

THE PRISM

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's e-newsletter on International Education

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For the last few years, I have worked with a group of dedicated colleagues on the Study Abroad Council, helping our students go abroad. Then during the spring 2014 and 2015 semesters, I was fortunate to serve as resident director (RD) in a new program at Tongji University in Shanghai, and I saw firsthand how valuable the experience is for faculty as well as for students. Although I worked hard in Shanghai, I enjoyed every minute of it, and I would definitely recommend the program to colleagues.



Teaching and research are integral parts of the RD's job, just as they are for colleagues at home in Mānoa, and most faculty members teach two courses at the host university. For our students, I offered a new course, Law and Society in Chinese Film, in which we used Chinese movies to discuss important legal and social issues, past and present, in China. For the Tongji Chinese students, I taught a general introductory course on American legal issues, something I have taught many versions of in the past and still teach our international students at the Law School.

I really enjoyed teaching UH Mānoa undergraduates and getting to know them in an international setting; their enthusiasm, humor, and openness to other cultures impressed me very much. I also appreciated their generation's views on China, even as I encouraged them to adopt a broader, longer-term perspective on current developments. My passion for China has sustained me over the course of my career and my life – if you are interested in China, you can never be bored. So I'm thrilled that several of my study abroad students will return to work in China, and that their participation in this program

will help them pursue that dream. Whatever their goals, however, their experience as international students is invaluable. How can we understand the world we live in nowadays if we don't know anything about China?

Teaching law at a Chinese university offered a fascinating contrast to the early days of legal education some thirty years ago, when I first taught law in China. I loved seeing what today's Chinese students are interested in and how their training has changed. I also value the chance to teach a course to different audiences; it always helps me rethink the material and suggests different approaches to use with our students at home. Working in such a different context can give you fresh perspectives on your UH Mānoa courses; it's energizing and refreshing – and it leads to practical results. Based on my Shanghai classes I've developed new topics for my current courses, as well as ideas for introducing new ones.

Because I write as well as teach about China, the chance to do research there was invaluable. Shanghai has excellent law schools, including Tongji University, and I met with a range of legal scholars to discuss future projects. Shanghai is a terrific place to pursue many different research interests, including Chinese art and film, which I also use in my courses. So I joined the Royal Asiatic Society in Shanghai (RAS) and the Shanghai Foreign Correspondents Club, both of which offer talks on a variety of Chinese topics, including the economy, society, and history. A former Hong Kong colleague provided a special tour of the Shanghai Film Museum, and I got Shanghai International Film Festival tickets for two pre-1949 Chinese movies that are hard to see.



At the RAS, I gave a presentation on a current research project analyzing two recent Chinese courtroom dramas, and I led an RAS film group discussion on a famous Chinese movie. This past semester, I wrote an article on a recent American movie set in Shanghai, which features legal issues as well as depictions of the city, and then began working on a piece about the courtroom dramas. And while I was in Shanghai, a former student arranged to have an article I wrote on law in Chinese movies translated for publication in Chinese, to introduce scholars there to some of my work in the field.

What if you aren't a China specialist? For colleagues in search of a comparative or international perspective on their fields, Shanghai has much to offer. The city is a center of contemporary art and film as well as business and finance; Tongji is a science, engineering, and medical center; and other universities are a short ride away on the metro. Many fields, especially in business and the sciences, are accessible to those who don't speak Chinese. In short, study abroad programs offer a wonderful, even life-changing experience for the participants – not only for students but for resident directors as well.

CONTENTS

'Imi Na'auao	2
Live ♦ Laugh ♦ Study Abroad	3
Notes from Abroad	4
International Education Links	5



'IMI NA'AUAO



Aloha! My name is Karen Michael Mikel and I hail from Malaysia. Specifically, I grew up in Sarawak, Malaysia. Located on the island of Borneo, Sarawak is one of the thirteen states in Malaysia. Malaysia's population of about 30 million is mostly made up of three main groups – Malay, Chinese, and Indian – but I actually come from the minority native groups of Sarawak. I grew up and completed my early education in Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak. Locals usually refer to Kuching as the "Cat City"; the word Kuching sounds like the Malay word *kucing* (cat). You will find cat images everywhere in Kuching including cat statues, cat-themed cafes, and the CATS FM radio station. There is even a cat museum housing cat carvings; mummified cats; cat products; and merchandise like Hello Kitty, Felix the Cat, and Garfield. Growing up, I was exposed to both city and country life. While I spent most of my time in the city attending schools, I also spent many school holidays visiting my grandparents in the country. I have fond memories of being outdoors playing in the rivers

and climbing fruit trees with my cousins. I am equally at home in both worlds, so I was pleasantly surprised that I can still enjoy both city and country life in Hawai'i. This definitely helped my adjustment when I first arrived in Hawai'i back in 2000.

As an international student, I had a great experience pursuing my education in Hawai'i. This experience led me to develop a passion for working with international students. I started a career in the field of international education right after I graduated with a Master of Arts in Asian Studies from UH Mānoa's School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies (SHAPS) in 2007. I gained a lot of work experience and developed skills as an international student advisor at the International Student Services (ISS) office at Hawai'i Pacific University, and later served as its director for a little over three years. But here I am now, calling Hawai'i home and working as an international student advisor for the ISS office at UH Mānoa since January of this year. I feel that I have come full circle as I was a student intern, student worker, and graduate assistant at ISS during my college days at UH Mānoa.



International education is such a dynamic field that it requires one to constantly innovate and adapt to keep up. This working atmosphere encourages me to constantly learn and develop myself as a professional and as a person. In addition to understanding UH Mānoa's international education goals, I also try to stay current with international student mobility trends and issues. These are an essential part of my job, but I also try to incorporate fun by working on projects that promote creative initiatives. I find great satisfaction when I can contribute to internal office efficiency or interoffice cooperation to better serve our students. I also love being a part of student engagement programs, and my current role as co-advisor to the International Student Association (ISA) provides me with a platform to advocate for and advise both international and domestic students in a leadership development program. Their energy is contagious, and engaging with students always keeps me grounded as an international educator. Students also offer alternative perspectives on issues and challenges that affect them; this makes me a better advocate for them.



Outside of work, I still enjoy exploring Hawai'i, its people and cultures. I revisit the neighbor islands a few times a year and try to travel to places I have not been to at least once a year. This brings to mind the Hawaiian value of 'Imi Na'auao, which is an important value in my life. To me, 'imi na'auao can be loosely translated as the perpetual pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. I truly enjoy pursuing the practice of 'imi na'auao through learning new skills, cultures, and fields. Of course, my absolute favorite is learning through travelling. When I travel, I take the time to walk and wander, interact with the locals, and discover the food markets as well as street stalls and hole-in-the-walls. You will find that my travel photographs consist of mostly food I've enjoyed during my trips!

I also enjoy dancing and learning different dances. I have performed several native Malaysian dances on campus for different occasions such as East-West Fest, International Night, and a few events organized by SHAPS in the past. I also have taken classes for Balinese dance and Latin ballroom dances such as tango, salsa, cha-cha, and merengue.

My weekends are usually spent attending art and cultural events. I love meeting local artisans and learning about their inspirations for their arts and crafts. Also, these events usually have food, and what better way to experience culture than through food. Yum! I see all interaction as an opportunity to learn and share my own culture with others. Looking back, little did I realize that when I studied abroad, it would change my life and career path!



LIVE ♦ LAUGH ♦ STUDY ABROAD

Ai Okuno, from Gunma Prefecture in Japan, is a senior majoring in film at UH Mānoa. Below, she shares some of her thoughts about her study abroad experience.

Why did you choose to study at UH Mānoa?

I came to Hawai'i for a campus tour of UH Mānoa when I was in high school in Japan, and I really liked the atmosphere of this beautiful campus. I loved Hawai'i from before and people are very nice here, so I decided to study at UH Mānoa.

When did you become interested in filmmaking?

I grew up watching movies with my mother and I started watching behind-the-scenes videos in addition to the films. I was interested in Hollywood movies specifically. But to be honest, I didn't start thinking seriously about working in the film industry until I had to choose my major when I got into UH Mānoa.

Is there a director that inspires you?

I like Christopher Nolan. I like how all of his films make his audiences think, instead of just simply looking at the screen. I also admire the fact that he still shoots on film, instead of digital.

Through the Academy for Creative Media (ACM), how was the internship program with Hawai'i Five-0?

The internship with Hawai'i Five-0 was one of the best experiences ever in my life. It was my first time being on a professional film set and it was just amazing. I interned for two semesters; one semester as a set and office production assistant (PA) and one semester as a camera intern. I was able to meet a great crew and see actual film equipment that I could only look at before in textbooks. Filmmaking involves teamwork and I learned how important it is to communicate with people and to think about other people, not just to think about myself. The people on set were very friendly and funny, but I also saw them working really hard to get "the great shots" and it definitely made my desire to be a filmmaker stronger. I cannot thank them enough for such a great experience. Interning at Five-0 was my dream since I was in high school. I still cannot believe that I got to intern for two semesters!!

Please tell us about your ACM Abernathy Screenwriting Award.

In Spring 2014, I took a screenwriting class and one of my scripts was called "Aloha Vegas," which is about an old Japanese couple from Hawai'i. The story is that the husband finds out that he is going to die in a week because of cancer and decides to travel with his wife to Las Vegas to do crazy things that he could not do when he was younger. The message of the film is that it's never too late to try things that you've been wanting to do. Fortunately, my script won the second prize at the Abernathy Screenwriting Competition 2015, and I will be filming it in Spring 2016, which will be my very last semester at UH Mānoa. Right now it is in pre-production and I am hoping to get enough funds to take my crew and film scenes in Vegas!!

What are some of your other interests?

My hobby is taking film photography. I like how film photos come out naturally. Sometimes there are scratches or light leaks. I like those effects that we cannot get in digital photography. I also love listening to old music from the '70s and '80s.

What are the highlights of your study abroad experience so far?

One is definitely the internship with Hawai'i Five-0. I cannot even count how many things I learned from them. Another one is that I got to meet the great friends I have. They are very supportive and when I'm going through a hard time, they are always there for me. They are all from places other than my hometown, so it is refreshing to learn new things from them.

What has been the most challenging thing for you up to this point?

The most challenging thing has been living in a foreign country without a family. It can get really lonely especially when I get sick. But it makes me strong as a person and it always makes me appreciate what my family does for me. Challenges are very hard but I believe that they make me stronger when I overcome them.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in studying at UH Mānoa?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask. There's always people who are willing to help you. The first year can get difficult at times, but you will get used to it. And don't stress yourself out too much. You are in Hawai'i. You have to let yourself enjoy this beautiful place!



NOTES FROM ABROAD



Vivian Chau is a senior majoring in Anthropology at UH Mānoa and will graduate this fall semester. Below, she reflects on her study abroad experiences with the two programs that she selected through the Study Abroad Center.

Why did you want to study abroad in Denmark and France?

I wanted to go to Copenhagen because I was curious – none of my friends or family had been there – so I wanted to see what the country and the people are like. I also liked that the program that I chose, with the Danish Institute for Study Abroad, allowed time to do a lot of personal traveling *during* the semester as well as offered many study tours and field trips in Denmark and other places in Europe. For example, the field trip to Iceland with my Vikings and Sagas class was one of the highlights of that semester!

As for France, I wanted to study in Annecy because I am in the process of obtaining a certificate (like a minor) in French, and there is certainly no better way to learn a language or increase your proficiency in it than to learn that

language in the country itself. I had also heard how beautiful Annecy is – after spending five weeks there, I would say it is one of the best study abroad locations.

For each country, what was on your list of things you wanted to see or do?

It was pretty much the same for both Denmark and France – not necessarily to visit *all* the famous tourist spots, but definitely to try some authentic local cuisine, talk to the people who live there, and explore around the neighborhoods. So my to-do list was actually really short before traveling to the two countries. For Denmark, it was to visit Tivoli, the amusement park; explore Christiania, an autonomous area in Copenhagen; and spend time by the Copenhagen Harbour. For France, it was to swim in Lake Annecy, do some wine tasting, and explore the Old Town.

What were some of your memorable experiences?

Trying to fall asleep at 2 a.m. when it was still bright like midday in the Lofoten Islands in Norway; sharing a near-death experience with my classmates when our plane from Copenhagen failed to land in Berlin twice and had to detour; spending Bastille Day in France with the wonderful people that I met in Annecy; spending an evening in Tivoli (one of the oldest amusement parks in the world!) with my Danish host family; coming home to a delicious meal (simple but big) prepared by my French host family; and many, many more!

What was the most rewarding thing about studying abroad?

That I not only learned more about other people and the world, but I also learned a lot more about myself, through all the traveling that I did and all the people I have met.

How will your study abroad experiences help you in your future goals?

I have met so many friends, teachers, and host families that have enabled me to learn how to interact with people from different backgrounds and places – a lifelong, useful skill that is important in anything you do and anywhere you go in the future. Studying abroad also made me reconsider what I actually want to do after graduating. I took a Medical Anthropology class in Copenhagen and discovered how Anthropology is viewed differently in Denmark compared to in the States and Hong Kong (where I am originally from). In that class, I learned about other ways and possibilities of how Anthropology can be applied to our daily lives.



What is an important lesson that you have learned from your study abroad experiences?

To find the balance between school, socializing/having fun, and my "me time." While I was in Denmark, I was constantly reminded of how I only had a limited amount of time to accomplish everything that I wanted to do, which included classes, study tours, my own travels, spending time with my host family, etc. So I learned to get my priorities right and not overload and overwhelm myself in different aspects of my life. I was also able to identify what I need and want out of my own study abroad experiences, and not compare my experiences to other classmates' experiences.

What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about studying abroad?

It is okay to be homesick, but try not to let homesickness bother you. Talk to someone in the program as it helps when you share your thoughts with each other. And don't get too caught up with staying connected with your friends and family. Focus on really trying to enjoy doing study abroad. It is always the unplanned happenings that will surprise and even reward you the most!

UH MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION LINKS

Office of International and Exchange Programs: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/international>

For more information on
The Prism, please contact:

Office of International and
Exchange Programs

loiskk@hawaii.edu

Faculty and Scholar Immigration Services (FSIS): <http://www.hawaii.edu/fsis>

FSIS provides immigration services and advising for departments, international visiting scholars, and employees across the University of Hawai'i System.

International Student Services (ISS): <http://www.hawaii.edu/issmanoa>

ISS is the primary university resource for international students in areas ranging from immigration advising to cross-cultural adjustment, and consults with the greater community on related issues.

Mānoa International Exchange (MIX): <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/mix>

The goals of MIX are: (1) to facilitate partnerships with outstanding universities around the world to the benefit of UH Mānoa students, faculty, and staff, (2) to promote cross-cultural education and understanding at UH Mānoa through the enrollment of international exchange students, and (3) to provide UH Mānoa students with study abroad opportunities that will have a transformative and positive effect on their lives.

National Student Exchange (NSE): <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~nse>

Although the UH Mānoa NSE website has instructions for UH Mānoa students wanting to attend an exchange school or students attending consortium member schools wishing to exchange to UH Mānoa, the most detailed information on each of the 170 participating schools can be found on the national website, <http://www.nse.org>.

Study Abroad Center (SAC): <http://www.studyabroad.hawaii.edu>

The UHM Study Abroad Center provides summer, semester, and year-long study abroad programs for undergraduate students and for faculty to teach, mentor students, develop new courses, and pursue their research interests. Students earn UH Mānoa credits for coursework completed overseas towards their Mānoa degree requirements.

College of Education (COE) – International Activities: <https://coe.hawaii.edu/research/international-and-special-programs-iasp>

COE develops and maintains sustainable international agreements and partnerships in higher education between COE and institutions in China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia, and Vietnam. Activities include collaborative research projects, educational conferences, and student/faculty exchanges. COE annually hosts numerous visiting scholars interested in studying with COE faculty and exchanging expertise.

College of Social Sciences (CSS): <http://www.socialsciences.hawaii.edu>

CSS offers students many opportunities to engage in the global community through its expertise, leadership, and far-reaching partnerships which span from Indonesia to Sweden. CSS continues to expand and grow new and existing relationships with its international partners through innovative educational agreements, programs, conferences, symposiums, and other collaborative projects.

Hawai'i English Language Program (HELP): <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/eslhelp>

The HELP program has been providing the highest quality academic English classes for over 40 years. Through our Conditional Admission pathway, students can enter undergraduate or graduate study at UH Mānoa without a TOEFL score. HELP also offers teacher training workshops and the CELTA English teaching certificate program.

John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) – Global Health/Medicine Programs: <http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/global-health/>

JABSOM is committed to improving the health of the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Our mission is to train a globally competent health workforce with skills to address critical global health problems. JABSOM strives to understand and reduce health inequalities around the Pacific Rim.

Outreach College – International Programs: <http://www.nice.hawaii.edu>

The International Programs division of Outreach College provides international students access to UH Mānoa through its ESL programs, conditional admission university preparation programs, and short-term customized programs on a variety of subjects.

School of Travel Industry Management (TIM): <http://www.tim.hawaii.edu>

TIM is recognized as a leading educational institution in hospitality, tourism, and transportation management. TIM pioneered the concept of integrating all aspects of the travel industry under a single discipline. Built on a foundation of management science, TIM also draws on a broad range of disciplines to provide high-quality education at the undergraduate and graduate levels to current and future professionals.

Shidler College of Business:

Full-time Global MBA program: <http://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/ft-mba>

The Full-time Global MBA program offers students a comprehensive foundation in business fundamentals with its wide array of choices in the Asia-Pacific region for internships and study abroad opportunities. Students can take a semester of classes at one of our partner schools and work at a professional internship in countries such as China, Japan, and Vietnam.

Pacific Asian Management Institute (PAMI): <http://pami.shidler.hawaii.edu>

PAMI is the center for international business programs with an Asia-Pacific focus. PAMI is the umbrella organization housing the PAMI Summer Program, PAMI Year Round Programs, PAMI Asian Field Study Program, Center for International Business Education and Research, and Pacific Asian Consortium for International Business Education and Research.

William S. Richardson School of Law – International Programs: <https://www.law.hawaii.edu/which-program-right-you>

The William S. Richardson School of Law maintains an active schedule of international programs and activities. The law school offers two degree programs for international students, the LLM degree for foreign law graduates and the advanced JD program, which grants credit for qualified foreign law graduates. American law students are encouraged to pursue law study in international law study, through our exchanges, such as with Bucerius Law School in Germany or through programs in China, Hong Kong, or Australia.