Dana’s Major:  Interior Design

Program:  UW Chinese Culture, Arts, Design and Feng Shui, Summer

Academic Life: I participated in my program with 12 other UW students who I spent my entire four week trip with. All of our classes were focused on different aspects of feng shui and they were held in various locations. We had class time outside by the lake on the campus we stayed at, in parks with traditional architecture, and in traditional Chinese gardens. Not only did we learn about feng shui during class time, but our professor took every opportunity while exploring the cities to show us how the principles of feng shui are applied.

Most Memorable Moments: The most surprising thing I took away from my experience was inspiration. I knew I would learn about the culture, architecture, and feng shui. But I had no idea how inspired I would be. I am absolutely in awe of how Chinese architecture and landscaping works together and how they have transformed traditional ideas into modern design. The Chinese gardens really got me to think about my previous designs and how safe they were. I am ready to tackle new design challenges with a more creative eye.

Advice for Someone Considering Study Abroad: Go with the flow. As with any trip, internationally or not, things may change or feel unusual. Learning to go with the flow and take it one day at a time helped me enjoy each experience I had. Every day was unique and it was fun to simply explore and not be afraid to try new things in a foreign country.

“I felt like I came back home with a new mentality and preparedness for anything that may happen, and I like it!”