

Subj: **Travel & Study Award article**  
Date: 12/29/2005 9:01:16 AM Central Standard Time  
From: Eumoirous  
To: keefuwong@yahoo.com

Below is the Travel & Study Award article. I found the original I wrote, and added to it. I haven't been able to find photos, but will keep looking, because I remember having some good ones, especially the one of me on the castle ruin.

Here's my article:

Several years ago while attending Grand Rapids Community College, I received Keith Longberg's Travel & Study Award that offered the opportunity to do academic study with language in a foreign country, and paid my airfare to Europe.

I had never been to Europe, which was one stipulation of the Award, so my expectations were limited to what I had seen in travel brochures and such. This opportunity to travel and study made a lasting impression on me. I chose to travel to England in August of 1989, and viewed historical architecture, museums, castles and artwork. I tasted delicious foods like faggots (liver sausage) and peas and smoked fish with salad, and best of all, I made lasting friendships.

One friendship was with a couple by the name of Graham and Maureen Knight, who live in Birmingham, England. The meeting of the staunch Englishman and liberal American woman turned into a comedy of errors on several occasions, but the bond of respect and friendship could not be denied. You should've seen the look on my face when Graham showed me to my room for the evening, and told me he would "knock me up in the morning." In England, to knock one up means to knock on their door!

And then when we visited the Black Coal Mining Country, an area near Birmingham this is open to tourists and operates as it did in the early 1900's, a waitress dressed in old garb pounded her fist on the counter and said to me, "What'll it be Wench?" By my facial expression, Graham could see I was mortified, but he just laughed and said, "You've just insulted my American friend!" Needless to say, I had lots of laughs translating American English against theirs.

Graham was a master of England's history and architecture, and showed me not only the luxurious castles, but also the castle ruins. I think I actually enjoyed the castle ruins more, because the partial castle sat out in a beautiful meadow, miles from anywhere, and from the busted walls you could see how many feet wide the castle walls were, and how solidly it had been built. I thought about the royalty who once called this castle home as Graham told me the story of how a rival had destroyed the property over a love triangle. I had my photo taken high upon a busted castle peak, and felt like a queen in the warm sunshine, high above the rest of the world.

One evening, Graham and Maureen took me to a legion hall filled with elderly men who were once young and strong, and had fought along side American men in WW II. I was awestruck at the many gentlemen who embraced me and thanked me for what my country had done for England back then, and blessed me for being an American. Experiencing this type of gratitude and love gave me electrifying chills. One old man started crying. I can't express to you exactly the emotions I felt, but it will never be duplicated. These are experiences I wouldn't have gotten reading a textbook or watching a video, that's for sure.

Because of my Award, I came to realize how folks everywhere have the same dreams of peace and prosperity for their children, and pride and love for their homeland. We are all connected by shores and land, and humanity. The trip whet my appetite to explore more, and I have since visited other parts of Europe, and have hosted European friends here in the states, too.

I think the best part about the Award is that instead of simply paying college tuition, it gave me an opportunity to study in a new environment, and opened my eyes to knowledge I couldn't get in my own neighborhood.

Marie Turner  
GRCC, Class of 1990