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Study Abroad: China – A Unique Opportunity

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Have you ever wanted to get a taste of the world outside of the United States? Do you want to get college credit while doing so? You may want to look ahead at the upcoming Study Abroad trip to China. Shortly after the end of the Spring semester, AUM students will leave for China on May 26, 2015. The trip will last until June 10. All students are welcome to join in on the trip and can acquire three credit hours. If interested, you'll have to prepare for the trip with a weeklong orientation class. There's also a week of classes required by the program for students to take after they arrive back in the United States. The estimated cost of the course is about \$2,600, a rather small price to pay for this kind of trip. I spoke with Ling Chen Kelley, who is a visiting professor of Chinese at Auburn Montgomery. "An ancient Chinese proverb depicts that: 'It is better to see something once than to hear about it a hundred times,'" Ling says. "Instead of learning from media, books and classical literature, the study abroad program allows students to experience China first-hand by being immersed in the country, its customs, culture, language, sights, sounds, viands and historical sites for two weeks."



Ling Chen Kelley poses for a picture on top of the Great Wall of China.

Photo courtesy of Ling Chen Kelley

Ling feels that this learning experience is invaluable as it gives students the chance to see another way of life firsthand. Those who embark on this experience will see a number of historically significant places over the two-week trip. "During our stay, we will visit the ancient city of Wuhan, the provincial capital of Hubei province and take a train ride to Beijing for the second week," Ling says. "Some of the highlights in Hubei include ancient battlefields from the Warring States Period and Late Han Dynasty, the Three Gorges, the Hubei Provincial Museum." Students will also get the opportunity to see the Great Wall of China in Beijing.

Ling notes that the program is geared towards those involved in either International Business

