

nickhake

Hong Kong, China

NICK'S MAJOR: business—marketing

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: spring 2002

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I felt like I could learn from an Eastern culture, and you didn't need to speak a second language for the Hong Kong program.

FAVORITE CLASSES: entrepreneurship with Ruben Mondejar

BEST MEMORY: I really enjoyed watching the fireworks for Chinese New Year with one of my friends from Hong Kong, Kristina.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: The first two weeks and understanding you're very small compared to the world and you need to change in order to adapt, not the other way around.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: How everyone was very accommodating to outsiders (to people of different cultures) in helping them feel welcome, but you always had to ask first.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: Cantonese and more Chinese history. Sometimes you feel like a burden to make people speak English so you could understand.

EXPERIENCES WITH CULTURE SHOCK OR REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK: I may have gone through it, but I'm not sure. Culture shock to me was sitting in a cafeteria with everyone around you speaking another language, and you feeling like you're on the outside.

WHAT YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE GOING ABOARD: What other people's opinions of Americans are, and understanding more about being a world citizen than just a citizen in your own country.



Stopping for a moment from selling flowers in the city of Guangzhou, a group of kids gather around Nick Hake during his weekend trip to the city. While studying in Hong Kong, Hake lived in a dorm for international students, which was a five-minute walk to classes at the City University of Hong Kong.

“By going abroad, you can appreciate your own campus more, while at the same time, you get outside of your comfort zone where you can learn about yourself and maybe even grow a little.”

FACT ABOUT HONG KONG THAT YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO LEARN: Of the 7 million people who live in Hong Kong, 90 percent live on only 10 percent of Hong Kong's land.

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: I would suggest talking to the students at the university or in your classes, taking a couple of hours to hang out with someone you normally wouldn't. There's a lot you can learn, even if it's not academics.