

December 24, 2019

Dear Class of 1955,

It is Christmas Eve and there is no other way I would rather be spending this joyous holiday than by giving my thanks to this group of altruistic individuals. The Class of 1955 Off-Campus Studies Award was the financial stimulus that I needed in order to set forth on my adventure with the macroeconomics class of ECB 321 to China.

The class consisted of almost three weeks of thoughtful lectures, breathtaking destinations, and unforgettable people. This was my first experience of a true off-campus class and I liked it very much. I felt as though I absorbed knowledge in a way that will be more useful for me in the future. Economics itself is very conceptual and is hard to figure out what is going on in the real world without actually leaving the classroom. This trip really put perspective on what it means to be an economist. We got a chance to visit businesses that included GM Shanghai, Boasteel, and Canature. Each and every firm brought us different insight into what it means to conduct business in China. There were similarities and differences between firms in the U.S. and firms in China which I would not have figured out without physically analyzing this.

Not only did this trip bring me reassurance about wanting to become an economist, but it brought a reassurance with myself. Before this trip I had never traveled abroad. I had always preached to myself that traveling is going to be the biggest laurel that I want to achieve. I could not fully commit myself to this goal without taking the first step. This journey to China was this first step. I want to again thank the Class of 1955 for not only contributing to my college experiences, but helping to shape me into the person I want to become.

With warm regards and many thanks,

Devin Theodore Roettger '20









