



# BULLETIN

Fall 2016 | Internships

## October Events

- The Internship Staff finished meeting with all 44 students individually to understand where each student is in the internship placement process.
- The Internship Staff traveled to Beijing to visit Eric Brown (SFSU) at Edelman and hear his thoughts on the internship.

## Upcoming Events

- In early November, a few Flagship alumni will return to Nanjing to discuss their internship experience, issues they encountered working in China, and how to overcome cultural barriers.
- Due to the growing interest in past internship providers, the Internship Staff is planning to invite a few companies to host recruitment workshops.



## Let the Search Begin!

On October 12, the Nanjing Internship Staff completed the last of the one-on-one internship interviews with the Fall 2016 Cohort. During the meetings, students were able to practice giving a self-introduction, and provided staff with a better idea of each student's interest, career goals, and internship direction. The fall cohort has a very diverse array of interests, ranging from music production, translation, agriculture, medicine, law, finance, etc.



## Internship Placement Progress

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This year, the Internship Staff is encouraging students to find their spring internship sooner. In order to reduce the burden on students later in the year, they are asked to follow the following timeline:

*October* – students send resumes to all companies that interest them

*November* – students meet with companies for interviews

*December* – student's internship is finalized and approved; collect Internship Provider documentation

*January* – students have submitted all documentation and applied for their new residency permit

Despite the stress and workload as students near midterms, everyone has worked hard to adhere to the timeline. Currently, 82% of students have submitted their resumes to companies, 27% have completed interviews, and 16% have received an offer! Congratulations on everyone's hard work!

## Visiting Edelman in Beijing

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On October 14, the Internship Staff paid a visit to Eric Brown (SFSU) and his internship provider, Edelman. Edelman is a Public Relations agency that helps facilitate company relations with the media, promote new company products, analyze the competition, etc. They are currently working with Tencent, Oracle, Telstra, Veritas, HP and Airbnb.



During the brief reunion in Beijing, Eric discussed the pros and cons of his internship:

Pros:

- Amazing coworkers
- Good environment for professional development
- Able to develop better communication and story-telling skills



Cons:

- Not a good language environment (oral communication with coworkers is in Chinese, but actual work content is in English)
- Colleagues use a lot of internet slang, so cannot always understand the conversation
- Workload is relatively light, so have to be active in searching for tasks



### *Spring Cohort Testing*

Post Program OPI and AC online reading/listening tests have been confirmed for November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. As this is a smaller cohort, students will be taking a telephonic OPI. Good luck to the 2016 Spring Cohort!

## At the Crossroads of Shakespeare and Kun Opera

During the week of September 18-26, Dare Norman (WKU) travelled with her internship provider, Yu Theatre Workshop, to London to perform *The Shakespearean Handan Dream*. The play brought together the works of Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu (a famous Kunqu opera playwright), along with different styles of theatre and multiple languages. The following is Dare's reflection on her London experience:

"In September, I had the opportunity to travel with the Yu Theatre Workshop and the Jiangsu Kun Opera Theatre to London to perform for the London Design Festival "Nanjing Week" performance of *The Shakespearean Handan Dream*. I've definitely learned a lot throughout my internship with the Yu Theatre Workshop, but this was definitely the most challenging and engaging experience in my study of Chinese this past year.



You would think that my travel internationally during my internship would mean a decline of my Chinese – but this wasn't the case at all. As assistant producer of the show and coordinator of the Chinese actors, most of whom do not speak English, I spent most of my time still immersed in a Chinese environment. It was so fun at times to see the interaction between the three cultures. There I was, an American delighted to be surrounded by cheese and jam and English tea and whole-grain bread and sandwiches and fries and hot chocolate, while our lead female actress pulls me aside:

*'Mengdi, you don't understand. I am Chinese. I don't sandwich. You need to find me some rice, or I can't rehearse all afternoon like you want me to.'*

We had to be creative about food. This struggle opened my eyes to the view of Europeans that these Kun opera actors held, stereotypes that actually weren't true in many cases, but they simply refused to see it any other way. This would often frustrate my attempts to be an English-Chinese diplomat, but it also made me hyper-aware of my own cultural generalizations. In this way, going to London offered insight on a multinational interaction that I couldn't receive if I had stayed in Nanjing.



Furthermore, being a part of the

performance improved my Chinese language ability, as well. My primary responsibility was writing out and operating the English-traditional Chinese subtitles. This was an excellent opportunity to familiarize myself with traditional script, as well as the pronunciation of these characters in the Ming dynasty stage speech used in Kun opera (the clown character also spoke the Suzhou dialect and the Beijing dialect, so I had to practice my listening comprehension of those, too). At the Lanyuan Theatre in Nanjing, their home theatre, subtitle operators are already in place, so if I had stayed in Nanjing I would never get this opportunity. In London, they needed me, especially because a quarter of the subtitles were in Shakespearean English, which no one else on our team could follow. Because of my fluency in the two languages, I was given this opportunity.

Ultimately, the London experience was a great big exercise in thorough translation, which is exactly the subject of my personal research and the goal of my Chinese study. In rehearsals at Loughton, I served as one of three translators (in addition to taking extensive notes and editing the bilingual script). Really always, though, I had to be on call; at any point someone would need to communicate without knowing the language, and so I would be snagged from wherever I stood to translate.

Through this experience, I learned that direct translation is not always enough, and mere language difference is not always the only barrier. At times, the Kun opera director and the Shakespearean director would be talking at each other in two languages but also on two totally different issues, and in this case it was more my job to facilitate the entire conversation rather than translating word-for-word the sentences spoken. In this way, we, the translators, kept the entire project moving forward, and had to be more knowledgeable than anyone about anything related to the show. It was a huge responsibility that not only grew my language ability, but also my personal bravery and leadership skills, and finally my ability to cooperate and facilitate the cooperation of others within two co-existing cultural environments. It was just an incredibly beneficial experience."



*Jiangsu Kun Opera Theatre Members*