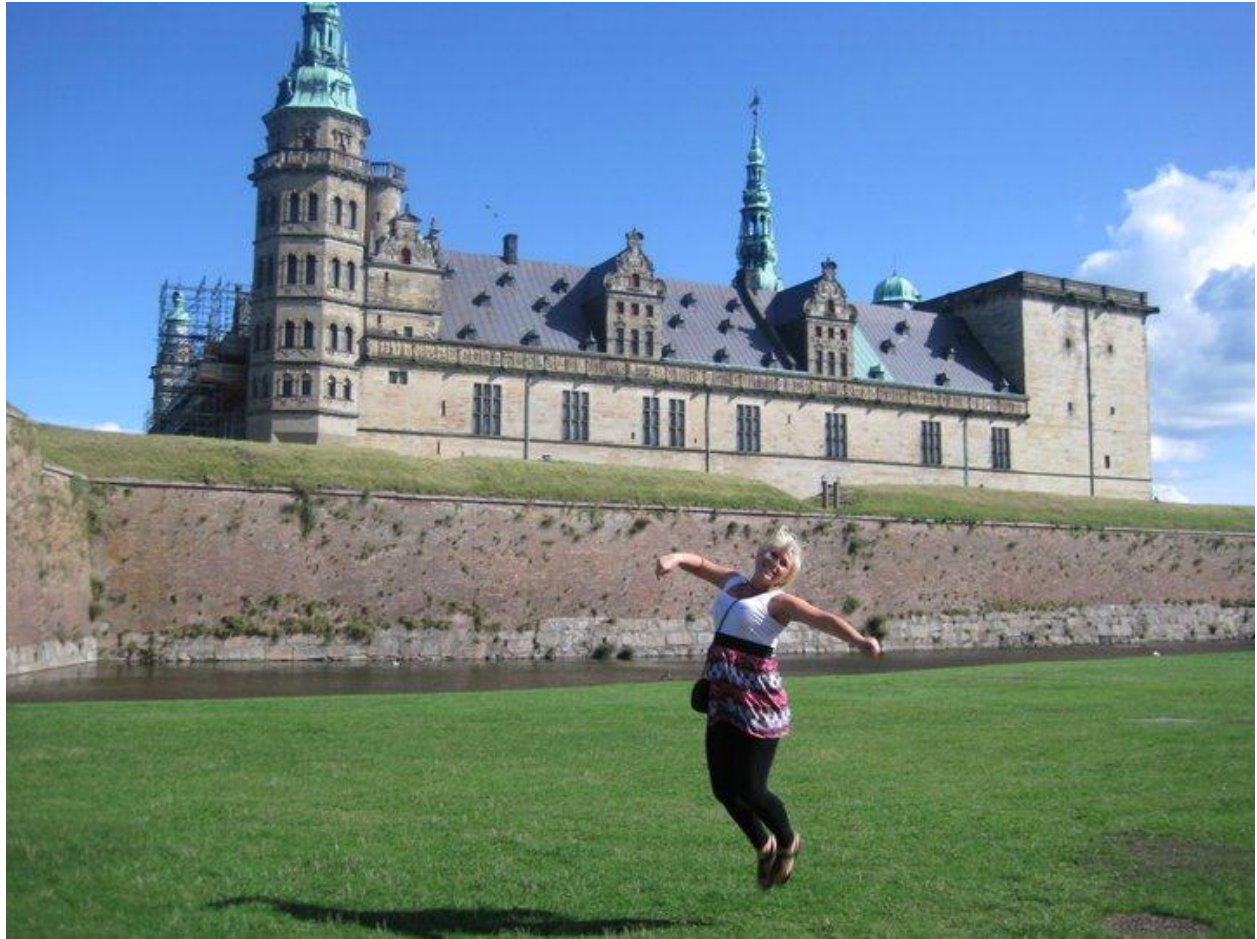


My name is Rachel Zlotnik and I am a Junior at California State University Channel Islands. I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark for the Fall 2010/Spring 2011 Academic year at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS). I participated in the Multicultural Child Development program Fall semester, and the Special Needs Child Development program Spring semester. This picture is taken on my first day exploring Copenhagen with my new Canadian roommate, Toria.



This picture is me jumping in front of Kronberg castle outside Copenhagen. This castle is also known as the “Hamlet Castle” as it supposedly is where the famous Shakespeare play Hamlet took place.





This is a picture of the town square of Copenhagen. Bicycle riding is the most popular mode of transportation, no matter the weather. Denmark prides itself on its environmental efforts and the “Green” energy is present everywhere.



Unlike most European royalty, the Danish Royals are very down to earth. The Queen of Denmark (circled in red) sat with the rest of the population for a summer-day ballet performance at the famous themepark Tivoli Gardens. It was a very interesting day for a group of American students to be sitting three rows behind the Queen!





One of the best parts of studying at the Danish Institute of Study Abroad is their incorporation of study tours into each semester. For Fall 2010, my Multicultural Child Development class went on a study tour of London. This picture is of us inside the London Tube metro station.



The Danish Institute for Study Abroad also offers a travel break during each semester in addition to the Study Tour that the whole class goes on. The travel break offers time for students to travel independently, but group trips are also offered. I chose to go on a DIS-sponsored surfing trip to Portugal. The awesome thing about traveling with DIS is that once you pay the set amount, traveling expenses, food, accommodations and other expenses such as surfing lessons are all taken care of so there is no worrying, only fun!





As I mentioned previously, the Danish Institute for Study Abroad also offers a travel break during each semester in addition to the Study Tour. During Fall 2010, I participated in two DIS-sponsored trips during the travel break. The first week I went with DIS to Portugal. The second week I went with DIS to Istanbul, Turkey. Turkey is a country I would probably have not gone to on my own, and going with DIS allowed me to experience way more than I would have otherwise. We had a Turkish speaking guide that allows us to have a very authentic Turkish experience, such as you can see in this picture.



Once Fall semester ended in December, I had a month before Spring semester started in January. While many students chose to go home to the USA during this time, I decided to stay in Europe and take the train to multiple countries. This picture was taken in Bern, Switzerland. It is as cold as it looks (but just as pretty)!





This is a picture of the New Years 2011 fireworks exploding over the canals in Venice, Italy.

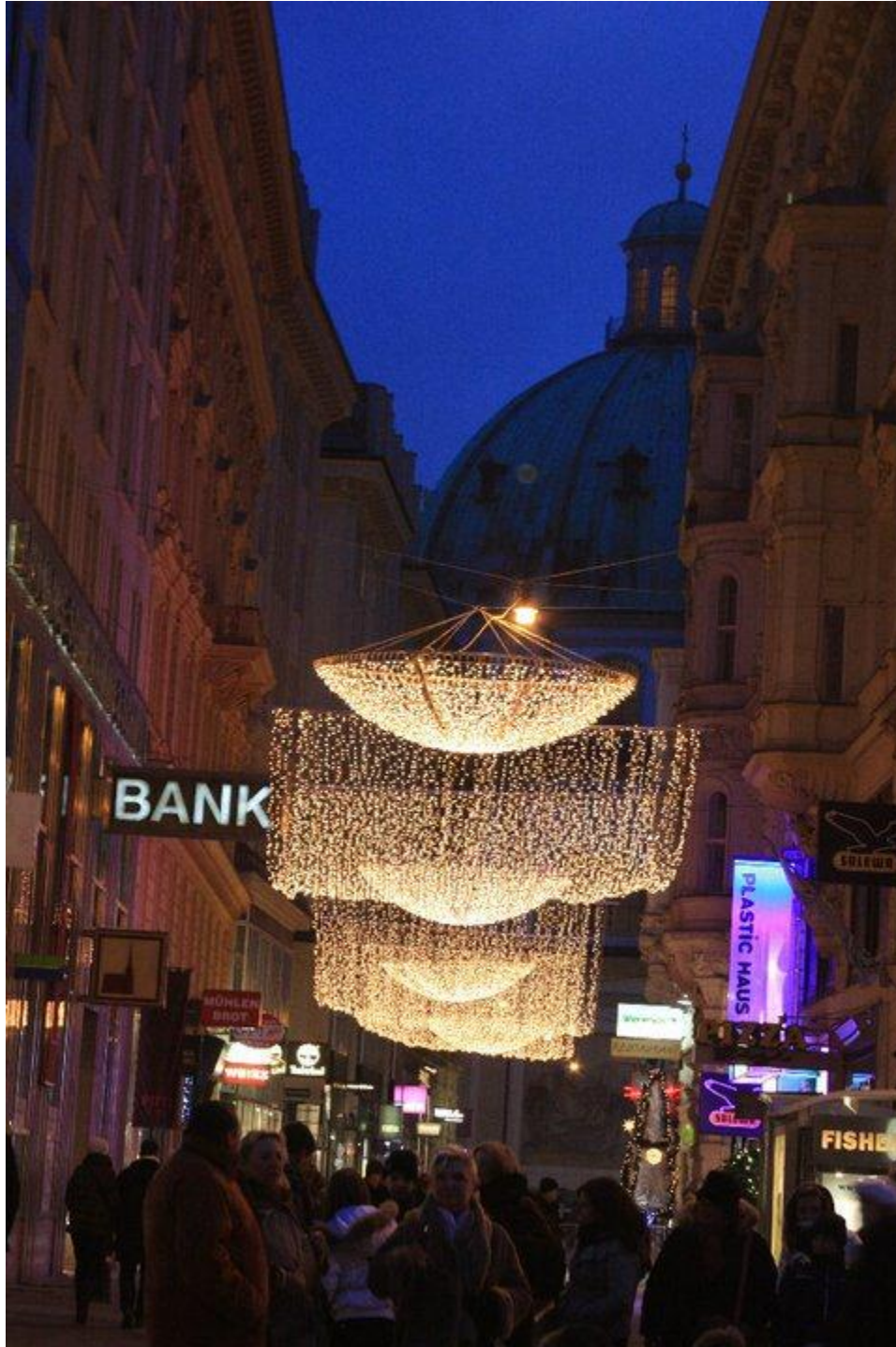


Back in Denmark after an awesome month of traveling, the beginning of Spring Semester 2011 brought a new class and a new course: Special Needs Child Development. In this picture our class went on a field trip to a Sensory Center for blind children, where ball pits such as the one we are sitting in and other environmental stimuluses are used to work with sense-deprived children and young adults.





Other than the Travel-Break tours and Study Tours, DIS also offers educational 1 or 3 unit courses that involve a course combined with a trip. During Spring semester, I participated in the Classical Music of Vienna course. Not only did I learn about classical music, I got to experience a real Viennese opera, and see the classiest city alive with music and light during winter-time.



The Spring Semester 2011 Special Needs Child Development program's Study Tour was to Tallin, Estonia and Stockholm Sweden. This picture is of us on a cruiseship through the Baltic sea from Tallin to Stockholm.





Spring Semester 2011 I became very integrated with the Danes because I lived in an all-Danish dorm. The Danish Institute for Study Abroad offers many different types of housing, from “kollegiums” (dorms), such as this one, to living with danish roomates, to living with a host family. This picture is of me and my Danish dorm-mates dressed up for a “Latin-themed” Party.



For my Spring semester travel break (Spring Break) I visited many of the Greek Islands. This picture is of me on the island of Santorini.





Leaving Denmark and the Danish Institute for Study Abroad after two amazing semesters was one of the hardest things I had to do. The friendships will be lifelong, and the knowledge and memories never forgotten.

