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Office of University
Communications

August 19, 2015

Keon Williams ('14) Travels to Shanghai to Network, Consider Graduate Programs

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—A Gardner-Webb University economics and finance degree has provided the ticket for Keon Williams to travel halfway around the world to China, where he networked with other international business students and professionals this summer while considering opportunities to continue his education.

Williams visits
Shanghai Tower in
China.

Williams, a 2014 GWU alum, former Runnin' Bulldogs football player and Charlotte (N.C.) native, recently attended the China Europe International Business School's (CEIBS) 2015 Shanghai boot camp, where nearly 70 participants from around the world heard lectures from well-known professors, visited the offices of multinational companies and engaged in various career-development activities. The adventure was also a chance for Williams to further consider options for completing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree to take the next step in his career.

“I am certainly considering the possibility of studying through the China Europe International Business School given the fact it is the No. 1 school in Asia,” Williams

Photo submitted by Keon Williams

offered. “My interest in China was sparked by the wave of business moving to the East. China has the second largest Gross Domestic Product behind the U.S., so I wanted to have an inside look into the economics and governance of the country. We often view China as the mecca for manufacturing and I was interested in seeing how that operates, too.”

Now a financial advisor with Wells Fargo in Charlotte, Williams said his business studies at Gardner-Webb have allowed him to hold financial literacy and economic development programs in underrepresented communities close to home. His French minor at GWU provided an introduction to European business and culture that has already proven helpful in his travels around the world and his plans for graduate studies in the near future. He hopes to enroll as a full-time MBA student in fall 2018 with a focus in entrepreneurship and corporate finance.

As a speaker at his commencement ceremony at Gardner-Webb, Williams urged

his fellow graduates to focus on God for guidance in their lives. His faith continues to be a driving force in his educational and career pursuits, regardless of which country he's in.

“I pray for opportunities to have a global footprint in ways that are in alignment with God’s will for my life,” Williams explained. “I seek ways to be a blessing for others as the Lord grants me with means of higher education and career advancement. I have to continuously remind myself that if I am in God’s ways I will ultimately be in His will for my life. This truth gives me reassurance to stay the course and press on with confidence.”

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for career success and for engaged, responsible citizenship in their professional, civic and spiritual communities.