

NDSU GLOBAL LINK

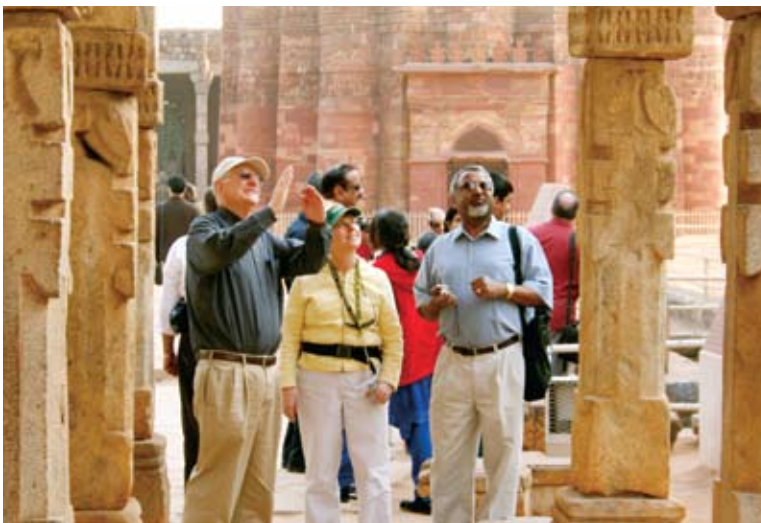
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NDSU's international efforts in full swing

A world of opportunity is waiting. And North Dakota State University is accepting the challenge.

President Joseph A. Chapman is leading the way, making international programs an institutional priority. He personally is spreading the word about NDSU, recently traveling to countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Korea and Uganda in search of new agreements and partners.

As the president sees it, a thriving international program is vital as NDSU prepares students for today's worldwide economy. A global perspective gives NDSU students a better chance for success, and international collaborations open the door for business and research partnerships.



President Joseph A. Chapman, his wife, Gale, and vice president for student affairs, Prakash Mathew toured the Qutb Minar complex in the south part of Delhi, India, during a trip to strengthen NDSU ties with overseas universities.

“Our international reputation is growing,” Chapman said during his 2007 State of the University Address. “Twinning agreements with international universities present exciting opportunities for the future, both for international scholars to come here and for American students to obtain an international experience.”

In 2006, there were 679 international students on campus. By spring 2008, that figure increased to more than 820. President Chapman has set an institutional goal of attracting 2,000 international students.

“Having the president championing international programs shows the entire university how important international collaboration is. It gets everyone across campus excited,” said Kerri Spiering, director of international programs. “Our international program is growing, growing, growing. There is a lot of momentum and excitement.

“Right now, about 6 percent of our enrollment is international students, which is similar to or above many other universities of similar size. I think many people are surprised about how many international students we have at NDSU,” Spiering said. “We’re also excited about the emphasis on a two-way program, with our students receiving an international experience.”

More opportunities lie ahead.

In December, Chapman led an NDSU delegation to India and Sri Lanka to strengthen current relationships and build for the future. NDSU had 316 students from India and 50 from Sri Lanka during fall 2007 semester, but the president wants to attract 500 students from the two nations.

A major visit was to the Ansal Institute of Technology, Gurgaon, India, which has a twinning agreement with NDSU allowing students to study two years at each school and earn a degree from

NDSU. The delegation of Chapman; Mrs. Chapman; Prakash Mathew, vice president for student affairs; and David Wittrock, dean of the graduate school, met with students who plan to come to NDSU or have a strong interest in attending NDSU.

NDSU officials also had discussions with students at the International Institute of Information Technology (I2IT) in Pune, India, who were interested in pursuing graduate degrees at NDSU. Other important stops on the trip included the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, and the American College of Higher Education, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka.

“It was a very successful trip,” said Chapman upon his return. “The opportunities for the state and the institution are extraordinary.”

Shortly afterward, it was off to South Korea. President and Mrs. Chapman visited the country April 22 to May 2, accompanied by Phil Boudjouk, vice president for research, creative activities and technology transfer; Wittrock; Spiering and Lisa Hauck, associate director of international programs; and Won Koo, professor of agribusiness and applied economics and director of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies.

The busy trip included stops at eight institutions across the country. According to Spiering, NDSU already has collaborative accords with some of the schools, and the delegation signed new agreements with Kyonggi University, Chungnam National University and Cheju National University, as well as a dual master’s degree in the area of economics with Chung Ang University.

Spiering notes that discussions are under way for faculty exchanges with the Korean universities, which could run from a few weeks to a semester. “For example, an NDSU faculty member could take a group of students to Korea for a three-week course. They could then branch out from the campus to take cultural trips,” Spiering said. “Even though they wouldn’t be there for an entire semester, they would still be exposed to another culture.”

She said such exchanges allow faculty members to develop contacts in other countries, increasing opportunities for collaborative research projects.

The potential is enormous.

Currently, about 40 Korean students from three universities come to NDSU each year. “There is lots of room to grow,” Spiering said. “Of all the countries, South Korea sends the third largest number of students to the U.S.”

President Chapman also traveled to Uganda in June to meet with leaders of Makerere University, Kampala. The past two summers, students from NDSU’s veterinary and microbiological sciences department conducted research with the university’s Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine. That has opened the door to many possibilities.

“We are talking about a true partnership,” explained Spiering, who accompanied Chapman on the Uganda trip. She said the schools are discussing a joint major in infectious diseases, in addition to faculty exchanges.

“They are anxious to learn from NDSU’s collaboration model for our highly successful Research and Technology Park. They want to open up to trade partners. They also want to learn from our Extension model,” Spiering said. “There are similarities between Uganda and North Dakota in that they are both agriculture based. There is the potential for research collaborations on different crops.”

Meantime, many other international efforts are under way. Gary Smith, dean of engineering and architecture, and Dan Ewert, professor and chair

of electrical and computer engineering, traveled to China in March. With visits in such cities as Beijing and Nanjing, they were exploring opportunities at four or five universities. “It sounds like there are lots of possibilities there, especially in engineering,” Spiering explained. “We expect agreements to come from those visits.”



NDSU President Joseph A. Chapman signed several agreements with overseas universities during a tour of India and Sri Lanka, including the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka (above).

Tae-il Lee, president of Kyonggi University, South Korea, and Chapman tour Suwon, South Korea. Chapman signed a new agreement with Kyonggi University during the visit (below).



South Korea alumni event labeled 'a success'

It was an amazing evening, an outstanding event.

A group of about 20 NDSU alumni gathered April 26 at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul, South Korea, for an unforgettable gathering with President Joseph A. Chapman.

An active group of NDSU alumni in South Korea meets once or twice each year, but this was the first time university administrators participated.

Accompanying President Chapman were his wife, Gale; Philip Boudjouk, vice president for research, creative activities and technology transfer; David Wittrock, dean of the graduate school; Kerri Spiering and Lisa Hauck from the Office of International Programs; and Won Koo, professor of agribusiness and applied economics and director of the Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies.

"We really have a strong alumni presence in Korea. There were people there who graduated back in the 1970s up to those



NDSU alumni in South Korea gathered in Seoul for an evening with President Joseph A. Chapman and other university representatives.

who graduated a couple of years ago," said Spiering, director of international programs.

During the dinner and reception, President Chapman gave a presentation on NDSU's enrollment growth, increased research

activities and its commitment to international programs. In addition, each former student told the group when they graduated and their current positions.

"Our alumni in South Korea clearly take pride in NDSU," Spiering said. "There were a lot of conversations among people — it was a very nice time."

Officers for the alumni group are president Byung-Hee Han of the Department of Chemistry at Chung-Nam University, (bhhhan@cnu.ac.kr) and secretary Sang Moon of Dong-Eui University's Department of Distribution Management (symoon@deu.ac.kr).

Spiering gets excited thinking about the potential for the growing number of international exchange agreements. She is quick to note that currently 79 countries are represented among NDSU's international student population.

NDSU's most recent exchange agreement is with Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta, North Cyprus. The university is the oldest and largest university in Cyprus, welcoming close to 14,000 students from 65 different countries. Programs of study at EMU are similar to programs at NDSU including architecture, business administration, chemistry, communication, engineering, mathematics, and tourism and hospitality management. Similar to other exchange agreements, the arrangement allows undergraduate students to pay tuition and fees to NDSU and costs of living and books at the host institution.

Additionally, a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) through the U.S. Department of Education will provide for opportunities in Brazil. The four-school

arrangement is with Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Mich., and the Brazilian institutions of Universidade Federal do Pará, Belem, and Universidade Estadual de Campinas.

"The purpose of the grant is to have mobilization between Brazil and the United States. Their students will come here and our students will go there. The grant provides scholarship money to do the exchange," Spiering said.

NDSU has additional bilateral student exchange agreements with institutions in Australia, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. There also are memorandums of understanding with other countries such as Belize, China, Malaysia and Thailand.

For more information about opportunities here and abroad, contact the Office of International Programs, at (701) 231-7895.

Dear alumni and friends,

Where has the time gone? That's what went through my mind when I realized some of the milestones that various International Programs activities had reached this past year. The Tri-College Welcome Picnic has been held every year for more than 20 years. And the Speakers' Fair celebrated its 20th anniversary this year as well. Wow! I was not here for either event's beginning, but I have seen them change over time. The Tri-College Welcome Picnic is now held at the Hjemkomst Heritage Center in Moorhead, Minn., and is a dinner rather than a picnic. Speakers Fair which originally took place in the Fargo schools during a two-day period has evolved into a week-long event reaching out to some of the more rural communities in the Cass County area.

Did you participate in either of these events? Do you have any memories of them that you would like to share? I was fortunate to be at the alumni event in Korea and hear some of the stories these former students told. I would love to hear more and create a site on our Web page devoted to alums' stories of their time at NDSU. You can send your NDSU stories to me at kerri.spiering@ndsu.edu or to our general e-mail address at ndsu.international@ndsu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kerri Spiering
Director
International Programs



Pauls flies high in Singapore

Born in Canada, Jeff Pauls was raised in Papua New Guinea, came to NDSU to major in aeronautics manufacturing engineering technology and now lives in Singapore. It's safe to say borders are not a problem for him.

The 1997 graduate came to NDSU specifically for the engineering degree and the opportunity to earn a Federal Aviation Administration airframe and powerplant license.

"I think it is a specific kind of person who wants to get greasy with engines during the day and study statics and dynamics or calculus during the evening," he said.



Jeff and Dawn Pauls now live in Singapore with their two sons. He works for Northwest Airlines.

While Jeff took classes, his wife, Dawn, who also grew up in Papua New Guinea, worked with the refugee community in Fargo through Fargo Cass Public Health. They both were involved with the International Student Association, and even donated a car to be used as a homecoming float.

"We often hosted the group at our home for barbecues, movies and parties," Jeff said. The couple took a large group to Dawn's parents' cabin in northern Minnesota one winter, "which gave some international students their first opportunity to walk on a frozen lake."

After graduating, Jeff started working with Northwest Airlines, only pausing for nine months to begin work on a master's degree at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn. He finished the degree while still working for NWA on nights and weekends. In October 2006, Jeff, Dawn and their two boys moved to Singapore, where Jeff is a base maintenance site manager for NWA. He manages wide body aircraft maintenance. Dawn still consults non-profit organizations – most recently with World Vision International Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs.

"I really enjoy the international exposure," Jeff said. "Singapore, while small, is a vibrant meeting place for many international organizations. This brings a broad variety of cultural, religious and culinary experiences."

He still counts his involvement with the International Student Association as one of his most valuable experiences at NDSU.

"These relationships helped me keep an open perspective and remind me of the need for tolerance and adaptability," he said. "These skills have been a key component in maintaining and cultivating strong international relationships in my current role with NWA."

New opportunities lead NDSU student body vice president to success

Pramita Sen is full of ambition and enthusiasm. She has a strong and caring personality. Constantly on the lookout for new opportunities, her main objective is to achieve success.

A junior majoring in business administration at North Dakota State University, Sen was recently elected to serve as student body vice president for 2008-09. Born and raised in Calcutta, now Kolkata, India, she is NDSU's first international student body vice president.

Sen applied to be a student senator after her first year at NDSU. She was not selected, but Joe Heilman, a non-voting member who presided over the student senator selection committee, saw her potential and told her not to be discouraged. He suggested that she become a public relations commissioner, and she took his advice.

Half a year later, Heilman decided to run for student body president. He asked Sen to be his running mate. The pair was elected to lead NDSU on April 9. As vice president, Sen will preside over Student Government.

Having an excellent working relationship with Heilman, Sen says that not all of their visions are the same, but they are similar. The two always come to an agreement because the most important task is to help and serve the students at NDSU.

During their term, Heilman and Sen will address student life issues of security, transportation and campus improvement. They plan to address academic issues of class improvement and better advising. They also hope to improve the approachability of Student Government by working on reaching out to student organizations.

Before coming to the United States, Sen spent a semester studying computer application at a technology college in India. She looked into attending college in both the United Kingdom and the United States. Because more scholarships were available to international undergraduates in the United States, specifically North Dakota, her decision was easy. She was accepted by Dickinson State University (DSU) for the 2005 spring semester.



Junior Pramita Sen is NDSU's first international student body vice president.

"It was an amazing experience with ups and downs. I had never seen snow before! My route was Calcutta to Heathrow, London to Denver. I knew it would be cold, so I put on every coat and sweater I had. When I got to Denver, it was freezing cold. Worst of all, it was snowing so bad, they couldn't bring the plane to the boarding gate. I thought that I was going to skid all the way. But my initial reaction was 'Snow! I love this. It is white everywhere!'"

Motivation to be a student leader comes from Sen's personal initiative as well as peers, teachers and mentors. Her leadership skills really began to flourish while she attended DSU. She was the public relations officer of the International Student Association, chairperson of the Student Publication Board, a DSU ambassador and a College of Business ambassador. A Theodore Roosevelt Scholar, she also was chosen as one of five international students to work as an intern for the North Dakota Trade Office.

She transferred to NDSU for the 2006 fall semester. After graduating from NDSU, Sen plans to attend graduate school. "I like the Midwest area because business schools are awesome up here," Sen said. "My dream job is to get involved in public relations for an aviation company. It is very corporate and I love the corporate feel."

So far, Sen's favorite part about America is people appreciating other people. "The best part of the American culture is people being so open. I really believe America is a melting pot. If you look at our campus, it is just amazing. In true sense, diversity is what you see here, every part of the world coming together."

This summer, she is fulfilling her vice president responsibilities by speaking at orientations for new students at NDSU and she also works at the NDSU Bookstore.

Students participate in 20th annual International Speakers' Fair

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the International Speakers' Fair. During spring break in March, 107 international students from NDSU visited classrooms in seven area schools to talk about their home countries.

Samudra Kugel, international student advisor and programming specialist, organized the event. She described the experience as taking a trip around the world without having to leave the classroom.

"We take local students to more than one country," she said. "It's also an opportunity for NDSU international students to have an experience in a local school."

The program began when the Office of International Student Affairs, as it was called back then, received a cooperative grant from NAFSA: Association of International Educators called Starting from Scratch: Developing International Resources in the Community. The grant allowed for the hiring of a community development coordinator and for the initiation of community contact programs. One of those was the Speakers' Fair program, then called the International Speakers' Bureau.

The program originally was held during university holidays and quarter breaks when NDSU international students were free from classes, but local elementary and secondary schools were still in session. Passports were created for the young students, who would "travel" every 30 minutes to a different country. In the past, the fair was held for two days in Fargo schools only. Now the program is spread over five days and speakers travel to schools around the Fargo-Moorhead region.

This year, a goal was to reach out to schools outside the Fargo community, and they did just that. International students spoke at Kindred (N.D.) Elementary School; Northern Cass School in Hunter, N.D.; Valley City (N.D.) High School; Mapleton (N.D.) Elementary School; and St. Joseph Elementary School, Moorhead, Minn.

"For the rural school, it's kind of a big deal for them," Kugel said, adding that schools outside of Fargo aren't often exposed to the varied cultures and customs that international students represent.

Susan Klabunde, a sixth grade teacher at Cheney Middle School, West Fargo, N.D., has had students visit her classroom for four years. She said her students learn some basic facts about various countries, but on a larger sense, learn how people are more similar than different.

"I think it is vital to all children to try and understand different cultures and what we can learn from them," she said.

The response was similar for Ron Zehren, elementary principal for Kindred Public Schools.



NDSU international students gave presentations to area middle school and elementary school students on places like Japan (above) and Nigeria (left).

"It was a tremendous experience for our students as well as the international students themselves," he said. "Feedback from the students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive."

For NDSU international students, it's the opportunity to share information about their home countries and perhaps dispel some myths along the way that largely drives them to participate.

Jana Zawadzki Perez, a junior zoology and pre-med major from Ecuador,

visited Kindred Elementary School. When she first came to North Dakota and told people she was from Ecuador, she would get many blank stares.

"I wanted to make people know more about where I am from," she said.

She showed the students different biological aspects of her country and related a lot of it to things the students have seen – such as the Latino Adelle penguins in the movie "Happy Feet."

Perez brought various costumes from different areas of Ecuador for the children to see, explained the differences in salsa and merengue dances, shared a bag of fried bananas as a treat and talked about different types of music found in South America.

Perez said she learned several things as well. She learned how to better approach children with information and how U.S. schools work in smaller towns.

Buddhi Feelixge, an electrical engineering sophomore from Sri Lanka, said she was proud to represent her country.

“Sri Lanka is a very beautiful country. It’s like a paradise,” she said. “I’m really proud of my culture.”

Her presentation focused on ceremonies in Sri Lanka, the ancient city of Sigiriya, costumes and the tsunami. With younger children, she would write names in Sinhalese.

The Speakers’ Fair helps students like Feelixge meet her cultural sharing scholarship requirements as well as gain an opportunity to learn about other countries when other international students presented.

Chukwuebuka Okoye, a freshman civil engineering major from Nigeria, visited a host of schools over the course of the event. He shared basic facts about his country – the president, land area, languages, currency, tribes, festivals, life in the city and life in the country. He tried to show that things between his

country and the United States are pretty similar.

He felt well equipped to break the information down for 16-year-old 10th grade students, since they are close in age.

Yassine Elhassani, a sophomore in chemistry from Morocco, did double duty as a driver and presenter for three days of the four-day-long fair.

Elhassani also worked to right misconceptions about his country by showing them pictures of modern cities and famous food dishes.

“If you want to learn about a country, go talk

to someone from the country. Don’t just wait to hear about it in the media,” he said.

The International Speakers’ Fair will continue to do just that – provide international students a chance to meet younger students and teach them about other countries.



A 1994 Speakers’ Fair participant talking about Kenya.

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

Hope to hear from you soon!

Secor travels world for potatoes

For years, professor of plant pathology Gary Secor has made it his mission to travel the world to fight potato diseases, train potato farmers and exchange potato varieties to improve crops in other countries and at home.

The main countries he travels to are China, Mexico, Guatemala and Chile. The major effort has been in Chile, where he works with the Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, a group similar to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Secor's interest in the country began because a graduate student – now his technician and translator – introduced him to Chilean people and scientists she knew.

From January to March this year, he worked at Remehue research station near Osorno, Chile's main potato production area. He's been to the country about 12 times for research and training presentations.

"It's 1,000 kilometers south of Santiago in the lakes and volcanoes and rivers part of Chile, so it's a real beautiful place to go," he said.

The main purpose of his work in Chile is to exchange research information and to work on seed potato health management for the country's 90,000 potato farmers. One of the centers of origin of the potato, incidentally, is on an island close to Remehue called Chiloe.

"We exchange varieties to improve potato varieties in both places and that's been extremely successful," Secor said. "Some of the late blight or disease management strategies we employ there have applicability here as well."

New agreements with the University of Concepción in Chile are opening pathways for student and faculty exchanges. This also will allow people working at the Remehue station to earn degrees without having to give up their jobs.

"It's a good deal because we can transfer some technology, get some graduate students for NDSU and get some exposure," Secor said.

But Chile isn't the only focus for Secor. China has been his destination four times in the past three years. He travels to inner Mongolia where potatoes are produced for Simplot, a large agricultural company that makes frozen french fries for

fast food restaurants. He treks to areas of the country where locals don't often see people with blue eyes and works on potato disease management.

"The Chinese are very bright and very eager to learn how to make things better, so they are eager to work with people and learn and improve things," he said. "It's a delightful place to be."

Secor was instrumental in building a laboratory in the area and training Chinese researchers on disease diagnosis and detection.



Professor of plant pathology Gary Secor often travels to China, Mexico, Guatemala and Chile to help fight potato diseases.

On the other side of the world, a new potato disease called zebra chip complex began showing up in Mexico, Guatemala and the southwestern United States in 1995. Secor has traveled to the area multiple times to actively research the source, cause and spread of the disease. Scientists are still working to figure out the cause, and think it may be insect transmitted.

Secor does find time for recreation in these countries, particularly sightseeing, going to rodeos and fishing for brown trout, rainbow trout and salmon.

"In all these places, you're always treated with extreme hospitality. People love showing you their country," he said. "I enjoy seeing those parts of the countries that most people never get to see because the tour buses don't go there and the roads are difficult."

Preskey becomes a world traveler

It's safe to say that Karen Preskey was bitten by the travel bug. During her time at NDSU, working her way toward bachelor's degrees in biotechnology and Spanish, she spent 10 months in Argentina at the Catholic University of Cordoba. Today, the 2007 graduate works as an HIV health volunteer for the Peace Corps in Ethiopia.

While at NDSU, Preskey knew she wanted to go to Latin America, but didn't know where. After applying for three different places, she was accepted at Cordoba in 2005.

"My biggest struggle was learning how to communicate," she said. "Though I studied Spanish for years, I quickly realized I didn't 'speak' Spanish. You don't know how important it is until you suddenly can't express yourself, your feelings and thoughts.

But it was a very rewarding struggle because my Spanish improved exponentially and a whole new world of thinking opened up to me."

Because she was on her own, Preskey quickly learned self-reliance, navigation in a foreign country, how to take risks and how to be



Karen Preskey's experiences studying abroad in South America and visiting places such as Machu Picchu (above) led to working as an HIV health volunteer for the Peace Corps in Ethiopia (right).



flexible. She traveled from the southern end of the continent in Tierra del Fuego where she saw penguins to the Bolivian Andes where flamingos fought a sudden snowstorm. She witnessed the bright colors and steep streets of La Paz, Bolivia, the calm of Lake Titicaca on the border of Bolivia and Peru, and the wonders of Cuzco and Machu Picchu in Peru.

After graduating, she joined the Peace Corps to continue the adventures – this time in Africa.

"I picked Africa because it seemed to me the quintessential Peace Corps experience," she said. "I loved Latin America and hope to return, but I wanted to experience something entirely new."

As an HIV health volunteer, she coordinates outreach and training for HIV prevention, care, support and treatment. She does this while fully immersed in Ethiopian culture – cooking with kerosene, shopping in open air markets and washing clothes by hand. She arrived in October 2007, and her two years of service will end in December 2009 with the option of extending for another year.

Preskey plans to go on to graduate school for biochemistry or microbiology. She hopes to do research on medicine or health issues in developing countries. Travel will continue to be in her future, but she hopes to settle down in the United States.

RECRUITMENT

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 2008 tour at the following fair sites: Manila, Philippines, Sept. 11-13; Hong Kong, Sept. 13-15; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sept. 15-18; Singapore, Sept. 18-20; Jakarta, Indonesia, Sept. 20-22; Penang, Malaysia, Sept. 22-25; Bangkok, Thailand, Sept. 25-28.

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 Lisa 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.

Three study abroad alumni experience working with U.S. senator

They studied at North Dakota State University. They studied in foreign lands. They share a common interest in government service. John Fetzer, Miranda Huseth and Nathaniel Lutovsky share the experience of working with United States Sen. Kent Conrad in Washington, D.C.

Fetzer, a native of Bemidji, Minn., began his career with Conrad as an intern in the Washington, D.C., office during the summer of 2006. The next year, he interned in the senator's Fargo office. After Fetzer graduated from NDSU in spring 2007, Conrad hired him to help constituents work with federal agencies from the Fargo office. In September, he moved back to Washington, D.C., to be a legislative correspondent.

Prior to earning a bachelor's degree in political science, Fetzer spent the spring 2005 semester at the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies in Maastricht, The Netherlands. The program had about 60 students from the United States, Mexico, Germany and Poland. Fetzer took classes that focused on the relationship of the United States and Europe as well as the European Union. He spent most weekends traveling to places like Paris, London, Athens, Rome, Venice, Prague and the Swiss Alps.

"Being immersed in a foreign culture is an invaluable experience. It led me to a better understanding of politics on an international stage. Also, just simple conversations with students from other parts of the world was eye-opening," he said. "I remember talking about U.S. immigration policy with students from Mexico, or the fall of communism with Polish students, and it really helped me learn about these issues from a human perspective rather than learning about them in a book."

Fetzer's primary responsibility is to help draft responses to constituent letters. "Sen. Conrad takes constituent letters very seriously and wants to respond effectively to every North Dakotan in a timely manner, so I have to be sure our office is responsive to each particular view," he said.

At the beginning of his career with the senator, Fetzer remembers feeling intimidated. "But I learned that he's actually very down to earth, still very North Dakotan. He knew who I was as an intern! I doubt many other senators know their interns by name, so I am glad he cares about his staff as much as he does," he said.

Huseth completed an internship with Conrad on May 20. Before her internship, she made the trek to England to study at Leeds Metropolitan University. "I really enjoyed the experience. I was really overwhelmed at first. But after I got used to everything, it was one of the greatest things that I have done," Huseth said.

She took general classes and made two lifelong friends while she was there. "There are so many things I gained from this experience. I learned how to be independent. And I experienced many different cultures and ways of life," she said.

While interning with the senator, Huseth gave tours of the Capitol building, edited and drafted constituent letters, answered constituent telephone calls, wrote reports on briefings and hearings and researched projects.

Gaining a better understanding of how the United States government works, Huseth learned that the senator is a very busy and intelligent man. "Constituents and North Dakota, itself, are very important to him and he tries to do everything he can that will benefit their future," she said.

Huseth earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with a minor in geography. She graduated last December and now works for a non-profit organization called World Learning.

Lutovsky completed an internship with Conrad in July and is interested in becoming a Foreign Service officer some day. When he was in eighth grade, he remembers seeing a story on CNN about a diplomat. At the time, he didn't know what a diplomat was, but he was intrigued.

Originally from Grafton, N.D., he studied abroad at the University of Salamanca, Spain, during the 2003-04 school year. While taking classes through a program called Cursos Internacionales, Lutovsky was able to improve his Spanish language skills and his understanding of Spanish politics.

Triple majoring in political science, Spanish and international studies, Lutovsky graduated from NDSU in 2006. He went on to the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., earning a master's degree in international affairs with a concentration in U.S. foreign policy.

During his internship, he was responsible for greeting visitors, answering telephone calls, conducting tours of the Capitol, assisting in preparing correspondence for mailing and filing documents. He also had the opportunity to help staff research issues and report on briefings or Congressional hearings.

"I worked with many fascinating and intelligent people. Many are experts in their respective fields. Feeling part of this team also makes the internship worthwhile," he said. "I highly recommend this internship to any NDSU student."

Currently, Lutovsky is studying for the Foreign Service officer exams. Because becoming a Foreign Service officer involves a series of tests, in the meantime, he is looking for a full-time job in one of the executive branch departments. He hopes to land a job within an office of international affairs, research or intelligence.

When entering their positions with the senator, each of these individuals was hoping to gain a better understanding of the legislative branch. Not only did they learn more about the way the government works, they walked away with experiences of a lifetime.

Globetrotters represent NDSU around the world

Writing classes team with translation universities

Students in English professor Bruce Maylath's advanced writing courses get experience working with students in Europe on writing projects. In fall 2007, students in the business and technical writing class were paired with students studying translation at University College Ghent in Belgium. In spring 2008, students in writing in the technical professions teamed with translations students at the University of Trieste, Italy. In both projects students wrote instructions for a U.S. audience, then reworked them to make them easier to translate. Through e-mail, the students learned how idiosyncrasies of writing style, culture and dialect affect text interpretation.

Martin explores student teaching abroad opportunities

Alison Martin, an English education major, student taught at Kodaikanal International School in Tamilnadu, South India, during the spring semester. Bill Martin, head of the School of Education, visited the school in March to explore the possibility of ongoing student teacher placements and immersive field experiences. He also is looking at exchange opportunities for students in Fargo area high schools.

Martin also is working with Kim Overton, field experience coordinator, to identify additional opportunities for teacher education students to pursue overseas student teaching and field experiences. Overton will be traveling to India next winter to gain familiarity with the setting and look for possibilities of arrangements in other countries.

History department hosts guest lecturers on Web

The history department is using Wimba technology to involve international presenters in NDSU classrooms. Wimba is a program that allows students and professors to attend class live from anywhere with an Internet connection. The two guest lecturers are Troy Whitford of Charles Sturt University, Australia, and Joanne Scott of the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia.

Film crew goes to Sudan

Kevin Brooks, associate professor of English, was part of a film crew that traveled to southern Sudan as part of the African Soul, American Heart project. ASAH is a group of volunteers who are making a documentary about Joseph Akol Makeer, a Sudanese refugee and NDSU criminal justice major who wants to build an orphanage in his home village of Duk Payuel. The



film should be ready by fall 2008. Pictured are Kevin Brooks and the rest of the crew wearing NDSU T-shirts. They met with a group of children from Joseph's village in Sudan while filming a documentary.

Faculty team-teaches course in Thailand

Tom DeSutter, assistant professor of soil science, taught the principles of soil science to students at the National Center of Excellence for Environmental and Hazardous Waste Management at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand during November 2007. DeSutter taught the second half of a four-week course titled "Environment and Watershed Management." The first two weeks were taught by G. Padmanabhan, professor of civil engineering. This collaborative course was designed to teach engineering, chemistry and environmental science students the importance of soil-water interactions and how these interactions impact the quality of both water and soil environments. NDSU has had an agreement of cooperation with Chulalongkorn University since 2006.

Plant sciences packs in international research

The Department of Plant Sciences has winter nurseries in Argentina, Chile, New Zealand and China. NDSU plant breeders have regular contact with researchers at the International Research Centers in Syria, Mexico and Colombia. They also work with the Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome. The department hosts 30 to 40 visitors a year from all over the world. The Center of Excellence works in canola breeding and has regular visitors from Canada. They also exchange germplasm – genetic resources for organisms – with most countries in Europe and South America and have contact with companies that grow their material in France, Russia and Germany.

Lifton guest speaker at conferences

Paul Lifton, associate professor of theatre arts, was a presenter at two conferences in India in January. The presentation for both conferences, titled "Abhijnanasakuntalam (The Recognition of Sakuntala) in the American Heartland," focused on the recent Little Country Theatre production of the classic Sanskrit play, "The Recognition of Sakuntala." The presentation addressed the topic of intercultural performance as well as pedagogy and the reception of a classic Asian text in a culturally non-Asian region of the United States. He spoke at the Asian Theatres and the Western Worlds conference at the Center for Performance Research at St. Thomas' College, Thrissur, India, where he chaired one session. He also presented at the International Conference of Indian Society for Theatre Research at the University of Bangalore in Karnataka, India.

Lifton was asked by an Indian theatre scholar to contribute an article about the 2006 production for publication in the inaugural issue of "Mukharagam," a research journal published by the Kerala Kalamandalam, an Indian school of performing arts.

Briefly ...

Ann Braaten, assistant professor of apparel, design and hospitality management, conducted an international study tour to London and Paris from May 27 to June 5.

Darshi De Saram, assistant professor of construction management and engineering, presented the paper “Construction Coordination Function – A Perspective Based on the ‘Stacey Diagram,’ ” at the Construction Management and Economics 25th Anniversary Conference in Reading, England.

Amy Rupiper Taggart, associate professor of English, presented a paper titled “Teaching Problem Solving through Community-Based Writing,” at the China-U.S. Literacy Conference in Beijing, China.

Tom Isern, professor of history, conducted research in New Zealand in March on Te Puoho’s raid on the south island and how historian Angus Ross of Otago used this subject to bolster the New Zealand national identity. The resulting paper, “Angus Ross, Afield: An Otago Identity Quest,” was presented to the New Zealand and Australian Studies Section (which he founded) of the Western Social Science Association in Denver.

Heather Gill-Robinson, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, presented a keynote speech for the Swiss Anthropological Association conference in Basel, Switzerland. She spent last summer researching identification and interpretation of Iron Age cremation urns and artifacts related to peat bog bodies at the Archaeologisches Landesmuseum Schloss Gottorf, Schleswig, Germany. A book proposal for “Mummy Studies: An Evidence-Based Approach” was accepted by Cambridge University Press. Gill-Robinson is co-writing a number of chapters. She presented a conference paper at the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Anthropologie meeting in Freiburg, Germany. She provided collaborative assistance to the Reiss-Engelhorn Museum, Mannheim, Germany, for aspects of their exhibition of human and animal mummies. At this museum, she also presented a paper at a special session on Mummies and the Ethics of Display. She was filmed in Schleswig, Germany, for a documentary for National Geographic TV. Gill-Robinson was a visiting research fellow for six weeks with the Workgroup of Applied Anatomy, Institute of Anatomy at the University of Zurich,

Switzerland. She attended the 16th Aschau meeting on appetite regulation and human growth and development in Aschau, Germany. In April, National Geographic World Magazine, distributed in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, published an article on bog bodies that includes an interview with her.

Reza Maleki, associate professor in industrial and manufacturing engineering, attended the International Conference on Engineering Technology Education in Peruibe and Santos, Brazil. He was a session chair and presented a peer-reviewed paper titled “Evaluating Learning Outcomes Resulting from Students’ Participation in Industry Projects.”



Linda Helstern, assistant professor of English, taught *Altered Landscapes: Literature and the Changing Environment* at the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies in The Netherlands during the spring semester.

R. Jay Goos, professor of soil science, assisted a company in Spain in finding potential distributors for a lower-cost and higher-quality formulation of Fe-EDDHA, the only form of iron fertilizer that works reliably in the alkaline soils of North Dakota. Iron deficiency is a destructive syndrome in soybeans in North Dakota. Because of this collaboration, the supply of iron fertilizers to the state has increased, and costs have fallen to the point that soybean farmers can now afford this fertilizer. Soybean acres treated in the region will likely exceed 100,000 acres by 2010.

Paul Nelson, professor and head of communication, and **Ann Burnett**, associate professor of communication, accompanied a group to Aarhus University, Denmark, for the purpose of encouraging exchange. One master’s degree student, Laura Beauchamp, is attending summer school as a result of that trip. They are encouraging more undergraduates and graduate students to experience international travel and global education.

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