study abroad combines fun with GLOBAL learning EXPERIENCE

With roughly 600 of the College’s students studying abroad per year, the overseas experience clearly had something to offer even the most fickle of students. While the reasons one left the United States behind were long and varied, popular ones included the ability to improve upon foreign language skills and a chance to see how others lived.

For junior Sami Aboulhosn, paramount to his decision to go abroad to Paris for a semester was learning the French language. While there, he shared an apartment with a French student and attended classes taught in the language. "I find that my most vivid memories from all of my travels are those moments when I stopped and sat down before a beautiful view and really took everything in: the scenery, the culture, and arguably most importantly, the food and drink," Aboulhosn said.

The ability to see another lifestyle was a large draw for many students, such as junior Michael Wade, who chose to study abroad in Jordan because of the challenge of living outside the Western world. "I went to Aqaba one weekend and hiked north on the train tracks into the mountains, stumbling across trenches and underground rooms from the 1948 Arab-Israeli War," Wade said. "We climbed a mountain, enjoyed the scenery, then hitchhiked north back to Amman," Wade said.

In addition to sending students abroad to other countries, the College also accepted exchange students. Soren Haefcke traveled to the United States from Germany for a semester. "I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at William & Mary and only wish it could have lasted longer," Haefcke said. "I had the opportunity to meet a lot of amazing people, and I think that in the absence of a large town, it’s really the fantastic people that make William & Mary such a great place to be," Haefcke said.

As a part of the study abroad experience, students were charged with representing the United States as responsible citizens. In turn, they gained a global perspective that aided them in the rest of their time at the College and beyond.

> Christina Bianchi

Junior Angelica Mancone waves at a fellow camel-rider. Morocco was a popular travel destination for students studying abroad in southern Spain, like Mancone, who studied in Seville for the fall semester.