

PERRY CHIEF

ISU Alum travels to China as Journalism Delegate

By Submitted to the Chief

Posted Jan 13, 2018 at 12:01 AM

Perry, Iowa — Hunter Martin, of Perry, a graduate student at American University in Washington D.C. studying global media and an alumna of Iowa State University class of 2017, recently took part in a delegation of journalism graduate students who visited China to gain a more holistic view of the Chinese perspective about journalism and the media.

The eleven student delegates were selected from participating universities across the U.S. The delegation was hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sponsored by the China-United States Exchange Foundation. The delegation visited three cities in China: Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai for a total of ten days.

“The trip was an amazing experience,” Martin said. “For the first time I was emerged in a non-Western culture. Learning about journalism in China from the point of view of Chinese journalists made me reflect on my own perspectives and interpretations of the international community.”

Visits included meetings at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International think tanks, Chinese non-profits, the state-sponsored media outlet, China Daily, as well as a meeting with foreign correspondents from *CNN*, *The New York Times* and *Buzzfeed*.

The trip also included excursions to the Great Wall, the Terracotta-Army, the Shanghai Propaganda Poser Museum and visits to three unique religious sites including a Taoist Temple, an Islamic Mosque and a Jewish Synagogue that is now part of the Jewish Refugee Museum.

Martin's future plans include working in the field of cultural appreciation, historical preservation and religious tolerance by creating multi-media stories for audiences across the globe.

“I hope to share the stories of people who have been historically underrepresented or systematically marginalized and are currently unable to use the media as a tool to promote development,” Martin said. “Prior to taking part in this trip, I was unaware of how many Western biases I held. Visiting the country first hand facilitated personal introspection into my own perspectives in order for me to become better educated about China and other cultures.”

“Ultimately, my goal is to be a storyteller who brings to light untold or forgotten stories of underrepresented groups. My hope is to develop my ability to recount factual stories from an objective standpoint.”