

STUDY ABROAD

with Northwestern, IA

ENGAGE your world

EXPAND your mind

EMBRACE your future

Global Education Center, Semester and Summer Study Abroad Programs and Off-Campus Opportunities
 Suite 102, Franken Center for Faith, Learning, and Living

The GEC study abroad programs help students:

- ◇ gain informed understanding of the host culture and its value systems
- ◇ reflect critically on their own culture and values
- ◇ acquire a global perspective on contemporary issues
- ◇ develop beginning or advanced skills in the target language (where appropriate)
- ◇ connect cross-cultural learning to their vocation and calling
- ◇ build self-confidence and cross-cultural competencies through interactions with the constituencies of the host country

Northwestern College in Romania

Another memorable semester has ended. The nine students who attended the NWC Romania semester this fall have some wonderful stories to share. See their photos and read more about their experiences in the [semester blog](#) and on [Facebook](#).

2013 Fall Semester participants - NWC: Kara Prachar, Arynn Maznio, Kara Nonnemacher, Josiah Veurink, Mike Mabee, Kory McMahan; Gordon College: Zoey Meyer-Jens; Houghton College: Sarah Slater; and Calvin College: Rachel Boss.

Holy Ground

The beauty of the church was astounding; it was different than any other church I had ever seen.

The Barsana Monastery in Maramures, Romania is one of the most unique places in Europe. Boasting one, if not the tallest wooden structure, it is a

place where God is present. Built upon a hill overlooking a valley, the simple structures of the buildings and church stand proud, all the while glorifying God. Wood is an extremely important commodity in the Maramures area which provides for an area seeped in culture that has existed and remained relatively the same for centuries. On Sundays you will see worshipers attending in traditional Romanian clothing depicting a life that has changed little over the years.



Built upon a church abandoned in the 1790's after the Communism period, the church is magnificent. No nails were used in the construction of the church or of its 180ft spire. The site is protected by the UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and is a World Heritage Site. The area is one of the best examples of a living museum to be found in Europe. There is a serenity and holiness felt as you enter beneath the ornately carved gate. Or the many flower beds carefully tended, standing vibrantly out against the grass and leaves. There are few places as unique in the world and if you are ever in the area it would be worth stopping by to experience this place for yourself. Next year the Romania SAP will be attending a spiritual retreat here in order to live a simple life for but a few days.

Kory McMahan

Romania Semester, Fall 2013

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Dana Bates' Doctoral Work Endorsed by Francis Fukuyama

The PhD work of Dr. Dana Bates, Director of NWC's Romania semester, has been endorsed by the world-renowned American political scientist Francis Fukuyama as follows:

"Dana's pioneering study on Eastern Orthodoxy and Development Studies is unique not only in showing that Eastern Orthodoxy need not be seen as

"backwards", but it also develops important bridges between theology and the human/social sciences especially at the nexus of *phronesis*, or practical reason. This study reveals a picture of the person not as a passive puppet, but as a rational, morally responsible agent whose spiritual calling (*theosis*) is to engage in "human development", which is to say a process of understand-

ing and appropriately developing all of nature's potentials (biological, sociological, etc.), and for the benefit of all. Indeed, this study shows how the Eastern tradition, a non-Augustinian and therefore much more optimistic tradition about the human condition, can bring about a rapprochement between religious faith and humanistic traditions which have been largely separated in the West."

NWC Denver Urban Semester

On January 2nd, five student teachers and three social work students arrived in Denver to complete their social work practicum and student teaching requirements as part of NWC's Denver Urban Semester. Some of the internship sites include non-profit organizations like Hope House and Denver Rescue Mission and schools such as Denver School of Science and Technology and Denver Center of International Studies. In addition, the group will be taking DUS' newest course offering, entitled *Street Psalms*. The seminar will introduce participants to the dynamics of living, studying, and working in diverse urban areas like the Mile High City of Denver.

2013 Spring Semester participants - NWC: Sean Guthmiller, Jason Katsma, Kippen Larson-Gulswig, Abigail McDonald, Rebecca Rens, Abby Van Gorp, Jennifer Vander Veen, and Audrey Wheeler.

"As expected—super amazing young adults! NWC does a great job in their overall development. They arrived tired but jumped into a session with Penny Salazar Philips on



SW practicum and Student teaching expectations and requirements for them. They spent 6 hours learning about RTD and how to ride and plan a trip using public transportation with me and begin to engage in the idea and importance of third place theology as they begin to move into urban placements that will be stretching their comfort with race, ethnicity, cultural diversity and the differences that city life offers.

They all have enjoyed the downtown 16 Street urban area and are grateful to live in uptown where there are multiple options of places to drink coffee, sit in a park or be a part of the city art atmosphere. [...] They enjoyed walking through the city to begin to see how our city of 77 ecliptic neighborhoods forms one amazing city based on valuing diversity and dignity."

By:
Greg Fuchs, DUS Director

Northwestern College in Oman

Next week, six NWC students and one Hope College student will head to the warm climate of the Gulf Coast to spend the spring semester in Muscat, Oman. Four classes will introduce the semester participants to the beauty of the Arabic language, the rich history and culture of Oman, the complex

and long relationship between Christians and Muslims, and the exciting challenges of cross-cultural communication. Weekly excursions, hiking trips, museum visits, camel rides, and desert camps will be some of the activities that will spice up the students' time abroad.

2014 Spring Semester participants: Lydia Steenhoek, Amanda Kirsch, Ryan Arendse, Mike Wedel, Malea Beeson, Allyson Austin, and Ellen Ray (Hope College)

Student Testimonies: Why should I study in Oman?

"In my search to understand more about the misunderstood religion (by Westerners) of Islam, I learned so much about my own faith and it put into context the Biblical story, both Old and New Testaments. This was my favorite semester on campus and was truly life changing. I am a different person today because of the experience." Nathan Walburg, Oman Semester, Spring 2013

"In order to grow, you need to challenge yourself and be challenged by your surroundings. If you let it, this semester will expose you to the joys of engaging deeply with people and a culture that are totally different from your own. This opportunity is unique to this time of life. Take the first step towards growth, and it will inevitably happen." Matt Latchaw, Oman Semester, Spring 2013

Summer Study Abroad 2014

This past summer (2013), seven Northwestern College students and two faculty members travelled to the Czech Republic for a summer study abroad program focused on the topic *Czech Physical Culture*. This summer (2014), the Global Education Center is excited to announce that seven different study abroad programs will be offered to students. The programs focus on a variety of topics and will be located in different countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.

For the first time ever, a summer study abroad will be offered specifically to students in the Northwestern Honors Program. Dr. John

Vonder Bruegge of the Religion Department will be leading this Honors SSA to Greece where students will examine the topic *Greece: Antiquity and Modernity*.

In addition, six previously run programs will be re-offered. Dr. Juyeon Kang (Music) will travel to Austria with students to examine *Austrian Music, History and Culture*. Dr. Dean Calsbeek (Kinesiology) will lead his SSA program to China to explore *Chinese Body Culture*. Profe. Rick Clark (Spanish) will return to Ecuador and help students improve their Spanish, as well as learn about *Ecuadorian Culture and Society*.

Dr. Bob Hubbard and Prof. Jonathan Sabo (Theatre) will take students to Great Britain to examine *British Culture Through Art & Theatre*. Prof. Kim Van Es (English) will travel with her program to Israel and Palestine to investigate *Faith and Justice*. Finally, Prof. Diane (Nursing) will journey with students to Tanzania to learn about *Shalom and Cross-Cultural Populations*.

Apply for a Summer Study Abroad TODAY!

www.nwciowa.edu/summer-abroad

Study Abroad Alumni

The study abroad experience does not end upon return to the United States or even after graduation. We contacted four NWC Study Abroad alumni who graduated last May (2013) and asked them "How has your study abroad experience influenced your post-college career?" See what they have to say!

"My time with the New Horizons Foundation demonstrated the importance of service and service learning to me in a new way. My experience helped me narrow down my goals for the future and my career path. Also, studying abroad is an incredible networking experience."

–Charlotte Richards, Romania Semester (Fall 2012)

Charlotte works as an Ameri-corps VISTA volunteer at NWC Education Department (Orange

"Now I want to go back! I think it fueled the fire for more studying abroad. I'm even considering studying for my Master of Divinity abroad." –Tara Woodward, Israel (WSA 2012)

Tara is employed as a Tax and Audit Professional at Williams & Company, P.C (Sheldon, IA).

"My time in Spain made me much more comfortable speaking Spanish. I fell even more in love with the Spanish language and culture. When I got back, I had no doubt that I wanted to teach Spanish." –Nate Johnston, Spain Semester (Fall 2012)

Nate is a Spanish teacher at Unity Christian High School (Orange City).

"In Israel/Palestine, we focused on conflict: what it means, how it is expressed, how it affects both those directly and indirectly involved. This helps me in my current job as we try to navigate the conflicts that have arisen in the lives of our women and children that block and hinder them from finding both an inner peace and a sustainable role in our community."

–Holly Stewart, Israel/Palestine (SSA 2011), Spain (Spring 2012)



Dear faculty,

If you would like to introduce your students to the world of study abroad and the opportunities that await them, consider inviting a Global Ambassador to your class or at events.

[More information](#)

NWC Global Education Center

Mission

To foster cross-cultural appreciation and competence through semester and summer study abroad programs. We advise and assist students and faculty who seek opportunities for growth and reflection that integrate faith, learning and living in the context of cultural diversity and a global community.

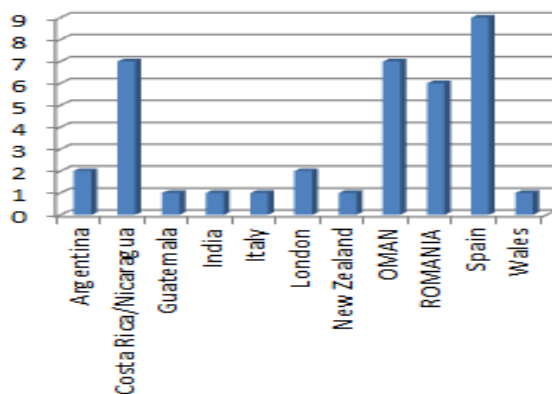
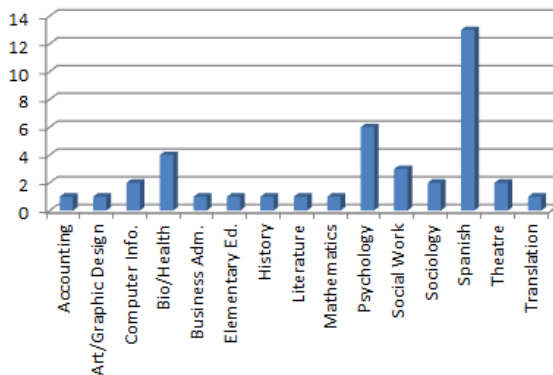
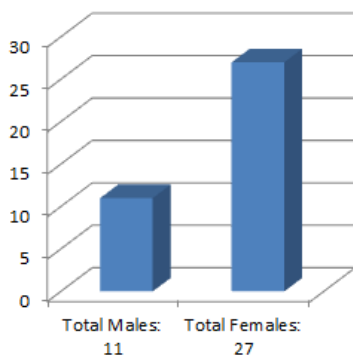
We're on the web: www.nwciowa.edu/study-abroad

or like us on

Facebook: NWC Study Abroad

Did You Know?

From Fall 2011 to Spring 2014, 38 NWC students from the graduating class of 2014 will have completed a semester study abroad program. Approximately one-fourth of these students were males, while the other three-fourths were females. These students come from diverse fields of study and as a group, represent fifteen of the forty-four majors offered at Northwestern. They studied in eleven different countries, of which, Oman, Romania, Spain, Costa Rica and Nicaragua were the most popular.



News, Events, Announcements

Jill Lemke (Senior) has been awarded a \$1000 scholarship from Central College in Pella, Iowa. Central College Abroad awards scholarships to outstanding applicants from visiting schools and cooperating institutions who study with Central College Abroad each semester. Jill will be attending Central's London Semester program in spring 2014. Congratulations!

The GEC is currently accepting applications for Summer 2014, Fall Semester 2014 and Spring Semester 2015.

[Apply online!](#)

The 9th Annual Study Abroad Photo Contest was held in November of 2013.

[View winners](#)

Applications for summer exploratory trip grants for faculty are now open.

[More information](#)

The Global Education Center has a library of resources and materials related to education abroad, cross-cultural communication, culture shock and adjustment, among other things. All resources are available for checkout. [View catalog](#)

NWC Global Education Center– Franken Center

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Why should you see us?

- ... if you are curious about summer/semester study abroad
- ... if you are interested in leading a program
- ... if you know you want to propose a program

<http://www.nwciowa.edu/global>

email: global@nwciowa.edu