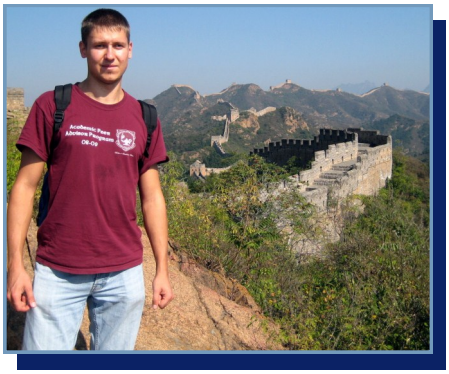
David Belousov, China 2010

Oral Roberts University
Pennsylvania



As I stepped off the airplane and gazed at the new unfamiliar land all around me, I had no idea what awaited me in this great country. My family came across the Atlantic on the first direct flight to the U.S.A from the crumbling Soviet Union. With nothing besides the clothing on our backs, we had no idea of the great opportunities awaiting us in the United States and beyond.

I always dreamed of working in international business, development, and diplomacy, bringing the world closer together through globalization. Through the Gilman Scholarship, I was given the opportunity to study abroad in China, where I gained a greater understanding of the global community, economy, and potential.

As I traveled to Qingdao to study International Business and learn the language and culture, and experience it firsthand, I learned everything that I could from the entire experience and became a more understanding, responsible, and significant member of the global community. The principles and lessons learned from the entire life-changing experience definitely helped me understand the world better, understand my purpose in it, and empowered me to live an effective, meaningful, purpose-driven life to help others do the same.

Through my entire global experience, I definitely grew in my academic understanding and application of International Business, as a person and member of the global community, and as an International Business Professional. The entire experience was a perfect complement to the International Business theory that I learned at Oral Roberts University, and together this was the perfect combination for a well-rounded education, with which I graduated as the Top ORU International Business Major of the Class of 2011.

Following graduation I travelled with an ORU College of Business Development Trip to Paraguay to empower entrepreneurs and the leaders of the next generation in this globalized era. I also travelled to Panama with a business owner as a consultant for his international logistics business, utilizing the company I launched upon my return to the USA from South America, and I work with contacts across the globe to create global synergy in commerce and communication.

My academic study of International Business and Spanish at ORU was beneficial, but my global experience through study abroad with the Gilman Scholarship was very crucial in shaping me into the global entrepreneur I am today, and preparing me for the global opportunities that await.

"My global experience through study abroad with the Gilman Scholarship was very crucial in shaping me into the global entrepreneur I am today."

Follow-on Service Project

For my Follow-On Service Project, I organized the first ever Oral Roberts University Study Abroad Council to educate, inspire, and empower students to study abroad. We held our first meeting in conjunction with the Spanish Club, French Club, and Hebrew Club, where all the students who had studied abroad shared experiences through panel questions, discussions, and multimedia. We set off a domino effect, and were then able to partner with various clubs, organizations, and university faculty and staff to effectively promote study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship.

Through the ORU Study Abroad Council, I laid a strong foundation, which continues on and keeps the fire of study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship forever burning in the heart of ORU.