Our undergraduate students are traveling to Schwäbisch-Gmünd to study design and to Tomsk to study Russian. Graduate students conducting research for their dissertations are going to Krakow to learn more about social welfare in Eastern Europe and to Costa Rica to study land use and climate controls of soil organic carbon. And our faculty are writing books about Greek tragedy, colonialism, ethnicity, and translation, and arranging a symposium on movies of central and Eastern Europe at The National Film School in Lodz.

These are just a few examples of the academic enterprises that will be the result of grants and scholarships provided by the Office of International Affairs, the Wolfe Foundation, the Francille Firebaugh, Jutta and Peter D. Neckermann, and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies.

At the Wolfe Study Abroad Recognition Luncheon, we heard past scholarship recipients reflect on what their study abroad experiences meant to them. Every former student’s experience was unique yet the same. Many of them were traveling outside the United States for the first time, some of them were staying with host families, others were living in dorm rooms with students from other universities. The constant among all of the experiences was “change – and for the better.”

Katy Hite traveled to England in the summer of 2000. “My trip was one of the first experiences I had where I felt truly academically challenged. The lecture/discussion style of the classes offered new insight from classmates and made me push myself to think differently about the issues and topics raised in class. I grew up in Columbus, Ohio. Going to college at Ohio State meant I was literally two miles away from home. By going on this study abroad trip, I had the opportunity to literally expand my world. I gained independence and confidence, and an understanding of cultures that are not my own. As the World Wide Web is shrinking the world, it remains important to keep global cultures in context. In understanding the concept of culture, I am not only becoming (better in my profession), I hope to become a better person: aware of and sensitive to the world around me.”

Studying abroad will indeed provide students with a new way of thinking about the world as they know it. Learn more about what students said about their study abroad experience and see photos of their travels while watching Reflections of Study Abroad.