



## Enjoying the Sun with Alums in Dallas

Our latest meet-up was in Dallas, TX, where IAFS Director Tom Zeiler met with alums on March 22. The pleasant weather allowed the group to enjoy happy hour on the patio at The Foundry. It was a great time to share stories of CU-Boulder memories and international experiences. A highlight was Doug Black (IAFS '91) recounting stories from his study abroad experience in Germany in 1989 when the Berlin Wall fell. We appreciate the alums that joined us, and look forward to the next Dallas event!



## Thanks to our Guests at the Spring Welcome Reception!

We had an enthusiastic turnout at the April 8th International Affairs Spring Welcome Reception, held at CU-Boulder's beautiful and historic Koenig Alumni Center. Alums from all over the United States had a chance to connect and talk about their many international interests, current affairs, the changes on campus, and life after graduation. Steven Leigh, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, spoke to the group about the value of the International Affairs Global Grants scholarship program.



## Hats off to the Graduates of 2015

Graduation day may have been rainy, but inside the Glenn Miller Ballroom, it was all smiles. On May 8, we welcomed 201 students to the IAFS alum club at our spring 2015 graduation ceremony.

Students, families, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate the achievements of the graduating class. Keynote speaker and IAFS faculty member Prof. Lucy Chester gave an inspirational speech encouraging grads to have confidence in overcoming obstacles. Student speaker Allen Fordham challenged his peers to write their own stories and give back to their communities. The graduating class also awarded the IAFS Distinguished Teaching Award to Prof. David Bearce. For our new alums, we invite you to stay connected and join us at our alum events. And, we welcome you to send us a photo of

### Upcoming IAFS Events

If you are in **Washington, D.C.**, join us for drinks & appetizers on Sunday, June 7th, 2015 from 4:30pm - 6:30pm. Please email [IAFS@colorado.edu](mailto:IAFS@colorado.edu) if interested.

### Community Notes

The [University of Colorado Boulder Facebook page](#) recently recognized Sophia Cole (IAFS '16) and her global efforts with the Dare Rugby Project.

Annika Erickson-Pearson (IAFS '15) was featured in a spring issue of [CU-Boulder Today](#), highlighting her commitment to the Conference on World Affairs.

Last month, the [Colorado Arts & Sciences Magazine](#) showcased Kira Gressman's (IAFS '15) experiences in Chile, and how she combined her interests in medicine and international affairs.

**Become involved with our program**

yourself wearing your **IAFS Be Boulder** t-shirt, so we can share it in an upcoming newsletter!



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## On the Road with Ben Lourie - Global Grant Recipient in Russia

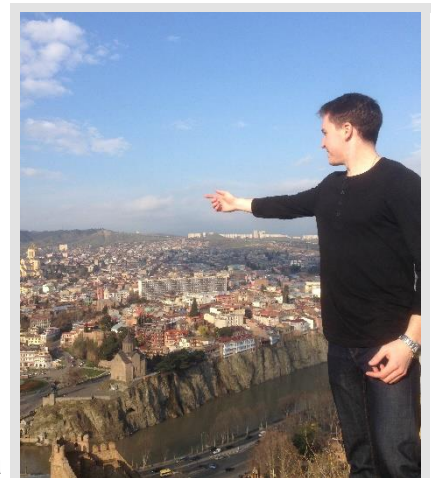
Although he has been studying International Affairs and Russian at CU-Boulder for over two years, Benjamin Lourie knew he wanted to take his learning to the next level. After being accepted into the CIEE Russia: St. Petersburg Russian Language program and receiving a Global Grant scholarship from IAFS, Lourie packed his bags to spend his spring 2015 semester in Russia. Here is a glimpse into Lourie's time in Russia, written during his time abroad:

Здравствуйте from Russia!

By living abroad, I have found it is important to have a routine, otherwise you simply become overwhelmed between classes and extracurricular activities. I've made new Russian friends this month as well. With having a routine and local friends, it feels like I actually live here rather than simply being a guest. This feeling of being more than just a guest has been especially rewarding as I try to observe the culture and daily life of Russia.

At the same time, every day has a new experience in store for me, and I hardly have enough time to do everything I want to do. As a volunteer, I lead conversation classes for Russian students improving their English. I went to a concert at St. Petersburg State University in honor of Russian composer Prokofiev. I've visited museums, one which houses some of the most famous works of painters such as Repin, Aivazovsky, and others. I also have fascinating conversations with people regarding the cultural comparisons of Russia and the United States.

Recently, I have been filled with thoughts of how this experience will impact my future. Sometime after graduation, I would like to come back to Russia and pursue an international career or further my education. Either way, I am confident my semester in Russia will enhance my language skills and understanding of Russia in a way that wouldn't have been achievable without being here in person.



*During his semester, Lourie went on an excursion to Georgia, which borders Russia.*

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