



Sally Lynch on a hiking trip to the top of Snowdon Mountain in Northern Wales.

Dear CBU:

LETTERS FROM ENGLAND

*CBU natural science major **SALLY LYNCH** ('06) of Covington, LA, spent the fall semester at Edge Hill College in Lancashire, England. While studying abroad, she filed a regular series of special reports that were posted on the CBU website. Following are some excerpts.*

Hello to all my fellow Buccaneers back at CBU! I am the first of what I hope will be many CBU students to travel to Ormskirk, Lancashire to attend Edge Hill College. Lancashire is in the northwestern part of England, near Liverpool and Manchester, and Edge Hill is one of best regarded schools in the area; actually in all of England.

I have been in the U.K. for nearly two weeks now, and so far, things couldn't be better! Everyone here at Edge Hill has been very accommodating and welcoming; the students and staff alike are anxious to get to know all of the international students. I started classes on Monday, and have a schedule of 12 hours (4 classes). Here at Edge Hill, they realize the importance of traveling while you study, so the staff tries to grant each international student at least one day off a week to allow to ample travel opportunities. I have Tuesdays

and Fridays off, which is just fine with me. I have already embarked on a weekend getaway to Scotland, and for those of who might be skeptical, it is possible to take a quick weekend trip and still enjoy yourself. Two new friends and I had an amazing time in Edinburgh!

The living situations here are very comfortable. I am living in one of the common halls called Eleanor Rathbone. My neighbors include three other American students and four freshmen from the U.K. At Edge Hill, community living is highly encouraged, and everyone in our building is getting to know one another; we are all becoming fast friends. Just last night, everyone on our floor enjoyed a movie night in our common room, and tomorrow we are all heading into the tiny town of Ormskirk (about a 10-minute walk from campus) to enjoy a night at the pubs.

BE ASSURED THAT there is a difference [between campus life in the U.S. and in the U.K.]—you're not in Kansas anymore, you know! But, one thing remains, and that is that it's still college. Young people at Edge Hill are just like young people in America: some are shy, some are sweet, some are athletes, some are brains, some are party-animals, etc.

Financially speaking, there are a couple variations that American students need to be aware of. First of all, most students here are depending upon the government to subsidize the majority of their academic tuition. As a result, most U.K. students will pay a total of £6,000-10,000 (or \$12,000-20,000) for, not one,

but all three years of their college career.

Because the government takes care of most students' tuition needs, there are a couple campus-life expenses that we American students take for granted that must be paid upon coming to Edge Hill. In other words, due to the decreased tuition, there is an increased cost of living.

Take for example, the gymnasium. At CBU, full-time students are allowed free access to the workout rooms and courts. At Edge Hill, if you want to stay fit, be prepared to pay for a gym membership that will cost you between 17 and 25 pounds per month (between about 34 and 50 dollars monthly).

Social life is also a little more expensive. There is a club located on campus called The Venue, but there is a cover charge of about two pounds, and another pound for access into the dance area on certain nights. Students can buy a membership orientation week, which is a huge money-saver; the membership only costs £2.50 (about five dollars) and lasts all semester.

Another thing that might surprise CBU students upon arrival is that fact that you have to open a printing account when you begin to use the computer labs and library. That's right, the paper isn't free anymore! Printing costs about five pence (or 10¢) per sheet, and color prints are about 30 pence. Speaking of the computer labs, if you're addicted to The Face Book or checking your email hourly, be prepared to spend a lot of time in there—dorms at Edge Hill do not have internet access.

IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT of studying abroad, it can sometimes be easy to forget the "study" part of the deal. I have had to remind myself several times that I am not here on a vacation.

Here's the tricky part about transferring credits—the credit transfers, but the letter grade does not. To some people, this makes things easier, whether you make an "A" or a "D," you pass, right? Wrong! Don't plan to study abroad unless you are willing to work toward a grade equivalent to a "C" or better, otherwise, you won't be receiving credit toward your diploma when you return to the states!

Adapting to the classroom atmosphere over on this side of the pond has probably been one of the more difficult challenges. Here at Edge Hill, independent study is the name of the game; there are fewer class guidelines, slightly larger classes, and fewer assignments on which your grade will be based. Take my Social Psychology class for example. My semester grade is based on my attendance and one other assignment that is due in December. I think that many of you can see where it might become easy to procrastinate over here.

The professors and tutors are all very nice, and more than willing to help us poor little Americans as much as they can. Most are available via email or reliable office hours, and all will make time to meet on a one-on-one basis for any additional help. Most required reading material can be borrowed from the library, or purchased from the bookstore in Ormskirk. So far, I have not had to buy a single book! What a welcome change, and a great money-saver!

The grading system here might drive some people crazy. I never thought that getting a 75 on a paper would be a good thing, but it is over here. The grading scale is based on a system on thirds. Basically, a 70 or above is equivalent to an "A," and a 40 or below is considered failing. Most students fall

continued on page 18 ▶ ▶ ▶



PHOTO BY SALLY LYNCH

Tea and Psychopathology

BY CORY DUGAN

FROM SHORT-TERM WALKING classrooms in Rome or Madrid to a full semester in England, the opportunities for international study through CBU's Study Abroad Program are expanding (and have even evolved into a new academic minor in Global Studies). One of the more unique trips developed within the program is being billed around campus as "Burke and Maloney's Excellent Adventure."

With coursework developed by Dr. Tracie Burke, Dr. Max Maloney, and Jana Travis, the program will take CBU students to Edge Hill College in Ormskirk, England, for four weeks of study and travel following the spring semester (May 17-June 16). Ormskirk is located in Lancashire in northwest England, near Liverpool and Manchester. Edge Hill is a co-educational college of art and sciences accredited by Lancaster University. Ten thousand students in a wide range of subjects are enrolled at Ormskirk and two other campuses. The trip will also include four days in London and optional weekend excursions.

Burke, a professor of behavioral sciences, will teach a course in "Psychopathology: International and Historical Perspectives," which will substitute for the usual sophomore level course in psychopathology, a requirement for psychology majors.

"I'm basically adapting a class I teach here and taking it on the road," Burke said. Psychopathology is a survey of various mental disorders, including anxiety, schizophrenia, and sexual, mood, and personality dis-

continued on page 19 ▶ ▶ ▶



Sally (second row, far left) celebrates an early Christmas with her new friends at Edge Hill College, her "UK family."

◀ ◀ ◀ from page 17

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between the "B" and "C" range, which is typically between a 65 and 50. It's a little intimidating at first, but once you get used to the initial shock, it's not so bad. The toughest thing is often getting yourself inspired to work in a new country!

I CANNOT BELIEVE that it's already the end of November! Only four more weeks before I go home to CBU! Time really is flying on this side of the pond! Two weekends ago, I met with Dr. Emily Mathis Forsdick and Dr. Tracie Burke who came to Edge Hill to check up on my progress here, and to discuss the exciting possibility of setting up a summer program specifically for Christian Brothers' students.

This visit was a wonderful surprise because it really gave me the opportunity to show rather than tell all about the Edge Hill campus, the village of Ormskirk, and a little bit of the city of Liverpool.

WHILE ACADEMICS SHOULD be a first priority, students should make travel a close second. Here in England, students are able to take advantage of some pretty great discounts on everything from attraction entry fees to hostel rates, even train tickets! The one student discount investment that I don't think that I could live without is my Young Person's Rail Card. It is valid anywhere in the U.K., and costs only 20 pounds (about \$40). The card is active for a whole year, and it saves the holder a ton of money! Cardholders receive 1/3 off the ticket price of every single ticket they purchase; this adds up in a hurry since train travel is the most efficient method of getting around England. And even if you travel outside of England and have to pay to travel by train in places like Ireland or Italy, you will have already saved so

much money that you'll be able to afford it!

I cannot stress enough that traveling is all well and good, but don't forget that studying abroad is not just about seeing sights; a vital part of it is being immersed in a different culture, and letting people from that culture into your life. Edge Hill is no longer simply a picture in a brochure to me, it's another place in this world to call home, and the men and women whom I have met here have made it that home for me.

Get to know another country by getting to know the people who live there. You might find yourself making some of the best friends that you have ever had. When I look back on my semester here at Edge Hill, I will not be able to remember every fact about the city of Liverpool, or how many steps lead to the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Instead, I'll remember the karaoke nights in the Student Union, the laughs my friends and I shared over a pint at O'Connor's Pub, and the late nights we spent just chatting about nothing particular in the common room. The sights make a trip special, but the people make a trip memorable.

During the flight home, I read the letters and notes that several of my friends and I had exchanged. They brought tears, but I was so happy to have them to read and re-read whenever I felt lonely for my U.K. family. If there is one wish that I could make for future CBU students who do chose to study at Edge Hill, it would be that everyone's worst day there is the day you have to say goodbye. Yes, it is terrible, and yes, it hurts, but I would not trade any moment of my semester in England for anything. Tears and all, it was everything that I wanted from an adventure abroad. ■

The full text of "Dear CBU" is available online at www.cbu.edu/Academics/studyabroad/dearcbu.html.

◀ ◀ ◀ *TEA & PSYCHOPATHOLOGY* from page 17

orders. “It’s one of the most popular psychology courses we teach, right behind ‘Human Sexuality.’ Go figure,” she laughed.

“This adapted class, partly because of the travel circumstances, will be much more interactive. We’ll also look at the topic from the perspective of England’s checkered history in dealing with mental illness, such as the private asylums and madhouses from Bedlam through Victorian times. In fact, one of our field trips will be to the sites of the original Bedlam Hospital where there’s a small museum now.”

Burke said her class would also visit York, the site of another early asylum, and the Freud Museum in London. “Although I’m certainly not trying to recruit any Freudians,” she said.

Maloney, an associate professor of philosophy, has created a course on “Morality in an Age of Terror” specifically for the trip. The junior level class will satisfy the Moral Values general education requirement. “There’s been a lot of research and discussion regarding the context of terrorism within ethical theory,” Maloney said. “It’s a topic that I’ve become a lot more interested in, and I got very excited about the possibility of taking students to England because they would have more immediate access to these issues within a setting where they’re more vivid.”

He cited a long history of subversion and terrorism in England, from the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 to John the Painter, a pro-American arsonist during the American Revolution, from the long history of Irish Republicanism to the recent Islamist subway bombings in London. “Given the current geopolitical climate, this is an excellent opportunity to bring historical elements to bear and to address theoretical concerns with factual concerns.”

Maloney said he might organize an optional excursion to Ireland and to take whatever students might be interested. “Due to its proximity to Lancashire, I think Dublin would be an easy weekend trip,” he said.

“The proximity to Guinness usually has a direct effect on the level of student interest,” Burke joked.

“Historically, lot of terrorist plots have been hatched in pubs,” Maloney agreed.

Travis, an assistant professor of art, has developed a studio course in mixed media with an emphasis on how to gather information while traveling and how to use it to produce artwork. “We will be traveling to London and visiting the Tate Museum, as well as many



Dr. Tracie Burke, Sally Lynch, and Dr. Emily Mathis Forsdick in Liverpool.

other museums and galleries in the area,” she said.

Besides York and London, students are scheduled to visit Liverpool, Chester, Conway, and Rufford Old Hall. Plus there are a couple of weekends open for independent travel. “Students will be free to explore on their own for those weekends, whether in the United Kingdom or on the European Continent,” said Dr. Emily Mathis Forsdick, director of the Study Abroad Program. “Wales, Scotland, and Ireland are easy weekend trips. But, with European airfares being so cheap, so is the rest of Europe. A student on the England trip could actually fly to Rome for the weekend and meet up with the CBU folks there whose trip overlaps in late May.”

Other study-abroad opportunities at CBU currently include a recently completed spring break trip to Madrid and Toledo in Spain, the Minority Health International Research Training trips to Brazil and Uganda (*see related article on page 24*), and the full semester of study in Ormskirk (*see “Dear CBU” on page 18*). Forsdick also emphasized that CBU students have opportunities available through the Lasallian International Programs Consortium, a cooperative effort between the seven Christian Brothers colleges in the U.S. and universities in Australia, Brazil, England, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, and Spain. Offerings through that program include semesters at University College in Dublin, Deakin University in Melbourne, Universidad la Salle in Mexico City, the University of Cape Town, St. Peter’s College at Oxford University, and others.

“We’re trying to build a culture among students and faculty that considers international travel and study to be a natural part of the educational experience,” Forsdick said. “My goal is to put this program within the financial reach of every CBU student. We have the support of Brother Vincent and the trustees in that mission, but we still need more support from scholarship donors to make it happen.” ■

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