It is with great pleasure that the Office of Global Programs again hosted two Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs) for Chinese and Arabic for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Nora Fawzy Ahmed was the 2014-2015 Arabic FLTA. Nora is from Alexandria, Egypt. She learned English in school and she graduated from college in 2006. Her favorite courses were Discourse Analysis and Morphology. Her father is retired, her mother is a housewife and she has three sisters. Nora chose Alcorn for her FLTA because of its community’s diversity. She said she enjoyed it here because the Alcorn community is very friendly and she never felt like an outsider. She enjoys aerobics, reading, listening to music and jogging. She traveled to California, New York, Texas, Louisiana and Washington D.C. while in the United States.

Rui (Ruth) Xue was also the Chinese FLTA for the 2014-2015 academic year. Ruth came from the town of Hulunbeir in Inner Mongolia, China. She learned English in middle school and high school and majored in English in college. Her dream is to become an English teacher. Ruth’s parents still live in China and are retired and she has a younger brother. Ruth is married to an American she met at her college in China and they have a young son. She loves Alcorn’s beautiful, natural setting and thinks the people here are very friendly. She enjoys singing, swimming and watching sports. She has been to the United States before and has visited a number of different states.

International Education Week 2014 Activities

International Education Week (IEW) 2014 was November 17, 2014. The Office of Global Programs had several activities to promote and celebrate IEW.

There was a Study Abroad and Gilman Scholarship Workshop given for those students who wanted more information about attending a university in another country for credit. The workshop, also, helps to broaden their horizons and life experiences and offer ways to apply for scholarships.

Presentations were given by the Arabic and Chinese FulbrightFLTAs, Nora Fawzy Ahmed and Rui (Ruth) Xue, and an exchange student from Pakistan, Umer Farooq. They spoke about their respective countries, customs and culture.

In addition, during International Coffee Hour, Riley Sklar a representative from Knowledge Exchange Institute (KEI) gave a talk about the study abroad opportunities offered by KEI.

Special points of interest:

· Come join us at International Coffee Hour in the Office of Global Programs Conference Room, every Friday at 10 a.m. during the fall and spring semesters.

· Russian Summer Language Program will be held from July 6 to August 7, 2015 in the Office of Global Programs. To register, visit http://www.alcorn.edu/academics/schools/areas/global-programs/upcoming-events/index.aspx or call 601-877-6530.
In fall 2014, senior, Agri-Business Management student, Corderrius Stevenson, studied abroad at The University of Veritas in San José, Costa Rica. He took courses in communications, business, leadership, and Spanish language during his term there.

Corderrius learned that the majority of Costa Ricans live a very *pura vida* lifestyle. *Pura vida* is a characteristic Costa Rican phrase, which literally means pure life, with connotations that suggest translations such as "full of life," "this is living!," "going great," or "real living." The phrase can be used both as a greeting or a farewell, as an answer expressing that things are going well, or as a way of giving thanks.

Costa Ricans have a laid-back culture, and they take great pride in their soccer team, Los Ticos. Corderrius felt that they were some of the friendliest people he would ever meet. Their diet consists of rice and beans with every meal. Lastly, Costa Ricans love their pets; there are no stray dogs or cats on the streets. He loved his homestay environment. The combination of his host family and the friends he met at school kept him at peace while he was abroad. There were a lot of good vibes!

Corderrius went on several excursions which gave him the opportunity to travel to different areas around the countries of Costa Rica and Panama on weekends.

His most memorable moments came trying to learn Spanish in a Spanish-speaking country. Corderrius did not know any Spanish when he arrived in Costa Rica and he remembers panicking on the first day of class, because he could not pronounce the words or understand the professor’s instructions. This led to him making a large number of new friends, all of whom helped him with his Spanish and encouraged him along the way.

“Words really cannot explain how much joy I got from studying abroad in Costa Rica,” stated Corderrius. I never thought I would have an opportunity to leave the country. To think that I would go to sleep and wake up every day for four months in another country was unbelievable. Honestly, there were good and bad times, but through every trial, I gained understanding. I am not afraid to be different nor am I afraid to fail, because life goes on. Pura Vida Mae!,” he added.

Corderrius has some advice for those students contemplating study abroad:

“Go for it! Studying abroad is a once in a lifetime experience. If you really want to find out how strong you really are, step outside your comfort zone. If you think you want to study abroad, do it, because although this opportunity is not for the faint of heart, there is nothing you can’t do. All you need is the will to go. You will be surprised by how much you will grow.”

---

**Alcorn Student Studies Abroad in Costa Rica**

![Corderrius Stevenson snorkeling in Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica](image1)

![Corderrius Stevenson on the last day of Basico Uno with his instructor, Silvia Montero](image2)

![Corderrius Stevenson on the last day of Basico Uno with his instructor, Silvia Montero](image3)

![Playing basketball in the university park with other study abroad students.](image4)

![Having a wonderful swim under a waterfall in Monteverde, Costa Rica](image5)

![Snorkeling with classmates in Bocas del Toro in Panama](image6)

![The beautiful coast of Bocas del Toro, Panama](image7)

![The best empanadas in Costa Rica from Senor Jorge.](image8)

![Enjoying a delicious lunch at Los Lanitas in Costa Rica](image9)

![Costa Ricans love their dogs. They are often dressed like people.](image10)
Pakistan Exchange Student Promotes Multiculturism

Fall 2014 the Office of Global Programs hosted another exchange student from Pakistan through United States Department of State International Research and Exchange (IREX), Umer Farooq. Umer, a junior in accounting and finance, is from Gujranwala, Pakistan.

Umer graduated from high school in 2012 and was a science student. Physics was his favorite subject and people used to think of him as "that guy who asks a lot of questions in physics class." Umer studied English in school. He went to college at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) in Lahore, Pakistan. At his college, English is the academic language. Thus, he got fluent in English because he had to learn to talk and write in the language.

Umer’s father is a businessman and his mother is a housewife. He explained that his dad has a bachelor’s in Law and his mom has a master’s in English (which helped him achieve his competency in English). He has a 14 year-old sister who is really into arts and hates math and science. He also has a 17 year-old brother who is extremely intelligent, but does not like to study. Umer’s family is religious, but have a liberal view of religion. Umer said his parents are “cool.” They encourage him to try new things.

Asked about his impression of Alcorn, Umer said, “Alcorn is a nice place. People here are very hospitable and friendly. It was difficult for me to adjust in the beginning, because of this deep southern accent here but it got better soon and now it feels like home. I have met lots of new people and have made lots of new friends. I can’t believe that I am going back next week because it feels like it was yesterday when I came here. I will miss these people a lot”.

In his spare time, Umer likes to do things with his friends. Apart from that, he likes to watch movies. He also plays badminton and cricket - both not very common sports in the United States. He loves traveling but this is his first time travelling, not only to the US, but also anywhere outside Pakistan. He has been to New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., Orlando, Miami, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. That shows how much he loves travelling. Umer wishes he had more time because he could not go to the west coast. He would like to visit California and Las Vegas.

Umer shares a quote from a wise man who once said, “All the wisdom that man has, he got that from travelling.” Well, now Umer knows why he said that. He is able to understand himself more now and he has a better understanding of who he is. This exchange has brought about some changes in Umer. Some of those changes will be a part of him forever. He thanked IREX and Alcorn State University for the opportunity to come here to spend a semester to advance his education and expand his horizons.

Global Programs Partners with Generation Study Abroad

In the ever changing world we live in today, there is a major challenge facing the United States educational system. Elements of this challenge are:

- International experience is one of the most important components of a 21st century education.
- Less than 10% of U.S. students study abroad.
- Globalization is changing the way the world works, and employers are increasingly looking for workers who have international skills and experience.

To help meet this challenge, Alcorn State University has established a partnership with Generation Study Abroad, a program through the Institute of International Education (IIE) whose initiative is to double the number of American students studying abroad by the end of the decade.

Studying abroad is one of the best ways American college students can acquire international experience necessary to succeed in today’s global marketplace.

Generation Study Abroad™ seeks to address that shortfall by bringing employers, governments, associations, and others together to build on current best practices, and find new ways to extend study abroad opportunities to tens of thousands of college students for whom traditional study abroad programs are not working.

Please come by the Office of Global Programs to learn more about Generation Study Abroad and to get more information about study abroad in general.

"International experience is one of the most important components of a 21st century resume.”

– Dr. Allan E. Goodman, President and CEO, IIE
A Model United Nations Student Club was created in Fall 2014 under the guidance of Dr. Dovi Alipoe, director of the Office of Global Programs. Several of the club members participated in a national Model African Union Competition held at the NAAAHP (National Association of African American Honors Programs) Conference in October, 2014. These Alcorn students won second place in the competition. Each participating student received a medal and a Global Citizen Award. In addition, the team and their advisor received a trophy.

In addition, five students spent the Fall 2014 semester studying abroad. They are Corderrius Stevenson, Edarien Bradley, and Shaydayle White all went to Costa Rica, Pavel Sarygin went to China and Aakanksha Punj studied abroad in Turkey.

International Coffee Hour was very popular during the Fall 2014 semester. Umer Farooq, our exchange student from Pakistan encouraged many students to come and he gave several very interesting presentations on Pakistan and the Arabic culture.

The mission of the Office of Global Programs (OGP) is to facilitate global engagement through the infusion of relevant international content, activities and knowledge to advance internationalization. OGP coordinates and spearheads activities related to five major unit goals in support of the university’s mission. For more information, visit www.alcorn.edu.

OGP Staff

Dr. Dovi Alipoe - Director of Global Programs
Zandra Lowe - Data Manager
Peggi Wolfe - Global Programs Specialist/Global Classroom

Check out our website for additional information on services, scholarships, pictures and international opportunities.

Members of the Alcorn Model UN Club standing with the 2nd place trophy they won at the NAAAHP Conference. From left, Timara Lockheart, Ruby Winters, Joy Applewhite, Torria Powell and Canary Robinson. Not pictured, Nora Ahmed and Garreth Hubbard.

World Current Events Question
What African country celebrated 58 years of independence on March 6, 2015?

□ Nigeria
□ Liberia
□ Ghana
□ Morocco

Answer: Ghana

The Russian Summer Language Institute will again be offered for free during the second half of the summer session. Registration ends on June 30, 2015. Class will be held July 6, 2015 to August 7, 2015. Come have fun and learn Russian!!