



AgAbroad Newsletter

International Programs in Agriculture



Introducing International Ag Ambassadors

The first class of international agriculture ambassadors will begin a new chapter for International Programs in Agriculture. The eight international agriculture ambassadors will become a buddy



Top left to right: Keith Hoeing, James Sibray, Ben Kloc Bottom left to right: Kali Smith, Sasha Broadstone, Carissa McCay Not pictured: Chelsea Scheidler, Jessica Gilson

to an international exchange student, give campus tours to international visitors, promote study abroad in the classroom and at events, give presentations to off-campus groups, and increase global awareness in any way possible. The ambassadors will begin their respon-

sibilities before the semester begins by attending an orientation and helping the exchange students settle into West Lafayette. During the first couple weeks of classes, they will assist at a booth during the ice cream social and study abroad fair, speak in classes, and help with the Japanese exchange program.

The 2009-2010 International Agriculture Ambassadors are:

- Sasha Broadstone—Plant Biology—Brazil/Argentina Maymester
- Jessica Gilson—Agriculture Economics—Austria Semester
- Keith Hoeing—Agribusiness Management—Ireland Spring Break
- Ben Kloc—Landscape Architecture—Romaina/Hungary Maymester
- Carissa McCay—Agribusiness Management—Honduras Spring Break
- Chelsea Scheidler—Pre-Vet—Romania/Hungary Maymester
- James Sibray—Pre-Vet—Romania/Hungary Maymester
- Kali Smith—Agriculture Economics—Ireland Spring Break

If you would like an international agriculture ambassador to speak at your corporate meeting, in a classroom, or a 4-H/extension meeting, please email agabroad@purdue.edu.

Going Green

Help us reduce mailbox clutter, save trees, conserve paper, and go green by sending us your email address. Please send your email address to agabroad.purdue.edu and you will receive this newsletter electronically. Also we would love to hear from you—let us know what is happening with you!

Studying, Shooting, and Serving in Sweden

Sarah Kinder

My name is Sarah Kinder and I traveled to Sweden for the fall semester of 2008 in order to study at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). While in Europe I also had the opportunity to travel to Germany, France, England, Denmark and Åland. As a part of SLU, I went over to Denmark to compete in Olympic type games with the agricultural schools from Norway, Finland and of course Denmark. There were ball games of sorts, track and field, and I individually won the trap shooting contest. It



was an amazing experience and a wonderful time. I still have friends from those countries and talk to them often. My travels and experiences have taught me so much in so many ways that it is truly hard to put these experiences in to words. In Sweden I learned how to bear the dry cold, yet still ride my bike several miles to school. It was very strange, yet endearing to see everyone riding bikes. It gave you a work out and I didn't have to pay for gas which was a huge relief from prices at that time back in the states.

I worked at Norrlands Nation as a bar tender and a cook. Not being able to read Swedish recipes was difficult, yet the dishes always turned out good and interesting. That job was also a good learning experience because people would order in Swedish, and when it was really busy, you couldn't always ask them

to repeat it in English. Therefore, it forced me to learn to understand some Swedish words, even if I could not speak them fluently.

The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences itself was an amazing school. It was small, but I got an amazing education. It had a nice layout, even for being

surrounded by fields. Most everyone was friendly, although I will say, not everyone spoke English, and so to get a question answered was not always so easy. The teachers and staff there were very helpful and very intelligent. Truthfully, the way of teaching there as well as the overall curriculum of the classes was outstanding. The way everything was handled was more helpful than at some schools in the states.

◆ *"It was an absolutely amazing experience and opportunity. The friends, memories, and education were top notch and I can't wait to go back."* Sarah Kinder ◆

Celebrating 15 Years of Collaboration

John Dunning, Richard Meilan, Douglass Jacobs Professors of Forestry & Natural Resources

Since 1995 we have offered a collaborative Study Abroad experience that includes students from multiple programs and countries. The course is taught by three to six faculty members each summer and annually focuses on a different issue in sustainable natural resources. By teaching this course collaboratively, not only do our students enjoy an enriching Study Abroad experience, but they also get to work closely with individuals from different backgrounds and nationalities. We believe that this Study Abroad short-course format allows us to extend our international teaching effort while also providing our students with additional experience in the areas of teamwork and critical thinking.

Each summer we bring together students from our respective programs to study in depth a topic in sustainable natural resource management. The course allows our students to investigate current topics in resource use in different parts of the world, while at the same time interacting with people from varied cultural and scholastic backgrounds. The course originated in 1995 as a team-taught summer course offered by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet, SLU) and Purdue University (PU). In 2000, North Carolina State University (NCSU) joined as a partner institution. The course alternates annually between locations in Europe and North America, with SLU faculty hosting the course when in Europe, and either PU or NCSU hosting in North America. The location of the course depends on the selected focus, which changes every year. European programs have included trips in Sweden, and through Denmark, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Austria. North American courses have been based in Indiana, the Carolinas, New England, Colorado, the Pacific Northwest, and in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. Purdue and NCSU students are mostly North American, while SLU draws students from many European countries as well as China, Rwanda, and Ethiopia.

Instead of sitting in a classroom and learning theories, students are out in the field, assessing land management, climate, atmospheric changes, and cultural differences. These differences in background must be dealt with as the students live, learn, and travel together. The students are able to interact with world-renowned scientists in and out of the classroom. Many of the course themes focus on tradeoffs and conflicts between alternative uses, or challenges for resource managers in the modern, changing world. An important goal of the course is to improve student communication skills and ability to work in teams. Students gain the opportunity of problem-solving in a practical way. The large number of faculty involved in the course allows for specialization during the course itself. Ample opportunity exists for students and faculty to engage in one-on-one discussions of career goals and science as a profession.

Article from NACTA Journal, December 2008 titled “Collaborative Study Abroad – Combining Efforts to Improve the Undergraduate Experience.”

National Guard Afghan Training

In a place of turmoil, an Indiana National Guard unit is bringing wisdom, experience, and above all some hope to Afghanistan. The 1-19th Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) is helping Afghans improve the farming and agribusiness practices. In November, the unit arrived at Purdue for a week-long training session to learn about Afghanistan, but more specifically about their agriculture. The 64-member unit consists of Indiana farmers and people who have degrees related to agriculture. Since the Khowst Province is in a ‘non-permissive’ environment, 35 of the 64 people provide security for the agriculture specialists.

Since 70 percent to 80 percent of Afghans are involved in agriculture, it is important to enhance a vital part of their society. The unit arrived in Afghanistan in early March to begin their mission. They are working to improve the yields of current crops, demonstrate new techniques, introduce new crops, promote diversity of crops, reintroduce crops that were destroyed, show irrigation methods, and teach harvesting methods. Not only is the unit working to enhance the land, but also livestock and agribusinesses.



Kevin McNamara, professor of Agricultural Economics, helps prepare the 1-19th Agribusiness Development Team for Afghanistan at the week-long training session at Purdue.

A typical Afghan farm is half an acre to two acres which is relatively small by Indiana’s average farm size. The knowledge that is usually passed from generation to generation has been lost because of more than 30 years of war. The ADT is teaching how to trellis grapevines, analyzing the soil, working with women to efficiently raise chickens, and helping maintain fruit and nut orchards.

Purdue has been engaged in Afghanistan since 2004. International Programs in Agriculture has been a partner in the Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance (A-4) to develop agriculture and veterinary programs at Afghan universities and create partnerships among the country’s Ministry of Agriculture, local economic development organizations and universities.

Longtime Relations with SLU

Eleven visitors from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) spent June 10th at Purdue learning about academics, collaborative research, and the extension system. It was valuable for them to learn about Purdue, what Purdue offers, and the courses and experiences that are available. The Vice Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Forest Sciences, Head of the University Administration, among other administrators met with Purdue's Provost, Dr. Randy Woodson. They also met with several Department Head's within the College of Agriculture, took a campus tour, and toured Discovery Park.

The College of Agriculture has a long history with SLU. Purdue's first student studied at SLU spring semester 1994. Since that time it has proved to be an excellent partner and a popular destination for students. There are five campuses in the SLU system, the main campus is in Uppsala, 45 minutes from Stockholm. Although Uppsala is the primary destination for Purdue students, students have also studied on the Alnarp campus (primarily landscape architecture students), and the Umea campus (forestry students).

In addition to the exchange, the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources began offering a short-term (three-weeks) summer course in 1995. North Carolina State University joined in 2000. Coordinated alternatively among the institutions, it is offered every other year in the United States and Sweden (or another country agreed upon by participants). Last summer (2008) it was hosted by Purdue and took place in the Pacific Northwest. This year (2009) the course was hosted by SLU and took place in Turkey.

SLU and Purdue are also members of the European League of Life Sciences and North America (ELLSNA). This is a group of select agricultural institutions in Europe (seven institutions) and North America (seven institutions).

Hands on Experience Amber Colman

I studied abroad at Zamorano University in Honduras this past summer and it was an amazing experience. I studied at an agricultural university and worked with farm animals such as swine, beef, dairy, and fish. I wanted to study abroad in Honduras because I wanted to live in a different culture and also wanted to get to know many people from different countries.

While I was there, I learned about animal management practices and how they are similar and different from the United States. I also had the chance to travel to local farms and work with farmers and also work one-on-one with the veterinarian from the university.

At the end of our summer, I traveled around Honduras and saw museums, architecture, and carnivals. I enjoyed my summer in Honduras; I learned so much and made amazing friendships while I was there and would love to study abroad again.



Eight Weeks in France Emma Cambalik

My study abroad experience in Toulouse, France was an unforgettable experience that has without a doubt positively influenced my life. When I was 16 years



old, I participated in a 7-week exchange program in the French region of Brittany, which ultimately left me wanting to experience other regions

of France. Additionally, my current career goal is to work in the winemaking industry so when I learned of the PURPAN Toulouse study abroad program, I knew it was the one for me.

The first month of my study abroad took place at the university PURPAN. During this time, we studied the history of the European Union, genetically modified organisms, biofuels, animal production, wine-making, and viticulture. We made weekly field trips to various locations including Roquefort to study the production of their famous cheese and visit the ewes that produce the milk used for the cheese, a dairy farm, and various vineyards and wineries that allowed us to gain a greater appreciation for the French culture. In addition to these field trips, weekend trips were planned for us, including locations such as Gavarnie in the French Pyrenees, Collioure on the French Mediterranean, and Barcelona.

*"The students of Purpan were like my family away from home; we lived, laughed, learned, and grew together throughout the experience. We formed bonds that will remain strong beyond our month in Toulouse and throughout our lives."
Emma Cambalik*

During the month of July, I was an intern to a family who owned a winery and vineyards about 35 km north of Toulouse. During my internship, I worked alongside my host father and brother, learning how to bag and box wine, label bottles, and train vines. I additionally delivered wine to local merchants with my host mother and father, served customers who came to the house to buy wine, and mowed fields with their tractor. The internship has made me a stronger, more outgoing individual. I believe now that I have worked in a foreign country, I will be able to adapt and be able to effectively work with individuals in almost any work environment. Choosing to participate in this program was one of the most beneficial decisions I have made for myself and will continue to be beneficial in my future.

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This newsletter is published for alumni and friends of Agriculture Study Abroad.

I hope you enjoy this first edition. You'll find articles about our new International Agriculture Ambassadors (this is the first year for this program), an excerpt from an article about a joint Purdue Forestry and Natural Resource/Swedish University of Agriculture program which will celebrate its 15th anniversary next year, as well as stories from students who recently studied abroad. We always enjoy finding out what you are up to and what is going on in your lives. If you are so inclined, we would love to have contributions from you for this newsletter – let us know how your study abroad experience affected you either personally or professionally. Also, if you are ever on campus, please stop in. In the meantime – please enjoy!

Welcome to the first edition of the "AgAbroad Newsletter" the Agriculture Study Abroad newsletter! For those of you who studied abroad, we realize it has been a while – quite a while for some of you, for others, not so much. The College of Agriculture study abroad program has gone through some significant changes over the past 18 years. We now offer programs and courses lasting anywhere from one week to a full year exchange and our students travel all over the globe. Currently 28.5% of our undergraduates have participated in a program or course prior to receiving their baccalaureate. This continues to be the highest percentage of all the colleges/schools at Purdue. Our achievements are due largely to the support we enjoy from our College's administration, faculty, and staff.

Welcome
Linda Vallade

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