

News Release

Alumnus Luke Anderson, '07, Crookston, Minn., goes to Thailand in Study Abroad Opportunity

By Rae French, Elizabeth Tollefson on Monday, February 11, 2008

Crookston, Minn. (February 8, 2008) – Luke Anderson, Crookston, Minn., a December 2007 graduate of the University of Minnesota Crookston, went to Thailand recently as part of a study abroad program, where he studied rapid ecological and conservation assessment techniques in the jungle.

Only 15 students from the University of Minnesota were selected to go on the prestigious adventure and the U of M Crookston was excited to have Anderson, a Natural Resources major, among the group. The 3-credit course is led by faculty from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Mahidol University and the staff of the Khao Nang Rum Wildlife Research Center in Thailand.

In a country of around 65 million people, Thailand is part of a global "biodiversity hotspot" and Anderson was part of an ongoing research project that began in 1989. Students who participated in the program had a chance to work closely with the long-term tiger conservation project in which the U of M is a principle partner. Students were involved with camera trapping techniques, prey assessment methods and radio-telemetry approaches to the study of large mammals.

The international office at the U of M Crookston was proud to have a student participating in the program who was challenged by the experience, satisfied by the outcome and learned more about global issues in a real-life environment. "A goal of mine was to study abroad," Anderson said. "I was honored to be included in an International Field Study Course to Thailand."



The trip began by spending three days on a live-aboard barge where the students learned about the history and culture of Thailand. They were given a brief introduction to the language, to Buddhism and visited several important cultural areas. Several hours north of Bangkok, they learned about the landscape and wildlife of the central plains of Thailand, home to wild elephant herds, tigers, clouded leopards and gaur (a species of wild cattle).

During our time in the Huai Kha Kaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, which is closed to the general public, Anderson used skills he had studied his classes at the U of M Crookston but had not used in the field. He learned camera trapping and sampling techniques for determining prey density for tigers.

"I traveled and worked one day with Thai people who didn't speak English, and I didn't speak Thai," explains Anderson. "We were able to work together all day

and communicate without speaking the same language. I tried to volunteer at every opportunity. Volunteering and working hard helped involve me in exciting new situations making for once in a lifetime experiences. I want to thank everyone who made this trip possible."

For more information on studying abroad at the U of M Crookston, contact Rae French at 218-281-8339 (rfrench@umn.edu).

The University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) delivers more than 25 applied-science undergraduate degree programs and 50 concentrations, including several online degrees, in agriculture; arts, humanities and social sciences; business; math, science and technology; and natural resources. Invent yourself at the University of Minnesota, Crookston – become a leader, innovate through technology and research and secure the career you want. To learn more, visit www.UMCrookston.edu.

News Categories

[Alumni & Donors](#)

[Tweet](#)

[Like 0](#)

[Share](#)

[News Home](#)

[News Archives](#)



Small Campus. Big Degree..

[Employment](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Academic Calendar](#)
[Library](#)
[Directories](#)
[Maps, Directions & Parking](#)
[Quick Facts](#)
[Bookstore](#)

[Faculty & Staff](#)
[Email & Calendar](#)
[Contact Webmaster](#)
[System Website](#)
[Home](#)

2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716
800-862-6466 | 218-281-6510 | umcinfo@umn.edu

© 2021 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
[Privacy Statement](#)

