

IN THIS ISSUE


- Tree Lighting Event
- Holiday Food Drive for Dorms
- Northeast and Danish Students Learn Together in Collaborative Business Course
- January Orientation Scheduled
- Wind Energy Students Travel to Denmark
- Upcoming Study Abroad Trips for 2018

International Students Kick Off Holidays at Northeast

Several of Northeast's international students joined Dr. Chipps by the College's inaugural Holiday Tree on November 29th, kicking off the holiday season at Northeast. Donning various holiday-themed hats, these Santa's helpers put some decorations on the tree, which now stands in the pedestrian mall shelter behind the College's Library Resource Center. An official lighting ceremony was held later in the day.




Those pictured and their home countries are as follows (standing, l-r): Ignacio Garcia, Cuba; Lagrezio Landim, Brazil; Arthur Lopes, Brazil; Dr. Chipps; Wakisa Mtika, Malawi; Gabriela Barbosa, Brazil; (kneeling) Tiago Da Costa, Brazil.



Contact Us
Center for
Global Engagement
Maclay 142/140

Pam Saalfeld 402-844-7466
pamela@northeast.edu
Sara Kirby 402-844-7465
saraak@northeast.edu



HIMS, GLOBAL CENTER JOIN FORCES FOR STUDENTS DURING BREAK

The Health Information Management faculty and students are partnering with the Center for Global Engagement to collect non-perishable food items for students, many of them international students, who need to stay in the dorms over the holiday break. Last year, the College's CORE organization collected enough to fill 36 large sacks and 25 small sacks with food items, as well as collecting over \$100 in cash and gift card donations.

Sponsor for the Health Information Management Club is program instructor Tina Mazuch, who was one of the organizers for the collection last year.

Food collection sites will be in Maclay 140, 142, and 146, as well as AAH 248, and CWC 1203. Suggested items include non-perishable, microwavable, single-serving foods and drinks like ring-tab soups, Easy Mac and Cheese, Ramen noodles, cheese/crackers, microwave popcorn, puddings and applesauce, granola bars, Pop-Tarts, beef jerky, bottled water and juice, peanut butter and crackers, and the like.

This event will serve as a service project for the Health Information Management Club. Monetary donations to purchase additional food items will also be accepted. The goal is to collect all the donations by noon on December 14th, so that sacks for the students can be assembled and delivered the afternoon of December 14th and 15th.

This is a particularly hard time for international students on campus, according to Pam Saalfeld, Director of the Center for Global Engagement.

"These students see their friends leave for home, so the dorms are fairly deserted," she said. "There is no food service on campus and sometimes the weather isn't very cooperative, so it is hard for them to get around to buy food. These goodies just brighten their week and let them know we care about them."

The donations are not taken for granted by the students who receive them, according to Mazuch.

"I have heard firsthand from students who have received a care package that it made them feel appreciated and part of the Northeast community," she said. "Providing these care packages is an easy way to show students you care."

U.S. AND DANISH STUDENTS COLLABORATE IN LIVE TIME AS PART OF INNOVATIVE CLASS

It doesn't take a plane ticket and a wad of cash to bring students under one roof anymore, thanks to technology and the creativity of three instructors --- Maryjan Fiala and Cara Hoehne, business instructors at Northeast; and Brith Joker, a business instructor at Aarhus Business College in Aarhus, Denmark. The three instructors co-taught – in real time --- a new global business course that utilized ZOOM technology, laptops, and iPads in order to allow students from Northeast and Aarhus to collaborate together as one class.

The class was offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the fall 2017 semester. Global Business: A Partnership With Denmark introduced globalization to the class of 31 students --- seven from Northeast and 24 from Aarhus --- with the goal of exploring opportunities and challenges of business in a global economy. Topics included ethical decision-making, business strategy, organization, marketing and human resources. Students not only examined these topics on the larger global stage, but they also got an opportunity to compare and contrast these same topics as they pertained to the U.S. and Denmark. The three instructors and their students came together on Tuesdays --- 8 a.m. for Northeast students and faculty and 3 p.m. for Aarhus students and Joker, as Denmark has a 7-hour time difference. During the Tuesday meetings, the instructors would not only hold joint discussions, but they would also break off into "groups" using the ZOOM platform, allowing the student groups to take their individual devices and go to different parts of the classroom or building to work on group projects.

“Our students are gaining experience working in virtual teams on an international scale while developing cultural awareness and skills that will benefit them in today’s workforce,” Fiala said of the collaborative projects. “They are also experiencing firsthand the power of technology and how it seems to minimize the distance between two countries.”



Instructors Brith Joker in Denmark and Cara Hoehne in Norfolk discuss the class projects.

Not only did students get a unique look at the business world, they also got a chance to explore each other’s language, as well. During several of the class meetings, Northeast students got a language lesson, learning common words like “I dag” (today), “næste” (next) and “tak” (thank you). Aarhus students, who are generally well-acquainted with the English language, got lessons in business-related jargon, such as “red tape” and “ballpark figure.”

“My students improved their English skills,” Joker said. “Most importantly, they were forced to speak in English and had to explain difficult theory in a foreign language. Then, throughout the day, I heard my students practicing their English.”

Pam Saalfeld, Director of the Center for Global Engagement, had the opportunity to visit each classroom --- both at Northeast and while co-leading a student experience abroad in Denmark in November. While at Aarhus, Saalfeld joined one of the group sessions, working with a student from Aarhus and Northeast student Jordan Slevin.

“The group work really is fascinating,” Saalfeld said. “To have the ability to have individuals break out into groups when they are actually thousands of miles away, it’s just mind-boggling.”

Saalfeld sees this class as a pioneer for potentially similar arrangements in other Northeast classes.

“With their expertise and the success of this pilot class, I foresee a train-the-trainer arrangement, during which Maryjan and Cara could train our other Northeast instructors in the technology, which would allow more Northeast faculty to partner with international instructors and their classes,” Saalfeld said. “Students would get an international experience that is more affordable --- both monetarily and timewise ---- than participating on a traditional study abroad opportunity.”

This fall’s class was a pilot for a similar class that will be offered in fall 2018 that will not only bring the class together through technology, but will also include a travel component as Northeast students will travel to meet their Danish classmates in person. Those students who choose to participate in the study abroad will visit various businesses in Aarhus and Germany in addition to their class-time at Aarhus Business College. Both Hoehne and Joker see more than just an educational benefit to the Global Business class: they see relationship-building between students as well.

“Our students have made lifelong connections with their Danish partners while acquiring a better understanding of international business,” Hoehne said.

“Tuesday is one of the best days because we have to meet our friends from Norfolk,” Joker added.

Anyone with students interested in next fall’s study abroad opportunity in Denmark and Germany is asked to direct them to Saalfeld, Maclay 142, 402-844-7466.

Northeast’s Public Relations Office also contributed to this article



Aarhus student, Lærke, and Northeast student, Jordan Slevin, discuss their final group project.

ORIENTATIONS DESIGNED TO EASE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INTO NORTHEAST LIFE

While many Northeast faculty and staff return to the College from their holiday breaks, new international students are coming to Northeast for the first time, an experience that most likely brings with it a mix of excitement, confusion, and nerves. Pam Saalfeld and Sara Kirby, both with the Center for Global Engagement, have worked on a pre-semester orientation for these new students, designed to help ease some of the tensions and provide them with information about Northeast, Nebraska, and the United States.

This is the third year for the pre-semester orientations, which are held the week prior to the start of each semester – in both August and January. Saalfeld started formalizing the event back in 2015 and has found it to be a learning opportunity each semester.

“The first year, I fed them too much,” Saalfeld said with a smile. “I was feeding them like we eat here in the Midwest --- big breakfast, big lunch, big supper.”

Since then, Saalfeld and Kirby have adjusted the meal times and assembled a list of topics and guest presenters, all designed to make the new students’ transition to Nebraska and Northeast easier.

“We provide them information about services they have access to, like tutoring and Writers’ Clinic; counseling and disability services; introduce them to staff in the Registrar’s Office and Business Office,” Saalfeld said. “We even invite speakers to talk to them about laws in the U.S. and Nebraska, Title IX, and academic dishonesty. They get a lot of information quickly, but at least they are exposed to it early in the term and they meet individuals who can later serve as contacts for them.”

Orientation for spring 2018 semester will be held January 3, 4 and 5 in the College Welcome Center. The Center for Global Engagement estimates that Northeast will welcome approximately ten new students for the spring term.

WIND ENERGY STUDENTS, INSTRUCTOR LEARN OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FIRSTHAND DURING TRAVEL TO DENMARK

Four second-year wind energy students and their instructor, John Liewer, learned firsthand of Denmark’s commitment to sustainable energy solutions through a week-long study abroad opportunity in Denmark. The group, also led by Director of the Center for Global Engagement, Pam Saalfeld, became students at Aarhus Technical College in Aarhus, Denmark, from November 11 – 18.

Denmark leads the world in wind energy, with the headquarters for Vestas right in the heart of the country. Saalfeld has long desired to take students and faculty from the wind energy program to Denmark.

“With our partnerships in Aarhus, it just seemed like a natural part of Northeast’s efforts to globalize our curriculum, particularly in our technical fields,” she said.



Brandon Jones and Klaus, an Aarhus Tech student, work together on the classroom project.

Liewer valued the interaction he had with the students and faculty in Denmark, as well as those interactions he had with the general populations outside the classroom.

“My favorite part was simply being immersed in their culture and the questions and conversations that were exchanged, having the chance to learn about their day-to-day lives and teaching them about ours,” he said.

The students who participated in the study abroad were Max Hastreiter, Trevor Hinds, Brandon Jones, and Patrick Miles.

Miles saw this opportunity as not only a cultural experience, but one that may have implications for future employment.

“It gave me a new option for places I might be interested in trying to find a job,” he said.

Hinds agreed, stating that the actual experience of travel would reflect well with future employers.

“I think that this experience will help us get jobs,” he said, “because employers would like to see that we are willing to go to great lengths to learn something new.”



Patrick Miles receives a gift and a certificate of completion as part of the farewell program at Aarhus Technical College.

The students spent the week in classes, working side-by-side with faculty and students from Aarhus Technical College. Northeast currently has a memo of understanding with Aarhus Business College; however, the two schools – Aarhus Business College and Aarhus Tech --- often work on projects together. Northeast was the first U.S. institution of higher education to participate in a study abroad initiative with Aarhus Technical College.

In past, Northeast’s collaboration with Aarhus Business College focused on faculty exchange. However, with this venture, coupled with next fall’s study abroad to Denmark and Germany within the business division and Northeast’s new agreement to welcome students from College 360 in Silkeborg, Denmark for six weeks this spring term, Saalfeld sees more opportunities for student exchanges.

“Both Northeast and Aarhus are committed to nurturing any opportunity we can provide for our students and faculty to have a global educational experience. It’s exciting that so many opportunities seemed to present themselves all within a short timeframe,” she said.





Shakespeare's Birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, England

2018 STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES



Aarhus, Denmark

One of the greatest learning experiences anyone of any age can have is to travel internationally! Many of us can tell stories of life-changing moments while we were students or visitors abroad. So please help the Global Office promote two excellent study abroad opportunities for our Northeast students.

Our Northeast study abroad program is dedicated to providing international opportunities for college credit, making it affordable, and making it educational with excellent faculty leading the way.

ENGL/THEA 2140: Introduction to Shakespeare covers the life and works of William Shakespeare. Students will be part of the famed Shakespeare Institute, the Stratford-Upon-Avon branch of University of Birmingham. The program will include guest speakers, behind-the-scenes theatre tours, and access to original manuscripts in the Institute's library. In addition, students will visit the new tomb and museum of King Richard III in Leicester, and tour famous Shakespearean haunts in the capitol city of London. Faculty members, Pam Saalfeld and Julie Ptacek-Wilkey will teach the class and lead the study abroad over two weeks in May of 2018.

BSAD 1990: Global Business – A Partnership with Denmark will delve into Danish and German business practices. Students will work side-by-side with their Danish counterparts from Northeast's partner college in Aarhus, Denmark – the Aarhus Business College. Excursions will also include a visit to Copenhagen and Hamburg, Germany. The class will be held from August to December, with the actual study abroad to Denmark falling in the middle of the fall 2018 term, during the month of October. Faculty leaders, Cara Hoehne and Maryjan Fiala, will co-teach the class here at Northeast and will accompany students while in Denmark.

Both study abroad opportunities are available for student sign-up. A \$150 deposit gets students a "seat" on either program, and payment plans are available. The earlier a student signs up, the better the monthly payments are. For more information or to begin the sign-up process, students should visit Pam in MC 142.