Students learning across the globe

Alexandra Nardoz

“Making the decision to study abroad on an Ohio State program was one of my best decisions! While in Italy on the Ohio State Lecco Italian Language Program, during summer 2011, I not only learned Italian in a classroom environment, but I was exposed to the daily life of an Italian, whether it was celebrating their holidays, cooking their food, or adopting their study habits. The greatest lesson learned while studying abroad is how to find a comfortable balance between schoolwork and personal enjoyment. I was able to balance a full quarter’s worth of course credit necessary for my major, with travel, cultural discovery, and fun times with close friends. Staying abroad can give anyone a new perspective, not only on foreign cultures, but also on themselves and their own capacity for future endeavors. Travel, incorporated with learning, can help strengthen existing passions while giving you the courage to begin new ones.”

Alexandra is a sophomore majoring in political science.

Destiny Jackson

“I always wanted to study abroad. I’d never been outside of the country, and when I travelled I like to learn things. I liked that the Brazil Global Study abroad program was about all Brazilian culture. We immersed ourselves in the cities of Sao Paulo, Anatac ruins and Salvador. We learned all about a lot of different things such as farming, tourism, and race and gender issues in politics. When we were in Anatac, we got to go to a huge Catholic holiday festival that brings out millions of people. It was a lot of fun. I never knew what it was like that we got to meet a lot of different people there and it was fun to actually engage with the people instead of just sitting in a classroom learning about them or going on field trips. We got to learn more about where people do what they do.”

Destiny Jackson is a senior majoring in sociology and film studies.

Eight from Ohio State earn prestigious Fulbright award

Seven Ohio State faculty members and one staff member from The Ohio State University have been selected as recipients of prestigious Fulbright fellowships. The Council for International Exchange of Scholars, which administers the program for the U.S. Department of State, selects recipients. The Office of International Affairs serves as the campus representative for the Fulbright Scholars program.

With eight Ohio State representatives in the Fulbright Scholars Program, Ohio State has more Fulbright fellows than any other university in the U.S. Fellow’s will conduct research abroad, consult with international colleagues, and lecture to promote global wellfare.

In addition, Ohio State will host nine foreign scholars who have received Fulbright grants to teach and conduct research in the U.S. under the Visiting Scholar Program.

Ohio State’s Fulbright Fellowship recipients are:
- Theresa June Early, (College of Social Work), for "Youth as Social Actors: Countering Crime and Improving Neighborhoods in Mexico City” at the national Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico, August 2011-May 2012.
- Carole K. Fink, (Department of History), for “The Future Versus the Past: West Germany and Israel, 1966-1974” at the University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel, March 2012-July 2012.
- Dana Christine Kuchem, (Undergraduate Education), Administrator’s Seminar Program, Program Manager, Undergraduate Fellowship Office, Fulbright International Education Administrator’s Program, Germany.
- Darla Karim Siminer, (Department of Geography), for “Comparative Forest Transitions in Rural Peripheries" at Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany, September 2011-February 2012.
- Barry Shank, (Department of Comparative Studies), “Transnational Music in American Studies” at the University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany, April 2012-July 2012.
- Roman Horvayov from Armenia (Department of Anthropology).
- Mohammed Ismail Azam from India (Department of Animal Sciences).
- Alexey Nekrasov from Russia (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering).
- Suryanarayanan Trichur Subramanian from India (Department of Biochemistry).

Ohio State’s Fulbright Specialists are:
- Joshua Hawley from England (College of Human Ecology, John Glenn School of Public Affairs), for "Longitudinal Analysis in Economics and Sociology" at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, September - October 2011.
- Elizabeth Hewitt from (Department of English), for "American Literature in the Age of Hamilton and Jefferson," at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, June 2011-June 2012.

Ohio State’s Fulbright visiting scholars are:
- Pervum Amiru Kosovo (Center for Urban and Regional Analysis).
- Perparim Ameti Kosovo from (Department of Anthropology).
- Sisudu Kholu from Mongolia (School of Teaching and Learning).
- Mohandesh Aram from India (Department of Animal Sciences).
- Zoran Popovski from Macedonia (Department of Animal Sciences).
- Sajj Raju from India (Department of Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology).
- Ihsan Yilmaz from Turkey (Department of Literature).
Ohio State ranked in the top 20 nationally (continued from page 1)

The number in national ranking can be attributed to the quality of Ohio State’s academic programs, strong investment in programming for first-year students, Ohio’s central location, affordability, and an environment that provides the “authentic” American university experience; and the university’s opening of a Gateway office in Shanghai, which leverages the university’s global reputation.

“We continue to attract quality international students who are enrolling at Ohio State because they are aware of our growing academic processes,” said William Brustein, vice provost for global strategies and international affairs.

Brustein acknowledged that while the number of students studying abroad has slightly increased, it is important to find ways to make study abroad accessible and affordable to a wide range of students. “We are working to develop programs that will give first and second-year students the opportunity to take one course abroad in English that focuses on an introduction to the country and region, as well as global issues as they relate to the host country. We hope this type of program will be attractive for a wide range of majors and broad demographic dimensions.”

International students at Ohio State are from 116 different countries including, China (2,432), South Korea (932), India (872), Taiwan (274) and Turkey (125). Nationally, the leading home countries for international students are China, India, South Korea, Canada and Taiwan.

The top fields of study at Ohio State for international students include engineering, business and biological and biomedical sciences, similar to the national trend.

The most popular destinations for Ohio State students to study abroad include the United Kingdom, Canada, China and Germany. Nationally, the leading destinations for studying abroad are the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France and China.

The Open Doors 2010 report is released as part of the nationwide observance of International Education Week (November 16-20), a joint initiative established by the U.S. Departments of Education and State. The rankings are based on figures for the 2009-10 academic year.

* The IIE’s collection of enrollment data for international students includes two categories of students who are not currently enrolled at Ohio State in classes for credit. They include “Optional Practical Training” students who are not taking classes, but are continuing their education through practical training in their field of study, and exchange students who are pursuing continuing non-degree education.

What is your home country and city?

Helsinki, Finland

What is your undergraduate/graduate degree?

I have a Ph.D. in dermatology and medical genetics from the University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. I studied the genetic determinants of a rare skin disease, lupus erythematosus.

What department are you in at Ohio State?

I am working at the department of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics.

Who is your Ohio State faculty mentor?

Professor Albert de la Chapelle, M.D., Ph.D.

What is your research/specialty interests?

My research focuses on the role of genetics combined with state-of-the-art immunohistochemical and molecular methods in the diagnosis of lymphocytic leukemia, CLL, that is the most common adult leukemia in the Western world with unknown genetic background.

What are your research/specialty interests?

We are hunting genes predisposing to chronic lymphocytic leukemia, CLL, that is the most common adult leukemia in the Western world with unknown genetic background.

When did you arrive in the United States?

I arrived in March 2011.

Why did you choose Ohio State?

My PhD thesis supervisor in Finland is a long time friend and former student of Professor de la Chapelle. Together they came up with the splendid idea to send me to Columbus.

What have you been doing at Ohio State as part of your exchange visit?

We have been conducting genetic studies in CLL using traditional molecular genetic methods combined with state-of-the-art strategies, such as whole-genome sequencing.

What has surprised you about your experience in Columbus?

The fact how fond of football people are here.

What has been the hardest thing to adapt since you’ve come to Columbus?

The almost complete lack of public transport, and that there are no lakes.

What is the funniest/excitng thing you’ve done since you’ve arrived at Ohio State?

I have met many fun and unforeseeable things, but the most exciting definitely was the pig race held at the Ohio State Fair.

How has the Office of International Affairs helped you?

The Global Gateways are a way for Ohio State to expand its knowledge and expertise in regional strategic partnerships. Based on the university’s rich scholarship, research, and academic strengths and growing international connections, Ohio State is also exploring opening Gateway offices in Brazil, Turkey, sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

Historical perspectives on Russian cinema are clarified through research

While conducting research in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Justin Wilmes learned something new about Russian cinema major historical developments, including wars in the Caucasus and an influx of migrant workers from Central Asia, caused a shift in attitudes that are both reinforced and challenged by recent films.

Wilmes, a PhD candidate in the Department of Slavic Languages and East European Literature, was able to visit Russia last summer to work on his dissertation thanks to being awarded a research grant from the Office of International Affairs. His research focused on the “Cinematic Constructions of Russia’s Ethnic and Religious Minorities,” and during his stay in Russia, Wilmes examined his previously held ideas and discovered new concepts for further research.

The topic of Wilmes’ research is politically charged and often polarizing, resulting in critical and popular debates surrounding the films that include Russia’s ethnic and religious minorities. The debates often reproduce and reexciteideological divisions, and also influence people without preexisting opinions on these issues. Several Russian film directors revisit the topic of Russia’s relationship to “near eastern” cultures throughout their careers.

Wilmes researched Russian cinema at The All-Russian Institute for Cinematography (VGIK), which has archives of films and scholarly articles about films. He also spoke with several leading Russian film scholars at VGIK. Specifically, Wilmes delved into certain historical trends that emerged in the theme of “ethnic periphery nations” (Caucasian and Central Asian) in Russian and Soviet cinema. One trend worth examining was the increasing role that cinema has played in Russian society since the 1990s. Wilmes’ research inspired him to include a historical overview in his dissertation. The polemics surrounding these films reflects not only these historical developments, but also the fact that they are critical and standing debates about Russia’s cultural position between Europe and Asia manifest themselves in the films.

Armed with additional insight gained through his research, Wilmes hopes to shed light on the impact that cinema has on people’s perceptions of Russian ethnicity and history. The research and interviews that were completed in Russia will serve as the basis of his dissertation, which he hopes will “contribute something new and critical to both the academic and popular discussion of Russia’s role in the world as an ethnic and religious minorities and neighbors.”