The celebration also included a welcome to the new IXO Peer Advisors and a farewell to Sonia Soares, who was a former Peer Advisor and a great asset to the IXO team.



The IXO Team

IXO also hosted a farewell dinner for the incoming Spring 2014 students. The theme was a traditional Emirati feast at Al Fanar Restaurant and Cafe at the Dubai Festival City. Attendees even dressed in traditional Emirati clothing!



Top Left: Paige and Caitlin
Bottom Left: Mohamed Hegazi and Ornella
Right: Jon and Sarwar

IXO events: poetry night

Another exciting IXO event this month was Poetry Night. The event encompassed a fun and unique poetry writing session where the emcee asked everyone to shout out random words. Once a list of words was compiled, he asked attendees to write a poem using all of those words and to be read out at the end of the event. Highlighted in the beautiful and creative poem below are some of the words that people had to develop their poem around. We hope you enjoy reading it!

When I walked into AUS, I thought I was the
elephant in the room.
I realize now that I am the **rhinoceros**.
Elephants are regal and elegant.
I am the rhinoceros.
I'm bulky and grey and now I am covered in sand.

Welcome to the desert, they told me.
All I've ever known about the desert is **hakuna
matata**. When the world turns it back on you; you
turn your back on the world.
I'm lying on the ground, drowning in this heat.
My **salivary glands** dream of **ice cream**.
The heels of my feet are cracked and dry.
Someone **engineer** for me a respite.
Show me the beauty in this endless light.

When I wrote this I was a rhino, but I lied.
I am a **pirate**. I'm trying to steal your hearts, make
you walk the plank.
Plunge into this ocean I've made of my misery.

I'm **bananas**, I'm bonkers, I'm nuts, my mind is made of
cheese.
Obviously.
Why else would I push the world away, based on a
lousy first impression?

I am a rhinoceros, I admit, but I aim to be **upsized**
and rare, a white rhino.
I will be an oasis in this perpetual heat and light.
I will glow through the dusky yellow of my world, and
you will not be able to ignore me.

-Tashfeen

International scholars

Our visiting scholar of interest this month is Dr. Geoffrey Parker from Cambridge University, UK. Dr. Parker, an endowed fellow in water resources engineering, has visited here every spring semester since Spring 2010 to teach and work on his research.



Dr. Geoffrey Parker

His research focuses on a variety of topics ranging from more integrated, macro-scale issues, water scarcity and management issues to more technically hard-nosed analytical investigation and design pertaining to water biochemistry, coastal processes or desalination and other forms of water infrastructure.

Dr. Parker works closely with his colleagues from the AUS Department of Civil Engineering, sharing teaching duties with Dr. Serter Atabay and Dr. Maruf Mortula, with whom he has also coordinated research proposals. He also shares research interests with Dr. Kazi Fattah, Dr. Salwa Beheiry and Dr. Osman Akan, Head of the Department of Civil Engineering.

A major effort that Dr. Parker and Dr. Beheiry

organized and co-chaired was the inaugural International Conference on Sustainable Systems and the Environment (ISSE) held in 2011, which resulted from a series of sustainable research meetings that took place during Dr. Parker's first year at AUS.

Dr. Parker extends his thanks to Dean Leland Blank and the faculty of the College of Engineering (CEN) for all the support, to Lenita Percival and Salwa Mohamed at CEN, and to IXO's very own Grace Morales and our director, Dr. Linda Angell.

Congratulations to former IXO peer advisor!

Congratulations to our former Peer Advisor, Khadija Mahmood on graduating from American University, DC!



Khadija and Dr. Linda Angell meet in Washington, DC

Khadija worked for IXO as a Peer Advisor for our first year after the office was founded. She then went on to graduate school at American University, Washington DC, graduating with a Master of Science in Finance.

IXO wishes Khadija the best of luck in her next adventure.