

larinlimones

Monterrey, Mexico

LARIN'S MAJOR(S): business-marketing

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: spring 2002

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I had already gone to Spain in high school and wanted to try another country. My family is half-Mexican, so I wanted to find out about the culture.

FAVORITE CLASSES: international marketing and a class that revolved around the book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* (Spanish version)

BEST MEMORY: I loved the program so much I can't think of one. One of my last nights, my friends had a going away party for me "carne asada" (barbecue). It was kind of bittersweet because at that point I felt like a part of them.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: Their concept of time. If you tell people from the US to be there at 3:00, they show up at 2:59. In Mexico, if you show up at 4:30, you're not considered late. It eventually became a joke, "Are we doing this on Mexican time or American time?" They are just more laid back; things will get done when they get done.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: The level of technology at the university, the use of it in class, how much we did online. The picnic tables on campus also had Internet connections. Everyone had laptops, so you could do your work outside.

Also, the global perspective the students have—they had a much better grasp of the global economy.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: That it gets cold in the winter. There wasn't heat in the house, and at night it was cold being in the mountains.

EXPERIENCES WITH CULTURE SHOCK OR REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK: Reverse culture shock. I got to the Dallas airport, and I went to a McDonalds, and they said, "May I help you?" I just started crying to hear English again.



During a football game at the Monterrey Tec stadium, Larin Limones (top row, second from the right) poses with a few of the members of the cheerleading squad ("porristas"), which she tried out for. Limones cheered for the varsity basketball and JV football teams. She appeared on television when the basketball team reached the national championships.

"I learned who I am and what I want. I learned I could take care of myself. I learned to accept differences and not see them as necessarily bad. *I would go back in a heartbeat.*"

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Get involved with as much as you can. Their international program is incredible. Become a part of the student body as much as you can. And make sure you take one class with all Mexican students, for the culture and for the friends.