

Emily DeCamp – Summer in Amsterdam

Seems like I blinked and boom were in the final weeks of our trip. I know I have seen and done more than I ever imagined but I guess time flies when you're having fun, if I can be cliché for moment. As I reflect on my time spent on this trip, I can confidently say my perspective on life and my character as a person has changed. I have become more independent and self-aware.

I have greatly enjoyed my time here in the Netherlands, exploring the city and other surrounding cities. There have been many things about this country, and Europe in general, that



I love. I love the history and old buildings and architecture that we never see in the states, especially in Indiana. I love the laid-back culture where they take their time at meals and let you enjoy your company and food without being rushed out the door. I just overall love the atmosphere and culture here.

Though inevitably I have found myself missing some things in America that Amsterdam can't offer, especially on a day like today. The Fourth of July. Such an amazing day in the states, but here it's just your average day in July for the Dutch. But that won't stop our group from celebrating, even if there may not be fireworks and sparklers. We can still celebrate in our own way. So yes, there are things to be missed, but I think that is the beauty in this whole trip. I would not have been so eager to study abroad if I was going to be living and learning in an environment the same as what I'm accustomed to. I wanted to experience something new, I wanted to be challenged and pushed out of my comfort zone because those are things you can't learn in a traditional classroom setting. I have grown

more as a person through this experience and overcome obstacles that would not have been possible back at Purdue. I have also learned some things about Dutch culture as well. I've learned it's not only socially acceptable to eat mayo with your fries, it's highly encouraged here. Also, never underestimate the bikers and always be aware of your surroundings if you're a tourist in Amsterdam. You don't want to make the mistake of crossing one of them.

On a more serious note, I've learned to be more independent and willing to ask questions. I am not as afraid to approach strangers or go out into the unknown by myself. This trip has given me the opportunity to network with business professionals. I tend to get nervous for those encounters but I truly feel that after having the experiences of this trip that has changed. Since I have been thrown into a different culture and had to figure things out for myself, my



confidence has grown and I am able to approach these situations with poise.

This experience has brought into my life not only all the experiences, but also people who I never would have known if it weren't for this trip. It is crazy how we all come from the same school, yet we did not know each other and now being on this journey with them has given us a connection that nothing else could. As I still have one week left with the group, I know we will make the best of our time here. I am going to miss their company and the personality and smiles that each of them brought



throughout the trip. I know we will all stay in contact and run into each other around Purdue but the memories made here are going to be like no other.

Amsterdam will always have a place in my heart and since it has been home for me for 2 months, I know my way around the city and don't think of myself as a tourist anymore. My family is visiting at the end of the trip and I am thrilled to be able to show them around and let them experience what I have these past 2 months. I am lucky enough to have an extra week to spend in Europe with them. I'm not sure I would be quite ready to leave this beautiful city by the end of the program.

A big thank you to Amsterdam, Europe, Sandy, my classmates, and much more for the great summer you have given me, the experiences I will cherish, and the things I have learned that have enriched my life and my knowledge. It has all brought me confidence, allowed me to be more independent and a more well-rounded person. I am forever grateful for the experience. Proost!

