

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING—Foreign trips give students feel for global market

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STUDENTS IN the University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences will have another opportunity in May for a short-term and intense exposure to international agriculture through a trip to Taiwan.

Plans for a return trip in mid-May to Chiayi University is progressing, said Bob Haggerty, the college's director of international programs. Students who took a similar trip last August say their experiences will profoundly affect their futures.

"The students definitely got a lot out of the trip," said John Foltz, the college's associate dean and director of academic programs. He accompanied the students to Taiwan along with Haggerty and Bob Tripepi, professor of horticulture.

"I think they came back with an appreciation for the open spaces we take for granted," Foltz added, "but more importantly, they can see why our research and their educations are so important—what they are up against in this global economy."

The number of people in Taiwan certainly impressed Shawn Campbell, an agricultural economics graduate student from Condon, Ore. "Everywhere I looked it seemed like there were at least 500 people." Taiwan's approach to agriculture also impressed Campbell. "All of the farms were really small, maybe only three acres, but they were everywhere." And biotechnology was big. "With all of the investment they're putting into research and laboratories, I think that they will be ahead of us in research in a few years."

A year ago during the University of Idaho's spring break, nine students from the college traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico, to observe agriculture and interact with the ag industry there.

Students earn two academic credits for each trip, gain new perspectives on international agriculture, and perhaps start some future relationships with the people they meet, Haggerty said. "We planned this trip to provide the kind of transformational international experience study abroad can offer," Haggerty said. "These short trips are good alternatives for students who can't commit to a semester abroad."

Spring break: Students lend helping hand

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MORE THAN 80 University of Idaho students spent their spring break March 10 to 15 building Habitat for Humanity houses or helping fellow Americans across the United States with other service projects.

Caroline Campbell, 19, Moscow, a freshman double majoring in microbiology and food science, headed for Bay St. Louis, Miss., to help with continuing Hurricane Katrina relief work. "We'll probably be doing a lot of building and tearing down of ruined buildings," said Campbell, who decided to "help people outside of my immediate community" so she could "better understand a different piece of U.S. Culture."

Also headed for Mississippi was Emma Farnsworth, Moscow, who two years ago was

a part of "crew Moscow" that spent spring break in New Orleans doing hurricane relief work. "I couldn't believe how much more needed to be done, and I knew I had to go back," said Farnsworth, a student in the UI School of Family and Consumer Sciences. "As much as I love visiting the beach and relaxing, I find trips like this to be much more rewarding."

Most students pay their own travel expenses, but Farnsworth said the trip would be much more expensive if the university's student center were not "helping with a huge portion of it."

Other CALS students on service projects include Esteban Herrera, 21, horticulture major, and Nancy Sandoval, 20, microbiology major.

National War on Hunger efforts draw UI CALS students

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IN EARLY MARCH, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences students Fafanyo Asiseh, a graduate student in agricultural economics, and undergraduate nutrition major Ashley Shelton joined others at a national War on Hunger Summit in Washington, D.C.

They joined a strong cadre of engaged student leaders committed to fighting hunger globally.

Back home, Ashley Beck, Coeur d'Alene, is both a campus and national leader in an effort to eradicate hunger around the globe. An early member of the University of Idaho War on Hunger, considered among the strongest on U.S. college campuses, Beck traveled to Auburn University in early 2007 to participate in a summit there.

In September, Beck, a junior family and consumer sciences major, spoke about the importance of the War on Hunger to members of Family Career and Community Leaders of America from Idaho high schools who visited the Moscow campus as part of Ag Days.

Beck encouraged the younger students to help end hunger in Idaho by raising money and awareness for local food banks.

DID YOU KNOW?

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NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO THIS SEMESTER. THEY COME FROM 75 COUNTRIES. NEARLY 50 OF THEM ARE IN THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES.

Source: <http://www.webs.uidaho.edu/ipo/intlstudents/>