

jon wayman

Paris, France

JON'S MAJOR(S): informatics with a French minor

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: summer 2003

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I was going for a French minor and this program had the two classes I needed to complete it, so what better way to finish my minor than to go to France?

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: I stayed with a mother and two sons in the 11^e Arrondissement in a really nice house; a house is rare in that area (there are mostly apartments). The family helped me with the language and my homework.

BEST MEMORY: Two or three days after I arrived in Paris and I felt situated, I went to the Eiffel Tower, I got a rush; I felt like I had arrived. I almost went through a full roll of film. I was so amazed I was there.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: Trying to tell people back at home what it was like. It was so hard to do this because they really won't understand unless they're there. But you accept it, and you're just glad that you can experience it yourself.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: The amount of poverty, and just the differences between America and France: how there's hardly any obesity; and how many different types of transportation people use.



Just outside of Paris, Jon Wayman (left) hangs out with friends at a château. As well as doing your own research before you leave, Wayman suggested using your host family as a resource for what to do in Paris. "Tell them what you're interested in and they'll guide you to where you want to go."

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: How to contact back home. You can use the computers downstairs at IES to email. Also, bring a microphone, plug it in to the back of the computer and through AOL IM, you can talk with a friend for free. For calling cards, go to the tabacs: 'une carte téléphonique pour les appels domicile aux Etats-Unis.' It won't charge your host family.

WHAT YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE GOING ABROAD: Patience, and how to avoid claustrophobia. You learn how to be in a stressful city where everything is packed together and also realize it's OK to live like that.

"You're in class from Monday to Thursday, and you have Friday to Sunday to explore the city with friends. *It can get kind of lonely if you don't make an effort to meet people and explore the city.*"

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Get on the metro, don't look at a map, and pick a direction and when you feel ready, get off, then go out and explore above ground. You'll more than likely see an area that you never would have seen otherwise. Do this during the day though.