



BODS ABROAD

Publication from the Office of International Programs
<http://washburn.studioabroad.com>

November 2014

2014 PHOTO ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

View complete entries at: www.washburn.edu/ip

First Place Winner — Taylor Moore

Costa Rica Service Learning

Winter Break 2014

“Coming Back to Life: Changing Perspective, Changing Lives” (an excerpt)

I have experienced coming back to life. It arose from losing my illusions, dropping my shield, and experiencing another’s way of life. It came in the wary eyes of a small girl, in strong set shoulders proud to provide even the most meager things for their families, from truly grateful words and actions, from little girls who are in orphanages because their families couldn’t provide for them, from a week that started with distrust and ended in tearful hugs, in children that know how to work harder than many of us ever will in our entire lives, it came from little children with dead, beaten down eyes at the age of four, it came from bringing a smile to these faces from my own actions, words, and behaviors. It came from a lifetime of lessons learned in seven days’ time.



“Ci Vediamo Presto” (an excerpt)

Experiencing a different country is like being born again. You are awestruck, wide-eyed and curious. Your interactions with others humans—who do not speak your newborn dialect—morph into an improv game of charades. In Italy, the game comes complete with complementary over-the-top hand gestures, emotion, and excitement. With that in mind, I was ready to experience Italy... Studying in Italy was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I experienced it all first hand and unfiltered. Every single day I learned more: culturally, socially, and linguistically. Now, I am just waiting for the next time I get to inform Toto that I am elsewhere.

Second Place Winner — Stephen Stocks

Law Program: Bologna, Italy

Summer 2014

Third Place Winner— Rachel Beiker

Nicaragua Service Learning

Winter Break 2014

“Discovery of Myself through Nicaragua” (an excerpt)

For four days, we lived in the homes of a small village where we fixed up their community center. Two girls and I, none of us spoke Spanish well, lived in the home of an immediate family of four, mother, father, son a veterinarian, and daughter a pharmacy student. I learned how important family was even if it meant sacrificing money for their children to go to school, expensive food, or living conditions that are not ideal for most. At the end of my stay there, I still could not speak Spanish, but I felt like I had been accepted as an extended member of their family.



“Follow My Feet” (an excerpt)

When I returned home, I walked outside to gaze upon the stars, but this time I realized it wasn't just the stars that have changed, but unknowingly so have I. So, I thank my lucky stars, and my feet, that guided me through the greatest time of my life, because there is still more to explore.

Honorable Mention — Stacey Korte

International Healthcare Systems and European Culture

Summer 2014

Featured Program - Chiba University of Commerce in Japan Summer 2014

The following article is a collaboration by the WU student program participants Caitlin Blocker, Kori Green and Sha'Lan Green, written by John Shively, and published in the *2014 CUC Summer Program Student Magazine*. Dr. Sangyoub Park was the WU Faculty leader.



ウォッシュバン大学

Washburn University

Kansas is well known in cinema for its presence in the story of the Wonderful Wizard of Oz. This fantastical journey is the story of a girl from Kansas, Dorothy Gale, who is swept away to a foreign and magical place. She goes on a journey to find the wizard, meets new friends, and discovers that "There's no place like home." This story can help us tell our story here, so before we go, let us share some thoughts with you.

Much like Dorothy, us students from Washburn have been whisked to a foreign and magical place. Japan is so



culturally distinct from the United States. We've been so fortunate to learn the deep cultural traditions of Japan thanks to Professor Allen's lectures, the history of Japanese Financial markets from Professor Fukuzawa, and the everyday life of Japanese students at CUC, thanks to the incredible help from numerous student supporters. We can't

wait to share the knowledge of Japanese life, business, culture, art, cuisine and ceremonies with those back home. Even greater yet, we didn't just learn about one culture, we learned about many. We have been exposed to incredible cultures from all around the globe, and learned about how people in multiple countries live. This has been a truly humbling experience, and we're so happy that we got to share it with so many people from so many different places.

Throughout Dorothy's journey, she meets new people and makes new friends along the yellow brick road. Now that our two weeks are coming to a close, we also

have shared special moments with people who were perfect strangers not too long ago. I know many of us have formed special bonds, bonds that transcend cultural differences, defy distance, and will keep many of us close to each other for many years. Just remember that no matter where you are or what you're doing in life, we would like to extend our hand in friendship. Also, if you ever want to visit the United States, I would encourage you to come study at Washburn University. We'd love for you to come visit, and would be more than happy to show you around the University, Topeka, and Kansas.

Lastly, we learned that "There's no place like home" just like Dorothy did. But while Dorothy's quest to return home was her desire to return to Kansas, ours is perhaps a bit different.

We realized that home isn't a building or a place. Home is where the people you love and enjoy spending time with are. Home can be a moment in time, an experience, an adventure. Home



can be a two week trip to Chiba University of Commerce. During this incredible adventure we've learned so much, yet still desire to experience more. I'm sure that many of us will come back to experience even more that Japan has to share with us.

In the end, Dorothy clicks the heels of her ruby slippers together three times and wakes up in her bed. Sadly, when we tried it didn't seem to work, so we'll have to settle for the plane ride back home. But there certainly is a sense of sadness that we have as we leave this place. It's not a permanent goodbye, but saying farewell is difficult at any time. We'd be more than willing to trade the yellow brick road for the streets of Tokyo or ruby slippers for Geta anyday. We've shared fist-bumps, laughs, and even a few tears, and we don't regret a minute of it. We want to thank CUC from the bottom of our hearts, and wish the best of luck to all of you throughout the years. Study hard, have fun, and never be afraid to explore all that life has to offer.

