

SCENE

German greetings

The Scene International

Emily Wynn News Editor

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For the last Scene International of the year, we visit Arts & Sciences junior and former Creighton News Editor Emily Wynn, who is studying in Trier, Germany.

Exactly a month has passed since I arrived in the beautiful city of Trier. So much has happened since then that I can hardly believe I've only been here a month; yet at the same time it seems like last week I arrived jet-lagged and ready for an adventure.

I knew before I arrived that the opportunities I couldn't imagine at home would be the best, and I was correct. Had you told me two months ago that I would become great friends with a group of Hungarians, play soccer with people from countries around the world — including Egypt, Italy and Turkey — and learn how to cook Polish food, I may not have believed you. And yet, I have done it all — and I even scored a goal! Yes, an American girl with little athletic ability managed to score on a team of Italian guys. Who would have guessed?

The people are turning out to be the best part of the experience. I've met students from around the world, including (but not limited to) Finland, the Netherlands, Japan and France, and I'm learning more about other cultures than I ever could out of a textbook. (Did you know that in Estonia, the government pays for a majority of the students to attend university?) And I can also now say 'cheers' in approximately six or seven different languages. In my opinion the coolest is Hungarian (egészségére), but I suppose German (prost) is cool too.

It's also fascinating hearing what students from other countries have to say about the U.S. — whether it's politics or complaining about our dialect (coming from an Australian...). But when it comes down to it, we're all students — we all have the same concerns and want to succeed. And we are all in the same position; we chose to come to Trier to study and are all facing a semester of study in a foreign language.

Trier itself has also been great. I live right next to the Mosel river, and my dorm is a convenient 10-minute walk from the downtown area. It's not so convenient for going to the University — I have to either walk 10 minutes and catch a bus or catch two different buses — but it's great on Friday and Saturday nights. Although I can't complain about the public transportation — that's one thing I know already that I will miss when I come home.

The program lasted for three weeks and I am only now beginning my actual coursework (in German). That's right — while my fellow Creighton students are preparing for summer I will be finally buckling down to do some actual work — for the first time since December. Good thing I have all my new friends to distract me! I can't wait for more unforeseen opportunities to crop up — the more spontaneous the better. After all, as the German kids keep saying "Du bist ein Erasmus Studentin nur einmal!" (You're only an exchange student once!)



Photo by Emily Wynn

Arts & Sciences junior Emily Wynn stands in the garden of Beethoven's house in Bonn, Germany.