



Jim Barbour, a professor teaching the European Union study abroad class, said: "Just studying from home is a lot like studying bread recipes without ever going to a bakery; it is important and useful, but you never really understand what baking bread it like."

We feel this idea is a common thread through the courses offered both on and off campus. Elon students are studying across the world, gaining on-the-job experience with internships and exploring the role of a world citizen with on-campus classes revolving around globalization and culture.

In this Focus section, we wanted to highlight some of the exciting things happening during the month of January. Join us for a recount of Winter Term 2002.

Student writes home from Ireland

Erin Cunningham, The Pendulum's news editor, is spending Winter Term in Ireland as part of the Elon Study Abroad program. The following are her accounts from the first week of her travels.

As I sat in the Raleigh airport, desperately hoping the security personnel would not take my tweezers from me, I wondered what my trip to Ireland would be like. As the woman with the scanning wand instructed me to remove my shoes, I imagined the beautiful green countryside awaiting me. As a large man with a rifle rummaged through my bags, I saw myself looking out onto the Aran Islands.

It has been everything I imagined. The most amazing parts of my trip have been the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher and the time I have spent in Derry, which is officially called Londonderry.

After hearing about the conflict in Northern Ireland, it was refreshing to come to Derry and realize that the people here are in no immediate danger. We first took a tour of the city. We toured both a Protestant and a Catholic neighborhood. Signs of the conflict are evident, and being in the city and seeing the exact spot where Bloody Sunday occurred was remarkable and truly moving.

The people of Ireland are surprisingly friendly, and they are very interested in learning about the American culture, which is shockingly prevalent in their society. It is hard to find a pub or a nightclub that does not play American music.

We have travelled to Limerick, Sligo, Derry and Galway. We leave tomorrow for Dublin where we will spend the majority of our remaining time in Ireland.

- Erin

World becomes students' classroom

Jennie Carman

Reporter

Which sounds more appealing: sitting in a classroom in a uncomfortable desk listening to a professor lecture or traveling to a foreign country to experience history and culture?

"Nothing replaces the experience of being in the situation in the context, in the place where something happened or is happening," Betty Nixon Morgan, one of the professors leading the European Union study tour this year, said. Her co-teacher, professor Jim Barbour, said: "just studying from home is a lot like studying bread recipes without ever going to a bakery; it is important and useful, but you never really understand what baking bread it like."

Perhaps this is why so many students choose to take advantage of the various programs at Elon University by traveling abroad during the three and a half week winter term. Programs such as biology in Belize, art in Italy, sports in Sydney and economy in Asia allow students to study topics of interest while learning other cultures.

Professor Michael Lee Calhoun is in Sydney, Australia, teaching the sport in the global community class. He says he thinks "cultural immersion is the most effective and profound

method of learning about another culture." One of the leaders of the Sydney film studies course, professor John Duvall, says study abroad is a valuable experience because "exposure to a different culture gives students a broader understanding of the world and gives them a vantage point for questioning the values of their own culture."

It's not just professors who believe in the value of traveling abroad. Bill Rich, the dean of international studies, says studying abroad offers students innumerable benefits. He says studying abroad is an essential part of the Elon experience because it allows students to "develop a sense of independence and decision making skills, [as well as teaching] students how to look at the United States from a different perspective."

Professor Heidi Glaesel, who is currently teaching the geography of Great Britain class, believes that Winter Term study abroad should be "a spring-board for further study travel." Many professors share her opinion; Professor Chalmers Brumbaugh, who is leading the studies in Costa Rica course, says Winter Term "should whet the appetite for more study abroad."

The experience students have during a study abroad course vary from person to person. Some students come to gain independence



Photo submitted Mandy McCanna, Shaun Cowardin, Brett Cassel and Clara Urquhart stand with a statue honoring the Soviet Soldier.

and self confidence while others, according to Brumbaugh, "bring new insights into a new culture and into themselves." Barbour says he hopes his students will understand that just because cultures are different that does not mean one is better than the other during their time abroad.



Photo submitted Daniel Schooff, Mike Trainor and Adam Benjamin enjoyed touring Budapest as part of the European Union study abroad class.

University takes precautions

Universities faced many questions about sending their students abroad after the events of Sept. 11. Elon's office of international studies took many precautions before allowing students to travel during Winter Term.

The staff spent fall semester monitoring U.S. State Department travel advisories, as well as exchanging information with study abroad directors at other universities.

"We now live in unprecedented times faced with more uncertainty than before," Bill Rich, director of international studies, said. "We feel the countries where we are sending students for Winter Term are safe and that air travel is safe."