

Global Entrepreneurship Exchange Program – Summer 2017

UMass Lowell's Global Entrepreneurship Exchange Program (GE2) continues to grow and enjoyed another successful summer — both on campus and, for the first time, in China.

Founded in 2014 by Program Director Ashwin Mehta, a lecturer in the Manning School of Business, GE2 gives students from UMass Lowell an opportunity to study abroad in India and China. Additionally, students from various institutions around the world have traveled to the United States to study entrepreneurship here at UMass Lowell.

Since its inception, more than 600 students from 10 different countries have participated in the exchange program.

This year, two summer sessions took place at UMass Lowell. The first session consisted of undergraduate and graduate students from UMass Lowell, India, China and Japan. The second session

included primarily graduate students from Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos. Each individual contributed something unique and special to the program.



A third session was held in Nanjing China with 40 students who participated from UML, India and China. This is the first time the GE2 program was held in China. With a very positive feedback from students and faculty, it will become an annual event in the future.

Welcome and Team Building Day

Each two-week session kicked off with a special Welcome Day, where the excited participants began forming new friendships with peers from different cultures and backgrounds. After some socializing, the students participated in a team-building ice-breaker. Working in teams, they were given limited supplies (such as balloons, tape, string) and tasked with building a device that would prevent an egg from breaking when dropped from a ladder. The exercise helped students learn how to work around language barriers — while generating plenty of laughs.

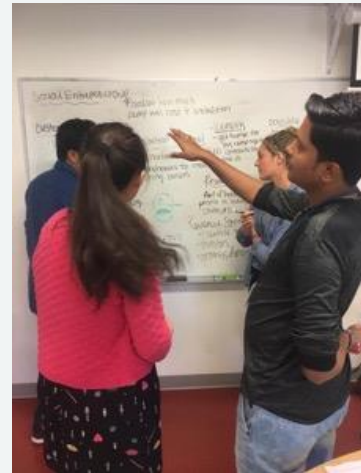




Students and faculty from different institutions came together to take on the task of creating a safety cushion for their egg, many of which were proved successful.

In the Classroom

Program participants used class time to work in teams on entrepreneurial projects, which they presented at the end of the two-week session. The class was intensive: Monday through Friday, from morning until the early evening. Several business experts from the Greater Boston area visited the classes to deliver guest lectures.



Several students from Myanmar said they appreciated the program's guest lectures, which they believe will be valuable to their future.

Visiting students also enjoyed experiencing American culture, including the television series "Shark Tank," which the program's professors shared.

Utilizing what they learned from the professors and guest speakers, the students came together and created a plan for their business/product. Before the final projects were presented, Manning School of Business Dean Sandy Richtermeyer met with each group to learn about their creations. She was very intrigued by what these entrepreneurs-in-the-making had produced. As expected, the final project presentations were quite successful.



Individuals collaborated daily with their groups to work at creating their final projects. They even took some pointers from the American television show Shark Tank, UMass Lowell's DifferenceMaker program, and Dean Richtermeyer.

Outside of the Classroom

A visit to MKS Instruments has always been a highlight of our summer programs. MKS has hosted student visits since 2014 and their executives and staff provide students a very memorable experience!





Students also had the opportunity to visit several local businesses, including MKS Instruments, Amazon Robotics, Wintress and iHub. There they met with executives, toured the facilities and learned about business operations. Of course, the program's international students came to the United States not only to study, but also to explore! Each session spent a weekend touring the historic city of Boston, and also some shopping.



Wintress CEO Mike Hatch discussed the company history, as well as philosophy of innovation and entrepreneurial culture.



A full weekend was spent shopping at the Merrimack Premium Outlets, and taking in all the city of Boston had to offer.



Graduation Day



After two weeks of classes, lectures, group project work and business visits, each student in the Global Entrepreneurship Exchange Program received a certificate from the Manning School of Business recognizing their completion of the three-credit course.

Closing Reception

To celebrate the conclusion of Session 1, students and faculty attended a culture-filled event at University Crossing, where students wore outfits from their native countries. During dinner, participants enjoyed a video highlighting their two weeks together, giving them a chance to reflect and reminisce. To wrap up the evening, program participants, along with students from past sessions, shared their experiences with the GE2 program. As the evening concluded, students did not say “Goodbye,” but rather, “See you later” as they posed for countless photos.



Closing Reception

Session 2 ended with a social gathering. This gathering was all made possible by members of the SayDaNar Community. The event included fun activities, faculty speakers and guest speakers, and an ethnic dinner prepared by the members of the SayDaNar Community.



Following a volleyball tournament, the SayDaNar Community prepared food for the faculty and students.

UMass Lowell Travels to China

In July, a GE2 summer session was held for the first time in China at the Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NUPT). A total of 38 students from UMass Lowell, India and China attended the session at NUPT. There they expanded their knowledge on entrepreneurship from the daily presentations created by two faculty members of the NUPT School of Management. NUPT Vice President ZhiHua Zhang personally welcomed the students upon their arrival.



The course included many entrepreneurial guest speakers, including: Dr. Wei Wang (who discussed setting up an operating system of the whole business); Dr. Wang Yanhong (who discussed the new mode of entrepreneurship and innovation); Bu Anxun (who discussed the elevation of a business); and Wang WeiBing (who discussed the innovative mode of social transaction based on trust).

As at UMass Lowell, not only were the students active in the classroom, but they also got to explore areas outside of the classroom. They visited four technology companies and two incubators, all while taking a deeper look into the cultural side of Nanjing. The students were surrounded by social aspects that were quite similar, but other aspects that were quite different than what they are used to. Since Google and Facebook are banned in China, students learned about the social media site “WeChat,” which allows users to connect with each other using pictures and content, instant messaging, payment services and more. Students learned that China may be a bit more advanced when it comes to technology. For example, almost no one uses cash. Most individuals use the app Alipay to cover their expenses. Traveling through Nanjing, many students noticed that individuals call a taxi just as much as we call Ubers.



To end the session, the Dean of the School of Management, Dr. Huang, presented completion certificates. Students celebrated with a closing reception where they had an opportunity to meet with the School of Management’s faculty. Students also reflected on the knowledge, both educational and cultural, that they have obtained.



The Future of GE2

The GE2 Program plans on furthering its mission to bring students around the world together for entrepreneurship and innovation workshops. Once just a vision, the program continues to become a reality. In just three and a half years, the program has grown exponentially. This would not be possible without the involvements of the universities, faculties and students. The program hopes to expand to more universities around the world in years to come.

For more information, contact the GE2 Program Director at Ashwin_Mehta@uml.edu

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