

NDSU GLOBAL LINK

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Faculty-led study abroad programs on the rise at NDSU

As senior civil engineering major Haley Watson watched sleeping panda bears at a zoo in China, she heard a pounding on the glass barrier next to her. A mother was hitting the glass in an effort to wake the pandas for her child. The mother turned to Watson and said something in Chinese. Watson shared a smile with the mother, who then repeated herself and made a sleeping motion with her hands folded together next to her head.

"Our different cultures were able to interact, even through a complete language barrier," Watson said.



Engineering students got a close look at Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China. Once finished, the dam will provide 11 percent of the country's power supply.

It was just one example of what NDSU students are experiencing to a growing degree. From China, to London, to Brazil, students are taking advantage of the increasing number of faculty-led study abroad programs offered by various departments across the university.

China: raising the price of steel

Two years after taking a group of students to China to study civil engineering, associate professor Wei Lin decided to do it again. The prior experience armed Lin with ideas to pack this trip with even more educational experiences.

Students who wanted to see Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China initiated both trips. The dam will provide about 11 percent of China's power supply when complete and is five times as wide as the Hoover Dam. Such an enormous project has wide effects including large-scale relocation of entire villages, loss of historic sites and disruption of wildlife.

In 2005, the largest construction project in the world was about two-thirds complete. This time, students were able to see the almost finished dam along with relocated cities upriver.

"Two years ago we couldn't arrange a visit to the dam except as a tour," Lin said. "This time we got to see more of the engineering side. Even our guide was surprised by the access."

The students also traveled to Beijing and got unique access to future 2008 Olympic sites through Lin's contacts. The engineering students took in the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Temple of Heaven, old Beijing neighborhoods and the Forbidden City. They even stayed at Lin's alma mater, the Beijing Institute of Civil Engineering, where they were able to sit in on a class and share presentations with Chinese students.

Other cultural exchanges included visiting local families and even enjoying a boat cruise down the Yangtze with a group of students from Iran.

"It felt like everywhere we went we were treated like movie stars," said Haley Watson, a senior civil engineering major. "If we would get together so Dr. Lin could take our picture, people would line up behind him to take our picture also. It was bizarre."

The final stop on the excursion was Shanghai. Students got a close look at the old city, a tearoom and the new section of the city built in the last 20 years.

"We were able to see some major constructions even for large cities," Lin said. "These projects are international in scale – they raised the price of steel."

The engineering students also got to see how aesthetics play a role in design and structure, and how showing cultural influences through structure help to preserve Chinese historical values.

"A lot of teaching is theory and equations," Lin said, "but when we went to Beijing, there were cultural influences and aesthetic considerations."

London: Shakespeare galore

What better way for acting students to enhance their craft in period style and verse drama than to take workshops with some of London's best-known directors? Five of assistant professor Pamela Chabora's students discovered this during a spring break tour to London.

Chabora designed the trip to focus on the business of acting.

Students were able to study with some of the best. Rob Clare of the Royal Shakespeare Company spent two hours with the students on their first day. On day two, Patrick Tucker, founder of the Original Shakespeare Company and author of several innovative books on Shakespearean acting, invited the students to his house for tea and rehearsed Shakespeare techniques with them.

"I came away with a better understanding of Shakespeare works and how to perform them in several different ways," said senior

Kim Watts. "I lost my fear of performing Shakespeare pieces, and now I am excited anytime I get the chance to read for a Shakespearean part."



Agribusiness students toured the state of Mato Grosso in Brazil, an agricultural frontier.

Tom Cornford, a director with the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), and the Guthrie met the students on the third day at the Globe Theatre for a two-hour workshop.

"If you're studying to become a classical actor, training in Shakespeare, there's nothing like going to his home and training at the Globe," Chabora said. "You can't put into words the value of this kind of experience."

On day four, they talked to Blake Klein, a lawyer in

London as well as artistic director for LaMoure County Summer Music Theatre in North Dakota. Their meeting with Klein led to a directing and choreography job for Chabora with the upcoming production of "The Fantasticks," and several of the students also were considering jobs in LaMoure.

The last day included a visit to LAMDA to see Pat Tucker and Tom Cornford again. Chabora also is working on a full study-abroad program so students from NDSU and the Upper Midwest can earn NDSU theatre internships at LAMDA focusing on a semester of classical acting.

No acting trip to London would be complete without going to productions. Highlights included Patrick Stewart in "The Tempest" and Daniel Radcliff in "Equus."

The theatre world is small, said Chabora, so in addition to the workshops, the simple act of networking with renowned artists will be invaluable for students.

"This will help broaden my horizons from only doing musical theatre to being able to perform classical theatre as well," Watts said.

This was the first of what Chabora plans to be a biennial excursion for students, alternating London with trips to New York City.

Brazil: an agricultural frontier

Agriculture and food supply are increasingly becoming global issues.

"Our growing and diverse demand for food products will be met by food from all parts of the world," said Robert Hearne, assistant professor of agribusiness and applied economics.

This growing demand prompted Hearne to take agribusiness students to Brazil during spring break this year. The goal for students – to learn about the biophysical and geographic nature of Brazilian agricultural production and the economic, social and cultural environment of Brazilian agribusiness.

Ten students took part in the excursion. They first stopped in Sao Paulo, one of the largest cities on Earth, to meet with Monsanto, Cargill and Rabobank – leading agriculture companies in Brazil.

They also visited the state of Mato Grosso, an agricultural frontier and heart of Brazil's largest soy growing region, to meet producers of soybeans, cotton, swine and grape juice. Experiment stations, elevators and processing facilities were other agricultural stops of note. Although booming in

agricultural production, a major limitation for the regional industries was the lack of adequate transportation. Graduate student Scott Weinlaeder recalled hearing how trucks are often loaded to maximum capacity, which leads to increased destruction of roads.

"They are converting a lot of land to soybean production and intensifying agriculture by establishing feedlots," Hearne said.

The experience allowed students to gain an understanding of agricultural production and agribusiness in Brazil. This was an especially beneficial lesson considering students often see agriculture and economics through what they know of North Dakota and the United States.

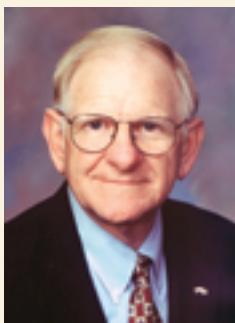
"Knowing how other countries establish themselves in the global market is an important tool that we as producers and marketers can use," said Weinlaeder.

Hearne plans to continue offering the course in coming years.

"What I hope is growing is student interest in understanding different food systems throughout the world," he said.

—Joel Hagen

Message from the president



A thriving international program is vital for North Dakota State University. The reasons are many and varied, but foremost among them is that our students are now in a truly global environment as North Dakota competes in an international marketplace.

As NDSU students learn from our international students about

their cultures, customs and the things that make their home countries unique and special, they are preparing for the future. Our students simply cannot be adequately prepared for the global society if they have never had the opportunity to interact with other cultures.

At NDSU, we currently have about 700 students from 73 countries; and we wish to do more. We are trying to create a cross-cultural, cross-educational experience, so when our students graduate they are prepared to be active participants in a global society.

I firmly believe that an institution of the size and scope of NDSU should have at least 1,000 international students who are fully intermingled within the disciplinary mix and at all different levels of the institution.

NDSU is developing twinning programs and other programs that will help students, from North Dakota and other parts of the world, have educational opportunities in other countries that are fully integrated with NDSU's programs.

NDSU has bilateral student exchange agreements with Australia, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. We have memorandums of understanding with other countries such as Belize, China, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. We want to expand those opportunities, and large companies are very excited about NDSU's global perspective.

International programs also build good will. Our international students often return to their homelands in leadership roles, and the positive experiences they have here establish lasting friendships for decades to come.

International programs are extremely important. There are so many positives for our students – to be better educated citizens, to be more effective in the work place, to be better positioned to move to the top of their respective career ladders – it is an opportunity that is clearly the right thing to do.

*Joseph A. Chapman
President*



Dear alumni and friends,

I am excited to announce that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act (HR1469). This act's goal is to dramatically increase the number of students who study abroad. The legislation is named after the late Sen. Paul Simon who worked to increase awareness of the need to make sure the next generation is prepared with global knowledge and skills.

Our world is much smaller today due to technology with our access to the Web and 24-hour cable news channels. The global problems impact us locally and our local issues are global in nature. I believe that we as a society need to have better knowledge about the world outside our borders. Approximately only 1 percent of all students in the U.S. study abroad each year. The Simon Study Abroad Act and the foundation it creates strive to send

at least 1 million students to universities outside the U.S. annually thereby enhancing the global competitiveness and knowledge base of Americans. This can improve the U.S.'s image abroad and improve our ability to engage with all parts of the world.

This act is not a done deal yet. It will go now to the Senate for their vote. For me, the ability to raise the importance of study abroad to the level of government commitment is major and long overdue. Our country's lack of cultural knowledge hampers our ability to remain competitive in a global economy and causes us to lose our position as a global leader in the world. It's encouraging for me that our country's leaders realize that students who study abroad learning a second language and learning about other cultures advance our national interest as well as create our next generation of diplomats and international business people.

*Kerri Spiering
Director
International Programs*

Students earn scholarships to study abroad

Thanks to several scholarship programs, NDSU students are finding it easier than ever to study abroad.

Jacob Lavelle, a senior with a political science/international studies major, received a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Sana'a, Yemen.

The Critical Language Scholarships are part of the National Security Language Initiative, a coordinated federal effort designed to increase the number of Americans learning and teaching critical-need foreign languages.

Ashley Randall, a second-year clinical psychology master's student, received a Fulbright Fellowship for the 2007-08 academic year. The fellowship will allow her to study attachment styles and coping strategies in Switzerland at the Institute for Family Research and Counseling.



Ashley Randall

The Fulbright program offers grant opportunities for graduate study, research or teaching assistantships around the world.



Jacob Lavelle

Amanda Curwick, a junior studying nursing received a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship of \$5,000 for Spring 2007 to study at Monterrey Tec in Mexico.

The Gilman program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for undergraduate study abroad.

Sheila Anderson, a senior in child development, also won a Gilman grant, for \$3,000, to help fund a field experience in France in the fall.

Megan Winter, a senior theater arts student, earned the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals scholarship for a year of study in Germany starting in the fall.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program covers all but personal expenses for students to study in Germany and participate in an internship in their career field.

North Dakota cold inspires German artist

Most people avoid, some people tolerate, but rarely do people actually appreciate the cold of North Dakota winters. When German artist, Hedi Schwöbel, arrived in Fargo in January, she not only embraced the season's cold, she used it as the main medium for her art.

Schwöbel left the more mild temperatures of Ludwigsburg after being selected as the first recipient of NDSU's four-month James Rosenquist Artist Residency Program.

According to Kimble Bromley, associate professor and coordinator for the visual arts department, Schwöbel outshined the nearly 30 worldwide applicants for a couple reasons.

"Primarily we made the decision based on the strength of her work," he said. "Secondly, we felt what she does is something we don't do here; none of us are installation artists. We felt this would compliment what we do."

Schwöbel's site-specific installations are inspired by her perception of the times and the society in which she lives. Ephemeral quality, fragility and the aspect of time are important issues in her work. As a result, she uses delicate materials such as handmade paper, translucent paper, silicone, gelatin or aluminum foil.

"One of the strong points of her work is how she can see things that are indigenous to a place and make that part of her work," Bromley said.

Immediately after her arrival, Schwöbel began experimenting in the frigid temperatures. When most seasoned North Dakotans scampered indoors, Schwöbel remained outside, bundled from head to toe in layers of sweaters and scarves while spraying water on different fabrics and foil. "I knew I wanted to do something with shelter, something to do with warmth and home," Schwöbel said. She eventually determined that batting (normally used inside blankets to create warmth) when frozen, provided the perfect material to make her shelter.

The result was a magnificent hurricane-shaped web.

"I've never had to work so quickly," she said. She started the piece Feb. 2, worked on it exactly two weeks and displayed it for three days before it started to collapse.

Her second piece titled, "Go West," not only related to the cold, but also to the 80-some trains that pass through Fargo daily.

"I was and still am fascinated by the freight trains which pass through Fargo, horns blowing day and night," she said.

"My concept was to ship a container on one of the coal freight trains to Santa Fe," she said. Only Schwöbel filled her container with something completely opposite of coal – ice. She created large ice drops by filling balloons with water and then burying them in the snow. "The white ice drops are only beautiful and merely meant to disappear in the course of the journey," Schwöbel said. "I liked the similarities between the processes of burning coal and melting ice. Although these processes are as much opposed as possible, there is, in both cases, nothing left in the end."



German artist Hedi Schwöbel's sculpture in place outside NDSU Downtown. Schwöbel created her piece with strips of cotton batting soaked in water and frozen together in layers.

Schwöbel intended for the container to be placed on an empty train-car so it would be visible from the outside while traveling. However, her idea was derailed by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway safety regulations.

The container was then placed on the north side of NDSU Downtown, between blaring trains and roaring cars. "Although not traveling now, the drama of the giant ice drops melting, resembling tears weeping, was itself like a journey which took place very unexpectedly," Schwöbel said.

Again, due to the weather, the project's lifespan was short; on display from March 7 until March 13 when the last ice drops melted.

Schwöbel thoroughly enjoyed her stay in North Dakota. She interacted with students, participated in classroom critiques, gave public lectures and even hosted a high school art day. But mainly, she focused on her work. "It really has been a gift of time being here. It gives me time to concentrate on my work without thinking about other work," she said.

"Having the James Rosenquist Residency Program has been a success in a number of ways," said Bromley, "success for NDSU and our students. They get to see how an artist outside of academia comes up with ideas and puts those ideas into motion. We really appreciate the support of Philip Boudjouk, Vice President for Research, Creative Activities and Technology Transfer, for making this happen for us."

Schwöbel returned home in May. However, she doesn't intend to stay there long. Not surprisingly an artist residency in Texas has caught her eye – time to conquer the other end of the thermometer.

Alumnus studies green tea's effects on obesity

Yung-hsi Kao was doing postdoctoral work at the University of Chicago when his adviser presented him with a life-changing question.

Kao had discussed studying the androgen receptor regulation of human prostate cancer with Shutsung Liao, his adviser at the U of C's Ben May Institute for Cancer Research. One day, Liao asked Kao if he would like to try a different research area. His mentor pointed out that little research had been done on the relationship between fat and cancer. Perhaps, Liao hypothesized, green-tea catechins (plant-based substances with powerful antioxidant properties) had an effect on obesity.

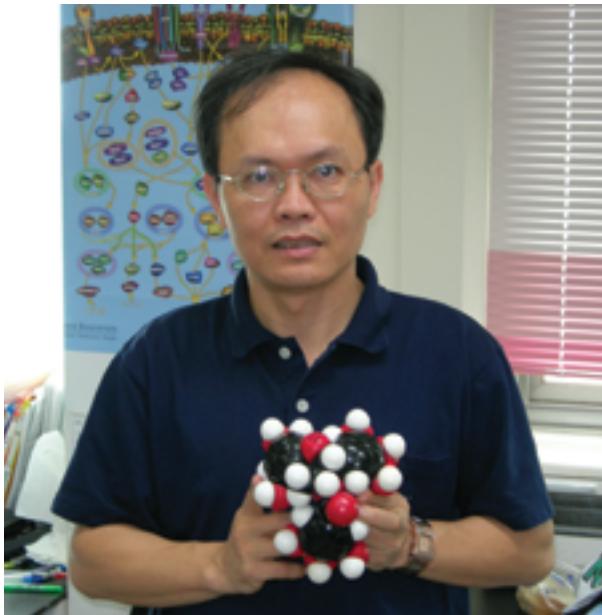
Kao was stunned by the research possibilities. "Then I asked myself, 'Why not?'" says Kao, a native of Taiwan.

As a result, Kao published one of the earlier papers on green tea's anti-obesity properties in a 2000 issue of *Endocrinology* journal. Many researchers have followed suit.

The achievement was one of many in the life of Kao, whose academic career included a stint at NDSU to earn a doctorate in zoology.

Kao came to NDSU in 1992 after reading about it in the "Peterson's Guide" to U.S. universities. He thought it would be the ideal place to "taste life" in a different culture. It also allowed him to enhance his background in biological sciences, which included a master's in biology from Tunghai University in Taiwan.

Kao never regretted his decision. Adviser Mark Sheridan's courses in endocrinology would later prove invaluable in Kao's tea-obesity studies. And research specialist Jeff Kittleson took Kao under his wing for activities like duck hunting, volleyball, ice fishing and – Kao admits – a little beer drinking.



Kao holds the structure model for green tea epigallocatechin gallate, the purification of green tea catechins.

In fact, Kao liked the U.S. lifestyle so much that he considered staying here. Ultimately, his family ties won out. "My mom wanted me to return to Taiwan," he says. "And with the expertise and advanced knowledge in biological sciences, I can now educate the next generation of Taiwanese."

Which is exactly what he's doing now. An associate professor of life science at National Central University, Kao's many duties include teaching up to 10 credits each semester, as well as advising a handful of graduate and undergraduate students every couple of years.

In October 2006, he was promoted to supervise all curriculums at the university, which has expanded his duties even further.

But Kao still makes time for his research. Besides his work on green tea regulation of fat cell function, he is examining the hormonal and nutritional regulation of resistin gene expression. (Resistin is a secretory factor that can link obesity to diabetes.)

And, every once in a while, he thinks of that far-away land where people entertained themselves by pulling fish out of a hole in the ice. "I will get back to the USA," he says, "particularly to see the 'flooding' and 'snowing' I missed."

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: ndsu.international@ndsu.edu

Please include the year(s) you graduated and your degree(s).

Hope to hear from you soon!

NDSU architecture graduate turns Aussie

Three-year trip Down Under became permanent move for heritage architect Ivar Nelsen

Until he graduated from NDSU in 1970 with a degree in architecture, Wayne “Ivar” Nelsen had never set foot outside the country. The first thing he did after graduating, however, was hop on a freighter and head to Australia. The Homewood, Ill., native planned to try the migration-friendly country for three years, and hasn’t looked back since.

“Graduating from NDSU in May 1970, many of us found ourselves facing the prospect of moving somewhere to work,” he said. “I guess I just moved a little farther than most.”

Australia had a good image with Americans, if not an entirely accurate one. All Nelsen knew was that it would be warmer than another Fargo winter. Now, after 37 years, Nelsen has become an indelible part of Australia’s history through his work in heritage architecture.

“Sydney in the early 1970s was an architect’s paradise,” Nelsen said.

His first foray into the business yielded 13 interviews and 12 job offers. He worked for various architectural firms until he became principal heritage architect with the government’s Australian Construction Services. He helped design, maintain and renovate buildings owned by the Commonwealth government, including military, postal, customs and navigation facilities for 11 years.

Nelsen then moved on to become manager of historic places for the Department of Sustainability and Environment in the State of Victoria. It was here he began to redefine the role of historic places management to include regeneration of buildings to new, non-museum functions. With at least 6,000 historic sites on public land in Victoria, restoring all of them as museums was unrealistic.



Among the buildings Wayne “Ivar” Nelsen has restored is 4 Treasury Place in Melbourne, Australia. The first building built by the fledgling Commonwealth in 1906 is now used as offices for visiting government ministers and as a media center.

“It’s an ongoing process, and we started with more obvious ‘community’ uses and gradually introduced more contentious ‘commercial’ uses,” he said. “These places had to start looking after themselves by generating revenue.”

Nelsen’s endeavors have been noticed. In 1996, he received an Australia Day Medal for his work at Old Parliament House in Canberra, where he helped conserve and adapt the Commonwealth’s first parliament building for interpretive, gallery, office and conference uses.

The cultural experiences of 37 years in Australia also have been wide-ranging. In his first job alone, he worked with architects from six different nations. He earned a master’s degree in historical archaeology from the University of Sydney in 1978, and oddly enough, he even earned qualifications in cocktails and mixed drinks from East Sydney Technical College. He also took up skydiving, where he met his wife, Julie.

“I enjoy the fact that personally and professionally in Australia, it’s more about what you can do rather than who you are or where you were born,” he said. “I also enjoy that what I have here is of my own making. I matured as a person here, started my career here, got married here and had my family here. Australia is home.”

Nelsen left government life and now has an architectural consultancy in Melbourne. The new position allows him to “be more controversial in effecting change,” particularly in pursuing creative design solutions and innovative uses to achieve the conservation of historic buildings and sites.

“I strongly feel now that the greatest challenge for heritage conservation is not re-creating the past – it’s the ability of the old to accept physical and functional change as a part of conservation. Creative change is not a threat to conservation,” he said.

Nelson would love to hear from other NDSU graduates, and can be reached at inelsen@bigpond.net.au.

Going to Australia? Here’s a list of some of the historic places Ivar Nelsen has helped conserve:

- Anglesea Barracks in Hobart (1811)
- Victoria Barracks in Melbourne (1855-1943)
- Lighthouses at Gabo Island, Point Hicks and Kangaroo Island
- Hill End Historic Site west of Sydney (1872)
- Old Parliament House in Canberra (1927-1988)
- 4 Treasury Place in Melbourne (1906)
- State Coal Mine in Wonthaggi (1909)
- Casselden Place in Melbourne (1850-1950)
- St. Stephen’s Chapel in Brisbane (1876)
- Quarantine Station at Point Nepean (1858-1914)
- Court House at Bright (1876)

NDSU educators take advantage of Fulbright opportunities to research around world

Since 1946, the Fulbright Program has been promoting cross-cultural understanding in higher learning by sending scholars around the world. Four NDSU educators earned prestigious Fulbright Program scholarships this year. The scholarships took them to India, South Korea and Germany.

Bastow-Shoop explores India's retail and fabrics

Holly E. Bastow-Shoop wants her students to understand what's going on in the world. The professor and head of the Department of Apparel, Design, Facility and Hospitality Management knows that in a saturated retail market like the United States, international expansion is the next logical step for retailers.

To help students learn how such markets work, Bastow-Shoop traveled to India through the Fulbright-Hayes Group Project from Dec. 26 through Jan. 27.

"A retailer cannot develop in a country without knowing the culture, history, economics and political environment among other things in that country," she said.

Bastow-Shoop explored a retail market vastly different than the United States. As much as 95 percent of all retail sales are made in 6-by-6-foot kiosks. Intricate handwork and jewelry are done locally, and the country is starting to find global markets for the products produced.

Bastow-Shoop will use the research to develop a unit on retail expansion in India for her global retailing course in the fall and to look for further Indian connections for students and faculty. Such connections may lead to future study tours or research opportunities for faculty.

Rusaw chosen as specialist

Carol Rusaw, associate professor in education, has been accepted as a Fulbright senior specialist, working with universities requesting assistance in educational projects. That means she's on the roster, but has not been tapped yet for a specific assignment. Assignments are generally from two to eight weeks at a participating university overseas. Rusaw hopes to share her expertise in the areas of human rights



Holly E. Bastow-Shoop, traveled to India to research retail practices.

or empowerment education for adults. Rusaw, who retired from NDSU in May, lives in Manassas, Va.

Koo researches U.S./Korean trade

Won W. Koo, professor of agribusiness and applied economics, spent August through December 2006 at Korea University in Seoul, South Korea, as a Fulbright Scholar.

Koo taught two courses of international trade and economic statistics and econometrics. He conducted research on the U.S. and Korean free trade negotiations and the impact of Asian economic growth on U.S. trade with Asian countries. Koo also gave lectures at several other universities in Korea.



Won W. Koo

Koo says that serving as a Fulbright scholar was one of the most rewarding experiences he has had in his academic career. He feels that his experience in Korea will enhance his economic research of U.S. trade with this country.

Geologist studies rare metal

A Fulbright senior scholarship will allow geologist Bernhardt Saini-Eidukat to study the occurrence of a rare and valuable metal known as germanium.



Saini-Eidukat studies germanium, an essential element in many new electronic devices.

Saini-Eidukat, associate professor of geology, spent spring semester in Germany as part of the Fulbright program.

He was based at Germany's Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hannover. He also lectured at the University of Hannover on the geology of metal deposits.



Carol Rusaw

Saini-Eidukat devoted his studies to germanium, an essential element in many new solid-state electronic and optical devices, including high-performance solar panels and computer chips. "All ore deposits require a source for the metal, and a process to concentrate it in the earth," said Saini-Eidukat, who also is investigating the ore genesis of a germanium deposit in the Tres Marias mine in Chihuahua, Mexico.

His goal is to understand the processes that concentrated this ore, which could help geologists develop better exploration tools for this valuable element.

Muskie recipients graduate and return home

Two recipients of the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program earned master's degrees from the Department of Natural Resources Management this year.

Nurlan Aldassugurov, who specializes in physical and earth science, is originally from Kazakhstan.

Artem Abdukakharov, who specializes in entomology, is a native of Uzbekistan.

Aldassugurov first got interested in natural resource sciences while working at a Chevron overseas operation, where he monitored groundwater and soil. He became increasingly aware of his limited knowledge in certain aspects of the job. A friend encouraged him to apply for a Muskie scholarship.

"I was afraid of my English," he said. "When I got here, the Office of International Programs was very helpful. I want to say that if any international students want to go to an American university and they fear something, it's not a problem. There is always someone to help you out."

Abdukakharov read about the Muskie program in the newspaper. He believed it would be ideal for him, as he'd always wanted to study abroad.

Abdukakharov also saw the program as a way to enhance his abilities as a scientist and educator. "It's a difficult situation in my country," he said. "Science is not well developed right now. It requires money and resources, so it's quite a big problem."

When Aldassugurov heard he would be placed at NDSU, his first question to his American boss was, "Where is Fargo?" He soon found out. Before moving to NDSU, he spent some time in Philadelphia, New York and Washington, D.C., so the relatively small size of Fargo initially disheartened him.

"I later realized that Fargo is so nice and safe," he said. "We don't even close our door."

Abdukakharov also has positive feelings about NDSU and the surrounding region. He didn't even mind the cold weather.



Aldassugurov

His native country is warmer, but there aren't always adequate resources to heat university dorm rooms in the winter. "Here it's so well-organized," he said. "The temperature indoors is well regulated."

While at NDSU, Aldassugurov participated in the Natural Resources Club, Toastmasters and some international events. The

biggest cultural difference he noticed was the importance of volunteerism. When he volunteered for the North Dakota Envirothon, a high school event where kids compete in environmental-based events, he saw many local environmental leaders participating.

"I never saw that in my country," he said. "People are so busy and have to work."

Abdukakharov liked the camaraderie he experienced in the Department of Entomology. He also appreciated the mentorship of his adviser, Stephen Foster, associate professor of entomology. "He is more than just an instructor," Abdukakharov said. "He is a life teacher."

Both students plan to return eventually to their home countries. Aldassugurov would like to work at Chevron in Kazakhstan. Down the road, he sees himself teaching at a university. Abdukakharov has been accepted as a doctoral student at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. Some day, he said, he would like to "make science (education) better back home."

The U.S. Congress established the Muskie program in 1992 to encourage economic and democratic growth in former Soviet countries. Six Muskie recipients attended NDSU this year to pursue education in journalism and mass communication, environmental management and business.

The Muskie fellowship provides opportunities for graduate students and professionals from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan for study in the United States.

Knier becomes NDSU's first study abroad student at partner university in Milan, Italy

Alexandra Knier felt like she was revisiting all the developmental milestones of childhood. She had to learn to speak again, how to make friends, even how to walk.

Indeed, studying abroad required exponentially broader adjustments than the 22-year-old had anticipated.

In August 2006 Knier became the first NDSU student to study in Milan, Italy, as part of the new partnership formed with Sacro Cuore University in 2005.

Fueled only with excitement, the Fargo native didn't experience the normal pre-trip jitters as she embarked on her year-long journey and first-ever trip overseas. But when she arrived in Milan, the largest city in Northern Italy with a population of more than 1.3 million, the culture shock wave almost knocked her over.

"I had nine months' worth of luggage strapped to my back and a Post-it note with an address chicken-scratched on it. I was exhausted from 15 hours of airplane travel and the only thing on my mind was that I needed to get to the international relations office before they closed for the day at noon. There were no street signs. I didn't even know how to ask for help," Knier said.

After navigating her way to Sacro Cuore University, obstacle number two was finding a place to live. Under the advisement of the university, she waited until her arrival to arrange living accommodations. However, Knier strongly suggests that future study abroad students don't do the same.

For the first week she went from hostel to hostel, while the campus coordinators tried to find a place for her to live. "I definitely think you should arrange where to live before going over. I ended up spending more money and having more anxiety than was necessary," Knier said. After living in a convent for a month, she was finally placed in a dormitory on campus – a melting pot of students from all over the world.

Finally with the logistical hiccups behind her, Knier was free to focus on other things like her peers, the language and culture. But even those came with hidden challenges.

"I had to learn how to make friends all over again. It felt like going through a teenage period, wrapped up in a few months. I had forgotten what it is like to make friends," she said. "I also had to learn how to talk, it almost felt like being a baby. Even knowing how to walk in the city is different. I learned to be assertive and watch my back. It's not like in Fargo, where if you leave your purse on the bench at Dairy Queen, someone returns it to you."



Alexandra Knier, right, spent a year at Sacro Cuore University, NDSU's partner university in Milan, Italy.

Learning the language was the most time intensive. For the first three weeks, she spent eight hours a day attending a language course. But mostly she learned the language simply by being around it. "I can understand it and read elementary books," Knier said. By her second semester she was able to take an entire art history course taught in Italian.

It took around three to four months for Knier to really hit her stride. She started to make friends. In fact, she already is planning a trip to Japan to visit two of them.

For Knier, the experience was more about self-discovery and pushing personal boundaries than anything else. "Whatever I did or didn't do, I was still satisfied because just being over there is noble. Even when I couldn't see progress, I was content just knowing that each day was one more tick in the tally of time away from home. There's something in that," she said.

The only thing Knier would do differently, as funny as it sounds, is worry a little more ahead of time. "I didn't build up enough anticipatory anxiety. It helps to think about what could go wrong so when it does, you've already overcome part of the anxiety. I didn't do that at all so everything was that much more extreme and intense," she said.

Knier returned to Fargo in June. She plans to transfer to Minnesota State University Moorhead in the fall and will graduate in December 2008 with a degree in art education.

For more on Sacro Cuore University and other exchange programs offered by NDSU: www.ndsu.edu/International/studyabroad/exchange_programs.shtml.

Globe-trotters represent NDSU around the world

NDSU faculty research Canadian cattle for feasibility study

Five NDSU educators traveled to Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada, in November to tour cattle operations.

Team members included Scott Pryor, assistant professor of agriculture and biosystems engineering; Wally Eide, former executive director of the North Dakota Agricultural Innovation Center; Greg Lardy, professor of animal and range sciences; Ron Wiederholt, NDSU Extension specialist; and Eric DeVuyst, associate professor of agribusiness and applied economics.

The information they gathered will be applied to a feasibility study for a North Dakota group interested in integrating an ethanol facility with a feedlot and using the cattle manure to generate methane as a source of biofuel.

Danbom, Strom present at historical conference in England

David Danbom, professor of history, delivered the opening keynote address at the International Conference of the Inter War Rural History Research Group, held in London. He focused on the major forces shaping American agriculture and rural life between the world wars.

Claire Strom, associate professor of history, spoke at the closing plenary and discussed the broad international issues raised by the conference and future directions of research.

English Department proposes new program with Korean university

The English Department is working with Catholic University in Daegu, Korea, to propose a 1+1 master's program in English. If approved, Korean students would be able to study one year in Korea and one

year at NDSU for a master's degree at both institutions. The proposal has been forwarded to the Graduate Council.

Guest artist visits NDSU



The Division of Fine Arts welcomed resident guest artist of theatre Kottakkal Sasidaran Nair for the fall semester. The actor and dancer from India prepared students to participate in the fifth-century Sanskrit play, "The Recognition of the Sakuntala."

NCI continues to conduct educational and technical programs

The NDSU Northern Crops Institute staff taught 169 short-course participants, hosted 18 international trade teams and consulted with several international companies in 2006. Guests came from 33 countries.

Briefly ...



Dale Sullivan, professor and head of English, taught at Maastricht Center for Trans-Atlantic Studies in April 2006 and reviewed the professional writing program at York University, Toronto, Canada. He is serving on a search committee to fill a position in the rhetoric of science for Aarhus University, Denmark.

Yan Qiu of China was the visiting international scholar in English.



Linda Helstern, assistant professor of English, has been accepted to teach a class at Maastricht Center for Trans-Atlantic Studies next March.

R.S. Krishnan, professor of English, was an invited external examiner for a doctoral dissertation at the University of Madras in India.

Amy Rupiper Taggart, assistant professor of English, will present her paper, "Teaching Problem Solving Through Community-Based Writing," at the China-U.S. Conference on Literacy in Beijing in July.



Ross F. Collins, associate professor of communication, presented a paper at an international conference in the summer of 2006 in Brighton, England.

Ineke Justitz, associate professor of history, performed research in Naumburg and Chemnitz, Germany, in the summer of 2006.



Jeffrey Clark, professor of sociology and anthropology, attended joint international conferences on cultural heritage and information technology in Nicosia, Cyprus, in November. While there, he went to archaeological sites to collect information for teaching.

He also went to England to collect archaeological information in November. In April he presented a paper, chaired a symposium and participated in the organization's governance of the Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology conference in Berlin, Germany. While there, he visited archaeological sites.

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Globetrotters (continued)

Heather Gill-Robinson, assistant professor of anthropology, attended several international conferences in the last year. She co-chaired a session and presented a paper at the Sixth

World Congress on Mummy Studies in Tegusise, Lanzarote, Canary Islands. Gill-Robinson attended a symposium on the Value of Archaeological Remains in London. She also attended the Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology conference in Berlin.

She studied bogs at the Archaeologisches Landesmuseum Schloss Gottorf in Schleswig, Germany, this summer.

Dante Battocchi, research associate in coatings and polymeric materials, in conjunction with **Gordon Bierwagen**, professor of coatings and polymeric materials, presented a paper titled "Mg-rich Primer for Totally Chromate Free Protection Systems on Aluminum Alloys" at the Nurnberg Coatings Congress in Nuremberg, Germany, in May.



Carol Rusaw, associate professor of education, taught a course in transnational leadership at the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies at Teikyo University, Holland, in February.

Bert Moore, professor of animal and range sciences, represented NDSU, the American Shorthorn Association and the Katahdin Hair Sheep International at the Canadian Western Agribition held in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, last November.



Charles Okigbo, professor of communication, delivered a lecture on "American Guide to Funding Support for Nigerian Higher Education" to the faculty, staff and students of Ahmandu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, in March. This summer, Okigbo will make further presentations on the theme of funding sources for higher education in four other Nigerian universities.



Lawrence Reynolds, professor of animal and range sciences, spent five weeks in Italy to conduct collaborative research with a team of embryologists from the University

of Teramo. They are researching why pregnancies fail at a relatively high rate in embryos created in vitro when using assisted reproductive technologies. The collaboration also involved **Anna Grazul-Bilska**, associate professor of animal and range sciences.



Judy Pearson, professor of communication, traveled to Nigeria in November 2006 for the African Women's Health Initiative. She went to Australia for the World Communication Association Meeting in July.

Asian alumni invited to help recruit

NDSU has been participating in recruitment trips to Asia for the past few years and will again take part in the American Educational Opportunities Tour of Asia. Lisa Hauck, associate director in the Office of International Programs, will represent NDSU on the fall 2007 tour at the following fair sites: Singapore, Sept. 22-24; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sept. 24-27; Bangkok, Thailand, Sept. 27-30.

Prospective students and their parents are always interested in meeting people who have first-hand knowledge of NDSU and the Fargo-Moorhead community. Therefore, any NDSU alumni who live in or near the fair site locations are welcome to join Hauck at the recruitment 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.