



Bods Abroad

Published by International Programs

October 2008

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Continuing Life Abroad – Austria

by Misty Long, Math Major, WU Direct Exchange Program– Spring 08'



Misty, second from the left, with bag over the shoulder waits for a train with friends in Austria. Photo submitted by Misty Long

During the spring 2008 semester, I took an opportunity to study abroad in Klagenfurt, Austria with the direct exchange program between the University of Klagenfurt and Washburn University. Before coming to Klagenfurt, I had not exactly known what to expect. I kept in mind the advice of a previous Bod Abroad who I had heard speak at the WU Study Abroad Orientation she stated, “Having a lot of expectations with one’s study abroad experience could be problematic”. So I began this sojourn with an open mind and the capacity to roll with the punches. I am incredibly pleased that I was able to let this advice stay with me, it has proven to be quite

useful in enjoying my time away. Realizing that throughout the entirety of one’s experiences there will be unexpected differences, surprises that one would usually only find humorous after the fact, difficulties that feel unimaginably comforting after they are worked out, and many people that are willing to help in some way. I think these unforeseen circumstances and all of the people one would meet really make the experience memorable—in an oddly refreshing way I might add.

A brief word of caution though: Rolling with the punches does not necessarily mean rolling over. Although problems or awkward situations arise, one doesn’t have to accept that “this is simply how it is and will be.” Misunderstandings occur and if you are truly dissatisfied, then speaking up is the only way to change the situation. It isn’t some fairy-tale land of amazement filled with selfless people who willingly do absolutely anything they can to comfort and help you. Asking for help in something is always an option.

Finally, I’d like to quickly rant about a few things. Firstly, my experience with the teachers in Klagenfurt was fantastic. They were patient, friendly, helpful, (insert tons of very good qualities). I really don’t think I could say anything negative about them. Secondly, I was unbelievably sad to say goodbye to so many people—most of which I am not sure that I’ll have the chance to meet with again. I never expected the jerks of pain in saying goodbye to this many people from such a short time in Klagenfurt. (Honestly, only in life threatening situations does time seem to pass quicker.) Thirdly, I want to thank everyone that has helped and encouraged me thus far. I cannot explain how glad I am that I studied in Klagenfurt, but to give you an idea, I can say that I’m now going through the strokes of elongating my stay for another semester. I really wish the best to every Bod that is going abroad in the Fall, and I would encourage every Bod at Washburn to seriously consider study abroad as an option and seek out information. It really is wonderful!

Admissions & Scholarship Deadlines:

Feb. 1 – Spring Break

March 1st – Summer & Fall

Visit www.washburn.edu/iip

View list of programs available & download a copy of the Study Abroad Admissions and Scholarship Application

One Republic-Dominican Republic

by Katelyn Weisharr, Mass Media Major, - Spring 08'



Katelyn Weisharr tries some fresh coconut juice.

Photo submitted by Katelyn Weisharr.

This summer I participated in the Washburn University Study Abroad Program and traveled to the Dominican Republic with my Spanish professor, Senora Georgina Tenny, and ten other classmates. I have always loved traveling, which was what sparked my interest in this program, though I never thought I would actually get the opportunity to take part in such an experience. When my professor told me about the trip she was putting together, I just couldn't help myself.

Soon after the spring 2008 semester came to an end, I found myself traveling all over "La Republica Dominicana" and opening my eyes to extraordinary aspects of the country's culture.

I had definitely been bitten by the tropical love bug as I started to eat, drink, and speak like the local Dominicans. My classmates and I traveled to six different cities across the country eating rice, chicken, and goat. We had cigar factory workers teach us to roll cigars, we tried our skills at dancing the merengue and bachata, and we even climbed seven waterfalls in the jungle just to turn around and jump or slide back down them. I strongly recommend Washburn University's Study Abroad Program and truly believe every student should take the opportunity Washburn offers to participate in study abroad and the international transformational experience.

Thank you Washburn!

Study Abroad Fair

January 29th

9:00 – 1:00

Union - Washburn A

Our African Adventure-South Africa

by Megan Wells, Psychology Major, Spring 08'



Loaded up for Safari. Front seat: Tony the Ranger and owner of Mohlebetsi Safari Lodge. First row: Professor Joanne Altman and Jack Kaplan. Third Row: left to right Heather Gelsinger, Molly Kelley, and Megan Wells. Back row: left to right Kevin Goetz and Lindsay Sands. Photo submitted by Megan Wells.

Its 5:30 in the morning in South Africa (which would make it 10:30pm the night before in Kansas) and I, along with four Washburn students and our professor, Dr. Altman and her husband Jack, leave our Rondawels (huts) at the Mohlabetsi Private Safari lodge dressed and ready for the game drive ahead of us. First we meet to have coffee, hot tea, or hot chocolate to warm us from the cool winter morning. Our guide, Tony, who also owns the reserve, shows us to our Range Rover and gives us a short talk on how to react when we see wildlife. Since we are on a private reserve we get the privilege of riding in an open vehicle and are able to go off the road to get a closer look at the animals we spot, which made for an even better experience. We jump in our seats, get situated with cameras out, ready to aim and shoot. Our tracker, Lucky, sat in a seat that is located at the very front of the Rover on the left-hand side and he helps to point out wildlife. As we drove around we saw herds of impala, zebras, elephants, giraffes, Cape buffalo, jackals, hyenas, lions, and many more different animals. The array of wildlife there was amazing and we were able to see so much of it! The sunrise is a picture in my mind that will never fade. It was almost like you could see the land awaken with the sun.

We return mid-morning to eat breakfast and have a few hours of free time to sit and enjoy fresh air. By this time we are in shorts and t-shirts and are able to enjoy the warmer side of Africa. This is when most of us did our journaling, since what we saw was still fresh in our minds.

Around two we would have lunch and prepare for our evening game drive. We jumped in the same vehicle and headed out to observe more wildlife. When the sun began to set we would stop and all get out to stretch and have “sundowners”. The sunset was amazing with all the colors. The purples, blues and pinks all just melted together. Once the sun was down we were back in the car with a spot light to try and see the nightlife. When we returned we had time to wash up a bit before we ate supper. The staff at our camp was so accommodating, they would show us to the “Boma” which is a big circle outlined by bamboo shoots with a fire pit in the middle and chairs and tables around the edge for us to sit and eat. Each night when we gathered they cooked the food in front of us and talked about what all we had seen. The one meal I won’t forget “braving” was ostrich. Luckily it tasted like chicken and wasn’t too bad.

While we were in South Africa we took a day to go to Kruger National Park and saw plenty of different wildlife. After a few days in South Africa we headed to Botswana and stayed at Mashatu Private Game Reserve. We stayed in tents and went out on drives in the morning and evening. This is the camp that we were able to see a leopard and completed our Big Five. This group includes lion, elephant, leopard, rhino, and buffalo. The one day I will always remember is when we saw two lions eating a zebra carcass. Once we got as close as we could to the lions we stopped to watch, the smell was horrific but we all covered our mouths and noses and began to take all the pictures we could knowing that this was a priceless moment. We were able to observe how the food chain works as jackals and hyenas were in the distance, hoping to get in after the lions were finished to pick on the leftovers.

This was a trip of a lifetime and an experience that cannot be forgotten. I know I, along with my peers, enjoyed every part of Africa and getting to observe the wildlife. It was a trip that I would take again in a heartbeat.

Top 10 Reasons to Study Abroad:

1. Travel while earning college credits!
2. Try new foods.
3. Learn a new language, or put a second language to use.
4. Experience firsthand different cultures and customs.
5. Increase personal confidence/pride-in-self by surviving in a different environment.
6. Looks good on a resume.
7. Become more independent.
8. Improve communication skills.
9. Gain a higher appreciation for the United States.
10. Prepare for the ever-increasing globalized business world.

Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum-Vietnam/Cambodia

by Judy Herring, Law Major, -Spring 08’



Judy Herring pictured with girls from the Nguyen Viet Xuan Orphanage and Boarding School in Hanoi, Vietnam. Photo submitted by Judy Herring.

After a day and a half of travel, the final leg of my air travel touched down at midnight in Siam Riep, Cambodia. Even in the “cool” of the night, the tropical, humid climate assaulted my senses. After collecting my baggage, I began to work my way through Cambodian customs. It took me just seconds to realize that the simplest way through customs was to grab your baggage

and just start walking with purpose. My purpose for going on an international trip was to engage on a 16 day whirlwind trip in Cambodia and Vietnam soaking up history and culture.

Cambodia and Vietnam are different from the United States in many obvious ways. The country of Cambodia is still in a stage of development after being destroyed under the Khmer Rouge and the government is still corrupt beyond imagination. Vietnam is a single-party state still emerging from a long and bitter war that left the nation politically isolated.

Due to years spent living under the oppressive Khmer Rouge, Cambodians live minute to minute, and seem to be unable to plan ahead, or think forward, even an hour or two. Although this is a definite shift from the pace that we enjoy in the United States, Cambodians generally appear to be infinitely happy. When the monsoon rains unleash their fury every afternoon, the Cambodians happily lay down wherever they happen to be sitting and take a nap.

Over twenty years ago, in a historic shift, the Communist Party of Vietnam implemented free-market reform to boost the war-ravaged economy of the country. Although Vietnam is still a relatively poor country, they boast of being the world's second fastest growing economy. The Vietnamese exude an air of aloof politeness and are very willing to work day and night for their government and in the name of their beloved Ho Chi Minh.

Neither country has any rules for driving, although Vietnam has recently implemented a helmet requirement for adults. Hoards of bicycles, "motos", and carts weave in and out of traffic, sounding their deafening horns and bells at regular intervals. When attempting to cross a street, the local advice is just to step out into traffic and keep walking at a steady pace allowing the traffic to swerve around you as you walk. Although the traffic system seems random and ineffective, you can easily move across a city of over 6 million people in under a half hour. Between visits to the Royal Palaces, Silver Pagoda, Tonle Sap Great Lake, Cu-Chi Tunnels, and the ancient temples of Angor Wat, it does not take long to realize that every individual has a heart-wrenching personal story. The stories are told with resolute factualness. One tour guide spoke of spending most of his life away from his homeland in a Thai refugee camp. In the mass transit to the camp, he was separated from

his father and two brothers, whom he never saw again. Another guide told stories of being a small child, hiding in his village from ruthless Khmer Rouge soldiers and losing his childhood innocence watching friends maimed and killed while at play in the countryside riddled with undetonated landmines. Yet another man told stories of starving and being herded by soldiers from town to town. With tears in his eyes, he recounted watching his precious mother who had been weakened by brutality, starvation, and disease crumple beside the road and breathe her last breath.

A school that was converted into the execution camp, known as S-21, presented some especially solemn moments. Chum Mey, who was one of only seven survivors from the camp, out of over 16,000 Cambodians, was visiting the haunted grounds on the same day as our visit. With tears streaming down his leathery, worn cheeks he spoke of his wife and infant son who were ripped from his arms and executed in front of him. He slipped his brown toes out of his sandals to show where the tormentors had removed his toenails as torture to get him to repent for an unknown crime.

Following the precedent set by the Nuremburg trials, the international community is making an effort to apply a salve to the open wounds of the Cambodian citizens by attempting to hold some of the top individuals responsible for brutal slaying of millions of people in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. Chum Mey is the only survivor brave and strong enough to give evidence at the trial of the surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime.

Both Cambodia and Vietnam are full of survivor's intent on facing the challenges of life in their individual traditions. Cambodians flash beautiful smiles against perfectly bronze skin, and happily go about their essential daily tasks. The Vietnamese perform more than their share of labor with a dogged determination to become a better society and give back to their government. But, both cultures are clear on their purpose...a resolve to look forward to the future and a determination to share their cultural, environmental, and historical wealth with the global community.

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Sound Byte from study abroad participant...

Studying Abroad was one of the greatest choices I've ever made...

I learned I want to live in Europe!

-Travis Byers - Junior, Management, School of Business, Spring Semester Program in Germany -Osnabrück University.

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Studying Law Abroad – Netherlands by Jeremiah Donnelly, Law Major, WU Direct Exchange –Spring 08'



Jeremiah and fellow law students Elenora and Alberto from the University of Turin, Italy.

Photo submitted by Jeremiah Donnelly.

A few years ago, Washburn University school of Law began an exchange program with the Universiteit Maastricht School of Law. This program allows law students from Washburn to study abroad at a leading European Law institution while paying only the regular tuition to Washburn University. This is a real treat as the Euro is currently about 50% higher than the dollar, and non-European Union citizens generally pay ten times the tuition costs that European Union citizens pay. Additionally, there are opportunities to stay abroad for the entire year at Universiteit Maastricht school of Law earning the master of laws degree (L.L.M.) in several subjects ranging from globalization of law to human rights.

The teaching methods at the Universiteit Maastricht differ a little from the Socratic Method that is used at Washburn School of Law. The Dutch university uses a problem based learning system that involves independent research and problem solving. Instead of semesters, the year is broken down into quarters with each student focusing on two to three classes every two months. Because the schedule is fast paced, you really need to keep on track.

Fortunately, all classes are taught in English. Also, like most U.S. law schools, Maastricht offers a law journal, moot court, and clinic.

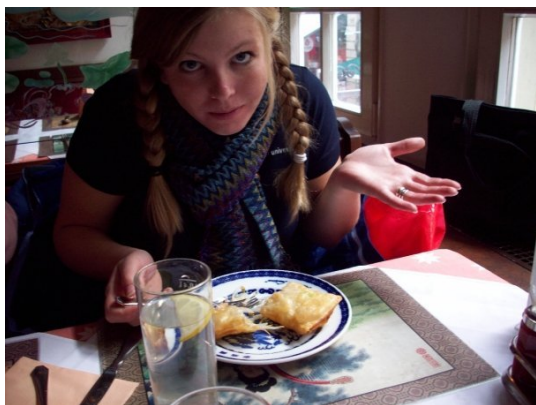
The Universiteit Maastricht is truly an international university. Students from all over the world attend

Maastricht. It is not uncommon to have members of all five continents represented in class. It is a really unique experience to be able to ask other students how their laws operate in their home country and receive an answer on the spot. Maastricht also has many international clubs and fraternities that sponsor events every week. You may find yourself in class with someone one day, only to meet them again at an international bar or club function. It really is a great way to meet new people from all over the world.

Set historic Maastricht, the Netherlands's oldest city, the Universiteit Maastricht is a real change from attending a university in the Midwest. The streets are cobblestone and the old city wall that originally protected the city from outside attacks still stands after over three hundred years. The city lies on the border of Belgium and Germany, making it a great base to plan excursions into the rest of Western Europe. Perhaps its central location led to Maastricht becoming the city of choice to sign the Maastricht Treaty on the European Union, the treaty that created the EU as we know it today.

Maastricht is a really nice town for students as well. Public transportation is quite good and you can get anywhere in town in a few short minutes by bus or just hop on your bike (you'll need one if you want to truly experience the favorite Dutch method of transportation). Maastricht also boasts more pubs than there are days in the year making it easy to find that place where everybody knows your name. The Universiteit and city both have sport clubs, and the city soccer team MVV is one of the top five teams in the Eerste Division. Take your bike up to the stadium, learn a few Dutch soccer songs, and enjoy a match. On most weekends, the Vrijthof, which is the town square, is bustling with festivities from carnival to winterfest, or just full of people shopping and people-watching. If you have the weekend free, the local airport flies to Spain in about an hour and a half. Paris is only a three-hour train ride away. Brussels is two hours away by train; visit the European Parliament! Is it October? Germany is a 30 minute bus ride to Oktoberfest. However, the best part about studying abroad, especially in central Europe, is all the new friends you make from around the globe and the perspective you gain from them. Sometimes it is easy to believe that the only solution to a problem is your solution. If you open your mind up to other cultures and beliefs, new areas of thought are at your command.

Life Changing Experience – Germany by Rachel Whitten, Mass Media Major, –Spring 08’



*Rachel Whitten tries Chinese food in Germany.
Photo submitted by Rachel Whitten.*

My eyes shot open as I realized that light was now flooding the plane’s cabin. Somehow, I had managed to fall asleep on the trans-Atlantic taking me to Germany, and excitement welled within me as I looked out the window and saw dry land. Although I have had the opportunity to travel, this ten day excursion to Germany, with two other students and the head of the Mass Media department, was my first trip to Europe. I had booked a separate flight from the rest, so my first overseas flight was by myself, and the idea of disembarking in a strange country where I didn’t speak the language was exciting. I would meet up with the other three, and then we would travel by train to our final destination--Friedrichshafen, in southern Germany, just across Lake Constance from Switzerland.

I quickly realized that the fact that my minor in German does not mean I can speak the language. Sure I could string words together, but verifying it later on with actual speakers of the language, I found that often times they simply did not make sense. Classroom German and colloquial German certainly are completely different entities.

We got settled into our apartments, which were absolutely luxurious compared to what we were expecting. They had completely stocked kitchens, which meant we could go grocery shopping and cook our own food-- a bonus because we were looking to save our hard-bought euros.

The first night, however, we ate at a guesthouse right near our apartments, where no one else spoke English. We managed to order our food, although we had no idea what we were actually going to eat. The problem was that in Germany they pretty much serve only carbonated water. On the train ride down, parched and desperate, I bought a bottle of water from the dining car, and took a long gulp and almost spit it out. I managed to choke it down, but I was not able to start enjoying the sparkling water in ten days time.

One thing I did enjoy was the fact that the school sat right on the lake, with a view of the Alps across the water. The dining hall had full length windows, so we enjoyed the view as we ate, and after lunch we would often head down to the water to take pictures and enjoy the fresh air. Our fellow students came from different schools all across Germany to attend the spring school hosted by Zeppelin University. We were the only international students, and the Germans were impressed that we had traveled so far. Most all of the students spoke excellent English, which helped us get to know them a lot better. Many of them had studied in the United States when they were younger. The best aspect of traveling across the world to a different country is sitting in a classroom, or at the lunch table, or walking to the bus stop with students who may have been raised in a different country, but are really quite similar to students in the US. It was fascinating to discover that they had much the same sense of humor, goals, and aspirations.

Furthermore, the way they are different helped us gain a broader worldview. For example, national pride is not widespread in Germany. Recently, a national marketing campaign called “Du bist Deutschland” (You are Germany) appeared in newspapers and on TV to promote a bigger sense of national unity. The ad campaign was highly controversial. Obviously, such a promotion would be unnecessary in the United States, and welcomed if such were to occur.

Reflecting on the ten days we spent in Germany, I really cannot wait to go back. The only part that I hope to be different next time is that perhaps I will know a lot more German so I will not embarrass myself quite so much.

PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES ABROAD

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|-----------|---------|---------------|--------|
| Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada |
| China | Croatia | Costa Rica | |
| Denmark | England | Finland | |
| France | Germany | Ireland | |
| Japan | Korea | Mexico | |
| Paraguay | Romania | South Africa | |
| Spain | Sweden | ... and more! | |

Land of Adventure & Mystery – China

by Jim McCormick, *Non-degree Seeking, –Spring 08'*



Jim & Mary Ann pictures in front of a White Jade reclining Buddha in Shanghai. Photo submitted by Jim McCormick.

Our travel group arrived in Shanghai after a 14 hour flight from Chicago to Shanghai. Shanghai is a port city of approximately 18 million people and a city of commerce and trade dating back to Marco Polo and the silk and tea trade. In the 1840's when the British began trading with China they set up a trade center in Shanghai for tea and silk. In Shanghai we visited an impressive Buddhist temple with a rare six foot reclining white jade Buddha. The story goes, that a Buddhist monk carried this valuable white jade from India to Shanghai to begin a new Buddhist Temple. Adjacent to the temple was a Chinese tea room. Guides performed a traditional tea ceremony emphasizing the medicinal value of the herbal tea. I purchased several types of tea to bring home. Next we visited a cultured pearl factory and saw how white, pink & black pearls were harvested from fresh water oysters. One oyster can produce several large pearls. The next stop was a silk factory, one of China's oldest industries, where we learned the steps in producing fine silk. Silk is produced by silk worms. Each silk worm is capable of producing approximately 2000 yd. of a slender silk thread which is stored in a cocoon. Once the cocoon is mature a silk thread is gently removed from the cocoon and wound on a spool. The silk threads are then dyed and woven to make beautiful soft silk products like: dresses, shirts, ties, hats, sheets, and many other products.

Our group traveled by sleeper train from Shanghai to Beijing about a twelve hour trip. There were four bunk beds to one room which was air conditioned. The capital of China, Beijing, is rich in history and culture and the “show case city” for the 2008 Olympics. The Chinese are very proud of the new Olympic venues like the “Birds Next” which will be displayed at the opening and closing ceremonies. Many parks are being constructed with beautiful trees and many flowers. Our tour began in famous Tiananmen Square where Mao first introduced communism to China. The square is very large with historic Chinese government buildings. Next to the square is the “forbidden City” which was home to 24 Ming & Quin Dynasty emperors'. The Forbidden City shows the rich artistic and architectural history of the Chinese culture. There are so many beautiful buildings with gold and jewels that it “boggles” your mind. The next day we visited the “Chinese Great Wall”, one of the wonders of the world. The wall is approximately 4000 miles long and was constructed to keep out invading armies. Today, it attracts millions of tourists who marvel at this engineering accomplishment. Next we visited the Emperors' Summer Palace with beautiful Chinese gardens and a stone boat built by the Empress Dowager. The story goes that she spent all of the money allocated for the Chinese Navy for one year on this immovable boat used for entertainment. Our group had several delicious meals in Beijing. The highlight was a Chinese Dumpling dinner with many different hand folded dumplings with exotic spices and vegetables. We also had a delicious Peking Duck dinner with a description of the preparation and cooking of the duck. Leaving the sights and sounds of Beijing our group travelled by sleep train again from Beijing to Shaanix a comfortable 14 hour trip. Our trip was filled with wonderful tastes and smells of Chinese food, amazing historical sites and a new appreciation of the hard working Chinese people

*Share your study abroad experience
Bods Abroad Newsletter Deadline:
Submissions are due by September 1. Articles
should be brief, and accompanied by photos with
captions. Please send your submissions to:
tina.williams1@washburn.edu. Thank you!*