

International Social Work: Hungary & Germany '07

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Hungarian History

On our very first day at the University of Debrecen located in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary, Dr. Hanjal Bela filled us in on Hungary's unique and remarkable history. Hungary is a country that has forever been dominated by outside forces ranging anywhere from Austrian, Turkish, German and Soviet occupations that oppressed Hungarian tradition and culture for many years.

In 1956, Hungarian forces united and declared independence from the Soviet Union and today this year is still celebrated as their independence. However, it was not until 1989 that Hungary was officially free from Communist rule and declared itself the Republic of Hungary.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and Communism losing its reign, Hungary became a free market of capitalism. In 2004, Hungary joined the European Union but still struggled economically in comparison to other countries. As of today, Hungary is still the poor-

est country within the EU with Eastern Hungary being the most affected region with higher rates of unemployment and a lower GDP.

Hungary is also still developing their social work delivery system. This itself, has posed problems such as access to resources and developing an adequate welfare system. Hungary's social problems, even though possibly more severe, are comparable to some of the same issues our country faces and it is possible that much could be learned from one another in the field of social work. However, despite Hungary's present and future social obstacles, it is a country of amazingly friendly people, great food and a unique culture that is worth visiting in one's lifetime.

- Ann Badger



Classroom scene at the University of Debrecen

Social Work Training in Hungary

The Social Work Training Program at Debrecen Health Faculty College in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary is relatively new. In 1989, with the exit of communism, came the beginning of Social Work instruction in Hungary.

In 1990, Social Work instruction began at Debrecen College. The Social Work Training Program lasts 3.5 to 4 years and each student must complete 180 credit hours and

30 practice credit hours. Some of the main areas of study are very similar to those offered at the Kent School and include Social Work Theory, Social Politics, Sociology, Law, Public Health, Psychology, and Practice.

Practice at Debrecen is quite different from that offered at Kent, however. Throughout their studies at the college, the students must complete at least 20 different placements

at various social service agencies in the community, rather than the two practicums required by the Kent School.

With the completion of this program, students receive a College degree, which is equivalent to our Bachelor's degree. This degree entitles holders to practice a profession or to continue higher education studies. They may also choose to take special examinations in (continued on pg 2)

Social Work Training in Hungary, cont.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

particular fields such as Geriatrics, Family, Child Welfare, Inpatient Children, Disabled Children, Homeless, and Psychiatry. These examinations would be the equivalent to such specializations as Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Drug and Alcohol Counsellor in the U.S. which can offer higher pay and more opportunity to practice.

Historically, this degree was not necessarily accepted

with the same value in other countries, due to different education standards. To solve this dilemma, Hungary is adhering to the Bologna Process which went into affect in 2006. The Bologna Process, which was created at Bologna University in Italy, was developed in order to standardize Higher Education throughout Europe countries. Specifically, the Bologna Process makes academic degree standards and quality assurance standards

more comparable and compatible throughout Europe. It establishes a sequence of degrees like that in the United States (i.e. Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD). This allows students to transfer credits to international colleges and universities if a student would wish to complete their studies in a different country.

- Skye Robbins

A Day at the Zoo

A visit to the Nyiregyhaza zoo led to a little bit of culture shock and some interesting realizations. The first thing I noticed when entering the zoo was that we couldn't read the signs or any maps. I never noticed just how complex a zoo was until all of the directions were in Hungarian! The signs, the animals, and any directions given were written in Hungarian and not translated into English at all. I felt like a rat in a maze – not knowing where to go and just hoping to find something interesting around each corner. The second realization was that the zoo was a much more natural setting than typically seen in the US. The zoo was located in woods with mainly dirt paths leading from one animal to the next. There was some pavement, but it was not at all like our zoos and not terribly easy to navigate, particularly without the ability to read any signs.

The primary thing we noticed was the zoo in Hungary had only fences and sometimes cages or electrical wire to separate visitors from all of the different animals. There were lions on the other side of a cage with an electrical wire. The only thing keeping people from reaching in and petting the animals were signs of hands reaching in through the cage, getting bit, and missing fingers. In America, we've somehow forgotten about being responsible for ourselves. It seems like we think it's everyone else's job to watch out for our own safety. Our zoos have a fence, a giant ditch, and an electrical wire 50 feet from the area people get to stand just for our safety. The animals in our zoos are so far away they can hardly be seen. I actually didn't know that giraffes were so furry until I went to Hungary!

There was a Baboon simply on the other side of a metal cage from us. He was so close we could see every part of his perfect face. He was showing us his teeth and stepping up to us as if he wanted to fight. He was obviously upset that we were there staring at him. He was close enough to make me feel uncomfortable!

Another shocking thing about the zoo in Hungary were the types of animals. There were all types of animals that I take for granted in the zoo. There were horses, a Shetland pony, deer, cows and a Bassett Hound. Yes, a Bassett Hound. When we found the Bassett Hound I, once again, wished I could read Hungarian. I'm not sure if it was a joke or if this was truly a rarity in Hungary. The Bassett Hound seemed very lonely, though, and just wanted to play ball next to his little house in the woods at the zoo.

A visit to the zoo in Nyiregyhaza was a great end to the unique time we spent in Hungary. It was a trip that really got me to think about how "Americanized" we have truly become. In America, the zoo would not have been in the woods in a natural setting because someone would get dirt in their eyes or sue the zoo for not having perfectly smooth walkways. In America, the zoo animals would be so far away from the people that a sign didn't have to be the only thing to keep someone from getting hurt. It's a shame that we have become so dependant on everyone else to be responsible for ourselves.

- Cyndi Magruder

"I never noticed just how complex a zoo was until all of the directions were in Hungarian! The signs, the animals, and any directions given were written in Hungarian and not translated into English at all."



Sign warning against touching the animals.

Roma People In Hungary



Kent student, Taylor Ewing talking with a group of young Roma girls in the Nyiregyhaza settlement.

There are 12 million Roma's living around the world. Of those, 400,000-600,000 live in Hungary. Hungary has the 4th largest Roma population in the world. Many Roma's are uneducated or have very little education. Only 43% of Roma's have more than primary school. The Roma's also have very poor living conditions with a high unemployment rate. The Roma's have a high percentage of never working (35.5%). The majority of Roma's live in segregated places with 10-15 people living in one home. The Roma's are also not very mobile. Throughout their lives, 44% of the Roma's will spend their entire life living in the same place. They mostly live in very old buildings that are extremely rundown. For the Roma's, their most important

social support is their family.

In Nyiregyhaza there is a large settlement for only Roma's. There are 240-260 families living in the Settlement. The settlement is completely separated from the city. They all live in a flat that consists of: 1 room, kitchen, and a bathroom. It is not abnormal for 15 people to live in a flat. The families live in these conditions because there is no work available for them. They mostly depend on money from the local government.

The Roma children attend a school that is located on the settlement. School is for children who are ages 7-15. At the school there are 100 students, 18 teachers, and 3 teacher's assistants. These Roma children have many behavioral problems; therefore, many programs have been started to deal with the children's behaviors. At the school they believe it is important for the children to learn about the

Hungarian culture and the Roma culture. In the school, the children speak Hungarian and they speak Roma at home.

The Roma language is a very unique language. They use very few words and very short sentences. The Roma's have poor communication skills. In the Roma culture, body language is most important. The Roma's may say one thing, but you will know they mean something else by their body language. There is also no future tense in the Roma language. This is because they only live in the present and do not look towards the future.

The Roma's are very traditional people. They will celebrate a holiday for days. When someone passes away, the Roma's will eat and drink for 3-4 days. They will spend all of their money on these celebrations. Another time they have large celebrations is when someone is released from prison. They have a strong sense of the past and very strong feelings about traditions.

- Jessi Clements

"400,000-600,000 Roma people, or gypsies, live in Hungary. This gives Hungary the 4th largest Roma population in the world."



Children doing a traditional Roma dance.

Language Barrier

When planning a trip to Europe, most Americans are reassured by veteran travelers that they will not have any trouble communicating because "almost everyone over there speaks some English." So it came as quite a shock to learn almost immediately after exiting the train in Nyiregyhaza, that "hardly anyone in Nyiregyhaza speaks *any* English" and that we would need a translator with us at all outings. This became even more apparent when a group of students decided to venture out on their own after being in Nyiregyhaza only a few short days.

A small group of students left the security of their hotel to explore the small city of

Nyiregyhaza looking for an internet connection to reach loved ones at home. Half of the group decided they did not need to be connected yet and went to the nearest pizzeria for a bite to eat. The other three women decided to see if they could get connected at the downtown public library. It was a very modern facility and not unlike any public library found in the United States. The women entered the library and asked if any of the library employees spoke English. A very flustered library clerk tried to explain with body and hand language that there was no-one who could help us. We decided to take mat-

ters into our own hands and tried the numerous computers stationed throughout the first floor of the library. They all seemed to require some secret password! Since we were not easily discouraged on our quest, we continued to the second floor and found an internet lab. Another attempt was made to connect to these computers and attempts were made to communicate with the other patrons already connected to the internet. A lot of hand gestures were used and finally shoulders were shrugged with this futile attempt to communicate. Upon leaving the lab, one last (continued on pg 4)

The Rozsa Pincszet Winery



The tunnel down into the wine cave for dinner..

"After dining on traditional Hungarian food, we tasted eight different dessert wines.."

Nyiregyhaza public library... site of the online adventure.



If visiting Hungary and Germany were not memorable enough, those who participated in the International Social Work trip were also lucky enough to experience the magnitude of hospitality and magnificence of the Hungarian culture. The amazing experience that highlighted the Hungarian culture was a wine tasting that was especially planned for the members of the International Social Work trip and our hosts. These events not only allowed us to sample amazing wine but allowed us to experience and celebrate the customs and history of Hungary.

On March 17, 2007, our group was fortunate enough to attend a wine tasting at the Rozsa Pincszet Winery in the Tokaji region of Hungary. The Tokaji region is world renowned for its sweet dessert wine that it most commonly manufactures. The region has a long history of producing wine for powerful leaders throughout our history, including popes and rulers of countries. For a group of students to drink these wines and experience the grandeur of the Tokaji

region made me as a student feel incredibly privileged.

Our wine tasting began with us dining in one of the caves that the vineyard used to store barrels of wine. After dining on traditional Hungarian food, we tasted eight different dessert wines.

Each one progressed by value and quality. Many of the wines were differentiated due to the amount of grapes used per bottle. The last wine we tasted was only produced approximately every 100 years. This wine was special due to the fact the grapes are left on the vine until the frost comes and they dry out; this process makes them the sweetest they possibly can be. This causes this wine to be the rarest type that the vineyard makes.

Through the delicious dinner served and the opportunity to taste some of the finest wines ever created, our group was allowed to experience an event that only a handful of others will ever experience. This event was due to the heart and generosity of the people of the Tokaji region as well as

our hosts from Nyiregyhaza, Hungary. The dinner and wine tasting only added to the amazing experiences that were had throughout the weeks learning about different cultures, histories, and practices regarding Social Work.

- Lauren Wells



Language Barrier, cont...

attempt was made by the desperate American student to communicate. It was

somehow communicated that a library card and a pass-code were needed. After a short discourse where the student and library clerk exchanged a few words in English and 200 forint (local currency) later, a library card was issued!!

One would think that the battle had been won! Rather, it had only just begun. No explanation had been given for usage of the library card! The American students thought they would be able to use the library card number and the code given to easily access the internet. After half an hour of trying various approaches and enlisting the help of non-English speaking Hungarian Internet users with hand signals, the battle was

finally won and the connection made!

The students ran into various similar situations due to the great language barrier. It presented some challenging situations, was frustrating at times, and could be quite comical at others. The interpreters were greatly appreciated and it was a fun learning experience!

- Sue Towsley

A Hungarian Bathhouse



View of the Gellert Hotel and Spa from the bridge between Buda and Pest.

As a destination less frequented by American tourists than many other European countries, I didn't go to Hungary with a long list of "must see" sites and experiences. However, of the few friends and coworkers I knew who had visited Budapest before, there was one resounding recommendation: you MUST go to a

bath house. So between lectures and city tours, and despite poor weather and travelers' fatigue, a small group of us made our way to the Gellert Hotel Spa and Bath House in the old city of Buda.

Fortunately, thanks to friends who had visited bath houses before and another group of students who went to Gellert the previous afternoon, our group had a vague idea of what to expect and how to navigate the experience. Regardless, like much of our time in Hungary, we stumbled through a completely

new experience mentally converting Hungarian forints into American dollars, asking around for English-speaking staff, and then making educated guesses and hoping for the best.

We soon discovered we were to pay admission for the thermal baths, steam room, and pool, and then we could make appointments and pay for other services from there. We decided on a 30-minute massage and proceeded to the women's changing room. There, an employee with minimal English took us by the arm and briskly led us further inside. Eventually, we figured out we were (continued on pg. 6)



Inside hallway at the spa. No cameras were allowed beyond this point.

"Unfortunately for some of us students, we had too much luggage (perhaps because we didn't listen to Dr. Lawson when he said, 'pack lightly')."

Transportation in the European Union

One would think that if you haven't traveled outside of the United States, you might not consider taking a two week trip to another country as your first. This is especially true if you have never flown on an airplane, or ridden a tram, subway, or train and the only form of transportation you are accustomed to is driving your own personal vehicle. On that note, I must say that traveling to Hungary and Germany gave me much insight to other forms of travel and transportation that as Americans here in Louisville, we simply do not have access to.

I never would have imagined how complex, yet easy it is to use public transportation. The cities each had trams, trains, buses, and subways to get from one place to another. The experiences with the trains were somewhat humorous. One had to hurry and get on the train, and then you had to lift your entire luggage up above your head onto racks. Once the train stopped you only had a certain amount of time to unload, and get off the train. Unfortunately for some of us students, we had too much luggage (perhaps because we didn't listen to Dr. Lawson when he said, "pack lightly"). Having to lift a fifty pound suitcase on and off a train was not an easy task for some of us.

The subways were quite fun to find your way around the cities. In several cases, my friends and I ended up going the wrong way, but luckily they are simple enough to get on and off of with ease. In several cases we just rode to the next stop, got off, and went in the opposite direction. If we felt like exploring that day, we would just ride on the subway a few extra stops until we found a new place to see.

I must say my least favorite form of transportation was the trams. It seemed like we were always running to catch one, and they were always crowded. Apparently the citizens of these cities utilized the trams quite often. They had several tracks in each city, in which they ran at all times of the day. It was seldom that we had to wait over 2 minutes to catch the next available tram. The trams were pretty reliable in getting people to their destinations. However, the stopping and starting was horrible. In several instances I felt as if I was going to fall into the person beside me.

The individuals in the countries didn't really own automobiles, unlike most Americans. It appeared they were more of a luxury item to own. There wasn't much parking on streets, especially in Munich. The majority of parking was in underground garages, or if you parked on the street you had to own a special permit. In addition, unlike the United States, sport utility vehicles were far and few between. The most common vehicles were small compact cars that appeared to be fuel efficient. It appears that the European people don't have the same values of vehicles and transportation as we do. Here we need a vehicle to get from A to B, and we live so far from our jobs that if we did utilize the TARC, it would take an hour or longer to get to work. They appear to live closer to their jobs, and either walk, or use public transportation to find their destinations. Their forms of transportation appear to be healthier by utilizing walking as a daily exercise, as well as being fuel efficient for the economy as well. Overall, just having to use different transportation systems than we were used to was a learning experience.



View of a tram in Budapest.

- Stephanie Farley



View of the swimming pool available to guests at the Gellert Hotel and Spa.

A Hungarian Bathhouse, cont..

supposed to pay in cash, then go wait in the baths until it was time for our massage.

The thermal baths were located in one large room, with high ceilings and stained glass windows. There were two separate pools, one 36 and the other 38 degrees Celsius; both were naturally heated. In addition to the pools, there was a steam room, which seemed to be a wet sauna, where there was so much steam you could barely see

or breathe. After sitting in the steam room, patrons could step into a freezing 8 degree Celsius bath – a service no one in our group managed to endure for more than about 60 seconds.

Despite being a little lost and confused and almost accidentally walking into the men's massage area, the bath house was a wonderful cultural experience that I would definitely recommend to anyone visiting Hungary. After all, how often do Americans have the oppor-

tunity to take part in the same past times as the ancient Romans? However, to anyone planning on visiting a Hungarian bath house, I will impart the same advice I received: Although bathing suits are worn in the co-ed baths, be prepared to check your modesty at the door – the other patrons certainly will!

- Taylor Ewing

“...It was the base for the Hungarian Nazi Party or the Arrow Cross Party and then subsequently the Communist party. “

Terror Haza – House of Terror

The Terror Museum is located in Budapest, Hungary and was commissioned in 2002. It is on one of the most prominent streets in Budapest, on Andrassy Road, which links the city with Heroes' Square. The building has significant importance in Hungary because it was the base for the Hungarian Nazi Party or the Arrow Cross Party and then subsequently the Communist party. This house became a representation of fear and death for Hungarians for a number of years.

The outside of the building was very stately, yet there was an addition of metal awnings that had the word TERROR cut into them, so that when the light hit them in a certain way, the word was ominously printed on the side of the home. This

led the way to the inside

lobby, which played video clips of survivors and music that added to the ambiance of the overall visit. Each room of the building had a different theme, starting with the Nazi's then moving on to the Communists, and quotes that lined the walls, telling the different stories and struggles of the people that were held captive and their captors.

The most shocking part of the whole tour had to be the basement of the house. There was an elevator that slowly took the group down to the basement where the torture actually took place. This was a haunting look at the horrible events that occurred during those years that the house was occupied. There was a small section of the wall that had been carved out to be a tiny room that a person could only fit into standing up. A prisoner was put in this space, the door was locked, and they could not move at all. This was just one example of the

horror that people were put through in this building. There were many different types of rooms used for torture, such as fox holes, where prisoners could not stand up because of slanted ceilings, and wet cells, where the prisoner had to sit in water. It was horrifying to see the extent to which a human could torture another without pity.

This museum was one of the most interesting places we visited during our trip. The hospitality of our guide, who took time out of his day to carefully show us through every exhibit, to the overall effect of the visuals presented, will always be appreciated and remembered when looking back on our time spent in Europe.

- Meredith Stevenson



Propaganda in Hungary

We live in a world of propaganda. If there are enough resources and power, any idea can be sold to the masses. It is only when one looks past the images and words of the advertisements that the truth of the matter can be revealed. This dichotomy of clashing world views was demonstrated to me in the context of the political imagery and observations which took place during my recent trip to Hungary.

As we toured the "Terror Museum" in Budapest, we went through one room in particular, which showed posters propagandizing Communism. These posters showed everybody working hard and enjoying the fruits of the Communist society. Everybody bore a smile as they did their part for the betterment of their society. This joyous, "all for one" attitude was quickly dissolved in the next room where another view was portrayed. This next room demonstrated the loss of individual freedom that occurred under this type of system. This loss, under the banner of oppression was highlighted with an exhibit showing wiretaps and spy equipment used to "maintain control" of the citizens.

When the Communist rule fell in 1989, images of people celebrat-

ing and rejoicing in the streets flooded the television screens across the globe. Schools in the United States taught how great it was that these countries were now "free", and that now these former-Communist countries can be more like us- "the greatest country in the world". However, this, in itself, was a narrow portrayal of what was to come. With the evolution into a Democratic and Capitalist society, the problems that emerged collided with the high expectations of change. These problems were linked to the poor and the marginalized who were not able to benefit from the change. In several conversations with the professors in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary, it was revealed that the fall of Communism did not reap the benefits for a country that was not ready for such a large change. They said that, at least under the Communist rule, everybody had a job and received some type of income. People had homes and access to social services. Now that this way of life no longer exists, the social problems that have emerged are becoming more evident and more pressing. This is why the occupational field of Social Work is a relatively new practice in Hungary. There are people who revel in the fall of Communism (mostly the wealthy), and there

are those who wish to return to a better time that pre-dated the fall. While we were in Hungary, we were privileged enough to experience a National Holiday symbolizing the dissolving of Communism. While many celebrated, there were those who protested in Budapest. This holiday provided a clear picture of the dichotomous air which exists in this former Communist country.

When asked if he was happy with the present state of Hungarian society, the Dean of the school replied, "No, but it is the best alternative." With each different form of government, there are positive and negative aspects. The question arises: How does one maintain individual freedom while still having the government being able to provide for its constituent needs? One must not let propaganda prevail, for there is always another side, another critical dimension untested, and other possibilities to explore. For Hungary, it may require the test of time to weather the difficult aspects of massive social change and upheaval, or it may require creative minds developing new and better social, economic, and political systems.

- Josh Singer

"One must not let propaganda prevail, for there is always another side, another critical dimension untested, and other possibilities to explore."

The START Agency

The Start organization in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary trains and employs individuals who have a 'reduced capacity' to work. Reduced capacity can mean that the individual is blind, deaf, has a physical disability, or a mental disability. Start focuses on occupational rehabilitation, and is currently training over 200 people, sixty of who are adults. Individuals can begin training with Start at the age of 14, and once trained, Start will hire them to work in one of their many differ-

ent shops. How many hours they work depends on their capabilities, which is determined by the client's doctors. Some clients only work four hours a day, while others may work six hours broken up into three hour intervals.

Start trains their clients in many different areas, including but not limited to: shoe making, sewing, printing, and cooking. The Start program runs several stores that use these skills.

They have a small dining area in the main building, where they make fresh bread everyday. They also have an area where people work in auto mechanics. They have a small store where the items that are made by their clients are sold.

Start seems to be a very small organization at this time, they employ three to four thousand people in a city of (continued on pg. 8)



START sign at the entrance to one of the factories.



The facilities at START were very handicap friendly. One special feature was this tiling on the floor which assists blind individuals with navigating the hallways. Tiles are ridged with bumpy tiles places at

“Munich is a very popular tourist destination and it was easy to see why after a visit to this great city. “

St. Peter's Church.. It was completely destroyed during WWII and has been rebuilt.



The START Agency, cont...

120,000, but they have plans to grow. At the end of March, 2007, the Hungarian government was supposed to pass a law that would allow Start to grow.

In preparation of this law being passed, Start has brought or had built several new buildings, and prepared for several new services. They have built a new medical facility, a building that they plan to use as a hostel and one that is easily accessible for the physically handicapped. They have another building that they plan to turn into apartments, specifically designed for individuals with physical handicaps. The Start organization is not very old itself, but is very much determined to grow and offer more services to those in need.

- Megan Hourigan

The City of Munich

Munich is Germany's third largest city and one of Europe's most prosperous. The city has a population of about 1.3 million and the metropolitan area is home to around 2.7 million people.

Munich is a very popular tourist destination and it was easy to see why after a visit to this great city. We were fortunate to see several of the city's most famous sites, which included St. Peter's Church, Marienplatz, and the Hofbrauhaus.

St. Peter's Church is the oldest parish church in the inner city. It is located close to the Marienplatz and overlooks one of the most popular markets in Munich. This church was built in the Romanesque period and is known for its ornate interior.

The Marienplatz, a large open square at the center of the city, was filled with great shopping along with many restaurants and coffee shops.

The Marienplatz is also where the new town hall steeple tower is located, which contains the Glocken-

spiel, an ornate clock with almost life-sized moving figures. The figures depict scenes from a medieval jousting tournament as well as figures doing a dance.

Finally, who could forget the Hofbrauhaus!! This is one of Munich's beloved beer halls has been in existence since 1644. It is known for its beer, food, tourists, music, and lederhosen. Inside the Hofbrauhaus, you will see walls of beer steins that have been personalized and locked away for their owners. While in Munich, I was fortunate to dine here twice and each experience was unique.

Overall, Munich was one of the highlights of the trip for me. I really enjoyed the people, food, shopping, and overall atmosphere of the city. I definitely could have spent a few more days in Munich!

- Shira Murphy



View of the Marienplatz. The building is the old new town hall.



Figures in the Glockenspiel perform every hour.



Authentic band of the Hofbrauhaus.

All for One, One for All...



The setting was bustling. Panoramic view of strategic shoppers all looking for the next buy one get one free. One thousand folk, maybe two, scurrying back and fourth, oblivious to the serene afternoon bent on discovering the next big deal. I spot a mother, caught in the shuffle, her alacrity carrying her into the shop. As she enters I notice she leaves something behind. Is it a cart, perhaps some luggage hauling apparatus? I inch closer. It has four wheel, and a handle, these Europeans are so chick. A luxury walker, that's what it must be...

It can't be. Yes it is. I take another step. It is. One more step. Yes, that's an infant. Un-fathomable! The unfit wench I scream, and at what cost, a lucid shopping spree? The infant starts to cry, I react. Two steps back Chris, heaven forbid you end up in the bowels of a Germanic fortress. The infant is now screaming. What do I do?

Relief. Soon appears the woman. She caresses the infant. Very Mary Poppins, perhaps she knows Mary, I hear she hails from these parts. The infant settles into a slumber, no more whimper, just the inlet of tiny breathes, adding to the serene afternoon.

I turn to retreat, satisfaction about to settle in. Then, she leaves. What, you wench!?! Wait, that wasn't even the mother. The first woman, the mother, had a slit in the side of her dress, yes I noticed, blame the man in me. This woman had no slit, she had no dress, pants were what she festooned. Imposter, fake mommy, Mary would be ashamed. Quick Chris, to the infants' aide.

Relief, the slit, I mean mother, has appeared. She grasps the stroller, trinket in the other hand, and strolls, strolls away. What just happened, is it possible? Do people really believe it takes a village to raise a child? No it can't be, that's a worn out cliché. Or can it?

The president of the United States of America was recently quoted at an economic conference stating the hardest working person in America is the single mom. But I ask what has this government done for the single mom? It seems our Eastern friends, not only excel in space, but in the home too... Think about it.

- Chris Harper

Salzburg, Austria

During our two week trip to Europe, we had lots of things to do and see. The sights were amazing and the people we met were very friendly. This was the same in Salzburg, Austria. By far this was the most beautiful part of this trip. When stepping off the train, it seemed the same as everywhere else we had been and I questioned the decision to take the trip there on our free day. But after walking to the main bridge in the town and seeing the beauty of the whole place, those questions were gone.

The first site we went to was the main garden. Parts of this garden were used in the film, *The Sound of Music* and for good reason. The plants were so colorful and the statues and fountains were absolutely gorgeous. There was a feeling of calm throughout the garden that made it feel like the perfect place to be.

From here we walked to the bridge to cross the river and we could see the whole town, with the snow capped mountains in the background, and the castle up on the hill. It really was an indescribable sight. We walked across the bridge and ran into a woman who

did paintings of Salzburg that were just as pretty as the actual sight. After purchasing a couple paintings, we went on to the main shopping area. The street was very old fashioned and full of life and beauty. From there we went on to take the lift to the castle. This lift went straight up the side of the mountain and was perhaps more frightening than any roller coaster I had ever been on, but the views at the top were worth it. Walking around the castle was incredible. From every angle, the views kept me speechless. Trying to put it into words seems to not do it justice.

This day trip really made the whole experience. The sights we saw in Salzburg really made me appreciate the beauty in the world that I have not experienced yet. It made me excited for the next time I get to go abroad and find the next city that takes my breath away.

- Jen Wigginton

Day Trip to Nurnberg, Germany

Around 7:30 AM on a cold and gray Saturday morning, five brave students and our mighty leader boarded a train at the Hauptbahnhof in Munich to begin a day travel to Nurnberg. This group was exhausted after traveling around Hungary and Germany for two weeks, so the three hour train ride was a great time to catch up on some sleep. The crew arrived at the very modern Nurnberg train station at about 10:30 AM. Anxious to see all of the sights and being typical Americans, we grabbed a quick cup of coffee at the McDonald's in the train station before heading out for our adventure.

Nurnberg is a city that dates back to 1050. Upon arrival to the city, the first sight that our group saw was part of the wall that enclosed the city of Nurnberg during medieval times. The city has since grown much further than the original boundary, but it was amazing to (continued pg. 10)



German architecture on the street to the castle in Nurnberg, Germany.



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The Kent School International Exchange Program started in 1990. Since that time Kent students have studied in Germany, Italy, Hungary, South Africa, Argentina and Russia. Students receive lectures on social welfare programs and interact with students formally and informally from our host universities. Visits to social welfare agencies differ in each country but have included agencies for: elderly, homeless, substance abuse, hospitals, child welfare, community centers, and numerous others. Time is provided for students to experience the culture of the host country as well as historical and tourist attractions.



A Day Trip to Nurnberg, Germany, cont...

see something that old still standing today. As our group continued our walk into the city center, I noticed all of the quaint German architecture and the preservation of buildings that date back to the 13th Century. Nurnberg is a city that was completely destroyed during World War II, but it has since been restored back to its initial beauty. There are some remnants of the fighting that took place over sixty years ago. If you



Bullet holes in the side of a building.

look closely, you can see bullet holes in the sides of some of the buildings.

As our adventure continued in the beautiful city of Nurnberg, we were given the opportunity to visit three churches. One church showed pictures of its destruction and its reconstruction after being bombed by the Allied Forces. These photos cast a somber tone with the group as we were taken on an emotional historical journey back to the dark days of



The best brats we've ever tasted!

World War II. Our last stop before lunch was the Kaiserburg (King's Castle) that sat at the top of the hill. The walk up the hill to the castle was a little arduous, but the view of the city from the top was absolutely breathtaking. It was amazing to see the preserved city center with the more modern part of Nurnberg in the distance. Finally, it was time for lunch at the famous Nurnberg Brat Haus (Bratwursthäusle) where we dined on sausages, sauerkraut, and potato salad. The day ended in this great city with shopping at the Hauptmarkt, the main market square where we loaded up on some last minute souvenirs and gifts. Our time in Nurnberg was short, but it was definitely memorable.

- Kelly Zapata

Newsletter Compiled by
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