

# CONCORDIA COLLEGE

NEW YORK

## Concordia Grad Experiences China

Concordia Class of '08 graduate Stephane Laroche has always been a bit of an adventurer. Growing up in Haiti, he dreamed of attending college in America. His dream became reality when he arrived on campus at Concordia College-New York. Choosing to pursue Business Administration, it soon became clear to his professors that Stephane would excel. Which he did, becoming an honor student. But his Concordia education didn't stop there.



### Stephane Laroche with his “global” friends in China

After a successful fundraising effort supported by Concordia College and the Bronxville community to assist Stephane, he spent a semester after graduation on the trip of a lifetime. Stephane traveled to the People's Republic of China, studying International Management at the Ocean University of China. His classmates and teachers included visitors from Poland, Belgium, Russia, Germany, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Brazil and the US. His courses included “China and the World Economy” and “Mandarin” language skills.

“This was excellent training in working as a team and learning how to perform effectively in the global workforce,” explained Stephane. Stephane and his classmates

visited companies such as the Haier Group, Red Collar Corporation and Qingdao Brewery as part of the curriculum. One highlight of the trip was his visit to the China Import-Export Fair in Guangzhou, also known as the Canton Fair. Other trips included Shenzhen and Hong Kong, where he had the opportunity to experience the “one country – two systems” reality of the current China. After trips to Macau and the Volkswagen Company in Shanghai, classes and final exams took center stage.

“It was tough to say goodbye to my new friends from all over the world. This was a lifelong memory and very special,” commented Stephane, who is now back in New York City launching into a career in microfinance with AmeriCorps. “None of this would have happened without Concordia,” Stephane remarked. “What a way to complement my undergraduate academic studies – Concordia will always be special to me, for this and the many other wonderful experiences I had there.”

As an undergrad at Concordia, Stephane was a member of the Choir and the Cross Country team, made two other trips to Japan and China as part of the Business Club, and was a representative of the College at a conference on “Millenium Development Goals” at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.