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NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS JOIN NORTHEAST ENROLLMENT FOR FALL

Northeast Community College's international student body just got larger as the Office of Global Engagement welcomed 21 new students during the fall international student orientation held August 14 – 16. A large graduating class in May and transfers out over the summer months led to a smaller number of returning students, bringing the total of international students on campus to 60. Of those 60, approximately 45% participate on one of Northeast's athletic teams, with men's soccer drawing the most, followed by men's basketball, baseball, women's basketball, and women's soccer.

"Our international student population is down a few bodies from last year at this time," Pam Saalfeld, Director of the Center for Global Engagement, said. "But we had a record number of international students graduate in May, so that's good for our students and good for Northeast."

Saalfeld also blamed random closings at some of the embassies and a tightening of visa requirements, which caused potential students to either be denied visas or to receive visas too late for fall enrollment.

"It was a tough process for many of our applicants," Saalfeld said.

The Malawi students joining Northeast this fall have made it the most represented country of the Northeast student body with 19 total students. Second most populous is Brazil with 8 students, followed by the countries of Australia, Colombia, and Burkina Faso, with 5 students each.

Sixteen countries are represented this fall and includes one new country: Serbia. That flag has now been added to the hall of flags in the College Welcome Center.

The Global Center hopes to welcome several more new students in January for the start of the spring semester.



A group of new international students strike a pose with their soccer teammates at the Student Activities Council's "Day at the Park" event at Skyview Lake.

NORTHEAST STUDENTS' WANDERLUST GETS TESTED WITH THREE DIVERSE TRAVEL OPTIONS FOR SPRING 2020

Northeast students who want an international travel experience will have trouble choosing between three exciting and diverse travel opportunities planned for spring of 2020. Students who want to have an in depth study of agriculture abroad can travel with leaders Brandon Keller and Sarah Sellin to England and Scotland (travel dates May 17 – 28, 2020); students who are environmentally conscientious will benefit from an exciting look at air and water quality in Puerto Rico, led by Angie Jackson, Erin Kucera, and Irina Weitzmann (travel over Winter Break, March 7 – 12, 2020); and students with Irish roots (or who are Irish at heart) can travel as part of the first cooperative travel between the five Nebraska community colleges to study the culture, politics, history, and folklore of Ireland (travel dates May 18 – 28 – led for Northeast by Gary Timm).

More description of each travel opportunity is listed below. There are a limited number of \$500 travel stipends available to Northeast students who sign a contract and pay the \$150 non-refundable deposit. As of this publication, there are still stipends available for all three travel experiences, but they are very limited and will be given on a first-come, first-paid basis.

Please help promote these opportunities in your classes. Students will be able to sign up for any of the travels through October and into early or mid-November.

*Visit **IRELAND***

This ten-day international experience will be facilitated by the Institute of Study Abroad-Ireland, located in Donegal on Ireland's famous "Wild Atlantic Way." The Emerald Island is the perfect location for a safe, affordable and educational international experience. Students of all backgrounds will enjoy their time in this friendly, scenic, historical, culturally rich and English-speaking country. Learn about the culture, people and history.



Donegal, Ireland

*Visit the **UNITED KINGDOM***

This agricultural-themed Honors course is complimented by a 12-day study abroad to the United Kingdom. Gain exceptional knowledge from an international view of livestock, crop sectors, food markets, government policy, and historical and cultural points of interest within England and Scotland. Visit USDA staff from the Foreign Ag Services in London, Leicester Raceway, a dairy operation in Coventry, and a Blackface sheep farm in Edinburgh, Scotland. Explore the Tower of London, Coventry Cathedral, Alnwick Castle, Manchester United Stadium, and so much more!



Farm with rocky soil in the United Kingdom

*Visit **Puerto Rico***

Explore your theories, learn about your world, and earn college credit in the Environmental Issues class. Form your hypothesis on air and water quality, then test it by diving into the ocean or exploring the rain forest in Puerto Rico!



San Juan, Puerto Rico

[Attention full-time faculty: Want to know how YOU can plan and lead a travel experience for your students? We are currently planning for 2021! Contact Pam in Maclay 142 or email her at \[pamela@northeast.edu\]\(mailto:pamela@northeast.edu\).](#)

STUDENTS, FACULTY REAP THE BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WHILE TAKING IN THE BEAUTY OF GREECE

Art, history, theatre, politics --- fourteen Northeast students and their faculty sponsors experienced it all over a two-week educational study trip to Greece May 18 – 30. Faculty leaders Paul Muncy, history and geography instructor, and Adam Peterson, theatre and speech instructor, co-taught the special topics held over the spring term prior to travel and then led the group abroad.

Students took on the challenge of learning as much as they could about Greece – past and present --- as well as preparing for travel and getting to know their travel companions. Both Muncy and Peterson recognize the value of classroom instruction as it relates to the overall travel experience.

“By actually seeing the places that they studied, they [the students] were able to really experience the history instead of just talking about it in a classroom,” Peterson said. Muncy agreed.

“Students were able to reinforce their knowledge of what we had been studying all semester,” he said. “It created a more solid and permanent knowledge base.”

In addition to reinforcing the lessons learned in the classroom prior to departure, the lessons learned during the travel were equally – if not more – valuable.

“This trip really affirmed to me that as students experience and learn about different cultures, their prejudices melt away,” Peterson observed. “If only all students at Northeast could be provided with the same experience.”

“For many, the concepts of ‘foreign’ and ‘foreigners’ were broken down,” Muncy added,, “and that was replaced with a sense of a shared human experience.”

The Northeast travelers flew in and out of Athens, but their travels took them much farther afield, including Marathon, Delphi, ancient Olympia, Epidaurus, Corinth, Heraklion, Knossos, and Eleusis. All in all, the group spent time in 16 different locations throughout the country.

While international travel is most often considered “fun” by students and faculty leaders alike, both groups experience challenges. For students, a combination of home sickness, culture shock, and the trials associated with 24/7 contact with 15 other people forced them to “roll with the punches,” according to Peterson.

“At the end of the first week, several students got a little homesick and annoyed with each other,” Muncy said. “It was a challenge, but an excellent learning experience for people setting out on their first adventure.”

For faculty, the challenges included not only working with varied personalities and keeping students safe and sound around the clock, but also challenges with navigating through all the trials associated with logistics.

“The biggest challenge for me was getting us there with all the flight delays,” Peterson recalled. “It was stressful, but I was careful not to show it so that students could trust in me. Once we got there, all was fantastic.”

The challenges must not have been too intense as to scare Muncy and Peterson away, never to darken the Global Center’s office again --- they are currently planning a travel experience for students to Japan in 2021.



Adam Peterson and Paul Muncy pose with Northeast students at the ruins of the bronze age citadel at Mycenae in Greece.



Everyone
SMILES
in the same
LANGUAGE

