Experience Summary

UF Retail in China

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The 2012 UF China Study Tour was beyond simply a trip. It was an experience beyond what is imaginable. I grew as a student, a friend, and most importantly as a young adult. I learned what is unable to be taught in the classroom. I saw what people couldn’t see in pictures. I interacted with people who live on the complete other side of the world. I met new faces and formed forever-lasting relationships. I realized how important culture is and the impact foreign places, objects, and people could have on oneself. I witnessed firsthand the business retail industry in China where I could compare the similarities as well as the difference between the same practices here in the United States of America. Once in China, I was stunned by the wealth of historical, cultural, and social information brought upon us. The vast growth and development happened right in front of our own eyes. It was a close-up learning experience of doing business in China and a proactive opportunity to expand my global network.

Overall, the business visits were extremely insightful and key to understanding the company and its objectives. I gained profound knowledge and a greater appreciation for the company and the work that is done. Furthermore, the factory is essential to the overall process where efficiency and cost reduction must be implemented. As an Industrial and Systems Engineer with a passion for leading and maximizing operations, I would like to explore possible future opportunities in China. I highly respect and further support China’s values and goals as I hope to build on the success. I greatly appreciate all that was done to make this trip such a wonderful experience and to everyone I met
I have to admit that, while I love to travel, I had never really considered China as a destination. The tour included visiting Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Yingkou, and Beijing, as well as staying in 5-star hotels, touring in clean and comfortable buses, and of course, going to the Great Wall of China. I decided to take a chance and go on this adventure, and I can assure you that it turned out to be one of the best travel decisions I have ever made. I challenged my existing paradigm and broadened my horizon. The group of people I traveled with were some of the nicest, most congenial folks I’ve ever met. For an experienced journeyman or a first-time traveler, the University of Florida made visiting the Far East practically stress-free. I brought back with me the following things from China: the sense of friendship both with my fellow travelers and the Chinese people, and the sense of being lucky to have had the opportunity to experience a country’s history, culture, and beauty on such a wonderfully thought-out and organized trip.