

# The Red Hat

Newman Catholic High School

## My Experience in America

### Kirsten Cornelissen

One year of high school in America! This was a big step after my graduation in the Netherlands. I didn't really know what to do after my graduation, and since my only failing class was English, I thought it would be good for me to go to an English-speaking country for one year. My sister and friends didn't really like this idea, but after some searching, the idea became more serious. My dad called a friend from America and he knew a host family for me. This is the host family where I stay now; my host mom is American, my host dad is also from the Netherlands and together they have 3 girls.

My dad came and spent the first two weeks of my trip here with me; this was really nice because everything was new for me. We arrived in



*Kirsten and her host family ice skating at Greenheck Fieldhouse. (From left to right) Paul, Kristin, Emily, Kirsten, Sydney, and Hailey Zaal.*

Chicago and spent a few days there. In a short time I saw many differences from my own country. In America everything is so big! The roads are wide and there aren't many cars, the buildings are high, the houses are

very big, and even the food you get in a restaurant is ten times as big.

When I arrived in Wausau I saw even more differences. The environment is different; there are many trees and what I really like here is that there are deer around our house.

The food is sometimes different; my favorite new food here is banana bread. Another thing that I like is that you can find a McDonald's everywhere.

I heard that the Netherlands is two times smaller than Wisconsin, but there are six times more people, so you can understand that everything is small and close together because there is not much space left.

After two weeks here, school started; I came here to (continued on page 6)  
Newman Catholic High

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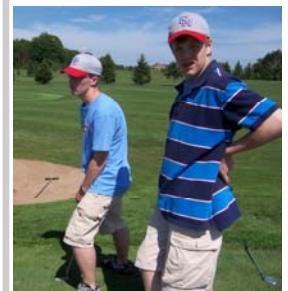
## Global Outreach

As a school we are beginning to try to get more students involved in the Global Outreach Program (GOP). Students who are from Newman Catholic can bring Catholic European students into their homes, so that the European students can learn more about our country, the Catholic faith, and us. If more Newman students take in GOP

students, it will allow European Catholic teenagers to study the Catholic faith in depth, and allow American teenagers to learn more about the European teenagers. In the past years, students have made friends with the Global Outreach students. We can become more close to these students by hanging out with them, helping them join

## Alex Erdman

sports, and teaching them new activities. I myself made a great friend in Erik Hrusc, whom I still stay in touch with. Erik was a Global Outreach student last year that came from Slovakia. Erik and I became good friends, throughout basketball, baseball, and hanging out. One person who is (continued on page 2)



*Erik and Alex take some time out of their busy schedules for a relaxing day at the golf course.*



Although Alex and Eric are an ocean apart, their friendship stays strong with the help of the Internet and the phone.

## Global Outreach Program (continued from page 1)

very involved in the GOP is Mr. Theiss. When asked what the program brings to Newman Catholic, Mr. Theiss responded "Many positive assets, including an opportunity to meet other Catholic students from different countries, and it pro-

vides an opportunity for NCHS students to learn about GOP student's traditions and heritage." When looking towards the future, Mr. Theiss states, "I hope that the program will provide both Global Outreach and American students the

chance to learn more about servant leadership." The Global Outreach Program will allow Newman Catholic Students to broaden their horizon in the Catholic faith.

## Teacher of the Week: Mr. Ebert

Tsintxaj Lo



Mr. Ebert enjoys teaching the sophomores during his 5th period Chemistry class.

Mr. Ebert is a new addition to the Newman Catholic Faculty. Here at Newman Catholic, he teaches chemistry. He loves to teach chemistry because he majored in botany, (the study of plants). He enjoyed the basic chemistry that was involved in his major. Mr. Ebert is also the Dean of Students. Mr. Ebert says, "Being the Dean of Students is interesting because of all the different students that I have to talk

to."

### Q and A with Mr. Ebert

**Q. If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?**

A. I would go back to Australia because both my brothers live there.

**Q. What do you think of Newman so far?**

A. I enjoy it here, because the school is small. I enjoy getting to know the students and other teachers because

of the size of this school.

**Q. Why do you like to walk to school?**

A. For the exercise

### Fast Facts

Name: Wesley Ebert

Favorite Movie: *The Princess Bride*

Favorite Ice Cream: Vanilla with walnuts and real maple syrup

Favorite Plant: Cycad

Hobbies: Fixing up old houses

## What's Hot in the Writing World

Allie McManus



*Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold is a must-read book this month!

The book *Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold tells the story of Susie Salmon, a girl that was murdered in a small rural city. She is looking down from heaven, and will not let her family go. She watches her family struggle through the effects of her death. They try to find the killer, and Susie continues to watch over them. It's a must read!

The next book is *My Sisters Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. Jodi Picoult is a *New York Times* best selling author, who wrote this novel about a family that is being torn apart by their daughter. The family's first daughter, named Kate, is diagnosed with cancer at the age of two. The family decides to have another daughter, a genetic match to Kate, to

donate bone marrow to her sister. By the age of 13, after countless surgeries solely to donate to Kate, she decides to sue her family for emancipation of her own body. It's hard to put the book down, and the end is very unpredictable. Pick up a copy for yourself!

# An Experience of a Lifetime

Elizabeth Martin

For twenty Newman Catholic students, Spring Break was a once in a lifetime experience in three amazing European countries. Our adventure to England started off bright and early on Saturday morning as we gathered at 6:00 to board the bus to Chicago. After an exhausting seven hour flight and crazy time zone changes, we arrived at 6:00 a.m. local time in London, England on very limited sleep. We all rested up in our hotel lobby as we waited for church, and spent the day seeing the sights of London. We were touring with a great group of students from a small Catholic school in Alabama, sharing stories and making unforgettable memories. In London, we traveled on the “tube” and the

“underground”, where we were reminded quite often to “mind the gap!” We visited all of the amazing historical sights, like Big Ben and the Tower of London, while also experiencing the excitement of being half way across the world in a whole new country, with red telephone booths, giant double-decker buses, and flocks of pigeons everywhere we turned. One of my personal favorites from the trip was traveling to Oxford University, where we not only witnessed the gorgeous campus with old, ivy-covered buildings with beautifully ornate details, but also had the opportunity to see where the Harry Potter movies were filmed! We ran up the famous staircase, wandered through the hallways and stepped

foot in the actual Great Hall! From there, we traveled to Stratford-upon-Avon, where we saw Anne Hathaway’s home, the birthplace of Shakespeare, as well as the place where he is buried. On this note, we left England, and crossed the border into Wales, where we stayed in the haunted Hand Hotel. “That was one of the craziest hotels I have ever stayed in!” said Kristen Kutil. “You had to go through a maze of stairs and doorways just to find your room, and I particularly enjoyed getting lost in a dark hallway on the top floor, and spending like five minutes just trying to find my way back downstairs. And lucky enough, Elizabeth and I got



Trafalgar Square, London



Replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theater, London



Tower Bridge, London



Westminster Abbey, London



St. Paul's Cathedral, London



Tower of London



Christ Church College at Oxford. Also the Great Hall in the Harry Potter movies.



Irish Ferry (our transportation from Wales to Ireland)



Blarney Castle, Ireland



Ring of Kerry, Ireland

Photos by Emmy Micevicius and Elizabeth Martin

## An Experience of a Lifetime (continued from page 3)

to spend the night next to the haunted room number 28, and after hearing voices outside our door; we slept with the TV and the lights on! Looking back now, I can definitely laugh, but I must admit I was very grateful when our wakeup call came at 7:00, because that meant we would finally be leaving!" So we left for Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch, Wales, the place with the longest name, where we ate lunch, and then we made our way across the Atlantic Ocean on a huge eleven story ferry, a much more enjoyable experience than the hotel the night before! We arrived in Dublin, Ireland Wednesday night, and the streets were packed with people, because there was a big

football match between Ireland and Slovakia. We spent two days in Dublin, visiting St. Patrick's Cathedral and Trinity College, and had the entire afternoon to ourselves to go shopping on Thursday! That evening, we decided to take a little excursion bowling, and after sprinting nearly a mile to and from the hotel to put our shopping bags away, we finally got to ride a double-decker bus! However, after forty-five minutes, they transferred us to another bus, and we finally arrived at what must have been Dublin's only bowling alley over an hour later. The rest of our time in Ireland was spent bending over backwards to kiss the Blarney Stone and traveling along the scenic Irish coastline. Allie McManus said that this was her favorite part of the

entire trip, "because we were able to see the countryside of Ireland. I originally thought Ireland was going to be green valleys, but instead, we saw that it is filled with huge mountains, sparse vegetation, and lots and lots of sheep!" And this is where our journey in Europe ended, as we left at 4:30 a.m. local time on Sunday (10:30 p.m. Saturday night Central Time), and spent the next 24 hours on buses and planes, and safely made it home to the comfort of our own beds. Although it was sad to be leaving such a spectacular place, all of the memories we made and experiences we had will definitely last a lifetime!



*The group poses for one last picture along the Irish coastline on the Ring of Kerry. (back row from left to right) Anna Luetmer, Aaron Proski, Allie McManus, Jackie Bertram, Val Schuster, Sarah Theisen, Killian Collins, Cody Witzeling; (center row) Ellyn Hugus, Lindsey Westberg, Brendan McDonnell, Joe Bush; (front row) Elizabeth Martin, Malinda Hoffmann, Kristen Kutil, Sara Zieglmeier, Christine Webb, Katrina Miller, Emmy Mickevicius.*

## Hopping Down the Bunny Trail: The History of Easter

Yer Thao

Christians celebrate Easter to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, some aspects of modern Easter celebrations pre-date Christianity. According to the Venerable Bede, Easter derives its name from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. As a result, many different traditions were developed within different countries.

For example, in Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent. If eggs were laid during this time, they were often boiled or preserved in some other manner. As a result, eggs were a mainstay of Easter meals and a prized Easter gift for children and servants. In addition to this, eggs were viewed as symbols of new life and fertility throughout the ages. It is believed that for this reason many ancient cultures, including the Ancient Egyptians, Persians, and Romans,

used eggs during their spring festivals; therefore, many spring traditions and practices have been formed around Easter eggs. On the other hand, Orthodox Christians in the Middle East and in Greece painted eggs bright red to symbolize the blood of Christ. Hollow eggs (created by piercing the shell with a needle and blowing out the contents) were decorated with pictures of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and other religious figures in Armenia. Germans gave green eggs as gifts on Holy Thursday, and hung hollow eggs on trees. Austrians placed tiny plants around the egg and then boiled them. When the plants were removed, white patterns were created. However, the most elaborate Easter egg traditions appear to have emerged in Eastern Europe. In Poland and Ukraine, eggs were often painted silver and gold. *Pysanky* (to design or

write) eggs were created by carefully applying wax in patterns to an egg. The egg was then dyed, wax would be reapplied in spots to preserve that color, and the egg was then boiled again in other shades. The result was a multi-color striped or patterned egg. In addition to Easter eggs, hares and rabbits have also been significant symbols of fertility. The inclusion of the hare into Easter customs appears to have originated in Germany, where tales were told of an "Easter hare" who laid eggs for children to find. German immigrants to America -- particularly Pennsylvania -- brought the tradition with them and spread it to a wider public. They also baked cakes for Easter in the shape of hares, and began the practice of making chocolate bunnies and eggs. As demonstrated above, there are many different traditions practiced by people throughout



*Easter eggs can be decorated using many different shapes and colors as demonstrated.*

*"The most elaborate Easter egg traditions appear to have emerged in Eastern Europe."*

*"It's exciting to get out onto the courts and have some fun with the team. Practice is always a good time."*

## Boy's Tennis

Newman Catholic Boy's Tennis has a hopeful road ahead of them for this season. With six seniors and some strong underclassmen the capability is there for a great season. It's been some time since the Newman Catholic boys have gone to team state, and if ever there was a chance, this is the season to do it. With some four-year veterans leading the way, the boys kicked off the season at D.C. Everest this last Saturday, and took first place. While more often than not, the fan support from students at meets is lacking, the team hopes that they will draw crowds this year with such a potential for success. With many meets held at

Oak Island (near downtown Wausau), the team is sure to put on a good show for the spectators. The Newman Catholic boys are showing some new talent this year. With no players from the junior class, and six seniors leaving after this year, this is an important year to get the new players into the swing of things. With some great freshmen prospects such as Michael Krause, Rob Mistlebauer, Garrett Leiternann, and Alec Franck, and some returning sophomores, along with a new addition from out west (Patrick Mabry), the team should be in good hands in the years to come. Both coach Randy Juley and the players are very excited for this sea-

Ben Vechinski

son. Senior Bob Abell says, "This is going to be a good year. We have a lot of talent and it's important for us seniors to finish out our careers on a strong note." Enthusiasm was booming on the first day of practice. Especially the new freshmen as Michael Krause says, "It's exciting to get out onto the courts and have some fun with the team. Practice is always a good time." This should be a great year for the Newman Catholic boys. With definite playoff potential and great determination, the boys should make a great run this year. So please come out and support the team. The next meet is Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 at Oak Island.



*The 2006-07 Boy's Tennis Team!*

*Robert Mistlebauer, Doug Hartke, Ben Vechinski, Garret Leiternann, Andy Schaffler, Bob Abell, Kevin Cotter, Coach Randy Juley, Andrew Wagner, Michael Krause, Alec Frank, Phil Hanley, Thomas O'Malley, Patrick Mabry, Brett Wagner, and Brandon Kempf.*



## My Experience in America (continued from page 1)

School and I didn't really know what to expect the first day. I didn't know anybody and my English wasn't good at all so this was a big step for me. In my last school I knew almost everybody and had made all my friends already; here I had to start all over again and in my worst language! This school is really different from my last school. My last school was so big! There were more than 2000 people in the school. The classrooms are bigger and you only have classes with your own class and your own level. In the Netherlands we have another school system based on how intelligent you are. You are with around 30 people in a classroom. Every day you have a different schedule, but this schedule is the same every day of the week. So I see many differences here; it is a small school with small classes, and many different rules. And there is, of course, the dress code! This is really different here, because in my old school we hadn't a dress code at all. No school has

that. The dress code isn't too bad; for me it is just a shame that you can't wear jeans because I always used to wear those to school. Despite all the differences I like it here; everybody is really nice to me. A thing that is really different from Dutch schools is that there are sports in school here. All the different school teams are really nice for me to see. We have gym of course, but we don't have school teams; if you want to play a sport it is all outside of school and has nothing to do with school. It was fun to see that the whole school goes to the games to support their classmates. What I really like to see in games is when there are cheerleaders; this is really American to me. My host family is great, we did fun stuff together; I water-skied for the first time! I really loved that. I also went tubing, and we went camping. Camping in the 'American' way was nice, the places were bigger and I liked having a

big campfire. I went to Michigan with my host family for a long weekend; we visited many places and we went to a water park. In April I will go on a trip to the Wisconsin Dells; I am really excited for that! Of what I have seen, I really like Chicago! That is a great city. I really liked all the high buildings. I also enjoyed shopping at the Mall Of America. I went there for three hours but I had the idea that I actually didn't see that much, because there were so many stores! A good thing about shopping here is that everything is so much cheaper. I made the right decision to come to America. This year I experienced many new things; I learned a lot. In large part, I came here to learn better English, and that definitely happened. Now, not only is my English better, I think this is an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life!

*"Despite all the differences, I like it here; everybody is really nice to me."*



*Inge (Kirsten's sister) and Kirsten having fun skiing together on Granite Peak*

*"...this is an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life!"*



*If you have any ideas, suggestions, or questions-write the Red Hat! Drop off your submissions to the folder outside room 110.*

## Dear Katrine

Dear Katrine,  
Throughout all my life I have had writer's block. Everytime I sit down to write an essay, a three page paper, or even a short story I don't know what to write about. Now, I'm having trouble finishing my question because of my intense writer's block. Please help!

Signed,

Forgetting What to Say

Dear Forgetting What to Say,  
I am very concerned about your issue!!! I think it is a bit more than writer's block if you can not even remember a question long enough to write it. I suggest talking to a counselor, teacher, parent, priest, or anyone that you trust can

help you. It may be a problem that needs to be addressed further. But first of all, relax. If you are tense you will get too nervous to be able to write cohesively. Good Luck! Keep in touch, and let me know how things go!

Sincerely,  
Katrine