

danny bitar

Maastricht, The
Netherlands

DANNY'S MAJOR(S): business-finance and accounting

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: summer 2002

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I've been to Europe and I've been to the Netherlands before, so it worked with my interests and timing. I had friends who did it, and I heard nothing but wonderful things about it, which all turned out to be true.

FAVORITE CLASSES: economics of European Union integration

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: We lived in these dorms that were awesome. There was a television, a kitchenette, a big closet. I had a roommate who I met at orientation. I'm glad he was my roommate; it worked out perfectly. And don't lose your dorm key—it's \$150.

BEST MEMORY: Just learning a European city. Living in a city similar to Bloomington and to really know it, in a way that I could take you there and show you a good time.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: Dedicating yourself to studying. There's so many things to do at different points of the program and so much that's new. Finding time to study was definitely a challenge.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: The classes were a little more challenging than what I expected, so I wish I would have prepared myself more mentally.

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS ... DISCUSS: If you can afford it, I think that's a concern a lot of people have, but I don't think it's even a question. Go somewhere, not necessarily Europe, but anywhere that's different. It's invaluable.

FACT ABOUT YOUR HOST COUNTRY THAT YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO LEARN: Bikes and buses are huge. They're utilized much more than cars. Cars aren't as much of a necessity as they are here.



■ During a weekend trip to Munich, Pat Schneider, Max Epstein, Danny Bitar and Paul Kaufman take a break from their bike tour in one of the more popular squares of the city. Bitar said that he now knows how valuable it is to study abroad and immerse yourself in another culture. He would "go back in a second."

"People on both sides were very welcoming to each other. I wanted to learn about their culture and they wanted to learn about ours, *but you had to take the first step.*"

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Do everything you can; Maastricht has so much to offer. Don't spend too much time in your dorm room. Go out and soak up the city. Put yourself out there, and don't be afraid of new experiences.