

# AgAbroad Newsletter

JULY 2014

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE

## RECORD NUMBERS

KARA HARTMAN

Record numbers studied abroad this summer due to the 'Purdue Moves' initiative giving students scholarships to study abroad, Purdue set a record for the number of students who studied abroad this summer. This summer, 1,003 undergraduates will study in 123 programs in 42 countries. "Studying abroad today is really a must as it expands students' educational experiences and better prepares them for careers in the global economy," said Purdue President Mitch Daniels. Purdue Agriculture students are studying abroad this summer in Brazil, France, Germany, Taiwan, England, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Romania, Ireland, Colombia, Cameroon, Zambia, China, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, South Korea, Spain, Tanzania, Turks & Caicos Islands, and Canada.



## PURDUE IMPROVED CROP STORAGE

The Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) project is starting Phase 3 with a grant for \$10 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr. Larry Murdock, Professor of Entomology, created the technology that protects grain during storage. Before the

hermetically sealed bags, weevils would destroy the crops. During this phase, PICS will expand the technology to other crops including corn, wheat, peanuts, pigeon pea, sorghum, and common bean. New countries will receive this technology to improve the quality of life.

## EXPERIENCING FOOD IN SWITZERLAND & ITALY

JACQUELYN BROWN—AG SALES & MARKETING SOPHOMORE

I'm currently a little over half way through a two week "Food, Wine, and Culture of Italy and Switzerland" maymester, and loving every second of it! We started in Switzerland, drove through the Alps mountain range to Italy, and then flew to the island of Sardinia. Even though we've been here less than two weeks, we've already had a chance to tour two vineyards and wineries, the Cadlier Chocolate Center of Excellence, rode in gondolas in the canals of Venice, attended a traditional Catholic Mass in Italian, explored ancient ruins that were over 3,000 years old, eaten a new flavor of gelato every day, and successfully ordered dinner in a restaurant where nothing was in English, just to name a

few activities. Before this trip, I knew absolutely nothing about wine. But I was very interested in the viticulture industry and will be interning at a vineyard this summer, which is one of the reasons this trip stuck out to me over other maymesters.

After doing numerous tours of vineyards and wineries, I'm more excited than ever about viticulture and am excited to see how American viticulture compares to Italian. So far this trip has been absolutely amazing and it makes me positive that I want to continue to study abroad in the future!



## WHAT DID RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE AMBASSADORS

Ten International Agriculture Ambassadors will help promote study abroad, assist with international visitors, be a buddy to an international exchange student, and help bring global awareness. These ambassadors have studied abroad previously and have a passion for international activities. On the bottom of the following pages, meet some of the International Agriculture Ambassadors (Baily Altman, Abbey Amos, Kelly Beeker, Whitney Blankenberger, Jacquelyn Brown, Jared Burke, Tess Chamberlain, Melissa Galizio, Matthew Rodgers, and Jim Vinyard) by reading what a scholarship allowed them to do.

Abbey Amos studying Agribusiness Management spent a semester in Australia at The University of Adelaide during the Spring 2014 term. *"Receiving a scholarship to study abroad gave my parents one less excuse to not let me go. With the scholarship money I was able to not only study in Australia, but also travel to a few places that I didn't think I would be able to go to before. My study abroad experience was absolutely amazing and unforgettable. I definitely think it will help me become more marketable to companies when searching for a job. I think that every student should study abroad and with the scholarship funding that Purdue is providing more students should take advantage of this life-changing opportunity."*



# TOUR DE FRANCE

KELLY BEEKER—AGRIBUSINESS MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS JUNIOR

Kelly Beeker has a unique opportunity in France this summer. During her 8 week study abroad experience, she will create a promotional video about the Summer Study Abroad Program at Ecole d'Ingenieurs de Purpan. Fourteen other Purdue students are studying abroad in Toulouse alongside Kelly. Kelly has the extra responsibility to use her experience and knowledge to create a video that will help promote the program to future students.

"The best things in life are the people we love, the places we love, the places we've been & the memories we've made along the way." That statement is included on the cover picture of Kelly's blog: <http://kbeeker3.wordpress.com>. Feel free to catch up and follow Kelly during her experience. Below are some highlights from her blog.

I have been pretty nervous the past two days but as takeoff begins I am surprisingly extremely calm. I love flying but it's the leaving that is tough. Goodbyes (better known as 'see you later's') are never easy but I know I will have people thinking about me and praying for me daily. That's a pretty cool feeling!

5 things you should know before your international flight from the mind of Kelly...#1 The food isn't that bad...#2 Your feet might swell...#3 Airports might not have free wifi and if they do it usually doesn't work that great...#4 Have a pen in the bag you keep with you on the plane...#5 You will have the best people watching opportunities you have ever seen in your life.



What I learned from being a tourist in Paris...#1 There are nice, compassionate, and helpful people no matter where you go in the world. #2 I am out of shape. #3 The Eiffel Tower isn't as easy to find as you would expect. #4 The train system isn't as scary as you would think. #5 Communication is hard. #6 Paris is HUGE.

The residence is very interesting! When we arrived they handed us a big bag of food and gave us a bunch of information. I have my own room and bathroom, this combination has NEVER happened in my life so it is a little strange. There are different flats around the residence and each flat has 7 "apartments" aka rooms and then the seven

of us share a kitchen area.

This is the only time I would willingly sit through class in the summertime. The first week of classes was a success! We have long days in the classroom but they go by really quickly. There really is no typical day for us. Some days consist of nothing but class and sometimes we go on tours or field trips!



There is one word to describe hiking in the Pyrenees mountains: I-N-C-R-E-D-I-B-L-E! It wasn't always easy and there were times I wanted to hit our professor for telling us it was going to be cold so we should wear pants (it was blazing). However, every stumble over a rock, drop of sweat, and other struggle was worth the view and experience. Plus, how many times can you say you had a snowball fight on a mountain? Uhhhhh not very many!

Just like in elementary school, field trip days are the BEST days! Today we got up early and went to the famous French Roquefort. We visited a sheep farm that provides milk for Societe, a cheese company. We then traveled from the farm to the actual maturing cellars in caves.

For the first 2 weeks all of the students in the program attended the same agriculture lectures. French lessons we are divided into small groups based on our skills (aka I'm in the lowest level). For these next 2 weeks we are divided into our concentrations. You get to pick between the viticulture and food & agriculture programs. I will be taking the food & agriculture courses. However, since I am a special case and making the video I get to select which of the different field trips I want to attend so I kind of get the best of both worlds. It's very possible I am the luckiest girl in the entire world!

This weekend was Fête de la Musique in France. This is a nationwide music festival and it is the only time musicians can play along the streets. Cities all over France become a big music party and restaurants sell their food at booths along the street.

Another small highlight of the weekend was that I found some Dr. Pepper. I've been missing that stuff and that's the first I have seen it here! It really is the little things that can make you feel like you are more at home. It wasn't exactly the same taste as in the States but it tastes like home to me!



## WHAT DID RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Jim Vinyard is an Animal Science Junior who studied abroad this summer to Romania for a short term service learning course. "The study abroad scholarship was such an important thing for me. It meant that I could travel to an amazing country with a great group of people with an amazing program without having to worry about the finances behind it. It took so much of the stress out of traveling, which meant I could enjoy the trip that much more. The scholarship helped to peak my interest in travel and by helping with the financial aspect of my trip so much, I may be able to go on another study abroad trip at some point in the future!"

# LIVING LIFE IN UGANDA

BEN OREBAUGH

Ben Orebaugh, a Purdue graduate who majored in Soil and Crop Management, Department of Agronomy, is working and living in Uganda. He began working with Naseco—1996 Ltd, the first private seed company engaged in the business of processing, packaging and disseminating improved seeds in Uganda with the aim of building a stable and trustful distribution of quality inputs for the agricultural sector.

During Ben's college career, he studied abroad for one semester in 1997 at the University of New England, Armidale, New England in Australia which sparked his interest in international activities. After graduation Ben worked for Beck's Hybrids from 1999 to 2012. He moved



Current Ugandan Research Team (Maize Pollinating for Hybrid Development)

to Rwanda in June 2012 working with Procom Rwanda. In September 2013 he moved to Uganda to work with Naseco and is utilizing his expertise and knowledge to make a huge difference in the lives of its citizens.

Following is an excerpt of a message Ben sent to family and friends.

The end of January and beginning of February back here in Uganda were busy with harvesting sorghum and corn research test plots around the country. Then followed seed processing for the next season planting.

Both research and production were busy getting ready for planting on time in early March and also busy in delivering needed seeds for processing and foundation. This seed then made its final destination into the hands of our farmer customers and outgrowers.

This past sales season for Naseco (mid Feb - mid April) found us completely sold out of seed! Ugandan farmers are seeing the benefits of improved quality seeds and maize hybrids and are quickly increasing demand for our products. We now have the challenge (a good one) to

increase production in order to meet the demand we expect again next planting

season. With this said, Naseco has invested in more seed production equipment to increase quality and quantity of supplying seeds. Another investment has been at the seed processing facility to help handle and process more seeds in a timely manner. With two growing seasons there is a short turnaround time here between harvesting our production, bringing in seed from growers and getting all seeds processed, packaged and delivered to agro dealers and farmers.....a logistical challenge!

In our efforts to build a research team, one of my main responsibilities, I am happy to say we are off to a good start. I have six full time research employees and six part-time/casual workers. We are on our way to building a research department that will be key to develop, test and bring better seeds to Ugandan and East African farmers. Currently we are hand pollinating our maize breeding projects in an effort to develop new genetics that will be future varieties and hybrids for our customers. The company is growing and at the present we are building a new research office and work area. We have an aggressive and forward thinking Director, Nicolai, who is originally from Belgium but has spent 15 years in Uganda and calls this home. It's not been easy but Nicolai has persevered through much to build one of the first and best seed companies here in Uganda. Much more work to do but the foundation is built.

Personally I am enjoying the life and work here. Although rural Ugandan living is quiet and things tend to move slower than I would sometimes like, I seem to deal with it and enjoy various aspects. And if nothing else, I bring some level of entertainment value to the local children and give folks something to talk about..."What is the mzungu doing living out here?" The Lord continues to bless and allows me to use my passions and gifts (given by Him) to carry on work and life here....and I am grateful to be learning and experiencing many new things along the way!



Ben poses with some past Rwandan farm co-workers.

## WHAT DID RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Matthew Rodgers, a Senior studying Landscape Architecture spent a semester at Leeds Metropolitan University in England. "Studying outside of the United States is a massive opportunity that can be hampered by many fine details. Luckily, I was able to receive a scholarship through the College of Agriculture as well as a grant from President Daniels. Both of these have helped me to not only make my way across the ocean, but have also helped me to make my way back home with less debt than I expected. While the knowledge, friendship and experience I have gained are priceless, they all came at a cost and I am so grateful that Purdue was there to guide my time and support me financially."



Whitney Blankenberger studied abroad in Ireland for a semester. She is a Junior studying Animal Science. "I am so thankful I received a study abroad scholarship. It helped offset the many costs of my trip and allowed me to take full advantage of my time abroad. I was able to see and do things I never thought I would be able to!"

# IRISH "TRAD" MUSIC

EMILY ERICKSON—BIOCHEMISTRY SENIOR

I spent last spring semester in Dublin, Ireland studying at University College Dublin (UCD). I had always wanted to visit Ireland. I thought a semester there would be a great way to experience the Emerald Isle in perhaps a deeper way than I could have on a shorter trip.

Before heading over, I made the decision that music would be near the top of my priority list. Music has played a role in my life for as long as I can remember, and I wanted music to be a part of my experience abroad as well. In Ireland, music is a huge part of their culture. It was a great way to



Emily joined TradSoc and the UCD Symphony Orchestra during her semester abroad.

get to know the people, culture, and traditions through personal experience. At UCD, I joined TradSoc, the traditional Irish music society on campus, as well as the UCD Symphony Orchestra on viola.

Orchestra was a great way to get to know people. No matter where in the world you are, no matter the cultural differences or language barriers, music will still be music. It's a language of its own. It was interesting to perform under an Irish conductor to see a new interpretation of great classical works.

I quickly fell in love with Irish "trad" music, and started picking up several tunes from the sessions I attended. Trad music is completely centered in the community and culture. Everyone, regardless of their age, expertise, or background

has something to contribute. The group was always delighted to hear a new tune, whether it was a tune from a different area

of Ireland, or an American fiddle tune. On occasion, visitors would attend a session, often belting out a beautiful song, surprising me most of anyone in the room.

The people I met through music were some of the most genuine, friendly, and helpful people I've ever come across. After being surrounded in this atmosphere, I've tried to reciprocate these same values in my daily life.

In addition to music, I found my classwork refreshing. Learning from professors with the same roots in science, but with a unique world-view gave me a new understanding of academics as well.

Studying abroad helped become a more culturally aware and well-rounded person. Before studying abroad, I felt rather boxed and packaged, defined by my major, my school, and my activities. Ireland was very liberating because the people I met would value me for the individual I was, not due to the fact that I was involved with a certain organization or field of study. I was able to redefine myself for who I wanted to be starting from a clean slate – something I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise. I feel that now more than ever I am open to fresh ideas and opinions, ready to embrace any opportunity that lies ahead.

My semester abroad far exceeded my expectations and will always be remembered as one of the great highlights of my life.



## WHAT DID RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Tess Chamberlain, a Food Science Junior studied in Seville, Spain. *"The study abroad scholarship was incredibly helpful as it allowed me to spend a full semester in Spain. Since the scholarship permitted me to spend 4 months abroad, I had the time to travel not only in Spain but to several neighboring countries as well. Getting the scholarship was important to me because it showed me that Purdue really wants students to go out and experience all that they can when abroad. I realized how important it*



*was for me to appreciate my time in Spain and really immerse myself in the culture while I was there."*

Melissa Galizio studies Food Science and has taken two study abroad courses in Italy and France. *"My study abroad scholarships helped me to meet some of my financial obligations. It made my study abroad experiences more pleasurable because I wasn't concerned with how to pay for the opportunities. I was able to have some spending money while I was abroad to really experience the countries I was visiting. I was able to buy traditional meals while I was in Italy and France and I was able to pay for other activities that I would not have been able to pay for if it weren't for my scholarships. I was very grateful for my scholarships because I was truly able to enjoy my experiences."*



Jared Burke, a Senior studying Agribusiness and Spanish studied abroad in Madrid for a summer. *"The study abroad scholarship was important to me because it enabled me to go on my study abroad trip. If I had not received this scholarship, I would have had a harder time being able to afford going. It allowed me to enjoy my experience a lot more with all my friends and take in all opportunities that Spain had to offer. It is great knowing that Purdue is willing to help by offering scholarships and grants so that students can take these opportunities."*

