A World of Possibilities

How private support is helping Penn Staters to see themselves as global citizens
#GivingTuesday is an international day of generosity. Following Black Friday and Cyber Monday, the increasingly popular event encourages communities to support their favorite charitable organizations and institutions—and last year at Penn State, our donors raised their voices. #GivingTuesday 2017 saw more than 4,350 people make a gift to Penn State, resulting in an impact of over $1 million.

This year, on November 27, 2018, we'll once again be celebrating the people, programs, and ideas that make Penn State the institution we love. To find out more about how you can get involved and support the programs you care about, please contact givingtuesday@psu.edu.

WE ARE because you give. See you on #GivingTuesday!
Whether it's seeing someone wearing a familiar blue and white t-shirt on the Great Wall of China or shouting “We Are!” in an English pub, only to hear “Penn State” right back, our graduates report that no matter how far you travel from home, you can always find another Penn Stater. Through our campaign, A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence, the University’s global presence and reputation are growing, as students and faculty step forward as citizens of the world.

In this issue of We Are, you will see how Penn Staters are tackling global issues, pursuing education and discovery far beyond our campuses, and bringing fresh perspectives back to the Commonwealth, thanks to philanthropic investment in international travel, innovative research, and collaborations with global partners. You will hear from students who have lived and studied in Brazil, Costa Rica, Uganda, and Nepal, including those who are recent graduates of Penn State’s highly regarded development internship program. This issue will introduce you to Penn State’s new international fundraising program, giving you a look at how the University’s philanthropic community is expanding far beyond the United States. And from Africa to Central America and back again, the following pages will provide a look at how private gifts are not only supporting international experiences for our academic community, but also creating more diverse and global communities on our campuses.

I have always believed that Penn Staters have the creativity and ambition to change the world, and the issues of today require global leaders. With our ongoing philanthropic efforts behind the Penn State graduates of tomorrow, our shared future looks bright. Thank you for your continued support.

Rick Sokolov ’74 Lib
Chair, Executive Committee,
A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence

On the cover: Penn State senior and Division of Development and Alumni Relations intern alumna Megha Tuladhar in Bhaktapur Darbar Square, in her home country of Nepal. Read more about her story on page 9.
At Penn State, how—and where—our students learn is expanding. More and more, Penn Staters are taking advantage of international opportunities created by private support. Here are just a few examples that illustrate how our students, faculty, alumni, and donors are defining Penn State as a truly global institution.

**One Big CL**

- **10,000**: Penn State is home to more than 10,000 international undergraduate and graduate students.
- **140**: Penn State students represent 140 countries.
- **1,500**: The University has more than 1,500 international faculty, scholars, and researchers.
- **2,700**: Each year, 350 study abroad programs send more than 2,700 students abroad.
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236
More than 236 endowments and annually funded awards support global Penn State experiences.

56
Penn State donors represent 56 countries.

$1.5M
Private support generates more than $1.5 million annually for study abroad, international research, and more.

6
You can find a Penn State donor on six continents—everywhere in the world except for Antarctica.
To be a Penn Stater is to be a global citizen. And the University’s commitment to this belief can be seen both in opportunities for global travel and in new partnerships and international communities being developed on campuses locally. Here are a few examples of how philanthropy is sending Penn Staters into the world—and bringing the world to Penn State.

IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD, indigenous languages and indigenous species are disappearing at an alarming rate. With support from the Hamer Foundation, created by late Penn State alumnus Don Hamer, Larry Gorenflo is pursuing ways to preserve both. Gorenflo, a professor of landscape architecture and geography and the Eleanor R. Stuckeman Chair in Design, conducts research in Tanzania and Southeast Asia that helps to guide economic development and resource use in the regions. Gorenflo partners with Penn State colleague Carter Hunt, a faculty member in recreation, park, and tourism management, to introduce students to this work through the Parks and People Program. Each summer, undergraduates travel to Tanzanian villages, attend lectures at local universities, and encounter African culture and wildlife as they learn firsthand how community design can impact the future of populations and the planet.
A 1974 STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE in Germany gave Bill Lane, senior director of global government and corporate affairs for Caterpillar, an entirely different view of what his career should be. Seeing the opportunity to innovate in a global sphere set the course for a more than forty-year career promoting global development for U.S. companies. And it inspired the William C. and Janet P. Lane Global Perspectives Endowment—an award the couple created for Smeal College of Business students looking to study abroad in less-visited countries. Lane says, “If a student really wants to differentiate themselves, having a foreign experience in the high-risk, high-reward markets of tomorrow is the way to do it. An international experience changes your DNA and results in a passion—and ability—to succeed in the global marketplace.”

“My experience in Costa Rica was eye-opening. Studying in the rainforest showed me the value of the smallest beings and an appreciation for the natural world. It is so important to see through one’s own eyes and gain perspective on the ground.”—Jaagrit Randhawa, senior and double major in Marketing and Spanish, travel grant recipient

WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD income of $43,000, most Penn State Abington students can’t afford to study abroad. Thanks to alumnus Steve Taub, though, they can find global experiences right on the Abington campus. The Center for Intercultural Leadership and Communication (CILC), supported by Taub’s philanthropy, offers programming that bridges identities, languages, and cultures. The Global Awareness Dialogue Project offers students and faculty an opportunity to address international issues outside the classroom setting. During Language Awareness Week, speakers of twelve different languages came together for conversations. And as shown above, CILC welcomed twenty-five students from South Korea last year as part of an English language immersion program and paired them with Abington students in the Pathways to Success: Summer Start (PaSSS) program as “global buddies,” so that both groups could learn about a new culture.

ENTERING ITS SECOND YEAR, the Provost’s Global Advisory Council is bringing new energy to global problem solving. With help from the Tim Bhanubandh Endowment for Global Programs, this group of leaders from academia, industry, and beyond is working to develop cross-disciplinary solutions to the issues that affect communities around the world. And thanks to the vision of philanthropic leaders like CSL CEO and Managing Director Paul Perreault—whose company last year gave $4.92 million to support biological training and research at Penn State—the council promises to turn innovative thought into impactful action.

“I often say that in the biotech industry, if you are not continually innovating, then you are planning your exit. It is a privilege to help ensure the Penn State community is always one step ahead in terms of anticipating future research and global workforce needs, then attracting and building talent to address those. Members of the Penn State community have the power to change the world.”

—Global Advisory Council member and CSL CEO and Managing Director Paul Perreault

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Matthew Crager

Schreyer Honors College Scholar and 2017 College of the Liberal Arts graduate Matthew Crager is comfortable with stepping out of his comfort zone. Growing up in a Pennsylvania town of only 8,000, Matt followed his love of language to Penn State, where he found the opportunity to spend five weeks in a Teaching English as a Second Language program in Ecuador. Fluent in Portuguese and Spanish, Matt is now a Fulbright Scholar teaching English at Universidade Tecnológica Federal do Paraná in Curitiba, Brazil.

What led you to get involved in international experiences?
A Penn State education pushes you to think big, and a logical step in that trajectory is to take big ideas overseas. As a student of world languages and communication, I was drawn to South America by the opportunity to meet new people from different cultures and to create lasting bonds through education.

Why is it important for students to travel and study abroad?
International experiences are like none other. They offer a type of freedom, individuality, and introspection that we can achieve neither on a college campus nor in our home cultures. Being forced out of your comfort zone deepens and expands the process of growth that takes root at Penn State.
Megha came to Penn State from Kathmandu, Nepal, looking to step out of the familiar. With volunteer experience supporting human rights issues and natural disaster relief, Megha is now focused on using her Penn State education to help build bridges within and among communities across the globe. Megha is a senior studying economics in the College of the Liberal Arts.

Why are you drawn to global experiences?
My interest in international engagement comes from a deep-rooted social responsibility I feel for the entire world. It isn't just my country going through problems; they are also happening here in the U.S. The less we see this world as divided, the more work we can accomplish together.

How does philanthropy intersect with global citizenship for you?
I come from a culture of altruism and kindness, and I believe philanthropy is in everyone. For me, it's not just about giving money but also sharing knowledge. Taking action to empower one another is an incredibly respectful form of giving.

Katie Fiorillo

After hearing a DDAR internship presentation about the SEGA Girls School, a program for bright young women with limited access to quality education in Tanzania, Katie took a volunteer position at the school and moved to Tanzania. She spent seven months using her education in fundraising and communications to support the school. A 2016 graduate of the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, Katie is now serving a two-year term as an agribusiness coordinator with the Peace Corps in Uganda.

What attracted you to the Peace Corps?
It combines international development work with a cultural exchange and focuses intensely on relationships with your host community. As a recent grad committed to work in international development, I want to understand the complex dynamics in the communities that development and foreign aid work within.

Why do you think it's important to support global opportunities for Penn State students?
My international experiences have not only made me a better student of the world, but also a better global and American citizen. I have learned more about myself than I ever imagined.

What has left the biggest impression on you during your time in Uganda thus far?
The people. I have appreciated getting to know my neighbors and community members as individuals and as friends. I already know that I will learn more here from them than I will ever be able to teach, and I am an eager student.
As the University’ first director of international development, Rolf Dietrich is working passionately to engage alumni, parents, corporate partners, and friends from outside the United States in advancing Penn State’s mission. A native of Germany with undergraduate and master’s degrees in Asian Studies, Rolf began his career in international banking, working at Deutsche Bank during the reunification of East and West Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Most recently, Rolf served as senior director of development, international studies and programs, for Michigan State University. Now, assessing Penn State’s position within the global philanthropy landscape, Rolf is eager to forge new partnerships with loyal Penn Staters and forward-looking philanthropic alumni and friends all over the world, especially in Asia and China.

Q: What potential does China hold for the future of Penn State philanthropy?

A: China is home to an extraordinary network of Penn State students, young alumni, parents, and friends who have not only benefited from the world-class education we offer, but also helped to enrich that education through the unique perspectives they bring to our community. It is inspiring to see strong Penn State communities emerging in China, with large alumni groups in Beijing and Shanghai. As these networks are growing, amazing developments are taking place in China with regard to technological advancement, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Penn State alumni can be found in many of the new companies that are emerging as major players in the global marketplace, and they are both eager to give back to the university where they got their start and keen to invest in education as the path to economic and social mobility for others. Philanthropy is global, and our donors in China have a lot in common with generous people from all over the world. No matter our donors’ home countries, as fundraisers and educators, we must seek to understand who these individuals are and find new and creative ways of involving them in shaping Penn State’s future. I very much look forward to leading this charge.
GENERATIONS OF PENN STATE STUDENTS have explored the world through study abroad programs like the one that took Teresa Villa Cook ’74 (top photo, second from left) to Spain during her junior year. Living with a Spanish family, visiting sites such as the Alhambra palace shown here, and taking classes at the University of Salamanca was, in Teresa’s words, “a remarkable experience.” Today, more than 2,000 undergraduates each year participate in traditional study abroad programs like Teresa’s, as well as “embedded” travel tied to courses that take place primarily on Penn State’s campuses. Philanthropy can help students to take advantage of these opportunities and contribute to the global community as they both learn and serve through co-curricular programs. During a crowdfunding campaign this spring, seventy-five donors made gifts to the student organization Penn State Bridges to Prosperity (bottom photo). The group draws upon the engineering skills they’ve learned in the classroom to build footbridges over impassable rivers in Rwanda, Panama, and Bolivia. Learn more about how Penn Staters are learning to be international leaders at global.psu.edu.
Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. U. Ed DEV 19-02 ajs

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We value your opinion of our communications. Please visit giveto.psu.edu/feedback and use code 19-02.

Why I Give

"Whether it was the generosity of donors who made sure important programs were available to me or a caring professor who looked after me, the actions of Penn Staters are what made my experience unforgettable."

For Ramon Guzman '16 Edu, giving back to Penn State is an act of love. A recent alumnus and former executive director of the 2016 class gift campaign, Ramon lives by the mantra, “To whom much is given, from him much is required.” He supports causes that are personally meaningful—such as the College of Education and All In, a University effort to promote diversity and inclusion—in addition to those that played a vital role in guiding him to graduation, like the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services Endowment and the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. But above all, Ramon gives to repay the kindness he experienced at Penn State—a choice that comes from the heart.