



# BUFFS *abroad*

## Office of Study Abroad

SSC 115A  
wtamu.edu/studyabroad  
Spring 2019

*The Great Zambezi River. OSA photo collection*

## WTAMU's Distinguished Lecture Series Hosts International Travelers

CANYON, Texas--The Distinguished Lecture Series, partnered with West Texas A&M's Study Abroad, will host TEDx speakers Daniel Noll and Audrey Scott at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18 in the Alumni Banquet Hall on campus. There will be a dessert reception following at 7 p.m. in the Buffalo Room.

Their series "Meet the Global Workplace Where It's Headed" aims to inform audiences of the global workforce and skill development opportunities through study abroad experiences. Drawing from their more than 15 years of

international experience in over 90 countries, Noll and Scott will teach students how study abroad trips can help design their futures and better their skills in the professional workplace.

As they examine the global workplace landscape, this couple will provide a look at where both global business and the workplace is headed, including the professional skills that will be in increasing demand in 2020 and beyond.

After quitting their jobs in 2001,

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### IMPORTANT DATES:

#### February 18:

- [Meet the Global Workplace Where It's Headed](#)

#### March 1:

- International Education Fee Scholarship Application Deadline for May/Summer programs

#### March 7:

- Gilman Scholarship deadline

### INTERNATIONAL WEEK EVENTS:

**March 18:** Kick Off Party

**March 19:** Pin Your Country

**March 20:** Holi Festival

**March 21:** Flag Parade

**March 22:** Movie Night

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all"

- Helen Keller -

# WTAMU's Distinguished Lecture Series Hosts International Travelers (cont.)

Noll and Scott bought a one-way ticket to Prague, Czech Republic and started their traveling journey. What began as a creative sabbatical quickly turned into a business and lifestyle of exploring, sharing stories and advocating for travel and the benefits that it has. From Europe, to the Middle East to South Asia and more, this couple has traveled to every corner of the earth and detail all of their adventures in their blog called [Uncornered Market](#).

Noll and Scott are now settled in Germany, but they continually travel around the world to be keynote speakers at different events and conferences.

## About [WTAMU Study Abroad](#)

WTAMU Study Abroad offers opportunities for study during the summer, each semester, and year-long experiences. These opportunities can count for course credit and offer scholarship assistance

## About the [Distinguished Lecture Series](#)

The Distinguished Lecture Series was created in 2007 to enhance student education. The mission of the DLS is to invite persons of national prominence to the WTAMU campus in order to expose students to experts and well-known speakers.



**Daniel and Audrey**

**Prague, Czech Republic**

*Photo courtesy of Audrey Scott*

To learn more about Daniel and Audrey, please visit:

[uncorneredmarket.com/blog/](http://uncorneredmarket.com/blog/)



# Featured Traveler: Shelby Willburn

By Shelby Willburn

**Traveler:** the one word that describes what I have become. Being a student has taught me the basics of life, but cannot be compared to what I have learned by traveling and exploring other cultures and countries. It all began at Canyon High School in 2012. On the daily announcements I overheard “Go to France, Italy, and Spain this summer with Mrs. Bazaldua. See the Eiffel Tower, Colosseum, and the beautiful La Sagrada Familia.” What 15-year-old girl isn’t obsessed with seeing the Eiffel Tower one day? I went home that night with a packet in hand that I knew my parents would not be thrilled to see. After a long evening of convincing, my parents agreed to let me go on the trip as long as I funded half of the costs. On this trip I found a love and appreciation for new cultures, languages, and travelling in general. I knew then that I would be taking advantage of studying abroad in college, so I decided to attend WT with the expectation that my parents would support my plans to study abroad and do an internship out of state.

By the end of my freshman year at WT, I had already started looking into studying abroad. I went through the application process and was trying to decide on a country for my studies. At first I thought I wanted to go back to Europe, but then realized that going to a new place would be even more exciting! I finally decided on the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa. And that is where I spent the spring semester of 2017. Shortly after my classes started at UCT, I learned that being in an International Finance class with 398 students is more overwhelming than I had anticipated.

While in Cape Town, I had the opportunity to volunteer with

SHAWCO, an organization that works with local townships affected by apartheid and provide teaching, tutoring, and mentoring to students of all ages. I volunteered about three times a week and quickly fell in love with the kids. I eventually started to also volunteer at Beth Uriel, a boy’s home in Cape Town. This organization helps men with little or no elementary education to learn the basics so they can enroll in local colleges and acquire technical skills. Volunteering at Beth Uriel was an eye-opening experience and really hit me at the core, because the men in this organization had troublesome backgrounds.

My semester in Cape Town was also full of adventures and fun times. I was able to travel to Zimbabwe and Zambia to see Victoria Falls, go on safari in Chobe National Park in Botswana, and see the highest dune in the world in the Namib Desert in Namibia.



Feeding elephants in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe  
Photo courtesy of Shelby Willburn

When I returned to WT to continue my studies, I had what I call *post-travel blues*. It took me months to process all I had experienced in 5 short months in Africa. I returned with a heart to educate others about the realities abroad and how



Holding WT flag at Embalse del Yeso, Chile  
Photo courtesy of Shelby Willburn

impactful travelling is. I also began working at the Office of Study Abroad shortly after. This job has enabled me to follow my passion and educate our students about the opportunities and benefits that come from studying abroad. The world can be a scary place and often is portrayed as such, but I will continue to inform others that this stereotype is not always true.

Studying abroad can come at a big expense, but the benefits will outweigh the cost. I always try to remind students to think about what they want for their future. Being able to tell a potential employer that you studied abroad and experienced different cultures will show that you are adaptable and willing to learn.

As for my future plans, I am planning to move overseas after graduation this May. I will live abroad for the next 2 or 3 years working, travelling, and taking the opportunities that come my way!

Thanks to my travel experiences, I have realized how lucky I am to have a support system that encourages me to succeed. These moments have enriched my life in so many ways. I have become more understanding, patient, and most of all, grateful. When I look back at my 15 year old self, I realize that fearless spirit I had to just jump over the pond to the unknown is something I will always keep alive in my future endeavors.◊

# INCREDIBLE INDIA

## COESS—Winter break 2018

As part of a Political Science course, WT students and faculty traveled to India during the Winter-session and explored the country's unique landmarks, culture, and people, while engaging in an experience of a lifetime.



From top to bottom: Students and professors in front of Jama Masjid/ Students riding local rickshaw/ Students and professors at traditional religious ceremony/ Student outside of Isa Khan Niazi/ Students riding camels/ Students in front of Isa Khan Niazi portal. Photos provided by Dr. Channel Rodriguez.

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# MEET THE GLOBAL WORKPLACE

## WHERE ► IT'S ► HEADED

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PRESENTED BY

**DANIEL NOLL &  
AUDREY SCOTT**



*Drawing from their over 15 years of international experience in over 90 countries, Daniel Noll and Audrey Scott take an entertaining and refreshing look at how study abroad can prepare students with forward-leaning skills for a future they help create.*

**FEBRUARY 18, 2019 6:00 PM**  
**ALUMNI BANQUET HALL**  
**MEET THE SPEAKERS FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION**