

Taking the roads less tra

Students share unique experiences of l

By Danielle Alford
Reporter

The Grimsley community flourishes with a diverse population of ethnicity, interests, hobbies, occupations, and opinions. This diversity also spreads to the aspect of travel among Grimsley students. Tambra Taylor, Elon Guttman, Sara Aderhold, and Mamadou Niang are no exception to this diversity. They have all lived in or visited another country or island and are willing to share their unique experiences.

As many Grimsley students discover their affinity for a foreign language, they may have the opportunity to travel to the country they study. Tambra Taylor, a senior, has done just that. On July 26, 1995, she embarked on her travels to Argentina through a study abroad program. Taylor, who studies Spanish, selected Argentina because she wanted to sharpen her speaking skills and learn more about South America and Argentina. She was fortunate to have lived in Mendoza, with a host family for her first four months in Argentina, and then in the capital city of Buenos Aires, her last two months.

Taylor had the opportunity to learn much about this Spanish-speaking country during her stay.

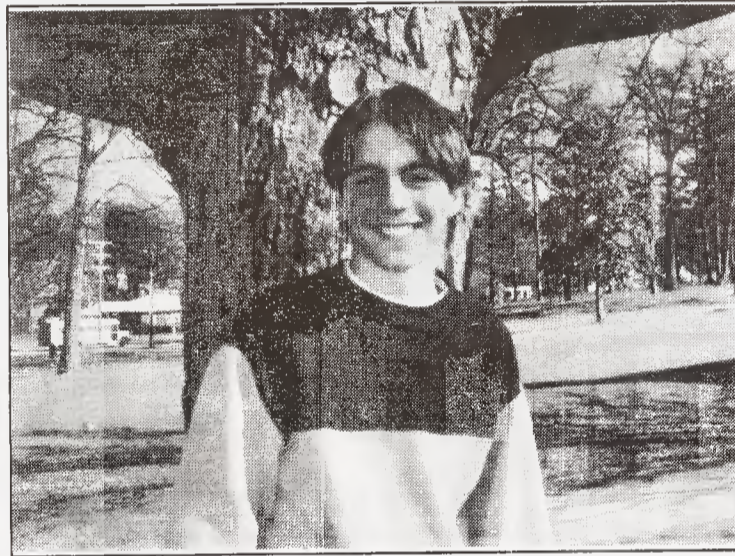
"When I first got there, it was real cold...It was the opposite; when we have our winters they have their summers. Summers are terrible because it stays around 98 degrees everyday. I thought the people would look like the Mexicans from Central America. But, true Argentinians are scarce so now they are mixed with peoples from England, Germany, etc. So, it's a mixed culture. In Mendoza, the people were not as open. They didn't bend over backwards to say 'hello' when you walked into a store, etc.

"Their economy had a lot of inflation. It was ridiculous because a can of Sprite cost \$1.00 and a small box of Frosted Flakes was \$10.00! In Argentina, there are two classes: middle and poor (with absolutely no money). It was sad because the poor mothers and fathers would hold



Tambra Taylor, a senior, lived in Mendoza and Buenos Aires, Argentina as an exchange student for six months.

File photo



Ilan Guttman, a sophomore, moved to Israel with his family so that his father, a rabbi, could study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

File photo

out their hands for money downtown and children washed car windows at every stoplight.

"I didn't like their government. It was a mess because often people would not get their paychecks for a couple of months. I think it used money for unnecessary reasons."

Taylor comments on the apparent similarities and differences in the school systems of Argentina and the United States. She said, "I don't think their school system is very organized. For example, instead of taking chemistry one year and physics another, they would take chemistry and physics at the same time. Also, they don't change classes; the teachers do. So, we had to see the same people all day. I had to wear a white lab coat called a guardo polvo as a uniform in my public school because they wanted poor people to not feel different. There are two times you can choose to go to school everyday: the morning (8am-1pm) or afternoon (1pm-6pm). Everyone went home for lunch because there was no cafeteria."

Taylor enjoyed her six month stay in this interesting country. She was impressed with the capital, Buenos Aires. "It was more Americanized, just like New York...Everything I saw in the encyclopedia about it I got to do there." But, she had some dislikes about her visit. She said, "I didn't like the dulce de leche which is translated into 'milk candy.' You eat it like we eat our peanut butter. I also didn't like greeting with kisses on the cheek because it was tiring."

Despite any dislikes of Argentina, Taylor said she would like to still be there. She said, "I miss the freedom of going out with my friends and staying out until 6 or 7am." Argentina is one experience Tambra Taylor will not soon forget as the memory of her visit lives on in the Spanish classroom right here at Grimsley.

Israel is the next stop on the map for another student. Ilan Guttman, a sophomore, lived in Israel from birth until the age of ten. His parents moved there because his father attended Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He compares the country to the United States' climate,

culture, economy, and government.

"It's hotter. It didn't snow much and there are a lot of deserts. The geography is similar to North Carolina because it has a lot of mountains and hills.

"The Israelis are really diverse. There are a lot of immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia. There is a group from the United States and the Palestinian Arabs are Christians and Muslims. I liked the people because it is like New York in that you meet a lot of different people. You could go out in the middle of the night and ride the public transportation and not be afraid of being mugged.

"They had a free enterprise economy. Our government had programs there. For example, the phone company for the entire country was American. Their government is parliamentarian. In order to form a government, you have to have 61 members in your coalition."

Guttman remembers the school system in Israel. "The country runs the school. You can choose what school you want to attend. You are required to go to school and when you turn 18, you're required to go to the army. I attended a conservative Jewish school. The school is similar because they divide the day into subjects as they do here."

Likes and dislikes of his ten years in Israel are still fresh on Guttman's mind. He said, "I guess I liked the freedom and being with a lot of Jewish people and not being a minority. But, I didn't like getting year-old movies and watching old American TV shows." Guttman is certainly fortunate to have had the experience of living in Israel where he felt free to be who he was, even as a ten year old.

It is not every day, someone can pack their bags and move to an island with little or no cars, no running water, and the warmth of 80 degrees temperatures daily. However, Sara Aderhold, a senior, packed her bags and flew off to such an island. For seven months, she lived on the island of Saba located 28 miles from St. Martin, just below Puerto Rico. Aderhold along with her mother, brother, and sister moved to Saba to join her father who was attending Saba University School of Medicine.

Aderhold describes Saba as a third world region that was very primitive compared to the civilized life of the United States. In comparing the climate, culture of the people on the island, the economy, and government of Saba and the United States she said:

"It was 75-80 degrees every day. The weather was funny because it could be sunny one minute and then rain for 30 minutes. It's weird how I realized the seasons prepare you for the holidays. In Saba, there were no seasons.

"There were black and white people on the island. There were interracial couples and some people married their second or third cousins. The people were very

