

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

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Ryan Walker '14**
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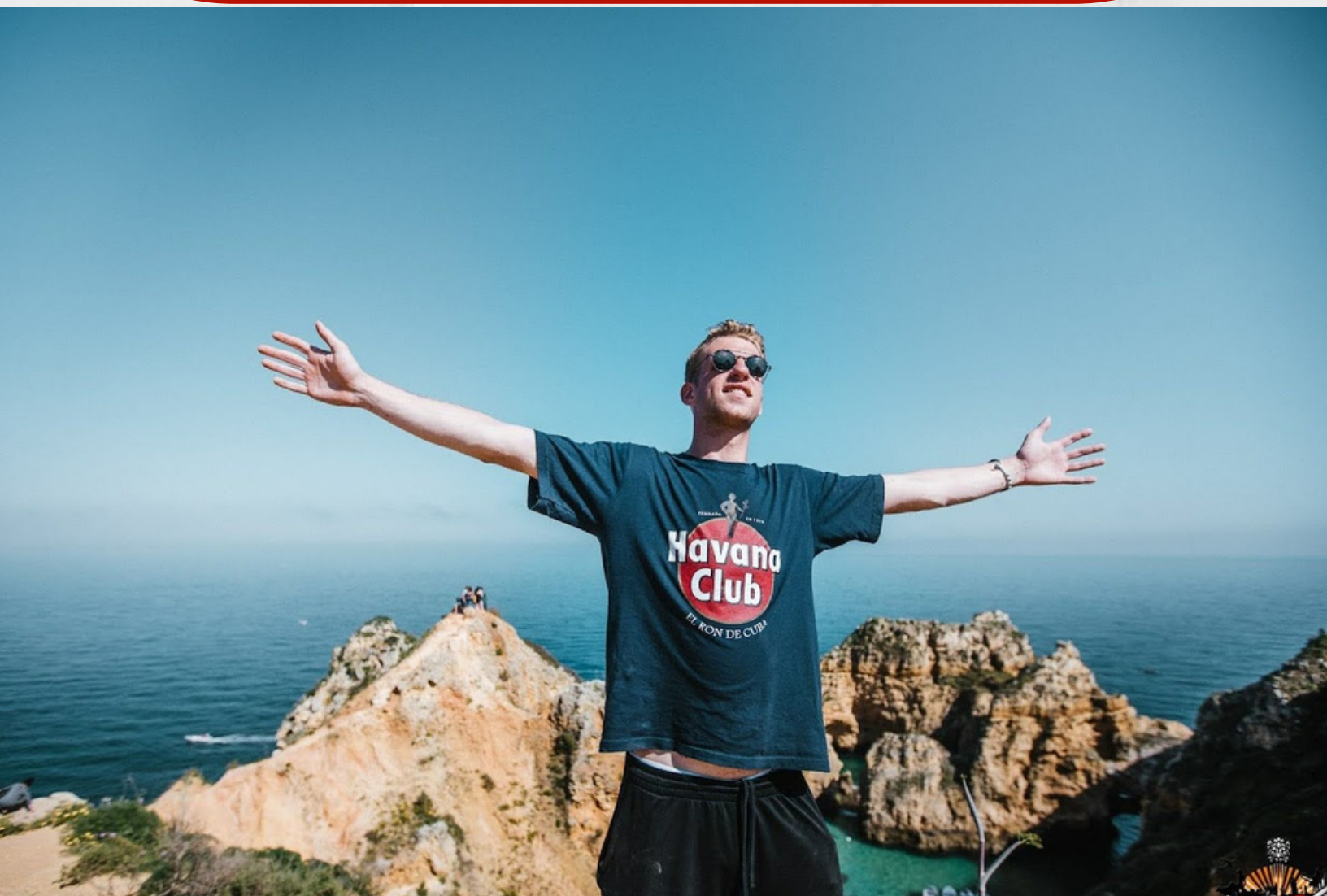
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This month we are featuring Ryan Walker, an alumnus of SUNY Cortland and former study abroad student. Ryan graduated from Cortland in 2014 as a Physical Education major and currently works as a PE teacher in China.

As a student, he studied abroad at German Sport University Cologne and cites this as what sparked his interest in working abroad. Like many who study abroad, Ryan fell in love with traveling and has returned to Germany four times since his study abroad trip. He took it a step further though - he wanted to stay abroad. After working as a PE teacher in Washington D.C., Ryan began to apply for jobs abroad. The school he works at currently reached out to him and, unlike many other schools, had a position teaching PE - it was a perfect match.

Ryan acknowledged that living abroad comes with its challenges; there's lots of things you can miss out on, from weddings to funerals. He had moved to China just before COVID and it was 4 years before he could come back to the U.S. This hasn't changed his mind about moving abroad, though, and he warns students from avoiding studying abroad due to FOMO (fear of missing out). The best thing about living and working abroad for Ryan is the experience itself - it forces you to get out of your comfort zone and "not just look outward at something, but look inward at yourself."



Ryan encourages students to enjoy the experience of a culture that's different from your own; students learn to adapt and see themselves outside of the American view of life. "You're never going to be able to replace the experiences that you have abroad with what you think you missed at Cortland. Don't stop yourself from doing something because you're nervous about missing out; look at it the other way, they're missing out on the opportunities you're having."



WELCOME BACK, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS!

We are thrilled to welcome our new and returning international students this semester. With students coming from all over the world, including France, Germany, Ireland, Iran, Myanmar, and Pakistan we are excited to be a part of this adventure.

Along with introducing students to American culture during orientation, we held our bi-annual International Welcome Celebration on February 26, welcoming faculty, staff, both international students as well as those returning from their study abroad programs. Thanks to everyone who came to celebrate!



MEDIEVAL ENGLAND: THERE AND BACK AGAIN WITH DR. LAURA GATHAGAN AND DR. ANDREA HARBIN

Medieval England: There and Back Again is perhaps one of the most action-packed of the faculty-led study abroad programs. Going to five cities in England in just 10 days, this program gives students a taste of medieval literature and history, traveling to some of the oldest and most famous locations in English history.

The program was initially started by Drs. Geoffrey Bender, Andrea Harbin, and Laura Gathagan, and is currently taught by Drs. Harbin and Gathagan. The idea, Dr. Gathagan says, was initially born out of a trip to New York City; Dr. Gathagan, Dr. Bender, and other Cortland faculty participated in a writer's group, and Dr. Bender got the idea of combining their areas into a program in London. Dr. Harbin joined the crew with her expertise in medieval literature, and the three created a dual history and English study abroad course.

Dr. Harbin argues that there's great importance in combining history and literature for American students; her hope is that literature students find the texts they read become real when learning the history and seeing the real locations the stories take place. For history majors, Dr. Gathagan says, there just isn't a lot of time to bring in literature to their studies, so the program provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary work.

The program originally started as an embedded course, with students beginning the course during the second-term fall semester and ending it with their trip abroad. Since COVID, it has transformed into a summer faculty-led course; originally traveling to Manchester, Cambridge, Canterbury, York, and London, this summer Cambridge has been swapped for Lincoln. Never fear, though; Dr. Gathagan shared that Lincoln has its own fascinating medieval history, including a female sheriff.

Overall, both Dr. Gathagan and Dr. Harbin are thrilled to be going abroad again with students. Dr. Harbin appreciates the opportunity to develop a relationship with students beyond the traditional classroom. Both professors are also big proponents of studying abroad in general; Dr. Gathagan described her time studying abroad as "life-changing" and hopes every student gets a chance to see a different part of the world.

If you're interested in this once-in-a-lifetime trip, check out the Medieval England program page. Applications are due February 15. For any questions, contact the International Programs Office!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Study Abroad Fair

Corey Union Lower Level

February 9, 2024

10 A.M.-1 P.M.



International Programs Office | Old Main Rm 219 | studyabroad@cornell.edu



DIVERSITY RESOURCES STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

This semester, our newsletters will highlight diversity resources the International Programs Office has compiled for marginalized students studying abroad. For more information, reach out to us at studyabroad@cutland.edu

Like with other identities (such as race, gender, and religion) the culture of disability varies widely from country to county, with some countries being highly inclusive and accessible (perhaps even more so than your home country) and others still making progress. Types of accessibility accommodations available vary widely between our programs and students with accessibility needs should take this into consideration during the study abroad selection process.

Be sure to discuss the accommodations you currently receive in conjunction with your desire to study abroad with the Disability Resources Center at Cortland. Build a list of accommodations that you receive in the U.S. and would like to receive while abroad. From there, we highly encourage you to disclose your needs to your study abroad advisor. Let them know what you need in order to meet your personal, professional, and academic goals while abroad.

- How might my accessibility considerations impact which program I choose?
- Are my accessibility needs only relevant to an academic setting, or do I need do broader research on accessibility in the host community?
- How accessible are places in my potential host countries?
- Am I willing to disclose my disability to others? In what situations/circumstances do I feel willing to disclose?

If you have additional questions or concerns, please consider meeting with a study abroad advisor in our office or visit the Disability Resources Center.

Resources

Studying Abroad and
Mental Health



Mobility International
USA



Studying Abroad
With a Disability



Tips By and For
Autistic Travelers



SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS

Summer 2024

Belize: Internships

Belize: Center for Engaged Learning Abroad

Colombia: Natural History, Anthropology, and Political Economies in Colombia

Costa Rica: Universidad Veritas

Egypt: American University in Cairo

Germany: Fulda University

Ghana: University of Ghana; Ghana to the World

India: Health Equity Action Research

Ireland: Dingle Summer Art

Ireland: University College Cork

Italy: Museology and Egyptian Material Culture

National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

Portugal: European Innovation Academy

Projects Abroad, various locations

Tanzania: Ecotourism

Thailand: Ecotourism

United Kingdom: Medieval England: There & Back Again

Fall 2024

Australia: Federation University

Australia: Griffith University

Belize: Internships

Costa Rica: Universidad Veritas

Egypt: American University in Cairo

France: University of La Rochelle

Germany: Fulda University

Ghana: University of Ghana, Legon

Ireland: University College Cork

Spain: University of Salamanca

United Kingdom: Anglia Ruskin University

United Kingdom: London Metropolitan University

CONTACT US

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

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Contact us to schedule an appointment with an advisor or to learn more. We look forward to hearing from you!

OFFICE HOURS

EMAIL US TO SCHEDULE AN
ADVISING APPOINTMENT

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Old Main, Room 219

**Have general questions?
Talk to our grad assistant!**

Walk in Advising:

Tuesday 9:30-4

Wednesday 9:30-3

Thursday 9-4

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SUNY Cortland Study Abroad