

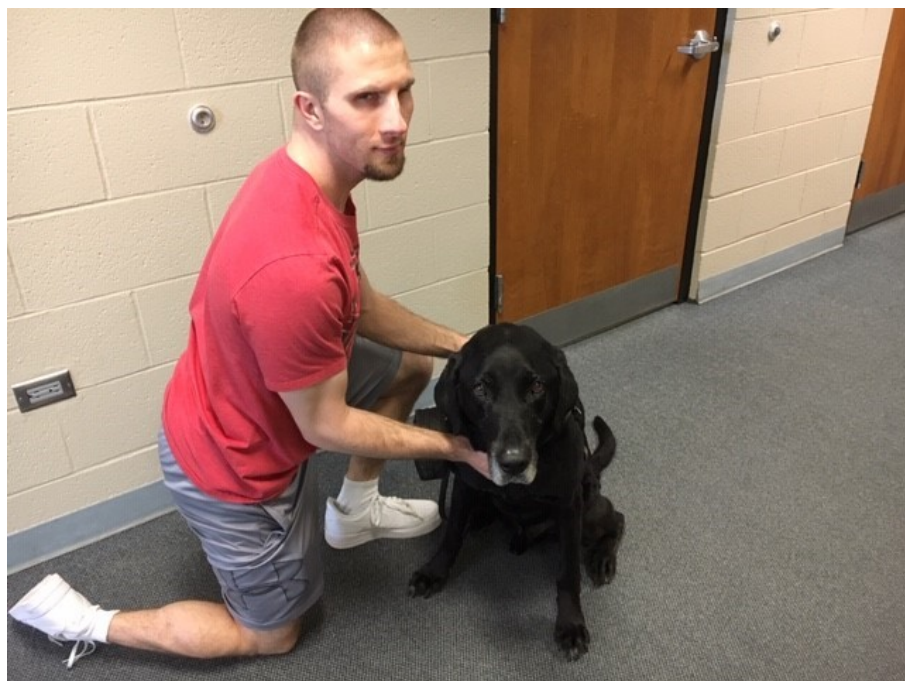
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Four-legged International Traveler Joins Students in Greece

How do you get 36 pairs of feet trodding across ancient sites in Greece when you have 14 students and two faculty leaders? You add one four-legged traveler to the mix! Donner, service dog and furry friend to Northeast student, Daniel Kurtz, will join the educational travel experience to Greece, leaving for two weeks on May 18th, and led by faculty leaders Adam Peterson and Paul Muncy.

Daniel, who is studying to be a personal trainer, calls O'Neill home. Donner, a 10-year-old black lab, has been Daniel's service animal for 7 years. Just a few years earlier, Daniel lost all sight as a result of retinopathy of prematurity, an eye disease linked to premature birth. Donner came to the Kurtz family from the Kansas Specialty Dog Service in Washington, Kansas.



Northeast student, Daniel Kurtz, and his service dog, Donner, are preparing for travel as participants on the next faculty-led travel to Greece, May 18 – 30.

Daniel and Donner were some of the first travelers to sign on for the Greece trip, which began with a semester-long class on the history, culture, and theatre of Greece, taught by history/geography instructor Muncy and speech/theatre instructor Peterson. As soon as Daniel had paid his deposit, the Center for Global Engagement staff began working with Daniel and Donner to be sure they would have no problems with the international travel.

"It was important to us that Daniel and Donner's experience in Greece would be as successful as with all of the student travelers we have had over the years," Pam Saalfeld, director of the global center, said. "That meant starting early and communicating with our travel agent and vendors."

In addition to working closely with the travel agent who, in turn, worked with the vendors on flight reservations, hotel accommodations, ground transportation, and archeological sites, Saalfeld and Daniel

visited frequently about what was needed for Donner to travel. Saalfeld was pleasantly surprised to learn that Donner was already a world traveler, having traveled with Daniel to Singapore in 2013.

"That made everything much easier since Daniel already had all the paperwork necessary for Donner's travel," Saalfeld said.

Four-legged (cont. from page 1)

In order to travel, Donner needs proof of current vaccinations, as well as a history of all his vaccinations since he was a puppy. He also needs a “puppy passport.” One thing Daniel and Saalfeld agreed upon was that Greece, a member of the European Union and therefore more open to individuals with special needs, would allow easier accessibility than Singapore.

“In Singapore, the rules were ‘may’ rather than ‘must,’” Daniel said of accessibility to Singapore’s museums, shops, and restaurants. “We did not even know if we would get into the country until we went through the Singapore airport doors. They could have told us to go back to the United States right then and there.”

In order to be better prepared, Daniel and his father would call ahead to see if the business would allow a service animal. Daniel said that the authorities were not rude, but firm, in Singapore.

An unexpected bonus of Daniel’s travels with Donner was a bit of celebrity. Service animals are rare in Singapore, and as a result, Daniel and Donner attracted the attention of two reporters with Singapore’s The Strait Times. The article, entitled “Ignorance Keeps Guide Dogs Out at Singapore Businesses,” spotlighted the challenges the Kurtz family faced while in Singapore, where it is not against the law to refuse entry to individuals with service animals. Daniel hopes that publication of their experience might help change attitudes toward service animals and accessibility issues in Singapore.

While in Greece, Daniel looks forward to sightseeing, especially the famous locations like the Parthenon. He also hopes to do more globe-trotting, with Germany and the United Kingdom on his bucket list of international travel. Next summer, Daniel and Donner are preparing for an Alaskan cruise that will leave from Canada.

And what about Donner? Is he getting along with his classmates and travel companions? Daniel says definitely.

“He is a very people-oriented dog,” Daniel said. “A little TOO people-oriented,” he said. Donner wagged in agreement.



TEN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COMPLETE DEGREES AT NORTHEAST

Ten international students will be among the 2019 graduating class this May, and an additional three students will complete their programs of study in August. Several of these students plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities in the United States. If you know any of these students or have them in your classes, please congratulate them on a job well done!



May 2019

Jade Blackburn, England --- Behavioral Science

Gabriel Galeano, Colombia --- Criminal Justice

Yvonne Mezegue, Gabon --- Nursing

Kewenga Nanga, Burkina Faso --- Auto Tech

Nickolas Paulino Gama, Brazil --- Health, PE & Rec

Irene Sanz Gistau, Spain ---- Biology

Abdoul Sore, Burkina Faso --- Pre-Professional Engineering

Max Simonazzi, Italy --- Business Administration

Armelle Zeba, Burkina Faso --- Business Administration

Ibrahim Zongo, Burkina Faso --- Building Construction

August 2019

Gabriela Barbosa, Brazil--- English

Charlotte Kandangwe, Malawi--- Pre-Medicine

Ana Gonzalez, Colombia---- Pre-Medicine

IRELAND, PUERTO RICO, AND UNITED KINGDOM

GIVE STUDENTS RANGE OF CHOICES FOR TRAVEL IN 2020

The Office for Global Engagement is putting finishing touches on its publicity for travel opportunities for 2020, with the hopes of making official announcements before students leave for the summer break. Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Puerto Rico have been approved as faculty-led short-term educational travel for next year, and Pam Saalfeld, director of the Center, is excited at the variety of options for Northeast students.

“Our 2020 offerings provide a variety of locations, program lengths, and dates of travel,” she said. “So there should be something for everyone.”

After a successful venture to Costa Rica in 2017, the Northeast biology faculty ---- Angie Jackson, Erin Kucera, and Dr. Irina Weitzmann --- will lead students into the caves, rain forests, and bio bays of Puerto Rico. The travel will be part of a BIOS 2020 – Environmental Issues class and will take place over the week of winter break in March 2020. Students will spend January and February learning about Puerto Rico’s environment pre- and post-Hurricane Maria, mastering the equipment necessary to conduct experiments, and developing their hypotheses. Upon their return, they will use the data collected on their travels to prove or disprove their theories and report their findings.

And while Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, it’s still very international.

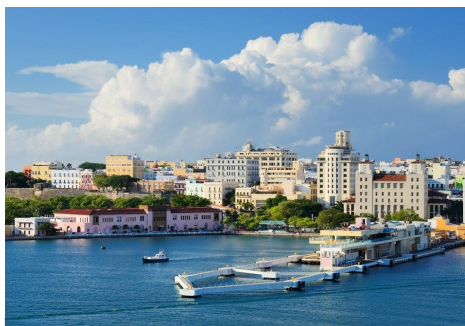
“Just the environment alone is a cultural experience,” Saalfeld said. “There are no rain forests in Nebraska that I know of.”

For students who want to explore farm life in England and Scotland, while also taking in a castle or two, the Northeast Agriculture Department is offering a unique opportunity for students to leave the big cities and the main motorways to explore rural communities in the United Kingdom. This travel opportunity, while focusing on agriculture, is open to any student. Led by Brandon Keller, students will visit food markets, dairy operations, and crop sectors while also touring iconic landmarks like Edinburgh Castle, the Tower of London, and Manchester United Stadium. This travel opportunity follows the traditional format during which students take the class in the spring term with the travel piece in May 2020.



Sligo, Ireland

Lastly, Northeast, along with four of Nebraska’s other community colleges, is offering a unique educational opportunity for students to study for ten days in Ireland. The Nebraska Community College Global Leadership is comprised of representatives from Northeast Community College, Central Community College, Southeast Community College, Mid-Plains Community College, and Western Nebraska Community College. Those individuals have been working on a consortium-based travel opportunity, with the goal of providing more economical travel for more students statewide. The Global Leadership will partner with the Institute of Study Abroad-Ireland, located in Bundoran, in Donegal County. Students will be taught by faculty from the Institute of Study Abroad-Ireland, with guided field trips directly related to the classroom instruction. Gary Timm, Northeast’s instructor for political science and American history, will be the faculty lead for Northeast. As of the publication of this newsletter, only one of the other community college has identified its faculty lead: Royce Ammon, instructor of political science, history and International Relations, at Western Nebraska Community College. Other lead faculty from the other community colleges have yet to be determined. The goal is to have representatives from all the participating colleges. Saalfeld sees this as a way of securing student participation from all the colleges.



Puerto Rico

“Students will have someone with whom they are familiar from their home campus,” she said.

Costs for the travel is \$2500 for Puerto Rico, \$3400 for the United Kingdom, and \$3200 for Ireland. Costs for each of the educational travel opportunities in 2020 are fully inclusive, including airfare, ground transportation, admissions, some meals and travel insurance. With the exception of the program fees associated with the Institute of Study Abroad-Ireland, tuition for the college classes is not included.

Students who would like more information or to get registered should be directed to Saalfeld, Maclay 142, or email pamela@northeast.edu.

Interested in your own international experience with students? Don’t miss Pam’s break-out session, “So You Want to Lead Students Abroad? The How-To and the Why of Faculty-Led Travel,” at the Fall 2019 in-service.

DANISH STUDENTS GET UNIQUE TASTE OF NEBRASKA WEATHER & HOSPITALITY

March Madness didn't just apply to basketball this year in Nebraska --- the flooding of March 13 – 15 was a unique weather experience by Nebraska standards, so imagine what the 30 Danish students and two Danish faculty thought during their visit to Northeast during that time.

Northeast hosted the College 360 students and their faculty leaders, Ole Bøndergaard (a familiar face from last year's visit) and Nick Jensen (a newcomer to Nebraska), the week of March 12 – 19 as part of a Memo of Understanding between Northeast and the Silkeborg, Denmark school. Last year, Northeast hosted College 360 students for a period of six weeks. This year's visit was only one week, but that one week was fraught with challenges largely due to the weather.



College 360 students enjoy American BBQ during a tour of Karen Spray's home.

Pam Saalfeld, Director of the Center for Global Engagement, and assistant, Sara Kirby, worked with Northeast's Business faculty and numerous college staff to plan a program that consisted of class visits in the mornings and field trips to area businesses in the afternoon. Plans for Saturday of that week, March 15, included a trip to Lincoln to visit Memorial Stadium, Morrell Hall, and the State Capitol. Many of those planned events washed away with the roads going in and out of Norfolk that weekend.

"There were even doubts that we'd be able to get them to Omaha on the 19th for their flight out of Nebraska," Saalfeld said.

The goal of the agreement between the two schools is to provide students from both institutions a chance to experience college life on an international level. College 360 students lived in the dorms, ate in the cafeteria, and attended classes while here. All of those experiences were interrupted temporarily when the college cancelled classes and evacuated all students in the dorms to First Christian Church, east of Victory Road.

While generally experiencing "boredom" while evacuated, the Danish students were generally happy and appreciative of the quick response to keep all the students safe.

"When asked about the whole flood experience, the Danish students said they were impressed at how organized the evacuation was and how serious the College community took their safety," Saalfeld said.



Ole Bøndergaard and College 360 students put on bright-colored safety vests in preparation for their tour to Associated Wholesale Grocer's Distribution Center in Norfolk.

Danish students (cont. from page 4)

Saalfeld has praise for her College 360 planning team and the Business faculty, who stepped up quickly with alternative activities and who volunteered to help out at a moment's notice.

"We rescheduled our home visits with Amanda Kampschneider and Karen Spray, who graciously opened their homes and put on a feast for our Danish guests, all with less than 24 hours' notice," Saalfeld said. "Cara Hoehne and Sara Kirby pitched in and drove the vans so we could get all 32 around the neighborhoods. We could not have done it without their help."

A day playing at the Y and a good meal at Buffalo Wild Wings helped fill in for the cancelled activities.

Because classes were cancelled, the College 360 students would have had a very limited experience in Northeast classes and with Northeast instructors. Business faculty reworked their schedules to allow the Danish students an unscheduled visit to their classes, giving the College 360 students more opportunity to observe the instruction and interact with Northeast students.

Another visit from College 360 is planned for next year... minus the winter storms, we hope!



A tour of Norfolk Lodge and Suites and the Divots Conference Center was one of the scheduled activities not interrupted by the March flood during College 360's visit to Nebraska.