

AgAbroad Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE

July 2016

WELCOME

ADRIENNE ALBRECHT

We are thrilled to announce **ADRIENNE ALBRECHT** as the Study Abroad Manager for the College of Agriculture. Adrienne has the skills, experience and personality to move study abroad to new heights. She comes to us from the Krannert School of Management where she served as the Associate Director of Global Programs.

Welcome Adrienne!



WHAT AN EXCITING 2015 - 2016 ACADEMIC YEAR THIS HAS BEEN!

It has been an exciting 2015 - 2016 academic year, we have had **340 agriculture students** study abroad.

- **Twenty students** completed a service learning course in Haiti, working with Heifer International during **Winter Break**.
- We had an outstanding **Spring Break**, we had **127 agriculture students** participating in different Study Abroad Programs.

We had programs in Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Italy and Ireland. Programs were **FULL!**

- Summer is busy with **144 agriculture students** traveling to Brazil, Taiwan, France, New Zealand, Belgium/Netherlands, British Columbia, Costa Rica, England, Colombia, Ireland, Jamaica, Italy, Romania, Zambia and Laos.
- **34 agriculture students** studied abroad for a semester.
- **Two new semester programs** were offered: Massey University in New Zealand and Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

2016 - 2017

ACADEMIC YEAR IS APPROACHING FAST...

24 incoming exchanged students from our partner universities will study at Purdue for the semester.

13 Purdue students will study abroad for the fall semester term.

We will kick off the year with the **Agriculture Carnival** focused on incoming Freshman, the Friday before classes begin in August. We will host an **Agriculture Study Abroad Fair** at the end of September recruiting students.

SPECIAL THANK YOU....

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the donors that generously give to enrich the lives of students by helping them study abroad financially. During the 15 - 16 academic year, over **\$50,000** in scholarships were awarded. This summer we had over **100 scholarship** applications seeking financial assistance. Thank you for making a huge impact and seeing the value in study abroad.

AUSTRALIA to USA

JOCK BROWNHILL & HANNAH MURRAY

9, 265 miles from home, 2 flights and 1 semester of a lifetime. Two Australian Agriculture students have enjoyed taking classes at Purdue University this semester.

For many, studying abroad for a semester is a must - do, but the hardest decision becomes which country they will call home for the next five to six months. Jock and Hannah made the long journey from New South Wales, Australia to Purdue University for the Spring 2016 semester.

"Studying abroad is a big step in independence", says Jock, "You better understand what the world needs and how others conquer problems."

However, despite small exam differences, education is still very important in Australia. To Hannah, she hopes to gain a new understanding of our domestic agriculture systems. She comes from a beef background, where she wants to work in the export industry.

But Jock's interests lie more within the cotton industry and benchmarking. He wants to analyze farms to figure out where differences in monetary and business operations lie.

When asked what they missed most about Australia, the answer was the same - family and VegeMite. VegeMite is a dark brown Australian food paste made from leftover brewers' yeast extract with vegetable and spice additives. They can't wait to get back home and indulge in one of their favorite foods!

Among cultural differences are those of athletics. Both students commented on how our basketball games were intense, loud and showed school spirit. Sporting events in Australia are on a much smaller-scale. Jock also commented that cheerleaders are "very American."

Jock stated that he enjoys eating at Five Guys and trying local Mexican restaurants. Where Hannah much prefers to shop at Buckle and drink root beer in her spare time.

With the semester coming to a rapid end, both Jock and Hannah agree they have made a plethora of new friends, extended their professional network and have had the opportunity to travel to many different places.

I enjoy the chances to meet new friends, experience a new culture and learn a new education system." said Hannah.



Jock Brownhill & Hannah Murray

AFFORDING TO TRAVEL

BREANNA LEMLER – JUNIOR IN AGRICULTURE SALES AND MARKETING

After this newsletter was completed, Breanna Lemler tragically passed away in July 2016 while away on an internship in Alabama. The College of Agriculture has lost an amazing student who will be dearly missed by her friends, advisors, classmates and professors. We are grateful Breanna's journey to travel the world brought her to our International Programs in Agriculture office. Please keep Breanna's family in your thoughts and prayers, they have lost an incredible young lady.



Breanna holding her passport and foreign currency

I was recently asked by a friend back home; "Where did you get the money to travel the world all summer?!" This is a funny question to me. For her, I broke it down to three parts of travel, and one main point. The first two weeks, I traveled with my Mom and she paid for our expenses. It was an amazing experience to travel through

London, Paris and Marseille with my

Mom and I would highly suggest it to any mother-daughter duo. It strengthened our bond, and pushed us far out of our comfort zones.

The second part of my travels this summer was the two month portion of my study abroad and internship where everything was covered by the cost of my summer tuition which I paid in May. I received a great scholarship that nearly cut the cost of my summer studies in half through Purdue University. Every trip I took during those two months was paid for by the University here in France.



Then there is the last two weeks of my travels where I am going to Greece, Switzerland, Austria and Germany before flying out

to London. This part I am paying on my own, out of my savings with some help from my parents, but here's the most important part of this whole thing: in all honesty I'm probably going to be plum broke by the time I graduate college, but aren't all college students these days?

If I would have waited to when I could "afford" to travel Europe I would be in my thirties, most likely married with children, and at that point, I wouldn't spend the money on traveling, it would have gone into savings. So to answer my friend's question on "where did I get the money" I didn't. I just made it work, and so far it has. If you're someone reading this blog and wanting to travel then my best advice is to make it happen, if you wait till you can afford it, you'll never do it. With that being said, I couldn't afford not to take this trip. What I have gained in the past three months is something you can't put a dollar sign around. The experiences, memories and friendships aren't something money can buy. You can't pay for this kind of independence and self confidence I now have.

At the end of the day, when it's all said and done, money is paper and plastic. It's a materialistic and has no real value to it. Whereas the life lessons I've gained while in Europe have a lot of very real value that will last my lifetime.

Now, sure money makes things easy, but it's pretty easy to find the cheapest train ticket around and ride it to your next adventure. So if you are like me, wanting to see and experience more and you're a college student, look into your university's study abroad programs. They are affordable, get you out of the states, and put you in a place to make the experience anything you want it to be. So step out of your comfort zone, meet new people, see new sun sets, and learn to really live your life.



Breanna enjoyed her time studying, she even made it to the United Nation in Geneva

PURDUE PEACE CORPS PREP@PURDUE

KATHERINE YNGVE – INTERCULTURAL LEARNING SPECIALIST

The Purdue Peace Corps Prep program is now official with a live web-page:

<http://www.ippu.purdue.edu/Programs/PeaceCorps/> and a **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/pcpreppurdue/>

It is a certificate program to help US students collect the major elements of professional preparation needed to be successful in the international development career sector [United Nations, USAID, World Health Org., Doctors without Borders, etc.] & in the Peace Corps:

Inter-cultural competence,

Volunteer & leadership experience,

Sector-related training (coursework) & language skills

McKenna Maier, a Purdue agriculture study abroad alumni, is currently serving in Malawi as a Peace Corps volunteer. Follow her blog at <https://mcdoesthepc.wordpress.com/> Here is an excerpt from her blog:

"We are done with training, and I couldn't have asked for a better start to my time in Malawi. I had the pleasure of being hosted by one of the greatest families I've ever met. The Phiris have welcomed me into their home as one of their own—which was absolutely horrifying the first week, but has grown to be my favorite thing about being in Malawi. Everyday I rush home from training to spend a few extra minutes with my siblings and neighbors on the reed mat on the floor next to our outdoor kitchen.

Last, and by far my favorite, are the kids. I have between 2 and 12 (sometimes even 20) kids at my house at all times. Initially, the littlest ones bawled at the sight of me, but we have come a long way. They call me "Assisi" which is just like "sissy" in English, and when I walk home from class, I can hear someone start the chant and then the rest of the voices join in. "ASSISI! ASSISI! ASSISI!" It's the best feeling."

If you are an Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) interested in connecting with Purdue students preparing for the Peace Corps and network with other RPCVs please email pcprep@purdue.edu for more information.

STUDYING ABROAD EXPERIENCES

KATIE BARNETT - SENIOR AGRICULTURE COMMUNICATIONS & AGRI-BUSINESS MARKETING



Katie at an orphanage in Haiti.

Three years ago, if someone told me I would be searching for a career in International Agriculture, I would have replied with confusion, but through my three study abroad experiences with International Programs in Agriculture, I have found more than just a passion, I've found myself.

{Wanderlust} (n.) A strong desire or urge to wander and explore the world. The best advice I've ever received was to get on the wrong train at the wrong time,

going in the wrong direction and to figure it out. I learned more life skills while studying and living in Italy than I have in half of my life. But like many others, I started my adventure with a short-term program, to Italy.

Food Preparation and Marketing through the hills and vineyards of Italy was my first experience to Italian culture. For 18 days, I toured wineries, watched cheese demonstrations, learned about olive oil and was educated on the processing of salami and drying of ham. An incredible experience that left me longing for more.

And with that, seven months later I boarded a flight to Cap Haitian, Haiti. For eight days, I was a part of the winter break service-learning program to Haiti. Not only were my eyes opened to a new culture and way of living, but Haiti touched my heart with the most genuine and thoughtful people whom only long to better themselves and the people of their country. I learned more, saw as much as I could and took away valuable lessons.

And finally, the spring semester of my junior year, I took a leap of faith and traveled back to Italy for a spring semester



Katie on top of the Duomo in Florence, Italy, during her semester abroad

study abroad. Sure, living at the base of the Italian Alps was a nice change of scenery from corn fields, but the Italian culture, morning cappuccinos and afternoon pizza slices with a slide of gelato were among my favorite parts about living in Italy.

Because of these experiences, I have found a strong passion in International Agriculture. Just like a puzzle, we all fit together in some way, shape or form, to feed the world.

When something happens to one country, the effects are felt all over the world. No class at Purdue taught me these effects better than stepping foot on foreign soil in a study abroad atmosphere.

These experiences shaped my life, changed my personality and taught me how to be more patient, mindful and aware of my surroundings. In a recent job interview for a global sales manager position I was asked to explain international marketing and my experiences with international economics. Sure a book can teach you a lot, but nothing compared to the hands-on experiences that are learned when you can't speak the language, forget your map and miss your train.

I wouldn't trade these experiences for the world. My only regret is that I only completed three study abroad adventures during my undergraduate career at Purdue University.

"The best advice I've ever received was to get on the wrong train at the wrong time, going in the wrong direction and to figure it out."



Katie at the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, Italy during her maymester experience.

Q U O T E S . . .

"My time studying abroad in Ireland was literally the best experience that I have ever had in my time as a student and probably in my entire life. It is my opinion that anyone who has even the slightest chance to study abroad and run with it!"



*Delaney Vandebosche
Ireland
Spring 2016 Semester*

"My study abroad experience provided the opportunity to become more independent, learn about myself, fuel my wanderlust, integrate with a culture, and develop meaningful relationships, all while receiving a great education."



*Faith VonGunten
Ireland
Spring 2016 Semester*

International Programs in Agriculture
Agricultural Administration, Room 26
615 West State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2053

HISTORIC SPRING BREAK TRIP TO CUBA

Over **Spring Break, 22 students and 5 faculty members** made their way from West Lafayette to Havana, Cuba for an unforgettable week.

From March 12 to March 19, students stepped outside of their comfort zones by experiencing new food, learning about foreign affairs and listening to local citizens about their country. This trip focused on Natural Resources, Farming and Social Systems.

Students visited tobacco and produce farms while in the Viñales Valley and Las Tarezas. While in Havana, the group toured Old Havana, Nacional Hotel de Cuba, and Ernest Hemingway's home. As a group, they discussed the current economic situation and the impacts of lifting the embargo with the United States and the outcome on the economy.

Student Savannah Steinke said her favorite part of the trip was being in Cuba right before President Barack Obama's historic visit. "The atmosphere in Cuba was exciting and welcoming



to the new chapter in the United States' relations" said Steinke. To Stuart Schmeltz, his experiences were a step back in time. "It was shock to see cars, infrastructure, and apparel from the 1950's." Schmeltz also commented how the socialist economy

came as a surprise. "The Cuban government takes 90% of the citizen's income. Because of this, prices are low and there are no extremes in a social class," said Schmeltz.

Students enjoyed the food, too. The meals were served in a family dining format that consisted of rolls, fried plantains, fruits, vegetables, rice, beans, chicken, and various desserts.

When asked what the hardest thing to adjust to was, Steinke quickly commented that Cuba just gained access to the internet and finding locations where there was Wi-Fi was challenging at first.

Students had the opportunity to complete two homestays. The tourism industry is booming in Cuba and many families have opened their homes to tourists. "Both of my homes were simple and bright, but neither family spoke English," comment Steinke.



**Thank you Phil and Martha Smith
for your generous donation
to make this course possible**