

Study Abroad in Ireland

May 17, 2010 – June 1, 2010

Dublin, Cork, Killarney and Galway

3 credit hour course- Democratic Education

In the following descriptions I have included some of my favorite activities. I did many other delightful things while in Ireland, but to tell of all those adventures would take far more than 7 pages!

Upon arrival in Dublin, Ireland myself and 29 other members of the CCSA Early Ireland program embarked on our first journey through the city. We visited Trinity College which is home to the Book of Kells and a wealth of history. Unfortunately, pictures were not allowed in the interior of the exhibit...so I have no evidence of the beauty I witnessed within the pages of this ancient manuscript. Once I made my way through the Book of Kells exhibit I found myself in the “Long Library” in Trinity College. The “Long Library” is the largest collection of Ireland’s books and manuscript and was truly an awe-inspiring moment for me. As an avid reader, I enjoy everything that goes into a book. From the scent of the crisp pages a brand new book has to offer to the distinct historical smell an old book gives off. The “long library” gave off the scent of ages and ages of authors and tales.

The next site on our itinerary was Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. Full of history and beauty...one of the places I most looked forward to visiting.



Outside the entrance to Saint Patrick’s Cathedral.

A few days into our explorations of Ireland, myself and two friends wanted to take in the sites and scenery of Dun Laoghaire. We found ourselves with an entire day of free time so we took the DART (mass transit train) out to this fishing village.



Dun Laoghaire harbor

One of my favorite experiences of the entire abroad program was observing an “Educate Together” school in Dalkey. This school is the oldest of the “Educate Together” schools in Ireland. The “Educate Together” schools are based on the concept of educating all religions together, rather than one strict Catholic religion. The majority of schools in Ireland are Catholic, so when it comes to educating their children, parents have little choice as to where their children learn. Educate Together schools are formed by parents and rely heavily on parental involvement. The Dalkey Project School was one of three

“Educate Together” schools we visited and was the most inspiring to me. As I walked into each level of classroom I saw students excited to learn and ready to explain the individual projects they were working on.



The special education class and the democratic education class in front of one of the newest educate together schools in County Cork.

In a small fishing village about 30 minutes outside of Dublin City Centre we found the most breath taking views. Howth was not only a great place to view amazing cliffs, but we also found the most delicious fish & chips.





Ancey and I in Howth taking in the view.

A visit to Ireland would not be complete without a trip to Blarney Caste to kiss the Blarney Stone. After lying down backward and stretching to reach the stone I can say that I now have the “eloquence of the Irish”.





Laying down and kissing the Blarney Stone backward, I can now say I have inherited the “eloquence of the Irish”.

On one of the last days in Ireland, our group drove out of Galway to catch a ferry to the Aran Islands.

After our 45 minute ferry ride we arrived on this gorgeous island full of sea life including seals and puffins. We took a mini-bus tour of the island and were left with the rest of the afternoon to explore. Myself and three friends rented bikes and cycled around the whole island...it was the perfect way to experience the sites.



My friend Bry and I taking the ferry out to the Aran Islands.



About to head out on our bike ride of the Aran Islands.



Overlooking the Cliffs of Moher.



To my surprise and my suitcase's dismay we only experienced three rainy days in Ireland. Here we are in Killarney putting our rain gear to use.



My friend Ancy and I outside the Guinness Storehouse.