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Spring 2018, Argentine Fulbright Students Add Latin Flair to UNH Campus

UNH Global Education Center

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UNH Global

Argentine Fulbright Students Add Latin Flair to UNH Campus

Global Education Center

Thursday, April 19, 2018

The Global Education Center was pleased to host 21 Argentine Friends of Fulbright students for a seven-week program this January – March that immersed them into UNH and U.S. culture. The Program is one of the Center's 2018 initiatives to increase opportunities for UNH undergraduate students to interact with students from other countries.

Students participated in four academic courses on the Durham campus, two courses of their choosing in addition to a high level English as a Second Language and Culture course and a

UNH Latin American Studies course with Spanish Professor Lori Hopkins. In Professor Hopkins' class, students partnered with their UNH peers on a research project and presentations. The Fulbrighters, who had diverse academic backgrounds and came from universities throughout Argentina, were excited by the courses offered at UNH and enjoyed the opportunity to participate in courses outside their discipline-focused programs of study in Argentina. Here is a sample of the courses they joined:

- HIST 515: Game of Thrones: Power and Politics in Medieval / Renaissance Europe
- CMN 562: Collaborative Leadership in the 21st Century



Argentine Friends of Fulbright students with Paul Chiarantona (r.) of OISS at welcome reception

- ECON 655: Innovation in the Global Economy
- ESCI 762: Glacial Geology

The students' enthusiastic efforts to integrate into UNH academic and campus life were reflected in the feedback from faculty:



The students in the NH Governor's Chambers

Micaela (She) has been a really wonderful addition to the course [Philosophy 650] and she fits right in with our advanced philosophy majors. Send more just like her!

— Nick Smith, J.D./Ph.D., Professor and Chairperson, University of New Hampshire Department of Philosophy

I wanted to give you an update on Sebastian, the Fulbright scholar, taking my ENGL 727 course on Teaching Second Language Writing. He has joined the course seamlessly, and his expertise and perspective have enriched our conversations and the experiences of the other students in the course greatly. What a wonderful program and student!

— Christina Ortmeier-Hooper, Ph.D., Director of Composition, Associate Professor of English

I loved having Roxana in my class. She was a great asset and enhanced everyone's learning. In a class on feminist theory, she was able to share the sometimes very different experiences of women in Argentina with U.S. students. It was an important learning opportunity for me and the rest of the class.

—Nicole J. Ruane, Ph.D., Lecturer, Humanities Program

The Argentines enjoyed a full program of activities organized by Office of International Students and Scholars staff, including day trips to the NH capital and Freeport, Maine; skiing and tubing at a local mountain resort; and weekend excursions to Boston, New York City and Washington, D.C. Organized on-campus experiences included White Out the Whit and game nights at the Freedom Café, as well as numerous student organization events and other activities. To facilitate interaction between the visiting students and UNH students, the Spanish Department organized a buddy program which

matched junior and senior Spanish majors with Argentine students for language exchange and local activities. Similarly, the Housing department helped pair the students with domestic students to increase opportunities for informal exchange.

Without exception, the Argentine students reported overwhelmingly positive experience in their post-program survey. They were amazed by campus, which they considered a 'city for students'. Sad to leave, one student remarked:



Enjoying a day of tubing

students, American and Argentinian, lived and learned together, shared simple day to day activities and in the process came to understand and appreciate each other for their differences and similarities." The Global Education Center team will be reviewing the experience with campus partners, but preliminary assessments indicate that this type of programming enriches the campus life for everyone involved.

An unanticipated outcome of planning and implementing the program was the enjoyable team spirit that was built by an array of departments and units that typically would not have the opportunity to collaborate. The Language and Culture Center and the Spanish Department, professors Holly Cashman and Lori Hopkins; Housing, Kathy Irla-Chesney and Victoria Wilson; the ESL Institute, Scott Clements and Prentice Philipps; the Registrar's Office, and college associate deans and faculty of CEPS, Paul and COLA all contributed to the success of the program. A special thanks goes to



The students getting ready for "White Out the Whit" hockey night

"The whole experience of staying on a campus and being part of a campus community, I will never forget that." Another added: "It's amazing how all of the different majors and students of different interests come together and create this community. It's like nothing I've ever seen."

Kerryellen Vroman, interim associate vice provost concluded, "In the spirit of Fulbright,

graduate student Morgan Lynch, Spanish Language Program Liaison and the OISS staff who facilitated the students' positive experiences on a daily basis and opened their homes so that the students could experience true New England hospitality.

The Argentinian Friends of Fulbright visit has set the stage for future collaborations to internationalize campus life. Imagine the UNH campus if every semester diverse groups of international students routinely become part of our community for short-term cultural and academic immersion experiences.

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