

HORIZONS

Information from
International Programs

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KU Debuts New Business Program in Israel

By Austin Falley
School of Business Communications Director

For its inaugural study abroad trip to Israel, the University of Kansas School of Business is teaming up with one of the oldest universities in the Middle East. Technion -Israel Institute of Technology. Twenty-one students are participating in the two-week-long winter break program focused on entrepreneurship, innovation and technology.

Students will spend the first week of the program attending academic seminars from Technion faculty about innovation and why, when it comes to successful startups, Israel is second only to Silicon Valley.

"Israel is well known for its contributions to the entrepreneurship field," said Suzanne Scales, assistant director of the Institute for International Business. "Students will gain an understanding of innovation in a country that is rich in history and culture."

During the second week of the program, students will visit some of the rapidly growing businesses that call Israel home. On the itinerary is a visit to Grow Fish Anywhere, a start-up that Inc.com says is "quietly changing the world." In addition to startup companies, the students will visit other locations throughout the country, learning about their historical and technological importance.

"Developing an entrepreneurial mindset, the ability to solve problems in any discipline with innovation and creativity, is immensely helpful, regardless of the area of academic pursuit," Meyer said. "This is an extraordinarily unique learning experience which will broaden students' horizons and capacity for personal growth."

Students who participate in the program will earn credit hours in either entrepreneurship or international business. For students earning the Certificate of Entrepreneurship, the study abroad trip can serve as the certificate's capstone course.

"The program will provide students with the opportunity to explore innovative solutions to technical and commercial challenges faced by new ventures and startup companies," said Justine Hamilton, program coordinator for the Office of Study Abroad.

More information is available [online](#).

More international students than ever before enrolled at KU this semester, 2,246 international students--1,284 undergraduates and 962 graduate students. The Applied English Center has its second highest enrollment ever, with 517 students.

Sundberg Uses Grant to Explore Dutch Flooding

Sometimes graduate students' research veers in unexpected directions. Adam Sundberg experienced that when he started thinking about his dissertation topic. The doctoral student in history began looking for sources to explain how the 17th-century Dutch herring fishery was affected by the Little Ice Age. The story he discovered was about a series of disasters in the Netherlands over 40-50 years during the 18th century.

He found his focus in an archive in north Netherlands during his first research trip in 2010. "On a whim, I took a trip to Groningen in the north of the Netherlands. I wanted to see what the archive contained relating to coastal flooding. Coastal floodings resulting from storm surges are loosely connected to larger climate patterns, so it fit my overarching goal. I also knew that if there was a topic that would surely have enough data for me, flooding in the Netherlands would be it," he wrote in an email.

The topic appealed to Sundberg's interdisciplinary interests. He points to natural disasters as a growing research area. The dimensions corresponded to his 2010 trip to Greenland with a C-CHANGE group to examine how the ice sheets respond to climate change.

"One particular flood in 1717 stood out because it was mentioned in several archives. There was one item in particular, a dike engineer's journal, that was intriguing. The engineer explained the flood, his proposed adaptations to dike works, and the process of getting his ideas accepted. This would become the core document of a dissertation chapter because it touched on nearly every aspect of the Dutch response to this kind of natural disaster," Sundberg said.



Adam Sundberg visits the North Sea island of Texel during his research trip to the Netherlands in 2013. In the 17th century, this island was a critical stop for Dutch merchant ships beginning their global voyages because of its high-quality dune-filtered water. Today, Texel is mostly small farms and villages and a national park, with almost as many people as sheep.

Sundberg used his 2011-12 Fulbright grant to study at the CLUE Research Institute in Amsterdam, Netherlands, which produced dissertation sections on shipworms and cattle plague, and also touched on thematic issues of government response and linked to climate issues that are under represented in the existing scholarship. He also improved his Dutch.

A 2013 Summer Research Grant from Graduate Studies enabled him to visit archives in nearly every Dutch province to continue researching the cultural and environmental effects of coastal flooding, cattle plague and invasive tropical mollusks.

"KU is really good about providing opportunities for multidisciplinary work. I really appreciate the funding," he said.

New Position Expands ISS Programming

Programming for first-year international students has expanded at the University of Kansas. This fall was this first semester that the International Student Services (ISS) office had a staff person dedicated to programming.

Steven Sweat, programming and first-year experience coordinator, pointed to several things as highlights of this semester including: more efforts to get international students connected to the university through Hawk Week and Homecoming events, more student participation in the Homecoming Parade and a record number of 340 new students participating in Global Partners.

Most international students go through the You at KU orientation at the beginning of their first semester, and ISS Director Chuck Olcese wants to extend that experience throughout the year.

“Each student is part of a small orientation group, and we want to keep that group active with programming,” Olcese said.

Sweat has learned that international students are excited



Global Partners gather at the O Cafe.

to get connected and involved so activities for the spring semester are in the works. Other ideas include a fall orientation reunion; a weekly Cultural Cues email and social media series with tips about life at KU; working with campus groups to increase collaborations for the Hawk Week events and exploring organizing an International Student night at a Sporting Kansas City soccer game for area universities.

Olcese also wants to encourage campus internationalization by creating more programs to bring domestic and international students together.

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Students Guide AEC Conversation Groups

Visitors to the Hawks Nest in the Union between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. most weekdays will encounter Applied English Center (AEC) conversation groups talking about everything and anything.

The fourteen conversation leaders were chosen because

so they try to have only three or four students per group, with one leader, Edwards said.

"It's an organic process," said conversation leader and Rhodes Scholarship finalist Jenny Curatola, who mentioned the challenge of keeping students with varying English skills involved in the conversation.

As in any interaction, religion and politics can be heated topics. If the conversation gets tense, the leaders try to diffuse the tension, Curatola said.

Amelia Taylor and Sarah Brennan studied in France last year and understand the frustrations of speaking a foreign language, so they bring that experience to their conversation groups.

"We get to know the students. They relax, and we take time to have conversations," Brennan said.

All conversation leaders undergo training. Edwards talks about the basic structure of a conversation and how to go from small talk to an

actual conversation.

Edwards teaches the conversation leaders to be wary of using idiomatic expressions with low-level students. Instead of saying "I can't figure this out," she encourages them to say something like "I can't understand this." As students' English skills improve, they begin introducing those kinds of expressions.

The conversation leaders also are chaperones for AEC cultural activities. They have carved pumpkins, gone to the Maker Faire in Kansas City and to the Country Club Plaza to see the Christmas lights. Individually, leaders have gone with students to movies, the Kansas City Zoo and organized a sewing class.



From left: Jenny Curatola, John Stozle, Daniel Yu, Sarah Brennan, Amelia Taylor and Tiffany Edwards

they have studied abroad or are foreign language or global and international studies majors. Some are international students who used to attend the groups; others are Rhodes Scholarship finalists.

"A successful conversation leader will be truly interested in learning about other cultures, sharing their own culture with others and love to talk," said Tiffany Edwards, AEC program assistant.

Conversation leaders come to the hour-long sessions with a back-up topic, but students usually initiate and maintain their own conversations. All AEC students are welcome, and many take advantage of the opportunity to improve their spoken English. The goal is for students to experience as close to a natural conversation as possible,

Fulbright Student Establishes Alumni Group

Bovid Chrishiler Atouta galvanized into action after his Fulbright experience at the University of Kansas. After returning to the Republic of the Congo in 2012, Atouta established a chapter of alumni of U.S. exchange programs to stay connected and give back to their community. The young group's efforts led to its receiving the U.S. Department of States' Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund award (AEIF).

Atouta was the president of the KU Fulbright Scholars Association (KUFSA) from April 2010 to May 2011. He continued the group's mission of helping new Fulbrighters adjust to life in the United States. Group members coordinate rides to pick up Fulbrighters from the Kansas City airport, show them around, help them search for apartments, open bank accounts and do their first shopping.

The twenty-four members, which include some of the country's 80 Fulbright scholars, began meeting weekly last fall. To give back to their community, the group is implementing "Congolese Students Clean Up," a project that encourages university and public school students to put trash in trash cans. Beginning this fall, the Fulbright group is using the media, fairs and posters to reach students. They chose this project "because most students here in Congo leave trash on the ground instead of putting them in trash cans. And there aren't enough trash

cans in schools," Atouta wrote in an email.

The program began in November with the donation of trash cans and wheel barrows to a school, with follow-up to make sure that the equipment is being used properly. Each month through next March, five other schools will receive the same supplies.

Sharing information about the Fulbright program is also part of the group's mission.

"We are meeting with 'the big boys' like ministers of education, of tourism and environment, deans of schools and other decision makers to showcase our association and tell

them about the Fulbright program. We are planning on meeting with our president, too. We are at a reach-out stage for now," Atouta wrote.

The State Department created the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund to support alumni initiatives that promote shared values and innovative solutions to global challenges. In 2013, 53 grants of up to \$25,000 were awarded to alumni teams to support public service projects.

"We won because of our ability to be able to found the group and bring people together in just a couple of months. The State Department said we wrote a solid project, met the 'the 10 alumni challenge' and worked well with the U.S. Embassy public affairs section here in Brazzaville," Atouta wrote.



"Congolese Students Clean Up" project kick-off day at Nganga Edouard public school

Horizons Editor: Alison Watkins

www.international.ku.edu

Student Works to Master Foreign Technical Language

Erik Hornberger is spending a year in Japan to master engineering's technical language in Japanese and to make connections that could lead to future research or employment opportunities.



Erik Hornberger at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan

Hornberger, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, received a prestigious Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) from the U.S. Department of State and Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), sponsored by KU and the U.S. Department of Education, to fund his study abroad. He spent the summer at a CLS program in Himeji and is now studying at Sophia University in Tokyo.

He wants to incorporate Japanese in his engineering career, so taking courses allows him to combine studying engineering and Japanese. The highlight of his time in Himeji was attending a lecture on the ideal gas law, which confirmed that "I can comprehend college-level lectures in Japanese."

Learning your discipline's vocabulary in a foreign language requires mastering the words and concepts, and

being able to talk about those concepts.

"First, the actual learning and memorizing of technical words in Japanese is way easier than I had ever imagined.

... The second thing that has been a lot different than I expected is how much vocabulary is necessary to explain something in math or engineering. I expected I would need to know a lot of specialized words to describe my field of study, but I've found as my language skills have improved I'm able to find ways to describe what I want to even if I don't know the equivalent of the words I would use in English, and sometimes it's possible to coax the word you need out of the person you're talking with," Hornberger said in an email.

Hornberger recently met Dr. Tanaka, who is doing research on brain imaging using MRI and EEG with whom he has much in common and reminds him of his KU advisor Shannon Blunt. "EEG brain imaging is the direction I'm steering my research at KU. He

has a variety of interests including music, religion, and language, and he finds interesting ways to weave those into his research projects, which is something I identify with very strongly. Next semester I'm going to take all the classes that he teaches if I can fit them into my schedule."

"I'm going to work with Dr. Tanaka to process the data from the latest batch of EEG and MRI scans. The techniques he'll be teaching will be relevant to my future research at KU, so I'm really excited get involved. This week Dr. Tanaka started a new organization on campus to bring together people from various fields interested in brain research, which I'm also hoping to be able to make time to participate in. This opportunity with Dr. Tanaka is looking extremely promising," he said.

Wu Takes Advantage of Internship Opportunities

Sixuan Wu has persistently taken advantage of opportunities during her time at the University of Kansas. The senior from China, when she is not attending classes in the School of Journalism, has three internships this fall, including one at Kansas Public Radio.

Her KPR internship began in the development office in fall 2012 where she helped Development Director Sheri Hamilton with membership data and on-air spots. "Sixuan had to take a photo of me to prove to her mother that she worked here," Hamilton said.

Her next position began in the news department last summer where she helps J. Schafer with audio production, which includes gathering audio tapes from events and interviews. KPR listeners might have heard Morning Edition host Schafer mention Wu's contributions to commentary production.

Her Chinese background came in handy when she accompanied Schafer to an interview with Miss Kansas 2013, Theresa Vail, who studied Chinese at Kansas State University. Wu spoke on the air asking Miss Kansas a question in Chinese.

Wu is KPR's second international student intern. Schafer and Hamilton both studied abroad in high school, so they know what it is like to navigate a foreign culture.

"Sixuan is a go-getter. She says 'yes' to anything we ask her to do. She considers herself lucky to be studying here, and she takes advantage of every opportunity," Schafer said.



J.Schafer works with Sixuan Wu in the KPR production studio.

"I keep trying new things. I believe this kind of plan is America, the American cultural influence," Wu said.

Wu came to KU because of its strong journalism program. American advertising caught her attention in China, so she decided to study advertising. The advertising and news information component in the strategic communications track helped her improve her English when she interviewed people, wrote stories and read stories in news videos. In addition to her work at KPR, Wu is doing promotional videos for Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kan., and is helping the healthcare service Readiness Rounds in Eudora with social media and videos for their website.

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Moore Brings Composer's Work to New Audience

Madelyn Moore wants to bring the compositions of German composer and clarinet virtuoso Heinrich Baermann to a 21st-century audience. Her summer research fellowship from Graduate Studies enabled her to travel to Germany and Italy to find his original manuscripts with the goal of adding them to the common repertoire for clarinet players.

Moore is working on her doctoral degree in clarinet performance. Her interest in the 19th-century musician



Madelyn Moore at the Biblioteca di Archeologica e Storia dell'Arte in Rome, Italy

comes from his influence on the clarinet musical repertoire. She has been researching Baermann since 2006 when she was a finalist in the International Clarinet Association's call for papers. Moore was invited to lecture at the ClarinetFest in Atlanta, Georgia, where her paper received an honorable mention.

"Everything that people wrote about him in their letters, and reviews of his playing, made him such an alive and fun, brilliant character in my mind, not to mention the influence he had on clarinet playing. So, now, seven years

later, I still find him fascinating," Moore wrote in an email.

After searching online, she found 11 unpublished pieces for clarinet and piano in three archives that she subsequently brought back to the United States. Her research indicates that Baermann wrote at least 39 pieces, but only about half are accounted for.

"It was so exciting to get to touch things that he touched 200 years ago. There was one that had his wax seal on it. Seeing his actual handwriting was almost like getting to see him. It was also exciting to think that I am studying things about him that no one else has studied, or at least tried to publicize, since his son Carl did it in the 1860s," Moore wrote.

Because of their age, the works are in the public domain, so all she needs is permission from the libraries in Munich, Berlin and Rome. Using Finale software, Moore is working on the first piece, handwritten in 1829, that has not been performed since. Understanding and translating Baermann's musical notations can be challenging, so she relies on advice from her professors to make sure she understands the composer's intentions. He wrote the pieces for himself, so Moore is adding performance details.

She plans to finish three of the pieces as part of her final document for her degree before she graduates in May. Her future plans for Baermann's compositions include modernizing the rest and recording the pieces to broaden his audience.

Her trip to Europe also included attending the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest in Assisi, Italy. Moore attended classes and recitals and played in a "choir" directed by KU School of Music Dean Robert Walzel.