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University Relations

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**Czech Republic: A place to teach and to learn for Hoeschen '07**

*Summary: UMM's Global Student Teaching (GST) program fulfills two passions in Rachel Hoeschen's life—teaching and traveling.*

(March 6, 2007)-The Global Student Teaching (GST) program fulfills two passions in Rachel Hoeschen's life—teaching and traveling. As a University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) sophomore, the St. Michael native participated in UMM's English Language Teaching Assistant Program (ELTAP) in Italy. Motivated by the rewarding experience, Hoeschen began exploring GST options as soon as she returned.

The senior elementary education major chose to student teach in the Czech Republic based on a simple fact—she had never been there before. “I wanted to go to a place that still had old world charm,” she states. “I also have a keen interest in European history. Since Prague suffered little structural damage during the world wars, it is somewhat of a history hot spot.”

In January, Hoeschen began teaching fifth and sixth graders at the British International School of Prague. Her 19 students represent 13 nationalities. “My students are very smart and have a strong drive to learn,” shares Hoeschen. “They ask more questions and read more books than any student with whom I've worked in the past. Walking back to the classroom after a library session, they need to be told to watch out for doors and steps because they are so engrossed in their books!”

“It has surprised me just how culturally aware everyone is here,” reflects Hoeschen. “In the states, a student may start learning a second language in high school. For many of my students, English may be a third or fourth language. Children, as well as most adults, seem to have a better understanding of the world. They follow world politics and have a greater understanding of world geography.”

The UMM Division of Education, notes Hoeschen, emphasizes multicultural education and encourages UMM students to teach in a variety of settings. “Multiculturalism is important to education today, and I can see no better way of truly understanding what it means than by actually going out into the world and experiencing a variety of cultures.”

UMM's Global Student Teaching program allows education students the opportunity to apply their own classroom learning in elementary and secondary schools in 49 different countries.

Photo: Hoeschen on the playground of the British International School in Prague

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