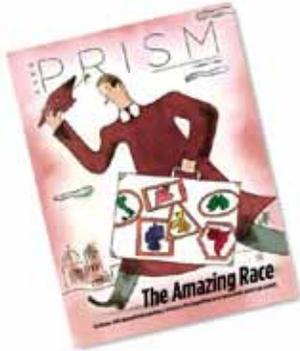


## ***Christmas Gift for Every Student: A Summer Overseas***

One great Christmas gift that you can give to any college student is to encourage and support him or her to spend a summer overseas. Here's why.

**On Career & Future** The world is getting smaller. Whether at home or abroad, we live and work in an increasingly international environment. The lead article in the Summer 2007 issue of the *Journal for the American Society For Engineering Educators* describes the advantage that students with international experience have in competing for good engineering jobs. The same may be said about many other disciplines. Today's job market demands cross-cultural skills.



A good overseas experience will also grow your vision for the future as you discover how you can make a difference in the lives of others who are less privileged.

International experience may even help in graduate or professional school application. Why? Admissions committees are looking for students who would bring a diversity of cultural and life experiences to the class. A summer abroad can give you the edge!

**Personal Growth & Discovery** Travel, adventure, and making new friends are all a part of the cross-cultural experience. But joining a good program will challenge your cultural assumptions, and bring you face to face with different worldviews and lifestyles. You will be inspired to ask: what can I do with my future career to promote understanding and friendship across cultures in our world?

In short, a summer abroad will help you better know yourself, your calling and your role in an increasingly interdependent multicultural world. It can lead to exciting career and service possibilities in this age of globalization.

**Why China & The Muslim World** With China's emergence as a superpower, we need new paradigms to understand Sino-American relations, which impact the whole world. It is also increasingly recognized that the West must learn to understand and work with Muslim peoples that make up a fifth of humanity.

If students today are to become servant-leaders tomorrow and effect changes in the world, they must have professional expertise. But they also need international competencies such as language, cross-cultural sensitivity, communication skills, and commitment to service.

For many years, PESI summer programs in China and Kyrgyzstan, a relatively open Muslim country, have served hundreds of North American students. Now we also offer the China Intercultural Studies (CIS) Program—a summer study abroad experience for students to learn about 21<sup>st</sup> century China. Our goal is to help raise future leaders in business, education, technology, international relations and development, etc. who will promote positive and productive relations across cultures.

Students, start planning now. If you want your 2008 summer to be a good investment toward your education, career and future service, *and* be fun and memorable, consider going overseas. Read on, and find out from our summer alumni the adventures our programs can lead to!