



MINOT STATE STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Semester At Sea® has been chosen as the featured program in this spring 2013 study abroad newsletter because of the opportunity the program provides for students to gain a global comparative viewpoint. Affiliate programs are third-party study abroad providers that have been thoroughly researched and pre-approved by the MSU International Advisory Committee. MSU affiliate programs have been chosen specifically for the quality and credibility of their academic offerings, affordability, and the level of service provided to participants. Students can choose from a wide array of locations, program lengths and fields of study through MSU affiliate providers.

Professor on Board

Dr. John Girard, MSU professor of business administration, joined the spring 2013 faculty on the Institute for Shipboard Education's Semester at Sea® program while on sabbatical leave this semester. Combining teaching and academic research while traveling to 13 countries in 106 days, the voyage will provide a unique opportunity for Dr. Girard's sabbatical goals. "Building on the theme of global comparative education, I plan to conduct an analysis of leadership in Hong Kong, Singapore, India, South Africa and Ghana," Girard said. Semester at Sea® faculty members teach three 3-credit hour classes and design one in-country educational trip for each of their courses.

Cruise ship turned floating university, the vessel's purpose is to transport its students around the world. Dr. Girard embarked in San Diego, and the 600+ students enrolled in the spring voyage boarded in Ensenada, Mexico. The ship then set sail to Hawaii, Japan, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Myanmar (also known as Burma), India, Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco and Spain. Immersion in a single country is considered to be the traditional study abroad experience, but Semester at Sea's® global comparative model allows students, faculty and staff to examine multiple countries, wealthy and poor, in a short enough time period to easily make comparisons and identify differences.

Every student on board is required to select one course from the "Global Comparative Lens Series" which is designed to help students deepen their understanding of specific features of life and culture in the countries visited. Dr. Girard will be teaching a class on global management that falls under this category. His students will be able to analyze the management styles and traditions of multiple countries. While the ship is in transit at sea,
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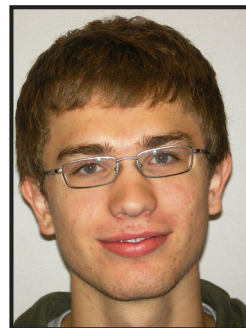


The MV Explorer, a floating university

**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**

Circumnavigating the Globe

Lance Hartleib, History Major, will complete his last semester of university aboard the "MV Explorer." He chose to study abroad through the Semester at Sea program® because, as he stated, comparing it to other program options, "there will be more opportunities on this ship than any other study abroad program." The experience as a whole will benefit his History degree, but he chose to enroll in courses



Lance Hartleib

outside his major. He will be taking Music Cultures, Buddhism & the Modern World, Water for the World and Project Management. Lance is looking forward to many of the opportunities the program will provide. One in particular is an excursion in the Moroccan desert, where students will travel by camel. He is also excited to reconnect with friends he knows from Ghana.

One of the main features that attracted Lance to Semester at Sea® is that the program is set up in a way that guarantees students will have access to professional mentors, guest lecturers, and distinguished figures during their time aboard the MV Explorer. On the spring 2013 voyage, such individuals include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate and founder of the Desmond Tutu Peace Center; Cathy Rodgers, U.S. Representative to Congress (R-WA); as well as a wide range of global
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All Aboard! Doing Business in Latin America- Winter Break 2013

Hey students, do you feel like you can't fit the traditional semester-long Semester at Sea® experience into your life right now? Well, there is another option for you!



Girard on previous SAS journey

MSU professor of business administration, John Girard, will be leading a study tour during the winter break 2013 that will take place onboard MV Explorer - the very same luxury ocean liner that was transformed into the floating university campus of the world-renowned Semester at Sea® program. Dr. Girard has arranged for MSU students to join a portion of the Enrichment Voyage taking place on the MV Explorer from December 22, 2013 to January 7th, 2014. Enrichment Voyages are short-term travel and learning opportunities that are open to participants of all ages. MSU students participating in this study tour will compare and contrast business practices in Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, and USA. The 16-day itinerary includes a unique opportunity to see first-hand the importance of the Panama Canal to global trade, visit businesses in Latin America, and participate in a service learning project in Guatemala. While in Quepos, Costa Rica and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico students will also have the opportunity to participate in organized field tours or travel independently.

The Doing Business in Latin America Study Tour is the perfect complement to any business degree, or for students simply wishing to gain an in-depth understanding of Latin American culture and practices. This program will focus on the challenges and opportunities associated with organizational management and business strategy in the global environment,

with a specific emphasis on the Latin American region. The students will be onboard MV Explorer for most of the study tour. During each day at sea, required learning activities will take up the majority of the day. Coursework will include two applied projects, both of which will focus on countries visited as part of the program.

Study tour participants will benefit from Semester at Sea's® practice of carefully preparing its students to make the most of their time ashore. Before students are allowed to disembark at each port, attendance at an introductory lecture is mandatory. These sessions

provide information about regional history, demographics, and health and safety issues. Each lecture also features a mini-segment that focuses on a port-specific topic.

Individuals interested in learning more, or submitting an application, should contact Libby Claerbout, Director of International Programs at: libby.claerbout@minot-stateu.edu or (701)-858-4155.



The "Doing Business in Latin America" Study Tour's Ports

Circumnavigating, continued from page 1

entrepreneurs and politicians. Other notable guest lecturers from past voyages include: Fidel Castro (Cuban President), Anwar Sadat (Egyptian President), Indira Gandhi (Indian Prime Minister), Mikhail Gorbachev (USSR President), Mother Teresa (Nobel Laureate) and Nelson Mandela (First President of South Africa, Nobel Laureate). Lance hopes to make connections with people onboard that could one day assist in advancing his career.

While at first glance Semester at Sea® seems like a costly option, Lance found it an attainable goal to be able to afford the program fee, especially since he started planning for his program a year before departing. Students are able to utilize financial aid to assist in funding their study abroad programs, and Lance also received a generous scholarship from the Institute for Shipboard Education, the nonprofit group who oversees the Semester at Sea® program, as well as other sources.

As Lance described his journey, he traced the ship's course on a map. This Semester at Sea® voyage is called "Around the World." At the end of the official program Lance has also elected to travel independently in Europe, flying back to the United States from Dublin, Ireland. After returning the United States he will have essentially circumnavigated the globe.

Newsletter was written and designed by Marlee Schmidt, student employee in the Office of International Programs

Miss Norsk Høstfest delves into Norwegian Heritage



Abbie playing one of Norway's famous Hardanger fiddles

Miss Norsk Høstfest of 2012, Abbie Naze, will be spending spring semester 2013 in Norway with the intent to learn more about her heritage. She will be attending MSU's partner institution, Telemark University College (TUC) in Bø, a small town in southern Norway. Abbie is majoring in music with a concentration in performance and she has decided to take part in TUC's Scandinavian Studies Program. Her classes will include Norwegian Language; Business, Innovation & Cultural Diversity; Tourism & Environment; and the Individual, Society & Environments-Winter. Abbie explains that during the latter course, "students will be introduced to the role skiing has played and still plays in the Norwegian society, and how the society manages the outdoor activities during wintertime." Abbie studied the Norwegian language while attending Concordia College in Minnesota before transferring to MSU, but this will be her first experience abroad.

Abbie had already decided to study at TUC before being crowned Miss Norsk Høstfest, but she found that the Høstfest

granted her an unanticipated opportunity to make connections with people who would greatly influence her exchange program. Abbie met with several of the university faculty and staff members. She became close to a family with university aged children who eventually offered to meet her at the airport upon arrival in Oslo. She even had the good fortune to meet the mayor of Telemark county who awarded her with a generous scholarship in an effort to increase cooperation with Minot State University. These connections are helping Abbie feel excited for the possibilities during her time abroad, as well as more comfortable to already know people from within her host community.

"All the things I'm scared about I know will help me grow... Although I'm extremely nervous to step out of my comfort zone, I know this is going to be one of the greatest experiences in my entire life... I want to learn anything and everything that I can, not only about the Norwegian culture, but about myself. I'm excited to see what it's like to be a Norwegian, and I'm excited for them to see who I am. I think both ends are very motivated. They seem to be very happy to teach me about who they are, and I'm more than inspired to learn. It's a good match. Norway has some amazing, genuine, and caring people who want to connect with others. I'm ready to connect!" she explained about her feelings for her exchange program.

To keep up with her music studies and cello practice, arrangements have been made for Abbie to join the Grenland Symphony (Grenland Symfoniorkester) in Skien, Norway (Minot's sister city). She will make the short trip to Skein from Bø for regular rehearsals leading up to two public performances, one with a famous Norwegian pianist, Håvard Gimse, on March 17th. The second will be on May 17th in celebration of Grunnlovsdagen, or Norwegian Constitution day. In addition to these local musical activities, the Oslo Symphony will be featuring world-renowned cellist Truls Mørk during her time in Norway, and she hopes to make it to both of his concerts. Norway, in general, and Telemark county in particular, are known for their rich musical traditions and talented musicians, and Abbie plans to take full advantage of what this experience will offer. Follow Abbie on her blog:

<http://abbiemeetsnorway.wordpress.com/>.



Abbie practicing her skiing in Telemark

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students spend the days in classrooms on board, and days that the ship is in port are spent experiencing each country. Dr. Girard points out the benefits of being "trapped on a ship:" students and faculty interact in a much more meaningful way. "You get back to the basics, like having a conversation with students over a meal or coffee. In this way, students gain even more insight into the classes they take."

This will be Dr. Girard's third experience with Semester at Sea®. The two previous voyages were shorter; this will be his first full semester on board.

Practical Field Experiences in Norway

This spring semester, two MSU students are attending MSU's partner institution, Høgskolen i Harstad (HiH) in northern Norway: Molly Jurenka, a senior from Hingham, Montana, who is pursuing a double major in intellectual and developmental disabilities and elementary education; and Skylar Gunderman, a senior from Oxbow, Saskatchewan, majoring in social work. Both students will be participating in practical field experiences during their time in Norway. MSU and Harstad University College became partner institutions early in 2011 and have so far focused on collaborative projects in the fields of social work and special education.

The students are receiving financial assistance to cover their expenses in Norway through a grant entitled the High North Fellowship, which was awarded to HiH by the Norwegian government for the purpose of jump-starting cooperative activities between international partner institutions. Through this award, Harstad had already funded a week-long academic visitation by four MSU students to Harstad in April 2011, in addition to providing funds for another MSU social work student, Brenden Bertrand, to complete his practicum and final semester of classes in Harstad last spring 2012.



Skylar on a pier in Harstad

Due to the specific parameters of the High North Fellowship, Skylar's program is set-up a little differently than traditional study abroad programs. She will actually be taking three MSU social work classes through IVN (Interactive Video Networking) while in Harstad in order to complete the required courses for her degree. Dionne Spooner, the field experience coordinator in MSU's social work department believes that, "the Harstad collaborative is such a wonderful opportunity for our students to truly study and immerse themselves in cultural diversity. The program allows for a rich academic and personal experience for not only the abroad students but also the MSU field students who remain home but are connected weekly through the IVN for courses. It truly is a win-win situation for both of our universities and our students."

Molly and Skylar have been placed in structured and educationally directed learning experiences in public

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International Business: Ireland

Danielle Finn, an MSU criminal justice major on the Bismarck State College satellite campus, recently returned from her fall semester program at the National University of Ireland (NUI) in the city of Galway. The program is offered through International Studies Abroad (ISA), an MSU study abroad affiliated provider. Danielle tells that the experience was terrific overall, and of great importance to her studies and personal goals.

The program offered classes Danielle needed in order to complete her minor in international business. She selected classes such as Management, Marketing Principles, Irish Gaelic for Beginners, Imagining Modern Ireland: An Introduction to Irish Culture Studies and Castles, Colonists, and Crannogs. The study abroad program at NUI Galway offers a wide array of courses across many fields of study including business, geography, history, English, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, sociological and political studies, a number of language programs, and of course, Irish Studies. For Danielle, the classes were sharply contrasted to those of American colleges. There were no attendance policies, creating a need for greater self-motivation. There were also few daily assignments, with more emphasis put on the final exam.

In addition to continuing her studies while abroad, Danielle was able to connect with locals on an intimate level. Her host community was very welcoming and full of friendly people. There were even a number of academic and social clubs (called societies in Ireland) that she was able to join, such as the Harry Potter Society and the Horse Racing Society, as well as Business and German language societies, which were more closely related to her studies. Danielle speaks a little Gaelic (Irish language), and was happy to get to practice it throughout the country.

A benefit of studying on the European continent is that Danielle had ample opportunity to visit many nearby countries. Each weekend she made a point to travel to cities like Paris, Rome, London and Edinburgh. Her classes required a lot more independent reading than is typical in the United States, and she was able to complete her assignments on the planes and trains while travelling.

Danielle encourages every student to look into the opportunity to studying abroad, "I recommend studying abroad for many reasons: it makes you a better job candidate for future jobs, gives you different perspectives on the world, and helps you learn more about yourself and new cultures. I feel that international travel is eye-opening, challenging and enriching."

Danielle will graduate after this spring semester and then will pursue her goal of becoming a lawyer. But first, she plans to return to Ireland over the summer to visit the Irish housemates with whom she has become great friends.



Danielle in a fishing town in Northern Ireland

Semester at Sea® Site Visit Report



Bethany on the Pacific ocean aboard the MV Explorer

Bethany Stai Keusch, MSU Global Education Coordinator, recently joined a portion of a Semester at Sea® voyage by participating in a site visit that would allow her to have a better understanding of the program, as well as the ability to convince students with her first-hand experience just how great the program is. Some of her thoughts are provided here:

Overall, I was genuinely impressed with impeccable organization of the program, especially when watching the process of embarking 600+ students, and having every question I asked answered with a clear response. The Semester at Sea® program staff is clearly on top of all preparations, arrangements and details. Furthermore, the program successfully creates an exciting environment that fosters new adventures.

The ship has many amenities including two dining halls that serve breakfast, lunch, dinner and a late night snack, a piano lounge/coffee bar which is a great place to hang out and grab a snack, workout and wellness centers, a library stocked with helpful resources for courses as well as information for upcoming ports, a computer center to help with internet and intranet issues, the campus store where students can purchase class or personal supplies and, of course, Semester at Sea® apparel and the outside decks where one can look out across the great seas and enjoy the pool.

Residence directors are available to help students get to know their environment and in starting nearly any student organization or activity they would like; for example: yoga, recreational sports, spirituality groups, career development, and many more.

Classes are offered for a variety of studies, with the majority of classes being small to moderate in size. Each class has a field lab in one of the ports along the journey; the field labs are lead by the professor and directly related to the coursework. For the remaining time in the ports, students can take advantage of a wide array of field excursions arranged by the Semester at Sea® field office in coordination with their trusted tour and excursion in-country providers. These adventures can range from a bike tour through Barcelona, Spain to elephant-back safari in Addo, South Africa. Before each port, all students, faculty and staff participate in a pre-port logistical and cultural presentation which covers safety and health information, travel guidance and cultural details to help students get the most out of every experience.

The environment of the ship is comfortable and invigorating. It does not take long for all the ship's guests to get to know each other through meeting and having conversations in the dining halls, classes, and events. It is a very welcoming living and learning environment to be in. Students can quickly feel at home aboard the MV Explorer; I certainly did!



Practical, continued from page 4

and private human service agencies in Norway, as they work to meet the objectives for each of their degree programs. The specific focus of the field placements will be to work with children with disabilities in a school setting, and to navigate the social services available to support these students and their families.



Molly at her apartment, overlooking the sea

Norway will offer many firsts for Molly and Skylar, both educational and cultural. One such experience, not necessarily related to schooling, is the polar night. This phenomenon happens only at earth's most extreme regions such as the Arctic Circle, where Harstad is located. During the first few weeks that the students are in Norway, the sun will remain below the horizon. Throughout the semester, daylight will gradually increase. Harstad is also located in the Auroral Zone, also known as the Northern Light Zone. In North Dakota, we are occasionally lucky enough to catch a glimpse of this colorful band of light, whereas Molly and Skylar will regularly witness truly intense, colorful shows.

Speculating on her time abroad, Molly said, "I believe that the experience one gets while working with students with developmental challenges is far greater than the university classroom environment. This is a chance of a lifetime, and I am very fortunate that I was offered this opportunity."