

**Winners of the Global Programs fifth annual
international photo contest**

Seeing the World

**Airi Shibayama (CAS'17, SHA'17),
Mount Fuji,
Japan**

Nearly 1,000 photographs shot around the world by more than 400 students, faculty, staff, and alumni poured in to the fifth annual BU Global Programs photo contest. The top three photos were taken by students, in Australia, China, and Iceland. Other entries captured people and scenes in 78 locations, including Greece, Myanmar, Italy, and the United States.

Amanda Miller, Global Programs managing director of strategy and communications, says the judges looked for photos that were “more than just a pretty landscape,” but instead “told a story.”

The top prize winner, Laura Burvill, found such a story. “I seek out the spots within a city with character, passion, expression, and complexity,” says Burvill (CAS'18, COM'18), who won a waterproof GoPro camera package worth \$350, for her vibrant photograph of a cellist on a small side street in Melbourne, Australia. “I hunt for the local food and street art; these I believe bring vibrant life to any city. Melbourne rewarded my exploration with a rich gift. I discovered a winding network of captivating and buzzing laneways leading away from the more corporate and tidy streets. The further in I delved, the more layers to the city I discovered. I had found Melbourne’s soul.”



through the Eyes of BU

Leyao Xie (COM'19) earned second place honors for her photo of local farmers heading home along the terraced fields of Longji Titian, in China's Guangxi Province.

Third prize was awarded to Hanwen Wu (GRS'19) for his ethereal shot of an ice cave inside Iceland's Vatna Glacier, taken while on vacation with his wife in early March. "While enjoying this unearthly, beautiful formation, our tour guide told us that he had to drive about 10 more minutes to reach the entrance compared to just last year," says Wu. "The entrances of such caves are retreating in record speed in recent years due to global warming. He said...he may lose his job as a cave guide since these caves will be disappearing if the average temperature keeps rising."

The monumental task of choosing the winners fell to a panel of 8 judges, who first whittled the entries to 18 semifinalists, then to a dozen (first-, second-, and third-place winners, along with 9 finalists). Blind judging meant they had no information about who took the picture or where the photo was taken.

"The enthusiasm, quality, and diversity of subject and location continue to amaze us," says Willis Wang, vice president and associate provost for Global Programs, which comprises Study Abroad, the Center for English Language & Orientation Programs, the International Students & Scholars Office, and Global Support. "It makes the job of the judges not only a pleasure, but also a challenge. Each year it gets harder and harder to choose the top 12 photos from among the entries."



Evan Jones (COM'18), Shanghai, China (top); Dylan Kim (Questrom '19), Hermosa Beach, Calif. (bottom)



Hanwen Wu
(GRS'19),
Iceland (top);
Leyao Xie
(COM'19),
Longji,
Guangxi,
China
(bottom)



Laura Burvill
(CAS'18,
COM'18)
took the top
prize with this
shot taken in
Melbourne,
Australia.





ONLINE:
 Watch a slide-show of photos taken by BU students, alumni, faculty, and staff in their travels around the world at bu.edu/bostonia.