Campus Extras

Summer school fun abroad

REBECCA HUFSTETLER

When I flew out of the RDU airport May 23, 1997 to participate in the ten-week Meredith Abroad program, I knew I was in for an exciting summer, but I never predicted that it would change my life the way it did.

I knew my summer would be filled with studying and traveling. I was finally going to see first-hand all of the historical landmarks and various countries which I had only heard about in school. I was also going to learn about art history, British Parliament, and cultural psychology while I traveled from Italy to England. Although I learned much valuable information in my travels and studies, it was the simple lessons in life which I learned from various people and situations that made the greatest impact on me.

The sights I had the opportunity to see were just amazing. I was in awe as I stood in St. Peter's cathedral in Vatican City. I loved the gondola singers who serenaded us in Venice. And I never saw artwork which was even close to being beautiful in the Swiss Alps. I still have trouble putting words to the array of emotions which I felt in Dachau, Germany. Even in the pouring rain, the Eiffel Tower was over-

whelming. The Imperial War Room in London was by far my favorite museum and the House of Parliament were fascinating. From Sansepalcro, Italy to London, England, I had the opportunity to visit some of the greatest places in the world.

I am convinced that I encountered some of the finest people in the world this summer. Due to living conditions, traveling opportunities and meal arrangements, it was easy for our Meredith group to become like a family. Although class loyalty runs thick here at Meredith, Meredith Abroad allowed me to go beyond those barriers and meet some incredible people.

This summer made me realize it is

up to me to make life happen. Had I sat in my room all summer, I would have missed the blessings which came my way from the Europeans. I now know I must seize every moment. I left for Europe wondering how I may change the world, I came back knowing the world changed



Some of the 1997 Meredith abroad students in Venice.

Photo submitted by Rebecca Huffstetler



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Chatting with a star

KIM DEBUS

Beth Leavel, class of 1977, is a Broadway actor/singer/dancer, having starred in *Crazyfor You* and *Showboat*. We all know she has been guest choreographer for Meredith Performs' production of *Irene*. But what about the real Beth Leavel? I spoke with her for a few minutes at dress rehearsal Sunday night — and a funny few minutes it was.

Kim: What's a nice girl like you doing in a place like New York?

Beth: Making money. I did a lot of national tours after college, including 42nd Street. Eventually, I settled in New York.

Kim: Was that a childhood dream of yours?

Beth: No. I did a show my senior year in high school and the thought crossed my mind, but basically I was chieless

Kim: You mean you had no idea about what you were going to do at Meredith?

Beth: No, I really was clueless. But after I got here, I auditioned for Winnie the Pooh—I played Rabbit to Cathy's Pooh—I got laughs, and I was addicted.

Kim: But there was no theater major then, right?

Beth: That's true. I minored in theater, and somewhere in my junior year I realized I had no major. Oops! But I did have a lot of credits in sociology and social work, so that's what my transcript says.

Kim: Enough of this serious stuff. It's time for "Five Questions" (apologies to Craig Kilborn and *The Daily Show*). What was your dream role in college and your dream role now?

Beth: Fanny Brice in Funny Girl, and . . . Fanny Brice in Funny Girl.

Kim: What's the avenue I'm taking you to?

Beth: Forty-second Street.

Kim: Who would you rather fight for the part of Rizzo: Rosie or Xena?

Beth: Xena. The fight would be more interesting, and I can take Rosie anytime.

Kim: Is it true that you only did stuff because Cathy did it?

Beth: Heck no! She copied me.

Kim: And finally, I know your folks still live in Raleigh. Do you like calling North Carolina home?

Beth: You betcha.

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