



## Spotlight: Heather Schier

Heather Schier is an Explorations/Study Abroad alumna from Spring 2012. She studied abroad at the University of Cape Town, located in Cape Town, South Africa.

### What was your favorite memory?

Heather Schier (HS): My favorite memory is a tie between every moment I shared with the beautiful people of South Africa and watching the sunset and the full moon rise at the same time from atop Lion's Head Mountain.

### What was your favorite local experience during your semester in South Africa?

HS: The best local experience you can get in Cape Town is to go to Mzoli's. It's a unique meat shop with lots of outside seating. You fill up a bucket with all the meat you could imagine, they cook it up in their legendary sauce and cook it over the wood burning fire. Everyone enjoys each other through games and great local music for the whole day. Dancing, new welcoming faces and the best meat you'll ever have make for a great Sunday festivity.

### What did you learn from your experience studying abroad?

HS: I learned that our boundaries are endless if we allow ourselves to open our minds to cultures and people.

### What is your role in the Explorations/Study Abroad office?

HS: I am a Peer Advisor. This means I reach out to the student body to increase their knowledge about studying abroad, to share my experience and to advise them in their contemplation/planning processes.

“The one thing I miss about European Life is the simplicity of travel. There was a bus available every day, at multiple times, to go just about anywhere inside of Italy. I miss being able to hop on a cheap bus and just explore!”

-Kirby Luczak, Italy, Summer 12



Michaela Smyth is an international student from Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland. She is studying abroad at BW for the entire 2012–2013 academic year.

## Sights and thoughts of an alien: Michaela Smyth

During my orientation President Helmer asked us what the small nuts were that he was holding in his hand. I, being the eager beaver keen to please, shot my hand up and shouted out, “conkers!” Heads turned with confused faces. Yup, I was not in Ireland anymore. I was in America where conkers are buckeyes, a boot is a trunk, not the thing you put on your foot, and rubbers are condoms not erasers. (It was an awkward moment when I figured out the difference.)

Living in America was going to be a learning curve, and I was ready to have all that America had to offer hit me straight in the face. Apart from picking up an American twang, American fashion sense, and American eating habits... Okay, so I had one or two reservations!

Making friends here was easy. You could be the most introverted person and still make friends at BW. I had a great bunch of international students to hang out with the first week I arrived. They were just as clueless as I was about guns being sold in Walmart right next to the children's toy aisle, the American obsession with peanut butter, and why corn was not a common thing to put on one's pizza. So I knew we would get along just fine. As for making American friends, you just have to open your mouth, and a wide-eyed expression of surprise and confusion wipes across Americans' faces. Note: the thicker your accent, the better. To Americans you are some strange mythical alien creature, even if you are like me and look no different from any other American and speak the same language.

Going to school at BW is great. The teachers really care about your education: they try and engage you as much as they can, and because you are now a magical unicorn they will ask you for your opinion on a regular basis. You

may not like all this attention but trust me: in the end you will leave America a more confident person. Also don't be surprised your classmates look like meerkats when you introduce yourself on the first day of class.

Of course, I don't need to tell you to travel until you can no longer feel your behind because you have been sitting on a bus for an unhealthy length of time. NYC, Miami, and Chicago are all places that you must see. However, America has a lot of hidden gems. You can take a ride on the some of the largest roller-coasters in the U.S. at Cedar Point; Yellowstone National Park has stunning water falls, a volcano, and grizzlies you can run away from; and you can bungee jump off the Grand Canyon if you feel so inclined.

While you are not living the life of a hobo, make the most of the societies and organizations on

campus. BW has a ridiculous amount of things to get involved in. To name a few, there's the Harry Potter Appreciation

Society, a Dungeons and Dragons Club, a Movie Society, and an Outdoor Club. Joining clubs is a great way to meet new people, and a sneaky way of getting freebies, or at least a trip on the cheap. My life flashed before my eyes when I went on a white water rafting trip with Bioleague during my first semester, and I hit my hand with a hammer on numerous occasions when I helped build a house over winter break with Habitat for Humanity in Mississippi. So if you are like me, and want to put your life at risk, there are plenty of opportunities to do so.

So yeah, studying in America is pretty great. Come embrace it: you will be a completely different person at the end of it. I now dress and eat like an American, and let's just say that I am now on first name terms with the staff at Dunkin Donuts.

## The camera: Jakob Plummer

Jakob Plummer is currently studying abroad at the University of Stirling in Scotland.

Why wouldn't I want a camera? That's not so much a simple answer, but I'll try to briefly summarize. Last spring I took a course at Baldwin Wallace entitled *Philosophy of Human Nature*. In the class we discussed a great deal of commonplace practices in America today and the psychological purpose behind them. Cameras are used for two main purposes: tourists and artistry. In one category I do not belong and in the other I voluntarily chose to avoid. Nothing turns locals away quicker than a tourist with a camera, and I didn't care to become one of them. The philosophical side of cameras, however, discusses the difference between experience and material. For pictures are simply material objects that were distractions in an experience. For example, in October I had the chance to see Barbra Streisand in concert with a good friend. Neither of us had a camera to take pictures of the event even though we had snuck into seats that were as close as could be. If we had been taking pictures - and there were plenty of people doing so—then we would have

missed moments of her flawless concert. Instead, I simply sat in awe for 3 hours, and though I don't have the material photographs to prove I was there or to remind me of what a great time I had, I do have the memory of being there and seeing a legend. So that's my camera story, and I'm sticking to it... well kinda. I ended up bringing my camera with me to Scotland and have taken some pictures. I hope my friends and family enjoy them and that viewing Scotland vicariously through these photographs brings them peace of mind because I have come to discover this past week that Scotland is the pacific clarity that I needed so badly to clear my mind.

There are more that I may share in the future, but it takes far too much of my day to upload them. I'm going to go out and enjoy the fresh air. It's a great place to be, this Scotland. It's a shame so many people think of it only for its rain... and *Braveheart*.



## SURVEY SAYS:

18% - 19% OF BALDWIN WALLACE STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD EVERY YEAR.

The national average for study abroad is only 5% - 10%.

Last year, 147 Baldwin Wallace students studied abroad.

Popular destinations for BW students include France, Australia, and Italy. Business and Management students study abroad most frequently, followed by students majoring in Health Sciences and Social Sciences.



## Spotlight: Tori Matejovsky

Tori Matejovsky is an Explorations/Study Abroad alumna from Fall 2011. She studied abroad in Ecuador through BW's Seminar in Ecuador program.

### What was your favorite memory?

Tori Matejovsky (TM): There are so many to choose from! One of them was riding on a speedy, rinky-dink tram over a breathtaking waterfall!

### What did you learn from your experience studying abroad?

TM: I mostly learned how to be spontaneous: I tend to be a planner and want to know all the details of something before it happens, but this trip really pulled me out of my comfort zone, because I never knew what was about to happen next!

### What was your favorite beverage in Ecuador?

TM: My favorite beverage in Ecuador was Manzana (apple) flavored soda.

### What is your role in the Explorations/Study Abroad office?

TM: I am a student worker. I talk with students, share my own study abroad experiences with others, answer basic questions about the application process and the different programs offered, update social media, and update students' online applications.