



EXPANDING HORIZONS

International Programs, The University of Montana, September 2007

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The Global Grizzlies: An International Service Opportunity for UM Students

By James McKusick, Dean, Davidson Honors College

UM students of all majors are invited to participate in the Global Grizzlies, a UM student group based in the Davidson Honors College. The purpose of the Global Grizzlies is twofold. First and foremost, the Global Grizzlies intend to provide aid to developing nations around the world, acting as humanitarian ambassadors for

The University of Montana. Secondly, through this experience, they hope to gain new insight into the lives and cultures of people around the world. This international service-learning program is intended both to change people's lives through service and to change the lives of UM students through international experience.

The means to these ends are simple: once per year, a select number of Global Grizzlies will raise funds for travel to a country in need, and participate in locally appropriate modes of foreign aid. The vision of the Global Grizzlies is a sustainable student program that will promote cultural awareness and world service through The University of Montana.

To ensure their success abroad, the Global Grizzlies will receive practical training in basic medical skills, such as CPR, first aid, and HIV testing, all of which will aid in their efforts overseas. In addition, they will become educated on the political, cultural, and economic issues of their destination country. Much of this preparation will be accomplished through a multi-disciplinary seminar, offered through the Davidson Honors College, that group members will take for academic credit prior to their trip. Guest speakers with international experience, including

UM faculty, medical professionals, and community members, will share their knowledge of different aspects of the destination country. Through their participation in this seminar, students will become prepared for their travels and experiences abroad.

In summer 2008, the Global Grizzlies will travel

with Reach the Children, a humanitarian aid organization, to Uganda to work in St. Francis Leprosy Hospital. Trained in basic medical skills, the Global Grizzlies will work to help provide medical care and counseling for those in need. By providing these volunteer services, the Global Grizzlies hope to work towards change in the world and,

perhaps more importantly, change in themselves.

The application for the summer 2008 trip to Buluba, Uganda is now available online. Visit the Global Grizzlies website (referenced below) to download the application. Complete and return the application to the Davidson Honors College office by September 12, 2007. All UM students are eligible to participate in trips and activities organized by the Global Grizzlies.

To meet the Global Grizzlies, football fans are encouraged to visit their concession stand (#125) in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. A percentage of every purchase goes to fund their international service trip!

For more information about the Global Grizzlies, their project and their events, go to: <http://www.globalgrizzlies.org>



Global Grizzlies (left to right): Jessie Vogelsang, Ian Bassingthwaight, Hayley Blackburn, and Lindsey Crerar.

Notes on My Exchange to Finland

By John Bardsley, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences

I write from my office in the Math Building on UM's campus. To the north, from my window, is the Oval, then the Liberal Arts Building, and for a backdrop the North Hills and higher-up the mountains on the southern edge of the Rattlesnake Wilderness. It is great to be back in Missoula.

I arrived just three weeks ago, and despite the heat (coming from a much cooler climate, I was worried) and the smoke, I've found that Missoula is an easy place to return to; for a town of its size, it has an amazing bustle and energy — a city and small town in one.

Before my arrival in Missoula on June 30, I'd spent a year with my wife Jen, and kids Alex and Ellie, in Helsinki, Finland. It already seems a long time ago that we were there, just as while we were in Helsinki, thoughts of home were distant and abstract. Home is truly what's under your nose; at least once you're comfortable.

The nearness of my exchange experience makes any commentary on its lasting effects speculation; however it is clear to me now that it was formative for me and for my family. And in fact, there is much more that can be said.

We arrived in Helsinki on August 1, 2006, and took the next two weeks to get adjusted and to see the interesting sites of our new home. Then in mid-August the kids started school, and I began working, in earnest.

For the next eight months — with the exception of Christmas holiday and a ski trip near the end of March — my life was my research. And without any distractions — not even teaching — I was very productive. Such a long stretch of time without distraction is a luxury.

Most of the research projects that I pursued during my time in Finland came from my own mind, as I had several strong ideas early in my stay, which was something I hadn't experienced before.

But I was also blessed by a good collaborative relationship with Heikki Haario (of both the University of Helsinki and Lappeenranta University of Technology) and his group in Lappeenranta. We worked on the computational, mathematical, and statistical problem that underlies the weather forecasts many of us rely upon. The work was not only very interesting, but it led to conference trips to two remote locations (both ski areas): Koli in the east, and Luosto in the far north, above the Arctic Circle. It seems that Finns, or at least the ones that I worked with, like to talk about research in a beautiful place. I couldn't argue with that.

Other collaborative opportunities also arose through the year: with Mikko Kaasalainen and Lassi Paivarinta of the University of Helsinki, and Jorma Merikoski of Tampere University of Technology.

During the last week of March, just following the Luosto research meeting, I participated in the Rajalta Rajalle-hiihto, a border-to-border cross country skiing event. We began in the east at the Russian border near Kuusamo and finished seven days later in Tornio, which sits on the Finnish-Swedish border at the northern tip of the Gulf of Bothnia. It was an enjoyable, beautiful, and punishing trip. In the end, we had skied over 400 kilometers. It was one of the highlights of the year for me.

In the remaining months of our stay, work was interspersed with travel and family visits. Being so far from home is isolating, which has its positive benefits, but the trips that our friends and loved ones made to Helsinki serve as highlights of our year. Somehow, it is important for the ones you love, but who aren't with you, to witness the life you are living. It makes the experience more real both for those at home and those abroad.

An obvious benefit of living abroad is the opportunity to travel, and we made the most of it. During our year, we visited Estonia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and we explored Finland extensively. The highlights for my family were the trips to Spain, and in particular to Granada (where a faculty exchange agreement exists!), and a ski trip that we took to Luosto, Finland, north of the Arctic Circle. I was surprised to find outstanding downhill skiing in Finland. Finally, during our last month in Europe, I took two conference trips: one to Toulouse, France and the other to Zurich, Switzerland. Both were good experiences, and ones that I would not have been able to have if not for their proximity to Helsinki.

The opportunity to give my children the experience of living abroad for a year was a major motivation for me when I submitted my proposal. And looking back over the year, it is clear that for them the experience was a success. *Continued Finland p. 7*



Professor John Bardsley on Pyhä Mountain in the Fell region of Lapland

UM-Missoula Study Abroad Program Spring 2007: Berlin and Vienna

By Hiltrud Arens, Associate Professor, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

This spring, eleven students from UM-Missoula participated in the 2007 Study Abroad Semester program in Berlin and Vienna organized and directed by Hiltrud Arens of the German Section of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures. The group, comprised mostly of Montanans, included David Cook, Wayne Graham, John Hansen, Haven Hall, Julia Helling, William Klaczynski, Evelyn Malinowski, Brenna Moore, David O'Hagan, Bradley Rowe, and Adam Spargur.

In January, the semester started with an orientation session on The University of Montana campus in Missoula and the group left in mid-February for Berlin. We stayed in the Pegasus Hostel in Friedrichshain in former East Berlin, near the Ostbahnhof (the East Station), which used to be the central train station for the East Berliners before the fall of the wall. Close to the Ostbahnhof and to our hostel (which is very reasonable in cost and has a great atmosphere!) was the Eastside Gallery (remains of the wall that artists have left their work on), which we visited the first day.

The following days were spent taking walks, seeing sights and visiting museums from the Gedächtniskirche (Memorial Church) to the Siegessäule (Victory Column) and then to the Reichstag/Bundestag (Parliament) with its new transparent dome structure. From there we ventured on to the Pariser Platz and the Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate) and Unter den Linden to the Humboldt University. We visited the Berliner Dom (Berlin Cathedral) and spent productive hours at the German Historical Museum, the Jewish Museum, and various art galleries on the Museumsinsel (Museum Island) and at Potsdamer Platz. We also took a long and very informative tour braving rainy and cold weather through the former Jewish neighborhood in the Berlin of the 1930s with its old and new landmarks, sculptures and Stolpersteine (memorial cobblestones called "stumbling blocks") to remember and honor Jewish history and life.

We visited the neighboring city of Potsdam and Potsdam University (UM's German partner university) twice. At the university, we were welcomed by Dr. Regina Neum, the director of the International Office, as well as by some of the students there. While in town, we took a memorable tour through the Neue Palais at Schloss Sanssouci and the city of Potsdam, with the older and smaller version of the Brandenburg Gate. One component of the study abroad experience is a course on theater in Germany and Austria for which all the students register. As part of the course, we read and went to a sold-out performance of Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler," which featured the well-known German actress Katja Riemann in the title role at the Hans-Otto-Theater in Potsdam. It was a fantastic performance in a modernized version of the play. A highlight of the Potsdam visit was not only this performance but also meeting with the artistic director of the theater, Ms. Anne-Sylvie König, the following day, which Professor Knut Kiesant from the German Studies Department at Potsdam University had suggested and organized. The lively discussion with the artistic director and our tour of the newly built, beautiful theater - along with watching the play - proved to be a great introduction to the German-speaking theater scene and its workings. We also saw Bertolt Brecht's "Mutter Courage und ihre Kinder" performed in the acclaimed Berliner Ensemble Theater at the Schiffbauerdamm.

In early March, we traveled from Berlin to Vienna, where the program was based for the rest of the semester. In Vienna, students stayed with host families and continued their classes in German language, theater and Austrian art history and culture. They also wrote a research project on a special topic for the semester. Two other teachers from Vienna joined the director to teach the different classes: one is a German language teacher and the other a historian with the Austrian



UM Students with Professor Arens at the monastery in Melk, along the Danube

Historical Institute in Vienna. While in Vienna, we read and saw a total of four more plays. Two performances were at the famous Burgtheater: Lessing's "Nathan der Weise" and a drama version of Hermann Hesse's "Steppenwolf". We also read and saw a theatrical version of Arthur Schnitzler's "Fräulein Else" at the Akademietheater performed as a one-woman show by Burgtheater actress Dorothee Hartinger, as well as Thomas Bernhard's "Der Theatermacher", a very good production which we saw at the Theater in der Josefstadt.

We also visited various monuments and museums, including the Kunsthaus Wien, Hundertwasser Haus, Leopoldmuseum, Museum of Modern Art, Sigmund Freud Haus/Museum, the Jewish Museum, the Art History Museum and a fascinating tour of the Vienna United Nations Center, where students had the chance to learn about the various projects the UN is currently involved in worldwide. A number of the students in the group started to think of how they might be able to one day work for such an organization. They were very impressed. The program's art history / culture instructor Dr. Bernd Zimmermann also took students once a week to various local sights (i.e. Schönbrunn Palace, along with churches and architectural monuments) which he discussed in his weekly classes.

On a beautiful spring day in April, we had the chance to take a group excursion to the town of Melk along the Danube, where we visited a Benedictine monastery and afterwards listened to organ music during a noon meditation in the church. After a snack lunch in the downtown square, we took a two-hour boat ride down the river through the Wachau region to the town of Krems, from where we took the train back to Vienna in the evening. Toward the end of our stay we had a Euro-American cookout which featured Italian appetizers, American chili, and then Austrian pancakes for dessert. The cross-cultural aspect of the event was also sadly highlighted by the wake of the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech, as the American students engaged in discussions with each other and their Austrian hosts about the troubling event. We also had a chance to visit with host families together at a Heuriger (Viennese wine tavern) to thank them for their hospitality, and then met again in the last week at another Heuriger, just the teachers and students, as students wanted to get together one last time in a traditionally Viennese atmosphere to celebrate what turned out to be a very pleasant and academically valuable experience for them all.

Human Rights in the World

By Paul Gordon Lauren, Regents Professor, Department of History

[Note: Paul Lauren travels frequently overseas on matters related to international human rights, but rarely discusses them in public. Dr. Kia specifically asked him, however, if he would be willing to write about this particular experience for the Newsletter and The University of Montana community.]

I have had the privilege and pleasure of lecturing in many places of the world before many types of audiences, but never before have I been accompanied by an armed bodyguard from the Diplomatic Security Service for my personal protection.

This particular odyssey first began when I was contacted by professionals within the U.S. Department of State who asked whether I would be willing to deliver a series of lectures as a distinguished lecturer in Algeria on the subject of international human rights. They stressed the growing strategic, political, and economic importance of Algeria in global affairs and its need to be exposed to expert opinion from abroad, especially after a decade of civil war caused by domestic terrorism. Their invitation indicated that I would be the official guest of the U.S. ambassador and would stay in the Residence Compound. They nevertheless candidly warned that there would be a certain level of personal risk due to the subject matter of human rights and the strong animosity toward the United States in this part of the world. I agreed to accept the invitation under the one condition that I travel as an independent expert in the field rather than being expected to represent any official position.

The experience proved to be absolutely fascinating, at times very challenging, and, in the end, extremely rewarding.

While in Algeria I was asked to meet with several different kinds of audiences, each of whom had requested that I address and meet with them. One of these included a variety of policy makers. I delivered a private lecture on the subject of human rights and international law before the justices of the Conseil Constitutionnel (the Supreme Court of Algeria) in their chambers in Algiers. I also presented a private lecture on the nature of the evolving international system before a large group of professional diplomats at the Institut diplomatique of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs located in Algiers and an open lecture on law and the future of international human rights before a sizeable number of judges and attorneys in a courtroom at the Palais de la Justice in Constantine.

Another audience was the press. One of these experiences involved a very lengthy and wide-ranging interview, discussion, and penetrating questions posed by the publisher and chief editors of *El Khabar*, the leading independent, Arabic-language newspaper in the country (and their equivalent of the *New York Times*). The resulting full-page story was widely published across the country and created a much higher profile of the visit than I would have ever anticipated. Indeed, other audiences made constant reference to it throughout my stay and wherever I traveled. This was then followed by a subsequent interview one week later with the representatives from the major Arabic and French-language newspapers of Algeria. People would come up to me in the street and express their appreciation for giving these interviews and speaking out honestly about human rights.

Formal lectures on aspects of international human rights were also delivered to university audiences. One of these focused on the subject of globalization and human rights presented to a UNESCO-sponsored international conference with a selected audience at the University of Es Senia in Oran. Another was sponsored by the faculty of law and presented before a very large audience at Mentouri University in Constantine on the subject of the history of international human rights. The final lecture on the subject of international human rights was sponsored by the faculty of political science at the University of Algiers and delivered before another very large and very lively audience.

Finally, I spent time with a number of specific individuals. These included the president of the Ligue Algerienne de Droit de l'Homme (the nation's leading human rights NGO), the president of the High Islamic Council, the president of the Commission on Human Rights and the individual responsible for administering Algeria's new reconciliation commission, and a leader from the country's minority Christian community.

Traveling from one location to another revealed a country of remarkable and fascinating contrasts. Ancient Roman ruins at Tipaza and Cherchell and narrow pathways of the old Casbah of Algiers were juxtaposed with modern buildings and wide highways, airports, cell phones, computers, and satellite dishes. Apparel also revealed striking differences between the old and the new, especially among women. Calls to worship from mosques at first startled conversations, lectures, or sometimes silence, but then became more familiar. And, of course, there was a country trying to find its identity in the midst of its new-found wealth from oil, its strategic geographical location, and from the context of its historical past: the Berbers, the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Vandals, the Byzantines, the Arabs, the Spanish, the Ottomans, French colonization, the war for independence against France that ended in 1962, a decade of domestic terrorism, and now the prospect of a new future. What all of this would mean for the future was certainly a subject of great interest to all of the audiences that I addressed, most certainly among policy makers responsible for formulating sound decisions about Algeria's relationship with the larger world and among university students with their lives and their careers completely ahead of them.

There certainly were challenges about personal safety and circumstances that pushed me beyond my zone of comfort. The most serious challenge, however, occurred when trying to be a careful listener to questions and comments and then providing honest responses. The field of human rights is naturally controversial due to the fact that it must deal with the relationship of individual people to power. Sometimes questions were asked gently and sometimes not so gently. They were always serious and pointed, however. I was asked frequently about the uses of history and what we choose to remember and what we choose to ignore, domestic and foreign politics, law, current human rights abuses, terrorism, the treatment of prisoners, reconciliation, the role of religion, and contemporary American foreign policy as it relates to human rights.

This experience undoubtedly will continue to influence my work for years to come, and I have a number of reasons to believe that it will have a significant impact on individuals in the host country. I was reminded of the enormous thirst for knowledge and a broader perspective on issues of human rights. All audiences expressed enormous gratitude for an American scholar traveling such a long distance to meet with them and discuss a subject of deep concern. I was also reminded of the fact that audiences appreciate honesty and candor, and that sometimes outsiders can say things that insiders — and official representatives — cannot. Finally, the experience reminded me of the fact that no matter how much of a specialist or expert anyone might be, there is still a great deal to learn and that international programs remain one of the very best ways of doing so.

Visiting Professor Renichi Suzuki Crafts New Japanese Translation of English Poems

Renichi Suzuki, a visiting professor from Kumamoto University, is an internationally well-known scholar of English literature. Dr. Suzuki spent the academic year 2006-07 in residence at The University of Montana, teaching Japanese language courses and working on a new translation of John Clare's poems into Japanese.

John Clare is a poet of the English Romantic period, especially known for his earthy dialect and his vivid depiction of the natural world. Professor Suzuki has previously published a book of Clare's poetry into Japanese, and his work to translate a second volume of Clare's poetry is progressing smoothly in consultation with Davidson Honors College Dean James McKusick. "It has been a fabulous collaboration," says McKusick, who is a leading Clare scholar and serves as Executive Director of the John Clare Society of North America. "We have become good friends and learned a lot from each other by working together on this translation. You always discover new things in a poem through careful close reading. We are honored to have such a distinguished scholar as Professor Suzuki here at The University of Montana."



Visiting Professor Renichi Suzuki, from Kumamoto University, Japan, and Davidson Honors College Dean James McKusick.

New Exchange Agreement with University of Tromsø, Norway

By Hayden Ausland, Professor of Classics, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Two years ago I began exploring potential for new bi-lateral exchange agreements in Scandinavia, more particularly in Norway, where UM has had no such ties as yet. My efforts were facilitated by involvement in a research project centered in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Bergen, but also by long experience in the region flowing from family ties there. (My paternal grandfather, John Åsland, immigrated to the United States as a child in 1901.)

In the summer of 2005, I visited the University of Helsinki, to learn how one of UM's agreements in the region works at the other end. I also paid preliminary calls on the international offices at the Universities of Reykjavik (Iceland), Oslo, Bergen, and Tromsø, with a view to exploring various options. In the summer of 2006 I returned to pursue some discussions in greater depth. I shared what I had learned with International Programs, after which the University of Tromsø (UiT) emerged as one of the better fits for a relationship with UM.

While on sabbatical last year, I got away by spending the the Spring term at Tromsø, where the Philosophy Department proved a gracious host. Further discussions there, together with a short trip back to Montana in April, produced a memorandum of understanding between UM and UiT. International officers at the two institutions are presently negotiating details of a full bi-lateral agreement, which promises to have students moving back and forth between Missoula and Tromsø quite soon.

Styled "The World's Northernmost University", UiT was founded in

1972 as a radical alternative to more traditional institutions further south. The founders' conception lingers in certain features -- the Philosophy Department, for example, is oddly housed in the Faculty of Social Sciences -- but the institution has meanwhile matured into a full-fledged university as rigorous academically as it is progressive. Specialized centers include one for Sami Studies and another for Arctic Research. (see <http://uit.no/informasjon/english?Language=en>)

The town of Tromsø bears comparison with Missoula. It lies in a remote northern area, hours distant from the nearest city by air. But already a century ago it was dubbed "the Paris of the North", for its plentitude of cafes and resaurants, as well as the stylish outfits of its ladies. Today it is also cosmopolitan, with a population of approximately 65,000 comprising some one hundred nationalities. The beauty of the surrounding natural scenery is staggering. (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troms%C3%B8>)

It is the sort of place one will never forget having spent a junior year abroad, and some fortunate UM students may have just such an opportunity quite soon. Like most institutions in Scandinavia, UiT is strong in English-language offerings, thus allowing Montanans a way to study on the European continent with having

to become fluent in another language in advance.

I shall endeavor to observe and assist future progress toward a living, productive agreement by seeking support for spending 2008-9 on faculty exchange at the University of Tromsø. In the meantime, I have planned two trips over during the current year for the sake of further academic collaboration with Philosophy and closer discussion with interested parties in other disciplines.



Professor Hayden Ausland in Lyngen, North Norway

International Biennial Symposium on Mathematics and its Connections to the Arts and Sciences (MACAS)

By Bharath Sriraman, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences

The Second International Symposium on Mathematics and its Connections to the Arts and Sciences (MACAS2) was held in Odense at the University of Southern Denmark, May 29-31, 2007, organized by me in co-operation with Prof. Claus Michelsen (University of Southern Denmark) and Prof. Astrid Beckmann (University of Education- Schwäbisch Gmünd). We took a leadership role in organizing this professional group at the conclusion of the 10th International Congress in Mathematics Education in Copenhagen in 2004 where we were part of a topics study group on this domain. MACAS2 attracted 45 participants from 15 different countries. These participants included math, science and art educators; physicists; historians and philosophers of mathematics and science, as well as some local classroom teachers. Four plenary lectures were delivered on the theme of the Symposium. In addition, 23 papers were presented in a highly collaborative and interactive atmosphere. Abstracts of the papers and details of this Symposium may be found at <http://www.macas2.sdu.dk/>. Several excursions were planned for the participants to expose them to Odense, the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen, as well as the island of Fyn which is known as the garden of Denmark.



Symposium organizers: Astrid Beckmann, Bharath Sriraman, and Claus Michelsen

This international group is in the process of becoming a professional learned society with its own professional journal and the goal of making the Symposium a fixed biennial event. In 2009, MACAS3 is scheduled to be held at The University of Moncton in New Brunswick, Canada, near the Bay of Fundy; and in 2011, MACAS4 will come to us here in Montana.

Collaboration Continues Between UM's Paleontology Center and Yunnan University's China Key Laboratory of Paleontology

By George Stanley, Professor, Department of Geosciences



Professor Stanley in the field with students from Yunnan University

George Stanley, Professor of Geosciences and Director of the Paleontology Center, was honored during his 5th invited visit to Yunnan University in Kunming City, China (May 14-25). It is part of a continuing cooperative program between the China Key Laboratory of Paleontology at Yunnan University and the UM's Paleontology Center. Stanley was honored this visit with appointment as "Guest Professor" of Yunnan University. He expects to use this designation to develop future collaborative research and education in paleontology with Yunnan University. A MOU previously signed by presidents of both institutions, will promote scientific and educational exchange for UM students and faculty. Two UM students and two professors already are involved in research and collaborative publications.

The big attraction to Yunnan Province for Stanley is the celebrated Chengjiang fauna, a 530 million-year old fossil deposit that has achieved

international status as the rarest and most significant in the world. Professor Hou Xianguang, director of the Yunnan University Key Laboratory of Paleontology and discoverer of the Chengjiang deposit, invited Stanley to join his research group in 2001 and since then they have continued their cooperation. Chengjiang, home to some 100,000 people, is located near Kunming, capital city of Yunnan in southwestern China. The Chengjiang deposit contains new and previously unknown forms of early animal life, many preserved in extraordinary detail, revealing fine tissues, and stomachs, sometimes with their last meals still intact. These extraordinary fossils have changed our views of the evolution of life.

Chengjiang fossils lived in a long vanished sea and among the exquisitely preserved creatures are vertebrates, the group to which we belong. Most all animals today had their origins in the Cambrian period, in biological frenzy known as life's "big bang" that changed our planet practically overnight. The Chengjiang deposit provides a unique window into this extraordinary event. Besides being a veritable gold mine for paleontology, the Chinese deposit also records a unique snapshot of what was happening at the onset of life's big bang. The Chengjiang fossils contain an amazing variety of animal life. Many represent starting points in evolution while others are evolutionary dead ends. During this visit Stanley is focused on study of a whole new group of soft bodied, gelatinous creatures called comb-jellies. This group of floating marine creatures is perhaps the rarest fossils on Earth. The Chengjiang fossil deposit currently is up for designation as a "World Heritage" site and the Chinese government is providing funding to assure that these fossils receive due recognition. More UM student involvement and future cooperation is expected. Stanley is writing a grant proposal to continue the momentum of this international U.S./Chinese cooperation.

UM Hosts Students on the Near East and South Asia (NESA) Undergraduate Exchange Program



The University of Montana welcomes 9 international students for the Fall 2007 semester on the Near East and South Asia (NESA) Undergraduate Exchange Program. The NESA Undergraduate Program, a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), U.S. Department of State and administered by Georgetown University's Center for Intercultural Education and Development (CIED), provides scholarships for outstanding undergraduate students for non-degree study at U.S. universities for one or two semesters. The students attending UM include 5 females and 4 males from Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, and Tunisia.

Finland continued from page 2

My daughter, who turned seven in April, went to Finnish school and became fluent in the Finnish language, though it took some time; kids do learn quickly, but it's not instantaneous. Fortunately for her, we lived in an area with a large number of girls her age, so that her immersion in the Finnish language was often an all-day-every-day affair, particularly during this past summer.

My son, who turned ten in April, went to a public international school, where instruction was in English. As a consequence, he didn't learn Finnish, but his class mates were very international: they came from Africa, the Middle East, North America, and Asia, and from a number of different religious backgrounds. The experience for him was broadening.

Both kids made good friends and though they were anxious to return home, they were also sad to leave their friends, which I took as a sign of a successful year.

The year was good for my wife as well, who was able to focus on her painting (she is an artist) much more fully without the (mostly welcome) distractions of home. She was also active in the Helsinki chapter of the American Women's Club.

Finland itself is a great country. It was easy to get comfortable there. In fact, it's not so different from Montana. It is sparsely populated, and Finns enjoy all of the conveniences that we do, though everything is a bit smaller, from grocery stores to the family car (something I'll miss). Also, the people share many of the values we do in Montana; in particular, a love of the outdoors and a belief in spending time away from town for long stretches. Finns get a minimum of five weeks of vacation a year, and they use it well: most take the entire month of July off of work.

The people of Finland are reserved and some might even say closed, but when they open their home to a visitor (fortunately, this happened to us many times) they do so in a big way. In fact, though on the one hand Jen and I were often frustrated in our day-to-day social interactions, we found Finnish hospitality downright inspirational.

What will we miss from Finland? We will all miss the friends that we made; my wife and I will miss the cool weather and the cross-country skiing and running trails out our door. I will miss the ubiquity of sauna — really hot sauna — and week upon week of undistracted work. We will all miss the sea, and the beautiful city of Helsinki. The list could continue indefinitely, but I'll stop here.

One more thing, though: go on an exchange! Leaving is a challenge — there are so many arrangements that need to be made — but once you're there, the pay off is big in so many ways. Also, so few universities offer such an opportunity. It is, in my mind, one of the true perks of being a UM Professor. I'm already looking forward to my next trip. (Note to my Math Department colleagues: don't worry; it won't be for some time.)

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The International Programs Newsletter at The University of Montana



The University of
Montana

International Programs
International Center (MIP005)

Fall 2007 International Brown Bag Series

All presentations are held from noon to 1 PM in the Central and Southwest Asia Program seminar room (Journalism 303) and are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact International Programs at 243-2288.

Thursday, September 27: Adventure in Finland: Mathematical and Otherwise

John Bardsley, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences

Thursday, October 11: Monarch or Mermaid? - The Tragic Six Year Reign of Mary Queen of Scots

Jocelyn Siler, Professor, Department of English

Thursday, October 18: Doing psychology in Italy and the U.S. Observations from a reluctant Euro-American.

David Schuldberg, Professor and Director of Clinical Training, Department of Psychology

Thursday, November 1: Attractions of North Norway and the University of Tromsø

Hayden Ausland, Professor of Classics, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures

Thursday, November 15: Japan's Great Interpreter: Lafcadio Hearn

Alan Rosen, Visiting Professor, Kumamoto University, Japan

We welcome items of international or intercultural interest for the next newsletter. Please send them to International Programs, International Center, or email us (goabroad@mso.umt.edu).

If you are interested in receiving an email notification regarding upcoming international events and IP activities, please send your name and email address to goabroad@mso.umt.edu or call 243-2288.

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