



Inspired by Entrepreneurial Spirit in Cape Town



Henderson (far right) with his classmates and their small business clients

Many who travel to the city of Cape Town enjoy the robust, modern life of the city center, but [Global Grant](#) recipient Shane Henderson (IAFS '18) wanted to experience something different. He chose a summer 2017 study abroad program that not only went to Cape Town, but also offered a chance to study in the city center and work with local businesses on the outskirts of town. While abroad, Henderson fell in love with the capital city, but even more, he fell in love with the people who make South Africa such a special place.

Henderson participated in CU Boulder's [Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in South Africa Global Seminar](#), where he worked alongside two local, small business owners: Bongo, who owns a shoe washing service, and Thenjiswa, a beauty salon, spa, and stationary business owner. During the six-week program, Henderson and his peers assisted Bongo and Thenjiswa in expanding their businesses through more effective marketing and operations management. By working with local businesses and taking a business consulting class, Henderson learned how entrepreneurship is key to giving opportunities to those traditionally excluded from the economic and political mainstream.

Become Involved

Be a part of our Global Grants endowment! Global Grants support students as they study abroad and experience the world. Help International Affairs continue to grow our endowment by giving today. Please add the following to the Comments box during check-out: *Global Grants Endowment Fund #0151296*

Donate

Contributions to our IAFS general gift fund are used for a variety of special projects and student programming, including speaker events, graduation ceremonies, and student awards. To donate to the IAFS Gift Fund, please [click here](#):

Donate

Community Notes

Congratulations to IAFS Director Tom Zeiler for receiving an honorary appointment as [Honorable Senator of the Nation of Argentina](#) after giving a talk as part of the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

Read the Washington Post article co-written by IAFS major Danilo Gjukovikj, "[This is Why the West Should Pay Attention to the Drama in Macedonia.](#)"

“Entrepreneurs like Bongo and Thenjiswa are ambitious,” explains Henderson. “They are full of hope and are trying to make a better life for their families and their communities.” Thenjiswa’s new marketing and appointment system helps her customers know what services she offers, and Bongo’s new eco-friendly, shoe-drying system, designed with the help of Henderson, significantly increases his service’s productivity. Both entrepreneurs aim to provide their local communities with affordable, friendly, and convenient services. Henderson returned to Colorado with a new outlook and an entrepreneurial spirit. Most importantly, he returned with a belief that when people have good in their hearts, and want to make a positive change, a community will thrive.



Bongo demonstrating his shoe cleaning business in Cape Town

Alum's Career in D.C. Takes Off, Thanks to Internship

When Colorado native Kate Henjum (IAFS '17) visited Washington, D.C. on a middle school trip, she made a promise to herself: one day she'd work in one of the historical buildings on Capitol Hill. Having seen D.C.'s fast-paced, competitive edge at an early age, she realized that once she got her foot in the door, she had to keep it there.

In spring 2016, Henjum earned a spot in the [CU in D.C. program](#) with an internship in [Senator Michael Bennet's office](#). The CU in D.C. program allowed her to gain professional experience in Washington, D.C. while taking CU Boulder classes. “In the office, I worked as a legislative and press intern, learning the layout of a senator’s office and the various policies they handled,” said Henjum. By the end of the semester, she was offered a full-time position in the D.C. office as a staffer for the summer.



Henjum overlooking the National Mall

Back in Boulder for her senior year, Henjum drew upon the lessons learned during her internship and her CU in D.C. classes to write an honors thesis that connected monsoon flooding and Taliban recruitment in Afghanistan. Determined to stay connected to Washington, D.C., she volunteered for Senator Bennet’s Colorado campaign and kept in contact with her former internship supervisors back on the east coast.

Staying connected paid off, and a few days after graduating from CU Boulder, Henjum traveled back to Washington, D.C. to accept a job as a staff assistant in the Senator Bennet’s office. Her new role includes a variety of responsibilities, but one stands apart from the rest: she is the internship coordinator. “Serving as the internship coordinator is special,” explains Henjum. “It reminds me of how I got to where I am today and where I am going in the future.” She plans to continue working on Capitol Hill and to build a career in policy and legislation, fulfilling her aspirations from so many years ago.

Making Connections in Nicaragua



Howell and a fellow IAFS classmate in Nicaragua

For Jordan Howell (IAFS '18), starting the summer by intensively reading an assigned textbook on the history of Nicaragua was not her first choice. However, through her experiences in Nicaragua, she came to understand how the politics and history of the country informed her work there.

Howell participated in the International Affairs Nicaragua Service Learning summer program, completing eco-friendly and sustainable projects in different communities of Nicaragua. Class projects were centered around confirmed needs within each city. The program also provided students with an opportunity to connect on a personal level with local families through several homestays during the three-week program.

In Managua, IAFS students worked on upgrading the infrastructure of a community center building, which served as a church, daycare, school, and advocacy meeting space. They built latrines in three different homes in Totogalpa, learning how valuable adequate

latrines were to the area. Without them, the local community would risk polluting their groundwater and their drinking water.

Following Totogalpa, the students traveled to Peñas Blancas and worked with locals to build a modern plumbing system. For Howell, Peñas Blancas was where she made the closest connection to the program, not only because of work accomplished on-site, but also because of the relationships created during her homestay.

Her host father was a man of few words. However, Howell's Spanish studies allowed her to strike up conversations on issues she'd been reading about for class, including the current political climate. Eventually, they talked in-depth about the subject, and her host father appreciated her genuine interest and knowledge about the political and economic history of Nicaragua. "Our conversation happened because I recognized his viewpoints and the historical context behind them," explained Howell. "My reading showed me how Nicaraguans are still affected by events in the past, and it allowed for me to have a meaningful conversation that otherwise may not have happened." A few days later, the group left Peñas Blancas for Granada, and then back to the airport for home.

Howell sat on the plane with the group heading back to Boulder, considering everything they had experienced over the past three weeks. Their boots were still dirty from worksites and their phones were full of photos from site visits, excursions, and homestays. For Howell, this trip was memorable in more ways than one, and she would always remember not just the work she did, but the connections with people she created--especially with one person, her host father.

Program in International Affairs | University of Colorado Boulder
303-492-7295 | iafs@colorado.edu | www.colorado.edu/IAFS
121 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309

Be inspired. Be involved. Be international.

Be Boulder.

