



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT MSU STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Students prepare for adventures' end

Fowler takes on the land of the Mayflower

Jack Fowler, a junior at Minot State University, flew out Sept. 11, 2010, for the adventure of a lifetime living in a different country and culture that he knew nothing about. Fowler had a nine-month adventure in front of him and he knew what he wanted to learn. When he started the study-abroad application process, Fowler narrowed his choice of destinations down, and it was a close three way tie between England, Ireland and Australia.



In the end, the intriguing United Kingdom stole his heart and he ended in Plymouth, on the coast of England.

When Fowler started planning for his schooling, in the U.K., he looked for courses that would coincide with his major, broadcasting with an emphasis in public relations. He was able to enroll in some courses at the University of Plymouth that were able to transfer back to MSU upon his return.

Fowler has challenged himself to become more independent and comfortable being away from family and friends for a long period of time. He never thought that he would become comfortable traveling by himself, especially to cities around England and Europe. However, this experience has allowed him to do just that.

"Anyone who is worried about leaving home and their friends for a year shouldn't be put off by that. I have kept in really close contact with all my friends through Skype," Fowler said on his experience abroad and offers advice to other students. "There isn't a better time in your life to study abroad, and you may never have the opportunity later in life."

Fowler experienced it all and said, "after studying abroad, I've decided I will never be returning to the States. Just kidding. As much as I'd like to stay, I will be returning in June after traveling around Europe with my family and friends."

Fowler did many exciting things during his time abroad and says the best parts have been that, "I have improved my British accent by a factor of 10, I have lived a Harry Potter lifestyle, and I have acquired over 100 new Facebook friends." But, on a more serious note Fowler said "my experience abroad gave me what I needed to make the next step forward in my life and has made me feel like I can take on any challenge."

Schmidt befriends the English

A young, shy Minot State University junior and English major, Kayla Schmidt began her journey to Sunderland, England, in January. She never thought that she would ever study abroad. This was the scariest thing that she had ever done. Upon her arrival in England, the Minot native started studying immediately at the University of Sunderland, and noticed the difference between university life in England and the United States. The courses, known as modules to the English, that Schmidt took included of a women's autobiography class, a language and power course and world Englishes through fiction, which focused primarily on countries that were once colonies of England.

"As an English major, taking these modules allowed me to study the different ways English is used through both the course content and by listening to my classmates' accents," Schmidt said. "The way certain words are written: the class on colonization always threw me off--they spell it 'colonisation!'"

See more of Schmidt's story on page 2.

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Jones embraces French culture in Switzerland



French-language enthusiast and Minot State University junior, Piper Jones, began her study-abroad adventure in a city with more than 100,000 people. Jones has become immersed in the city of Lausanne, which is in the French-speaking area of Switzerland in the lower west region of the country, since February.

Jones began researching possible study-abroad programs when she was a sophomore at MSU. Her original intent was to attend a university in France, but as Libby Claerbout, the director of international programs, learned more about Jones' personality and goals, the Swiss program at the Université de Lausanne through ISEP seemed a perfect fit.

Jones has been involved with the French language for several years. She started taking French language courses in high school and continued her studies as a freshman at MSU. Jones is currently working towards a double major in English and broadcasting, with a minor in French language. Since her arrival in Switzerland, Jones has been taking full-fledged subject courses (i.e. not language courses)

in French alongside her fellow native French speaking students. Although challenging in the beginning, she finds the program she chose to be beneficial.

"There is no better way to learn a second language than to immerse yourself in it, and likewise, no better way to broaden your cultural horizons than to step outside of your own," Jones said.

Jones feels fortunate to be in the center of Europe, having easy access to other countries along the Swiss borders. So far she has traveled to Italy, France, England, Norway and all over Switzerland, since the start of her program.

The Minot native is planning on returning to her home in June, after the completion of her courses. She says that her time abroad passed too quickly, but she knows that she will be back on the international scene eventually.

"Going abroad is hands down the best thing I've ever done. It's completely opened my eyes to global opportunities that I never would have known existed," Jones said.

She can also offer many pieces of advice to others with the curiosity to study abroad, "two other truths, every stereotype you've ever heard is based in reality, so don't be ignorant. Also, your trains in Italy will be late, so plan accordingly and wherever you are in the world, an Australian has already been there."

Jones says it will be difficult to return to the U.S., but it will always be comforting to her knowing that she learned so much about other countries and cultures. She befriended many international students and learned all about their lives, politics and customs on a first hand basis.

"I've grown so much as a person, and now my level of independence is off the charts," said Jones. "I'm also now completely comfortable speaking French with native Francophones which I never would have been able to say that before this semester."

Schmidt's story continued from page 1.

Although Schmidt's courses took up her time, she traveled and experienced all the nightlife that England has to offer. She went to places in England such as London, York, Morpeth, Newcastle and Whitby. She also traveled to Barcelona and Venice. She also picked up new tastes in food, languages and learned the lingo of the English.

Being abroad, Schmidt learned more about herself than she thought was imaginable by putting herself beyond her comfort zone.

By traveling outside of the U.S. she gained perspective on others cultures.

"Studying abroad is an educational experience," Schmidt said. "This goes way beyond the classroom. Being abroad allowed me to live life in a whole new environment and brought me out of my shell and into Sunderland, my new home away from home."

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Students prepare for upcoming journey's abroad

The French get Veteran traveler



Ancela Thomas, a senior studying radiation technology at Minot State University, has gone abroad, heading to the country of the Eiffel Tower and croissants. Her International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) summer study abroad program is a six week intensive French language course at the Université de Savoie.

The school is located in the town of Chambéry in the heart of the France's French Alps.

Thomas has traveled Paris and the Champagne region before, but she explained how she was only a tourist with no real comprehension of the French language.

"I was missing out on the true experience of French culture," said Thomas, on the motivation that led her to the Université de Savoie program.

See Thomas' story continued to page 4.

Girls discover passion for the Spanish language



Barney



Busch

As Kelsey Barney and Rachel Busch prepared for finals at Minot State University, they also had another thing to prepare, their suitcases. Barney and Busch began their summer study-abroad experience May 21, and it will run through June 30 at the University of Granada in Granada, Spain.

As a part of their majors, Barney, business and Spanish and Busch, Spanish education, decided to head to the

country of bullfights and Flamenco music together. The girls are participating in an intensive Spanish language program, through International Studies Abroad (ISA), where they took a placement exam that determined to which courses they will be taking for their six-week program. The program includes instruction at all levels of the Spanish language and focuses on the skills of writing, reading, speaking and listening.

Barney is most looking forward to experiencing a different culture and learning the language intensively.

While in Granada, Barney and Busch are staying with a host family in order to be immersed in the Spanish lifestyle. Barney has already traveled to Central and South America, and she chose a study-abroad program in Spain to experience another Spanish-speaking country from the ones that she has already seen. For Busch, this is her first time traveling outside of the United States, and she is excited to learn all there is about Spain.

"It is a better way [to learn a language and] to get more of a taste for their culture," Barney said.

She also explained that, to be fully immersed in the culture, it is better to stay and live with a host family compared to living in the dorms.

The girls will spend their time together until their program ends, while Busch will fly back on her own to the U.S., as Barney is meeting her family and traveling around Spain for an additional period.

Barney and Busch both emphasized that they are excited to gain a new perspective on how others live in another country, their culture and to improve their Spanish-language proficiency.

Student heads 'Down Under'

The North Island of New Zealand will welcome a Minot State University business student during the month of June. Jennings White, a senior studying management and international business, will take part in the program through AustraLearn, 'New Zealand: Leadership Development' from June 8 to 22.

While abroad, White will learn about leadership, personal development, team building and outdoor pursuits, with activities such as rock climbing and white water rafting. This program will allow students to bond, build trust and learn how to work as a team. Students will have the opportunity to learn from several high-caliber guest speakers from New Zealand, volunteer in a service project and be immersed in some of the key attractions and unique Maori culture and Kiwi way of life.

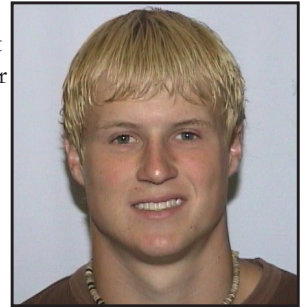
"I really wanted to experience a culture that I have never experienced before," White said. "I'm excited to meet new people."

White is looking forward to learning about leadership in a different cultural setting, especially since it coincides both with his major at MSU and his love of the outdoors.

While choosing a program abroad, White knew that he wanted to experience a place like New Zealand and the leadership program through AustraLearn was the perfect match. AustraLearn is an educational program with a mission to develop "quality educational study abroad programs for diverse student needs and the facilitation of students into programs with utmost care and concern for student services including health and safety, adequate housing and on-site support and cultural experiences to complement the academic core of the program." AustraLearn programs became available to MSU students when President David Fuller signed an affiliate agreement in April 2010.

White explained how AustraLearn's program is very well organized. He has connected with other students in the program via a Facebook page and the organization held a webinar orientation for all the students so they could learn what to expect.

White will continue to travel around New Zealand upon his program's end, exploring the South Island of the country for 10 days before returning to Minot.



When in Italy, do as the Italians do



Minot State University track and field jumps and sprint member Danielle Warren will hit the Italian ground running this summer with a program based in business. Warren will participate in a summer International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) entitled, "Business: Experiencing Italian Excellence," which will begin in late June and run through July. The program's goals are to expose business students to direct knowledge of Italian business and explore the Italian entrepreneurial system. This program is broken into different modules, allowing students to

focus on fashion and design, tourism, agribusiness, art, small and medium-size enterprises, industrial clusters or entrepreneurship.

"I am going to do the "Italian Business and Fashion Design" module because I have a great interest in the industry and why not learn about it in the birthplace of high fashion?! Right?" Warren said.

See Warren's story continued on page 4.

MSU students and faculty prepare for study tours

European excursion for students

Minot State University students and faculty leader Andrea Donovan, MSU assistant professor of humanities, head to Europe on June 6-16, 2011, for 10 days of learning about European art, architecture and art history. Students, Jessika Cooper, Pamela Clarkson, Kara Bohan, Erik Berland and Micheal Farrel Ough, begin their study tour in London, England, by exploring points of interest such as, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, Hyde Park, the Big Ben clock tower, the Houses of Parliament and St. James' Palace.

After three days in London, the group of six will board the Eurostar rail line and travel below the English Channel and resurface in France, traveling to Paris. Once Donovan and group make it to Paris, they will be off to discover the City of Light by learning about the history and intrigue of Parisian attractions like the Champs-Élysées, the Eiffel Tower, the Place de la Concorde and the legendary Norte Dame Cathedral.

After absorbing as much of Paris as they can, the group will board a plane for a short flight to Rome, Italy. During this last leg of the journey, the students will consider the depth and influence of European history by participating in guided tours of the Colosseum, the ruins of the Forum Romanum and other notable Roman sites that could include Vatican City, the Roman Catacombs and Pompeii. It won't be all study and no fun though, along with this vigorous schedule of scholarship and inquiry on three cities, the group will partake in the culinary traditions and try the many foods in each destination.

Language immersion in Peru

Minot State University Spanish instructor Kemerly Moorhouse led nine students to Peru this summer for the second Spanish language immersion program in three years. Valley City State University students Kathrin Oaks, Nicholas Faure and Oluwatoyin Oladosu joined MSU students Rachel May, Marlee Schmidt, Brandon Domonoske, Elysha Blikre and Olivia Christenson and MSU faculty member Linda Olson is also joining the program to learn the Spanish language. The group of 10 began their adventure in Lima, Peru on May 25 and met the host families they will be living with for the five week adventure. The first few days in Lima were spent settling in and getting to know and learn the culture and area of Lima.

The students are enrolled in a six-credit MSU Spanish course, "Language and Culture in Peru." Spanish language classes are held in the morning and cultural classes are scheduled in the afternoons during the week. Over weekends, the students head outside of the capital city for site-seeing in famous places such as Ica, Cusco, Lake Titacaca, the Nazca Lines and the recently named Wonder of the World: Machu Picchu. In addition, the students will have ample opportunity to spend quality time with their host families and they will even experience the art of salsa dancing.

During their time abroad, the students will blog about their adventure and experiences during their Peruvian tour. Find their blog on the MSU Office of International Programs web page at <http://www.minotstateu.edu/international/blog>.

Nursing students gain Peruvian perspective

Five Minot State University nursing students and nursing instructor Laurie Dimler recently returned from a study tour in the beautiful country of Peru. The group gained professional experience abroad and learned about health care issues in other cultures. Jessica Stevens, Dawn Fredrich, Pamela Singleton, Elizabeth Eckert and Juan Quesada gained knowledge on different global health care perspectives by participating in field experiences in local hospitals, clinics and other community health service providers. This inten-

sive immersion program allowed the students to get to learn about another culture on a first-hand basis and also allowed students to enhance their health care education. The group of seven were assisted during their daily activities by local nursing faculty who helped coordinate their Peruvian health care experience.

The MSU students and faculty members spent 10 days, May 20-30, in the cities of Arequipa and the capital city, Lima.

Warren's story continued from page 3.

Finding the perfect program for Warren was an easy task, as she has traveled across Italy before and loved it. She found the program to be naturally interesting and intriguing. She began working with the international programs office and Kemerly Moorhouse, education abroad coordinator.

"Kemerly was very helpful and so nice and excited for me. She was very supportive and made the process very easy," Warren said.

"I am looking forward to everything about this experience," Warren said. "The learning, travel, culture shock and all. I mostly want to get an inside look at the fashion industry in Italy specifically because most of the high fashion designers are based in Italy and that's really what I want to do with my life and career."

Warren is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in marketing, management and international business, and she will continue her education at MSU in the fall.

Thomas' story continued from page 2.

Growing up, Thomas lived in the mountains of Idaho, and she is looking forward to being immersed in a mountain town in France. She is also looking forward to the change of pace and attitudes, as well as, the way that even everyday activities take on a new air in a foreign setting.

Thomas' program runs from June 2 until July 15. She will be completing small-group instruction, language lab work and workshops on the local life in Chambéry.

A goal of Thomas' is to one day be involved in medical missions abroad, and she feels that her time abroad in France will help her pursue her passion of assisting others.

"I am hoping that immersion in the French language will provide the most effective way to learn the basics," said Thomas. "Living in France for over a month will provide ample opportunity for new life experiences and a break from the same old thing."
