

# THE WINDOW SEAT

December 2019

International Programs Office Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Connecting International Students to Sioux Falls with Augustana's

## FRIENDSHIP FAMILY PROGRAM



Norwegian education exchange student, Bente Green, with her host family, the Youngbergs



World Learning Exchange student, Gome Walumbe with the Knips family



Computer Science & Dual Degree Engineering freshman, Sicheng Yang with the Johnson family



Government & History freshman, Marcos Quadros with the Fitzsimmons



### Q&A with Gome Walumbe

**What activities have you done with your friendship family?**

I have done a couple of activities with my friendship family. I was with them during Halloween and I joined them for trick or treating. We also went for apple picking together. Last week, I went with them for their Sunday worship service.

**What's your favorite memory with your friendship family?**

One day they invited me for dinner and their relatives were also there and we shared a lot of stories. I was very happy, I really felt a sense of belonging.

**How has your friendship family impacted your time in the United States?**

I have been able to learn a lot about the American culture through them. They are the ones I lean on whenever I have a problem and knowing that I have a system of support makes me feel more confident, knowing I have people I can look up to; I know am not alone.

**Would you recommend the Friendship Family program and why?**

Having a friendship family is one of the best things that has happened to me during my stay here. I would recommend it because to me it has acted as the perfect way to help me fight my culture shock and helped me to adjust to the new environment and culture.

Friendship Families are community members around Sioux Falls who serve as a resource for international students to connect to the local culture and provide a "host family" feel.



For more info, visit [www.augie.edu/ffp](http://www.augie.edu/ffp)

## Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE) Ambassador Program

### APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE) program is an exciting leadership opportunity for students interested in developing intercultural skills and establishing friendships with international students. The program is designed to help international students transition to the United States and to facilitate meaningful intercultural relationships. Ambassadors play an essential role in the successful integration of new international students at Augustana.

For more information, go to [augie.edu/ace](http://augie.edu/ace)

*Please note, it is NOT possible to be both an ACE Ambassador AND Viking Advisor or Viking Guide because of schedule conflicts. However, if you want to be involved with our international students throughout the school year, please complete the application so we can keep you on our invite list to join us when possible.*

## Donate to Sri Ram Ashram

During the past ten-years, Augustana University has engaged, through the study abroad course; Dharma: Life, Religion and Sound in Contemporary India, with Professors; Sandra Looney, Janet Blank-Libra, Lindsay Twa, John Pennington, as well as over a hundred Augustana University students, with Sri Ram Ashram (literally translates to “home” in Hindi) in Haridwar, India. Sri Ram is an orphanage and school and is dedicated to providing a loving and supportive home to abandoned or neglected children in India. Each January Interim, the students and faculty from Augustana bring clothes and a financial gift to Sri Ram for their important mission and spend the day exploring the area and connecting with the children. There have been numerous Augustana students who have returned to Sri Ram Ashram to do research or service as part of a Civitas, Honors, or cumulative project.



If you would like to explore Sri Ram further or donate you can access this link  
<https://sriramfoundation.org>  
or give funds or clothes directly to  
John Pennington or Lindsay Twa

# PAKISTAN



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## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROFILE



**TAHA AFZAL**

I saw Augustana as the best school in South Dakota. The low faculty-student ratio, growing city of Sioux Falls, and the resources/opportunities available to the students really drove me to Augustana. They also offered me a decent scholarship so the value for the cost seemed worth it.

I was welcomed by Kirtana Kumar (ACE Ambassador) at Augustana and I remember she was really nice and kind to me and helped me move in, show me around. My VA, Luis Cruz, also welcomed me warmly. The orientation was really helpful to understand many things at Augustana including classes, work, etc. All the ACE Ambassadors were helpful, understanding, and welcoming. The sessions we attended helped to understand some cultural differences between Pakistan and the U.S. Going to the trip in general helped make connections

with international students on campus.

Being away from home makes you independent and helps you manage your time, academics, social life, and exposes you to so many different things for good you might not be exposed to. I would highly recommend to experience studying abroad. I would also add that you are representing your country and family, so it is very important to be focused on what you came to the US for.

Life on campus is great! I love my classes and professors. There are a bunch of activities on campus that are always fun to attend. In my free time, I am mostly working on my personal projects. I go to the events that Augie puts up and the clubs on campus organize. It is always fun to socialize, hangout with friends, and chill on the weekends.

I am involved in the Computer Science Club, Muslim Students Association, the Asian Students Organization, Augustana International Club, Better Together, and the Hult Prize club. I hold board positions in some of these clubs as well. The resources available at Augustana also helped me start a new eSports Club for gamers to come together, socialize, and play video games.

The IPO is one of the first resources that I utilized to settle in as they are very understanding of different cultures the students are coming from. The faculty, Student Success Center, and the networks you build in the community are always of support. They are especially helpful for international students and try their best to remove the barriers that we might face.

Transcript provided by Kolby Vander Woude

**Taha is a Computer Science/Software Engineering & Data Science double major from Karachi, Pakistan.**

## Q&A with staff

# GET TO KNOW THE IPO



Jessica Fauteck

**What's your position?**  
International Student Advisor

**How did you get involved at the IPO?**  
Donn Grinager was my work study supervisor way back when I was an Augustana student. When I saw that there was an opening in the office, I was interested in a change from teaching.

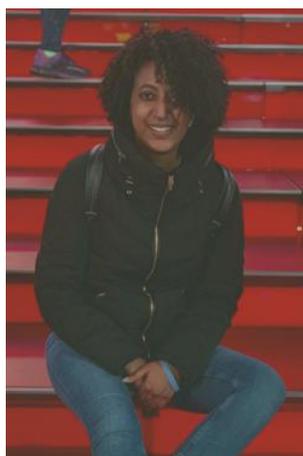
**How long have you worked for the IPO?**  
I've worked here for 2 years in August.

**Where have you studied abroad?**  
My first study abroad experience was in Russia in 1997. I went to St. Petersburg for 5 weeks in the summer to study language and culture. After that, I spent a semester in Granada, Spain, during my junior year of college in 1998. I also taught English as a foreign language in a Hungarian high school in 2003-2004.

**What's your favorite place that you've visited?**  
Costa Rica. The country is so beautiful and the people are so friendly. I'd love to take my kids back there.

**What is your favorite thing about your job?**  
Getting to know and work with fantastic students from all over the world. Although it isn't easy to travel these days, I still get to welcome them to Augustana, Sioux Falls, and South Dakota.

**Why is international education important?**  
Americans can sometimes be very inwardly focused. I believe it is important to learn more about the world and the people and cultures in it. This is especially true given the advancement of globalization; the far corners of the world aren't really that far away these days due to transportation and technology.



Helen Ayenew

**What's your position?**  
IPO Student Worker.

**What's your major(s)?**  
Computer Information Systems and Business Administration, minoring in French.

**Post-grad plans?**  
Get a job and eventually go to grad school in Europe, and follow my studies in Information Systems.

**How did you get involved at the IPO?**  
Came in as an international student to Augie and through my work study program.

**How long have you worked for the IPO?**  
2 years and 4 months

**Where have you studied abroad?**  
Never studied abroad or have I been studying abroad for the past 3 and a half years at Augie??

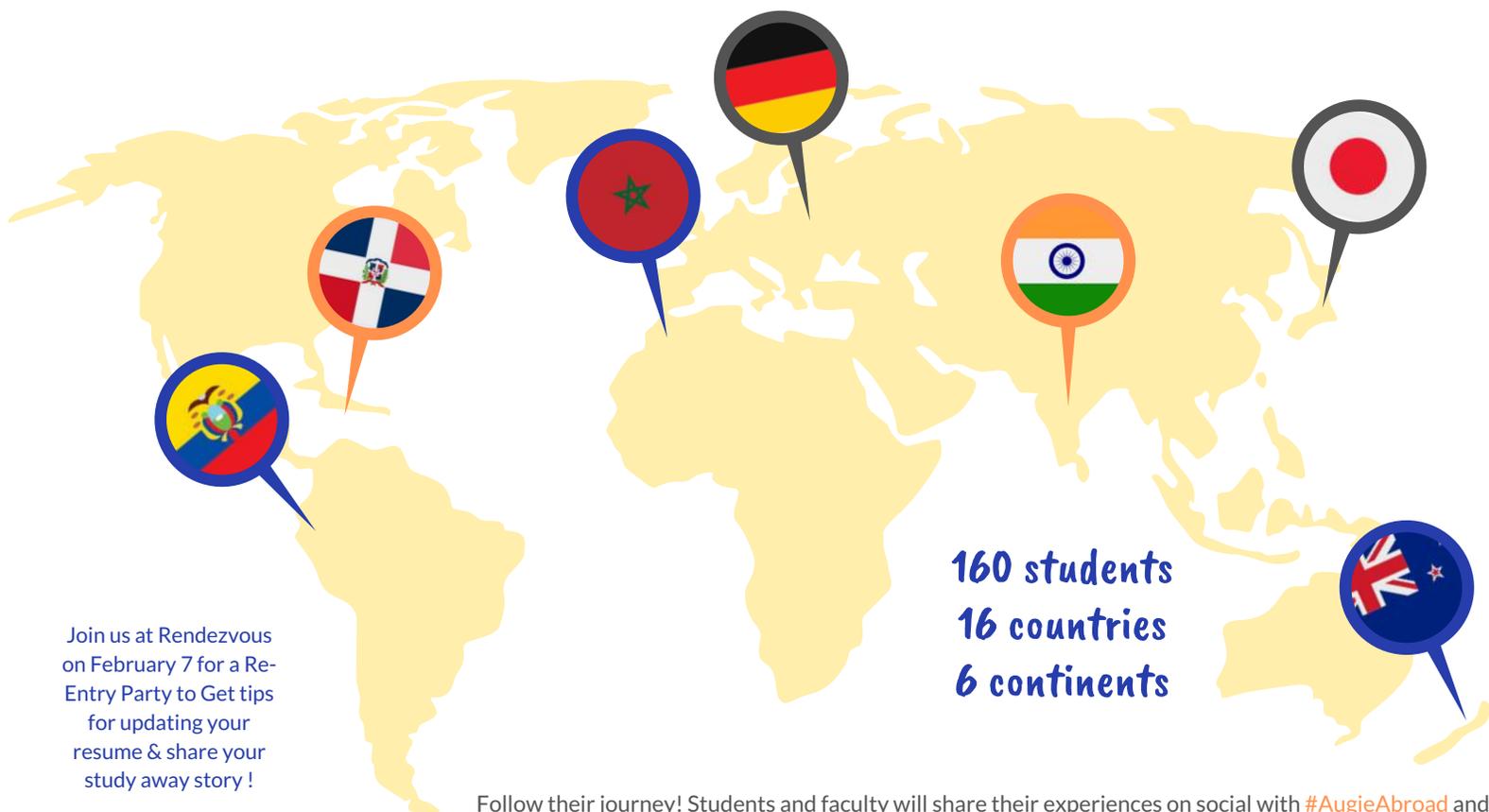
**What's your favorite place that you've visited?**  
London

**What is your favorite thing about your job?**  
Working with people and helping others.

**Why is international education important?**  
To spread culture and broaden people's knowledge of the world.

**Do you know any other languages?**  
French and Amharic

# Jetsetting for J-term: students travel for month-long study abroad programs



Join us at Rendezvous on February 7 for a Re-Entry Party to Get tips for updating your resume & share your study away story!

**160 students**  
**16 countries**  
**6 continents**

Follow their journey! Students and faculty will share their experiences on social with #AugieAbroad and #ipoPhotoContest20. Follow @augieipo on Twitter and Instagram or @AUGoesINTL on Facebook.

"I am excited to learn about a new culture and society, especially one as unique as Japan. The giant metropolis of Tokyo is quite different than that of Sioux Falls and I am excited to immerse myself in a new lifestyle for 2 weeks. Japan is also known for having very unique and delicious food!"

**ROHAN SINGH**

"I can't wait to try new things and step out of my comfort zone. The activity I am most excited for is sledding in Norway. I am both excited and nervous to try all of the food. I would call myself a picky eater, so it will be very good for me to try anything and everything abroad!"

**ERIN SCHNEIDERHAN**

"I am most looking forward to all the historical and cultural things we are going to learn about. I am a bit nervous about potential language barriers. When I've been abroad in the past, we had a few encounters with people who did not speak very good English, which made things incredibly difficult."

**KATHRYN ORTGIES**

## New Zealand and Cultural Identity

Darcie Rives-East (English) and Olivia Lima (Psychology) began planning this J-term course in 2015. This will be the first time this course is offered. The duo succeeded in keeping the final course costs under \$5,500, despite expensive airfare to the region.

Lima is most excited for the two-day canoe journey down the Whanganui River. Rives-East is most excited for an overnight marae stay at Whakarewarewa as well as a chance to visit at home with the current NZ poet laureate, Selena Tusitala Marsh.

The course will take a literary and psychological approach to ongoing issues, problems, and possibilities of the intersections between native Maori and white New Zealand settler culture. The hope is to offer the course again in the future, about every third J-term.

EXPLORE MORE WITH THE IPO

[HTTPS://STUDYABROAD.AUGIE.EDU/](https://studyabroad.augie.edu/)



**INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMS**

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY