

Faces

WORKING IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION has allowed me to see amazing places around the globe. At times I have felt invisible in my travels and other times I feel that I am the object of great scrutiny. But somehow it is not the physical places that remind me of my wanderings. It is always the people along the way.

Students often tell me about the places they have been, but seem to be more excited about the people they have met. Maybe what drives some international educators to create opportunities for students and faculty to encounter other cultures is the knowledge that people often learn about both our differences and our sameness. I have met many extraordinary people, often in that moment when cultures collide. Sometimes these brief encounters resonate in unexpected ways.

The warmth of the Tibetan woman's smile radiates her happiness at seeing a Westerner standing alone in the corner of a dusty temple. She was curious and seemed compelled to follow my every move. The roads we walk in our lives and careers are always changing; we are sometimes the observer, sometimes observed, and sometimes a bit of both.

In my office I remember those I have seen in framed photographs on the wall. I think of the role people around the world play in educating our students. Their gaze is a constant reminder that not everything can be learned in books.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *IE* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.