



Minot State Students: Studying Abroad

A Local's Perspective of Costa Rica

"Being a Spanish major I knew the best way to acquire the language would be to immerse myself into it completely," explained Jacob Schulte, a native of St. Louis, Missouri and senior at Minot State University. "In one semester, I learned ten times more Spanish than I ever could have by studying in the classroom."



Jacob Schulte posing with a statue in Costa Rica

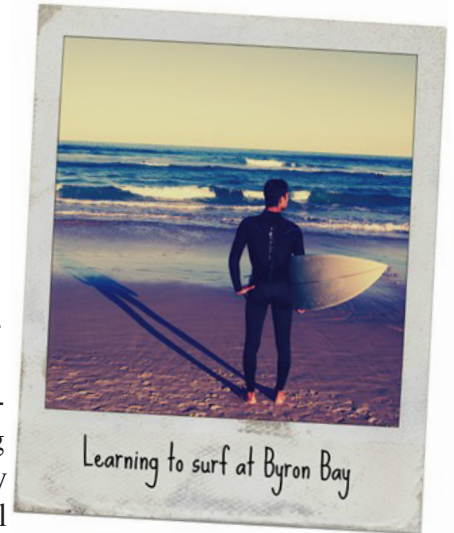
Jacob completed a semester abroad at the Universidad Latina - San Pedro in San Jose, Costa Rica through International Studies Abroad (ISA). Reflecting upon his program, Jacob stated "I can't rave enough about it! The teachers were fantastic, and they were teachers both inside and out of the classroom. They showed us Costa Rica from a local's perspective. We really received a non-touristic view of the country and its people. The classes were small and very interactive which made going to class a lot of fun".

The allure of Costa Rica for American students studying abroad can be attributed to numerous factors, including its impressive biodiversity, stunning natural beauty, environmental awareness, top-notch universities offering diverse academic courses, and great opportunities for adventure and ecotourism. While Jacob loved his classes and being surrounded by the beauty of Costa Rica, the most rewarding part of the experience goes much deeper for him.

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Challenge Australia!

If you are looking for an exciting and adventurous way to spend your summer, MSU's office of international programs has the perfect opportunity for you: Challenge Australia! This exciting two-week program emphasizes leadership, personal development, and team building all while offering students the opportunity to explore Australia.



Learning to surf at Byron Bay

Leadership training is an extremely valuable tool for all students

no matter their course of study. Leadership skills are considered to be the most broadly valued competencies among recent graduates and professionals. The Challenge Australia builds leadership skills and develops team players while providing participants with a sense of accomplishment.

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Contact us:

**Office of International Programs
Multicultural Center, 1st Floor Student Center
www.minotstateu.edu/international**

This newsletter was written by Sierra Schmaus and designed by Amber Smith, student assistants in the Office of International Programs.

Practical Training in Norway

Molly Jurenka, a senior at Minot State University double majoring in Elementary and Special Education, kicked off the year 2013 with an ambitious New Year's resolution. She aimed to not only complete her second study abroad experience since beginning her college career, but also to participate a practical training experience at the same time. "I was lucky enough to already have had the opportunity to study in Australia for a semester and when I heard about the fully funded scholarships available to study in Harstad, Norway, I couldn't pass up the opportunity and had to apply" explained Molly.

Molly was one of two MSU students chosen to receive a High North Fellowship Grant from Harstad University College during spring semester 2013. The grant provides substantial funding to outstanding students in the fields of Social Work and Special Education, and fully covers international travel, housing and sustenance for the entire semester. The scholarship opportunity was established by Harstad University College in spring 2011, to

encourage student exchanges between the two institutions, and will continue through spring 2015 with several additional awards still to be granted. Through the program, grant recipients have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to broaden their expertise within their academic discipline, as well as gain valuable practical experience in an international setting.

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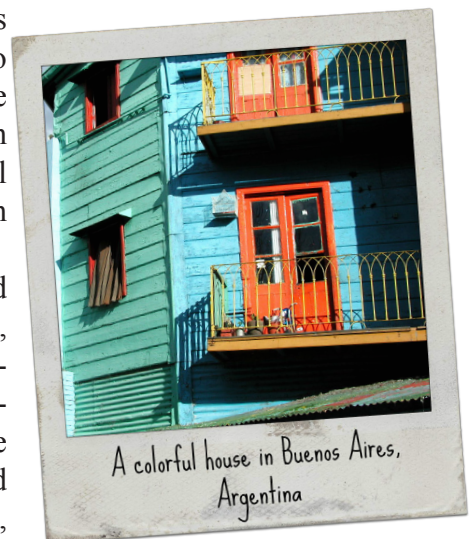


Argentina: Visions of Culture

Erik Olson, a Minot native, stepped out of his comfort zone this fall semester when he arrived in the beautiful city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Erik is participating in the Latin American Studies program at the University of Belgrano from mid-July to mid-November. The courses he completes while attending the University of Belgrano will be applied to his MSU English degree. Erik is taking courses in Basic Spanish, and two cultural courses entitled: *Jorge Luis Borges: Visions of Culture and Knowledge*, and *Argentina: The Making of a Country through Its Literature*. But not only is he earning college credits and improving his Spanish, he is also experiencing firsthand the unique and lively Argentinean culture. With

soccer games, tango dancing, and the vibrant nightlife and rich historical background that Buenos Aires has to offer, Erik is sure to be presented with countless exciting and educational opportunities.

Erik, a second year English major at MSU, said he's always wanted to study abroad. His Spanish professor encouraged him to pursue this goal, and gave him valuable advice about narrowing down his choice of destinations. As Erik stated, "I would like to get out of Minot and learn about another culture. Any time you get the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a different culture, I think it makes you a better, more well-rounded person." Erik looks forward to the excursions offered through his program, such as a trip to Iguazu Falls, one of the world's most spectacular waterfalls located on the Brazilian and Argentinian border, and El Tigre a town north of Buenos Aires that was famous for jaguar hunting in the 1820's .



Thailand 2014: The Golden Kingdom

MSU assistant professor of Art and Humanities, Dr. Andrea Donovan, is organizing a short term MSU study abroad program to Thailand June 20 – July 1, 2014. Along the way, participants will have the opportunity to discover the country's glittering cities and colorful pagodas, while becoming acquainted with the warm and welcoming Thai people. Students, as well as community members, are invited to join this MSU study abroad program to experience the numerous opportunities available only in The Golden Kingdom!



The emphasis of this 3-credit humanities course is to delve into the art, architecture, literature and cultural heritage of Southeast Asia. The itinerary will take participants to ancient ruined capitals, hill tribe villages, and mountaintop temples to investigate all sides of this vibrant country of contrasts. Free time is built into the itinerary so that the program may be customized to the educational focus of each participant, while also allowing ample time to sample the foods and wares of the various destinations.

The program includes round-trip international airfare and transportation within Thailand, breakfast and dinners on most days, accommodations, entrance fees, guided sightseeing and walking tours, and a 24-hour multi-lingual tour director.

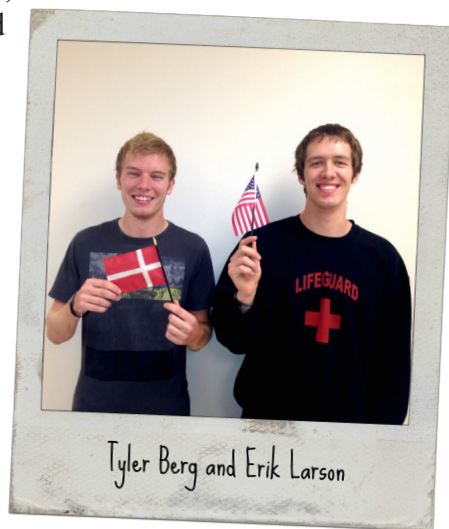
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MSU's First Students to Denmark

As summer wrapped up and the mass of students were heading back to classes, these two students prepared to be Minot State University's first-ever students to study abroad in Denmark at MSU's partner school, Aalborg University. Tyler Berg, majoring in International Business, Marketing, and Management, and Erik Larson, a Management major, embarked on this semester-long journey at the end of August.

Erik and Tyler, both natives of Minot, and fourth year students at MSU, have been friends since the sixth grade. They decided to study abroad just recently because they wanted to do something exciting and to have the opportunity to see the world. As Tyler explained,

"I wanted to go somewhere with a friend because I think it will be nice to have someone there to help



lessen the culture shock." So the two decided to study abroad together!

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Miss Norsk Høstfest Finds Norway Irresistible

Abbie Naze, Minot's 2012 Miss Norsk Høstfest, returned to the United States with a much better idea of what being Norwegian truly means. During the six months that she lived in Norway and attended MSU's partner school, Telemark University College, Abbie feels that she accomplished many great things: she earned college credits, learned about her heritage, developed a love for the country's beautiful landscapes, and much, much more. "At times it was difficult, but the beauty of my semester abroad is that it taught me more than any class could ever teach me. I learned things that I could not have learned any other way."

Minot State University's relationship with Telemark University College (TUC) is special, as Telemark campuses are located in the same region as Minot's Norwegian sister city, Skien.

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Challenge Australia continued from page 1

During this program, students will have the opportunity to experience a variety of settings in eastern Australia including: the community of Brisbane; Kindilan Outdoor Centre; sub-tropical rainforest of Lamington National Park; Byron Bay; and Gold



Gold Coast, aka "surf city"

Coast, also known as the surf city. Learning activities are centered around challenging and inspiring outdoor recreation leadership activities, including zip lining, high/low ropes courses, canoeing, surfing and much more.

Challenge Australia is open to all Minot State University Students, and it may be of particular interest to those studying business, marketing, management, sociology, outdoor/sports education, environmental issues, or related areas. Students will experience a new level of personal awareness and self-understanding on this transformative adventure!



A traditional Thailand dancer

Study Abroad this summer in Thailand!

Individuals interested in learning more, or submitting an application, should contact Dr. Donovan at:

Andrea.Donovan@minotstateu.edu or

(701)-858-3819.

Denmark continued from page 3

While enrolled at Aalborg University, Tyler will be participating in the Economics and Business Administration program. His classes include *Economics and The Organization of Economic Activity*, *Export Marketing*, and *Organizations of Strategic Management* and will be applied to MSU degree requirements. Erik will be enrolled in the International Culture Studies program. While they will be attending classes regularly, school is not the only thing they plan to do while abroad. "One of the reasons we chose to study in Denmark is because of its location. We hope to be able to travel to some of the surrounding countries, and other parts of Europe." Erik explained.

There are many advantages to studying at a partner school abroad, including a high level of familiarity between academic departments, existing faculty and staff connections, and pre-determined classes that will transfer to MSU degree requirements. In addition, Tyler and Erik have already benefitted from the two-way exchange nature of the partnership with Aalborg. Just last spring semester 2013, MSU hosted an exchange student from Aalborg University, Christina Jensen. Before she returned back home in May, Tyler and Erik had the opportunity to meet with her and discuss Denmark in general, specifics about the university they will be attending, and gained valuable information that has already helped them prepare for their life in Europe. As Tyler stated "Before talking to Christina we were pretty nervous. Talking to her was reassuring." A few encouraging words from Christina, and Tyler and Erik felt even more excited and equipped to head out for their biggest adventure yet!

Thailand continued from page 3

Highlights of the itinerary include: historical temples, a canal cruise and the famous Damnoe Saduak floating market in Bangkok; the Sukhothai Historical Park, known for its classical Buddha statues; the Golden Triangle, where Burma, Thailand and Laos meet; and the Chaing Dao Elephant Camp. A full schedule can be found at: www.goaheadtours.com.

Optional excursion: One of the benefits of this particular program is that an optional excursion at the end of the official program would allow individual participants to extend their stay by travelling to Cambodia. These options can be discussed in greater length with the faculty leader.

Miss Norsk Høstfest continued from page 3

TUC offers a number of programs open to MSU students, all of which are taught in English. Students can choose courses in *Scandinavian Studies*, *Business Administration*, *Sport and Outdoor Life*, *Alpine Ecology and Environmental Management*, *Physical Education* and *Norwegian Folk Music*. Abbie chose to take courses in *Scandinavian Studies* during her time at TUC.

Whether the challenges facing Abbie in Norway were simple, like learning to cross country ski and organize travel plans, or more complicated, like being thousands of miles from home or attending classes in a foreign country, Abbie conquered all and returned to her hometown of Minot with a gleaming smile and 10 new stamps in her passport. “The first two weeks being home are a little difficult,” she explained. “It’s like you are in limbo, you can’t believe that you are home and you still can’t believe you’re not in Norway anymore.” But Abbie is optimistic about her future. She plans to finish her senior year at Minot State University earning her bachelor’s degree in music performance.

After visiting 10 countries, (some including France, Sweden, Portugal and Scotland), as well as playing cello in the Grenland Symphony (Grenland Symfoniorkester) and attending Telemark University College for a semester, Abbie is eager to share her experience with others and encourage people to follow her lead and study abroad. “The greatest piece of advice I think I could give to any student is to make your time abroad your own experience. I think too many people try and compare their experiences with those of others. It is great to bounce ideas and your experiences off of other students who have studied abroad, but really try to pave your own path. No matter what, every individual has a different experience.” Abbie was wise in taking her own advice and returns to MSU for her senior year with the experience of a life time; one not comparable to any other.



Abbie playing one of Norway's famous Hardanger fiddles

Want more information on how to make your dreams a reality?

**Visit our website:
www.minotstateu.edu/international**

The world is waiting.



Molly cross country skiing in Norway

Norway continued from page 2

After being awarded the scholarship, Molly began her six month journey. Most of her time abroad was spent in the city of Harstad, a seaside town of 23,000. “While I was there, I spent 450 hours student teaching 8th, 9th and 10th graders with disabilities. It was challenging because it was very different, but it helped me to adapt to new environments, as well as accept other people and ways of life.” While the work may have been challenging, the oceanfront view from her student flat, the mild winter weather, and observing the vibrant Northern Lights on a regular basis were not.

Being a native to a small town Hingham Montana, Molly has made great efforts to become more aware of the world in general, and different ways of life. Her time spent in Norway enhanced these efforts and gave her first-hand experience of both student and professional life in another country.

A Local's Perspective continued from page 1

He explained, "The most challenging part of being there was just accepting that you are no longer in your comfort zone. Accept the change and put yourself out there." And that is exactly what he did. "I got a real sense of the Latin American culture because I tried not to be a tourist, but rather to meet as many locals as possible. I spent my free time in town with the locals living like a Costa Rican rather than traveling to tourist attractions. You can see all of the beaches, churches, and monuments that a place has to offer, but it won't be nearly as rewarding as getting a true sense of the culture. You have to get to know the people."

After this amazing experience of immersing himself into another culture and another way of life, Jacob came to fully understand the importance of study abroad. "I believe that every student should study abroad. Here in the USA, we have a tendency to live in a bubble; we miss out on learning about other cultures. It is an experience that changes your perspective, and an experience you can't get without living it."

The relaxed atmosphere and laid back Latin American attitude appealed to Jacob so much that he returned to Costa Rica to finish out the summer with one of his professors, before classes started back up at MSU. He has also grown eager to become more familiar with Hispanic culture and countries, as well as put his hard earned Spanish speaking abilities to further use. Upon completion of his MSU degree, he plans to move south—possibly as far south as Chile or Costa Rica-- to teach English as a foreign language.

GLOBAL SIGHTS PHOTO CONTEST

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

CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

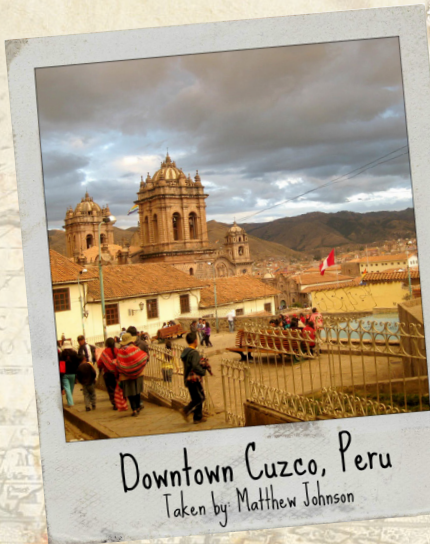
- *STUDENT
- *FACULTY, STAFF, RETIREES & ALUMNI
- *SNAPSHOTS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Thursday, October 31st at 4 p.m.

*WINNERS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS
WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE STUDENT
CENTER ON CAMPUS DURING
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK,
Nov. 18-22.*



Delivered fresh daily!
China
Taken by Bonnie Carrera



Downtown Cuzco, Peru
Taken by Matthew Johnson



Kaju
Sisimiut, Greenland
Taken by Melissa Vestler Krogsjaard

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