My spring break study abroad trip to China was awesome, unbelievable and full of new experiences. My impressions of China are vast natural landscapes; crowded, chaotic, large urban centers; a long, fascinating history; wonderful, rich culture; and, finally, an important appreciation for family and food. This trip was truly an awakening. This huge mysterious country came alive with the colors, sounds, smells and tastes of a vibrant, interesting place.

The first thing that caught my eye was traffic. Traffic in China is like a large school of small fish, all tightly packed together. They twist and turn and move in unison. It is amazing that they do not bump into one another. One of the pleasant surprises for me was the food. The variety and presentation of the many cuisines of China is remarkable. It is hard to isolate the best things about a trip that encompassed so many highlights. Each day was an adventure of amazing experiences. The key to enjoying each day was to remain flexible and open to new things. Great Wall, Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven were very unique for me.

The best part of our visit to Shanghai University of Foreign Trade was the unselfish service of the students assigned to help us with our stay at the university. They were the glue that helped keep the whole experience together. Their friendly personalities, their English language skills and their navigation skills made everything so much easier.

Overall, I got an incredible cultural experience, and I do not even for a second regret the decision to go. And if somebody ever asks me the question: “Should I go on this study abroad trip to China?” my answer will be: “ABSOLUTLY.”