

DALKEITH REMEMBERED

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT—DON'T MISS THE 25 YEAR REUNION!

If you've been following these newsletters you've heard a lot about the upcoming 25 year reunion at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls. You've hopefully received an invitation to this exciting event, either by mail or email and already registered online but, if not, make sure you don't miss out; **registration ends on June 30th!**



Register today at: <http://www.uwrf.edu/WisconsinInScotland/Alumni.cfm>. Check out this site, also, for a list of alumni who we have been unable to locate. If you're still in touch with these folks, please let them know about the reunion—we want to make sure everyone gets an invite!

We are very excited to celebrate a quarter century of study abroad with you. Indulge in all your favorite Scottish foods (and desserts!), enjoy a Scottish Country Dance performance, and gather your friends out on the dance floor during the ceilidh. Most importantly, though, the 25th reunion will provide plenty of time for you to just catch up with friends and reminisce on your shared experience in Scotland.

We'll be welcoming Scottish guests Sheila Stewart, Cameron Manson, Gerry Mooney, and Patty and Nat Blair Watters to the reunion as well, so join us in making their visit to the States a memorable one!

We sincerely hope to see you this summer, Saturday, August 13th, at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls to celebrate the Wisconsin in Scotland study abroad program!

NOW AND THEN: 25 YEARS OF STUDY ABROAD

In recognition of the upcoming 25th year of the Wisconsin in Scotland program, we asked students from *now* and *then* to talk about their experiences and the impact the Wisconsin in Scotland program had on them.

Kirsten Jasna refers to herself as a Dalkeith pioneer, studying in the program during its first semester, Fall 1986, and staying on for a second semester during the Spring of 1987. When selecting a study abroad experience for herself, she was between two programs—a program in Swansea, Wales and this new program. Kirsten’s mother suggested she try the new program and Kirsten often says it is the best thing her mom ever made her do.

During her time in Scotland, Kirsten traveled a great deal throughout the UK and also to Copenhagen, Denmark to visit her sister who was studying abroad through a Rotary program at the same time. Kirsten booked her train travel by going to Waverly station in Edinburgh and booking directly. Air travel was booked either by her parents in the U.S. or by a travel agent in Edinburgh. The bus station in Dalkeith provided another easy way to travel. Kirsten also vividly remembers participating in the spontaneity of hitchhiking.

Although there were a few problems associated with the first group of American students arriving in the small town of Dalkeith, overall Kirsten remembers being popular and well-received in the community. The feeling of having no link to “home”

forced her to acclimate, so she quickly became friends with many locals and remains in touch with many, receiving Christmas cards from May and Pat Quinn to this day. Asked of her memories of the house, Kirsten says the basement and attic were off limits so, of course, she and her friends explored the areas! She says: “it felt like home because we had no other choice! We were the first group and we were blazing the trail.”

Kirsten recalls “living in the moment” during her time in Scotland. She was largely unaware of what was happening in Scotland or the U.S., taking advantage, instead, of the opportunity to travel, meet new people, and experience many concerts in Edinburgh and Glasgow. She communicated with friends and family by letters and postcards. In this pre-email age, the payphone at Dalkeith House served as an important means of communication. She describes students setting times for people to call and then waiting by the phone at the designated time. She also used the red pay phone box by the post office. She says: “my study abroad was not real-time for my family—just stories after the fact.”

When asked what part of the experience Kirsten imagined would be easier for today’s students, she replied she imagined



In 1986, the UK celebrated the marriage of Sarah ‘Fergie’ Ferguson and Prince Andrew.

it would all be easier. Looking back, though, she’s not sure she would trade it in for what she went through. She says: “my mom saved all the letters and postcards I sent and it’s fun reading through them and seeing how my confidence grew and how my thinking turned to a more worldly version. I liked not knowing what was going on. I think I got a better understanding of what it means to be patient and how to respect other cultures. I also learned how to make decisions and the consequences of those decisions.” Asked what part of the experience today Kirsten would imagine to be more difficult, she replied “helicopter parents!” Again, Kirsten reiterated the importance of living in the moment, and not having to check in with folks back home, as being central to her experience in Scotland.

We asked what Kirsten’s favorite memory of her time abroad was and she said there were so many—it was an amazing time in my life that I wouldn’t trade in for anything. And almost every day I have a memory of something that happened—mostly triggered by a song or a band that I hear on the radio.”

Much like Kirsten, our *now* student, Rachel Lueders, spent an entire year studying with the Wisconsin in Scotland program, calling Dalkeith House home during the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters. Rachel selected this program because it is widely promoted on her home campus and because the selection of courses offered allowed her to stay on track for graduation at the end of her second semester in Scotland. Rachel has obviously had significantly less time to reflect on her experience abroad than our Pioneer, Kirsten, but nonetheless

describes an equally profound experience.

Rachel had previously traveled and studied abroad through programs such as Rotary so, during her time in Scotland, she choose to travel primarily



In 2011, the UK celebrated the marriage of Kate Middleton and Prince William

throughout the UK in order to fully experience her study abroad location. She also took a trip to Spain where, due to a snow storm in the UK and subsequent flight cancellations, she got to spend an extra two days! Rachel booked most of her travel online using sites such as the UK-rail site and hostelbookers. Rachel says if she didn't book it online, she just "winged it" and went with the flow whenever she arrived at her destination.

Rachel remembers the locals in Dalkeith being welcoming, friendly and helpful. She was involved in a local writing group and interacted with locals in various other capacities. Through these activities, Rachel says she has made many life-long friends who she continues to stay in touch with.

Rachel tried to fully immerse herself in Scotland and what was happening in the country during her time abroad. She

describes a radical change in the political landscape from the traditionally pro-Labor Scotland to the Scottish National Party, known for its platform of Scottish Independence. Also happening during her time abroad was the Royal Wedding between Kate and Prince William. As for what was happening in the U.S. during her time abroad, Rachel says she had to consciously seek out this information and consequently, while not totally unaware of what was happening, she was much less aware of events back in the States.

Rachel communicated with her friends and family back home largely over facebook and email as these were the easiest, and most inexpensive, forms of communication available. She says she typically would email weekly or bi-weekly depending upon how busy she was. She called the United States three times during her time abroad: for Mother's Day, for Christmas, and to congratulate a friend on an accomplishment.

When asked what part of the experience Rachel imagined to be easier for the Fall 1986 Dalkeith Pioneers, Rachel imagined that it was easier for early students to find their way in to Scottish culture. During her first semester in Scotland Rachel found herself spending a lot of time online and realized how easily a semester abroad could be wasted by watching television and sitting on the internet. Asked what she thought might be most difficult, Rachel replied banking. She said that even with access to all of her banking materials online, she still fought with her bank and debit card over certain things. This is one aspect of the experience that Rachel could not imagine trying to do without routine access to a computer.

Rachel's most vivid memory of Dalkeith House is actually of the estate and the time she spent on the estate completing an internship with head ranger, Cameron Manson. She reminisced about one warm spring day, in particular, riding bareback on a horse, Te'Tankha, through the forest floor carpeted in bluebells. Rachel, like Kirsten, had a difficult time pinpointing just one favorite memory but describes the time she spent working on the estate as one of her best times. She says: "not only did I interact with people who had deep Scottish roots (and were always teaching me Scottish slang), but I made lifelong friends . . . , got to see the pinnacle of Scottish natural beauty, all while riding horses, getting very important experience in the biological work field, and seeing parts of Scotland I would have never been able to had I not befriended these people."

25 years after the first group of students studied at Dalkeith, many things have changed. Whether these changes have made things easier, more difficult, or a little bit of both is really all a matter of perspective. One thing, however, continues to remain unchanged; the reality that, despite whatever challenges students may face, the WIS experience continues to have an impact. Sometimes the change in students, and their outlook on the world, is profound; other times it is more subtle and may take time to be realized.

Help us compile a record of WIS' impact by sharing your favorite WIS memory! Email your memory (with a picture that best illustrates the memory, if possible) to: WiScotland@lists.uwrf.edu to be displayed at the 25 Year Reunion this summer!

WISCONSIN IN
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WISCONSIN IN SCOTLAND—
OUR SECOND HOME

SCOTTISH HUMOR

A doctor visiting Scotland is being shown around a Glasgow hospital. Towards the end of the visit, she is shown into a ward with a number of people with no obvious signs of injury or disease. She goes to greet the first patient and he replies: "*Fair fa' your honest sonsie face, Great chieftain e' the puddin' race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place, Painch, tripe, or thairm; Weel are ye wordy o' a grace as lang's my arm.*"

The doctor, being somewhat confused, goes to the next patient and greets him. He replies: "*Some hae meat, and canna eat, and some wad eat that want it, but we hae meat and can eat, and sae the Lord be thankit.*"

The third starts rattling off as follows: "*Wee sleeokit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie, O, what a panic's in thy breastie! Thou need na start awa sae hasty, wi bickering brattle! I wad be laith to rin an chase thee, wi murdering pattle!*"

The doctor turns to the nurse accompanying her and asks what sort of ward is this. A mental ward? "No," replies the accompanying nurse, "**It's the Burns unit.**"



SCOTTISH RECIPE: RICH BEEF STEW

Delicious served with Ayrshire Bacon Dumplings

Ingredients:

- 1 lb stewing steak, cubed
- A little oil for browning meat
- 1 large onion, chopped roughly
- 4 oz smoked bacon, diced
- 2 tablespoons oatmeal
- 1/4 small turnip, diced
- 1/4 lb mushrooms, sliced
- 2 tablespoons tomato puree
- 1 teaspoon redcurrant jelly
- 1 pt beef stock
- 5 fl oz red wine

Directions:

First brown the steak on all sides in a little oil in a flameproof casserole, then add the onions and cook for 2 minutes. Add the bacon and cook for a further 2 minutes. Remove from the heat, stir in the oatmeal and then add the diced turnip and the mushrooms. Add the tomato puree and redcurrant jelly, pour in the stock and wine and stir well. Return to the heat, bring slowly to simmering point, cover and cook slowly for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours until the meat is tender. Check seasoning before serving. Serves 4-6.