



# INTERNSHIP BULLETIN

## The Nanjing Flagship Center

### Past Events:

- Internship staff visited students interning in Shanghai on October 18<sup>th</sup> to learn how they are doing at their internship and discuss any issues they have encountered.
- On October 19<sup>th</sup>, the Nanjing Flagship Center hosted its second internship job fair.
- Students and staff took a tour of AIDA on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to better understand the company and working environment.
- Internship staff also paid a visit to students interning in Beijing on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Upcoming Events:

- Spring 2017 Cohort Post Program OPI and AC reading/listening testing will take place November 27-28. Good luck to all students!
- Internship staff plans to host an alumni roundtable late November, giving the Fall 2017 Cohort an opportunity to learn about different internship experiences.



Students of the 2017 Fall Cohort visit AIDA

### Let the Search Begin!

Since the initial internship briefing in September, the Fall 2017 Cohort has been busy searching, applying for, and attending internship interviews. As of November 13, 6 students have found an internship and received approval, 17 students are in the process of interviewing, and 20 students have applied to companies and are awaiting a reply. Students are expected to find and settle an internship by the end of December so that they have time to collect the necessary visa change documents.

### AIDA Visit

After welcoming AIDA to the Nanjing Center for the September recruitment fair, AIDA invited all interested students to visit the company. AIDA is a game art and CG animation company with international clients. Students were shown demo videos of the company's projects, took a tour of the company, and met with HR to discuss which departments they are interested in. AIDA will be reaching out to students soon to schedule interviews!

## Internship Site Visits

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of students' working environment, the Internship Staff made two site visits; Shanghai on October 18 and Beijing on November 8-9. The staff met with each student individually to discuss any hardships they are facing, how they are doing at their internship, any cultural or linguistic difficulties, etc. The visit also helped staff determine whether or not the Nanjing Center should recommend an internship provider in the future.



During the Shanghai site visit, staff met with Michael Olevnik (UHM) and Adam Feiszli (URI). Both expressed how much they enjoy their internship and find the work to be both rewarding and interesting. At Microbenefits, Michael is very excited to work with big name companies, attend business trips in other parts of the country, and contribute to the

company by providing a psychology perspective (psychology major) to approach challenges. Adam's work at ERM is mainly translation focused, but he finds the work very interesting and has plans to branch out more as his internship continues.



In Beijing, staff met with Megan Ueno (SFSU), Mason Williams (UMN), and Arianna James (HC). All three students thoroughly enjoy their internships and would recommend them to future Flagship students! Megan is currently interning at Yingke Law firm and has shown marked language improvement! She works closely with one of the financial

lawyers, helping him translate case reports and monthly reports. Mason is interning at Entrust Datacard and does a lot of Chinese market analysis for them. At China Daily, Arianna is tasked with translation and editing work, as well as monitoring an online forum.



## Internship Job Fair



The Nanjing Flagship Center hosted its second Internship Job Fair on October 18, inviting Lingfeng Capital (Beijing), Maitao (Shanghai), and Diantouwang (Nanjing) to participate. Austin Babb (IU) presided as host, briefly describing the Flagship Program, introducing each company, and thanking the company representatives for taking the time to meet with students. After each company gave a brief presentation, students were free to mingle and talk with company representatives. Overall, the staff received favorable reviews from the students!



## Internship Corner

For each issue of the newsletter, Capstone interns share pictures and stories about their internships. Thanks to this issue's volunteers for sharing their experiences!

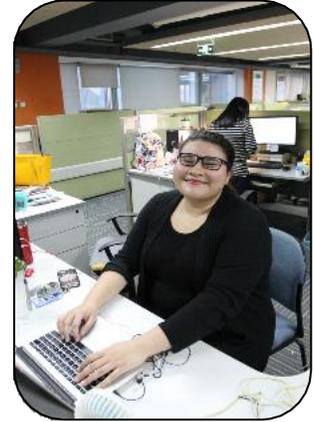


“I noticed that when traveling on my own, or spending time away from work, I feel very confident and comfortable with my Chinese. This would be because I simply have more freedom though. At work there is more pressure, so naturally I am more nervous. These aspects might not influence me to a great degree, but I like to take note of it as an interesting phenomenon in language learning. It basically comes down to trying to be as self aware as possible as well. This way I can work on my weaknesses, as well as bring out my strengths. It is important to notice too though that just because I am comfortable with my language skills traveling independently or being away from work for a while, that doesn't mean it is necessarily better for my Chinese. I have also learned that challenging yourself and putting yourself in difficult situations can be uncomfortable, but also make you grow as a person and improve your skills better. Therefore, I may be comfortable when traveling and using Chinese, but I know that it is important to experience nervousness and adversity too.” (Michael Olevnik, UHM)

“I was tasked with going through all the student self-introductions, and to pick out interesting facts/basic information about the student for the Flagship newsletter...I enjoyed learning little things about each student. Every person has a unique story...This is why I always liked these sorts of jobs that

involved working with large groups of kids – you learn that at the end of the day, despite perceived differences, everyone has some commonalities.” (Skye VanValkenburgh, SFSU)

“I was given the job of writing something in Chinese today, and though it was just a short point of view blurb about the 19th National Congress, I tackled it with fervor. It was nice, to be able to write something in Chinese...I have been translating a lot more documents lately, and even had the opportunity to translate an English document into Chinese. My co-worker was extremely helpful with this more challenging task, and offered me quite a few pointers and even taught me some new and popular terms that have not reached us at Pleco, MDBG, or Google Translate just yet. It was incredibly enlightening, and showed me how much farther I have to go to truly be able to write like a native speaker.” (Arianna James, HC)



“One of the classes that I assist Prof. Huang in is called 中国艺术之美, which focuses on the aesthetic appreciation of the Chinese arts, and is forum-based, meaning that individual student questions form the majority of class content. I have begun to really enjoy this class as a source of both learning and networking. The class-size is only 15, meaning that it requires less work on my end, and allows me more opportunity to study the class-material itself. In addition, this small class size means that I get to grow more familiar with the students, which is an added bonus!” (Darrell Day, BYU)

“Two weeks ago my boss assigned me to translate the Recovery Team’s September and August work report. The contents of the report included detailed progress reports for the active recovery projects, as well as a human resource report on the status of the team members. I usually work on the translations with the intern who sits next to me. Since he is a law student he has access to his school’s library database and can look up already translated legal articles.” (Megan Ueno, SFSU)



“My first language related task was translating nearly 100 pages of an environmental assessment report on the China-Myanmar Oil Pipeline, which was definitely a challenge. It has been very good for enhancing my reading skills and also my professional vocabulary in regards to environmental science/geology. I also find the reports really interesting.” (Adam Feiszli, URI)

“This week I went with the boss to Xuzhou for an academic exchange on China-Australia relations. I interpreted the opening speech for the audience, sitting in the interpreters booth with another professional conference interpreter. It was a great experience. I had conversations with other conference participants in Chinese during breaks, and listened in to the interpreter at times to get a feel for the simultaneous interpreting business.” (Bart Zobel, UHM)



“This past week, some of the more interesting articles included details about our discount promotions for the upcoming Double 11th Day (essentially China’s Cyber Monday but held on November 11th) and the story of a wheelchair bound boy who’s GaoKao score was among the top in the nation. Aside from this...Skye and I have started to practice together for the OPI coming up at the end of next month. We review material and strategies learned in previous classes, practice answering questions, and provide suggestions for each other.” (Zayne Callahan, BYU)

“As my time interning at MLOptic is coming to an end, I am realizing how valuable the experience has been and how much I will miss it here, not only at MLO but in Nanjing in general. There are informal talks of having an official job offer extended to me once I graduate, which was very welcomed given my attitude towards leaving. Although informal, I am excited by the idea and looking forward to where it goes from here.” (Jack Edwards, UO)



“I got an offer from my existing company to stay with them full time if I please, and this is very exciting because it is my first official full time job offer (yay!). I am very excited to consider this and many other options in the future and to have the opportunity to continue to use my Chinese language skills in the professional workforce as well as continue the lifelong journey that is learning about the Chinese language and culture!” (Joseph Rizzo, ASU)

**Skye VanValkenburgh (SFSU) is currently interning with the Nanjing Flagship Center. She wrote about her experience thus far:**



“When I transferred to San Francisco State and joined Flagship, I became the first person in my immediate family to ever leave the country – studying in Taiwan was a transformative experience that gave me the confidence I needed to pursue the rest of my life. Upon returning to the US, I become a Global Ambassador for SFSU’s Study Abroad office sharing my experiences and challenges abroad with a variety of students from diverse backgrounds. It was there that my passion for

International Education ignited and, luckily, a job opportunity opened up that led to me becoming a student assistant for SFSU’s Office of International Programs (OIP). Within the two years that I worked at OIP, I fell in love with my job and knew when I applied to Capstone that I wanted to find an internship in International Education Management.

Thus, I felt very lucky to be given the opportunity to intern at Nanjing University (NJU) as an office assistant for the Flagship Office. The problem with finding internships related to “International” Education in China was getting shoehorned into teaching English. I had succeeded in getting an internship at a study abroad consulting firm in Nanjing that had tried to do just that. It ended up falling through. Luckily, Flagship realized my ambitions and let me first try interning with them for a few weeks -- later I was supposed to transfer to NJU’s “Institute for International Studies,” but I enjoyed my work with the Flagship office so much that I decided to stay on and do my internship here.

What I like about working for Flagship is that the job is both personal and professional. I answer questions on and off the job from students, some are concerns about classes or advice on how to complete assignments/deal with roommates, sometimes it's comforting someone who's just had a really bad China day. I have always loved jobs where mentoring was a key component and I enjoy that the most about working at Flagship. The language environment is perfect for professional development because there is always something to do. The first weeks on the job I took incoming Flagship students around Nanjing, helping them set up bank accounts, cell phones, and get subway cards -- I had a Chinese person take me when I first arrived in Nanjing, so I felt like my Chinese had improved a lot to be able to take American students myself. I also took students out to eat and listened to their concerns, worries, fears, and excitements about studying in Nanjing. Having just been in their shoes, I understood how many felt and wanted to be the sympathetic ear that I had needed.



My job responsibilities only upgraded from there. Flagship trusted me enough to let me take over more formal office responsibilities: tracking and following up with students on time sensitive application materials while one of the main teachers was out for a weeklong trip. I am also the TA for the Flagship course “Discussing Hot Topics”. Recently my job responsibilities have included helping with event organization/coordination, potentially taking students to the hospital during emergencies, and writing reports regarding roommate tutoring. I am very happy here because I feel like there is room to grow. Having done other internships in Taiwan, my biggest fear was sitting in an office as the token “waiguoren” [foreigner] with nothing to do, no one trusting me to do anything, and no one to talk to.

To sum up, and this is a strange compliment, I know.... but: I really love my internship and look forward to putting it down on my resume.”

**Zayne Callahan (BYU) was invited to attend a company retreat with his internship provider CANYOU Group. He enjoyed a day on the beach with his fellow coworkers and came to realize the importance of the company’s efforts to help the disabled:**



“The cool fresh breeze, free of smoke scent, blew across my face as I gazed over a golden sandy beach for the first time this year. The sun shined over a rare clear blue sky as beads of sweat glistened on my forehead. My coworker, a girl slightly younger than me with chronic back pain, offered me a water bottle, which I politely declined as I reached for my own water bottle and took a few swigs. My company--CANYOU Group Company (中文名: 残友电子善务股份有限公司) --was on our annual retreat to the beach, and they had picked the perfect day to do it.

The whole previous month, we had all been cooped up in a large room, seated row after row in front of our individual computers working on various tasks. For myself, that included taking English descriptions of disability rehabilitation products from an international database and translating them into Chinese for our company's own database. I was also heavily involved in responding to our customer's online product reviews of our other various electronic goods that we sold. My supervisor, whom I sat next to and who used one crutch to walk in order to compensate for his left leg being about 4 inches shorter than the other, would also regularly give me various random projects to complete. I was the only intern in the office, let alone the only non-native and only English speaker, which made for a very busy time keeping up with everyone. It was a successful month, and I learned a lot, but this retreat was very much looked forward to as a way to get to know my coworkers on a casual basis.

I had decided that it was too hot to actually go into the water--additionally, I regrettably didn't bring any swimming gear--and started towards the company owned restaurant looking over the beach. As I was turning, I saw my indirect supervisor, a wheelchair bound man in his mid 30s, being carried into the water by 2 volunteers in red vests. About a dozen of these volunteers had come out to help us with this activity, and they were all spread out in the water watching over various coworkers and their families, ensuring their safety. Inside the restaurant, another one of my coworkers had brought Uno, so we found two more coworkers and played several rounds together. Afterwards, evening was approaching and being in high spirits, I decided I wanted to at least go step into the water a bit. I headed towards the beach and one volunteer sprinted towards me to steady me as I took one step at a time deeper into the ocean until the tide reached just below my knees. As I stood there just enjoying the scene and water, we had a nice conversation about his daughter who had gone abroad to study in Wisconsin and a few of his other family members who lived in Los Angeles as well as his recent trip across the United States. Suddenly a surprisingly large tide rushed in...so much for staying relatively dry. In this case, Shenzhen's heat was helpful in drying me off shortly before the BBQ that evening.



As the sun began to set, everyone gathered around various coal pits and enjoyed delicious BBQed foods, including meat balls, chicken wings, squid, enoki mushrooms, beef strips, bread rolls, and eggplant, along with various drinks and watermelon. One of the corporate office directors, a man who came up to my chest in height, joined us a little later for food and wished us all well. Finally, the day ended with all of us getting to behold the bright orange moon of a complete lunar eclipse. Knowing that probably more than 70% of China's disabled population would never be able to come and see the beach like this, I could sense that life in China didn't get much better than this day. Thanks to the efforts of my company's disability welfare enterprise, at least a few more physically challenged Chinese could become self sufficient, and with the assistance of friendly volunteers, they could even experience the joys of life that many of us often take for granted.”

