

AgAbroad Newsletter

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE



INT'L RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

KT KOBYRA

Over this summer I was able to experience a research internship abroad. I interned with Arex, Life Science, a biochemistry company that is focusing on AI control. I began my internship in Boston, MA, which for a Yankees fan should be another country. I was able to build up my knowledge of their technology and learn how their products can be used. The next half of my internship was working at the National Cattle Breeding Center in Enfield, Ireland. I had an absolute blast working with men there and learning the ins and outs of the dairy bull industry. On weekends I was lucky enough to be able to travel around the country. I traveled by either bus or train on weekend excursions and met the most interesting people. I stayed at hostels where ever I went and I would recommend them to anyone travelling abroad. Being alone in another country was hard, but by staying in hostels I was able to find a group to tour with and I got to learn what other countries thought of Americans.



My favorite excursion was to the Cliffs of Mohr. They have been named one of

the 7 Natural Wonders of the world, and it is so true. They rise over 700 feet straight out



KT at the breathtaking Cliffs of Mohr.

of the Atlantic Ocean and can disappear in minutes when the fog sets in. My favorite part was learning that scenes from Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince and the Princess Bride were filmed there. I was able to see only a small portion of the country and it is urging me to go back and explore the cities I didn't make it to. I accomplished my personal goal of making new friends and visiting as much as I could. I truly wanted to meet people there and learn what they think. I was able to fulfill my dreams of studying abroad and learning that I can live across the globe from my family and still be connected to people. I would recommend traveling to Ireland if you have the chance because everyone I met was absolutely amazing and answered all of my American questions about Gaelic Football, which I still don't understand.

STUDENTS BLOGGING

A few Purdue agriculture students who are studying abroad this semester are blogging! Read about their adventures at www.ag.purdue.edu/ipia/studyabroad/pages/network.aspx. Betheny, Megan, and Seth are traveling as much as possible and making the most of their time abroad. This coming spring, one student will study in Sweden, one in Germany, four in Ireland, one to Austria, and one to New Zealand. Live vicariously through the students experience as they blog.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Facebook has become a popular, fast-growing social networking tool. We have been on facebook over a year and would like you to join us. Please become a fan of "Purdue University Agriculture Study Abroad." This will be a great way to connect even more with what is happening within agriculture study abroad, the incoming international students, the outgoing Purdue students, the ambassadors, and IPIA.

International 4-H has recently created a fan page entitled "Indiana 4-H Global Programs." Feel free to join their page as well to learn about the 4-H inbound programs, outbound programs, and domestic international education programs.

STUDENT LEADERS

Last year, IPIA greatly appreciated the passion, enthusiasm, and help from the eight International Ag Ambassadors. With over 60 activities, the ambassadors always had opportunities to meet international visitors, give presentations, promote study abroad, give tours, and share their knowledge about global issues. 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. They would love to increase global awareness!



2010-2011 Int'l Ag Ambassadors

Ashtin Balzer - Jessica Gilson - Carolyn Hanrahan
Keith Hoeing - Carissa McCay - Courtney McWaine
Jiangyi Qian - Chelsea Scheidler
James Sibray - Shalyse Tindell



The Int'l Ag Ambassadors took several trips with the international exchange students including to the Indiana State Fair and Fair Oaks Dairy Farm.



MASTERING GERMANY

SARAH WOLF

Universtät Hohenheim is an exchange partner with Purdue agriculture, but it has been difficult for Purdue students to study in Stuttgart, Germany due to their October to March semester term. To encourage participation, Universtät Hohenheim offered the Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium to a Purdue student for one semester. Fortunately, I was able to receive this scholarship which covered rent, food, and some traveling each month.

One of my professors at Purdue told me about the exchange program and scholarship opportunity, since he knew I was interested in studying in Europe. Having participated in an exchange program at Universtät für Bodenkultur (University of Agricultural Sciences), in Vienna, Austria during the spring 2005 semester as an undergrad, I thought that my study abroad time was finished. I was set to graduate with my masters in agronomy in May 2009, but my professor suggested that I do a semester in Germany and delay graduation one year, which I was happy to do.



Sarah explored a castle near Bad Urach, Germany. She also visited numerous Christmas markets, castles, churches, museums, and waterfalls during her travels.

Because of studying in Vienna, and with the equivalent of five semesters of German language classes at Purdue, I already had a good background in German. I arrived in Stuttgart on 2 September 2009. I participated in the intensive German language course at Hohenheim for most of September. This was a great way to learn German before the regular semester courses began, and also it was a great way to



make new friends and learn Stuttgart and the surrounding area. I tried to immerse myself in the language and culture as much as possible. I discovered one very good way to improve my German was to visit Wilhelma, the zoo, and listen to German parents describe the animals and their actions to their children. I have new friends from all over the world. I not only learned about the German language and culture, but I also learned about my friends' country and culture. Common topics were religion, politics, food and drink specialties, holidays, customs, and climate. I participated in several courses at Universtät Hohenheim: Pflanzenökologie (plant ecology), Grundlagen der Ökologie (foundations in ecology), Inland Water Ecosystems, Global Change Issues, and another German language course, in addition to the intensive German language course. The first two classes were in German. It was a good challenge!



The delicious German chocolates are something to admire.

Universtät Hohenheim's campus is beautiful with many gardens and a palace. Many European universities do not have a real campus, with all or most of the buildings within walking distance, and I really appreciated how Universtät Hohenheim's buildings were very close together.

Studying at Universtät Hohenheim and living in Germany taught me to be more self-reliant and flexible. This was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience! I will probably not have the opportunity to live in another country with basically no living expenses for seven months, but because of the Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium scholarship, I was fortunate to have this opportunity! I am looking forward to returning to Germany to visit, and possibly to work!

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE JAPANESE

For one month, six Japanese students were able to experience life in America. The students from Iwate University and Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology arrived August 25th for an opportunity to learn about our culture, practice their English skills, live with a host family, tour farms and companies, and make memories of a lifetime.



Japanese students with their host families.

Keiko Morisaki explains her time in the program, "We not only stayed at American family's homes for two weeks but also visited various kinds of farms and factories such as of a seed company and a car company. We also spent two whole days at Purdue among students attending classes, resting on a bench, and exploring the huge campus. Through this program, I learned about the history and customs of the U.S. This experience made me think more about my country and I realize how interesting it is to know how my country looks like through the eyes of other people.

I appreciate all the kindnesses of considerate and thoughtful people who always helped us before and during this program. I shall never forget this exceedingly meaningful one month for the rest of my life."



Japanese students and exchange students attend Becknology Days at Beck's Hybrids.

How you can help: We are looking for places to visit and families to host a Japanese student for two weeks. If your company, business, or farm would be willing to give us a tour of the facilities, we would love to come and learn. Hosting a Japanese student is extremely rewarding as you make a lasting, positive impact. Kensaku Okada stated "The host family stay was the most fruitful, enjoyable part of the program and even helpful in my decision making of my future direction." Miki Kobayashi stated "Home stay is very very good." If you are interested in hosting a student or giving us a tour, please email agabroad@purdue.edu.



Buck Creek Winery in Indianapolis gave a tour of their processing room.

HISPANIC IMMERSION WEEKEND

SASHA BROADSTONE

Over 25% of Purdue's College of Agriculture undergraduates choose to study abroad. I have personally studied abroad in three countries, and as an International Ambassador for the School of Agriculture, I recognize the undeniable value in stepping off of the easy path and striking out in pursuit of new and different experiences that can only be had in a new place among different people. I understand that for many students studying abroad is impossible for a variety of reasons. Fortunately for the other 30,000 students, there is another alternative available right in Purdue's backyard.

This past spring I had the great opportunity to get to know the people in Frankfort, IN, a town only 40 minutes south of Purdue's West Lafayette campus. I volunteered at the Clinton County Purdue Extension office there as a fulfillment of my Multicultural credit. More than 15% of the population in Clinton County is Hispanic, and the Purdue extension office has many programs geared to help the community: such as English as a Second Language, computer classes, youth programs and more. On my first day at the office, Susan Tharpe, the County Extension Director for the Clinton County Purdue Extension Office proposed an intriguing experiment to me. Last year the extension office had gone to Iowa to observe an 'Immersion Weekend' program, where students could spend a weekend or more living with a local Hispanic family. They wanted to initiate a similar program of their own, but had yet to put the idea to the test. Luckily for me, I was able to be the first student to try it out.

I never imagined that I would be able to immerse myself in another culture less than hour from my Midwest apartment. However, my weekend with the Torres Family in Frankfort, IN changed more than my views on diversity within American culture.

Both parents, Alma and Fernando Torres are from Mexico, but they have lived in Frankfort for around 20 years. They have three children: Edgar, Ashley-Paula, and Irvin. All three children were born in the United States, speak fluent Spanish and English, and are active student-athletes at the local high school. Alma currently attends the English as a Second Language classes at the extension office with her sister. Her husband Fernando is more proficient in English than his wife, but both showed a marked improvement in speaking ability and confidence in the three short days I spent with them.

During my stay, I went to the YMCA with Alma and danced at a Zumba class with other Latinas, and then we went to a track meet to watch Ashley compete. That evening we went to a First Communion party at their friend's house, complete with traditional Mexican food, a piñata stuffed with Mexican candy, and a Pastel Tres Leches (three milk or sponge cake). Sunday morning, I accompanied them to mass. After

church, we went to a Mexican grocery store and bought ingredients for the family dinner, Sopa de Camarón (shrimp soup). When we returned to the house, I helped Alma and Fernando prepare and cook the food. It was a great way to learn more Spanish words during the whole process. The soup was delicious! After dinner, we all were able to sit around the table and talk for a couple of hours. The evening was soon over, and it was time for me to return to Purdue and my studies. The entire Torres family welcomed me into their home, and it was a delight to get to know them. I was disappointed that I had met them right before graduating from Purdue, and not my freshman year. I feel certain that given the time, I could have cultivated a life-long friendship with the Torres family. I hope others have this chance!

It was eye-opening to experience living in a bilingual family that in many ways is traditionally 'American' (complete with a truck and a large screen TV), but also has constant access to people and relatives of their native country. So complete is that cultural bubble that even after 20 years of living in the heart of Indiana, Alma still only speaks halting English. It is remarkable how language differences can isolate whole groups of people to small sectors of society. These sectors easily get overlooked and underrepresented. Participating in this independent study has made me more aware of this dilemma and given it a face. It has also showed me the difficulties faced everyday by someone in the Latino community, as well as the joys of retaining your native culture and traditions in a foreign country.

This weekend with the Torres Family helped me realize my own lack of knowledge and my community's ignorance of the Latino culture—the ignorance of their large presence and influence, and the general lack of understanding and interest. Most important of all, I learned how we can all be effective bridges across different cultures. This experience has challenged me to constantly be aware of the people and diversity all around me, and the richness with which it can color your life if given the opportunity and effort. I sense a true connection and understanding of this community now, but I still have so much I want to learn and contribute in the future.

One cannot truly learn about diversity from a textbook or a lecture hall, and not everyone can afford the luxury of travel and study abroad. This Immersion Weekend could give students a chance to broaden their minds and hearts without ever leaving the state. It is far more effective than any class and will have a far greater impact in teaching students about living with, and learning from that different culture.

For more information, please contact:
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Susan Tharp
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PURDUE DAY AT CAU

China Agriculture University (CAU) in Beijing is a world class institution that has a decade-long academic relationship with Purdue Agriculture. Many undergraduate students from CAU transfer to Purdue to earn a dual degree.

To celebrate the relationship and explore ways to further collaborate, IPIA coordinated "Purdue Day at CAU" on May 20th and 21st. A delegation of 16 College of Agriculture department heads, faculty, staff, and graduate students traveled to China on a mission focused on strengthening ties with CAU through collaborative research and exchanges.

Nineteen Purdue Agriculture students who were participating in the Maymester study abroad course, "China: Globalization, Energy, and the Environment," led by Professors Steve Hallett and John Lumkes joined the celebration. The students showcased an exhibition about the College of Agriculture departments and participated in a round table discussion with CAU students.



Speakers included the presidents of CAU and Purdue, representatives of the ministries of education and agriculture, academic deans, and two World Food Prize laureates.

Read some of the comments from Purdue students who participated in the China Maymester study abroad course:

"This trip was one of immeasurable impact on my personal and career life. I experienced many different things that will help me in my future when working with

different people or experiencing different cultures. Although the tourist, sight-seeing, places were very interesting and awesome, my favorite day of the trip was Purdue Day at Chinese Agriculture University. It was very exciting and humbling to get to know some of the students. It was exciting in that I made some new friends and rid myself of many stereotypes about the Asian culture. I became comfortable talking with the Chinese students, and I was able to understand why they are the way they are. It was humbling in that I learned about some of the Chinese customs about schooling. It seemed very difficult, much more difficult than American schooling. I feel that I will remember this day for the rest of my life." Angelica Engel

"I spent time with great people, experiencing things I may never have the chance to do again. I will always remember the 36 hour train ride, the 11 hour layover in Chicago, the 430 km/hr bullet train, the Great Wall, and the feeling of waking up on the other side of the world, but most importantly I will remember what it was like to be "lost" in a foreign country and the experiences I shared with our group!" Jonathan Welte

"The focus of the program was something of great interest to me; Globalization, Agriculture, and the Environment. Traveling throughout China, I was able to meet and interact with people who held values and beliefs that were very dif-

ferent than most here in the United States. While it was an initial culture shock, the program had a great impact on my personal understanding and knowledge of a diverse group of people. It made me take in a different perspective and think larger, to consider the challenges facing other parts of the world to come up with a global solution. Studying abroad has been one of the greatest experiences I have had the opportunity to be a part of at Purdue. It vastly surpassed my expectations, as I feel I am still seeing the benefits and how it impacted me." Danielle Dawson



Purdue Day at CAU • 2010

"Never have I experienced so many new traditions, foods, and ways of thinking in such a short amount of time. Tibet was one of the most gorgeous places I have ever been. Although Tibet was beautiful, there were some sights that were absolutely heartbreaking. I did not expect for the Chinese military presence to be as strong in Tibet as it was. I couldn't imagine walking down the streets of my home town and having to pass guardsmen with riot gear on every street corner. In addition to being a great learning experience, Tibet made me realize how lucky we are in America to have a democratic government where the citizens are free. For anyone who is considering a study abroad, I would highly recommend it because it's a fun way to learn and escape the typical learning style that college students experience in America." Emily Stewart

"The study abroad class in China has been one of the most influential experiences of my collegiate career. This trip has opened my eyes to the rest of the world and has fundamentally changed my world view and what it means to be an American. During the trip some key areas emerged that highlight the differences between the USA and China. These areas are in technology advancement and environmental impact. This has been an awesome trip that has given me a new perspective on the world and the challenges facing our generation and the generations to come." John Andruch

"Traveling to China was an eye opening experience where I learned and participated in many diverse cultures which are spread through out the large, multi-climate country that is closer to America than it seems. Traveling to and from Beijing, Tibet, Xi'an, Chong Qing, the Yangtze River, and Shanghai, the culture and people changed dramatically. Tibet has only recently been easily accessible to travelers and gave me a Native American feel with the most beautiful mountains. Conversely, Beijing is home of China Agricultural University, which has made leaps and bounds in technological advances. Some students, Professor Lumkes, and I were lucky enough to have a tour by very welcoming students and teachers of their Engineering facility. Both their hospitality and academics were very great. Globalization is only bringing China and America closer, where we are able to understand each other and work together for new world advancements." Angela Jacquay



The finale was an audience-wide chorus of "Hail Purdue" led by the Purdue students.

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