

AgAbroad Newsletter

International Programs in Agriculture

April 2017

Welcome Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey

Associate Dean and Director of International Programs in Agriculture



We are happy to welcome Dr. Indrajeet Chaubey, currently the head of the Purdue Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, to IPIA as the next Associate Dean and Director of International Programs in Agriculture. He will assume the position on a ½-time basis May 15th and will transition to full time on January 1, 2018. Before taking the position in the College of Science, Indrajeet was a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Indrajeet has been at Purdue University since 2007. Chaubey received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering from the Allahabad Agricultural Institute (India), his master's degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Arkansas, and a doctorate in Biosystems Engineering from the Oklahoma State University.

From West Lafayette to Wales

Rebecca Smith: Senior Animal Science Student

Rebecca Smith is a senior studying animal sciences with a pre-veterinary concentration and a minor in biology. She spent Fall 2016 abroad in Wales. Like many who study abroad, Rebecca wanted to see a different part of the world before graduation, visit new places and learn about another culture.

While in Wales she traveled to Snowdonia National Park three times with her hiking club to climb mountains: Snowdon, Cadair Idris, and Aren. She visited the cities of Borth, Shrewsbury and Birmingham. Rebecca plans to travel to Scotland and the cities London and Paris before returning home.

Although she misses home, Rebecca has challenged herself to meet new people, attend club socials and embrace the different cuisine. She was surprised to see how much the United States influences other countries.

"I had not realized how much others followed America's politics and other things we do. We are a huge impact on other countries," said Smith.



Rebecca exploring peaks in South Wales

She also mentioned that classes are different from those she has taken at Purdue. Class size is smaller, with around thirty in each class. Students have to sign in before each class and their final exam is possibly the only grade they will have. Instead of homework, the students are expected to read things that pertain to the subject outside of class.

Studying abroad has also helped Rebecca find a career path. Because of her Ethology class, she wants to pursue a career in the area of animal behavior and may attend graduate school. Because Rebecca studied abroad, she grew as a person and became more aware of others around her.

From the Eifel Tower to the Purdue Bell Tower

Julien Lacaze: Agriculture Student at Ecole d'ingenieurs de Purpan

France is very different from the United States.

Julien Lacaze (25) is studying abroad for one semester this fall at Purdue University, and he travels all the way from Toulouse, the 4th largest city in France. From mid-August through mid-December, Lacaze is studying in the College of Agriculture at Purdue, mainly taking Agriculture Economics and Food Science classes.

According to Lacaze, he chose to study abroad at Purdue University after interning for four months in California; he thoroughly enjoyed the United States. Furthermore, he studies at Ecole d'ingenieurs de Purpan in France, which is a private university that focuses only in agriculture. Since Purdue is well known for their prestigious College of Agriculture, it seemed to be a perfect fit. In France, all students must be fluent in English as well as French, as they begin learning when they are eleven. Two years later, they learn their third language, which they can choose themselves; Spanish is what Julien chose to learn.

Education in America is very different from education in France. Julien says that he "really enjoys the American education system," as it is easier to learn. In France, there are public and private schools, similar to the United States, but private schools only focus on one major.

At Ecole d'ingenieurs de Purpan, there are only 1,000 students. The only major choice is agriculture, but if you get your Master's Degree, you can specialize further than just agriculture. According to Julien, students attend school for the first three years, and then receive their Bachelor's Degree. The next two years after that are for receiving a Master's Degree.

On the other hand, students in France have the choice to attend public universities that are FREE and have many majors instead of just one choice. The process of being accepted to these public universities is much harder,

though, than being accepted into private schools, such as the one that Julien attends. On average, it takes two years of preparation and studying before students take a difficult entrance exam in order to be accepted into public universities. Private schools simply consider your high school grades to determine acceptance.

When attending college classes in France, there is no homework, no quizzes, and no small tests. At the end of a class, one huge test determines the students' entire grade.

"It's easier to get a good grade in America than in France," says Julien, because we have more quizzes and homework to help our grades. In France, every class is graded out of 20 points. In order to pass, you need an 11/20. It is very difficult to get a 60%, according to Lacaze. There are also no semesters in France education; sometimes there is a class that lasts an entire year, but other classes only last one month.

Furthermore, students in France are required to have an internship every summer, and they must study abroad for one semester of their education.

From the education system to the new friends he's made, Purdue University has made a positive impact on Julien. Putting the cultural differences behind, Julien has enjoyed his adventure in America, but also cannot wait to return to France to see his family and his girlfriend.



Toulouse, France riverside



The Administration building at Purpan

The Luck of the Irish Never Goes Away

Julie Preble: Purdue Agricultural Communication Alumnus

Studying abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that every student should take part in if they can, said Purdue Agriculture alumnus Julie Preble.

Preble graduated in May 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Communication, and she studied abroad in Ireland at University College Dublin in spring of 2009. She is from Linton, Indiana, but now lives in Denver, Colorado, where she works for The Alternative Board as a digital marketing manager.

Her sister was the main motivator for Preble to study abroad. In high school, Julie visited her older sister, Emilee, who was studying abroad in Scotland. Preble had always loved traveling, so she wanted to study abroad to Europe since you can see many different countries while there.

Studying abroad for a spring semester helped Preble see how other cultures live and made her more adaptable. She also gained a wider perspective — which, according to her, was one of the best parts of studying abroad. Furthermore, she met many great people, with whom she is still in contact today.

While at University College Dublin, Preble was able to take agricultural communication classes and marketing classes. Along with those, she took some electives that helped her learn more about the Irish culture, such as a class on Celtic music and an extra-curricular course on the native language, Gaelic.

The style of teaching and courses taught at UCD are similar to Purdue. One main difference was class size. UCD was a much smaller university, so Preble was able to have more one-on-one interaction with her professors, and there were less teacher's assistants in Ireland.

Preble has three pieces of advice for Purdue students who are thinking about studying abroad: "Do it; don't hesitate; don't ask questions. See as much of the country as you can," said Preble. Secondly, you can still stay connected to your family with modern technology; don't let that hold you back. Lastly, "befriend a native and see if they'll take you home for a weekend to see how they live," said Preble. This will show you the true cultural differences.

Julie's only regret from her experience abroad is that she didn't visit more of Europe. While studying at UCD, she visited Germany and Wales, but she wishes that she would've taken advantage of the other close countries. Overall, though, Preble says that studying abroad is very affordable; it costs about the same as a semester at Purdue.

Basically, the only extra cost is the plane ticket.

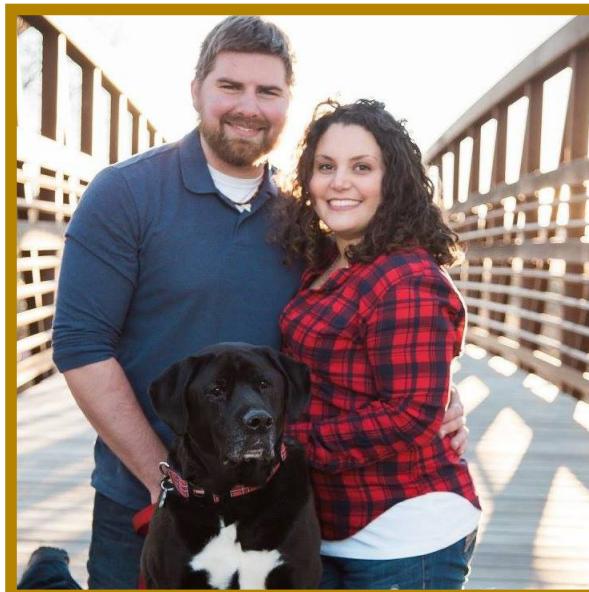
The most valuable thing Preble gained while abroad was she became "easy going; [she] became comfortable getting out and exploring Dublin by walking places and using public transportation."

In her career, Julie has been able to use her international experience and language skills every day (she speaks some German). Due to her cultural experience abroad, she is able to better connect with those from abroad.

Since studying abroad, Preble has traveled to Norway with her father, and she hopes to go abroad for her honeymoon in the near future. When asked to make a list of places she'd like to visit, she'll tell you it'd be easier to compile a list of places she *doesn't* want to see — that list is much shorter!



Julie in Northern Ireland, near Sheep's Head Island



Julie with her fiance

“Oh the Places You’ll Go”

Ashley Brindle: Sophomore Animal Science Student

Reminiscing back to senior year, I remember people asking me, “Where are you going after graduation?” I wanted to study agriculture and travel the world, but I had no idea how to combine the two. After researching, I found that at Purdue, I could develop myself in U.S. agriculture and in agriculture around the world.

Without giving it much thought, I decided to embark on the Spring Break Study Abroad trip to Italy. We visited Parma, Florence and Rome, while stopping at production plants along the way. I was expanding my passion for agriculture outside of my comfort zones.

The production plants we visited produced Parmigiano Reggiano, Prosciutto, and Balsamic Vinegar. I compared production in these places to production in the United States. This really made an impact on my cultural views, seeing how hard they work to perfect their food

traditions of thousands of years. They did not have machines manufacturing their food; most of the work was done by hand. The workers in these production plants seemed proud of their traditions and heritage, which they hope to carry on to further generations.



Ponte Vecchio Bridge in Florence, Italy

The people of Italy were also proud of their lifestyle. The beautiful cities we visited amazed me, and I realized Italians had a passion for where they lived. Their buildings were preserved beautifully.

Italians really cared for their history. They emphasize how their history still affects them today. Studying abroad

in Italy made me realize how essential history is to our future. Tradition is such a big part of their culture, and I appreciated getting to learn about and become a part of that culture for a week.

Written by: Ashley Brindle

Purdue Day of Giving

April 26, 2017

Emmalee Koester



“Receiving a scholarship removed the financial barrier, and allowed me to embark on a surreal journey across the world. Having this experience equipped me with a sense of independence, open mindedness, and a new perspective on life at an early age.”



Lisa Miller

“Scholarships are an amazing opportunity. Receiving a scholarship to study abroad is what allowed me to travel to Europe, Africa, and South America, and for that, I’m forever grateful. Being able to experience the world has opened my eyes to amazing possibilities.”

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