



BODS ABROAD

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Forever Changed By Emily Juhnke Semester at Sea—2013



I knew before going to college that I wanted international study to be part of my undergraduate experience. I've always had that passion for travel and a sense of wanderlust. What I didn't know, however, was that my experiences abroad would have such a profound impact

on my life, shape who I am as a person and alter the path that I would take both when I returned to Washburn and beyond.

I graduated from Washburn in December 2015 with a degree in public relations and journalism. During the spring semester of 2013, I studied abroad through the program Semester at Sea. Instead of just studying in one place, I had the incredible opportunity to visit 12 different countries over the course of 106 days while living and taking courses on a ship. We visited the U.S., Japan, China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, Burma, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco and Spain.

The places I saw, relationships I formed and experiences I had during those four months were life-changing. I was stretched outside of my comfort zone, grew as a person and learned more about what it means to be a global citizen. I also fell in love with the city of Cape Town, South Africa. I remember writing in my journal, "I know I'll be coming back to this place!"

When my graduation from Washburn began approaching, I started to look for ways that I would be able to do just that. I wanted to find a way to use my degree to make a positive impact on others and also re-connect with a church I had visited while I was there the first time.

A couple of months before my graduation, I was offered a volunteer public relations internship at the Hillsong Africa Foundation (HAF). HAF is a nonprofit organization created out of Hillsong Church that works to serve and restore vulnerable people and situations in their communities through projects in areas such as family strengthening, childhood development, skills development and relief and response.

I left for Cape Town and Hillsong in March 2015 and will be here until mid-December. As I'm sitting in the church cafe writing this article, it is amazing to look back and reflect on the journey that brought me here. I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today without Washburn and I'll always be thankful for my alma mater and the heart they have to see their students succeed both inside and outside of the classroom.

When I return to the U.S. at the end of the year, I am considering going to graduate school, finding a full-time job in my field or pursuing another opportunity to work abroad. Whatever my next step may be, I know my experiences studying, living and volunteering internationally will continue to help shape my future.

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Curiosity and Courage

By Tess Wilson

National University of Ireland—Fall 2012

Maynooth

When I began my year at the National University of Ireland at Maynooth, I was unaware of the impact it would have on my future. Without the curiosity sparked by my time there, I might not have spent two weeks in Belize while pursuing my Master's degree in Creative Writing. Had I not traveled to Belize, my love for Central America might not have developed as it did, leading me to live and teach in Panama for six weeks. Even seemingly minor elements of my adventures abroad had far-reaching effects. After all, it was a trip to the Library of Trinity College Dublin that made me acutely aware of my passion for libraries and literacy, which is a large part of my current role at Reading is Fundamental Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. Similarly, the time I spent teaching at Escuela Maria Elena Diaz in Panama led me to work with underserved populations through organizations like Partners of the Americas, the Schweitzer Foundation, and AmeriCorps. These experiences not only opened my eyes to the joys of traveling and living abroad, but they also allowed me to explore myself and my role in local and global communities. Away from home, I learned to thrive independently and to journey into the unknown with curiosity and courage.



Tess Wilson, teaching English at Escuela Maria Elena Diaz in Panama, 2015.

Exploring

by Karl Fundenberger

University of Blaise Pascal- Fall 2007

Clermont-Ferrand, France

In 2007 I had the opportunity to study abroad in Clermont-Ferrand, France. I arrived in the dead of winter, and jumped headfirst into intensive French studies. I had hours of homework every week. Eventually I started to venture out of the dorms, and doing my best to assimilate, I started to visit cafes and grocery stores. About halfway through the semester, I discovered the Sunday Morning "Marché aux puces" -- the weekly flea market! I picked up an old road bike for 25€ and dramatically increased my range around the city. I started exploring the city, the suburbs, and the countryside. Clermont-Ferrand is surrounded by a ring of extinct volcanoes, so it's beautiful bicycling territory. I discovered decrepit old castles, natural ground water springs, and some of the most picturesque roads I had ever seen.



Karl Fundenberger, Director of Bicycle Operations at Topeka Metro.

Outside of my studies, I did my best to meet people. Our little group of Kansas students became fast friends with a rock band called Typhoid Mary - and they started inviting us into their homes and lives. Some of us still talk today, and when I went back to visit in 2011 - my French friends hosted me for a week in their home.

Travel is essential for discovering your own prejudices, and for realizing how silly they are. People are the same no matter where you go - but there is so much to learn from different cultures, different education structures, and different systems of government. It's hard to believe that the way you grew up isn't the only way the world can work - but travel illuminates this fact in a way that no classroom can.

Since that 6-month adventure, I've stuck with bicycling, and have realized how great a cross-cultural connector it can be, too. I don't use my French every day - but my love for exploring and sharing has never been stronger.

2015 PHOTO ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

**First Place Winner—Ryan Burge
Anyang University—South Korea
Spring 2015**

Ghost Flowers in South Korea

South Korea was an extremely humbling experience – to leave my bubble and escape my box in society here in Topeka Kansas was a life changing experience. I started this trip with the intention of



having the ultimate humbling cultural experience and I accomplished this mission. I taught Eng-

lish, learned Korean and went to Korean University and passed all my classes in a different language. I knew nothing when I got off the plane and took the hard road of full on cultural immersion to learn the language and way of life. It was a sink or swim experience and I survived it!

While In South Korea I did learn much, but what I learned the most about was myself. It was a deeply introspective experience that made me realize how I act and treat myself through an international lens. What I saw through that lens was something I missed – an old me that I have neglected. Something that reminded me of a long lost version of myself that appreciated the small things that made my happiness more succinct. I was quite lonely and homesick in South Korea – this made me stir crazy. So I did what I had to do to earn some money and I went out, got a license, bought a motorcycle and rode to the North Korean border and back again.

What I saw on my travels was a country unleashed – a contrast between the old and the new – nature and technology form a bond in nation that has rapidly industrialized to the point of such extreme contrast between the two.

I had to capture this the best I could after visiting a beautiful Park in the heart of Gunpo on the other side of the mountain range my university was situated. This park was situated up the side of a mountain adjacent a cityscape with both new and old infrastructure. This mountainside has little to no trees on it – but is absolutely covered in incredibly bright and vibrant

azalea bushes that bloomed flowers for only 2 weeks right at the beginning of spring. This mountain is a sea of pinks, purples, reds, blues and green. The feelings this instilled in me brought me to tears – not for the beauty but for what the beauty reminded me of, a younger more appreciative version of myself that shared this feeling of moving forward with your life with the world instead of keeping it to himself.



I was walking up and down the mountain all day and at the end of it all I saw this family enjoying their precious little time off they have from the Korean work grind and they are enjoying it fully.

I saw a grandmother getting ready to take a picture of little girl in front of a flower bed and statue with open arms, I snapped a picture, then it hit me like a ton of bricks. I need to remember these simple joys while they are still within my grasp.



It was a wake up call about everything wrong with my life – What I take for granted in life – friends, lovers and family that I have loved and lost flashed across my mind and I knew then I had to come back to this place.

I took advantage of my new motorcycle situation and rode my bike back to this place (without getting lost) at around 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning after hours and snuck into this park to do some interpretational light painting next to the flowers on the mountain. I was able to do this more readily without getting in the peoples way. It allowed me to express my emotion and capture the beauty and contrast of the nature vs. civilization aspect of South Korea.



Canoeing in the Amazon.



The first stop in Puerto Maldonado.



Gazing at Manchu Picchu.



Travelers on the Island.

Second Place Winner—Megan Barnes

Peru and the Land of Incas

Summer 2015

Wonders of Peru

Peru. A place of beauty in more than just the breathtaking scenery and the rich heritage, but of beauty in culture as well. As the Washburn University travelers wander down the worn paths broken in by many moons of swift pairs of feet, they can't help but think of the balance between man and nature that lies here. In one week alone the travelers have seen rainforests that harbor life in a delicate balance of death and beauty, architectural dreams that conquer what man once deemed inconceivable, and people, glorious people. To the outsider these things seem unprecedented and fantastic, things only seen in books and documentaries. Once reality set in, the travelers begin to realize that these places and people have intertwined with their lives thus giving rise to the full appreciation of the wonders of Peru. Each traveler built their own experiences in the whirlwind of constant change within the trip but all share a common understanding that they have had the privilege to enter a world flush with new possibilities. Traveling through extreme conditions brought about a solidarity amongst the travelers and their fellows from native Peru in a land that seemed ancient in the earth yet young in the world. Each traveler gathered a memory, a feeling, a relationship, a learning opportunity, and much more as they pushed forward in their endeavors to explore and grow. Peru offered not only beautiful scenery, delicious food and exposure to the traditions of other cultures, but a sense of understanding as well. The discovery of one's self in this land calls forth a realization that in the end we are as the earth, and experiences in life, have made us. As the travelers hiked, danced, drove, flew, floated, climbed, and walked across the terrain of Peru they added a new chapter to their lives. This chapter of Peru is ultimately the true wonder in the love of living.

Third Place Winner—Chelsea Newman
Live and Learn in Salamanca, Spain
Summer 2015

A Summer to Remember

Coming to Washburn last year I never thought I would ever be able to go to another country. I went to the Study Abroad fair and sign my name down to find out more information on studying in Spain. Not too long after I found myself on a plane heading to Madrid. We landed in Madrid, Spain and took a bus to Salamanca. When we got off the bus we were greeted by our host parents. They took us home and got us unpacked.

Over the weeks I attended classes and was able to explore the city. Every weekend our month-long tour guide took us on excursions to different places. We were also able to visit different cities close to Salamanca. We learned about the towns' history and background. One of the biggest historic sight is the Plaza Mayor, historically comparable to Topeka's Capital building. The Plaza Mayor wraps around the middle of the city and holds different stores such as ice cream shops, tobacco stores, and different restaurants. In the past it use to be used as an arena for bull fights.

I concurred things in Salamanca I never thought I would be able too. I had so many people help me in getting to Spain that I felt obligated to do things that I found very difficult. I am not a type of person that someone would call, "physically fit" and on the first day I was challenged by choosing to climb up an 18 story cathedral or to stay on the ground and miss the beautiful city from above. Needless to say I faced the cathedral and seen the most amazing sight I have ever seen, I felt like I could overcome any difficult activity that my class was able to do. This trip made me grow up as a person and a student in ways I cannot explain. I enjoyed every moment of this trip and I light up whenever I get the chance to share my trip with anyone who wants to listen.

I hope whomever sees my essay and pictures gets a glimpse of what I was able to see when I was really there. Even though these pictures show the parts of Salamanca, Spain that I thought were the best, no picture can come close to bringing the experience any justice.



Washburn students in front of cathedral.



Salamanca, Spain



Plaza Mayor



A daily event—local children playing in a fountain.



Walt Disney used this castle from Segovia in the movie "Cinderella".

Honorable Mention—Meaghan Hartley

Music in Russia
Summer 2015

Washburn University Music in Russia Experience

“...While the United States has many great opportunities for musicians, Russia provides more drive for music students through free school, early musical development training, and many musical career opportunities. The Music in Russia course and the experience of traveling to Russia was eye-opening. The trip showed me that I can do everything I can to share a quality music education to my clarinet students. I am so happy that the study abroad program was able to help me along the way. Being able to see how music is taught in other countries has made my music degree much more valuable. I highly recommend the study abroad option for other students because it is a wonderful way to enrich one's life and education.”



Valeriya Kanaeva, Jillian Kincaid and me in front of the winter church at Kiji Island.

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