



**A NEWSLETTER ABOUT MSU STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD**

**Stai hired as Global Education  
Coordinator**

“My own experiences, education and interests have inspired me to encourage others to take the opportunity to have their own adventure and learning experience abroad,” said Bethany Stai, who was appointed as the new Global Education Coordinator in Minot State University’s Office of International Programs on June 20. Bethany is responsible for coordination of all aspects of study abroad, including advising students, promotion and assisting students with administrative procedures related to study abroad. She is also responsible for raising multicultural and global awareness on the MSU campus through activities and events with an international focus.



The Minot, N.D. native is no stranger to the MSU campus. She graduated from MSU in 2010 with degrees in finance, international business and economics. In the spring of 2009 Stai studied at Kristianstad University, one of MSU’s partner institutions in Sweden. After returning, Stai began the process of looking to study abroad yet again in a different location. She was accepted into an International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) to Belgium for spring of 2010, so she has the knowledge and understanding of the processes to both MSU partner and affiliate programs through the office.

“The best part of this job, so far, is when I meet with students and they have that first spark of interest in studying abroad,” Stai said. Stai has already met with students who have returned from summer programs, students who are going abroad in the fall and perspective students, and is learning the ins and outs of the many study abroad options at MSU. Stai hopes to gain a better understanding of how best to prepare, entice and turn the interest of studying abroad into a reality.

“Not everyone has the opportunity to study abroad and experience the beauty of being fully immersed in another culture. I think it is important to give everyone ample opportunities to experience the dynamics of the world in its entirety by offering global education events on campus. For years, it has been my own personal mission to promote cross-cultural understanding,” Stai said. “And now I have the opportunity to do this as a part of my profession. I am eager to encourage others on campus, and in the community, to increase their awareness and further knowledge of other cultures and to explore the dimensions and components that create and define those cultures.”

Stai also hopes to continue to learn from others who share her interest.

“I think it is simply amazing to get the opportunity to work in a field you are truly passionate about,” said Stai.

*The world is waiting ...  
where will you go?*



**Study Abroad Fair**

Come learn about the study abroad options at Minot State University!

Thursday Sept.15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Student Center Atrium

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**This newsletter was written and created by Cassie Neuharth, an intern in the Office of International Programs.**

# Faculty and students return from studies abroad

## Nursing students gain international experience in Peru



**From right to left: Dimler, Stevens, Eckert, Singleton and Fredrich.**

immunizations and conducting new infant assessments. Singleton explained how she administered a vaccine to a 6-hour old infant and said experiences like this made the program worthwhile.

During the sojourn, the group learned that four different types of hospitals exist in Peru. A level-one hospital is a government facility that provides services to people who do not have insurance or other financial resources. A level-four hospital is a facility for people with insurance. The MSU group had the chance to work and observe in all four levels. When Singleton and Fredrich talk about the tour itinerary, they agree that the most valuable experiences came from touring the level-one governmental facilities.

“Working in the poorest hospitals [in Peru] was the most gratifying, it allowed me to really see the Peruvian people,” said Fredrich. “Their character was outstanding and they were happy to get what they had.”

At the end of the program, while the rest of the travellers went site-seeing in different parts of Peru, Fredrich travelled to the capital city of Lima for two days to study the care of the elderly in Peru. She visited two nursing homes; one that was operated by the Peruvian government, and one that was operated by Catholic nuns. Fredrich found both facilities to be comparable. What she found most interesting and enjoyable, however, was that when compared to nursing homes in the United States where physical therapy typically includes stretching and light walking, physical therapy in Peru consists of playing soccer, ping pong and dancing the Tango.

Fredrich plans on continuing working with her nursing counterparts from the Universidad Alas Peruanas to give MSU nursing students the same opportunity in the near future. Plans are underway to offer the study tour again in the summer of 2012 or 2013.

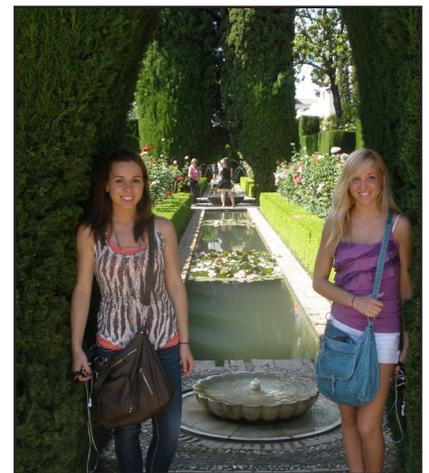
## Barney and Busch discover the marvels of Spain

Minot natives Kelsey Barney and Rachel Busch returned to Minot the middle of July from their five-week study abroad program in Granada, Spain through International Studies Abroad (ISA). With a city population of around 250,000 and a kind of heat not common in North Dakota, the girls arrived at the University of Granada looking forward to the experience of a lifetime.

It was immediate immersion for Barney and Busch, with placement exams for their courses waiting upon arrival. The girls each took two courses during the program, which were determined by their individual language skill level (intermediate, advanced, or superior). One course focused on Spanish culture and the other on Spanish language and grammar. Even with challenging classwork facing them each day, the girls were able to find time to join some of the many local and regional excursions organized by ISA to places such as Cordoba, Nerja beach, Alhambra, flamenco dance shows, and trips to the cities of Madrid, Toledo, and Sevilla.

Culture and language learning continued outside of the classroom, as they chose to live with a host family rather than in university housing. In fact, they were placed by ISA with a host mother who could only speak one word of English. Once during a conversation with her, the students were amazed to learn that there are at least four different words for ‘soup’ in Spain. The two shared a room, while two other foreign exchange students stayed in another room down the hall. Busch and Barney said it was marvelous to live with a local from Granada; someone who was able to teach them much more about Spanish and culture, and someone with whom they could build a personal relationship.

Busch and Barney believe that their study abroad experience in Spain will be very helpful for the future, especially while both continue to study the Spanish language at MSU. The girls learned to be on their own while in Spain, and enjoyed the exciting city of Granada.



**Barney (right) and Busch (left)**

## White discovers leadership abilities in New Zealand

Minot native and Minot State University senior, Jennings White, returned from the adventure of a life-time at the end of June in New Zealand through AustraLearn's 'Challenge New Zealand: Leadership Development' program.

"I have never been out of the country on my own and also never experienced such an amazing country," said White.

While abroad, White learned about leadership, personal development, team building and outdoor pursuits-including bungee jumping and hiking Mt. Doom, which was showcased the Lord of The Rings. White was amazed by the many traditions of the Maori tribe, including the hongi, a traditional Maori greeting that involves pressing noses and foreheads together.

His time abroad was not all fun and games. While in New Zealand, White and his colleagues experienced a 6.3-magnitude earthquake, but were in a safe location. In addition, by the time White's program had concluded, his hometown of Minot had experienced a major flood. White cut his travel time in New Zealand short to come back and help with clean-up efforts.



White hiking in the mountains of New Zealand.

Despite these awful distractions at home and in his host country, White insists that he, "really couldn't have asked for a better study abroad program, the instructors and the other students were really informative."

White was mesmerized by the Kiwi culture and an amazing landscape that, in the end, made it difficult for White to leave New Zealand. His eagerness, love of hiking and adventure made his time abroad worth it all.

"I believe it makes me a better candidate for future jobs. It [studying abroad] really gives you a different perspective on international business," White said.

## Warren finds passion and inspiration in Italy

Minot State University senior and Boulder, Montana native Danielle Warren returned from her program in Italy at the end of July. Warren's month long program was a summer International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) entitled "Business: Experiencing Italian Excellence." The program offered several different modules for students, allowing them to focus on a specific topic. Warren chose the "Italian Business and Fashion Design" module, because of a great interest in the fashion industry. She hopes one day to pursue a career in the fashion business.



Warren enjoying Italian coffee in Milan, Italy.

As Warren began her courses, she realized that she was actually going to learn more than she ever could have possibly imagined. For example, one of the topics she was studying was small businesses in Italy and how they could achieve success. The subject was an inspiration to Warren- one of her life's goals is to start her own small business.

"To see the ability of these small businesses reach such heights as they have in Italy has driven me to be more focused, hopeful and optimistic about my endeavors and this renewed focus and perspective will be the axis of my final years of schooling," Warren said.

One of the biggest adjustments for MSU students abroad is learning how to deal with the different ways they must travel from point A to point B. Warren was no exception. She felt overwhelmed at first when trying to figure out metros, trains, buses, taxis and bicycles, but she eventually became comfortable with their daily use.

"The best experience for me was just living and experiencing a new culture basically on my own," Warren said. "[I was] free to do what I pleased at any given time. It was very enlightening and refreshing."

At the end of the program, Warren said she would remember Italy for its gelato, coffee and pasta. It was also difficult for her to say goodbye to all of the wonderful people and friends that she met along her journey.

"This summer abroad helped me in innumerable ways, some I cannot even find the words to describe. It's a life-altering eye-opening experience," said Warren. "It was a series of learning experiences."

## Girard instructs global business course at sea

John Girard, Minot State University professor of business administration, participated in a Semester at Sea (SaS) Maymester program as a shipboard faculty member from May 20 until June 15. It was the first time that SaS has operated a short-term program during the summer and it turned out to be a success with 62 faculty members teaching 340 students from 46 different majors, representing 17 different countries. Semester at Sea has been an MSU affiliate study abroad program since November 2010.

While on ship, Girard taught a course entitled "Global Business," similar to a course he teaches at MSU. A major difference between the two was that during the Semester at Sea program, Girard presented course content to students and they were then able to venture off the ship to actually experience what they were learning first-hand.



Girard teaching his shipboard course for Semester at Sea.

**See Girard's story continued on page 5.**

# Girls prepare for upcoming departures

## Rudolf aims to become fluent



Mckenzie Rudolf, a MSU junior majoring in International business and Spanish, boards a plane to Spain this coming September where she is planning to study at the Universidad de Málaga, in the south of Spain, for one semester. From the moment that Rudolf was a freshman in high school she was enamored with and captivated by the Spanish language and knew that she wanted to

speak it fluently one day. Rudolph graduated from Minot High School in 2008 and continued her Spanish language studies at MSU. She felt that a study abroad program, which completely immersed her in the language, would be the next step towards fluency.

"I knew from when I was a freshman at MSU that I wanted to study abroad and speak Spanish fluently," Rudolf said. "I like to experience other cultures."

Rudolf is excited to begin her studies, experience Spanish culture and learn about what it's like to live on a Spanish university campus. Rudolf will be living in a residence hall, fully taking advantage of university life.

"I am ready to be on my own, learning different ways of life and to see how others live," said Rudolf.

## Bohan can't get enough of Europe

Kara Bohan, Minot State University senior majoring in management, marketing, international business and Spanish, recently returned from Europe on June 16 after having participated in MSU's London, Paris and Rome study tour (led by



**Bohan and other tour participants.**

Dr. Andrea Donovan, Minot State University assistant professor of art and humanities.) The focus of the study tour was to explore European art, architecture and art history. Other participants of the tour included Jessika Cooper, Pamela Clarkson, Erik Berland and Michael Farrell Ough. Bohan found the experience to be a great first step in preparing to study abroad for an entire academic year starting this August at the University of Murcia, Spain.

Before participating in the study tour, Bohan had never traveled outside of the United States and Canada. Bohan's love of travel and the Spanish language emerged when she was a freshman in high school in Minot. She began studying Spanish language throughout high school and knew that she wanted to continue her studies in college at MSU.

"I wanted to become more fluent [in Spanish] and studying abroad just seemed the way to go," said Bohan.

Bohan chose to study in Spain for a chance to experience the European lifestyle and the chance to travel across the continent. She explained how she always wanted to learn about another culture and Spain "just felt right."

Bohan is anxious to leave Minot before the winter months and begin studying and traveling when she arrives in Spain.

Upon arriving in Murcia, Bohan will be enrolled in an intensive language course for a few weeks before taking regular university courses taught in Spanish, including a course on teaching the English language in Spanish and a French language course. Bohan will

stay in Murcia for two **Bohan standing in London, England.** semesters during the 2011-2012 academic year, and plans to return to Minot for the winter break.

"I hope I become more independent and learn to travel alone. After I return I hope to show more confidence in knowing that I can accomplish anything after this experience," Bohan said.



### GLOBAL SIGHTS PHOTO CONTEST



In celebration of International Education Week, all MSU students, faculty staff, referees and alumni are invited to enter the Minot State Global Sights Photo Contest!

**Submission Deadline is Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m.**

Prizes awarded and winners work enlarged and displayed in the Multicultural Center on campus, Nov. 14-18.

For complete contest guidelines, visit: [www.minotstateu.edu/international/photo\\_contest.shtml](http://www.minotstateu.edu/international/photo_contest.shtml)



## Girard's story continued from page 3.

"I knew about Semester at Sea® and I always wanted to get involved," Girard said, referencing the excitement of teaching and working aboard a ship, the experience of applying one's skills in a global context, and the sense of shipboard community .

SaS worldwide itineraries offer rigorous coursework coupled with field assignments and service learning. Students who participate in SaS programs gain skills necessary to compete in today's rapidly globalizing world. Since 1963, the program has been a leader in global comparative studies- a form of international study that focuses on surveying the world's peoples, patterns, cultures, and traditions.

Four SaS voyages sail each year. Two semester voyages which last approximately 100 days, include 10-12 international destinations and students earn 12-15 credits. One summer voyage that lasts approximately 65 days, includes at least 8 international destinations and students earn 9-12 credits. One short-term voyage that lasts approximately 25 days, includes at least 6 international destinations and students earn 4-5 credits. The voyage in which Girard participated sailed in the Caribbean from Nassau, Bahamas to Port of Spain, Trinidad; Cristobal, Panama; Puerto Limo, Costa Rica; Puerto Cortez, Honduras; Puerto Barrios, Guatemala; Belize City, Belize and ended in Nassau.

Girard said that one of the many highlights of his trip included a service learning project in Belize City, Belize. The group assisted with clean-up and repairs of the city zoo, which suffered extreme damage due to Hurricane Richard in October 2010. After volunteering, zoo workers took the group to the jaguar cage and each of the students was able to touch the paw of the animal (through the cage).

Amongst the numerous offshore site-visits, Girard and his students were also able to visit a large oil company in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as a rainforest research facility in Costa Rica.

Girard, who has travelled extensively for both personal and professional reasons, is very enthusiastic about SaS opportunities for MSU students and faculty, stating that this voyage was the "best travel, living and learning experience." MSU students can participate in any of the SaS programs, and faculty who would like to add an international experience to their curriculum vitae are also encouraged to consider their international teaching opportunities.



On the left is one of Girard's students with the owner of the zoo in Belize.

## The last words from students returning abroad

### Kayla Schmidt- Sunderland, England-ISEP Spring 2011

*How did you share your experiences when you came home?*

I show everyone my pictures and I also brought back my favorite chocolate and some of the foods from England that I loved. The little things that I brought back have a story; it is a lot easier to tell people a story when you have something to show them.

### Jack Fowler- Plymouth England-ISEP Exchange 2010-2011

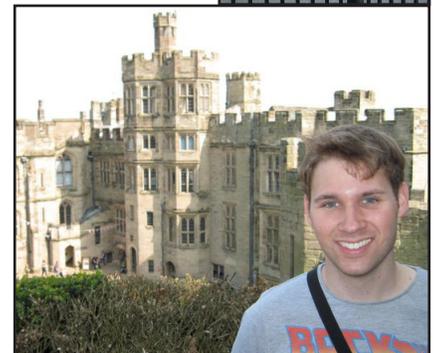
*What was your biggest adjustment?*

Using public transportation and walking everywhere was a big adjustment. After spending time in London I became familiar with the Underground and other systems. Another adjustment was to the British accents and lingo. I was surprised with how many dialects that there are in England. I picked up on it easily and now I can understand many dialects.

### Piper Jones- Lausanne, Switzerland-ISEP Spring 2011

*What were your experiences with culture shock? How did you deal with it?*

When I got to Lausanne and everything was in French and I felt really isolated in the beginning. When I had orientation I made myself sit down with some of the other students and it was pure silence. Then I said something and we all realized that we were from English speaking countries and we began to talk, laugh and tell stories, one being of how we all had cried the first two days and how jet-legged we were. To deal with the culture shock I didn't want to sit in my apartment and not do anything.



To learn more about Kayla, Jack and Piper's adventures, check out "Student Stories" at <http://www.minotstateu.edu/international>, and click on the tab "Study Abroad."

# As one of the many study abroad options at MSU, students can study at one of our overseas partner universities

## China: SIAS International University Cost per semester: \$3,150

SIAS offers courses taught in English in the following fields:



- Chinese Language
- Humanities
- Arts
- Traditional Medicine

Field trips throughout China are also a core part of the programs so that upon completion a student will have experienced “every day” China, in addition to gaining academic knowledge of Chinese society and culture. Courses are taught in English.

## Denmark: Aalborg University Cost per semester: \$5,320

AAU offers courses taught in English in the following fields:



- Language, Communication & Media Studies
- International Cultural Studies
- International and Intercultural Communication
- Psychology Studies
- International Management
- Product, Process & Production Development
- Danish Welfare State in a Comparative Perspective
- Medialogy

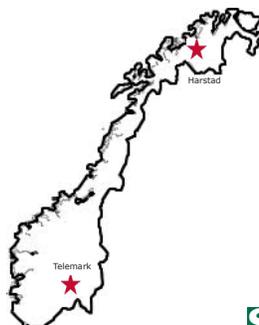
## Norway: Harstad University College

For additional details, see the MSU global education coordinator.

## Norway: Telemark University College Cost per semester: \$8,505

TUC offers courses taught in English in the following fields:

- Scandinavian Studies
- Sport and Outdoor Life
- Alpine Ecology /Environmental Management
- Physical Education
- Human Technology Design
- Norwegian Folk Music
- Culture and Dialogue
- Care for the Aging



Harstad offers courses in the four academic areas:

- Business
- Nursing
- Special Education
- Disability Studies

## Sweden: Kristianstad University Cost per semester: \$5,960

KU offers courses taught in English in the following fields:

- Humanities
- Social sciences
- Natural sciences
- Behavioral and health sciences
- Business administration
- Teacher education



## South Korea: Pai Chai University Cost per semester: \$3,645

PCU offers courses taught in English in the following fields:

- International Business at the Appenzeller School of Business
- Korean Language and Culture Studies
- TESOL- Teaching English as a Second Language
- International Summer School (July-August)



## Turkey: Kadir Has University, Istanbul

For additional details, see the MSU global education coordinator.

Founded in 1997 and the university, with its seven faculties of:

- Engineering
- Sciences and Humanities
- Economics and Administrative Sciences
- Communication
- Law and Fine Arts



There are also special courses for international students including:

- Swedish Language for International Students (for beginners)
- Swedish, Past and Present
- Intercultural Communication