Studying overseas or collaborating with international students was once the exception rather than the rule at many American universities. But today’s young adults are inheriting a world that is smaller and more interconnected than at any time in history. Staying within their local or regional “comfort zones” limits their potential as global citizens and professionals. Now more than ever, students must live and work with people of different cultures and worldviews, both on their home campuses and in foreign lands.

The University of Delaware has always realized this truth and acted on it. Ninety years ago, UD launched America’s first study abroad program with just eight students, and today an impressive 40 percent of undergraduates participate. Our graduate students and faculty travel to every continent to conduct research, work at universities, and share knowledge for the greater global good. As they forge connections all over the world, UD faculty, students and alumni gain new perspectives that are both life-changing and career-changing.

In recent decades, UD has evolved from a regional to a national to a much more global university. We have worked diligently to build international bridges and heighten our global presence. Now we ask you, our alumni and friends, to help us continue this evolution. We want to ensure that students and faculty who desire international experience can get it, removing cost as a barrier. We must send UD’s leaders out into the world to tell our story and forge new partnerships. We must bring more international students to campus and integrate them into the fabric of UD, creating a richer experience for all.

UD must graduate young people with the imagination and the motivation to flourish in this “flat world,” preparing them for the realities of a 21st century global society.

From Delaware to the World...
Building a More Global University

“I can’t tell any other society or culture what to say to its own children, but I can tell you what I say to my own: The world is being flattened. You can flourish in this flat world, but it does take the right imagination and the right motivation.”

Thomas Friedman, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*
WIDENING HORIZONS

As soon as they set foot on campus, undergraduates learn that study abroad at UD is “kind of a big deal” (their words)—and nearly two in five will participate. Most take part in month-long courses led by UD faculty, while others choose semester-long programs through UD or another university. These students immerse themselves in the culture and history of their destination countries, read assigned works that deepen understanding, write and talk about their experiences, and often volunteer at local schools or clinics. They see firsthand that other people live very different lives than they do, and the borders of their world burst wide open.

Still, studying abroad is a major financial commitment. During winter or summer sessions, students must pay UD tuition—which is not financial aid-eligible—along with program fees that average about $4,750. Semester students can apply financial aid toward tuition, but their program fees average over $8,500. UD’s Institute for Global Studies offers scholarships to help defray these fees, but funding is limited. Only 44 percent of students who apply for these scholarships get them, and the average award is about $1,800.

The result? To afford study abroad, students must turn to family members, take loans or get creative about fundraising. For this reason, many low- and middle-income students never even consider it an option—even though they are likely to have traveled outside the U.S. UD must do more to make this experience more affordable and accessible to all, as we believe in its power to transform young people from U.S. citizens to global citizens.

Most UD undergraduates are from 5 states

UD believes it is essential to get our undergraduates out into the world to experience other cultures and other ways of living.
Thinking Locally

ENGAGING GLOBALLY

When UD students develop the desire to spend time living and working overseas, we know we have done our job right! As we encourage students to “engage globally,” we must support them in turning their plans into reality.

For undergraduates, engaging globally often means developing their own projects or volunteering with an international organization. Every year, about four to six of them earn funding through the Plastino Scholars Program, which since 2007 has enabled students to embark on an out-of-the-classroom learning experience of their own design. Similarly, students who have a parent or stepparent who graduated from UD are eligible to apply for an Alumni Enrichment Award, which can help defray the cost of overseas travel. These types of scholarships can be life-changing, and UD would like to offer more support of this kind.

For graduate students, overseas travel is often an integral part of their degree—whether for a research project or completion of a master’s thesis or dissertation. Only in some cases are travel expenses covered through their graduate program or a specific grant. In 2009, the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies and the Institute for Global Studies began offering Global Research Awards to assist graduate students with international travel. So far, 75 awards ranging from $1,200 to $5,000 have been given. UD hopes to expand this program to increase graduate student contributions to important global research initiatives.

Learn more. Visit the Institute for Global Studies at www.udel.edu/global

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How did your global experience change you?

Shannon Kachel
Master’s Candidate, Wildlife Conservation
Destination: Tajikistan

With support from Panthera, a global wildcat preservation group, Shannon Kachel spent two months in Tajikistan tracking snow leopards and investigating factors in their decline, such as humans hunting for the pelt on which they prey. This area is key to the global preservation of the species, says Shannon, who lived among local people and collaborated with scientists from the Tajik Academy of Sciences. “The greatest benefit was learning how to work in a multicultural setting where there is a constant risk of things being lost in translation. It’s easy to take a paternalistic view and think you’ll show people how to do things better. I saw that, together, we could empower them to develop conservation strategies locally.”

Lily Lamptey
Ph.D. Candidate
Energy & Environmental Policy
Destination: Ghana

Lily Lamptey is a native of Ghana in West Africa, where energy poverty remains a major problem. With the help of a Global Research Award, she recently traveled there to interview residents of two peri-urban communities in the Ashanti Region. Not quite rural but also not urban or even suburban, these transitional areas are growing—but they still suffer from power outages. “I gained a concrete sense of the origins of 18th and 19th century sites, they gain in-depth understanding of farmers and local food is a viable movement. They are blurring the lines between what is local and what is global.”

Morgan Hirt ’13
Accounting & Finance Major
Destination: Italy, Dominican Republic, South Africa

Morgan Hirt had never traveled outside the U.S. before coming to UD. She soon found herself studying business in Venice for a semester and helping to pilot UD’s first Alternative Break program in the Dominican Republic. This past winter season, thanks to an Alumni Enrichment Award and her own fundraising, she volunteered at a center for orphaned and HIV-positive children in Cape Town. “College is a time of growth, and these experiences changed the way I think. People may be different from me and live differently than I do, but they can still be happy. I saw that it wasn’t my job to change them, but to participate in their lives, where they are.”

Daniel Reyes ’12
Anthropology Major
Destination: Guatemala

Since he started working at the Food Bank of Delaware a few years ago, Daniel Reyes has been thinking about how low-income communities can forge stronger connections with local farmers. Since he knew little about farming, he developed a plan to spend ten weeks working on a farm in Minnesota, followed by five weeks studying agricultural practices in Guatemala, including both commercial and subsistence farms. “I gained a concrete sense of what it means to grow food, and a better understanding of farmers and the challenges they face. I also saw that local food is a viable movement. It was phenomenal to see many common threads in these two very different places.”

Ed Carr
Master’s Candidate, Marine Policy
Destination: United States

As a teen growing up in Wawa, Ed Carr decided he wasn’t ready to specialize in one area, so he enrolled in marine science at Bowdoin College in Maine instead, where he developed an interest in ocean ecology and the environment. Now he is pursuing his master’s at UD, thanks to the support of a Marian R. Oak Fellowship. His current research focuses on controlling shipping emissions around the Panama Canal. “UD’s program blends science and policy, which is exactly what I wanted. By studying in Maine, and then teaching science in New York City, I was able to figure that out. My goal is to stay in the U.S. and ultimately work in marine policy.”

Lauren Brincat
Master’s Candidate
Winterthur Program in American Material Culture
Destination: England

Five years ago, thanks to the generosity of long-time donors John and Marjorie McDole, the Winterthur Program was able to develop a two-week London-based English Design History course, now an integral part of the curriculum. As students tour world-famous museums and historic sites, they gain in-depth understanding of the origins of 18th and 19th century American decorative arts. Master’s student Lauren Brincat found the experience invaluable. “We had amazing access to the collections and met people at the top of their fields. I have a much clearer sense of where the objects I am studying at Winterthur derived their inspiration. We also got to ’step behind the curtain’ and witness the challenges of running a museum.”

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www.udel.edu/global
Right now, in places thousands of miles away, our faculty members are collaborating with colleagues, teaching and conducting research, and presenting at conferences. UD sources of funding for such work include the competitive International Travel Award Program, which provides assistance of approximately $1,500, as well as some limited departmental funding. However, for faculty members who do not hold endowed positions or research grants that cover travel, international work often means taking on the added expense themselves. UD wishes to ensure that more faculty members can share their work across international borders.

**Biliana Cicin-Sain, Ph.D.**
**Director of the Mangone Center for Marine Policy**

As founder and director of the Global Ocean Forum, Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain helps government officials, scientists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in more than 110 member countries share knowledge about oceans and coastal preservation. She recently co-organized the second Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Blue Economy Forum with China’s State Oceanic Administration in Tianjin, China. The “Blue economy” concept is about creating healthy marine ecosystems to build stronger economies in coastal areas. Last June, Dr. Cicin-Sain and other UD faculty attended the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, organizing “The Oceans Day” event there to chart next steps in global action on oceans.

**Adrienne Lucas, Ph.D.**
**Assistant Professor of Economics**

Dr. Adrienne Lucas is part of a team of researchers working to evaluate the effect of specific classroom interventions—such as additional teacher training and learning materials—on primary education outcomes in Kenya and Uganda. This work is funded by a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation through its Quality of Education in Developing Countries initiative. Her research ultimately will help shape educational policy in sub-Saharan Africa, but Dr. Lucas also finds it invaluable in her teaching: “I teach development economics to undergraduates, and in every class session I end up telling stories of my travels or using examples from my own research to emphasize a point.”

**Robert Opila, Ph.D.**
**Professor of Materials Science and Engineering**

With partial support from the Australian Solar Institute, Dr. Robert Opila is spending the spring semester at The University of New South Wales’ School of Photovoltaics, one of the leading academic solar institutes in the world. He is working to develop next-generation solar cells that are thinner, more powerful and more efficient. Last semester, he was a Fulbright Fellow at Bilkent University in Turkey, where he taught, collaborated on research, and gave talks on renewable energy, some sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Turkey. “Both opportunities were intellectually very fruitful: I am learning new things, and hopefully bringing new things to Australia and Turkey,” he says. “I even joined the student Turkish society here in Australia.”

**Rudolph Matthee, Ph.D.**
**John and Dorothy Munroe Distinguished Professor of History**

Dr. Rudolph Matthee teaches Middle Eastern history at UD and focuses his research on early modern Iran and the Persian Gulf. Naturally, he is drawn to that area of the world to conduct research and speak at conferences, including recent trips to Istanbul, Turkey; Sharjah and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates; and Hyderabad and Delhi, India. Dr. Matthee credits his UD professorship with enabling him to finance such travel. His numerous books share a focus on the history of Iran, formerly known as Persia, from 1500 to 1900, including its government, trade and culture.

**Lisa McBeth, M.S.N.**
**Instructor in Nursing**

Dr. Lisa McBeth has always been passionate about women’s health issues and childbirth in the U.S., but she wanted to give students in her labor and delivery courses a better sense of the challenges faced by women worldwide. So she set to work developing two study abroad courses in underserved areas of South Africa and Peru, where her students work on the front lines of maternity clinics. “By expanding their knowledge on a global level, we can talk about the differences between the health care systems. And because resources are so limited there, we can make a huge difference in a short amount of time. Seeing the impact this experience has on students has rejuvenated me as well,” she says.

**Bahira Sherif Trask, Ph.D.**
**Professor of Human Development and Family Studies**

“Wonder people think of globalization, they tend to think of it as an economic force, but I look at how it is changing families and affecting family dynamics all over the world,” says Dr. Bahira Sherif Trask. She has frequently spoken on globalization and the family at the United Nations, giving representatives the information they need to create sound policy. She also speaks at conferences throughout the nation and the world—including recent stops in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to share her current research on women, work and globalization.

Faculty members take UD out into the world and increase our global impact, while also bringing back new insights that benefit students.

**CITIZEN UNIVERSITY**

It is not enough to send our students and faculty out into the world: UD also must bring the world to our campus and the surrounding community. Now in its third year, the Confucius Institute at UD is doing just that by offering courses in Chinese language and culture, bringing authors and speakers to campus, and hosting festivals and arts events. The institute is the result of a partnership with Xiamen University in China, which has established a dozen such institutes worldwide.
celebrating 90 years of study abroad

The year 2013 marks the 90th anniversary of UD’s study abroad program. What began as a year in France for just eight juniors and a professor is now a comprehensive program that takes students and faculty from all colleges to six continents. Learn more about UD’s year-long celebration of this special anniversary at www.udel.edu/global/studyabroad

Visit www.udel.edu/giving to read past issues of Inside Delaware

Stay up to date on UD’s latest progress and plans at www.udel.edu/prominence

For more information about giving opportunities call 302.831.2104

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