

Studying Abroad Enlightens Travelers

By Andrew Johnson

Application fee, \$35. Overnight Airmail expenses because of almost missing the application deadline, \$25. Travel expenses.... maybe a little too much. Food on the weekends, \$24. Bank conversion fees for changing money to British pounds, \$3.00 a time. Studying at Oak Hill, priceless. O.K., so maybe it is a cheesy opening, but it still rings true. The experience one takes away from a study-abroad experience is priceless.

Let me begin by describing Oak Hill. Oak Hill is a small Christian Theological Institute, which means that many of the people studying here are part of the Anglican Church or Church of England. Most of the 100 or so students are second-career students and are in their upper twenties to low thirties, although one or two are as young as 19. Each student comes here to study religion with an end goal of either being a pastor at a congregation, a missionary, or working with a youth ministry program. The school is not very big, but it does have the mandatory soccer team that practices twice a week and has games on the weekend.

My semester at Oak Hill began

on Sept. 2 when I met the 20 other American students with whom I would spend the next three and a half months. Dean Erickson and Lorraine Wookey are two other CSP students joining the mix in England. The additional students come from different Concordias around the states and also Valparaíso University. The first two weeks were a blur of traveling as our group became oriented with the city before classes started. For the first 12 days, we traveled into London each day, seeing sights like the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, the Millennium bridge and Tower Bridge, the Globe Theater and many more sights. As a group, we also traveled to Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare's birthplace), York (previous home of real Vikings), Stonehenge and other sights outside of London.

Studying abroad offers more than just great sights. It gives the learner an opportunity to study in a different setting and culture. I found out that Oak Hill is an academically-demanding school with very dedicated students. Classes require a lot of work but are very rewarding. It also teaches a person a lot outside the classroom. Since coming, I have learned the rules to rugby and snooker (a billiards game). I have learned how the English Premier Football League works and have seen a match. I have learned that pants in England are underwear, and trousers are pants. After walking in the rain, I made the mistake of saying my pants were wet, and I received some funny looks. I have learned that power sockets over here are different and that British drivers are crazy.

There are many different perspectives here; there are people who are very supportive of President Bush and Tony Blair and agree with their policies, while others oppose them. England is a political spot in general. It is quite common for the English to know about world politics and discuss them because they are so much closer to many

countries. America can seem like a bubble when one lives there because there is no apparent need to worry about the rest of the world when one is secure in one's own country. I have definitely learned a lot through discussion and reading.

To sum up an experience like this in one article is impossible. There are so many

new experiences, new places, new faces, and new memories that will last a lifetime.

I encourage everyone to look into an opportunity like this. Traveling, class, and studying. What more could a person want? Be sure to ask Dean, Lorraine or me about it when we get back. I am sure that they, like I, have plenty of stories to tell.

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Concordia University Needs Spanish Program

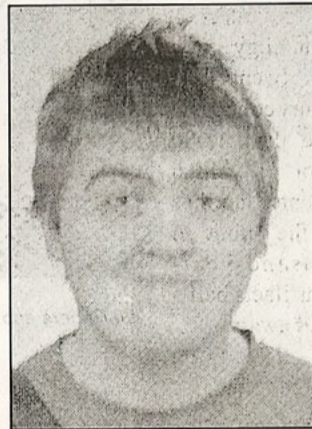


Photo by Eric Cannedy

By Jeremy Johnson

We all should be very proud of our university. Concordia University is a wonderful place to prepare all for a successful life in the "real world." However, this pride in Concordia does come with a few concerns. The option of studying language at Concordia is one such area that concerns me. The focus on only offering languages most useful to students in church-work programs leaves a number of students out. Although Spanish is offered here, there is not a professor that would focus all his or her attention on teaching

Spanish. Alonso Sierralta, my current Intermediate Spanish professor, does a tremendous job teaching the course. However, he is mainly a professor of the arts, not Spanish. In order to improve the overall academic experience at Concordia, steps should be taken to hire specialized professors of Spanish, so that those willing will be able to pursue their language to the fullest academic-level possible.

Here are some reasons why I believe it is important for CSP to offer a Spanish program. First of all, one has to look no further than the United States census to see the great importance this language has on our culture. According to the 2002 census, one in eight people in the United States is of Spanish-

speaking origin. An even more pertinent statistic to Minnesotans is that Minnesota has one of the top 10 fastest-growing Spanish communities in the country. With the rapid growth of this language, and Minnesota being on its leading edge, it only makes sense for students to prepare themselves to meet this expansion head on.

Secondly, from a competitive standpoint, it is vital for Concordia University to keep up with other local private schools. Examining the programs offered in the area, one has to search no further than a few miles to see colleges and universities with vibrant Spanish programs. Macalester, St. Thomas, Hamline, and even Augsburg offer students the chance to major in Spanish. Why should Concordia be any different? Of course, Concordia is very small so it is impossible to meet all academic demands, but going in the direction of improving the program makes a lot of sense. I remember at Minnesota High school, they offered world language studies in Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. By far, the largest collection of students could be found in the Spanish courses. The supply of students looking for a Spanish program in their university is present, so it only makes sense for Concordia to join the ranks of Macalester and St. Thomas in attracting these students.

While I, as well as many other students, am very happy with the studies at Concordia University, it does not mean that steps for improvement should be overlooked. It does not take a lot of effort to see the huge influence the Spanish-speaking culture is having in the community. Spanish is found in the local neighborhoods, the places of work, and even the music award shows, so it makes sense for Spanish to be at Concordia University.

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Holst Sends University Reminder to "Fear Not"



Photo courtesy of Public Relations

By President Bob Holst

Tension time has arrived at Concordia University. Final tests, final papers, final reports and a variety of other curricular and extracurricular responsibilities line up like regimental forces attacking peace of mind, good eating habits and sleep requirements. It is a good time to remember our theme of the year, "Fear not. I am with you."

Our theme calls us to put life's fearful pressures in perspective. First, I recognize that much of the

on football shoulder pads, it is easy to place the burdens of life on your own shoulders.

Our theme reminds us that we are not alone. Our theme from Isaiah calls us to trust that God is with us. God is not only with us with spiritual power but, at Concordia,

God has sent professors, mentors, tutors, and friends to help and support in times of challenge, tension or fear.

Finally, put your challenges that create fear into the broader context of your life's goals. University education is hard because you want to succeed in a world that requires quality for advancement and success. In other words, count blessings as well as fears. Hard assignments bless you because they prepare for challenging opportunities. I once worked for someone who kept saying, "People who are too big for small things will be too small for big things." Semester-ending fears shrink in importance when compared to the doors that open with a good university education. As we enter the time between the national

holiday of Thanksgiving and celebration of the meaning of the Christmas season, "Fear not. God is with us."

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