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The Story of Deanna Nicole Barnes, a Chinese Minor

I work at a public high school in the Haute-Savoie region of France.

Chinese was really useful for me!! One of my first jobs out of college was in Beijing, I went there to teach English with a private company called EF (English First). Most of the foreign teachers there didn't speak any Chinese and I was one of the few who could, even if it wasn't much. Sometimes, I would catch the students speaking in Chinese and surprise them when I was able to repeat what they said back in English! I stayed with EF for one year but it was very corporate and I ended up leaving once my contract finished.



This first job allowed me to continue working in education and I don't think I would have tried to apply for that job if I hadn't learned so much about China through your classes.



While I was in China, I was able to travel around quite a bit. I went to Guilin, Yangshuo, the Yungang grottoes in Shanxi Province, and even Inner Mongolia. I even traveled back to Shandong to visit Ben/Bo Jun and he came to Beijing to visit me once too. I wanted to go to Xinjiang but I never made it there, hopefully that can happen in the future. I used Chinese throughout my travels but less in the city of Beijing. I also continued teaching English to Chinese children online for a bit when I came back to the USA.

I often think about how vast and diverse the country is and I hope to eventually return one day.



I've attached some photos including a photo from my second trip to the Great Wall, a photo from atop Moon hill in Yangshuo, a photo in the Yungang Grottoes and finally a photo with some of the kiddoes I taught.

Learning the Chinese language and about Chinese culture has been one of the most useful things I took from my time at Bloomsburg. If I could go back, I would study more!! I have forgotten a lot of it but sometimes I pull out Duolingo to review.

Thank you for your work!!!

Deanna

