

December 22, 2019

Dear Class of '55,

Thank you so much for providing me with the opportunity to study Macroeconomics in China. I am a senior majoring in Business Management and Computer Science, and I have always said I wanted to study abroad but I am so thankful it finally became a reality. China is a country unlike any other, and it was the perfect place to study economics while immersing myself in the culture. Over the course of 18 days I learned more than I could have ever imagined and made countless memories.

We visited five different cities throughout our time in China and each new city was so completely different from the last. After visiting Shanghai, I realized how thankful I am for heat in public facilities and to have grown up in a house with space and my own yard. Wuzhen showed me unbeatable hospitality. Dali and Lijiang taught me the extent of the rural/urban divide in China, and made me grateful for the opportunity for fair standardized testing when applying for college. Finally, Beijing has preserved an insane amount of history and visiting historic sites encouraged me to continue to learn more about what it was like to live there during the era of dynasties.

This trip reminded me how much I love traveling and seeing other cultures and different scenery, but also how grateful I am for everything I have at home. Two summers ago, I went to Costa Rica with the volleyball team at Cornell and had a similar reaction, however Costa Rica was far less developed but much more like the United States in other ways. The culture shock when arriving in China was completely different from anything I had experienced before, and it took a while to be comfortable using squat style toilets and eating authentic Chinese foods with chopsticks for every meal. The inability to speak or read Mandarin was also a huge hurdle that we got over by using a lot of nonverbal forms of communication. But despite the challenge, this experience taught me more than a textbook or film ever could. I hope to continue to visit countries all over the world and experience different ways of life to broaden my perspective of the world and truly appreciate everything I have.

Your generosity allowed me to expand my knowledge of economics and the world around me, and there are no words to describe how thankful I am to have had this opportunity.

Amber Frazier '20



The Bund river tour, Shanghai



Company visit to Baosteel, Shanghai



Cultural exchange with students at Dali University, Dali



Three Pagodas, Dali



Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, Lijiang



Hike through Tiger Leaping Gorge, Lijiang



Lama Temple, Beijing



The Great Wall of China, Beijing