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Twenty undergraduates selected as UNC Phillips Ambassadors for study abroad in Asia

CHAPEL HILL – Nineteen undergraduates from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and one Duke University undergraduate have been selected as UNC Phillips Ambassadors for summer and fall 2014 study abroad programs in Asia. Ten scholarship recipients will study in China, including Hong Kong and Taiwan, four will study in India, four in Singapore, one in Japan, and one in South Korea.

One Ph.D. candidate in history was awarded a Phillips Graduate Ambassador travel award for research in China this summer.

The Phillips Ambassadors is a program of UNC’s Carolina Asia Center, in association with the study abroad office. Phillips Ambassadors are selected twice a year and receive $5,000 each. Selection is based on strong communication skills, intellectual curiosity and engagement, academic achievement, evidence of generous service to the campus and wider community, and a previous record of leadership.

Twenty-five percent of the scholarships are reserved for qualified undergraduate business majors and minors at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. Up to two scholarships each year are available to qualified Duke University undergraduates.

Phillips Ambassadors choose from more than 50 UNC-approved academic programs in Asia that are approved by the College of Arts and Sciences and UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. Scholarship recipients enroll in a global studies course designed uniquely for them. Led by Carolina faculty, the course challenges students to explore their study abroad locale in significant detail and seek understanding of the region in a global context.

A distinguishing feature of the program is an emphasis on what is called a “Give Back,” or sharing of one’s study abroad experience in Asia with the Carolina community and a student’s hometown. In accepting the scholarship, students agree to fulfill a Give Back related to their study abroad experience. Give Backs range from published articles, classroom presentations at a student’s hometown high school, photo and art exhibits, musical performances, to group projects focused on Asia.

The Phillips Ambassadors Program is made possible through a generous gift from Carolina alumnus Earl N. “Phil” Phillips, an entrepreneur and former United States ambassador, and his family.

“Our goal with this gift has been to encourage more students to spend their study abroad experiences focused on Asia — an increasingly vital region of the future,” said Phillips, who splits his time between High Point and Chapel Hill.

The first group of Phillips Ambassadors studied abroad in Asia in the summer of 2007. By the end of 2014, more than 200 Carolina undergraduates will have studied abroad in Asia as Phillips Ambassadors.

Website: http://phillips.studyabroad.unc.edu

The new Phillips Ambassadors are listed below alphabetically by North Carolina county, followed by out of state recipients.

NORTH CAROLINA RECIPIENTS

Alamance
Dylan McCue of Saxapahaw will study through the UNC-Peking University Entrepreneurship Summer program. He is a journalism and mass communication double major with an entrepreneurship minor.

Forsyth

Kexin Yin of Winston-Salem will study through UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School: Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is a business administration major with an advertising minor.

Guilford

Matthew Lovejoy of Greensboro will study through the UNC-Peking University Entrepreneurship Summer program. He is a business administration and economics double major with an entrepreneurship minor.

Mecklenburg

Ian Dibble of Charlotte will study through the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School: Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is majoring in business administration.

Bliss Green-Morehead of Charlotte will study through Seoul National University’s Korean Language and Culture Program. She is a Chinese and German double major with a Korean minor.

Michael MacGregor of Charlotte will study through the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School: Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is majoring in business administration and global studies with a French minor.

Roma Sonik of Charlotte will study through the UNC Summer in India program. She is a public policy major at Duke University, with a chemistry minor.

Moore

Grant King of Southern Pines will study through the UNC Summer in Japan program. His major is undeclared.

Orange

Zachary Gossett of Chapel Hill will study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in fall 2014. He is a music performance major, and an Asian studies and German double minor.

Maitri Punjabi of Chapel Hill will study at the National University of Singapore: Arts and Social Sciences in fall 2014. She is a mathematical decision sciences and economics double major.

Sarah Underwood of Chapel Hill will study at the National University of Singapore Science Summer Lab Exchange. She is majoring in Clinical Laboratory Science.

Wake

Yasmin Khera of Cary will study through the UNC Summer in India program. She is a geography and south Asian studies double major with a history minor.
Joseph Kleinhenz of Cary will study through CET Harbin Intensive Chinese Language program. CET Academic Programs is a study abroad organization based in Washington, D.C. He is an Asian studies and Linguistics double major with an education minor.

OUT-OF-STATE RECIPIENTS

Alabama

Molly Williams of Birmingham will study through the UNC Summer in India program. She is a public policy and sociology double major with an education minor.

Florida

Gustavo Armada De Dios of Miami will study in China through the CET Kunming Summer program. CET Academic Programs is a study abroad organization based in Washington, D.C. He is a business administration and history double major with a Chinese minor.

Maryland

Jan Michael of Frederick will study through the UNC Summer in India program. She is a history major.

Missouri

Daniel Holmgren of Nixa will study through the National University of Singapore – Honors University Scholars Exchange. He is a computer science major with a mathematics minor.

Virginia

Gabriel Harris of South Chesterfield will study through National Taiwan University. He is a business administration major, with a Chinese and Hispanic studies double minor.

Washington

Benjamin Director of Bellevue will study through UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School: National University of Singapore Business School. He is a mathematics and economics double major, with a business minor

INTERNATIONAL RECIPIENT

Canada

Patrick Lung of Toronto, Ontario will study through CET Beijing. CET Academic Programs is a study abroad organization based in Washington, D.C. He is majoring in computer science with an entrepreneurship minor.

GRADUATE PHILLIPS AMBASSADOR

Zachary Smith, a Ph.D. candidate in history, will do research in China this summer.
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