



MINOT STATE STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

MSU Business Professor Dr. John Girard Dives into the Importance of Studying Abroad



MSU Graduate Lance Hartleib spent his last semester at MSU with Semester At Sea. This photo was taken of him in Munnar, India. Catch up with Lance on pg.6

DR. JOHNGIRARD, world traveler and Business Professor at Minot State University has been a strong advocate of study abroad on campus. Many of us know him from business classes, some of us through his passionate lectures and perhaps a few of us, see his name and wonder, why is he still going on about studying abroad? John Girard goes on and on about studying abroad, because he is filled with passion. He is filled with a passion to inspire students to study abroad as he knows first hand how doing it will affect our personal, intellectual and professional growth as human beings. Girard has been a professor on several Semester at Sea Voyages where he traveled with over 600 students from around the world.

Girard mentions, “When you ask American high school students if they are interested in studying abroad, 81% of students want to go. Study abroad

data shows, that once university begins, only 1.35% of students actually study abroad and only .75% of North Dakotan students.” This huge difference in numbers can be accounted for several reasons. Firstly, many students are hesitant because of the cost. Studying abroad may appear as a hefty investment. However, the word that should be stressed is investment. It is an investment into the development of ourselves. The Council for Industry and Higher Education Research recently presented research that states that employers are more likely to hire applicants who have studied abroad. This is because these employees will understand global issues. Girard says “Whether you are a scientist, businessperson, artist or teacher, engaging in global issues is very important in our modern world. Especially with the expansion of global business endeavors.”

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MSU Students Reflect on Their Study Abroad Experiences
featuring: Erik Larson, Tyler Berg, Lance Hartleib & Theresa Elder



ERIK LARSON, is a senior at MSU studying Management. He spent Fall of 2014 at Aalborg University with his MSU friend Tyler Berg in Denmark. During his stay in Denmark, he spent a lot of time traveling around Europe. Some of his highlights were visiting the Colosseum as well as the



Brewery in Copenhagen and experiencing Oktoberfest in Germany. One of the advantages of studying in Europe is how easy it is to travel to nearby countries, and maximize your experience. Once you are in Europe, travel is inexpensive and exciting.

Erik Larsen

"No matter where you go you will find good people."

New Appreciation for Home *Tyler Berg*

A reflection on his time at Aalborg University by MSU senior :

I HAD A WEIRD REALIZATION (through a couple events and maybe a song or two that hit me on the subject) a couple years ago that 'you know, I might not wake up tomorrow.' A cliché saying about life, but in that moment it hit me really hard to the point that I scared myself thinking about it so hard. So I came to the conclusion that if I don't go see some stuff and do

some stuff while the opportunity is there, I might never get to. Not everyone should or has to if they don't feel the need to, but for me, it was right. Worst case scenario, I was out a couple thousand dollars and could go home. Not much of a price to pay.

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I think everyone has this ideal picture of what will happen when studying abroad. This ideal picture is of course quickly meeting people that become great friends and all the random adventures traveling around that can happen. This, to me at least, was greatly shaped from looking at other peoples times abroad on Facebook, the grand thing about Facebook is you're going to get the highlights. Its definitely important to

As far as the culture aspect, I definitely gained some insights into Danish culture and it was always interesting to hear other people's views on political situations/government structures etc... Important to realize: not everyone is going to love your country, and in extreme but rare cases, you (no matter what country you're from) and not everyone is going to be afraid to let you know that. Try not to take offense.



realize that they are highlights. You are not going to get a picture of a person's worst days while abroad. Maybe a status about homesickness but it usually doesn't give you that other perspective of being abroad. Mistakes will be made and bad times will be had. Your time abroad will be different then you expected. However, I think the highlights far outweigh those bad times and makes going abroad worth it.

When I think about it, the things I truly have taken out of being abroad arise more from just being away from home. This would have happened if I studied anywhere, not specifically Denmark. My original idea for studying abroad was Australia. If I went there I think I would've got the same things out of it as Denmark. Maybe just a different, Australian, instead of Danish, view on the world around me, and probably could've helped my Australian accent some (it's a struggle). But overall, I think I'd come back with the same core realizations and understandings. To me, the biggest thing I got out of being abroad was a new appreciation for home. Friends, family, and just lifestyle in general. I'm not suggesting there is anything wrong with Denmark, it was a wonderful place but home really, really, really feels like home now. I'm sure a Danish student coming here would say something similar about appreciating Denmark more.

I never argued about it with anyone and I wouldn't suggest doing so. Just hear what they have to say and move on.

I went abroad with a friend from home, Erik Larson. Going with a friend from home I think was both highly helpful and in some ways a little hurtful to the experience. The positive (a very big positive) was you get to share experiences with someone from home and be able to talk about it for the rest of your lives together at a level only the both of you would understand. There are so many 'had to be there' moments that only we will truly get. Going with a friend from home was only hurtful in the way that it shielded me from the discomfort zone in some ways. Going into the discomfort zone was a big reason for me wanting to study abroad. Just seeing if I could do it, and to gain some confidence in myself in the world around me. It was easy to fall back on each other and try to meet people or try new things. Luckily, we eventually did that, but we did do it together.

All in all, I'd say: Just do it. Worst case scenario you can come home. And when you do come home you'll likely appreciate it more and see it in a new way. Along with that, you'll have made a lot of new friends and gained experiences you can't get in any way other than studying abroad.

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MY VISIT TO KOH CHANG RUNONG, THAILAND

article by Theresa Elder MSU Senior
Double Major Chemistry and Biology
Studied in Thailand, Fall 2013

DURING MY VISIT TO THAILAND I took an introductory oceanography class. One of the trips offered by this class was a week long snorkel and ocean observations trip to the island of Koh Chang, Runong. Koh Chang is on the Andaman Sea, west of Thailand. Unlike popular tourist destinations in Thailand, this island did not have some of amenities we have grown accustomed to in North America, including electricity, internet, and streetlights.



We drove for hours south along Thailand's peninsula over winding roads that gave me motion sickness and stayed at a small resort called the Starcrab that had small bungalows. In the morning we left early for the docks. When we arrived a small boat was waiting for us. Our entire group, around 16 people, crowded in around the food, supplies, and beverages to be delivered to the island. The trip took two hours during which time we passed several lush green islands, surrounded like mounds of green foliage rising out of the sea. The boat did not beach itself on the shore as shown in many movies, rather people walked into the surf out to the boat and began to unload everything placing it in a pile

on the beach. We also jumped out into water that went above our knees and proceeded towards the shore. I had a bag of snacks but it went missing, probably carried away with the other food supplies.

After a short period of settling in we all opted to take a walk through the jungle to see some rock pools. There was no clearly marked trail outside of a footpath and the occasional water bottle



was tied to a tree or bush to indicate we were traveling in the right direction. Wearing shorts my legs got a bit torn up by the time we arrived at the rock pools. It was so amazing to see the living coral, sea anemones, and other marine life confined to these small pools of water amidst the boulders. When the sun started to set we decided to return to our beach resort by a different path taking us over the rocks around the island to our beach. As I am not a proficient climber there were times that I prayed for good footing over the course of the climb back; narrowly avoiding falling into the ocean. As we kept going we even discovered a human skull, femur, and rib bone from a person that we were later told probably went overboard during a storm a few months ago. My roommate and I enjoyed a delicious Thai dinner that night, fought off a huge spider and covered beneath the mosquito netting during the two hours that the lights were on.

The second day we walked for hours over the beach at high tide, at one point having to step over obstacles on a narrow stone wall that was the only area not covered by water, and at another point we had to wade

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through to reach a bridge.

We stopped by a lovely temple where I saw a female monk for the first time in Thailand. While our professor delivered the human bones we had found

Overall my island experience was wonderful and full of sights and activity. I got sunburned and bruised but I was at peace. Time did not pass as quickly, and things moved at if not always a leisurely



the day before to the temple to provide them a resting place, we continued. [The people of Thailand look at death so differently than we do. Life is viewed as more of a cycle, as a majority of Thai people believe in reincarnation. Death in North America is much less apparent in every day life, but for this culture, it is considered a part of daily life.]

Walking back along the beach at night with the low tide, soft sand, and occasional seashells was magnificent. The sun sparkled on the waves as it set and I had a sense of peace.

The next night I snorkeled again where the movement of my arms and legs set off bioluminescent bacteria like white sparkles in the water.

pace, a comfortable one. I learned that sometimes there is more benefit to be had in living in the moment and spending time with people forming friendships. It was an enriching and refreshing experience. This island trip stood out because it was the one time that I truly escaped all electronic and digital distractions. I spent time immersed in nature without the worry of things happening. It also led me conversely to an appreciation of all of the technology and conveniences that we do have in North America since during the trip none of them were present.

Theresa Elder

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A BETTER ME BY LANCE HARTLEIB

A reflection in Myanmar with Semester at Sea, Spring of 2014



AS ONE CAN IMAGINE, sailing around the world is full of life-changing experiences. Until I left to study abroad, I felt very uncertain about my future. All I could think about was having an adventure. All I wanted was an opportunity to escape the constant cycle of my daily routine. My experience in the Spring of 2014 with Semester at Sea allowed me to have many adventures. It exposed me to many new things, such as different cultures, ideas, and my personal favorite, food.

One of my fondest memories during my trip occurred while I was in Myanmar, or as many still call it, Burma. I had previously planned several service trips while traveling in certain countries. For Myanmar, this took form in a food donation to a Buddhist Monastery. There were many young children being trained in the monastic lifestyle. However, I should note that it is also common practice for families to send their children to monasteries for education and instruction for living a Buddhist life.

When we arrived at the monastery, I noticed that

it was very quiet. I did not see anyone while my group was led through the compound of buildings. After a short tour, we reached a courtyard where two rows of long tables were set up. All along the tables were stations with different items of food. At the front, there were huge cauldrons of rice, in the middle there were curries, and vegetables, and towards the back there were samosas. I choose to work the rice station in the front and after a little preparation; a sea of scarlet robes filled the area.

The courtyard became immediately busy. The monks formed two single file lines with the oldest in the front and the youngest in the back. Despite all the people now in the courtyard, the mood was very somber. Many of the kids looked down at their alms bowls and waited quietly to be served. As part of their beliefs they were not allowed to take the food, unless it was offered. Then I noticed a young boy with his head raised and a grin on his face. He looked very excited to see something that he had probably never seen before,

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American college students. I chuckled quietly to myself while I thought about the irony of this situation. I was excited to see him, and he was excited to see me.



After a few moments of the monks lining up, they began to shuffle down the rows. All of the monks passed through the lines without ever saying a word. A good portion did not even raise their heads until the moment I put food into their bowls. The ones that looked up gave me a curious look. They seemed much more interested in me than the food. I thought about how strange it must have been to see Americans for the first time while they served you food.



One by one, each monk passed through the lines. At the end of the line of monks arrived the nuns. I feared that we might run out of food at some point towards the end when we were serving the smallest amongst them. These children were young girls, about three years old.

I learned a lot about Buddhism that day. I learned even more about myself. I felt selfish in a lot of ways. I also realized how little I give to others. **I knew that when I got home, I was going to be a better me.**



Lance studied with Semester at Sea during his last semester of his degree at MSU. His voyage, titled "Around the World" circumnavigated the globe stopping in ports of Mexico, Hawaii, Japan, China, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco and Spain. Lance mentions that this was the best experience of his life.

Lance now works for Souris Basin Planning Council as the Community Development Specialist. With a degree in History, Lance never imagined to work in this field, but his time studying abroad has impacted his career choice as he now works in a field where he can help others in communities around North Dakota. His voyage has also inspired him to continue traveling and exploring different cultures and communities around the world in his spare time.

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MSU Students who are about to Study Abroad

Featuring: Bree Holthus, Codi Thomas, Rachelle Brown and Kortney Arnold



Salamanca, Spain

Bree Holthus
Jordan Trottier
Codi Thomas

Valencia, Spain

Katlin Pierce

Barcelona, Spain

Heather Brockell

Heidelberg, Germany

Kortney Arnold

Berlin, Germany

Bree Holthus

Australia

Rachelle Brown

Heidelberg, Germany

Kortney Arnold:

History and Germany Double Major

KORTNEY, a seasoned traveler, has spent time in Europe and parts of Japan. While in Europe he spent time in the town of Heidelberg in Germany. He noticed that Germany was one of his favorite places to travel, because it is a place that allows you to take in the old world, and the new, simultaneously. Kortney will be spending a month and a half studying at the University of Heidelberg. His professor Harry Hoffman suggested this particular school because it is the oldest in Germany and has a strong Medieval History department. Kortney hopes to increase his exposure to the German university system and make contacts in the field of medieval history. He plans to explore German lifestyle by becoming immersed in their daily life.



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Challenge Australia: Leadership Development

Rachelle Brown:
Nursing Major

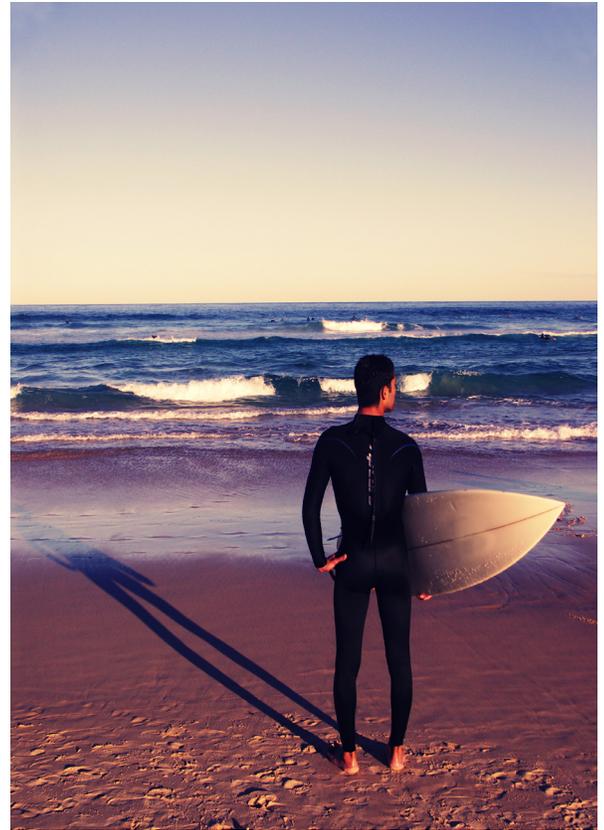
RACHELLE has been wanting to visit Australia since the fourth grade. She feels that The Challenge Australia program is a perfect fit for her because it fits into the vigorous nursing program at MSU and provides a background in leadership. This leadership component will provide an excellent foundation for her career in nursing. Professionally, she also hopes to obtain a greater cultural competency. She is excited to explore the world, and spark interest in traveling to other places while starting life long friendships. When asked what kind of a leader she is, Rachelle's response is "I am a team leader. I want to know all opinions, while I make sure to stay on task. Working with others, and respecting all opinions."

Challenge Australia is an excellent leadership development program offered by GlobalLinks Learning Abroad. It encourages students to participate in leadership training through personal development and team building exercises. Activities take place in eastern Australia and include visiting a wildlife sanctuary, volunteer service projects, guest speaker lectures, local tours, and outdoor sports training.

Rachelle, originally from Ohio, mentioned that she is looking forward to learning how to surf and being near the ocean, as this will be the first time she has travelled internationally.

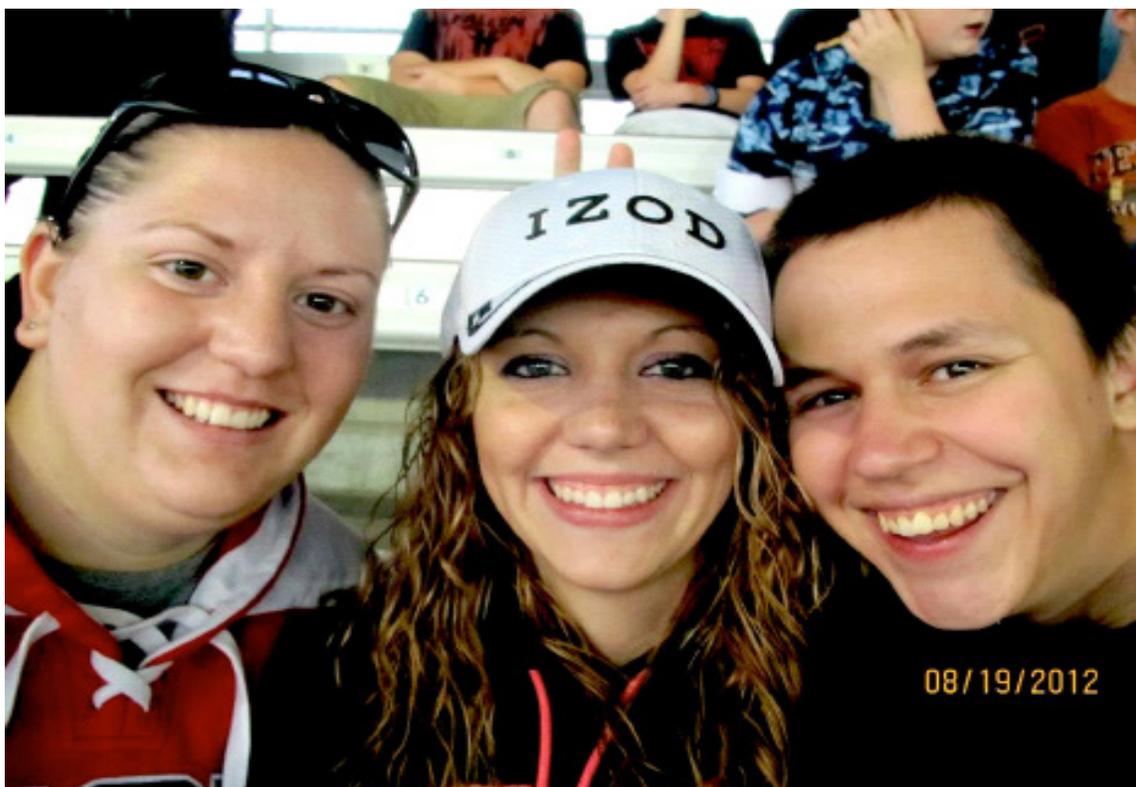
Challenge Australia Course Objectives:

- Theory and practice of collaborative leadership
- Understanding group dynamics, especially those elements that support and assure the success of collaborative leadership
- To apply concepts about effective group dynamics to practical situations
- Functional competencies as participants of small groups
- Self management for the purposes of achieving the interests of the group
- Understanding common ethical issues faced by collaborative leaders



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THREE FRIENDS ADVENTURE TOGETHER



Bree Holthus - junior studying Spanish Education with a Minor in German Education

Codi Thomas- junior studying Criminal Justice with a Minor in Spanish

Jordan Trottier- senior studying Elementary Education

THESE THREE FRIENDS have been talking about studying abroad together for a long time, and this summer their dream is becoming a reality. Bree will be participating in two programs through MSU program provider, GlobalLinks Learning Abroad. She will be studying with her friend Codi and boyfriend Jordan in **Salamanca, Spain**, and then she will be heading off to Berlin on her own for a German language program. Bree is excited to become proficient in both languages, and understanding pronunciation when listening to people native to Germany and Spain. She will be writing her senior capstone while abroad and focusing on a journal of her experiences as a companion to the paper.

Academically, the program in Salamanca offers options for all three students. All three students will be living with host families during their four weeks in Spain. Codi is curious to learn about how family life in Spain is different from homes in the USA. While Bree is looking forward to trying new foods, Codi is quite nervous about it as she is not sure what to expect from Spanish cuisine.

After their program in Salamanca ends, the three friends will travel throughout Europe visiting Ireland and Italy. Bree mentioned that Jordan has a strong desire to kiss the Blarney Stone in Europe. Codi's eyes light up when she talks about seeing new things in person that you have only seen in books or on TV.

Studying abroad with friends is a great way to introduce yourself to living abroad. Codi, Bree and Jordan will provide each other an excellent sense of support in their new surroundings. They will also create lasting memories with one another that they can share for a lifetime.

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“Tell me an employer who doesn’t want someone who understands diversity, is grateful, has skilled powers of negotiation and understands the complexities of the world?”



John Girard riding a Camel in the Sahara Desert, Morocco

If you are concerned about financing your study abroad adventure, you should consider stopping by the MSU Study Abroad Office. MSU offers a variety of programs, from a couple of weeks long, to semester and full year programs. The highlighted programs range in prices, but all of them come with scholarship opportunities. For example, Semester at Sea offers four million dollars in scholarships annually. Although the price of a program like Semester at Sea may seem high, the likelihood of a student with good academic standing receiving a scholarship is huge. These considerations must be taken into account before vetoing study abroad. It is important to know that these options are within reach.

Another reason some students choose not to study abroad is that they are concerned that their MSU academic curriculum may not fit with foreign course options. Libby Claerbout, MSU Director of International Programs says “MSU feature programs for study abroad were specifically chosen to fulfill the MSU curriculum requirements and study abroad advising will help find the best fit for your degree program.

“Not only can you receive credit for studying abroad, but you can receive additional credit for other required

programs.” John Girard comments, “study tours and studying abroad can benefit course loads immensely. We have several required classes that may be fulfilled through studying abroad. In both the Honors Program, HON264H’s honors elective requirement, and in

International Business, the International Business Elective may be fulfilled through studying abroad. Next year MSU will also require students to complete Interconnecting Perspectives, a requirement of the new General Education Curriculum. The IP2 requirement of this Gen Ed Program may be fulfilled by studying abroad or a shorter term study tour.”

Girard’s study tour program, Doing Business in Latin America is an excellent opportunity for students to get a taste for traveling abroad, learn about the structures of businesses in other cultures and to receive credit from MSU. This program takes place December 21, 2014 to January 5, 2015 aboard Semester at Sea’s

floating university. Academically, students will earn 3 credits and may be eligible to receive credit for their International Business Elective as well as their IP2 Gen Ed Program requirement. They may also be eligible to receive credit for the capstone class BADM 462 International Business Strategy. Intellectually, students will gain an in-depth understanding of Latin American culture and practices by comparing and contrasting business practices in Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico and the USA. Additionally, students will have an amazing opportunity to travel with professional traveler, John Girard in the safe and comfortable environment of Semester at Sea’s MV Explorer.

The impact that studying abroad can have on our lives is unfathomable. After returning home after these experiences, students find themselves with a deeper understanding of the world around them. Equally as important, students have a deeper understanding of themselves in relation to the world around them. John Girard quotes Nike and says....

“Just Do It!”

Book an appointment to talk about your study abroad options today! Find us in the International Programs Office, and contact us at study.abroad@minotstateu.edu

