

NT students go abroad to gain skills

Students gain valuable experiences through summer travel

by Bella Geroulis and Connor Josellis

While other students were in summer school, sleeping in, and going to the beach, Junior Laren Perl was visiting Iseral. Perl traveled to Iseral to get a inside look at the culture and the daily life of the Iseralian people.

Perl, like many other New Trier students, trip was not only a trip of leisure but a trip for learning.

The luxury of traveling both domestically and abroad during summer vacation is a luxury that many New Trier students are fortunate enough to experience.

'We got to meet real people. It was life changing to see how they look at life so differently than we do.'

Every summer many New Trier students prepare for treks all over the world to study and explore foreign cultures. These trips are not just long



Louis Shaw and brother Phillip in Greece after an eventful summer with a trip spanning several countries | Instagram

family vacations, many students are now taking advantage of their time off to attend educational programs and learn about different cultures in the process.

Senior Erica Kugler spent two weeks this past summer relaxing and studying in Italy. Kugler attended a youth program geared towards young adults who wanted to be educated on the skills essential for aspiring business people.

Kugler said that the program, "gives student an advantage because it gives you a different experience to utilize the future." Kugler went on to say meeting people both in the group and in the country gave her a network throughout the world that might help

her later in life.

Since the benefits of going abroad in high school are expensive, some people argue that it gives students an unfair advantage. Junior Graham Rodes brings up the fact that expenses play a role in giving some people more opportunities than others. "It's not cheap to travel across the world to study or to visit," Rodes said, "so it makes it harder for everyone to reap the same benefits."

Junior Chris Shelton mirrored Rodes views. "The cost can be high but there are employment options both here or abroad," Shelton said. "You can save money for programs like these or have financial plans but I really think its a good opportuni-

ty." Shelton continued saying overall abroad programs are worth it if students have the desire.

Senior Camille Graham traveled to Ecuador this summer through the New Trier Spanish program's annual trip. Graham said the costs were high, until she was able to find a scholarship through New Trier to cover the majority of the costs.

Graham was adamant that the costs were worth it, though. She said, "I love the language of Spanish and I think it is important to practice and engulf yourself in cultures other than that of the North shore."

Consistently, travel seems to be the one thing that everyone loves.

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Like Shelton, many Trevians see traveling as essential to growth and learning.

Senior Louis Shaw spends most of his summers traveling all across the globe. He rarely stays at home and is constantly jumping from one country to the next. Shaw said, "traveling allows you to see things from different perspectives and forces you to go outside your comfort zone."

Shaw used to live in China, as well as London and Milan. He went on to say that his parents make traveling a priority because "it teaches some valuable lessons that would otherwise be impossible to convey."

Junior Lauren Perl, who went to Israel this summer, summarized the benefits of her experiences abroad. "I learned there are so many types of people in the world and you never really get to meet when you stay on the North Shore," Perl said. "We got to meet real people. It was life changing to see how they look at life so differently than we do."

Netflix does it again

Netflix's new show, "Stranger Things," is a smash hit

by Connor Josellis

This summer's hit show, "Stranger Things," combines 80's pop culture and science fiction, and it's quickly become the most popular binge-watch series this summer.

"Stranger Things" is a Netflix original that takes place in 1983. It follows three boys' quest to find their friend, Will, who went missing.

Rooted in adventure, the boys do everything to find their fellow Dungeons and Dragons player and best friend.

The local sheriff, Will's mom, and brother, also join in the search. However, their best chance at finding him comes when the boys find a girl named Eleven.

Eleven contains powers gained from an experimental program that now allow her to connect with a parallel universe called The Upside Down, where Will is mysteriously trapped.

The Upside Down is ruled by a monster called 'The Demogorgon'—an entity with whom Eleven can communicate. Portals open throughout town and can suck susceptible citizens in his terrifying universe.

Eleven tries her best to save Will, but she grows weaker every time she uses her powers. Moreover, Eleven is being hunted by Hawkins Lab, the government funded lab from which she escaped.

In efforts to rescue Will, the characters find more out about each other. Some find love, and all of them create stronger and more connected bonds as the series unfolds.

"Stranger Things" is anchored by incredible acting, cinematography and an original soundtrack by the band Survive, which evokes nostalgia

with other viewers.

The show has also brought even more potential to Netflix's power of the market. With hits like "Orange is the New Black", "House of Cards", and "Narcos", "Stranger Things" joins that list of popular shows made by Netflix.

"Stranger Things" has garnered the critical acclaim of New Trier students. Senior, William Wolf, has seen many Netflix originals but said that Stranger Things is by far the best.

"It has elements of the eighties, mystery, horror, sci-fi, and a little comedy, and they did it all well," Wolf said.

The directors, the Duffer Brothers, have gained praise because their props and set are so stylistically similar to the 80s. Whether it is the TV show in the background or the walkie talkies used to communicate, everything fits.

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The first season was only a short eight episodes, so it made watching all of them an easy feat. Senior Alicia Bagan said "I thought it was weird at first, but I couldn't stop watching."

Social media outlets like Twitter were quick to jump on the show's bandwagon. They offered hashtags such as #JusticeforBarb which referenced a smaller character that was a fan favorite who went missing early in the season.

"Stranger Things" will be back for a season two in 2017 and just recently they announced the episode list for it. It features one more episode than the last season and will take place in the fall of 1984, a year from where they left off.

Viewers have already come up with theories for season two and expectations have never been stranger.

Concerns arise over mobile game

Pokémon Go causes panic among some

by Hannah Young

Pokémon Go, the popular virtual game installed more than 100 million times, has led users to find anything from Weedles to Wartortles to dead bodies.

In mid-July, armed robbers used 'lure modules' to attract people to secluded areas in Missouri. Later that month, in Wyoming, 19-year-old Shayla Wiggins from Wyoming, was searching for water Pokémon characters when she found a dead body floating in the Big Wind River. Yet, since then, the game has been installed 75 million more times.

New Trier's Police Liaison, Jose Perez, explained that Pokémon Go's greatest danger is "...distraction. Distracted walking. Distracted driving. We see it all the time where people are on their phones and they are not paying attention to where they are walking."

Eight days after the incident with Wiggins, two 20-year-old men were playing the game, unconscious of their surroundings. While walking, they failed to notice caution signs and fell 50 to 90 feet off a cliff in Encinitas, California. The men suffered severe injuries.

While many would assume that parents are constantly worried about this game jeopardizing the safety of their children, that's not quite how parents of New Trier students have reacted.

Northfield parent Ceci Hagist said, "Teenagers and kids need to be aware of their surroundings with or without Pokémon Go."

According to Hagist, teens shouldn't need to take any extra precautions. They should always be conscious of where they are and who's



Over 100 million people have downloaded Pokémon Go | Creative Commons

around them.

Similarly, Winnetka parent Mary Knudson said, "if kids are playing these games, there needs to be education and supervision. It is not isolated just to this game being more of a threat than others. I am just not aware of this having more threat potential than other online games."

Referring to video game programs such as "Xbox Live", Knudson believes they can expose threats just as dangerous and unsafe as Pokémon Go.

While there have been reports of suspicious behavior and trespassing in the area due to the game, it's been left to just that.

In reference to more serious crimes that have occurred in other locations, Perez said, "I have not come across any cases locally that had to do with Pokémon Go. But they are out there. That doesn't mean it hasn't happened. Maybe it hasn't been reported. It's just a risk of using that type of application."

In Chicago, there have been instances where criminals have robbed people who were too involved in the game. In New York, police discovered that pedophiles were using the app in order to draw children directly to

their houses.

"Criminals are using the application and taking advantage of you while you are distracted," Perez said.

Senior Kelly Zabors pointed out another safety issue: "It can get pretty scary when I see people driving while playing. Technology in entertainment is advancing to the point where we can't resist it even in basic ethical situations, involving serious consequences."

According to Zabors, people are so tempted by the game that they throw all common sense out the window.

One may ask, if the game is endangering the lives of others, why do people continue to play?

"I knew about the robberies but I just keep playing," said Senior Kristy Zeng. "It's only the people who are obsessed and so intense with finding Pokémon that go out of their way to dangerous places."

Although there haven't been severe incidents with the use of the app on the North Shore, it can happen.

Perez said, "It's like many other apps. They can be fun when you use them the right way and you use them in a thoughtful way. It's fun as long as you are using your head."