

# THE SHAMROCK

Newsletter Of The Fightin' Irish Battalion

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## Battalion Conducts FTX

By C/CPT Laura Griz

The Fightin' Irish Battalion traveled to Camp Custer, Michigan, September 28-29 for its fall field training exercise (FTX). Training included patrolling, M-16 marksmanship, rappelling and a Field Leader's Reaction Course.

MSIV's and cadre conducted the training, while MSI's, II's and III's split into their respective classes for most of the FTX.

Sophomores and juniors were grouped together in four tactical assembly areas, each led by a cadre advisor and two MSIV's acting as Ranger Instructors. Saturday, September 28, cadets

performed a recon patrol and a night ambush, then spent the night in their assembly areas.

While the upperclassmen patrolled, the MSI's rappelled off a 45-foot tower, run by MSG Steve Price, who headed the RECONDO rappel site at Advanced Camp this summer. Price and a team of MSIV's instructed the MSI's in knot tying, Swiss seat tying and rappelling technique, using a set of bleachers for practice.

Mike Bartish, the first MSI off the tower, said he enjoyed the rappelling experience. "It was  
(cont'd on page 6)



Photo by C/CPT Laura Griz

MSIII Stefanie Slebodnick rappels at Camp Custer.

## Gillespie takes reigns of Fighting Irish Battalion

By C/1LT Jamie Reidy

The Fightin' Irish Battalion underwent a change of command this summer as LTC Robert Gillespie replaced LTC Douglass Hemphill as Professor of Military Science.

LTC Gillespie arrived at Notre Dame after twenty years of service as an infantry officer. In 1971, following his graduation from Norwich University with a degree in political science, Gillespie completed Airborne School, Ranger School, and In-

fantry Officers' Basic Course. After his nearly three-year stint in Baumholder, Germany with the 8th Infantry Division, he was stationed at Ft. Benning, Ft. Campbell, West Point, and Ft. Leavenworth. During those seventeen years, Gillespie completed Jungle Warfare school, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Air Assault School, and Jumpmaster School. While serving as a military historian and instructor at the US Army Command and General Staff College, the new  
(cont,d to page 3)



Photo by C/PVT Brad O'Brien

LTC Robert Gillespie

**From the Professor of Military Science:**

As the new Professor of Military Science at Notre Dame, I am excited to be here and to play a part in the development of the future leadership of the United States Army. C/CPT Laura Gritz, the *Shamrock* editor, has asked me to provide the leadoff editorial from time to time. I'm delighted to do so and hope to take the opportunity to share my thoughts on various aspects of the commissioning process.

Two subjects set Army ROTC apart from traditional college courses; they are leadership and training in military skills. In this issue I'll share some thoughts on those two subjects as they relate to our program.

As a cadet prepares for commissioning, he or she is faced with four years of classroom instruction, a summer at Advanced Camp, attendance at leadership labs once a week and a field training exercise (FTX) each semester. During those training opportunities, there is a plethora of information that cadets must learn. Some subjects are conducive to the classroom while others are more suit-

able for the field. Fortunately, the Army has made my job a little easier by giving me the required subjects and telling me which are most important. As we enter this training year, you should find that the classroom instruction is progressive from one year to the next. Likewise, you should observe that the subjects taught in labs are skill rather than knowledge oriented, and are preparatory to fall and spring FTX performance.

We won't teach all students the same subjects. Freshmen will learn elemental skills which the upper classes already know. Sophomores and juniors may be taught the same material; however, the juniors are expected to have a more thorough mastery of it. In those cases, the sophomores have the knowledge to do, while the juniors have the knowledge to lead. Here is where we see the blend of leadership and training. After all, wisdom gleaned from our courses is not for the sole purpose of intellectual stimulation. Rather, it is intended for use. Hence, the skills you learn must be practiced, thereby presenting leadership and followership opportunities.

To prepare you for commission we will present leadership opportunities in the battalion command structure, in extracurricular activities and in training situations (labs and FTXs). I think you will find our training realistic, challenging, demanding, and fun.

**LTC Robert E. Gillespie  
Professor of Military Science**



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz

C/PVT Danielle Kowalski crosses a two-rope bridge at Freshmen Orientation, held Aug. 21-23.

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# Army Lingo: "All Ate Up"

by C/PV2 Sean O'Reilly

Membership in any group or organization carries with it the understanding of that organization's appearances, customs and unique language or catch phrases. The United States Army is certainly no stranger to containing a "language of its own." It was the Army that first coined the term for sideburns, based upon Civil War General Burnside's style of facial hair. The Army also first used the term "hooker" in reference to the ladies who followed General Thomas Hooker's camp.

It should be of no surprise, then, that at Notre Dame Army ROTC we continue the tradition of upholding a unique language. As an MSII, I can easily remember the bewilderment I felt at some of the commands given by upperclassmen those first few weeks of school. It took me three or four PT sessions to figure out what everyone was saying after told to perform a given stretching

exercise. "To create a zero effect," I eventually realized, was actually "to create the mirror effect." With misunderstandings such as these in mind, I offer some phrases which now seem commonplace but were a little strange in my MSI year:

In life, you take care of business; in Army ROTC, you are continually "squared away."

In life, you speak with authority; in Army ROTC, you speak with a "command voice."

In life, you consume snacks; in Army ROTC, you eat "pogie-bait."

In life, a meal in a package is called a TV dinner; in Army ROTC, this delicious treat is termed MRE (Meal Ready to Eat).

In life, (or the Air Force), "Cheers" comes on at 9 p.m.; in the Army, you may only watch "Cheers" at 2100 hours.

In life, you sing songs in the shower about any current issue or fad; in Army ROTC you

sing at Oh-Dark Thirty (another fun expression) about something called a See-One-Thirty rolling down a strip and two old ladies who always happen to be in bed together.

In life, you go to class to hear a lesson plan; in Army ROTC, you are presented a "block of instruction."

In life, (and Navy), you say Hoo-rah when excited; in Army ROTC, you emit a thunderous "hooah" when instructed to or when you just feel the urge. Incidentally, hooah can also be used as an adjective, such as: "that was quite hooah stuff sir."

In life, "civvies" refer to our uniforms as "fatigues," but we know these high-speed (another Army phrase) methods of concealment as BDU's (Battle Dress Uniform).

In real life, a fun-loving person who tells many jokes is known as Eddie Murphy, while in ROTC such a person is called MSG Steve Price.

**Gillespie** (cont'd from page 1) PMS received a Master's Degree in history from the University of Kansas.

Gillespie said he feels his background "will be helpful in presenting the Army and its new look. My training has provided me with the experience to implement interesting, imaginative training designed to strengthen an already strong program."

He said he was well aware of the Fightin' Irish Battalion's stellar tradition before arriving on campus. "Notre Dame has an excellent reputation nationally," he explained, "and that's why I wanted to come here. LTC Hemphill did an exceptionally good job, as evidenced by the Ranger Challenge team's placing first in the state and the battalion's winning the

MacArthur award the past two years." Gillespie said he thrives on the challenge of entering such a successful atmosphere. "Some people like to come into an operation that is in disarray because there is nowhere to go but up, and they can easily make a name for themselves. I'm not looking to make any names. I simply want to expand upon the present talents and take us to the next level."



# Getting to Know You...

## Company Orientation Week Motivates Cadets

By C/PVT Rebecca Benson

Sleepy cadets clad in battle dress uniform gathered at Ranger Field September 10, 11, and 12 to participate in company orientation week, which consisted of two parts: the assault course and a physical training session that included rifle PT and gorilla drills.

Company orientation week sought to develop unit cohesion, encourage esprit de corps and prepare cadets for the fall field training exercise. Each company participated in two of the three mornings of training, although Bravo could not run the assault course due to inclement weather and conducted PT instead.

Thirty cadet volunteers set up the Mad Dog assault course September 8. The 400-meter course posed nine obstacles, including

the tunnel of love, the log wall and a mock enemy bunker. Seniors operated the course, which physically challenged squads' skill, coordination, agility and endurance. Squad leaders had to keep control, designate tasks and encourage their squads physically and emotionally.

"The course was very physically demanding but working together as a team made it easier to get through," said C/SSG Mike Moser, a squad leader. "Everyone did a great job."

Rifle PT and gorilla drills also sought to encourage competition through a graded physical training event. Cadets ran a relay consisting of running, push-ups, sit-ups and the crab walk. Squads were expected to work together and encourage each other. "There was a lot of squad spirit and they tried to get you riled up with your



Photo by C/CPT Laura Griz

**Cadets maneuver the uphill barbed wire obstacle.**

company," said MSI Liz Reres, of Bravo company.

Inspections before the morning drills focussed on uniform standards, knowledge of the Ranger Fact Sheet, and chain of command.

MSIVs Tom Ninneman and Dan Piercy organized company orientation week along with the company commanders. Ninneman said he thought everyone was "glad for the chance to get involved with their companies."



Photo by C/CPT Laura Griz

**C/2LT Elizabeth Peterson performs the crab walk.**



## Gillespie Implements New Training Plan

By C/PV2 Shannon Neptune

The Fightin' Irish Battalion has implemented a new cadet training program for the 1990-91 school year. While the battalion retains the same three-company structure, the method of instruction is now significantly different. Formerly, each company focused its leadership labs on a single segment of training, such as drill and ceremony, weaponry or field training. Now, however, lab topics will be the same for each company, yet focused at the respective classes within the company.

LTC Robert Gillespie, the battalion's new Professor of Military Science, explained that according to Cadet Command

Regulation 145-3, certain information must be taught to each class. For example, the regulation lists instruction in drill and ceremony as a first priority for MSI's, while it lists conducting a recon as a third priority. CPT John Pottinger, Commandant of Cadets, says that the new program will "capitalize on Cadet Command's philosophy that cadet experience should be sequential in nature." On occasion, however, the cadet chain of command will have labs allotted for elective training, probably two or three times first semester and more frequently second semester.

Another change is that the MSIV's will be teaching at the labs and field training exercises,

as opposed to the MSIII's teaching, as in the past. LTC Gillespie outlined four reasons for this policy. First, the seniors have experienced camp; they know firsthand what goes on there and what needs to be taught. Second, in line with the first reason, the underclassmen have not yet been to camp and lack the perspective that the seniors have. Third, the MSIV's are preparing to be lieutenants, and a large part of a lieutenant's job involves teaching. Finally, the commissioning process is a four-year process, and the MSIV's can use this important final year to polish their teaching and leadership techniques.

## Cadets Recognized at Fall Awards Ceremony

By C/PVT Erica Gressock

The Fightin' Irish Battalion held its spring awards ceremony on September 5 to congratulate many of its members on their recent successes.

The ceremony began with an invocation from Reverend Warner, ROTC chaplain, followed by a brief welcome from C/CPT Steve Hanson and a few remarks from LTC Robert Gillespie, Professor of Military Science.

Three-year Army ROTC scholarships were awarded to eight cadets: Brian Bouton, Dan Dipaola, Paul Kell, Thomas Mar-

tin, Julie Morris, Russell Nelson, Joe Reardon and Melanie Stanley. In addition, Lisa Valenta received a two-year Army ROTC scholarship.

Many Fightin' Irish cadets were honored for attending training schools during the summer. Airborne wings were awarded to Elizabeth Peterson, Greg Welickey, Jen Coyne, Steve Deick, Bernard Nacionales, Joe Turbeyville, Jack Vales, Justin Hartings, Lisa Valenta, Mike Warmerdam, Andrew Scarcella, Brian O'Meara, Darrell Driver, Doug Maurer and Jessica Lovejoy.

Mike Kuzmits was awarded the Air Assault badge for completing Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Tim Povich and Rob Williamson received awards for completing Northern Warfare School. Greg Wessels was also recognized for completing Mountain Warfare School.

The rest of the ceremony focused on awards won by MSIVs this summer at Advanced Camp 1991. Cadets were honored for being in the regimental honor platoon, winning the Recondo badge, earning a four or five at camp, and scoring in the top ten percent of their platoon on the Army Physical Fitness Test.



*FTX (cont'd from page 1)*

fun," he said. "The scariest part was just being up there. I knew if I looked down it'd be even worse."

Saturday afternoon, the freshmen moved to the M-16 range, where they learned to zero weapons under the guidance of SSG Keith Ragsdale and a range committee comprised of MSIV's. Cadets at the range and on patrols used weapons supplied by the 428th Field Artillery Brigade, a reserve unit based in South Bend.

In the evening, the freshmen relaxed in a bivouac site as a group of seniors served up hamburgers and bratwurst, along with potato chips and soft drinks. MSG Price built a bonfire, and cadets sat around it telling stories and roasting marshmallows late into the night.

Sunday morning, September 29, the MSII's moved to the rifle range and the MSIII's headed for the rappelling site, where MSG Price treated them like RECONDO cadets at camp; they had to request permission to climb the tower's ladder and execute a rappel. Price upheld the camp tradition of jokingly harrasing cadets when they request permission to climb the ladder.

When MSIII Rob Overbaugh stepped to the front of the line, Price asked him, "How do you pronounce the capital of Kentucky? 'Loo-eeville' or 'Lewisville'?"

"'Loo-eeville,'" Overbaugh replied.

"No!" Price answered. "It's Frankfurt. Go to the end of the

line."

In the meantime, the freshmen went through the Field Leader's Reaction Course (FLRC), where they faced five obstacles designed by combat engineers to test problem solving skills and leadership ability.

"It was challenging," said Jim Argabright, after his squad failed to complete a complicated obstacle that required crossing a "river" (ten feet between a platform and a wall) with limited equipment. "You have to think quick on your feet. I think we worked well because we came up with a plan quickly and when our plan didn't work we adapted and came up with a new one."

"We took everybody's ideas and put them together," said Dave Chang.



Photo by C/CPT Laura Griz



Photo by C/CPT Laura Griz

**Left:** Behind the grill, MSIV's Luke Shattuck and Dan Sharkey serve hamburgers and bratwurst to the freshmen.

**Above:** MSII Michelle Rowe zeroes her weapon.

# Raulston Cheers on Irish

By C/ILT Jamie Reidy

Why did C/ILT Matt Raulston become a cheerleader? "I missed being a part of a team," he said. "I played soccer in high school, and I guess I just wanted to experience something like that again." Cheerleading wasn't the immediate solution, however, as Raulston joined the Gymnastics Club his freshman year. "I had a lot of fun doing that," he said, "but a few of the guys were trying out for cheerleading, so I figured, 'Why not?'"



Photo by C/SSG Claire Heil

C/ILT Matt Raulston (rear)

"Well, it really wasn't that easy," said Raulston, a three-year veteran of the cheerleading squad. "The cheerleading coach and old members of the team provided us with a month of instruction before the tryouts, so that we could learn a few routines and stunts. The stunts were the hardest part; you know, doing backflips and lifting the girls and stuff." The squad practices every day to familiarize new members with the routines. "Now, the stunts are

almost second nature," Raulston said. "When you work on something over and over again each day, it becomes automatic."

Despite such long hours of repetition, near fatal mistakes can be made. During a home game last season, cheerleader Betsy Ciramboli was dropped while standing on top of a three-person tripod. Although she was unharmed, both the crowd and the team were shaken. While Raulston was not one of the people responsible for the fall,

he admits, "That was pretty scary. It really brought home the point that communication is important. It was weird because the crowd would watch

every routine and wait to see if we dropped anyone else. I guess it was a good thing it wasn't a basketball court."

Basketball season adds another three months to what is an already long year for the cheerleaders. "We work out with weights all summer and then go to cheering camp for a week in August," Raulston said. "After that, we normally go to our coach's house on Lake Michigan to continue working out till school

starts. It's pretty grueling."

One of the advantages to such a long season, Raulston said, is the bond that develops among the squad members. "We're all pretty close," he said. "You get especially tight with your partner since you spend almost all of the practice time together. It gets to be like a family, in that you're all really close, but you really don't mind if you don't see each other outside of practice."

Raulston says he loves the travelling. In the past four years, the cheerleaders have journeyed all expenses paid, to Arizona, USC (twice) and Miami (three times). "Yeah, the travel is awesome. The Orange Bowls have been outrageous," Raulston said. "And this year we get to go to Hawaii. That'll be phenomenal."

Although Raulston must miss many ROTC activities to attend cheerleading practice and away games, he said ROTC has been "extremely accomodating, in terms of my schedule, during the two seasons. I think they understand that I'm improving my leadership by leading by example and teaching the new cheerleaders at the beginning." The Army has even come to Raulston's aid by "getting me out of some boring practices so I could participate in the spring FTX and RIBPIN." Sporting that kind of attitude, Raulston, MSIV and varsity cheerleader, has given the battalion a lot to cheer about. Go Irish!

# Wessels Attends Mountain Warfare

By C/PVT Elizabeth Reres

Are you strong enough to climb mountains? Deft enough to tie twenty different knots? Curious about night vision goggles? If so, the Mountain Warfare School may be for you.

MSIII Greg Wessels attended the vigorous fifteen-day camp on the Ethan Allen Firing Range in Jericho, Vermont, this past summer. While the Mountain Warfare School is not as well-known as the Airborne or Air Assault school, Wessels said it teaches more skills which can be used at Advanced Camp. During the two-week training period, he learned about maneuvering and setting up communications in mountainous terrain, safety, evacuation of casualties, climbing techniques, knot tying, land navigation, and had the opportunity to climb while wearing night-vision goggles.

Each day the cadets woke at



Photo by C/CPT Laura Gritz

## Cadet Greg Wessels

0500, cleaned up the barracks, and prepared for a hike to the hills, located two miles and five miles away, where the morning training block of instruction was held. After a one-hour lunch break at 1200, training resumed until 1700 when cadets hiked back

for classes. They took written exams on such subjects as land navigation, pulley systems, climbing techniques and safety. Climbing technique was judged on a daily basis. A 100-question multiple choice final exam was given on the last day. To graduate from the school, a score of 700 points out of a possible 1000 had to be attained.

Wessels described the terrain at the school as similar to the Himalayas, but on a smaller scale. The highest peak he climbed was only about 1500 feet. Still, Wessels said, the climbs were grueling. He stated that although there was no physical training, "you've got to be in shape."

He suggested that cadets considering the Mountain Warfare School should brush up on land navigation, first aid and knot ty-

# Hendry and Rangers Vie for Third Straight Title

By C/PVT Ross Davidson

Spending over fifteen hours a week in physical training and technical exercises, not to mention a normal class schedule, does not appeal to the majority of Army ROTC cadets. However, there are a select few who live for this kind of punishment and they call themselves the Ranger Challenge Team.

The team is comprised of twelve members of all military

science levels and sexes. The competing team, however, will only field nine members. The commander is C/LTC Greg Hendry and the advisors are CPT Richard Miles and MSG Steve Price.

The team is preparing for competition on October 31 through November 2 at the University of Ohio in Akron. The major portion of the competition is a thirty-six hour, non stop, dismounted patrol. To prepare for

this, the team endures countless hours of physical training plus a battery of instruction on weapons assembly, rope bridging, marksmanship and land navigation.

C/LTC Hendry says "This year we have the pressure of three state championships, but I feel we have the cadets who can do it." That will be a big challenge since the format of the competition has changed.

(cont'd on page 10)



## Hemphill Honored for Lifetime of Dedicated Service



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LTC Douglass Hemphill is honored at his retirement ceremony August 31 in front of the battalion at Pasquerilla Center .  
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Photo by C/SSG Claire Hell

# ADVANCED CAMP 1991



Photo courtesy of C/1LT Tom Ninneman

**Above:** C/1LT Tom Ninneman executes the RECONDO rope drop.

**Top Right:** C/2LT Shane Hitzeman rappels off the 60- foot tower.

**Bottom Right:** C/1LT Val Frost and C/MAJ Amy Keough prepare for graduation.



Photo by MSG Steve Price



Photo courtesy of C/1LT Val Frost

## Cadets Train in Alaska

By C/PVT Elizabeth Reres

While many cadets were either tanning at home or going through Advanced Camp this summer, future MSIIIs Tim Povich and Rob Williamson spent the normally warm months at the Northern Warfare School in Alaska learning how to live and work in the cold and snow.

Williamson said that the training school was easier than he had expected. The atmosphere, he said, was relaxed and "the NCOs (non-commissioned officers) were good. They were more con-

cerned about us learning the skills and understanding our training than they were in inspecting our boots. They were very helpful."

The weeks at Northern Warfare School were filled with things both familiar and unfamiliar to Povich and Williamson.

Mountaineering filled the first part of their training. Tasks they learned during the first week included rappelling, rope bridging and knot tying. They spent nights and days camping on a glacier. Cadets also lived and worked in the snow and spent time practicing river navigation.



Photo courtesy of C/SGM Tim Povich

Rob Williamson (second from left) and Tim Povich (second from right) climbed a mountain north of Delta, Alaska.

## Rifle Team is Right on Target

By C/2LT Adeline Cassin

"Rifle team—it works," says C/1LT Mike Julian, team officer in charge. MSIV Mike Nolte, a former rifle team member, scored 40 out of 40 on basic rifle marksmanship, qualifying expert at Advanced Camp this past summer. Although 25 ca-

dets signed up for the team, this year only 15 will have the chance to follow in Nolte's footsteps. Out of the 25, 11 former members and 14 newcomers vied for the 15 openings. The official team roster was decided by a qualifying match the first week in October, but names were not available at press time. This se-

## It's Hip to Be Squared Away

By C/PVT Tony Alfidi

The Irish Marauder Drill Team held its organizational meeting September 9 and is being led this year by C/1SG Kris Hull and C/MSG Mike Kane. The team has great expectations for the coming year and is particularly looking forward to the annual competition at Purdue University, in which the team captured first place last year. Practices are on Mondays and Tuesdays at Stepan Center from 1630 to 1745, and C/1SG Hull encourages any cadet with a desire to polish their skill in drill and ceremony to come out for the team.

### RANGERS (from page 8).

This year the Irish Rangers will be competing against 22 other tough teams in a brigade competition. But CPT Miles says, "This is the most motivated and physically fit group of cadets I've seen in the past two years. I predict a first place this year."

mester, the rifle team will participate in several postal matches, which involves shooting targets at the Notre Dame rifle range and mailing the sheets to the host school. SSG Keith Ragsdale serves as the cadre advisor to the team. Jim Cretella is the MSIII non-commissioned officer in charge.

# MSIII's Return from Overseas

by C/2LT Adeline Cassin

MSIIIs Sandy Conner, John Donlan and Ari Kestner spent the 1990-91 school year studying abroad.

"It was an incredible experience - something you shouldn't pass up," Conner said. Her experiences in Rome, Italy, included witnessing demonstrations about Desert Storm and attending an Italian army commissioning ceremony. Conner said that since only Italian men must serve in the military, they find the idea of women in the service "amusing." Says Conner: "They were amazed that I was in the military. I was like a circus show."

Although Conner said she will miss her freedom to travel in Europe, she has quickly readjusted to life back at Notre Dame. She said she feels her participation in ROTC freshman orientation helped revive her memory of military knowledge and enabled her to get to know the sophomores who entered the program while she was away.

John Donlan studied on the other side of the European continent in Angers, France. He, along with Conner and Kestner, completed monthly ROTC correspondence courses that included a final exam. ROTC was also foremost in Donlan's mind, he said, because of the U.S. - Iraqi war. Since he attended an international school, Donlan said he observed different perspectives about the



Photo courtesy of C/SSG Ari Kestner

**Ari Kestner visited the Berlin Wall during his year abroad.**

U.S. military involvement. He said the opportunity to see so many perspectives and the abil-

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**"The Notre Dame foreign studies program is probably the best thing a student can do here."**

**-MSIII Ari Kestner**

ity to make fair decisions after listening to others' opinions will help him through Advanced Camp.

"Assuming a leadership position in ROTC when I'd been out of the picture for some time was a concern, but it [the knowledge] all came back quickly," Donlan said.

Although he ran into some minor troubles in France (he fell asleep once on a train to Paris and

woke up the next morning in the south of France), Donlan said he plans to pursue a major in French and international relations and would like to be stationed in France after graduation.

Ari Kestner has not reached a final decision as to whether or not he would like to move to a German-speaking country after graduation, but he said that he would like to incorporate his government and German courses taken in Innsbruck, Austria, into his future plans.

In between classes in Innsbruck, Kestner said he enjoyed the 3,000-meter high mountains of Austria. After returning to the United States and "getting readjusted to an early morning schedule," he has come to the conclusion that "the Notre Dame foreign studies program is probably the best thing a student can do here."