

# think: international

WE BRIDGE  
**CWRU**  
AND THE  
**WORLD**

CASE  
WESTERN  
RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Annual Report 2016

# BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES



*President Barbara R. Snyder with students at the 2016 International Student Graduation Reception*

“ At Case Western Reserve University, we pride ourselves on our unwavering commitment to the continued internationalization of our campus, whereby we provide opportunities to educate truly global citizens, advance research collaboration worldwide, and graduate the next generation of world leaders. ”

**Barbara R. Snyder**

*President*

**DAVID FLESHLER**  
**From the Vice Provost  
for International Affairs**



This 2016 Annual Report highlights how the entire community—students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members—continues to work to internationalize our campus.

Among the ways we helped bridge CWRU and the world this past year, perhaps the one that most exemplified our continuing emergence as a global institution was in July, when CWRU hosted more than 70 foreign ambassadors to the U.S. during the Republican National Convention (see page 4 to learn more). Time and again I heard ambassadors say they were surprised and impressed with the advanced research, technology, and education at CWRU. We are following up on the connections made during the RNC, and they are already paying dividends!

Thank you for your continued support of CWRU's internationalization efforts. I invite you to join us as we *Bridge CWRU and the World*.

**David Fleshler**  
*Vice Provost*

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## CWRU Hosts More Than 70 Ambassadors During the Republican National Convention

During July's four-day Republican National Convention (RNC) in Cleveland, CWRU became home to a delegation of foreign ambassadors to the U.S. from more than 70 countries, including Japan, Russia, Israel, Mexico, and the United Kingdom.

The Center for International Affairs coordinated with many offices across campus, community organizations, and the State Department to plan and host events at CWRU throughout the week. Events included panel discussions about U.S. politics, foreign policy, and national security and visits from speakers including Speaker Paul Ryan and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

*John Grabowski, Krieger-Mueller Joint Professor in History, engaged the ambassadors in a presentation about Cleveland's history*

"It was exciting to introduce CWRU to the international delegation," said David Fleshler, Vice Provost for International Affairs. "Our campus and the university's vibrant international culture impressed our guests and opened the doorway to increase international opportunities for the CWRU community, both on campus and abroad."

*CWRU President Barbara R. Snyder with the visiting Diplomatic Corps in the Tinkham Veale University Center*





## CWRU Awarded Generation Study Abroad Grant for Underrepresented Minority Students

Case Western Reserve University received a \$7,500 Generation Study Abroad Grant from the Institute of International Education (IIE) to support new scholarships for underrepresented minority (URM) students. The Office of Education Abroad matched the funding and worked closely with the Office of Multicultural Affairs to award six *think: possibilities* scholarships of \$2,500 each to URM students at CWRU.

“The Office of Education Abroad is committed to increasing the diversity of students participating in our programs,” said Molly Watkins, Executive Director for International Affairs. “These scholarships help make study abroad opportunities possible for CWRU students from backgrounds typically underrepresented in study abroad.”

Students used the scholarships to cover the cost of tuition, books, travel related to study, service learning, and internships abroad during the spring 2017 semester. Scholarship winners will study in various countries, including England, Ireland, Morocco, and New Zealand.

“Studying abroad is more important than ever in today’s world and to today’s CWRU students,” wrote scholarship winner Nailah Ramos Mathews in her application essay. After speaking with friends who already studied abroad, she heard stories that she “had yet to experience but was immediately hungry for.”





## Morgenthaler–Pogue Endowment for International Student Development

Thanks to a generous donation from David Morgenthaler and Dick Pogue, the Center for International Affairs partnered with the Career Center to hire Annabel Khouri (pictured above) as an International Student and Employer Engagement Specialist focused on increasing experiential learning and career opportunities for international students in Northeast Ohio.



## CWRU–Qassim University Partnership

The School of Dental Medicine formalized an agreement with Saudi Arabia's Qassim University to train their junior faculty at CWRU. This partnership will provide opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration, enhancing the rigorous dental school experience for faculty and staff at both institutions.



## Cultural Celebrations Series Brings Global Celebrations to Campus

The Cultural Celebrations Series, implemented in 2016, attracts the CWRU and local communities to join in celebrations of holidays around the world. The events, celebrating Lunar New Year, Holi, and Asian Mid-Autumn Festival, not only serve as support for our international students, who can become homesick around major holidays, but also provide an opportunity for everyone to share in the heritage of fellow CWRU community members and participate in global experiences on campus.



## Former Deputy Secretary of State Headlines International Achievement Dinner

Former Deputy Secretary of State Richard L. Armitage delivered the keynote speech at the Center for International Affairs' 2016 International Achievement Dinner. Secretary Armitage discussed how the U.S. government approaches international relationships and world hot spots, and engaged in a lively question and answer session with faculty, staff, and students.



## CWRU Hosts EducationUSA Delegation of Global Higher Education and Government Leaders

Under the leadership of Department Chair and Chemical Engineering Professor Dan Lacks, CWRU hosted 15 higher education and government officials from seven countries in a U.S. State Department program to demonstrate how a U.S. research university forms links with industry and private-sector businesses. The visit allowed CWRU faculty and students to build relationships with higher education leaders from around the world.



## Former Lebanese President Visits CWRU

Former President Amine Gemayel visited CWRU in October to speak about the state of the Middle East amidst ongoing struggles with war and peace. His thought-provoking presentation provided an insider's understanding of a very complex situation and enhanced the global perspective of those in attendance.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Total number of international students enrolled at CWRU



19.1% of the total active student body is international



International students represent **78** countries



Approximately **40%** of international students receive financial aid from the university



CWRU international students range from **17** to **52** years old





## Engineering PhD Student Wins Two Prestigious Awards

Mustafa Unal, a PhD candidate from Turkey in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, received two awards from the Coblenz Society. The awards recognize Unal as an emerging global leader in the field of vibrational spectroscopy research.



## Nepalese Graduate Students Receive First Annual International Graduate Student Award

At April's International Achievement Dinner, graduate students Nirmala Lekhak, PhD (NSG '17) and Tirth Bhatta, PhD (GRS '17 Sociology) were the first recipients of the Outstanding International Graduate Student Award. The married couple from Nepal founded the CWRU Nepali Student Organization and engaged the campus community in efforts to raise funds to support victims of the 2015 earthquake in their home country.

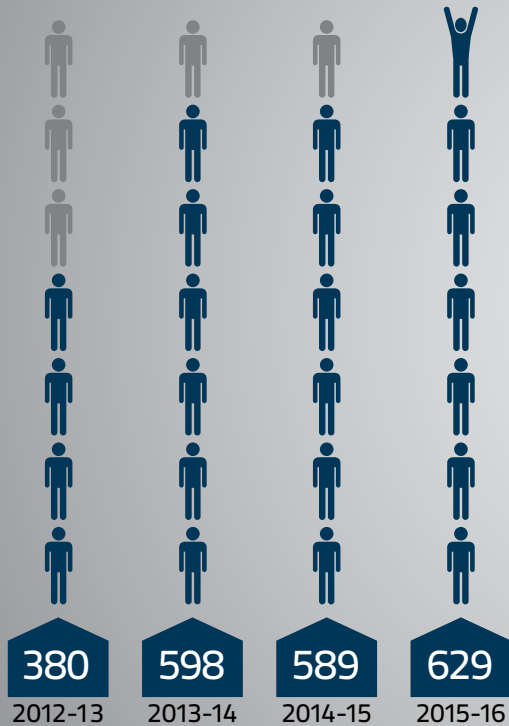


## Chinese Law Student Spends Break Immersed in U.S. Prison System

Mengyun Wu (Law '16) explored the U.S. prison system through a unique "Mass Incarceration in the U.S." alternative spring break program with the Center for Civic Engagement and Learning. Mengyun toured jails and met with advocates for the rights of incarcerated individuals and their families. "Not only did I delve into the complexities of the U.S. justice system," says Wu. "I had the opportunity to explore and understand how approaches to justice in the U.S. are different from the Chinese system."

# STUDY ABROAD HIGHLIGHTS

## Total number of undergraduate and graduate students who studied abroad



The average GPA of undergraduate study abroad students is **3.49**  
(overall CWRU undergraduate GPA is 3.36)



International students make up **17%** of study abroad students



**38%** of CWRU undergraduate students studied abroad



Faculty directed **26** study abroad programs



CWRU collaborated with more than **80** study abroad partners



## Undergraduate Completes Physics Research in Ireland

Kelsey Darrah, third-year physics and international studies student, researched waveform aberrations and vision while studying for a semester at University College Dublin. "Working in an international lab was such a unique experience," says Kelsey. "I had the opportunity to learn about other cultures through a scientific lens." Kelsey plans to continue her research when she returns to Ireland for a second semester abroad in Spring 2017.



## Graduate Student Presents at Symposium in Japan

Graduate student Abby Sevier traveled with a delegation of CWRU faculty and student researchers to participate in the second annual CWRU-Tohoku University Data and Life Sciences Symposium in Sendai, Japan. Her internship at the NASA Glenn Research Center, in conjunction with her experience on a short-term engineering program to Botswana, inspired a passion for advancing technology through international research.



## CWRU Senior Interns with Israeli Start-Up

Jon Sender, a senior studying finance and computer science, spent a semester at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and interned with OurCrowd, an Israeli venture capital firm. "Between immersing myself in a new culture and working in the fast-paced Israeli startup environment, I've learned how to be more independent, solve problems, and connect with people of all backgrounds," explains Jon.



## CWRU Researchers Lead International Team in Colorectal Cancer Research

Researchers at the CWRU School of Medicine led an international team in demonstrating that depriving certain kinds of colorectal cancer cells of glutamine suppresses the ability of such tumors to develop and expand. This collaboration underscores the importance of international teamwork in the advancement of scientific research.



## Students Participate on Faculty-Led Program to Install Solar Panels in Namibia

After enrolling in Weatherhead Professor Michael Goldberg's Massive Open Online Course and social entrepreneurship "boot camp," Maria Newaya, a sustainable agriculturist in Namibia, partnered with management and engineering faculty to create a sustainable international project for students. Three students traveled to Namibia to install solar panels on village homes, bringing electricity to families and learning firsthand the importance of international cooperation in innovation.



## CWRU Vice President Plays Key Role in Establishment of U.S.-Cuban Partnerships

Suzanne Rivera, Vice President for Research and Technology Management, joined officials from the National Council of University Research Administrators and a delegation from the Cuban Ministry of Higher Education in Washington, D.C. for the signing of an agreement promoting cooperation in scientific research between U.S. and Cuban institutions. Rivera hopes that, through her involvement, CWRU will be "on the ground floor" for future partnerships.



## South African Alumnus Wins Professional Achievement Award

Tshilidzi Marwala (CWR '95) received the Alumni Association's esteemed Professional Achievement Award. Marwala, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation at the University of Johannesburg, is well-known throughout South Africa for leading delegations to the South African parliament. The award recognizes alumni whose work and leadership exemplify the core values of the university.



## Study Abroad Alumna Returns to Advise Students

After participating in study abroad programs to the Netherlands and India as an undergraduate, Stephanie Merlino, now a graduate student, knows that studying abroad and its accompanying challenges can transform students' career and life choices. As an advisor in the Office of Education Abroad during fall semester, Stephanie gave back by helping new undergraduate students plan their own study abroad journeys.



## Delegation of Mexican Alumni Initiate Deeper Relationship with CWRU

CWRU invited several Mexican alumni to return to campus to meet with faculty and staff from the Case School of Engineering, Alumni Association, and Center for International Affairs to explore opportunities for collaboration. The visits have revealed multiple possibilities for student, faculty, and staff engagement in education and research programs in Mexico, while allowing our alumni to reconnect with the CWRU campus and community.





i'm done.



HELLO,  
FUTURE!  
#cwrugrad #cwruintl

CONGRATS  
GRAD

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# BRIDGING PEOPLE



“ Before I came to the U.S., I saw some articles talking about how hard it was to really get involved in the circle of other countries because of the cultural differences. After I came to Case Western Reserve University, I found something quite different. I realized that as long as you are proactive in presenting yourself and patient enough to embrace others’ ideas, it’s not that difficult to be a global citizen, let alone to be friends with people of different backgrounds. ”

**Ruiyao Wei**

MASTER OF MANAGEMENT IN FINANCE, 2016



# OUR MISSION

The Center for International Affairs provides leadership, expertise, and support to the Case Western Reserve University community, cultivating a dynamic international presence and inspiring a culture of global understanding and responsibility.

## Center for International Affairs

### Office of International Student Services

Enhances the international student experience and promotes intercultural exchange at CWRU.

### Office of Global Strategy

Develops strategies and relationships for CWRU's global engagement initiatives.

### Office of Education Abroad

Provides opportunities for study, research, and practical experiences abroad to students and faculty.



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