

# NDSU GLOBAL LINK

North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D. • 338 Ceres Hall • 701.231.7895 • www.ndsu.edu/International • No. 6 Summer 2006

## Blend of language, cultural experiences breathes new life into NDSU's summer intensive English program

Fourteen international students looked at their teacher with a mixture of fear and disbelief. Krisanne (Kvernen) Emch, BS '05, was handing out bus schedules and slips of paper bearing the names of three typical American snack foods. They were to team up and use the Fargo-Moorhead bus system to gather their team's assigned treat: either a bag of Doritos corn chips, a jar of peanut butter or a bag of Twizzlers

candy. It was a "scavenger hunt," she said, a game. It would be "fun."



*International students who came to study English at NDSU this summer also got to explore historic and cultural sites across the region, like Bonanzaville U.S.A., a pioneer village museum in West Fargo.*

But the students from Saudi Arabia, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Korea and Lebanon had been in Fargo just a few days. They had come to NDSU to learn English so in the *future* they could navigate their adopted city, not before they had a few more English classes behind them.

Emch remained firm, in her gentle, smiling way. She told them that since they didn't have cars or drivers' licenses, the bus would be the only way for them to get around Fargo and sister city Moorhead, Minn., unless they wanted to pay for taxis.

And so the students scattered. Buoyed by the camaraderie of

their teammates, they completed their harrowing journeys. They found the items and found their way back to campus. Upon safe return, they admitted — some more readily than others — that it had been a helpful exercise. After all, they had signed up for the Summer *Intensive* English Language and Culture Program. So they knew the language training would be intense, but they also knew many enjoyable adventures lay ahead.

This summer was the first time NDSU has offered a combined language and culture program. If deemed a success, it may determine how NDSU delivers summer English classes in the future. Designed for students with high intermediate English language skills, the not-for-credit program featured language classes every morning. Afternoons were devoted to lectures or field trips to places like Bonanzaville pioneer village, The Historic Fargo Theatre, the Fargo police department dispatch center and Maple River Winery in Casselton, N.D.

On Saturdays, the students hit the road, with Emch at the wheel of a 14-passenger van. Together they experienced the beach scene at Detroit Lakes, Minn.; a family farm at Wahpeton, N.D.; a powwow at Fort Totten, N.D.; North Dakota's state Capitol in Bismarck and Fort Abraham Lincoln in Mandan, N.D.

The program concluded Aug. 11 with an all-American picnic in Fargo's Lindenwood Park.

"I think they got a better experience than if they had been sitting in a classroom for six hours a day," Emch said. A 2005 NDSU graduate with bachelor's degrees in Spanish education and international studies, Emch has studied abroad herself in Spain and Mexico. She thinks the blend

of language classes and cultural activities provided more "real life" teaching moments than a language-only program and helped participants build friendships. "In language class," Emch explained, "if you can get students to have friendships together, the class is more successful, because you *want* them to talk to each other."

Emch was hired to coordinate the program by Office of International Programs director Kerri Spiering and associate director Lisa Hauck. Spiering and Hauck developed the blueprint for the five-week course based on similar programs offered around the United States. They limited enrollment to 14 in the pilot year. Only two students came to Fargo specifically for the summer program; the rest will start school here in the fall.

"Some students — who didn't need to take English — chose to come because they wanted to settle in and get their feet planted in Fargo before they jumped into classes in August," Hauck said. "Other students wanted to come so they could do some English language improvement before they started the regular English curriculum."

NDSU began offering summer intensive English classes about 25 years ago through the Department of Modern Languages. "For many years," said modern languages chair Paul Homan, "graduate students were an important part of the program." Over time, however, enrollment patterns changed and in 1997 — partly to meet the needs of Fargo's growing refugee population and partly to encourage more international

undergraduate students to enroll at NDSU — the department established a year-round Intensive English Language Program.

Of the approximately 40 students enrolled in one or more IELP classes last spring, about half were international students and half were permanent residents. "They (refugees with roots in Sudan, Somalia and Bosnia) have become a mainstay of the program," Homan said.



*Krisanne Emch works with students during English language class. Emch taught speaking and listening and Deneen Gilmour taught reading and writing for four hours each morning.*

Unlike intensive English classes on some campuses, NDSU's program is integrated into the curriculum. A full load of IELP classes is worth 12 academic credits, which means IELP permanent resident students can qualify for financial aid. "Another big advantage, for both

permanent residents and international students," Homan said, "is that they can have one foot in intensive language classes and one foot in regular classes."

Proof of IELP's effectiveness is most visible at graduation, when students who struggled to overcome all sorts of challenges walk across the stage to collect their diplomas. Perhaps the only unachievable goal for these students, Homan said with a smile, is to sound like native-born Americans. "What everybody always wants is to have American accents. We tell them, 'Learn English well, but don't lose that nice lilt.'"

At the close of NDSU's first summer language and culture program, the Office of International Programs will evaluate student test results and comments to decide if this new, more relaxed approach to summer English classes is the way to go in the future. Judging by the smiles and laughter of the students as they experience life and language in North Dakota, the experiment was a success.

"I remember vividly what it felt like to be in that spot where you were the student in a new culture that you don't understand — the pure exhaustion you feel from being surrounded, especially by another language, but also by another culture," Emch said. "I know that affects how I do things with these students."

When classes start Aug. 21, her students will be ready.

— Catherine Jelsing



**Dear alumni and friends,**

The U.S. Senate recently announced 2006 as the “Year of Study Abroad.” The resolution recognizes the important role study abroad has in affecting U.S. education and global leadership. In addition, the resolution encourages all, not just students and higher

education institutions, to promote and expand study abroad opportunities.

Congressional Resolution 308 2006 reads: “To educate students internationally is an important way to share values, to create goodwill for the United States around the world, to work toward a peaceful global society.” I could not concur more.

Recent federal reports cite a language and cultural skill shortage in more than 70 agencies critical to national security, public diplomacy and economic competitiveness. Study abroad accelerates skill building and strengthens strategic relationships. It not only helps students understand other cultures, but also their own.

The Office of International Programs has worked hard over the years to promote study abroad. Study abroad numbers continue to increase and this past year a record number 205 students studied overseas. With an enrollment of more than 12,000 students, I also know

there is a lot of room to grow. As part of the “Year of Study Abroad,” the office wants to see even more students choosing to study overseas. We will be working to facilitate the process for students and faculty members who advise students.

Cost is one factor that impedes student participation. For this reason, I am excited about the awarding of the first John and Susan Wold International Study Scholarship to Miranda Bovy. Miranda will be spending a semester studying at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia. This scholarship is the first study abroad scholarship of its kind at NDSU and I am grateful to John and Susan Wold for their gift to create it.

I hear from students time and time again how their study abroad experience was the best decision of their life and how it has changed them for the better. I know how much my study abroad experience has impacted me and influenced the decisions I made in life, from where I studied for undergraduate and graduate school to how I chose my career.

Today’s students are our country’s future leaders. Studying abroad prepares them to live and work in a global society. As President Chapman has stated, we have an obligation to our students to prepare them to live and be successful in a global economy. Enough said. Let’s get them packing!

*Kerri Spiering  
Director  
International Programs*

## What have you been up to?

**New job? Nice promotion? Married? New home? Big honor?**

Share your news with us, and we’ll pass it along in the next issue of Global Link.

Send an e-mail to: [ndsuiinternational@ndsui.edu](mailto:ndsuiinternational@ndsui.edu)  
Please include the year(s) you graduated and your degree(s).

*Hope to hear from you soon!*

## Near tragedy causes students, faculty, staff to rally behind ‘T.J.’ Ladage

Kshitij “T.J.” Ladage almost died on Nov. 27, 2004. Then a sophomore at NDSU, T.J. and six other students from India had spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Minneapolis, Minn. They were on their way back to Fargo when their van hit a patch of ice, sliding off the road with such force that five of them — including T.J. — were thrown from the vehicle.

T.J.’s back was broken. He was rushed back to Minneapolis, where he underwent eight hours of surgery for a severe spinal injury. He came out alive, but with no guarantee he would ever regain the use of his arms, much less his legs.

But T.J. did get better and — thanks to months of therapy, the care of his family and help from a diverse circle of supporters at NDSU — he returned to school last fall and is now ready to begin his senior year. He missed only one semester of classes, because his doctors and therapists encouraged him to return to school to keep his spirits up, thus NDSU became a big part of the healing process.

“Initially,” T.J. said in an e-mail interview from India, “I was not physically fit to travel back to India.

I needed a lot of physical therapy ... I received a lot of help and support from the locals as well as NDSU, which made my stay comfortable. Before school started, ‘Yes,’ I felt like I wanted to go home. But once school started, not really. Once the routine was set, I did not feel like it at all.”

An essential part of that routine was having his mother, Udaya Ladage, in Fargo. NDSU’s Office of International Programs helped Mrs. Ladage obtain an emergency visa so she could come to be with T.J. She arrived in January 2005, seeing him through the initial recovery, staying with him during the past school year and then accompanying him back to India for a summer visit with family and friends.

“I was supposed to return to Fargo alone this fall,” T.J. said, but due to medical issues that have arisen in India, doctors have advised that T.J. not to return alone. So Mrs. Ladage will be part

of the team supporting the biotechnology major as he completes his final year at NDSU.

There are many people to whom T.J. is grateful, and many stories to tell of how faculty, staff, students and community members gave their help. T.J. is especially appreciative of how they made sure his mother’s stay was comfortable, “so she could dedicate all her time to my care.” The most unexpected support was fundraising conducted by NDSU’s Association of Students From India. News of their efforts to “Save T.J.” by raising money to help cover his medical bills was reported by online newspapers IndiaDaily.com and HindustanTimes.com.



*The Forum newspaper wrote about T.J. Ladage when he first returned to school a year ago and published this photograph by Bruce Crummy with the article.*

Even though T.J. has experienced some setbacks during his visit to India, he’s in much better shape than he was a year ago. Last fall, even though he could walk as far as two blocks, he used a motorized wheelchair to get around campus. Someone had to take notes for him during lectures. And in the lab, professors and fellow students made special efforts to accommodate his limitations. “My lab mates helped me out immensely,” T.J. said. “They would do a majority of the physical work and I would take down the readings.”

Today, T.J. still has a few restrictions, but most of his mobility is back. The issue he’s facing now is a lack of strength. “If I can get my strength back, it will be much better,” he said. “I’m hoping to improve further, at least enough so that I can live independently.” After all, it’s not easy being in college and living with your mother, no matter how wonderful she is. “Since Mom’s been around,” he told The Forum newspaper in Fargo, “I have to be like the good kid, so the party thing has cut down a bit.”

But T.J. still knows how to have fun and in his senior year plans to hang out with friends and make new ones, try his best to enjoy his last North Dakota winter, and attend as many Bison football games as possible, especially the game against Minnesota. “Our basketball team beat Wisconsin last year, so this year the football team should be able to beat the Gophers,” T.J. said. “I’m gonna bribe God, just to make sure we win.”

## 'Wold' traveler: Alum creates scholarship to help NDSU students study overseas

John Wold jokes his only "overseas" experience while at NDSU was crossing the Red River to take a class at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

But the 1966 pharmacy graduate would have plenty of opportunity to travel later, while working as a scientist for Eli Lilly. Since retiring six years ago, Wold enjoys taking his wife Susan to the global getaways he first frequented on business trips.

Now Wold plans to share that experience with NDSU students. The first John and Susan Wold International Study Scholarship was awarded to Miranda Bovy, a junior zoology major, this year. Bovy will use the \$1,000 to spend a semester at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Sippy Downs, Australia.

"If you look at a map, the geographical center of North America is Rugby, N.D.," says Wold, a Fargo native and NDSU Development Foundation trustee. "So if you live in North Dakota, you live further from the ocean than anyone else. I felt no place could benefit more from having its kids study outside the country than NDSU."

Wold believes the exposure to different people and cultures is an important part of student development, whether that student eventually becomes a seasoned globetrotter or never lives outside of the state.



*John and Susan Wold enjoy traveling together. Here, they're enjoying the sights during a recent trip to Italy.*

Wold had his first chance to see the world after graduating from the University of Iowa with a doctorate in pharmacology. He worked for a time as a postdoctoral researcher in central London, a city he still loves to visit.

Wold spent the next 28 years with Eli Lilly, where he helped to develop drugs such as Prozac. Although based primarily in Indianapolis, home of Eli Lilly's corporate center, he also spent four years in England. In between, he took business trips to South America, Asia and most of the western world.

Nowadays, with Susan at his side, Wold is more likely to book a leisurely cruise than a red-eye flight in business class. Last year the couple took a Northern Italy cooking school excursion, which was hosted by the NDSU Alumni Association.

Although the Wolds still visit Indianapolis, they now view Marco Island in southwest Florida as their home. Wold fishes, volunteers for the Florida Marine Research Institute Red Tide Monitoring Program, and takes other anglers out to sea on fishing excursions. Two years ago, he was licensed to become a U.S. Coast Guard captain.

"I figured that if I could pass Bill Shelver's medicinal chemistry class," he says. "I should be able to pass the Coast Guard test."

— Tammy Swift

## Vice president meets first Belizean grad students

Five graduate students from the University of Belize received an early welcome to NDSU while still in their native land. Their greeters were D.C. Coston, NDSU vice president for agriculture and university extension, and Jim Venette, associate dean for academic programs in the College of Agriculture, Food Science, and Natural Resources. The two visited Belize in May.

The first Belizeans to be accepted at NDSU since the universities signed a memorandum of understanding in June 2005, three of the students will pursue master's degrees in agribusiness and applied economics, one will study microbiology and one conservation biology.

"They are bright and I think they will do very well here," Coston said, adding that the college is in the process of

developing exchange programs so NDSU students can study in Belize.

During their meetings with university president Corinth Morter-Lewis and board chair Louis Joseph Zabaneh, Coston and Venette focused on agriculture and natural resource issues. "We helped them assess where they are on some of their programs and offered some suggestions," Coston said.

As Belizeans and other NDSU students work alongside each other in the classroom, Coston hopes they will develop relationships that not only will broaden their understanding of the world and but create potential for reciprocal trade.

"Belize is friendly to the United States," Coston said, "and much good can come out of this relationship that will benefit not only students but Belizean and North Dakota businesses."

## More NDSU students going overseas, more international students coming here

The Office of International Programs has been busy. In the past year, new exchange partnerships were established, a record number of students studied abroad and more international students attended NDSU than ever before.

More than 200 NDSU students studied abroad last year, up 73 from the year before. International programs director Kerri Spiering says the increase is due, in part, to departments like architecture planning European summer trips.

While more NDSU students were flying overseas, more international students also were flying into Fargo. Last year 616 international students were on campus. And that number is expected to rise to more than 700 in the fall. One reason for the growth is more exchange programs and partnerships.

Last year, NDSU extended its global reach by developing two new exchange programs, one with the University of Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy, and the other with Universidad



*Student participates in International Week Parade of Nations.*

Mayor in Santiago, Chile. Exchange programs allow non-degree seeking students from each university to swap schools while continuing to pay their home institution tuition and fees.

Bringing the grand total of exchange programs at NDSU up to 14.

Also new were two affiliation agreements with schools in South Korea. These agreements allow non-degree seeking students from Chung Ang University in Seoul and Catholic University in Daegu to study at NDSU. But as of now, NDSU students do not study there.

And last but not least, NDSU formed an exciting new “twinning” partnership with Ansal Institute of Technology located near New Delhi, India. This partnership allows AIT students to complete three years of course work in two years and then come to NDSU to complete their degree. Last year, six AIT students worked toward their master’s degrees in business administration at NDSU and almost 60 AIT undergraduate and graduate

students plan to study here in the coming year.

The partnership also provides for NDSU students to study at AIT. One NDSU student studied there last semester and three students will be there this fall.

## Undergraduate AIT students en route NDSU

This fall NDSU will welcome the first group of 56 undergraduate cohorts from Ansal Institute of Technology, Gurgaon, India, as part of a “twinning” exchange partnership established two years ago.

The exchange partnership allows students to study from one to three years at AIT and then be eligible to transfer to NDSU to complete their degrees. Last year, NDSU welcomed six graduate students from AIT.

“The undergraduate students are following a year behind because they had to study two years at AIT before becoming eligible to transfer to NDSU. The graduate students only had to study one year at AIT,” said Kerri Spiering, director of the Office of International Programs.

AIT has similar agreements with three other U.S. institutions including Clemson (S.C.) University; Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C.; and Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas.

The partnership was pioneered by Sudhir Mehta, associate vice president for academic affairs and professor of mechanical engineering. He says NDSU is the top choice of AIT students who want to study abroad. “AIT students prefer NDSU in terms of program quality and cost,” Mehta said.

As the partnership is expanded to include more disciplines, even more AIT students are expected to enroll at NDSU. Next year AIT students will be able to pursue degrees in mass communication, retail management and a master’s of computer science at NDSU. Current twinning agreement degree programs include: computer and electrical engineering, computer science, business administration, biotechnology and a master’s of business administration

Each program has a specific number of students it can accommodate. Overall, the agreement provides for up to 120 AIT students to study at NDSU. Undoubtedly that number will soon be reached. Mehta said about 115 new students are starting their studies at AIT this fall, with the intention of transferring to NDSU.

— Linsey Hegvik

## Studying abroad helps Nelson discover dream job

When Michael Nelson started college, he was the rare kind of freshman who knew exactly what he wanted to do. The Grand Forks, N.D., native was going to be an agricultural economist. To him it was a wise choice; not the most interesting, but financially stable and respectable.

But later that year, he changed his major to natural resources management. Then he changed it to crop and weed sciences, then biotechnology, then secondary education and finally microbiology. In all, he changed his major five times before he graduated.

It wasn't until he paid attention to what he *liked* to do, instead of what he *thought* he should do that he found his true calling. The funny thing is, there were hints all along the way.

Nelson was 16 when he got hooked on international travel. That's when he made his first trip to visit his grandmother's family in Italy. On the plane ride home, he made up his mind he had to go back.

At NDSU, as he struggled to pin down a major, Nelson turned international studies into something of a hobby. He studied German and volunteered in the Office of International Programs. And in 2000, his fourth year of college, Nelson decided it was time to return to Italy. So he applied for a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.

He was awarded the scholarship and lived and studied in Padua for 11 months. The experience not only reinforced how much Nelson loved exploring other lands and cultures, it caused an epiphany.

"I was sitting by a medieval castle on a bay of the Mediterranean near Naples, Italy, when I realized I didn't want to choose a career based on money. I needed to do something that I enjoyed," he said. So he decided to become a teacher.

Upon his return to NDSU, Nelson changed his major from what had been pre-med to science education. But something still wasn't right.

"I was doing a presentation about my Italy trip for a Rotary club when the light bulb clicked," Nelson said. "I always had this idea that it was frivolous for work to be fun, but I realized all the things I had done for fun could lead to a career." Nelson had finally discovered the shoe that fit.



*Michael Nelson in Amalfi in southern Italy.*

Shortly after graduating in 2002, with a double major in international studies and microbiology, he started working for International Studies Abroad, a study abroad program provider in Colorado. Two years later he became a field director for the Institute for Study Abroad-Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind. "I love this career field because it opens up amazing interaction world-wide with colleagues and students and it is a great way to stay connected to college life," Nelson said.

"I'm basically a public relations/information officer. I provide face-to-face-information about our program and advise students," he said. To familiarize himself with partner universities around the world, Nelson has traveled to Spain, France, England, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and Costa Rica. He also travels the upper Midwest promoting study-abroad options to college students, faculty and staff.

Nine months of the year he works out of his home in Fargo, which enables him to follow another passion: teaching beginning Italian at NDSU.

Nelson taught the three-credit summer course in May and June of 2004 and 2005 and plans to teach it again in 2007. "I love the legacy of pouring into others knowledge that I am passionate about," he said. "Language is the most magical, powerful thing. It is a decoder of so much information."

Nelson admits he couldn't have designed a better career. And although it took a while to figure it out, it was worth the wait. He now has a job that mixes his love of travel, language and teaching. Finally, he said, "I found my dream job."

— Linsey Hegvik

## Mexican village teaches Maertens much about real-life immigration issues

The sun slowly drops behind the western rim of mountains. Bright Latin music drifts through the streets and mingles with laughter and conversation. Children play while their parents stop to visit, all of them dressed in their best clothes. It is Saturday night in San Bernadino, Michoacan, Mexico, and Deb Maertens is enjoying every minute of it.

Neighbors and friends meet in the streets after Saturday evening church services. Some sell food outside their houses while others just mingle. “Everybody is in the moment. There is no sense of time. No rush,” explains Maertens, NDSU international faculty adviser. “When I think of it I just smile.”

Maertens, international faculty adviser for NDSU’s Office of International Programs, spent several Saturdays mingling with new friends during her two-month stay in San Bernadino. She spent May and June in the rural Mexican village, conducting research for her master’s thesis on the effects of U.S. immigration laws on migration in rural Mexico.

She lived with a woman named Rosaura, venturing out of San Bernadino only for weekend trips. “Rosaura has 15 kids and 58 grandkids. She was warm, funny and wonderful. Her house was like Grand Central Station with adult kids and grandkids constantly in and out. I loved it,” Maertens said.

Through interviews with families in 31 households, Maertens found that with a single exception, every family had members who had gone to the United States to find work. She also found that issues surrounding immigration “are not about U.S. immigration laws. It’s all about economics; their own personal financial situation given the state of the rural Mexican economy as well as the demand of our own U.S. economy for cheap labor.”



*Deborah Maertens with a neighbor boy and a grandson of the woman with whom she lived while conducting research in San Bernadino.*

Maertens visited with a man who had just collected his weekly paycheck for working in a nearby blackberry field. The check was for \$64, an amount he could make in one day in the United States.

Another man she spoke with drives his own truck for the local sugar mill. He crosses the border once a year, spending four or five months in the United States to make enough money to last the rest of the year at home.

“He had been back in San Bernadino for about a year and you could tell money was getting really tight. His cell phone rang during the interview and it was someone who wanted him to haul something. And that was the hardest to watch of all — how his wife and he jumped up and she quickly got the paper and pen and they were getting every detail. They were just clinging to that work order.”

Collecting these stories made Maertens feel sad. “But even though life is difficult and there is little money, the people don’t feel sad,” she said. “They are so connected to their families and their pueblos and friends, very few of them ever want to leave permanently.”

— Becca Stich

## NDSU passport drive huge success

There are blood drives, canned food drives, fundraising drives and, thanks to NDSU’s Office of International Programs, there are passport drives.

The most recent one was held in conjunction with NDSU’s annual study abroad fair in March. The purpose of the drives is to help students, faculty, staff, parents and community members get one step closer to their travel goals.

Based on the turnout in March, attendees appreciate the convenience; 52 people either renewed or applied for passports. And, unlike blood drives, the experience was painless.

“We made it easy to get a passport by bringing the services conveniently on campus,” said Sara Johnson, study abroad adviser. Applications were available at the fair or ahead of time. Photos were taken on-site for \$15. And U.S. Post Office employees were there to process the paperwork.

All applicants had to do was show photo IDs, provide official copies of their certified birth certificates (except for those renewing their passports) and pay the fees. The cost was \$97 for first-time applicants and approximately \$70 for those wishing to renew.

The next passport drive is planned during International Education Week, Nov. 13 through 17.

## The Road to Morocco: Arabic leads Lavelle to land of Casablanca

As Jacob Lavelle sat atop a rocky embankment in Terjit, Mauritania, he saw the graceful curves of a giant sand dune off to one side, plateaus and trees below him. “This,” he thought, “is probably as alone as I’ll ever be.” And so he sat there, taking in the serenity of the moment.

It’s amazing where a distance-learning class in Arabic can take you.

Lavelle learned this first-hand after taking two years of instruction in Modern Standard Arabic. The NDSU senior, a political science/international studies major with a business minor, took the class through the U.S. Arabic Distance-Learning Network, coordinated by Montana State University in Bozeman.

Lavelle chose to learn Arabic because he’s long been intrigued by the language. “It kind of sounds stupid, but (Arabic) looked pretty and I didn’t know anything about it,” he says. “Also, as far as learning Arabic, that probably tied in with an interest in trying to make the world a better place.”

Lavelle’s first year was split between on-campus instruction by NDSU teaching assistant Shura Shawky and interactive videoconferencing sessions with Nabil Abdelfattah, an adjunct associate professor in modern languages at Montana State.

In his second year, Lavelle chose the program’s study-abroad option in Morocco. There, he spent nine months studying at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, visiting places like Terjit and strengthening his resolve to work in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Although Morocco is a land of great beauty and rich heritage, Lavelle cautions students to think carefully before studying there. The university itself is English-speaking, carefully guarded and attended predominantly by students from affluent backgrounds.

But Moroccan culture is far removed from the efficiency and convenience of the Western world. Some urban centers are as modern as any American cities, but rural areas can be desolate, with families living in shacks and growing dates to survive.

Lavelle found business that was easy to handle at NDSU – such as changing a class – became a roundabout scramble. “For a large part, it depends on who do you know, what connections do you have?” he says. “A lot of times, you’re just running around and no one knows anything. And what’s being done isn’t necessarily being done in an efficient manner.”

Even so, he enjoyed the laid-back pace. Westerners call it “Moroccan time,” in which an event scheduled for 9 p.m.

doesn’t start until 9:30, or a professor ambles into class 15 minutes late. Used to his frantic lifestyle at NDSU, Lavelle now could duck into a café for juice after class or spend hours visiting with friends. “I would never have the time to do that here in Fargo,” he says.

He also enjoyed experiencing the different locales and customs. The mountainous community of Ifrane is home to one of King Mohammed VI’s palaces. Standing at the roadside with hundreds of Moroccan citizens, Lavelle caught a glimpse of the country’s ruler tooling by in his motorcade one day. “It was neat to see a head of state just driving by,” he says.

Lavelle also visited the U.S. Embassy in Rabat where, as proof that the world is smaller than we think, he discovered the deputy political counselor graduated from Fargo North High School.

During his semester break, he visited Morocco’s southern neighbor, Mauritania. John Shoup, an associate anthropology professor at Al Akhawayn, invited Lavelle to travel with him to do fieldwork. For three weeks, they visited with local craftsmen in their shops and photographed their production processes. Each night, they slept in a tent. “It was part research, part vacation,” Lavelle says. “It was pretty relaxing.”

Motivated by his first exposure to the Arabic world, Lavelle will pursue one of two options next summer. He’ll either intern at the U.S. Embassy in Mauritania, or study advanced Arabic in Yemen through a critical language scholarship.

“While I was there, this opened my eyes to some other opportunities,” he says. “If a person is dedicated and knows what they want to get out of it, I think (the study-abroad option) is a good route to go.”



*Lavelle (above) played the “groom” in a Moroccan mock wedding. The wedding was held as part of Hassani Day, a cultural awareness event, at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. Lavelle (below) wrapped scarves around his head as protection against the blowing sand in the dunes.*



## Hauck connects with students during North Dakota trade mission to Taiwan

You never know when being fluent in Chinese will come in handy. Especially when you're a fair-skinned redhead, representing a university halfway across the world.

But that's one reason Lisa Hauck, associate director of international programs, is such an effective ambassador for NDSU. Before joining the university in 2004, she traveled and taught extensively in China and Taiwan. She can do anything from bargain for produce in a Chinese street market to teach a classroom of Asian students how to speak English.

So Hauck was the obvious choice to represent NDSU when North Dakota traveled to Taiwan in June. She joined North Dakota Lt. Gov. Jack Dalrymple and a 29-member delegation on a trade mission to this tiny island country of 23 million people.

During the trip, Hauck was able to reconnect with alumni in Taiwan and meet with university representatives to talk about developing exchange relationships. She also met with Political Deputy Minister Mu-Lin Lu from Taiwan's Ministry of Education. And she met with university recruiters in meetings organized by the American Institute in Taiwan.

Through the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange, she gave a presentation on NDSU to potential students. And she met with students one-on-one, thanks to the American International Education Foundation, a non-profit agency that represents U.S. universities to students overseas.

As the only university representative on the trip, Hauck was favorably poised to influence students and their families – speaking in their native tongue, to boot. “They just warmed up,” she says. “They were so happy and surprised that someone not only took the time and effort to speak their language, but could speak it well.”



*During a reception, Hauck meets with alumnus Yung-Hsi Kao, who graduated from NDSU with a Ph.D. in zoology in 1997. He is now a professor in the Department of Life Science at National Central University, Taiwan.*

The trip also helped clarify why fewer Taiwanese undergrads are attending U.S. universities than they once did. Traditionally, Taiwanese students have found it difficult to get into Taiwan's universities, which are extremely rigorous and few in number. Consequently, many young people used to attend college in other countries.

About 10 years ago, more private universities were built in Taiwan. They had easier admission criteria and were highly affordable.

But Taiwanese citizens are realizing the new universities aren't of the same quality as the older institutions. The government also is concerned students who study only in Taiwan won't receive the international exposure to help them compete in a global marketplace.

Once again, students are looking abroad for education. While many gravitate to California and New York – with their large Asian populations and milder climates – Hauck believes NDSU has its distinct advantages.

Meeting with students and their parents (many Asian parents still choose their children's field of study), Hauck promoted some of its strengths:

- NDSU provides a more immersive cultural experience. Because there isn't a huge Chinese population here, students are forced to integrate more fully into the culture and to speak English more often.
- It is safe, easy-to-navigate and friendly.
- It is more affordable than larger universities on the Coasts.

Those families who had heard of Fargo associated it immediately with cold. But Hauck had a quick response.

“I told them it's exciting, especially if you've never seen snow.”

Consequently, Hauck returned from Taiwan with one completed NDSU application, a couple of interested prospects and the knowledge she had spread the word on NDSU.

— Tammy Swift

## Asian alumni invited to help recruit during educational opportunities tour

NDSU has participated in recruitment trips to Asia for the past few years. This year, NDSU is sending Lisa Hauck, associate director in the Office of International Programs, as its representative on the Fall 2006 American Educational Opportunities Tour of Asia.

Hauck will travel to the following fair sites: Hong Kong, Sept. 16-19; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sept. 19-23;

Singapore, Sept. 23-26; Penang, Thailand, Sept. 26-28; Bangkok, Thailand, Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

Prospective students and their parents always are interested in meeting people who have first-hand knowledge of NDSU and the Fargo-Moorhead community. Any NDSU alumni who live in or near the recruitment site locations are welcome to join Hauck at the fairs. There also will be opportunities to participate in area high school visits.

Those interested in participating should e-mail Lisa Hauck at [Lisa.Hauck@ndsu.edu](mailto:Lisa.Hauck@ndsu.edu).

## Overseas advisers impressed by quality, friendliness at NDSU

NDSU received its first visit from overseas advisers through the U.S. Based Training program (USBT) in November. Educational advisers from Malaysia, Greece, Egypt, Armenia and Brazil spent a day on campus learning about NDSU and the area.

“The USBT program is designed to provide overseas advisers, who help international students who want to study in the United States, gain insight into college life here,” said Kerri Spiering, director of international programs at NDSU.

NDSU was part of a cluster of schools hosting the USBT visit. The cluster visit was proposed to USBT by Concordia College in Moorhead and also included Minnesota State University Moorhead; North Dakota State College of Science, Wahpeton; and University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

The campus visits were part of a 22-day training sponsored by the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participants also attended a seminar in Washington, D.C., and an international educators conference in Colorado.

“I thought the visit went really well and it was very insightful,” said Spiering. “It was good to hear what happens on their side and how they work with students.”

As for the advisers, they discovered that students can expect a lot from a study-abroad experience at NDSU.

“Honestly, I chose to visit North Dakota and Minnesota to experience first-hand an area that is not a typical destination for Greek students, and to see what it had to offer both on an educational and cultural level,” said Nicholas Tourides of the Fulbright Foundation in Athens, Greece. “I was surprised in a very nice way and would recommend your institution to my advisees.”

Hala Al Hawary, representing Egypt-based America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, was impressed by the “serious, hard-working faculty members and admission officers.” Overall she said, “The people are very generous and friendly. It felt like home.”

And Andreza Martins, of the Fulbright Commission in Brazil, found NDSU’s campus more modern and larger than he expected. “The openness of the space felt like this was a place for great things to happen. I was also extremely impressed with how prepared and knowledgeable university staff and faculty were about academic admissions for international students.”

Many advisers said they would enjoy returning to Fargo-Moorhead, and Al Hawary said she’s already promoting NDSU.

— Jennifer McLaughlin

## Globe-trotters represent NDSU around the world

### HD&E faculty present at global conferences

Four faculty members in the Department of Child Development and Family Science, along with the dean of human development and education, gave presentations at international conferences in 2005.



- Associate professor Margaret Fitzgerald co-presented “For-profit Family Businesses as Socially Responsible Organizations: Evidence From the U.S. National Family Business

Survey,” at the Family Business Network/International Family Enterprise Research Academy Annual World Research Forum in September in Brussels, Belgium.



- Professor Harriett Light gave two presentations at the International Conference on Education in Honolulu in January 2005: “Middle Level Students: Relationship

Between Academic Grades and Risk Behaviors,” and “Lessons Learned from Online Teaching.”

- Professor/associate dean Gregory Sanders, dean Virginia Clark and assistant professor Marlys Bratteli also presented “Inter-institutional Web-based Graduate Education: Outcomes and Lessons Learned,” at the International Conference on Education in Honolulu.

### Two professors teach in transatlantic studies program

Two faculty members from the College of Human Development and Education were chosen to teach classes at the Maastricht

Center for Transatlantic Studies in the Netherlands in the past year.

Gary Liguori, assistant professor of health, nutrition and exercise science, taught a class titled, “Expanding Borders: Obesity as a Transatlantic Phenomenon” last fall. Liguori and his students compared the social, environmental and cultural differences that impact obesity rates around the world.

Carol Rusaw, associate professor of education, taught “Managing Globalized Human Resources” in the summer of 2005. She focused her course on issues in Latino countries, as well as the world at large.

Created in 1995 by a consortium of higher education institutions in the United States, Mexico and Europe, the center brings together students and faculty from around the world to engage in multidisciplinary courses with a transatlantic focus. All classes are based at Teikyo University in Maastricht, the southernmost city in the Netherlands.

## Department hosts scientists from Mexico, Korea

The Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering recently hosted two colleagues from Mexico and plans to host two more scientists this summer.

Professor Dennis Wiesenborn and research specialist Kristi Tostenson hosted a visit from Juan Carlos Contreras-Esquivel, a faculty member from the Universidad de Coahuila, Mexico, in August 2005. This led to a visit by researcher Judith Espinoza-Perez for three weeks in March. Espinoza-Perez conducted a series of processing experiments in NDSU's ABEN laboratory during her stay. She plans to return to NDSU as a doctoral student in the fall.

Wiesenborn also will host scientists Juan Vargas-Lopez, Universidad de Sonora, Mexico, and Youngsoo Kim, Republic of Korea, this summer.

Wiesenborn has served on the editorial board of the *Journal of the Korean Society of Food Technologists* since 2003.

## Chinese, Puerto Rican students get doctoral degrees

NDSU's Department of Plant Sciences will train students from two international universities in turf production and management.

Department representatives signed an agreement with the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez. UPRM does not have a doctoral program. The agreement allows NDSU to educate UPRM students and faculty, who will earn a Ph.D. from NDSU. Participants are required to spend at least one year on NDSU's campus.

In late June, NDSU officials signed a similar agreement with officials from Beijing Forestry University, China.

## DVM part of international trade delegation to China

Charles Stoltenow, NDSU Extension veterinarian, and Kim Koch, feed production center manager for the Northern Crops Institute, traveled to China as part of an international trade delegation for the state of North Dakota. They spent about two weeks in the Hunan Province and Beijing.

Stoltenow also has traveled to NATO headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, as an anthrax specialist.

## Entomologists form overseas collaborations

Several members of NDSU's Department of Entomology are collaborating with colleagues overseas.

Marion Harris, associate professor of entomology, continues to work with Ilva Hilbur, Agricultural University, Sweden, on the Hessian fly sex pheromone. Harris ran field tests in North Dakota of the putative sex pheromone components identified by Hilbur. Hilbur also wrote a grant to fund a student's visit to NDSU's entomology lab to continue testing the Hessian fly pheromone.

Harris, in collaboration with Bill Berzonsky, associate professor of plant science, and a colleague from the Department of Agriculture in Western Australia, are working to prepare for the possible arrival in Australia of endemic Northern American pests of wheat. The Australian team is interested in testing their wheat cultivars against the two wheat pests studied by NDSU scientists: Hessian fly and wheat midge.

Gary Brewer, chair of entomology, also has provided Hessian fly specimens for the Victoria Museum and Department of Agriculture.

Assistant professor Paul Ode is collaborating on insect ecology projects with researchers from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands Institute of Ecology.

The entomology systematics laboratory also is working with the Australian Museum and with European and Russian researchers on finalizing three chapters of an international Palearctic catalog. Other collaborations include identifying specimens of Pentatomidae for a researcher conducting an animal study of the Seychelles Islands, identifying Pentatomidae from New Caledonia for an Australian researcher, and identifying Heteroptera from southern Africa for German workers.

## Briefly ...

- **Kenneth Hellevang**, NDSU Extension engineer and professor of agricultural and biosystems engineering, provided a training program on post-harvest grain handling for three representatives from Macedonia and one from the Czech Republic during their Aug. 31 visit to the Northern Crops Institute.



- **Don Kirby**, professor and head of animal and range sciences, attended an international meeting of the Society for Wetland Scientists in July in Cairns, Australia. He also presented two papers representing master's and doctoral students' wetlands research in North Dakota and the Northern Great Plains.

- **NDSU's Department of Plant Sciences** continues to test North Dakota crops at research sites in China, New Zealand, Syria, Chile, France, Spain and Italy.