



MINOT STATE STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Peru Study Tour Provides Eye-Opening Experience

Jennifer Gravos spent her 2012 summer break a little differently than most students by touring and studying in the South American country of Peru for five weeks. Jennifer is currently pursuing a degree at Minot State University with a major in chemistry and a minor in Spanish. Jennifer believes that there is no better way to learn a language than to directly immerse oneself amongst native speakers. So, when she heard that Kemerly Moorhouse, Peru native and an adjunct Spanish instructor at MSU would be leading the Peruvian Culture and Language Immersion study tour for the fourth consecutive summer, Jennifer knew immediately that she wanted to take part.

The program took students to Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, and the Nazca lines, among other famous destinations in Peru. But the experience that impacted Jennifer the most did not take place in the ancient ruins of the Incas or while sight-seeing in the metropolis of Lima. It was, in fact, the volunteer work in which the group participated that had the greatest effect on her. Over 50% of Peruvian population lives in poverty, and the students on this program had the opportunity to witness this reality through two different volunteer experiences.

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Jennifer Gravos and Ale Salas volunteering in Callao.

Start planning YOUR study abroad experience today:
visit the Office of International Programs in the lower level of the Student Center or visit www.minotstateu.edu/International

Scandinavia Tour Summer of 2013

Dr. Andrea Donovan, the Minot State assistant professor of art and humanities will be leading a study abroad program to Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. This tour of Nordic countries will take place June 27 to July 9, 2013. Students will have the opportunity to earn 3 credits for Humanities 496: Scandinavia: Capitals to the Fjords. The trip will focus on Scandinavia's art, architecture, literature and cultural heritage, while also providing free time for individualized learning opportunities. Another highlight of this particular trip is the optional extension for participants to travel to Estonia or Russia.

The application deadline is December 15, but we anticipate the program to reach capacity very quickly, so do not delay!

Learn more by contacting Dr. Donovan at 858-3819 or by visiting the Office of International Programs website.

Contact Us:
Office of International Programs
lower level of the student center
858-4645
www.minotstateu.edu/international

This newsletter was written and created by Marlee Schmidt, student employee in the Office of International Programs, and alumnae of the 2011 Peru study tour. ,

Senior studies and interns in England

John Towle spent his final semester as an MSU student on a direct study abroad program at the University of Chester in England through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), completing his degree in International Business, Management and Marketing.

“Studying abroad takes you out of your element; you have to figure out who you are,” said Towle. He travelled alone to Chester, but quickly met many other students from around the world. “The experience really opens your eyes to the variety of culture in the world.”

One opportunity Towle took advantage of was joining the Chester men’s basketball squad. He was not a member of the MSU team, but he joined the Chester team after taking part in a few of their practices. Being a member of the basketball team allowed him to meet a great group of English “mates” and travel to other universities for competition.

In addition to his academic life, Towle spent five weeks interning for a not for profit, community interest company called Chester the Giant City. The company’s main project for 2012 was the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebration, which celebrated the Queen Elizabeth II’s 60 year reign. John assisted with the production of sixty twelve foot giant queen replica floats, and he was also responsible for recruiting groups of community volunteers to construct the floats. The volunteers came from local elementary schools, university student groups and special needs groups. The experience was both educational, as well as fun. John was happy to have the opportunity to apply the skills from his triple major to a real life situation, gaining experience and meeting people in his host city along the way.

At the completion of his study abroad program, Towle met up with another MSU student, Jordan Lakoduk, who had also been on a study abroad program to Minot State University’s partner institution in Telemark, Norway. The two had hopes to see the UEFA European Football Championship and were successful in securing tickets just a week before the tournament. They met in Kiev, Ukraine, for the England vs. Sweden match and cheered England on to a win.



A float from The Queen’s Jubilee



John Towle touring a castle

... Peru continued

First, the Spanish language students worked side-by-side with a group of Catholic school children who spend their Saturdays in Callao, a low-income seaport town near Lima. During their visits, the students from the Catholic school simply play games with the area children and bring food for them to share. While on this excursion, a mother from the area offered to give the group a tour of her home. Jennifer recalled a dirt-floored, one bedroom house where a family of four lived together. The mother explained that she spends 10 soles (approximately \$ 3 USD) for food each week. The experience helped Jennifer realize very quickly just how lucky she is for even the simple things in life: the comforts of her home in the U.S., the opportunity to go to school, and even the ability to own a car as a university student.

The second volunteer opportunity took place in the city of Puno, where the group spent time working in an orphanage. Here, Jennifer met a six-year-old girl who made quite an impact. The climate in Puno is very chilly year-round, but especially during the winter months (June, July, August). Despite the cold weather, this child could afford to wear only a simple sweater and had no gloves or scarves. Her father and brother had died, and her mother could not afford to take care of her, so she stayed in the orphanage. Jennifer said, “it makes you value what you have in the (United) States with your family. They had no one but the sisters that can take care of them.”

Studying abroad gave Jennifer a first-hand look at how living conditions can differ around the world, and made a lasting impression. Along with other participants in her program, she plans to organize a fundraiser to collect supplies to send to the children in the orphanage. Jennifer’s personal goal is to visit all Spanish speaking countries during her lifetime. So far she has visited Spain, Argentina and Peru, and hopes to visit Mexico in 2013.

Art Major chooses Scotland to enhance degree



Anzley Harmon is pursuing a semester abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland in the United Kingdom; she is attending Napier Edinburgh University through ISEP. Anzley reflects upon her upcoming trip and talks about some of her goals...

There is an endless amount of reasons why I have decided to study abroad. For one, I have always loved to travel. But because I am very serious about my education, it has been difficult to pursue the idea since beginning my higher studies. This of course was up until I was exposed to the exciting possibility of studying abroad through ISEP. I believe that studying abroad will not only provide an opportunity to travel, but also enhance the value of my degree. I am an Art major and Business minor. Studying abroad could help me gain an international perspective on business- something that is becoming increasingly more valuable every day.

It actually wasn't incredibly difficult to decide the school I most wanted to attend. Between my educational and personal interests and goals, Edinburgh Napier University in Scotland seemed a perfect match. As an artist, I am very interested in the history of early European art and architecture. I wanted to go to a large city with an abundance of art and historical museums, galleries, and cultural sites. I also hoped to travel to other parts of Europe throughout the duration of my stay. The short description of the university had me immediately interested:

"Edinburgh Napier is situated within Scotland's beautiful and cosmopolitan capital city of Edinburgh. In addition to being home to the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh hosts the largest international arts festival in the world, and offers numerous cinemas, theatres, restaurants, bars, clubs, and shops. At the heart of the city is the famous Edinburgh castle. Edinburgh is a good communications hub for travel to other parts of the UK, Ireland and continental Europe."

Edinburgh Napier also has particular strengths in both the Arts and Business fields.

From the overall experience, I sincerely hope to gain an in depth experience of a new culture. I have studied culture but am not sure that I could ever completely understand it without being forced to adapt and adjust my own daily life. I want to be able to see the world from a new perspective. With an open mind, I believe that I will return home enlightened and more aware. In addition, I think I could help promote positive global awareness by representing my own culture. Furthermore, I simply want to see the world. What I'm most excited for is challenging myself and experiencing new adventures where I will learn about myself and grow. I want to meet new people and form relationships with others from different backgrounds. I believe that studying abroad will influence the rest of my life.

Destination: Ireland



Danielle Finn, a senior attending MSU at Bismarck State College, is attending the National University of Ireland, Galway. She learned about the opportunities to study abroad through MSU on the Office of International Programs' website. She contacted the Global Education Coordinator, knowing that she absolutely wanted to study in Ireland. After learning about her options, Danielle selected the new program in Ireland offered through one of MSU's affiliated programs, International Studies Abroad (ISA). The program offers the classes in her minor she was looking to take and also, makes it possible for Danielle to visit, live in, and learn about the country she had chosen.

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GLOBAL SIGHTS PHOTO CONTEST



In celebration of International Education Week, all MSU students, faculty, staff, retirees and alumni are invited to enter.

**Submission Deadline is
Monday, October 31st at 4 p.m.**

Prizes will be awarded and winners' work will be displayed Nov. 14-18.

For complete contest guidelines, visit:
minotstateu.edu/international



Open Air Life

Minot State University senior, Jordon Lakoduk, recently returned from Norway, where he attended MSU's partner institution, Telemark University College, or Høgskolen i Telemark, at the Bø campus. Jordan is double majoring in marketing and management information systems, and he found the program to be academically stimulating and personally rewarding. Rather than sticking strictly to business courses while he was abroad, Jordan decided to also enroll in courses covering Norwegian history, Norwegian language and Skiing, Hiking and Tourism in the Environment. His tourism class proved to be especially interesting, as it discussed how countries can work to make tourism more environmentally friendly. One example of this "green" philosophy would be re-

searching ways to reduce emissions from cruise ships that sail along fjords. Jordan also studied virtual tourism, an innovative concept which allows people to access virtual tours online instead of travelling to the country themselves. If virtual tourism becomes popular, the environment would be impacted less, and tourists could save time and money.

In Bø, Jordan was quickly immersed in the Norwegian way of life. He embraced the culture, which celebrates the outdoors and is characterized as *friluftsliv*-- loosely translated to mean open air life. Norwegians are encouraged from a very young age to spend significant amounts of time in nature. An example of *friluftsliv* can be seen as early as kindergarten, where ice slides are built outside of schools and playgrounds extend into the woods. As adults, this means incorporating outdoor sports into everyday life. Nearly everyone enjoys hiking and skiing, going to the lake or exploring the countryside. Describing how living and studying in Norway affected him, Jordan says "I became a lot more interested in my surroundings. Even though North Dakota is not the most mountainous area, there are nearby places that you can explore." Clearly, for those who love the outdoors, Norway is a great place to be!



Jordan Lakoduk experiencing friluftsliv

Group studies together in Sweden

Four long-time friends, Mariah Geiger, Shanda Guy, Brigitte Lafontaine and Kari Olson spent spring semester 2012 together at MSU's partner institution in Sweden, Högskolan Kristianstad (Kristianstad University). While some doubted that studying abroad as a group would be a good idea, the girls found it to be a highlight of their experience abroad. They easily made friends independently, while still having their American "support system" available to speak with about challenges they faced, such as culture shock and homesickness. From their experience, the girls encourage anyone who is unsure about studying abroad to consider doing it with a friend. They all agreed that the best part of studying abroad together was that after they returned to Minot, they still have each other to understand and reminisce with about their experience. They will always have the shared memories of living and studying in Sweden, and will always understand the impact that the study abroad experience had in each other's lives.

Their studies at MSU are diverse, ranging from accounting and business management, to broadcasting and education. Yet, they were all able to take courses in their field such as: topics in international business and business communication; internet publishing and web design; intercultural communication; Swedish history and Swedish language for international students. Kristianstad University offers a wide range of programs in English, including computer science and technology, public health, environmental technology, and business economics.

With a group of international friends they met in Kristianstad, the girls travelled to London, Amsterdam, Stockholm and within Sweden. The four also had further opportunities to travel through planned excursions organized by the university specifically for the exchange students; these trips brought the students to Gothenburg, Stockholm and, by way of cruise, Estonia. After their semester ended, the group also travelled to Spain, Italy, France, Austria and Germany. As Brigitte recalled, "it was three weeks of six-country madness; no time for stopping or sleeping." They wanted to take advantage of their time in Europe and see as much as possible.

The girls became so close with other international students attending Kristianstad University that when they came back to Minot, they started referring to Sweden as "back home." Needless to say, they are already making plans for a reunion in Europe.



From left, Shanda Guy, Kari Olson, Brigitte Lafontaine and Mariah Geiger

Discovering Italy

For six weeks during summer 2012, Jori Fladeland traveled to Milan, Italy to participate in the GlobalLinks Learning Abroad's Italian Language and Culture Program located on the campus of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC). The program is built around a unique "discovery model" which is meant to provide students with an individualized experience through discovery in 5 key areas: personal, academic, cultural, social, and professional. UCSC Milan offers three different Italian Language and Business summer study abroad programs: Italian Language and Culture (4 weeks) which offers students the chance to study the Italian language at the beginner or intermediate level; Business, Experiencing Italian Excellence (4 weeks) where students learn from Italian business experts; and Italian Language & Business (6 weeks) which allows students to make the most of their time overseas by taking an intensive Italian language course and a business course simultaneously.

Jori chose to enroll in the Italian Language and Culture program, which she had been interested in for a long time. She felt that studying another language and culture would be beneficial to her educational and career ambitions in healthcare and nursing as it would help develop her ability to relate to a diverse population.

In addition to enhancing her healthcare skills, and learning about the Italian culture, Jori had the opportunity to explore a total of eight European countries as well. She traveled to Switzerland, Monaco, France, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, and Austria, in addition to exploring many destinations within Italy. Her favorite destination was Ireland, where she took a city tour by bus and joined in a pub crawl. Though she covered a lot of ground in a short amount of time, she knew the resulting cost and exhaustion was worth it to be able to see so many interesting places.



Jori Fladeland in Venice

A Year in España

Kara Bohan completed the 2011-2012 academic year abroad, taking in the exciting and uniquely beautiful culture of Spain while studying at the Universidad de Murcia (University of Murcia). Kara chose to study abroad through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) offered by MSU. This program makes it possible for students to spend a semester abroad (or even two, as is the case for Kara) at the same cost of paying MSU's rates for tuition, room and board. Kara's adventure kicked off in the fall of 2011 and ended in June 2012. Although the academic calendar at her university in Murcia did not perfectly align with that of MSU, she was still able to visit Minot during the winter break before returning to take exams in Spain for her first semester classes.

With an apartment in the center of town, she had only a short walk to her university where she attended classes in Spanish language, history, culture and even French.



Kara Bohan on "la playa" in Spain

An added bonus, the beach was only an hour bus ride from her home. Her travels throughout Spain proved to be the most memorable component of her time abroad. She visited Madrid, Seville, Grenada and Nerja. "Seville was what you would picture for a Spanish town with cobblestone streets, cathedrals and palaces. Nerja was a town on the southern coast where everyone had English and Irish accents. It looked like Greece with white buildings and blue water. Madrid, the capital city, had so much going on, there were some of the best museums in the world, palaces, plazas and the best food," she explained. Travelling by train allowed her to see more of the countryside, caves, and farms with llama and sheep.

Kara encourages, "if you even have the thought to study abroad, you should check out your options and do it."

... Ireland continued

Danielle selected classes in management, marketing, the Gaelic language and culture of Ireland. Her study abroad program also includes six excursions, including the capital city of Dublin and the Isle of Arran, known for its countryside, waterfalls, historic sites and outdoor adventures. Interestingly enough, nearly one fourth of Galway's population is students, which should give Danielle ample opportunity to meet locals as well as other international students. Following her fall semester abroad, she will graduate in the spring with a degree in criminal justice and a minor in international business, and then will pursue her goal of becoming a lawyer.