

A semester abroad at the University of Wyoming (UW)
(Kathrin Plankensteiner)

Miss Verena Brunner and I flew on the 6th January 2010 to Wyoming, Laramie National Airport, and arrived there around 9 p.m. on the same day. We were picked up from the airport by the UW-travel-service and were brought to our apartment on the UW-campus.

Due to the fact that the classes started on 11th of January we got some time to organize some univ. stuff, walk around and finally we fell in love with the awesome landscape and very friendly and helpful people of Laramie.

As mentioned before, see „Zwischenbericht“, I attended following classes during my semester abroad:

Math Theory of Probability (3.0 hours)
Polynomials (3.0 hours)
Theory of Numbers (3.0 hours)
Sem: Combinatorics (3.0 hours)
Applied Differential Equation I (3.0 hours)

Since I had already taken similar classes in Europe, there weren't any difficulties to follow the topics in the different classes. Due to the different approaches, provided by the professors of the University of Wyoming, the topics we discussed in class were very interesting and informative.

The curriculum in UW-classes is very different from curriculums we are used to from Austrian Universities. In each class, students have to pass two to three midterm exams and a final exam to get a grade. Since we got a lot of homework in each class and all professors prepared us very well with different examples and hints for the exams, it wasn't very difficult to get really good results on the exams.

The professors by themselves were very nice. As soon as they got to know that Miss Verena Brunner and I are from Austria, we have been included in a lot of discussions about mathematicians from Europe, particularly from Austria or Germany. Hence Miss Verena Brunner and I felt very welcomed at the University of Wyoming.

Although we had a lot of homeworks to do and a lot of midterm exams to pass, we got also a lot of time to travel around. Hence, we have been to Chicago, Toronto, Cambridge, and New York during Spring Break and did a lot of one- and two-day trips to get to know more of the really awesome country of America.

The „international institute“ of the University of Wyoming tries very hard to do really everything, that all internationals feel welcomed. Miss Kelly Moore and Miss Ruth Shepherd, Exchange/Study Abroad Coordinators, were very dedicated to help with any problem.

In the first week we arrived, there was a “Welcome Internationals Party” at the University of Wyoming. At this party, all internationals had to introduce themselves and we played some nice games to get to know each other. Due to weekly „International Coffee Hours“ every Friday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., we also got the chance to get to know other international students. We played pool billiard and fussball and got coffee and cakes for free. Thus we got a lot of new friends in the first several weeks. In the last week, before the final exams started, also a „Goodbye Internationals Party” took place. At this party a cake and coffee was served and all of us internationals got a certificate of the University of Wyoming.

Summing up our semester abroad at the University of Wyoming, it was a very nice time there. We got to know so much new people, new cultures and found really good friends.

Sincerely,

Kathrin Plankensteiner