



Building Bridges

Between Cultures and Countries



Dates to remember

- Study Abroad Fair -
February 6, 2008
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
International Centre
- Peace Corps
presentation
February 13
6:00 – 7:00 pm
International Centre
- Feast of Nations
February 16
5:30 pm
Alerus Center

Cultural Nights

Thursdays, 7:00 pm
Loading Dock, MU

- Jan. 31 - Somalia
- Feb. 7 - Philippines
- Feb. 14 - Belarus
- Feb. 28 - France
- March 13 - Nepal
- March 27 - Russia
- April 3 - Bangladesh
- April 10 – Ghana
- April 17 - Georgia
- April 24 - Hawaii

Country in Focus: Belarus

Population: 9,776,000

Capital: Minsk; 1,705,000

Area: 207,595 square
kilometers (80,153 square
miles)



Language: Belarusian,
Russian

Religions: Eastern Orthodox,
Roman Catholic, Protestant,
Jewish, Muslim

University of North Dakota
Office of International Programs
www.und.edu/dept/oip

International Centre
2908 University Avenue, Stop 7109
Grand Forks, ND 58202-7109

Feast of Nations – February 16

The 46th Annual Feast of Nations will be held on February 16 at Alerus Center with doors opening at 5:30 pm.

This year's celebration will feature:

- *Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble* from Winnipeg. For 40 years, Rusalka has enchanted audiences around the world. The ensemble's unique and vibrant style of entertainment and dance has gained international recognition, making them a group in great demand. See www.rusalka.mb.ca/home/home.html
- *La Clave del Sol* a dynamic Latin American band which takes pride in presenting traditional and contemporary music.
- *International Performances* from students and faculty.

Ticket will be available soon!

- \$10 for students
- \$15 for non-students
- \$180 to reserve a table for 10.

Call 777-4231 for details.

Lagasse selected as chair to NAFSA Region IV

Ray Lagasse, director of international programs, has been selected to serve a three-year term as chair for Region IV for the Association of International Educators (NAFSA). Region IV consists of North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, and South Dakota. The three-year appointment includes one year as chair-elect, the second year as chair, and the third year as past-chair. The position involves serving on the Region IV executive committee, presiding at all regional and team meetings, coordinating and overseeing plans and activities of regional team members, and advocating the region at national meetings. Overall, NAFSA serves international educators and their institutions and organizations by setting standards of good practice, making available training and professional development opportunities, providing networking opportunities, and advocating for international education.

Ray, a resident of Crookston, Minn., has been the director of international programs since 2004.

International Students & Scholars Services

Advising Notes

Registration Requirements:

When advising international students please note that international students are required to be registered as full-time students and maintain full-time status throughout the semester.

Undergraduate students: 12 credits

Graduate Students:

No assistantship: 9 credits

¼ or ½ time assistantship: 6credits

U.S. Federal Regulations prohibit F-1 status students from counting more than 1 online or distance course (3 credits maximum) toward the full time enrollment requirements each semester. This includes IVN courses.

Reminders:

1. Anyone advising new international students, please make sure that they have met with an international student advisor. Call 777-4231 to set up an appointment.
2. When working with your students, please stress with them the importance of:
 - activating their u-mail account
 - making sure that their addresses are updated on Campus Connection as well as with International Programs.



Country in Focus: Belarus

Currency: Belarusian ruble

Life Expectancy: 69

GDP per Capita: U.S. \$8,700

Literacy Percent: 100

Belarus is sometimes known as "White Russia".

Slavic tribes did not arrive in Belarus until the sixth and seventh centuries.

Polotsk is Belarus' oldest city (known since 862).

St Sophia's Cathedral in Polotsk, built between 1044 and 1066, is the oldest monument in Belarus.

L.S. Vygotsky (1896-1934), the famous psychologist who worked at the Moscow State University's Institute of Experimental Psychology, was born in Orsha in Belarus.

The Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic was one of the founders of the USSR.

At the end of the Second World War some of the people from Belarus who had worked as forced labour in Germany settled in countries in the West.

Olga Korbut, born in Grodno in 1955, was one of the world's most popular gymnasts of the twentieth century.

Belarus suffered from radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident which occurred in 1986 in the Ukraine (USSR).

At the end of 1991 the USSR was dissolved. Belarus became an independent state.



Education Abroad

Upcoming Study Abroad Fair

February 6, 2008

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

International Centre

Faculty-Directed Programs

For Spring and Summer 08:

- Aviation 399: Global Perspectives
Tokyo, March 1-9
Tom Zeidlik & Jim Higgins
- IT 422 Digital Photography & Imaging
Puerto Rico - February 28 - March 9
Lynda Kenney
- Honors 391: Places You Should Go:
Ireland - May 12-23
Kay Powell
- Chinese Studies: Summer Study Abroad
China, May 1 - June 9
Colleen Berry & Victoria Beard

Summer 2008 Program May 9 - June 14

The Office of International Programs is proud to announce a new option for Spanish language study this summer. In collaboration with Northern Arizona University, UND students will have the opportunity to take 200 and 300 level Spanish language courses at the Universidad Internacional (UI) in historic Cuernavaca, Mexico. With near perfect climate and a rich history, Cuernavaca and the UI offers students a tremendous opportunity to improve language skills complemented by a unique cultural experience. As an added bonus, the program's cost is extremely affordable.

The dates for Summer 2008 in Cuernavaca will be May 9th thru June 14th.

Cuernavaca, Mexico, known as "The City of Eternal Spring," is located 50 miles south of Mexico City. (One hour and thirty minutes from the Mexico City's international airport). Its near perfect climate has attracted vacationers since the days of the Aztec emperors. Today its narrow streets host a fascinating mix of local residents, Mexican vacationers, and foreign students.

Programming

Thursday Night Cultural Series

Dates

Spring 2008 Dates:

- January 31Somalia
- February 7 Philippines
- February 14 Belarus
- February 28 France
- March 13 Nepal
- March 27Russia
- April 3 Bangladesh
- April 10 Ghana
- April 17Georgia
- April 24Hawaii

Location

The *Loading Dock* in the Memorial Union

Thursday Nights - Change of Location

Due to the continued popularity of the Thursday night cultural programs, the Office of International Programs will be teaming up with the Memorial Union during spring semester to hold the cultural nights in the Loading Dock instead of the International Centre. The Loading Dock will provide more space and more possibilities for the Thursday night set up and, most importantly, we hope it will be a more comfortable space for our guests. The series will continue to be held on Thursday nights and 7:00. The program will still be free and food will be available for \$1.00. We look forward to seeing you in the Loading Dock on January 31.