



BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE
Utah-California-Nevada-Italy-France
2007



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On The Cover:

Top Picture: Folk Dance Ensemble in Confolens

Bottom Pictures: Remembering our tour guides

Folk Dance Ensemble
Mid-Semester Tour 2007
Utah, California, & Nevada
February 23-March 4, 2007



February 2007
Performing Arts Management

International Folk Dance Ensemble
Extended Tour
Italy & France
July 17 - August 19, 2007



April 2007
Performing Arts Management

Tour Participants 2007

Dancers

Laura Bates
Cami Burton
Jen Garrard
Melanie Grace
Michelle Hinton
Alicia Ingalls (Woolsey)
Megan Keffer
Janneke Marquez
Megan Murphy
Ashley Oblad
Lindsay Ozbirn
Bethany Rawcliffe
Sarah Sanderson
Lyndsey Willis (Wulfenstein)
*Kimberlee Couper

Dancers

Jonathan Bay
Samuel Griffiths
Josh Lamb
Craig Madsen
Adam Marriott
Dave Marriott
Brian McMullin
Steve Ord
Joshua Park
Thomas Rawcliffe
Quincy Robinson
Scott Schachterle
Rustin Van Katwyk
Benjamin Watson
David Woolsey

Musicians

Deborah Bailey
Lindsay Griffin
Jesse Christopher
Adam Grimshaw
MacKay Olson
Jeffrey Tolsma
Russell Wulfenstein

Technicians

Danny Marquez
*Bethany Schachterle
*Adi Hicar
*Mike Grace
*Kristi Ellsworth

Tour Leaders

Ed Austin
**Vickie Austin
Kathy Thomas
Mark Ohran
*Cynthia Gubler
*Tim Gubler
**Shane Wright

Artistic Director
Chaperone
Athletic Trainer
Technical Director
Tour Manager
Chaperone
Tour Manager

* Midsemester Tour Only

**Summer Tour Only



Performing Arts Management

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Updated: Feb 22, 2007

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE ITINERARY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FEB 23 – MAR 4, 2007

<u>Fri, Feb 23</u>	Provo to St. George, UT	258.6 mi/3hr 42min
8:00 am	Depart for St. George	
4:00 pm	Dinner – At Cafeteria on Campus	
7:00 pm	Performance – Dixie College, Cox Auditorium (Capacity 1200)	
Presenter	Celebrity Concert Series	
<u>Sat, Feb 24</u>	St. George to Bakersfield	406.6 miles/6hr 26 min
7:30 am	Meet at Cox Auditorium Depart for Bakersfield <i>(time change—gain an hour)</i>	
2:00 pm	Workshop (booked for 2 hours) Bakersfield South Stake Center <i>conducted by 4 performers while the rest continue with load-in</i>	
4:00 pm	Dinner at Stake Center	
7:00 pm	Performance-Ridgeview High School	
Presenter	Bakersfield Alumni Chapter	
<u>Sun, Feb 25</u>	Thousand Oaks	121.1 miles/1hr 46min
9:00 am	Meet at Colonial Ward Chapel	
9:30 am	Attend all Church	
5:00 pm	Dinner at Thousand Oaks Westlake Village chapel	
7:00 pm	Fireside-Thousand Oaks Westlake Village Chapel	
Presenter	Ventura/Santa Barbara Alumni	
<u>Mon, Feb 26</u>	Thousand Oaks	
10:00 am	Meet at Los Cerritos Middle School	
10:55 am	Assembly-at Los Cerritos Middle School (40 minutes)	
4:00 pm	Dinner at local member's home	
7:00 pm	Performance- Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza (Capacity 1800)	

Tues, Feb 27 El Centro, CA 252.5 miles/3hr 46min

8:00 am Depart for El Centro
4:00 pm Dinner –at Stake Center (*with Host Families*)
7:30 pm Performance- Southwest Performing Arts Theater (Capacity 1126)

Presenter El Centro California Stake

Wed, Feb 28 Long Beach, CA 211.3 miles/3 hr

9:30 am Depart for Long Beach
3:30 pm Group Pictures Taken at Terrace Theater Fountain
4:30 pm Dinner at one of four restaurants next to venue.
(*Restaurants to choose from: BubbaGump Shrimp Co., Chili's, Gladstones, Island Burgers, Outback Steakhouse, P.F. Chang's Bistro, Tokyo Wako*)

7:30 pm Performance-Long Beach Performing Arts Center (Capacity 3051)

Presenter L.A. South Alumni Chapter

Thurs, Mar 1 Long Beach, CA

10:30 am Performance – Matinee, 45 minute assembly—Long Beach Performing Arts Center

12:30 pm Lunch and Free Time at Ward Family Home
(*Volleyball, Basketball, Swimming, Billiards, Studies, Internet/Email, etc.*)

7:30 pm Performance – Long Beach Performing Arts Center

Fri, Mar 2 Long Beach, CA

10:30 am Performance – Matinee, 45 min. Assembly—Long Beach Performing Arts Center

12:30 pm Lunch and Free time
4:30 pm Dinner –Catered at the Theater, 3rd Floor.

7:30 pm Performance – Long Beach Performing Arts Center

Sat, Mar 3 Henderson, NV 281.4 miles/4hr

8:30 am Depart for Henderson
4:30 pm Dinner – *Catered by Applebees*
6:00 pm Performance – Henderson Pavilion (Capacity 2500)

Presenter City of Henderson

Sun, Mar 4 Provo, UT 388.7 miles/5hr 37min

9:00 am Meet at Pebble Canyon Ward
10:40 am Depart for Utah
(*time change-lose an hour*)
4:30 pm Arrive in Provo

Presenter: Dixie College Celebrity Concert Series

Tour History of Doom!

Time: 7:30am

Date: February 23rd

Place: In front of the RB

Who's Invited: Only the BYU IFDE!!!!

Entrance fee: Absent release form...*signed*.

Average hours of sleep the night before: *Maybe* 3 hours.

Final song sung in Provo: I....had a little turtle...

Final joke told in Provo: So a horse walked into a bar and asked for a drink and the bartender said, "I'm really sick of this joke".

Time we actually left: 8:00am

Time we actually left Provo: 8:30am

Well our wild and crazy tour was off to a good start with a bus driver named Frank and a wild blizzard going on that we knew our friends in Provo would have to suffer through, but that we wouldn't. Russell and Lyndsey W. gave the devotional. We had "quiet" time and enjoyed the view of swirling snow. We stopped at Fillmore around 10am and lots of people picked up delicious gas station food for a healthy breakfast, then we got back on the bus until the Cedar City lunch stop. Most people scattered with their \$8 dollars to Arby's or Sonic, and Adam Grimshaw's parents met the group at Arby's. The highlight of the bus trip was probably everybody doing the games in the back of the tour information booklet, and trying to figure out what in the world Adam Grimshaw's netID could be. We arrived in St George around 1:30pm at Dixie College, and it was a nice big stage with about a 1200 capacity auditorium.

At 4:30pm we headed over to the University cafeteria, the "Red Rock Café", and there was an exciting array of choices, including hot chocolate which Jeff chose to dump all over himself and his tray, for no apparent reason. After dinner, there was a really long blocking session, and so the band had pretty much no time for sound checks...yikes (since I understand this is a trend throughout tour, I just thought I'd mention it the first day and get it out of the way. . . because the band isn't bitter... much.)

And now for the show highlights! Hurray!

-Viddy fell down during French Canadian and Thomas slipped coming onto Elk Ridge...it was a slick stage. Or maybe they're just clumsy.

-Melanie forgot her Hopak boots at home, so she borrowed Viddy's boots, who borrowed Steve's, who wore his extra pair.

-The bread and salt didn't make it out in time for Hopak...and I'm sure all of the Ukrainians in the audience were REALLY disappointed.

-Michelle's parents sat on the front row during the whole show, cheering their hearts out and making up for the really quiet audience.

- Michelle forgot her Hungarian skirt, so Ashley let her borrow hers so that she could dance for her family.
- During intermission, Mackay met a mission buddy that served in Mongolia with him.
- Adam and Quincy messed up in a really really obvious way during Calussari and brought shame on their families for generations to come.
- Viddy didn't make it over the broom in Welsh for the first time ever.

Comment of the night: "You put on the show of the century!"

Question of the night: "What in the world is that "box thing," and who was the wierdo that was banging on it?" (last part added).

Striking the set took a while, since it was our first time, and the truck is kind of a tight fit. Then we went home with our host families.

Scott & Bethany Schachterle
St. George, UT to Bakersfield, CA

Saturday – February 24, 2007

Presenter: BYU Alumni Chapter – Bakersfield

We met the bus at the Dixie College Auditorium at 7:30 am after a lovely morning with our host families. Once under way, we were led in morning scripture study by Sam Griffiths. To begin Laura Bates led us in singing, "Give Said the Little Stream" and Cami Burton said an opening prayer. We had a good discussion on overcoming trials and the need for opposition in all things. Alicia Ingalls made the comment that sometimes the Lord sends us the same trial more than once so that we have another chance to deal with it better the next time it comes around. Sam wrapped up by reminding us that the Lord will contend with those that contend with us, and He will deliver His covenant people.

After morning announcements we had quiet time on the bus and almost everyone slept some. A little after we passed Las Vegas we took a rest stop at a truck stop. After that we enjoyed our box lunches that we had been given in St. George and watched the movie "Over the Hedge." It was Thomas Rawcliffe's birthday and his wife, Bethany, brought decorations to put up by their seat in the back of the bus. We sang happy birthday to Thomas and he got some extra teasing that his opponents were taking it easy on him while they played Madden Football on their laptops. Not long after the movie, the social committee took over the bus for three rounds of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" trivia. The \$200 questions were what stumped most people.

Toward the end of the long bus ride we began practicing one of our musical numbers for Sacrament Meeting and our fireside the next day, called "Savior May I Learn to Love Thee." Those on the team last year already knew the song, but in order to make it easier for the new people to learn the song, a pattern was adopted that changed the rhythm in a couple of places. When we arrived at our venue in Bakersfield (Ridgeview High School) the people who already knew the song were still trying to get the new rhythm, while the rest of us were still trying to learn the song. So, in his own words, Ed "kept us captive on the bus when we were all hot and

tired.” Ed prophesied that that would be included in the tour history, and (surprise!) he was right.

While we got off the bus and began to load-in, Janneke Marquez (who went to high school in Bakersfield), Ashley Oblad, Lyndsey Willis, Joshua (Shua) Park, and Steve Ord went to a nearby stake center to put on a folk dance workshop. There were around 40 people there, from children to senior citizens, and a majority of them were not members of the LDS church. A good time was had by all in teaching and learning dances like Bhangra and Cumberland Squares.

Meanwhile, back at load-in, there were some issues to deal with due to a small auditorium stage. Overhead lights had to be put up and adjusted one at a time by a person on a lift. Hopak had to be adjusted so only 12 couples were on stage, and some technicians and dancers had to stay and work through dinner, including the birthday boy, Thomas. Those who went to dinner at the same stake center where the workshop was held were treated to garlic chicken, tender beef steak with barbeque sauce, pasta, salad, rolls, and homemade cookies. We took plates back to those who had to stay at the auditorium.

We prepared for the show with a devotional and by practicing “Savior may I Learn to Love Thee.” Kathy Thomas, our trainer, got us all warmed up and we were ready for the show to start at 7 pm. However, we didn’t start dancing until about 7:30. The presenters from the BYU Alumni Chapter of Bakersfield stood up at 7:00 and began the program by singing and having the band play the BYU Fight Song. Then after acknowledging the BYU alumni in attendance, the Mercy Hospital, and the ushers it was time for the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance a soloist sung the National Anthem, and finally, following a prayer, our program began.

All the dances were tighter than usual because of the small stage. In “The Gathering” when Josh Park was thrown in the stick pull he rolled off stage. He was quickly able to jump back on stage and continued the dance. It did leave him with a mighty nice bruise, however. In Hopak when Josh Lamb was thrown up in the basket toss, his head went up into the curtains and lights. The stage didn’t have a run-behind, so we had to go outside to get to the other side of the stage. Luckily, that side of the building was not visible outside the school since Alicia Ingalls had to quickly remove her white tights in the “run-behind” just before Hopak. In Calussari, Thomas Rawcliffe cut his hand on his stick and during his fast change from Calussari into French Canadian he also had to get his hand bandaged enough to keep it from bleeding on stage. Then during his next fast change into Hungarian, Kathy did her magic and got it taped a little better so he could do his stick solo. What a birthday for Thomas.

Presenter: BYU Alumni Chapter Ventura/Santa Barbara

JOKE OF THE DAY:

“Jeff Tolsma walked into a bar, and asked for a drink. The bartender replied, “sure, but first, why the short pants???”

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

An older man stood up in Sunday school and said, “I’d like to say something to the young performers that we have here, on behalf of all of us....your show was the best show culturally, spiritually, and the performance was better than anything I have ever seen on PBS.”

We woke up refreshed with an extra hour of sleep, thanks to the time change. We dressed in our Sunday clothes of black skirts, pink shirts for the girls, blazers, gray pants, and yellow ties (except for Sam who must be color blind because his tie was green....) for the guys. We all met at the stake center where we had a quick rehearsal for the song, “Savior, May I Learn To Love Thee”, which we sang in sacrament meeting. After church we drove to a park where we ate our lunches. Ben and Mike ate quick, and went over to the basketball court where they played street ball with some local guys. Despite being dressed like missionaries in church ties and church shoes, our boys beat them 7 to 4. We got back on the bus and entertained ourselves with Sabbath day activities. Craig quoted “Anne of Green Gables” for all who were interested. We arrived at the church in Thousand Oaks where we rehearsed all of our songs for the fireside. We then had a yummy dinner of chicken and rice with three of the local singles wards. We mixed and mingled while we ate, and built some friendships during our quick meal. We then went back into the room where Ed announced who was speaking for the fireside. We went onto the stand, and the fireside started. Adam, Laura, Scott, Sam, Kimberlee, and Adi were the speakers, giving talks on the love of God, the creation, and purpose of Christ. We performed a couple of group numbers, and the band played their rendition of “All Creatures of our God and King”. We met up with our host families afterwards, and got a good night’s sleep in preparation for a busy week ahead.

Presenter: BYU Alumni Chapter Ventura/Santa Barbara

After waking up this morning and meeting together, we headed off for a show at an elementary school. We had to change in the hallway so we put lunch tables up to form a dressing room. The show went well. Afterwards we took the bus to a member’s house, the Andersons, where we had a wonderful lunch. For lunch we had a Café Rio style food bar. Many of the host families came and we visited while we ate. Some of the boys played an intense game of basketball. When it was time to go, Sister Anderson had us sing happy birthday to her daughter over the phone, then Steve Ord sang his famous birthday song with the dance included.

The Thousand Oaks Theater was really nice. We enjoyed performing on the stage. There was a full crowd and the show went really well with only an occasional little mess up here or there. After visiting with the audience we cleaned up as fast as we could and headed home with our host families looking forward to a good night's rest.

Kimberlee Couper
Thousand Oaks to El Centro, CA

Tuesday – February 27, 2007

Presenter: El Centro California Stake

We left El Centro at 8:30 am. The devotional was given by David Woolsey (Viddy). He talked about the Atonement. On the bus we discovered that Adam Grimshaw had an eventful morning at his host house in Thousand Oaks. He walked into the bathroom while his host mom was showering. He says, "I only saw legs!!!" The journey to El Centro was mostly quiet with lots of sleeping. We drove through a huge dust storm and passed fields of giant windmills.

We arrived in El Centro around 1:15 pm and unloaded. It appeared that we were in the middle of nowhere – perhaps we were. For dinner we went to the stake center and had BBQ beef. One of the men in the Stake has a big barbeque pit and he made all of the beef for us. It was delicious. During dinner we got to mingle with and meet our host families.

After dinner we went back to the venue, Southwest High School, and got ready for the show. Brian gave an excellent devotional. The show drew a small crowd with not as much energy as some of our other shows, but on the whole it was a good show. We were told after that we had a really great turn out for El Centro – over 50 is apparently a good turn out. We had somewhere in the hundreds.

The band played French Canadian for the first time tonight and did a great job!

El Centro is very close to the Mexican border, so a great part of the population of El Centro is Mexican. They kept asking if we do any Mexican dances. We told them yes, just not this year.

The T-shirt crew discovered a sound vacuum in the foyer that made our clogging sound amazing. It amplified sound just in the one spot in the room. Deborah also loved it for playing her fiddle. Lyndsey Willis announced that there are only 73 days until she and Russell get married.

Danny Marquez said it was his birthday today and everyone believed him. We later found out he was just kidding.

When we got to El Centro, Deborah went into town to buy strings. We wondered why it was called El Centro because it was really in the middle of nowhere. Deborah said town was very small.

Presenter: Joel Ward – BYU Alumni Chapter – LA South

Today was another great day on tour! Mike and Melanie got to spend the night in a private, luxurious RV while the Rawcliffe's had a poky, springy mattress and curtainless shower. We met bright and early at the stake center to leave El Centro forever. Mackay had devotional this morning as the rest of us slept. (Ha, Ha ... that was funny!) While on the bus the weather went from sunny to snowy back to sunny back to snowy and Frank yelled at us and told everyone to sit down. After a three hour bus ride we arrived in glorious Long Beach, California. While setting up the stage we had a surprising visit from Jeff and Colleen West and Jon Wood, which started an onslaught of "I had a little turtle," singing. We all got into costume and took a professional picture outside by the water fountains. It was really windy and cold, and the girl's ribbons were blowing in other's faces during the picture. Hopefully one of the pictures will get put in the church's Ensign.

After getting changed we quickly met on stage to help fold T-shirts. We tried to get as many done as we could before dinner because the venue needed the count in order for us to sell our merchandise. We then had the opportunity to choose from a variety of amazing restaurants for dinner. The Alumni Association gave each person \$20 for dinner that night. We narrowed the choices down to P.F. Changs, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Outback Steakhouse, and Island Burgers. It was all delicious and we were grateful for such a wonderful dinner.

When we arrived back from dinner, some members of the team got into costumes to go to a reception down in the green room to talk with people who were VIP guests at our show and share facts about our dance and their unique costumes. While this was going on, the T-shirt committee was going crazy because of all the extra work they had to do for this venue. We had to give commission of our total sales to the Performing Arts Center, so every T-shirt had to be accounted for before the show started when normally we just put out whatever we have in the boxes without counting. The T-shirt committee didn't make it to devotional, but they still made it on time for the show.

On with the show! Or so we thought . . .

The show was already late when Joel Ward, our MC and presenter for Long Beach ran off stage to find an award he realized he had forgotten and didn't come back for ten minutes! The introduction began, followed by the color guard and singing of the National Anthem by a big group of kids in sparkling red, white, and blue outfits. Our first number finally went on stage at about 7:55.

Many crazy things happened during our first show in Long Beach. . .

Bethany realized she was on the wrong side of the stage right before she was to enter for "The Gathering." She sprinted to the other side and made it on stage on time, but she still had her curly wing in! She ran off stage which then confused Melanie and Ashley who had to continue to dance the group section without her.

The floor mics were taped backwards, making our sounds a bit harder to hear. Jen set her Hungarian bottle shirt on the side of the stage instead of her Scottish slip, so all she had on under her slip was Janneke's little modesty slip. During Slovakian, Sarah whispered to Jen, "you have your earrings in!" "What?" Jen said. "You have your earrings in!" "What?" "YOU HAVE YOUR EARRINGS IN!" "Oh... so do you!" Jen and Sarah both had their diamond earrings in during Slovakian.

Indian girls were waiting on stage for the second half to start when the fog started coming out and the music started, but the curtain wasn't going up. The Indian girls had already begun the dance before the curtain began to rise. The man in charge of the curtain didn't hear Kristi say "stand by," so he would not open it even though she was saying "go curtain, go curtain" over and over.

To add to that, Michelle forgot to put on part of her costume for Indian and didn't pin on her head piece. The ropes from her bells also came undone.

Alicia realized she had her character shoes on for Szatmari instead of her boots, so she sprinted back to the dressing room, changed her shoes, and barely made it on stage in time.

All in all, it was a good day. Our show finished pretty late, so we had to hurry and get on the bus so that Frank could get enough "time off" during the night. We got to Atherton chapel around 11:00 pm and finally met the host families we would be staying with for the next three days.

Ben Watson
Long Beach, CA

Thursday – March 1, 2007

Presenter: Joel Ward – BYU Alumni Chapter – LA South

Mark Ohran's birthday (34) and Wilford Woodruff's birthday (200)

This morning started out great with all of us showing up at the Long Beach chapel to receive sack lunches and board the bus for travel to the venue. We performed for a crowd of 2,800 children from Long Beach. The children were a very responsive group of kids—cheering in all the right places . . . and in some places where we've never received a cheer (i.e. when the Welsh cloggers light the lighter).

After the children's show we all went into the house-area to meet the kids. All of them were eager to meet the performers to shake hands and high-five. It took a lot of effort for the ushers to move the kids out of the auditorium because they were so engaged in talking with the performers. Most of the kids could not believe we were college students and that we had to study at school, too! It was a delight to be with the kids (as it always is).

After cleaning up, we loaded the bus to head on over to Joel Ward's family home. However, once everybody was on the bus, Cynthia Gubler (our tour manager) decided to announce we were not leaving until all props were accounted for. Therefore, anybody who was responsible for a prop got off the bus and went into the theater to collect and account for every prop. A bit of a bother—but necessary none-the-less.

Once all props were accounted for, we headed to the Ward family home. Joel Ward hosted us with options to swim, play volley ball, play pool, check e-mail, . . . and in general just to *relax*. It was a great four hours where the group could bond and have a great time with each other. Craig Madsen put on a good show for the group as he donned two children's inner-tubes and while carrying a plastic swan under his arm, jumped off the diving board! Needless to say we all laughed (especially Bethany Rawcliffe).

Other highlights at the Ward home included a "chicken fight" in the pool with teams made up of Josh Park, Ben Watson, Steve Ord, Brian McMullin, Thomas Rawcliffe, and Craig Madsen. Also, we crammed about 12 people into the hot-tub which probably should only fit 5 people. . . . Oh, and we can't forget the moment when the afore-mentioned six fellas grabbed Ed and thrust him into the (cold) swimming pool. He was a good sport about it and actually thanked us for throwing him in. The gang decided to throw Megan Keffer and Lindsay Griffin in, as well.

The evening at the Ward home continued with other activities, including a volleyball game—where Jesse Christopher was one funny guy to watch. The game would have been quite dull without his funny antics—to include collapsing to the ground while missing a dig or spike.

Dinner at the Ward home was catered by Pollo Loco, and included BBQ'd chicken, rice, beans, tortillas, and salsa. It was fantastic!

After dinner, we had about an hour left, so a group of us joined together and watched Monday's episode of *24* on a computer in the office-room (that group included Ed Austin, Ben Watson, Lindsay Ozborn, Adi Hicar, Brian McMullin, and Steve Ord—all members of the *24*-club that meets at the Austin home on Monday nights to watch the weekly episode of *24*).

The evening show at the theater was about as full as the children's show, with about 2800 people in it. Before the show, Jeff Tolsma gave the devotional, encouraging us to not run faster than we have strength and that all things should be done in wisdom. Laura Bates prayed for us.

The show went off very well. However, a few incidents stick-out that are worth smiling about—one of which includes when Quincy Robinson went out for Calus without a hat on and didn't even realize it until about a third through the dance, whereupon he left stage and came back on with a hat to finish the dance! Another classic moment occurred when Ben Watson realized his shirt was untucked during the hat dance and decided to fix it—forgetting that if he moved his hands to fix the shirt he would disrupt the hat-transferring in the circle. Needless to say, he fixed the shirt and disrupted the rhythm of the hat transfer! No worries, though. Although there were a few dodgy moments, the show was very good.

After the show, Rustin Van Katwyk and Ben Watson met up with eight Ukrainians who were overjoyed and expressed their congratulations on a job well done on Hopak. They were adamant to say that the folk dancers did a wonderful job conveying the true spirit of Ukraine as we performed Hopak.

All-in-all, today was a fantastic day for this tour. Good times were had by all before, during, and after the shows. It is days like today that make us grateful not only for the incredible opportunity it is to be associated with the Folk Dance Team, but to be associated with the stellar individuals that make up this team—true friends in every aspect of the term.

Janneke and Danny Marquez
Long Beach, CA

Friday – March 2, 2007

Presenter: Joel Ward – BYU Alumni Chapter – LA South

TGIF... Although we had two performances today, it was still quite a fun Friday! Things started out the same as they did yesterday (Thursday the 1st). Our bus ride from our host family drop-off point provided great time for a devotional before the matinee performance at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center. The kids loved the show, and I'm sure many of us had some great experiences talking with kids, shaking hands, and taking pictures. But, as great as performing is, I'm sure we were all grateful for the "free time" we had after the first performance because it was definitely a nice break.

So, it seems like there were two options for activities. About 30 people, including the Gublers and Kathy, headed across the street to the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific for the afternoon. What a fun experience it was to explore life under the sea! I think the funniest fact we learned was that there are certain species of fish, that if they undergo stress, will change genders! Imagine that. There's a pretty funny picture of Laura, Janneke and Kathy in front of this exhibit, looking a bit stressed (photo courtesy of Danny)! Also, there was a pretty cool 3D movie about the "Monsters of the Abyss". Others had a great time playing with the stingrays in the pool that were pretending to be Shamu (by splashing you with water). So, I'm sure everyone who went to the aquarium had a great time and found something that interested them.

The second largest group of people headed to the beach with Ed for some relaxing in the sun and water. They report that it was fun to see Ed in his childhood habitat. He ran around excited as could be showing everyone where he used to play as a kid and where on the hill his house was. Some say it was like having biology 101 with Ed. They had a fun time playing frisbee on the beach where they were lucky enough to find a quiet little cove. They were virtually the only ones around. This was due to Ed's knowledge of the area. While exploring, the group found starfish, tiny crabs, and a myriad of other sea creatures. They even came across an octopus in a tide pool.

Then, the time came where we had to get back to the LBPAC for a nice dinner with our host, Joel Ward of the BYU Alumni Association, Los Angeles South Chapter. We all dressed in our best dress to attend this fantastic dinner on the 3rd terrace level. Joel was so kind to present each

of us with an 8x10 photo of our group outside the LBPAC from a couple days before. Thanks so much, Joel! There was a beautiful view of the harbor at sunset, and so it couldn't have been more perfect. Of course, I'm sure everyone can admit that they ate too much and so we had to put forth a little extra that night for the performance. Yet, it wasn't too hard because I think that night we were completely sold out of seats! The auditorium holds 3,051, and I heard we were close to if not at full capacity. There were several dignitaries in attendance, including the Mayor of Long Beach. After the show, we finally had to strike again after a 2-day hiatus, and we got home to our host families for the last time in Long Beach.

Oh yes, and the sound was extraordinary that night, so let's all thank Danny for his hard work this tour! So long, Long Beach!

Quincy Robinson

Long Beach, CA to Henderson, NV

Saturday – March 3, 2007

Presenter: City of Henderson

Wow, today was the day of our last performance on Mid-semester tour . . . amazing to think that it passed so quickly. All those days have gone past, and all the homework we said we'd get done during the 10 days still waited for us somewhere on the bus.

We packed up and said goodbye to Long Beach and all the fun memories made there (but we still had our cool t-shirts!) and then it was off to Las Vegas! After sleeping our way there we arrived in early afternoon to discover an amazing outdoor theater with a cool ceiling. After being amazed at the cool looking amphitheater, we soon took note of the stage.

It was a nice hard cement stage.

While the stage and sound was set up the men laid out a marley floor that would help "soften" our blow. We set up the stage and then we went to dinner.

There was some great food laid out for us and the people that arrived at first had a great meal. However, the hosts discovered that folk dancers like to eat a lot ("eat, folker, folker, eat!") and we quickly consumed all the food they had. They had to request more food, and the technicians and band members were nice enough to let the dancers get some food first.

After dinner we went back to the stage and went to our dressing rooms to set up. The dressing rooms were set up so that the guys were right across the hall from the girls, thus allowing for some interesting conversations as the show progressed. As the intermission began the girls ran down the hall yelling, "My braid, my braid!" (A comment I'm sure was made at every show during the tour, but it was a comment the guys hadn't heard before). Something got into the guys and a few (including yours truly) called back to the girls in high pitched voices saying: "My braid, my braid!"

The girls high pitched sounds coming from across the hall in the men's dressing room annoyed the girls, and Megan Keffer went so far as to throw her character shoe at the men. Poor Josh Lamb, who had nothing to do with the mocking, was directly in the line of fire and got pegged by the shoe!

Kathy Thomas gave the devotional before the show and she told us that she would be praying for soft cement for us so that we wouldn't be hurt while we danced. While I know that the ground wasn't as soft as some stages, it was definitely not as hard as it should have been. Thanks for the prayers, Kathy. And even though the ground was hard, I still noticed the dancers kept on smiling and didn't let the audience know it was harder on the feet. I was especially proud of Megan Keffer, who smiled and kept dancing although her feet were dying!

At the beginning of the show there was an award given to an old folk dancer, also known as Ashley's old dance teacher Kathy Bunker

Some other fun things that occurred during the show were:

Alicia decided she didn't want tan legs during Hopak, so she opted to wear white tights instead (I'm sure no one noticed!)

Brian and Steve-O pulled out their video camera and held a film shoot in the hallway backstage during clogging. Apparently it was a western and there was some gun slinging included in the filming. (Hopefully no one died . . . that would have been bad!)

While the clogging taps allowed for some sound on the marley floor, Irish could not be heard. (Were there hardshoe dances in that Irish suite? I couldn't tell by the sound!) Instead of the sound of hardshoes resounding throughout the amphitheater, it sounded more like rubber gloves pounding into soft feather mattresses . . . definitely not the effect we were looking for.

During the Hungarian Suite Cynthia and Tim Gubler and Russ Wulfenstein demonstrated their own Hungarian dancing skills offstage on stage left. They placed water bottles on their heads and "carefully danced around." Who knew that Tim and Russ had that in them! Next time we perform Hungarian we'll have to send them on stage instead!

Since this show was so close to Provo, we had a few old PACers drive down and watch the show. Dave Marriott and Jud Preator were in the audience to cheer us on, and Summer Wilson (who lives in Las Vegas) also attended the show. It was fun to have them there and see some old friends supporting us.

We also had a visit from Teri, an old athletic training BYU student who had worked with Kathy in the dance training room. She was able to help backstage and it was great to have her help.

After the show we packed up, and went to our respective host families. A few of the students were lucky and got to make a quick trip down to the strip to get some fun pics taken downtown. We'll keep them nameless to protect their identity, since I'm sure they had fun!

Today our fun in the sun ended and we had to take the trip back to reality. The trip was a great one, however. The morning began bright and early as usual. We met at the Pebble Canyon Ward parking lot and were immediately directed into the chapel. Because it was a broadcast Stake Conference in Nevada, we had our own sacrament meeting. A member of the Stake Presidency was kind enough to come and preside over our meeting. I felt like we were a little branch meeting together. Our meeting was conducted by Jeff West, and we had three great speakers who were asked only minutes before hand. Ben Watson gave a talk on charity, Bethany Schachterle shared her testimony, and then Adam Marriott talked about scars and the Atonement. It was a great experience to be able to gather as a team and have Sacrament Meeting together.

After the meeting we loaded onto the bus for the journey home. On the road we continued with our church meetings. For Sunday School Ed decided to have a testimony meeting. Steve Ord started us off and we had a wonderful testimony meeting. It seems extra special to have a testimony meeting when it is with many of your very best friends.

Following the testimony meeting we had quiet time until we reached St. George. In St. George we stopped for a nice meal at Chuck-A-Rama and then loaded back on the bus for the remainder of the trip. After we got back on the bus, Brian McMullin and Jen Gerrard finished reading the spotlight cards. We had a good time learning interesting facts about everyone and trying to guess who they were.

Sunday wouldn't be complete without Priesthood and Relief Society, so on the way home we had a Priesthood and Relief Society lesson on being member missionaries. The lesson was given by Cami Burton and Jesse Christopher. They did an excellent job and we had lots of participation. It was a very appropriate lesson to finish up our tour.

As we neared home Frank, our bus driver, took a minute to talk with us. He told us about how he was worried to take us on tour. He said he had heard many horror stories about the BYU tours and how they work you so hard from early in the morning to late at night. He then told us how he appreciated us and thanked us for being his friend and helping him during a rough time. Frank had a son who was blind and had a number of other medical conditions. His son died on December 23, 2006 and Frank has been having a really hard time. We had been talking a lot about charity throughout the course of the day and Frank proceeded to tell us about the example of charity his son was. What a blessing it was for us to be able to become Frank's friends and help him during this hard time.

Shortly after Frank spoke with us we arrived home. Luckily it wasn't snowing and was fairly warm. We were worried about coming home to mounds of snow. After quickly unpacking, everyone headed home with memories of a great mid semester tour, and were excited- or not so excited- to hit reality and catch up in school.



Performing Arts Management

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Updated: April 13, 2007

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE ITALY AND FRANCE JULY 17 – AUGUST 19, 2007 ITINERARY

Tues, July 17		Provo to Europe
4:00 am	Meet at Richards Building	
	Depart for airport	
7:40am	Depart for Chicago-American 1844	
11:40 am	Arrive Chicago	
3:35pm	Depart for Rome-American 110	
Wed, July 18		Rome
7:50 am	Arrive Rome	
	FREE TIME in Rome	
	<i>(bus company will drop the group off downtown at Piazza Indipendenza/corner Via Castelfidardo)</i>	
1:40 pm	<i>Ed and Vickie Austin arrive at ROME FIUMICINO, ITALY (FCO). Terminal C. Air One, AP 4221.</i>	
2:00 pm	Rest at hotel	
5:00 pm	FREE TIME	
Hotel:	Rome IBIS (2 nights) Via Vico Vigano, 24 00133 Roma	
Thurs, July 19		Rome
6:45 am	FREE TIME: Vatican City/Rome	
8:00 pm	Back to hotel	
Fri, July 20		Bari 458 km/5:00
8:00 am	Travel to Bari	
2:30 pm	Outreach-Meet the mayor with gift	
Hotel:	Hotel Best Western Via Vittorio Veneto 29/A, Bari-Palese, I-70128, Italy	

Sat, July 21		Bari	
Am	FREE TIME: Beach		
7:30 pm	Performance-Location Kursaal Santa Lucia		
Sun, July 22		Bari	
	Attend church with local ward		
12:00 pm	Lunch-at hotel		
7:00 pm	Fireside-Bari Stake Center		
Mon, July 23		Florence	718 km/8:00
8:30 am	Travel to Florence		
5:30 pm	Arrive in Florence		
	FREE TIME		
Hostel:	Villa Camerata (2 nights) Viale A.Righi, 2/4 50137 Firenze (FI)		
Tue, July 24		Florence	
	FREE TIME		
Wed, July 25		Padova	221 km/3:00
9:00 am	Travel to Padova		
	FREE TIME		
Hotel	CAMPANILE PADOVA Corso Stati Uniti, 54 35127 Padova		
Thu, July 26		Venice	
	Travel to Venice (<i>by train</i>)		
	FREE TIME		
Fri, July 27		Castiglione del Lago	337 km/4:30
Am	Travel to Castiglione del Lago Festival		
2:00 pm	Arrive at Festival		
	Meet with Mayor for small gift exchange		
7:00 pm	Performance-in a town yet to be determined (1 hour)		(<i>Only us</i>)
Sat, July 26		Castiglione del Lago	
Am	FREE TIME: Swimming in the lake		
7:00 pm	Performance-in a town yet to be determined (1 hour)		(<i>Only us</i>)

Sunday July 29		Castiglione del Lago	
Am	FREE TIME		
Pm	Small parade, followed in the town square by a short performance		
7:00 pm	Performance-Castle Stage (40 Minutes)		
Mon, July 30		Cori	239 km/ 3:30
	Transfer to Cori Festival		
	<i>We really didn't leave until Tuesday. Today we went to Betolle and did a show</i>		
Tue, July 31-Sun, Aug 5		Cori	
	Festival della Collina		
Mon, August 6		Marseille, France	958 km/11:00
8 :30 am	Depart for Marseille		
	En route: Visit Pisa or Monte Carlo		
Pm	Arrive Marseille		
Hotel	ETAP Hotel Marseille Vieux Port 46 rue Sainte 13001 MARSEILLE FRANCE		
Tues, August 7		Travel Day-Confolens, France	628 km/8:30
Am	Depart for Confolens		
	En route: visit Carcassonne		
3:00 pm	Arrive in Confolens		
Wed, August 8		Confolens, France	
9:30 pm	Opening Ceremonies		
	Theatre de plein air		
Thu, August 9		Confolens, France	
	FREE DAY		
Fri, August 10		Confolens, France	
3:00 pm	Horizons du monde		
	Theatre de plein air		
Sat, August 11		Confolens, France	
9:30 pm	Grand nuit du 50th		
	Theatre de plein air		

Sun, August 12	Confolens, France	
3:00 pm	Ville en fete Centre Ville	
Monday, August 13	Confolens, France	
9:45 am	Stage de danse	
5:00 pm	Stage de danse	
Tuesday, August 14	Confolens, France	
3:00 pm	Eclats de Danses Arenes du Capitole	
9:30 pm	Nuit en Fete Centre ville	
Wed, August 15	Confolens, France	
3:00 pm	Ville en Fete Centre ville	
9:30 pm	Panorama de cloture <i>(This will be the closing and a 50th celebration, starts with a ceremony for Henri Coursaget)</i>	
Thu, Aug 16	Paris	429 km/6:00
Am	Travel to Paris <i>(Mary Bee Jensen joins group for remainder of tour)</i>	
	Visit Marseille in route	
pm	Arrive in Paris FREE TIME	
Hotel	IBIS Eiffel Cambronne 2, rue Cambronne 75740 Paris Cedex 15 France	
Fri, Aug 17	Paris	
	FREE DAY	
Sat, August 18	Paris	
	FREE DAY	

Sun, August 19

Paris to Provo

8:00 am	Depart for Charles De Guale Airport
11:40 am	Depart for Dallas Fort Worth-American 49
3:20 pm	Arrive Dallas Fort Worth
5:05 pm	Depart for Salt Lake-American 1925
6:50 pm	Arrive Salt Lake

MacKay Olson
Provo, UT

Thursday/Friday – July 12-13, 2007

Summer tour began with everyone trying on costumes. The dancers checked out their stuff, and the men in the band got two new shirts. The ladies were thrilled to get not only some new shirts but some amazing leather vests. They are equipped with intricate leather fringe and copper patterns that are to be worn in the parades. They are definitely looking forward to that.

Shane presided at the meeting that followed and the Security people briefed us on Italy and France. Their scare stories of pick-pocketers were totally negated by Jonathan Wood when he stated that of all the tours he's been on only 1 person has been pick-pocketed.

Jonathan Wood then gave a presentation about the per diem cards and such. It was delightful.

After the meetings, the band stayed for another two hours frantically trying to learn a new dance number. Towards the end the band was feeling fairly comfortable about playing it the next day.

The following day we had a day-long rehearsal with Delynne. We went through each individual number, then had a full rehearsal in blacks. The band played the song they had so diligently learned the night before only to discover that the arrangement is wrong for the dance and everything needed to be changed — so much for hard work.

The long rehearsal finally finished around eight, and we were all very excited to return to our homes, rest, and prepare for tour.

Jennifer Garrard
Provo, UT

Saturday – July 14, 2007

Saturday started our second day of rehearsals. From 9:00-10:00 a.m. we had sectionals with Waltz and Journey. We began a full run-through with costumes at 10:00 which, with the exception of Gallop, went considerably well. We had some special guests including Craig's parents, Ben's mom, and Gary Larson. Delynne did an excellent job leading our run through. We broke for lunch at 12:30 and returned at 1:30 for a fireside and parade rehearsal. Ben and Shane led us in our fireside rehearsal and Lindsay Ozbirn taught us the parade routines. We finished around 4:00.

Jennifer Garrard
Provo, UT

Monday – July 16, 2007

Monday was our packing day. Alicia and Dave Woolsey diligently led us in packing our costumes. Then we had one last fireside rehearsal. We finished at around 12:30 and were given a little break until 6:30 to gather our wits about us and either start or continue to pack. At 6:30 we met at Shane's house for a pre-tour meeting. We were graced with thoughts from Ben, Lindsay Ozbirn, Shane, Mary Bee, and Emilee Wright. Then we were off to prepare ourselves for tour!

Jeffrey Tolsma
Provo, UT to Rome, Italy

Tuesday – July 17, 2007

The morning of anticipation finally arrived. Most of us were not looking forward to the 4:00am meeting for the bus but the fact that we were leaving for Italy and France for five weeks made it seem that 4am couldn't come fast enough. Many of us on the team used Monday night and Tuesday morning to pack and use the 24 hour open service of Wal-Mart to our advantage with last minute trips. Some of us just stayed up all night knowing that we could sleep on the bus, in the airports, and on the planes with the long journey ahead.

We met at the Richards Building on BYU Campus to meet the bus and away we went on our journey! We left the Salt Lake City Airport on American Airlines at 7:30am and headed for a 4 or 5 hour layover in Chicago. We left Chicago O'Hare Airport bound for Rome on a 3:35pm flight. ... It is hard to not make a travel day sound like a travel log when that is really what it is, but Ben Watson livened it up a little for all of us.

As we all boarded the plane at Chicago and took our seats, it became apparent that we were missing somebody from the group. We quickly found out it was Ben Watson. Shane Wright and others were desperately trying to reach Ben on his cell phone. It took about 7 calls to get through and knowing the plane was ready to depart from the terminal Ben was about 3 terminals away from the plane at the post office trying to mail something off. So, in short, we almost left Ben and Ben found himself sprinting like a track star through the airport trying to reach the plane in time. When he arrived at the gate after having the plane wait for him he was greeted by the flight attendant over the intercom with, "Hello Ben Watson. Glad you could join us!" ... We were off and in the skies towards Rome! The flight was about 8 hours or so and we chased the sunrise through the night and arrived in Rome in the morning on Wednesday having traveled all day Tuesday. It's a great experience traveling with a team and enjoying the games and conversations with everyone in the airports and the flights as we travel.

After many hours of flying, we finally arrived at our destination, Fiumicino Airport in Rome. We didn't have to wait too long as we went through the passport check and baggage claim, but when we got to the bus and met up with our driver, Alfredo, we discovered our luggage did not all fit on it. Mark Ohran and Ben Watson left the group to rent a van to put our bags in, so the rest of us waited for about an hour. Finally, we were on our way into the historic city of Rome! Alfredo dropped us off near Termini, which is the central metro station in Rome where the two metro lines cross. The first unfortunate event of the day happened at this time, when Mark realized that his cell phone was gone. It was in a holster on his hip, so he believes it fell out while he was lifting and moving luggage. Instead of enjoying the first few hours in Rome, Mark and Ben spent the time calling back to America to cancel the cell phone.

In the meantime, the rest of the group hopped on the metro and got off at the Colosseo stop, which is right by the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Everyone walked around the Colosseum and the Roman ruins, and some people were able to make it out to the Pantheon as well. While at the Colosseum, Danny and Janneke Marquez ran into some trouble with the men in soldier costumes that you can take pictures with. When they demanded 10 euro for posing in the pictures, Danny said it was too much and gave him 2 euro instead. The man started pushing Danny around and pulled on his arm if he tried to walk away. Eventually, Danny and Janneke deleted the pictures and got their 2 euro back. Janneke was not too thrilled about her first encounter with an Italian.

We were all supposed to meet back at the bus at 2:00 that afternoon, but at that time there were only about 6 people there. A big group of people had gone to the wrong side of the metro station when heading towards our meeting place, while others had just underestimated the time it would take to get back. Once everyone got on the bus, we headed to our hotel, IBIS Roma Tor Vergata, to check in and meet up with Ed and Vickie Austin. The students crashed on the couches while Shane Wright checked in and waited for Mark and Ben in the luggage van so we could move into our rooms. Unfortunately, the van was lost, so it took them 2 ½ hours to get to the hotel.

After resting, we got back on the bus and went into Rome. After a few more hours of sightseeing, which included the Spanish Stairs and the inside of the Colosseum, we got back on the bus at 8:00 pm. This time, it was Ed and Shane's turn to be late for the bus, so Shane said he would buy us gelato the next time he was late. After our return to the hotel, we moved our luggage into the hotel and went to bed. This first day of tour was an exhausting day, but we saw a lot and had a lot of fun.

Steve Ord
Rome, Italy

Thursday – July 19, 2007

Our second day in Rome would be a day of education, art, fun, and frivolity. With an early morning start we went straight to the Vatican City at 7AM. We waited in line for three hours for the city to open, but were happy to be towards the front of the line when it did open because the line went on and on for blocks. While we waited we took turns with half the group walking around St. Peter's Basilica. When the museum opened our group entered with student ID's high in the air.

The museum was incredible. With our headsets we enjoyed seeing Egyptian mummies, ancient Greek sculptures like the Laocoon, beautiful tile floors, tapestries, and statues like a copy of the Discobolis. We saw the School of Athens by Rafael, and most importantly the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo. The whole experience was almost an overload of sweet goodness.

After Vatican City everyone was free to go experience Rome for themselves. Some followed the exciting Path of Illumination from Dan Brown's book, "Angels and Demons." Other people walked around the Medici Gardens, down the Spanish Steps, past the Trevi Fountain, through the Pantheon and down into Ancient Rome to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Some very interesting places that people talked about were the cathedral of the skulls and bones, the Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, and the Santa Maria del Popolo Cathedral in the Piazza Popolo. Everyone had stories to tell of beautiful things they had saw and done whether it had been souvenirs and paintings bought, or fountains that were waded in. It was a great day in Rome.

The day was also speckled with a few downers. Poor Josh Lamb and Josh Parks were overcharged for their small lunch paying over 23 Euro each for three items. Danny and his lunch group got yelled at by their waiter for not leaving a tip and then Lyndsey Wulfenstein and her lunch group were yelled at for leaving a tip. It must have just been a bad day for that waiter. Viddy almost got pickpocketed on the Metro but luckily his wife Alicia saw the pickpocket with his hand in Viddy's back pocket and scared him away.

Rome was a great place to explore. The alleys were beautiful, the flowing water out of taps in the city were refreshing and nice to have, and the art was inspiring. The sites and smells of Rome will never be forgotten. I loved seeing the scooters and smart cars zoom zoom zoom down the narrow streets and I've never smelled so good as I did after coming out of the Gucci store lightly scented with their newest Gucci cologne. The pizza, the pasta, and the gelati were all excellent. We could all see why all roads led to Rome. It was amazing.

Russell Wulfenstein
Rome, Italy to Bari, Italy

Friday – July 20, 2007

After days of exploring the wonders of Rome, our feet and bodies were ready for a day of lounging in the shaded, air-conditioned comfort of our bus. An early breakfast comprised of croissants, toast, and assorted cereals in the hotel restaurant concluded our adventures in Rome and we were soon on the long road to Bari. Heroes like Harry Potter, Eragon, and Robert

Langdon accompanied us on our trip. At our 10:30 restroom break, we ravaged the shelves of the candy aisle and gawked at odd cuts of meat packaged with woodblocks and twine.

A few more hours brought us to Bari. Following an impressive foray into the narrow alleys that apparently didn't lead to the Hotel, Alfredo prevailed. We were given just under an hour to secure our luggage in our rooms and food in our bellies. As if anyone might be able to accomplish both tasks with time to spare, we were also afforded the option to swim at a private beach, provided that we could also manage to make ourselves presentable before 3:45. Needless to say, there just wasn't enough time to go around. Lunch was rushed, and no one went to the beach. While 15 of us ate over-priced pasta at a restaurant with a view, a one-eyed waiter, an impressive display of fresh seafood, the rest of the team ate at a bar across the street from the hotel. The owner made special arrangements to re-open for business during his break and cooked something quick on our behalf.

Back at the hotel a meeting was held in a basement conference room with our presenters, though I can't say what happened because Craig, Brian, Lyndsey W. and myself were set back by a supposed shortcut and made our grand entrance just in time to exit and board the bus.

In no time at all, we had arrived in the center of town, passed through security, and entered the office of the Mayor. Greeted by a youthful environmental official and a man introduced as "the one who is the Mayor when the Mayor is not available," we began our presentation of gifts, only to be interrupted by a man who was given no introduction, but was quite apparently the one who is the Mayor when the Mayor *is* available. He shook many of our hands and made a joke about us trying to give him a Book of Mormon. We sang "Irish Blessing," posed for pictures, shook hands, and said "Grazie" on the way out.

Seated on the roof of the hotel, pasta, a plate of rolled quiche with green beans, and three pineapple rings filled our stomachs. The inspiring sea-view and surrounding architecture faded in a soft Italian sunset.

Thomas Rawcliffe
Bari, Italy

Saturday – July 21, 2007

We started out the day by spending a few hours on the beach. The hotel said it was a private beach but it was actually very crowded. Nobody cared how packed the beach was because we were all excited to get into the water to escape the heat. We had chicken fights, did back flips in the water and swam out to the buoy. Also, several people from the group enjoyed playing volleyball with groups of Italians. We then waited at the beach for our lunch from the hotel. It showed up at the last minute as we were leaving to get ready to go to the theater. We ate our sandwiches on the walk back to the hotel.

After hurriedly cleaning up from the beach we rode the bus to the theater. It had no air conditioning and we started sweating as soon as we walked in the door. This was the first time Ed had seen us dance since the end of April, so naturally we had a three hour rehearsal on the stage. We were all thoroughly drenched in sweat by the time we were done.

Following our rehearsal we headed back to the hotel for another delicious meal. Then it was back to the theater for a 9:00pm show. The dressing rooms were very small and spread out on 4 floors. Everyone found their own little nook to change in and for the most part things went well. The men were a little worried about getting their chaps on for Texas Fandango, especially with having to run off stage opposite of where they were and then back on again. During the show the band played Polka Quadrille into Texas Fandango about twice as fast as normal and half of the men didn't make it on stage in time.

When the show was over and we were arranged in our family portrait, a radio announcer, who was a guest at the performance, came on stage and began talking. We sat there for about 20 minutes, not having a clue what was being said, with sweat in our eyes doing our best to show interest and pay attention. When he was finished talking we visited with the audience and headed home at around midnight ready for the next day's adventures.

Sam Griffiths
Bari, Italy

Sunday – July 22, 2007

The church is true no matter what part of the world you are in. This morning we met in the basement of the hotel room to have a Sunday school lesson. Laura and I gave a lesson on the conference talk "Tongue of Angels." It is awesome to be able to meet together on tour and have a Sunday school lesson.

After the lesson, we went to sacrament meeting in Italian. The chapel was very nice and we even had padded chairs. The members seemed very excited to have us there despite the fact that we nearly doubled the size of their ward. The Italians are very warm-hearted and many of them speak broken English. We all tried hard to pay attention during the meeting, but it is not the easiest thing when you don't understand what is being said. Some tried reading the scriptures while others put their hands on their knees and tried staying awake. In the end most ended up dozing off. After sacrament we spoke with the members for a minute. Some discovered that Ettore, the boy who played the piano, taught himself how to play by ear. He also taught himself English.

Following our mingling with the members we headed back to the hotel for a delicious Sunday meal of lasagna and pork. Then on our way back to the chapel for a fireside we stopped by the church of St. Nicholas. He is the patron saint of Bari. The chapel was plain, but the ceiling was beautifully painted and adorned with wood carving or some type of plaster molding. We then headed for the ward building to give a fireside.

The fireside was our one and only for this tour. Things went well and as normal Ed picked the speakers about 5 minutes before the fireside. They did an excellent job speaking from the heart. Danny was able to participate which was fun for the Italians because he didn't need a translator. When the fireside was over we took pictures and visited with the members and their visitors. As we were heading for the bus several of the young single adults came up and asked what we were

doing that night. They wanted to come spend time with us. They agreed to meet us at our hotel after we had a chance to eat dinner.

After dinner about 15 people met with the young single adults to head into downtown Bari. The young adults brought their cars and everyone split up to ride into town. The group that went into town walked around and visited with the Italians (who were a riot). Most of them spoke some form of English and the Italian boys were anxious to show off for the beautiful folk dance girls. Many laughs were had as they wandered the busy streets of the city center, and as a pleasant surprise there were also fireworks to celebrate a saint of a neighboring town. After wandering around everyone returned to the hotel and said their good bye's to the Italian single adults. The group that stayed behind at the hotel used the time to relax, do laundry, play cards, or sleep. All in all it was a great Sunday in Bari.

Craig Madsen

Bari, Italy to Florence, Italy

Monday – July 23, 2007

Today was one long day as we traveled from Bari to Florence. We said goodbye to the nice air conditioned hotel near the Adriatic Sea and hello to the hostel in the woods. The tour itinerary listed our trek as an 8 hour bus ride, but since we stopped for lunch and short bathroom breaks along the way, the trip was closer to 10 hours. The long trip gave many people time to catch up on some sleep and journal writing. As we neared our destination, Brian McMullin pulled out all the stops and introduced to us the squirt gun assassin game. The guns were then passed out and it was “game on!” No one was to be trusted...

We discovered the hostel wasn't as bad as we heard it might be. A lot of us had most likely stayed in worse places before at one time or another. True, the rooms were quite cozy and a tad warm, but at least they had windows to provide a little air flow. After dropping our things off in our respective rooms, we met back together to head into downtown Florence to grab some dinner. Shane purchased bus passes for everyone and then most of us jumped on the bus and headed into inner Florence to look for places to eat while others stayed behind to eat closer to the hostel.

The short bus ride into Florence took us right to the main square where the breathtaking Duomo raised high above us in all its grandeur and majesty. Instantly the cameras came out, snapping photos before it got too dark. Then we split into smaller groups and went searching for places where we could experience the fine Italian cuisine that Florence had to offer. After about 2 hours in Florence, it was time to head back to the hostel for the night. I believe it only took people a few minutes in Florence to realize that they loved the city and were excited for the next day when they could spend all day sight seeing and experiencing all that Florence had to offer.

We started the day with a roll as hard as a rock and hot chocolate for breakfast at the hostel. Then we all walked down to the bus stop to ride into downtown Florence. We had to sprint the last 50 yards or so, but we all made it onto the bus!

As soon as we arrived in downtown Florence, we took a group picture in front of the Duomo. There was a random guy in a purple shirt who kept trying to be in our picture. Even when Adam Marriott kindly told him we would like a picture of just us, the man said, “Oh, okay!” and simply moved over six inches and posed again for a picture. We finally got him to at least stand on the end instead of in the middle, so thank goodness for photoshop!

After our group picture, Shane paid for us all to go to the Accademia Museum and see Michelangelo’s *David*. While we were waiting in line for the museum, a woman of unknown religious affiliation approached Shane and asked if we were from BYU. She said she could just tell because we had a different spirit about us than the other tourists—not to mention we were all wearing matching clothes. After a bit of a wait in line, we finally got in to the museum and found the *David*. We were struck with awe at the majestic, realistic, and monumental sculpture. Reading *The Agony and the Ecstasy* helped us understand the work and emotion that went in to creating this amazing work of art. We were especially impressed with the way the statue seemed so alive. It looked like more than just stone, unlike other sculptures we’ve seen. Members of our group were heard to make comments such as, “I will never be satisfied with another statue again,” because the *David* was so amazing.

After seeing the Academy Museum together, our group split up and all went their separate ways to enjoy our one day of Florence sightseeing. Destinations throughout the day included the Duomo, Uffizi Gallery, Bargello, Medici Chapel, Pitti Palace, Boboli Gardens, Michelangelo’s lookout, the river Arno and the Ponte Vecchio bridge, and of course the open market. Many of us purchased ties and earrings at the market for ourselves or as gifts for family and friends back home.

Another note from the day involves the release of final installment of the Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. The book was released on Saturday, but today was our first real opportunity to get it. Two members of our ensemble, Jesse Christopher and Russell Wulfenstein, paid 27.50 euro for it! That is close to \$50! However, Jesse is making a bit of money back on his by charging 2 euros to read his book after he is done.

Most of us got back to the hostel around 9:00pm, or should I say, 21:00. Then ensued the battle for laundry machines! Only two at the hostel were working, at a cost of 5 euros per load. A lucky few stayed up very late and were rewarded with somewhat-clean clothes. Others stayed up talking or playing cards. Deborah Bailey, Adam Grimshaw, and Jesse Christopher from our band had a little jam session. A guy from Poland jammed with them by playing percussion. Danny and Janneke Marquez were also there playing percussion. “The sweet moment was definitely when we played *Summertime*,” said Deborah Bailey.

Another small anecdote—there was a bat in the girls’ hallway! It flew from outside into one of the girls’ rooms not affiliated with our group, and subsequently got into the hallway that all of the girls shared. There was a lot of screaming and door slamming, until finally a man came upstairs with a broom and told us all to go in our rooms and close the door. The bat was never heard of again.

Adam Grimshaw

Florence, Italy to Padova, Italy

Wednesday – July 25, 2007

We all woke up this morning in the youth hostel in Florence, ate a hot chocolate - stone bread breakfast, and hit the road by eight o’clock. The bus ride to Padova took just under six hours including two breaks at gas stations. The slow journey was enlivened by the continuation of secret murders and petty theft. Kill count for the day topped out with David Woolsey killing three more victims before noon: Vickie Austin, Lyndsey Wulfenstein, and Edwin G. himself, a considerable task considering that all three victims were married and rarely alone (the game requiring that all murders must take place away from third party eyes). To add insult to injury, Dave Marriott successfully pick-pocketed Ed on the bus without being caught.

We arrived in Padova around 2pm. The afternoon was spent by most in their hotel rooms: napping, washing clothes, reading, watching TV, and journal writing. At 5pm we reconvened and traveled in the bus to the heart of Padova to get dinner. Most of the team went and visited St. Anthony’s church before splitting up for dinner. Mark, Kathy, and eleven students were late in finishing dinner and were left by the bus as our bus driver had to be home by eight o’clock.

Mark caught a cab back to the hotel to go grab the van to come and pick up the others. Meanwhile the remaining students spent the evening mimicking statues in gimmicky photographs, watching soccer, and wandering the city.

Michelle Hinton

Venice, Italy

Thursday – July 26, 2007

The day started out great with the best breakfast selection we’ve had so far. From freshly-squeezed orange juice to eggs, chocolate chip and jam filled pastries, light, fluffy lemon bread to yogurt and cereal; our taste buds enjoyed a pleasantly pleasing array of happiness. We loaded the bus and left by 8:00am. The train ride from Padova to Venice in groups of five provided a pleasant opportunity to get to know a few of our fellow passengers. With the assistance of brilliantly yellow signs and a great deal of determination to stick together, the entire group wound their way through the streets of Venice to St. Mark’s Basilica for a group picture. We had free time from 11:30 am until 5:00pm. The majority of the group’s time was spent wandering the narrow streets, fighting crowds and enjoying enticing shops filled with Venetian masks, glass, and other souvenirs. Free time was also spent. . .

Gaping in awe at St. Mark’s Basilica, aka the “church of gold.” The incredibly labor intensive, detailed mosaics that covered the interior ceilings, walls, and floors were mind-boggling.

Crossing the tourist-infested “Ponte Di Rialto,” a huge marble bridge over the Grand Canal. The convenient and beautiful water streets were interesting and beautiful in their own way.

Wandering through the Jewish Ghetto.

Enjoying somewhat improved prices for decent food. In Bethany’s words, “the fatty pizza was awesome.”

Spending crazy amounts of money on Venetian glass, masks, and other souvenirs.

Deborah was labeled a “bad girl” by an upset gentleman for unintentionally kicking a pigeon as she innocently attempted to make her way through the piazza in front of St. Mark’s Basilica. Deborah also impressed everyone with her Italian-speaking skills in talking the salesman down for her scarf.

Six team members enjoyed a thirty minute gondola ride for only eighty euros. They saw Marco Polo’s and Casanova’s Houses, and raced with other Gondola’s.

Treasure hunting for a purple doll that Alicia simply couldn’t live without.

Kathy and others kindly provided food of bread crumbs and corn kernels for the pigeons.

Dave Marriott and Josh Parks entertained a number of tourists as they clogged in the piazza.

Dave Marriott, Josh Parks and Michelle met a sweet woman named Barbara on the train trip back to Padova. Barbara danced with a professional Polish team for four years in her younger years.

Beggars *gave* Dave Marriott money.

Craig entered a restaurant practically starving, mouth watering for a juicy, filling, large steak. He was disappointed to receive a hockey-puck sized skimpy scrap of meat for his twenty euro splurge.

Casanova, aka Jeff Tolsma, was given a significant discount on a painting because he was touring Venice with five girls. His suave, charismatic nature convinced the salesman that he was Casanova.

“Shane and Mark were the first ones back for the 7:00pm curfew.” –Direct quote from Mark.

Sarah accidentally and innocently stepped backwards into a glass plate in a small, over-filled store. After being forced to pay for it, she asked for a bag to keep the broken remnants as a souvenir.

After a team meeting at 8:30pm, many spent their evening checking their e-mail, resting, finishing laundry, rehearsing for Journey, and playing “Settlers.”

Brian McMullin

Padova, Italy to Castiglione del Lago, Italy

Friday – July 27, 2007

Travel days provide a great opportunity to rest our tired feet. This morning we left Padova and headed to Castiglione del Lago. Castiglione is a quaint little town situated on a peninsula near a lake. In case you are wondering- yes there is a castle overlooking the lake. After our arrival we were shown to the third floor of an elementary school and told that would be our floor.

Upon inspection we discovered there were two rooms for the girls and two rooms for the boys. Best of all we had a whole bathroom all to ourselves. It had three lovely stalls and a trough sink with two faucets for all 42 of us to share. Our favorite part, of course, was the lack of toilet seats. Luckily our wonderful tour leaders came to the rescue by providing the “dolphin” seat furnished by our favorite local grocery store, Lidel.

After getting settled in we had a little rehearsal on the first floor of the school. The rehearsal was hot and sweaty- but needed and fun. After the rehearsal many went to explore the town. Everyone spilt into groups discovering things like, the lake, Lidel, the ATM, and best of all the internet café. After dinner everyone hung out in our hallway playing cards, Settlers, reading, or just chatting. It is nice to be able to take a break from sightseeing for a while and settle into festival mode.

There are three other groups involved in this festival — a group from Italy (the one that is hosting us), Venezuela, and Latvia. We hope to be able to meet them soon.

Alicia Woolsey

Castiglione del Lago, Italy (Narni)

Saturday – July 28, 2007

The Middle School, the Lake, & the Funicular!

(Ok, that’s a bad play off “The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe”—but what do you expect . . . I’m not C.S. Lewis)

Once upon a time there was a group of 42 Americans who traveled to Castiglione del Lago, Italy and slept in a middle school. Upon waking up on their first morning due to loud Italians across the street, bright early morning sun, and a monstrous street sweeper, they showered in their community showers (a new concept for many of the girls—luckily Sarah Sanderson & Laura Bates did actually walk into the men’s shower—they only considered it until they saw the men’s shower sign☺& made their way to breakfast of hot chocolate, bread, salami, swiss cheese, and jam/honey. Apparently those in charge of the vittles had not been informed of the peculiarities of the members of this group, including the lack of coffee and tea drinking, because the server had to keep going back for more hot chocolate. Also, not being used to bitter cocoa, we all put

several spoonfuls of sugar in our cocoa (Mary Poppins would have been very proud) to make it pleasurable and sweet to the taste.

After a happy meal, filled with delightful chocolate, several members of our group discovered that the door to our floor was locked & through thorough investigation Ed Austin was discovered as the culprit of this mishap; however, Shua Park foiled Ed's evil plan to lock us out of our rooms by shimmying himself up a pipe with ninja-like style and through an open window to unlock the door and save Aslan from certain death (oh sorry, Narnia reference). Anyways, he unlocked the door and we retrieved access to our beloved personal affects.

The group's post-breakfast activities included a large group venturing to the lake to play in the water and sand, while the rest of our group went to the internet café, did laundry, and wandered around town. One Son of Adam named David Woolsey (Viddy) and one Daughter of Eve called Alicia Woolsey (Slish) did their laundry and then proceeded to explore the surrounding area. Viddy and Slish walked up to the tower and castle on the hill and discovered a city on the hill. So, they walked down the cute, little streets of this seemingly magical town—maybe they were in Narnia after all—or perhaps that comes later in the day. Anyways, they wandered the town and went to the castle tower where they found a little café and a stage where the group would probably be performing on Sunday evening.

At 13:00 hours, the group reconvened to partake of lunch, then Ed arranged a tactical meeting at 13:45 hours where we discussed our battle plans for the day—or just talked about our show for that evening—take your pick on which sounds more exciting to you. After the meeting, the group proceeded to pack costumes, to put on make-up and to prepare to go to Narni, but first Ed called a mini rehearsal to go over our “bows,” before loading our mode of transportation to our said destination Narni.

The drive to Narni—the city that inspired C.S. Lewis' writings about Narnia says an old man talking to Ashley Oblad—took 2 hours, thus departing at 15:00 our arrival in Narni was achieved at 17:00. The city consisted of beautiful old buildings built into the mountain, so the view was just these colorful buildings seeming to rise out of the rock.

Well, 17:00 was the prescribed time for us to parade through the city, bring joy to all the good little girls and boys (oh wait, that is Santa Claus—oh well, we left him back in Bari); however, upon arrival we discovered that our parade time had been changed to 18:30. We took the extra time to prepare our battle stations in our one-tent dressing room and the men and women took turns changing into our brand-new Polka Quadrille costumes and the band girls—Deborah and Lindsay even dawned cowgirl fringe for the occasion. After transforming into prairie Americans from the Wild, Wild West, we took group pictures and admired how good we looked in our new costumes.

When it was time for the parade, we were herded 10 by 10 (a little different than Noah I guess) into the funicular to ride up the mountain and into the city. Once we were up in the city, we “paraded” (or walked and clapped—my personal favorite type of parading) to a small piazza and performed “Running Sets” and “Hambone.” After that, we “paraded” down to another small piazza and performed “Polka Quadrille.” Our mini performances were seemingly uneventful;

however, dancing on cobble stone can be precarious at times and several girls' ankles found holes in the cobble stone road during our dancing.

After performing "Polka," we stayed in the piazza and talked to people in the square for about a half an hour. Ben Watson—in clear Ben fashion—tried to make conversation with an Italian woman who was peering out of a 2nd story window. Viddy and Slish, however, took a more typical route and crossed the street to talk to a younger Italian couple. They ended up talking to the couple about everything from Italy to America to Mormonism and even polygamy. When MaryLaura (the Italian woman) asked Viddy if he had more than one wife, he quickly shook his head and said, "No, one woman is enough for me to handle." (or something like that)

Shortly thereafter, the group headed back to the stage and was served a yummy dinner of pasta, meatballs, and tomatoes; however, when we got there the festival was playing American country music over the stage speaker, so several in our group couldn't help themselves and started line dancing and country swing dancing before eating their meal.

After dinner, we set out all our costumes and changed into our first costume for the show, then we hung around the front of the stage talking and taking pictures while waiting for our appointed meeting time of 9:30 p.m. As it got closer to our meeting time, we were informed of a change in tactics (sorry, plans), and we were asked to take the funicular back up to the city and to parade back down to the stage behind the Korean group that would be performing first that night. Again this "parade," was only a few minutes long and consisted of walking, singing, and clapping—nothing too stressful, except for the car that almost killed Jeff Tolsma (J.T.) because they were mad that we were on their side of the road.

Our parade ended at the stage, but we continued walking down the stairs to have our devotional under the stage which we finished just in time to watch the Koreans begin their performance at 21:45. We left halfway through their performance to go back under the stage and warm-up with Kathy Thomas (our trainer), and our warm-ups lasted until we heard them announcing that we would be dancing next, so then the "Journey" family—they were performing first—ran upstairs to start the show.

Sean Murphy (Megan Murphy's husband) narrated our show for us in Italian and our show line up was as follows:

Journey
Blue Moon of Kentucky
Running Sets/Hambone
Bill's Reel
Frontier Jamboree (Polka Quadrille/Texas Fandango)
Orphan Girl
Southern Reflections
Hallelujah
The Gathering
Orange Blossom Special
Elkridge Mountain clog
Go Ye Now in Peace/God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Our show went very well despite the slippery boards, and I always enjoy performing on outside stages. Melanie Grace and Bethany Rawcliffe almost bit the dust on “Journey,” and Thomas Rawcliffe almost bit the dust on “Running Sets.” On the other hand, Viddy actually did bite the dust on “Running Sets,” but he popped back up quickly. Also, on “Running Sets,” the girls still split at the end even though there was only an exit on stage right—oops. And Elkridge Clog was ridiculous fast, not to mention the huge chunks of wood we removed from the stage with our clog shoes. Well, the audience seemed to really enjoy our show—small mishaps and all—though many of us had headaches from second-hand smoke by the end of the night and Megan Keffer’s contacts were making her eyes feel like there were needles in them due to the smoke—not the greatest feeling I’m sure.

After the show, we were getting ready to leave and 2 Italian men came up to Adam Marriott and one of the men said, pointing to the other man, “This is the boss and he wants a cowboy hat.” Adam Marriott replied that he needed his hat to dance and then told him to go talk to our boss and pointed the men towards Ed. Well, somehow Ed talked them out of wanting one of our cowboy hats, but for all we know the mafia (I mean, Mickey Mouse Club) may be tailing us right now. Also, as we were cleaning up, Quincy ran into the ceiling somehow and has a big crescent moon shaped gash on the top of his head—talk about a headache. The only thing that made the headache all better was the fun American oldies they were playing over the speakers as we were cleaning up—it even caused Ed and Vickie Austin to reminisce on their childhood and to start dancing together. Also, Rustin Van Katwyk and Deborah Bailey began to triple swing, while Alicia Woolsey, Steve Ord, and Shua Park went on stage and danced around with 3 little Italian girls.

It had been a fun night, but by the time we left after midnight, we were all exhausted. Unfortunately, some on our bus hadn’t been dancing all night because our Italian guides and the bus driver were all talking, singing, and laughing loudly in Italian. Our group finally made it to the middle school around 2 a.m. and dragged ourselves and our costume boxes up to bed to fall asleep and live happily ever after.

The End

Joshua Park
Castiglione del Lago, Italy

Sunday – July 29, 2007

Sunday dawned bright and early for some, but not so early for others. Only a handful of people got up to go to breakfast, everyone else was taking advantage of the opportunity to get a little extra sleep. Everyone managed to get up by 10:00am and we met the other groups for a parade through the town. At one point all of the groups stopped at a little house up on the hill by the castle. While we were waiting there the musicians began working their magic. Deborah and Adam Grimshaw went over and started jamming with the Latvians and Venezuelans. Soon everyone was singing together and having a great time.

Soon we continued our parade and marched to what seemed like a city museum or government building. There all the groups met with the governor and exchanged gifts. After our meeting with the mayor the parade proceeded to a little square where the townspeople had gathered. Each group did one number. We did Appalachian.

When the parade was over we headed back to the school to relax a little and have lunch before our sacrament meeting. This was our first sacrament meeting held by ourselves on tour. Our hallway was transformed into a little chapel with a table at the front and chairs put in rows. It is amazing the power the spirit has to change a school hallway into a sacred place where we could partake of the sacrament. It was fun to be able to prepare the sacrament with what we were able to find. We had tin pans and big paper cups with a little water in each one. It made for a memorable sacrament meeting.

In the evening we headed up to the castle for a show. How many people can say they have danced inside an old castle? We got there early and waited for the show to start. It finally started around 10:00pm. We were last on the program, so we were able to watch the other three groups before we performed. When we were loading our stuff into the dressing room there was a lady smoking in the men's dressing room. Ed kicked her out and she was not too happy, but we were grateful. The show was great and finally ended around 1:00am. That was not all, however, there was an after-show party.

Almost everyone made an appearance at the party, even if it was only for a minute. Then many departed for bed, while others went to call loved ones from the pay phone. Although our group was in bed, the party kept going all night and into the hours of dawn.

Ashley Oblad
Castiglione del Lago, Italy (Bertolla)

Monday – July 30, 2007

It was Brian McMullin's birthday. We all sang to him at lunch and the other three groups joined in. Nobody went to breakfast because we were all zonked out from going to bed so late – or should we say early. Most everyone was up by around 10:00am and the day was spent relaxing, doing laundry, or visiting the internet café.

A large group of people decided to go to the lake. We discovered that the lake was very shallow. You could walk way out into the lake and still touch the bottom. A portion of the lake was covered in nasty prickly seaweed. Many were attacked by the unfriendly stuff and came out with all kinds of scrapes. We didn't realize at the time that we were getting all cut up. Other than that the lake was great fun.

Lunch was delicious and when we were done we loaded into a couple of mini buses and headed to a town called Bertolla where we did a little show. It was a fun little informal show. At first we were worried that no one would be there, but as we danced the crowd grew and the square ended up full. Our dressing rooms were clear down the road in a little house.

Boys were on the second floor and girls were on the first floor. Because it was quite a jaunt to the dressing rooms a few costume changes had to be made in the alley ways by the side of the square where we were performing. Ed let us wear the same costume for several of the dances so we wouldn't have to do as much changing. During the show our three guides Lucia, Margarita, and Marcia were in the front row cheering us on.

When the show was over Jon Bay and Ben Watson were talking with a man they had met and he bought them a coke in the little store across the street—he was so proud to be with his new American friends. When the show was over and we were packed up, they took us to the local library (a building the size of a small house) and fed us a full fledged Italian meal.

There were like four different courses including pizza, and cantaloupe with cheese and salami. After completely stuffing us they sent us on our way back to Castiglione. When we got back to the school, Margarita, our main guide, said good bye to us. We were leaving in the morning and she wouldn't be able to come say goodbye then. She told us that we were the best, kindest, most polite group they have ever had at Castiglione. We all felt good knowing that she was touched and said our goodbyes to her. We will miss this fun little town.

Lyndsey Wulfenstein

Castiglione del Lago, Italy to Cori, Italy

Tuesday – July 31, 2007

After eating our last breakfast in Castiglione, (which consisted of hot cocoa, bread, cheese, and some kind of meat), we said our good byes and headed on our way. We arrived in Cori, Italy, a beautiful little country town, sometime in the afternoon. The Festival we would be participating in was called the Latium World Folkloric Festival. We met our friendly guides, Ilaria and Lucio, who quickly showed us to our rooms. Our group was placed on the top floor along with the Folk dance group from Tartastan. Ilaria and Lucio led us down the cobblestone streets to a little restaurant where we would be receiving our lunch and dinner everyday. They fed us a huge lunch and dinner, primarily made up of pasta! After dinner, Shane decided to treat us all to gelato at a nearby café. Yay for Shane (and PAM)!

After the group was full and satisfied by all the fun assortments of Italian ice cream, we then went to an accordion concert at the main stage. The first song was rather impressive, but as the night went on we soon grew weary of hearing the same two chords being played over and over again. Not to mention the overbearing volume! Luckily Mark had some toilet paper he could lend a few of us to stick in our ears. The music was not a waste however; a few of the dancers were invited to join some of the Italian dancers in the back for some dancing! The Italians were impressed by our fancy footwork and pas de basques. As the show came to a close, our leaders decided to slip out unnoticed at 11 p.m.

At midnight, when the show finally ended, we realized we had been abandoned like a little lost flock of sheep. At first we were hurt, but then found out that they were staying at a convent and had a curfew to meet.

We were then invited to attend a party on the roof of the school where we were staying. Careful not to offend our guests, (even though we were so tired!), we joined and ended up having a great time with the Chilean group and the Italians. Scott lasted the longest and stayed up until three or so in the morning. As we all filtered off to our rooms from the party, we were grateful for beds with clean sheets, and the many new friends we had made at the Cori Festival so far.

Shane Wright
Cori, Italy (Minturno)

Wednesday – August 1, 2007

After a very late night at an amazing (loud) concert (that the tour leaders, unfortunately had a curfew and had to leave early) and then a festival Latin dance party, we got to leave for Rome at 8 am (Mark's favorite city) for a photo shoot (We were told that it would only take us about 15 min to get there! :-).

When we arrived in Rome we took a photo in front of a gift the city of Cori gave to Rome to show their allegiance, back during Rome's beginnings. We then made our way to the Coliseum, where the group danced Running Set's and Hambone. Who ever thought the IFDE would ever dance at the Coliseum? Tatarstan and Chile also danced ... Spain didn't because they didn't have a live band with them.

We then took a wonderful group photo. It was pretty amazing. Rome was much nicer weather-wise this time. We didn't have the blistering heat we had a couple of weeks ago.

That evening we hopped on the bus and traveled 20 min (that ended up being about 2.5 hrs) to a beautiful city on the Mediterranean, Minturno. Here we ate dinner and Ed kept telling people we were eating cow tongue. We later found out it was a fried vegetable.

We later paraded through the streets and up a hill to a beautiful piazza by a Church that overlooked the Mediterranean. Simply breathtaking!

We performed 4 couple Journey, Running sets and Elkridge clog. After the performance everyone was supposed to go on stage to sing a song no one knew ... I'm not sure what it was about, but I'd guess the song was about peace. Our group didn't know the song, but they did a good job pretending. After the song they threw out 3 doves that flew immediately to the lights for the stage.

The groups that performed with us were: Bulgaria, Venezuela, Kamchatka – Russia, Italy, Martinique, Chile and us.

We then started our long journey home a little after midnight and arrived to our beds in Cori at 3 am. It's amazing how comfortable a bed gets when you're really tired.

After a very late night we decided to take the morning off and sleep. Most of us woke up at about 11:00 am and it sure felt great. The morning remained free to get ready and do errands until 12:30 when we met for lunch. We all gathered and walked down the old stairs to the restaurant to eat. It was a delicious meal of hot pasta soup and an omelet like quiche that was quite tasty. Eating hot food in a hot area without air conditioning can get sweaty, but the food is very good.

After lunch we rushed back to the school to have a small rehearsal. We met in the gym at the bottom of the school and we were ready to sweat. However, it took the majority of our allotted time to figure out what dances we were going to perform that night. We did have some time to polish a couple dances like Southern Waltz and Hambone. Over all it was a pretty low key rehearsal but we got everything figured out for the show. We took the rest of the afternoon to do personal things and the plan was to meet at 5:00 pm. As five o'clock approached, the plan changed to meet at 6:00 and soon thereafter it changed again to 7:00. One thing I can say about this festival is you never know when things are going to change and when a surprise will come.

Cami and Scott went to an extra rehearsal at 5:00 to be in the opening of the show. While Cami was waiting for instruction she felt a scratching on her leg. She looked down and saw a lizard scurrying about on her leg. She almost screamed but forced it back.

At 7:00 we met for dinner and again walked down the old stairs to the restaurant. This time we had pasta and meat with peas. It was delicious. We had to eat fairly quickly and then rush back up the stairs to the school to get dressed in our first costume, gather all the others, and head down to the stage.

The performance was in Cori on the main stage. We performed with a number of other groups which included Italy, Colombia, Tatarstan (Russia), Spain, Venezuela, and Chile. The show was scheduled to begin at 9:30 but didn't end up starting until about 10:00. The other groups were good but the group that stood out for most of us as exceptional was the Russian group. They were so fun to watch and had some really neat trick steps. The Spanish group used recorded music, and for the rest of the night Ed and Shane were beleaguered with requests to do Last Night. Unfortunately for the man in the Spanish group he ripped his pants but had to just keep going. It was very noticeable and we all felt bad for him.

The show went well for us. We did Texas Fandango, Blue Moon, The Gathering, Orange Blossom Special, Thomas and Jen duet, and we finished with Elkridge Clog. The audience especially loved the clogging, and it was a successful show. After we finished dancing most of us went back up to the school and cleaned up for the night. There was a party put on by the festival but none of us wanted to go because it was 2:00 am by this point and we had an early morning. Our guide wasn't happy with us that we weren't going but we need our sleep. Overall, it was a fun day and we were all so tired that we quickly fell asleep.

Today we woke up early and left for the Island of Capri, off the coast of Naples. Our American group was specially requested to come from Cori to the island by another festival that was there. Many members of the group woke up sick today, and the entire group was exhausted from the late night (as usual) we had yesterday.

We took a bus to Naples and then got onto a ferry that took us across the bay to Capri. Some played cards in the area of seating below deck, but most stood outside and enjoyed the beautiful view of Naples, Mount Vesuvius, and the islands ahead. The windy balcony was a refreshing change from the sweltering heat that seems to follow us wherever we go. The water is a very deep, clean blue, the weather was perfect, and the view was amazing!

We arrived after about an hour and a half ride in Capri. We unloaded our costume boxes and instruments from the hold area below in the boat and we lugged them up to a main street in the lower part of Capri. We loaded up a small truck with our boxes (they looked doomed to fall off into the sea), and waited for shuttle buses to take us up to the school at which we were staying the night. This is where the real fun began- we called it bowling for buses.

The bus driver whipped up the extremely narrow streets and would hardly slow down around curves or to let other vehicles pass. Several girls shrieked in fear as other buses zipped past ours, only inches away at very high speeds. The view on the way up was incredible; We wound up a road built right into the cliffs on the mountain on the right side of Capri. We could see out into the sea and down on the city and harbor below. It was breathtaking, and along with the bus fun, I think some may have nearly passed out!

We arrived at the school and were pleasantly surprised with our comfortable living arrangements...private bathrooms and showers, and private rooms with clean sheets and comfortable soft pillows. Okay, just kidding. We all were packed in hospital style into two long areas, the men's and women's areas separated by a sheet. We soon discovered that the sheets had not been washed after last night's Martinique dancers, and a few people found hair goop mashed into their pillows. The men and women had to share two bathrooms and one shower room. However, the beautiful island made up for this misery!

Earlier in the day our guides remembered that they had forgotten to bring our lunches with them. We all starved a little bit until sandwiches arrived mid-afternoon. This was also made worse by the fact that most of us had skipped the skimpy breakfast in Cori. They were quite delicious- Panini with tomatoes and cheese inside, and if you were lucky you would get a little bit of mint inside (well, just Mark Ohran, who didn't enjoy it so much).

After lunch, we walked up through the streets of Capri to see the stage where our show would be. It was in a lovely piazza by the church of San Marco. This church had a very unique floor- it was covered with a huge painting of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. We all took a few minutes to walk around the perimeters and walk up into the balcony. Michelle obviously liked the church a lot because, after a trip to "il bagno", she got locked inside! A new friend found her cowering

behind costume boxes like a scared little mouse. He kindly gave her a ride up to where the group had caught a chair lift up to see the view from the top of the island's cliffs.

The chair lift was relaxing and fun for most of the group, but it was not so appealing to Lindsay O. and Sarah, who turned pea green at the sight of a single chair whisking people to great heights. Kathy kindly stayed behind to keep them company as they shopped.

The others had a glorious time riding up over the flowers and trees to the sounds of the birds chirping and the church bell tolling. We had some time at the top to wander and take pictures..."Rawcliffe family photo" for sure. The view was truly a miraculous sight to behold!

Our guide from the Capri festival, Roberto, told us about the Kissing Tree: if you kissed beneath its leaves you would return to Capri. The married couples in the group hopped on it, with the others looking on in disgust. We rode the lift back down to the city and went to a cute restaurant for dinner.

The cute older men that made our delicious dinner were volunteer cooks that were helping to host the festival. They made us smooth penne with tomato sauce, zucchini, and glorious buffalo mozzarella cheese on top. Blessed day, the cheese! We also had meatballs and fries. Adam Marriot (the freak of nature) decided to show the mosquito on his cheese who was boss. He snatched up the mosquito along with the noodle under it and chewed them up. "That'll teach you darnit!" he announced triumphantly as he swallowed! After we were stuffed we sang "Irish Blessing" for our hosts and said our grazie's.

By the time we finished dinner it was 9:15. We were supposed to be ready for our show at precisely 9:15. Is this impossible you say? Of course not! We scrambled back to the show and were told we had exactly 2 minutes to get our hair, makeup and costumes on and ready for the show. This now began to feel like we were on tour. Mad insanity followed. Ilaria, our guide, began frantically pushing several of the girls who were half dressed out of the door, disregarding their objections.

Because we had packed overnight bags, many found that they had left several essential items in Cori. Ed had planned a full show, including "Last Night," and because of the lack of costumes, we had to wear our tour clothes for that number. The ladies also had to leave off their black tights for "Running Sets." However, amid the crazy we all managed to get our behinds into parade lines and joyfully clap down the streets of Capri. We may have been mumbling curse words under breath, but the audience only saw obnoxiously happy Americans on the outside.

We arrived at the stage, threw the band on stage, and started the show immediately. Lets just say, the show reflected the amount of preparation time we had. A few highlights for your enjoyment (or disdain)...

Poor Cami was sadly given a concussion by Dave Marriot during "Southern" (I don't know how that happened in Southern rather than in Journey or something livelier...).

Brian decided to stay on stage when he was supposed to run off in "Last Night." He wandered around confused for a while before he hip-hopped off stage embarrassed.

Bethany biffed it big time in The Gathering: twice during the pretty part. (I blame Adam Marriot, the bum). Others slipped on the slick stage also, especially those silly “Fandango” cowboys.

Josh Park decided to do a back-handspring and handstand combo right into about ten of the group in “Last Night.” He ended up sprawled underneath the flying taps around him.

Jesse worsened his hurt hand condition considerably. He was trying to pound extra hard on the Cajon to keep us on beat, the saint!

During the Gathering, the men stick-pulled Dave and Steve right into the group of girls nearby. Alicia’s feet were taken out from under her and petticoats went a flyin’.

A large group of children camped out to watch the show where they were in full view of the men who were changing behind the stage. Several were quite surprised as the cowboys whipped off stage and ripped off their shirts to change.

The curly haired festival guide had a large crush on Deborah and gave her a little cheek-pinch while she sat with the group after singing. Adam G. just sniggered to himself in triumph.

Aside from all the chaos, the show was great overall. The crowd responded very well and we received a standing ovation after the show. Many had tears in their eyes as we sang “Go ye now in Peace.” The announcer of the show commented to several of the group that we were the best group she had ever seen at the festival. She said that we were the most dynamic and well behaved group of young people she had seen yet. One man also told dancers that “This is the kind of America we like.”

We all got to sleep late...However there was plenty of time for a male game of “Shower Ball.” - played in swimming suits. Steve even had to chase the beach ball out the shower room door and into the girl’s rooms. “Whoopsie!” he shrieked innocently as he pranced back in to pelt Thomas with the ball. He missed and “accidentally” hit Dave Marriot in his man-pris. Silly boys.

Let’s just say that it was an eventful day. Even though we were tired, stressed out and a little ill, things turned out lovely and the show was a great success. We fell asleep after the fun and had sweet dreams of Capri as we lay on our lumpy, gel caked pillows. Hooray for tour!

Lindsay Ozbirn
Cori, Italy (Fondi)

Saturday – August 4, 2007

The Five “F”s of Fondi

Fifteen Minutes

This was the consistent phrase for the day. There was always the quoted waiting period of “fifteen minutes” that was never just that. For example, waiting for the bus at the Napoli port—

“fifteen minutes”—was maybe just a bit more. At our arrival in Fondi we were told “fifteen minutes,” no wait, “fifteen more minutes,” hold on for “fifteen minutes,” forty five minutes later, “just fifteen minutes.” I think you get the idea...

Falling Friends

While waiting those “fifteen minutes” for lunch to arrive, we sat in the school cafeteria. Apparently, our friends Mark and Shane must have packed on a few too many pounds from all that gelato, as their bums broke the chairs. First we heard the crack and thud of Mark on his bum, and a roar of laughter exploded. No sooner had we calmed down from the first episode, that we saw Shane falling to the floor as well. Ouch!!!

Fecal Matter

Our backstage area was a little less sanitary than the usual, due to a fairly large population of birds living overhead. There was bird poop everywhere. Craig was able to relocate his costumes (Thus his late appearance onstage) to safety, but Brian and Ben were not so lucky. Ben danced all through Southern without realizing that birds had left their mark on his pants. Two of Brian’s costumes were damaged. Hopefully his pioneer and Appalachian costumes got a good scrub after that!

Frustrating

Our day in Fondi was full of frustration. We were all frustrated or at least sad that we had to leave the beautiful Isle of Capri. Everyone was a bit frustrated that we did not get to go to the beach as anticipated. We were frustrated that lunch took such a long time to arrive. Our host, Luigi, was frustrated because things were not running as smoothly as he had hoped. Our “Last Night” rehearsal in the school hallway was frustrating for both director and dancers...competing voices in echoing hallways is always a struggle. But, even the worst of circumstances have their good moments too.

Fantastic

Aside from the many downfalls of the day, there were some great things that happened. We had fabulous pastries filled with chocolate, jam or cream from a bakery in beautiful Capri. We had another awesome ferry ride back to Napoli with great views of the island and Vesuvius. Plus, the ultimate highlight was that the stage for our show that evening was set up in front of a huge castle wall. Talk about ambiance!

Sarah Sanderson
Cori, Italy

Sunday – August 5, 2007

Technically, the day started when we were leaving glorious Fondi in the wee hours of morning. We each got a bottle of Powerade (thanks to Shane and Kathy) to pacify us on our drive back to

Cori, which oddly felt like home at that point in the trip. I know I, at least, was excited to go back to my bunk bed in Cori and sleep on my huge pillow.

Later that morning, we met downstairs in the Breakfast room for our Sabbath meetings. Megan Keffer gave a lovely lesson on obedience—using Elder Wirthlin’s Conference talk.

Following our Sacrament meeting, we went up to our rooms to prepare for Mass. We wore our Southern outfits, as they are so attractive, and after parading into the San Olivia church with the other groups, we sang “Savior, May I Learn to Love Thee.” It was a struggle to stay awake while standing during Mass, and after it was finally over, we went outside to the piazza to perform the Tennessee Waltz. I think the dance was well-received. From one lady in the audience, Lyndsey Wulfenstein was told that she enjoyed our group because there was “beauty coming from our eyes.”

After our performance, we went back to the scuola where we were divided into groups for lunch hosted by the good people of Cori, Italy. The Wulfensteins, Laura Bates, and Jeff Tolsma were in my group and we drove down to the home in a Smart Car...an essential part of the Italian experience. We then met up with some Colombians, Chileans, and Tatarstanians to eat six courses of delectable Italian food, beginning with the obligatory salty pork slices and juicy cantaloupe.

The language barriers were plentiful and so we all had fun playing charades and/or pretending to speak Spanish (except Russell, he speaks Spanish very well). Lyndsey’s hair was braided by one of the girls in the Colombian group, and then we had a jam session/dance party with the different groups. Each group took turns dancing or singing, and when it was our turn, Laura and Lyndsey taught everyone Salty Dog Rag. I hope everyone else remembers their lunch experience from this day, because dang, what a neat once-in-a-lifetime opportunity it was.

We all returned from lunch around five and then most of us slept or prepared for the upcoming 11-ish hour travel day. At seven, we headed down the stairs (who remembers how many steps there were? I remember there being something like a million...maybe more) for dinner at our favorite restaurant in Cori. I know it was *my* favorite, not just because it’s the only one I went to, but also because of the beautiful waiter. Sigh...

Soon after downing the pasta and effervescent water and spicy cucumbers, we trekked back up the steps to the school to prepare for our last performance in Cori. One of my favorite memories of that festival (and all the others really) is how we were introduced as “Ooo-sah!” And we represented the ol’ Ooo-sah well when we finished the night with Last Night. The crowd went wild. It was like 2 am. Amazing.

After the performance, there was a dance party down in the square where we performed earlier that morning. At first it was a BYU dance party where all of us Americans were in the middle doing our cool, non-sensual moves, and everyone else stood around the edges watching us in amusement. But it was when Brian shared his tunes (including Summer Lovin’ a couple times over) that the party really got going! And then we left. Except for Shua, Scott, and Jon who

spent the rest of the night sharing the gospel with two very lucky girls from Spain. What great people we have on our team.

It was a wonderful (long) day.

Rustin Van Katwyk

Cori, Italy to Marseille, France (Monte Carlo)

Monday – August 6, 2007

Before embarking on our long journey to France, we had some girls from the Tatarstan group come say goodbye. They mentioned how much they loved our energy and the way we treated others. We sang Irish Blessing to them and some others that had gathered to see us off.

During the bus ride about half the group participated in a card game tournament of hearts. We had two drivers to be able to make it to France without going over their allotted travel time. Along the way we made a one hour stop in beautiful Monte Carlo. The sites included a palace where a changing of the guard could be viewed, a castle-like Cathedral, and a variety of small stores and restaurants. When we got back on the bus, we played more “name that folker” as well as giving out some sweets and sours. After some minor setbacks due to disorientation we rolled into Marseilles at about 1 am.

David Marriott

Marseille, France to Confolens, France (Carcassonne)

Tuesday – August 7, 2007

Our journey to Confolens from Marseille began at the reasonable hour of 9:00am this morning. We were able to get a glance of Marseille via tour bus window as we drove out of the city. On the way to Confolens we stopped in a little town called Carcassonne. In Carcassonne there is a castle. We were able to go inside the castle and explore for a couple of hours. The castle had a courtyard, and lots of little shops inside. People actually live inside the castle. It was extremely crowded and took almost twenty minutes just to get down the main street and out the front gate of the castle. When it was time to leave poor Sam got caught in the crowd and was late making it to the bus. We almost had to leave him because the bus driver was running out of hours he could drive.

Because of our little stop we arrived in Confolens around 12:00 am (about 12 hours after we were expected to arrive). Our guides, Natalie and Eric, were there to meet us. Natalie grew up in Confolens. Eric is from Austria, but his mother is from Confolens. He speaks German, French, English, and Spanish. We are excited to get to know them.

Megan Keffer

Confolens, France

Wednesday – August 8, 2007

Welcome to Confolens!!! We arrived late last night and have a full day of rehearsals! For those who woke up for breakfast there was a lovely display of cantaloupe... bread...more bread...and

delicious hot chocolate. When I say delicious, I am course comparing it to the questionable hot chocolate we experienced in Castiglione del Lago. Oh and one more note: French bread is much more chewable than Italian bread. Still, both delicious.

We trekked down to the main stage for a 10:30 rehearsal. It was *with* everyone but really only *for* us. We blocked and practiced our opening run-on-and-pose. The skippers with the ribbons were especially beautiful. (Alicia, sorry for stepping and falling on you so much.) The weather in Confolens is most pleasant and we actually had our warm-ups on without dying. The venue is right in the middle of town and quite beautiful. It seats about 5,000 people. It is also right on the river. A beautiful view!!

We came back to the school for a little welcoming reception. Speaking of the school. Can I get an amen for the living conditions? “AMEN!!!!!!” I knew you would all agree. We met the director of the festival at the reception and they gave us all gift bags: Orange packs, oversized shirts, and a CD case.

The food at lunch proved to be quite tasty, and dinner was yummy as well. I think we will all survive and if not careful, too well. If you know what I mean. After lunch we headed back to the main stage for a run-through of opening ceremonies. It went smoothly and was fun to watch everyone perform. We had some free time in the afternoon which was used for internet, napping, calling home, laundry, and getting ready for the show.

Opening ceremony was sold out! It was a beautiful night and even a bit chilly. We made it through our opening run-on-and-pose without incident. Dave and Melanie did a fantastic job as our poster children! We performed Appalachian and Hambone. We, of course, looked stupendous and the crowds went wild! I say that in all seriousness. We did have a great time on stage and the guys looked so good on Hambone. I can say that because I did actually watch. The line was straight! Mary Bee was also there on the front row smiling and clapping and as proud as ever. Good job group! The other teams were great. I believe a few of the favorites were Colombia (naturally-of course we are biased), Turkey, Serbia, Dhagastan, Mexico, Cuba, Africa, Bulgaria, Ecuador...come to think of it they were all pretty awesome!

What a great day and what a great festival!

Laura Bates
Confolens, France

Thursday – August 9, 2007

We woke up early and got on a bus to the city of Oradour Sur Glane. The city was destroyed by Germans in WWII, and left as a remembrance and memorial to those that died there. Over 600 people were massacred there and we went through a museum exhibit that explained the events. We walked around the remains of the city and were reminded of the atrocities of war.

We kept ourselves busy during our free time. Scott called home and found out that Bethany is having a baby girl! Sarah had a run-in with the community washing machines that made her laundry look tie-dyed. Luckily Kathy came to the rescue with some stain remover. Others were

entertained by the Mexican birthday party. The Mexican group was celebrating the birthdays of two of their members and provided cake, music and dancing outside the building. Deborah played her violin and Ed gave them BYU hats. Some of us went to the performance on the small stage by Tahiti, Serbia and Africa. Brian danced with the Africans and got a necklace.

In the evening there was a concert by Tri Yann. They played a mixture of folk and rock n' roll style music with interesting costumes and instruments. After the show there was a party in the courtyard with all the other groups. We got free drink tickets, which we used for orange juice and coke. After dancing into the wee small hours of the morning we fell sound asleep.

Vickie Austin
Confolens, France

Friday – August 10, 2007

We started the day off with a rousing rendition (between coughing) of “How Firm a Foundation”. Alicia Woolsey gave our devotional thought. Her main thought was that we learn much about people by the clothes they wear—by their outer appearance. We need to be not only aware of how our “outer garments” appear but of how our “inner garment” appears also. She recounted a conversation she had recently had with Diego and Carlos from the Colombian group. She said they told her that they had been observing the group and noticed that we have so much fun and joy—that we all have “a child in our eyes.” What a compliment as well as great responsibility to keep that inner garment shining.

Shortly after, a group of 10 students went with a television crew and a walk/tour of Confolens. They went to the main stage where they watched a rehearsal and then were asked to animate. The group sang “I Am a Child of God”. The TV crew also interviewed Deborah Bailey, who is fluent in French.

After lunch the group prepared for the afternoon show by rehearsing Elkridge and Journey. The show was at 3pm on the main stage. This was a really neat show as the audience was filled with elderly(from nursing homes) and handicapped people. The audience was filled with around 4500 people. It was awesome. Besides our group, the others participating were Serbia, Mexico, Colombia, South Africa, France, Equador, Turkey and China. Right after our part the band had an hour show in the cathedral. They did a marvelous job! That was our performance commitment for the day.

Later in the day we learned that President James E. Faust had passed away this morning. He was 87 years old. We announced it to the group and had a prayer in behalf of his family. He will be sorely missed.

The rest of the day was spent in interacting with the other groups and watching their shows, doing laundry, reading Harry Potter and catching up on sleep.

Hurray for Confolens!!

Today we had rehearsal on the mainstage to prep for the 50th anniversary show later that evening. The rehearsal started at 8:30, no 9:00. Actually it might have started at 11:00. You gotta love the various time frames that we all get.

The rehearsal with Equador, Turkey, and Bulgaria went well. They were the other dance groups that would be performing with us later that evening. The flag group from Cori was also there and took part in the celebration later during the show. We had a section of rehearsal during the morning, broke for lunch and then returned after lunch at 2:30 pm to continue the rehearsal that lasted until dinner time.

During the afternoon rehearsal, about 100 children came to rehearse their part in the show. All of these children carried flags that represented all of the countries that have participated in the Confelons Festival over the last 50 years.

Later that evening at 9:30pm, the “50th Birthday Celebration” started. We were third to perform on the schedule and we had one set before intermission and a different set to perform after intermission. Our line-up consisted of the following:

Part I:

Texas Fandango, Pioneer – The Gathering

Then after our first set they had all of the groups present (USA, Turkey, Bulgaria, Equador, Children) come out on the main stage and throughout the audience to sing “Chante Du Festival.” During this song, they also had musicians from each group who were scattered throughout the audience, play the song through once on their instrument. Lindsay Griffin played the song from our group. After intermission, our second set consisted of:

Part II:

Southern Waltz, Bill’s Reel (Band Number), and Elkridge. This was the first time that we performed Elkridge with a “new ending.” It was felt that Elkridge needed to end more with a bang - so the dancers added a few different steps at the end.

Also, as part of the performance, they had the dancers of each group combine on stage and dance together. Some of the dancers in our group learned a few Bulgarian and Equadorian steps to dance with them on stage after their set of dances. Towards the end of the show, they had our band play “Happy Birthday” as they wheeled out a big cake with a lot of candles. During this time they had all of the dancers hand out pieces of cake and brownies to the audience. Lindsay Ozbirn was with the group next to the cake representing our USA group and helped cut it. Once the band had played “Happy Birthday” through a couple of times, they jazzed it up a bit and played it ‘bluegrass style.’ The crowd loved it. After the big performance, the festival put on an amazing laser/fireworks show over the river.

Today would be our third Sunday on tour and our last Sacrament meeting as a team. The day started out with the usual breakfast and early rising, but many were given the option of sleeping in as church wouldn't be held until 9:30. A really thick fog had settled in that morning and the school and quad looked like a scene from a movie.

Sacrament meeting started at 9:30 and while Ed wasn't feeling well enough to attend, we had another special visitor. Krasimira Hristova Malcheva dances on the Bulgarian team and we found out she was LDS when a few members of our team met her in the internet café. She was, of course, invited to the meeting and it was really nice to have her there. Her director isn't really fond of the church and her teammates wouldn't take kindly to her religion, so she had to sneak out while they were all sleeping in order to worship with us.

The meeting started with a song and prayer followed by another song and the administration of the sacrament. There were then some testimonies from Cami, JT, and Krasimira. We all really enjoyed hearing Krasimira's testimony. Craig then gave a very well prepared lesson on gratitude that inspired us all.

When Sacrament meeting concluded, the group went all different directions, most going to nap or play some games. Krasimira didn't have anywhere to go until lunch, so she stayed in the girl's hall and many of the girls had a good time getting to know her and how she came to find the church. During this time, Ed also went to the doctor and got some medication to help with his illness. When lunch time came, Krasimira went and joined her team while the rest of us went and had lunch as well.

After lunch, we had the usual 1:00-2:30 free time, but by 2:30, we had to meet for a parade and animations that would fill up the remainder of time until dinner. With girls in Polka and guys in Fandango, we jumped on the buses with several other groups and headed for the parade route that would become very familiar to us in the upcoming days. We were second behind the Scottish band. It was nice to be behind them because they played the traditional Scottish tune that "Praise to the Man" is sung to and so it added to the Sunday feel.

The parade was a lot of fun mainly because the streets were filled with people who were really excited to see us. Those assigned to hand out postcards couldn't hand them out fast enough. Cameras were constantly taking pictures. We all felt like superstars. The parade only lasted for 30 minutes or so and then we had a few minutes break at our changing rooms behind the main stage. We then headed down to the park that was right by the river and did a little show/animation. Ed still wasn't feeling up to par, so Ben took over and added the "Teach Hambone" flare to our animation.

We then went down to one of the main intersections in Confolens and did another show/animation. One last animation on the corner across from the internet café and then we headed back to the main stage where we would parade back to the van pick-up point. By this time it was time for dinner, so we all changed and went and got something to eat.

The rest of the night was free time, so we went and did different things, but among the most popular of activities was the show that night that showcased the groups from Mexico, China, Colombia, and Serbia. The show was very exciting and would end up as one of the DVD's that would be available to buy. This show was also extra fun to watch because many of us had made friends with members of the Colombian group (specifically Carlos and Diego) so it was fun to watch and support them. By the time the show finished, it was 12:30 AM so we got back to the school ASAP and quickly went to bed so that we could enjoy our last week of tour.

Mark Ohran
Confolens, France

Monday – August 13, 2007

Today was the 6th day of the Festival de Confolens. We started the day with a group of dancers going to the first of several closing ceremony rehearsals and with a group going to teach a dance workshop.

At the workshop the dancers taught Polka, Oh Susanna, and a little bit of clogging. There were about 50 people there including our guide Natalie, the little old lady who passes out the lunch tickets, and Helmut and Maria Paul our guide, Eric's, parents. Everyone had a great time. Helmut commented that it was "Too much fun and not enough time," And that was after two 2-hour sessions.

At 9:30pm we all gathered for our 10pm parade and animation. The bus dropped us off at the downtown bus stop and we then paraded down the main street and across the old foot bridge to a little square. At the square the festival had erected a small stage for us to perform on, and to invite the crowd to dance with us.

We then paraded back across the bridge and up the main street to a little intersection where we did another animation. During this animation Adam Marriott found a little girl to dance with, who was having her fifth birthday. So Adam brought her into the middle of the group and everyone sang "Happy Birthday." The little girl's face lit up from all the attention. Then after singing to her Adam put her down and all the cowboys came and gave her a kiss.

We then paraded down past the small stage under the bridge to a small park crowded with tent vendors, a tent bar, and a small stage. We then did another animation on the small stage. Adam Marriott then got the Bulgarian member to dance the waltz with him. After our animation the bar band started playing again – playing some great French dancing music. Our dancers were great and continued to dance with the locals for several more songs.

Later that night (about midnight) a small group headed off to an Italian/Tahitian sponsored party where Lindsay Ozbrin went in search of true love. But, alas, was unsuccessful.

Steve Ord
Confolens, France

Tuesday – August 14, 2007

This morning we had another wonderful practice with all the teams at the main stage with all the teams. It was odd to see so many of the other teams' dancers with sun glasses on as it was such a cloudy morning. Hmmm. Could it be that they had had a wild night the night before? Maybe.

That afternoon we had the big parade with all the teams. We were all in Fandango/Polka outfits. Ben led the way with the flag and Michelle was part of Henrie's Harem of girls that walked with him at the front. Henry loved Michelle and would not let go of her arm the whole parade. He loved the American team.

When the parade was finished we were surprised to find out that they wanted us to do a ten minute show on the big stage with a full house outside. Whoa! We did three dances. Tall square was not having a good show this night. Adam started in the wrong square holding hands with Janneke in the short square, after returning to his own tall square he improvised by promenading 16 counts before it was time for that. Other blunders fell on the tall square and even the small square felt the power of the tall square blunders as Steve messed up his own square with one too many balances.

It was a rough night and the team was happy to go to bed that night at one o'clock after parading back with torches. Many people on the team have fellowshipped dancers, tour guides, and lunch workers from around the world and had wonderful discussions about the church with them. At least three Books of Mormon were given away and seeds of the gospel were planted.

Jesse Christopher
Confolens, France

Wednesday – August 15, 2007

Today dawned the last full day of our time in Confolens— or should I say the day of the never ending Mass. After we had breakfast we headed down to the main stage for a multi denominational mass. Basically it was just a Catholic mass and not so much of a multi denominational affair. It was kind of sad because some of the other groups who were Muslim did not come. It got pretty hot just sitting there. The mass lasted about three hours and most of it was in French. We did have the opportunity to participate a little, however.

Sam was our spokesman at the mass. At one point he stood up and read a prayer that they had given him to read. The South Africans sang. They have the most beautiful, strong voices. The group from Daghasan also sang. Our group had the opportunity to sing, and some of the band played along as we sang. We sang "Savior May I Learn to Love Thee."

After Mass finally ended and we had lunch, it was time for another parade. Once again the parade ended at the main stage with another surprise ten minute performance. This time we were not quite as surprised, however, and did much better than the day before. When our animations were over we headed up for dinner.

When dinner was over we all began to worry because the sky was becoming quite cloudy. The main stage where the final performance was going to be was not covered. If it rained the musicians would not be able to play and the stage would be too slippery to dance on. At our devotional we prayed together asking the rain to be stayed so the performance could happen. We knew that it was the 50th anniversary celebration and that they would be honoring Henrie Courseget. The show meant a lot to him and many other people that would be there.

It started raining on our way down to the stage. Once everyone arrived we went ahead and did the opening portion of the ceremony. Then we had to stop the show because of the rain. The instruments were getting wet and it was unsafe for the groups to dance. After a while to appease the unsettled crowd the festival asked our band to go out and perform. They had managed to find a small canopy to put over them. They were the heroes of the night.

Meantime in the building behind the stage where all the performers were we were having a party. Different bands from the various groups started playing music and the groups taught each other dances from their countries. Our friends from Daghasstan went crazy having a showdown against each other with their trick steps. Then the group from Cuba borrowed the Daghasstian's costumes and tried to imitate them. Everyone was rolling with laughter. Our party came to an end when they came in and announced that we were going to do the finale of the show and at least have the ceremony to honor Henrie.

During the ceremony for Henrie our group gathered together in our cubbyhole in the back and said another prayer together. We wanted to show our faith-we felt it was important to Henrie and us that the show go on. Shortly after our prayer the rain stopped. The firemen squeegeed the stage, and the show was back on. Because it had been raining so much the sound was not working so the bands played without sound and Henrie would come out on stage and yell the name of the next group. The rain started again the minute the last group danced, and we were grateful Heavenly Father truly blessed us and answered our prayers.

Russell Wulfenstein

Confolens, France to Paris, France (Versailles)

Thursday – August 16, 2007

Our time at Confolens has come to an end and we are left with many great memories. We were up bright and early this morning to leave for Paris. Carlos and Diego from the Colombian group woke up early to come tell us good bye. The bus didn't hold all of our luggage so we had to borrow the Mexican group's cargo van. They are heading to Paris as well. To say good bye to Carlos and Diego we sang Irish Blessing. The South Africans were also there to say good bye. Before we got on the bus a group of us sang O Scholosa with them (O Scholosa was the song that they taught us. They said everyone from where they live knows it).

Mary Bee, Natalie, and Eric came on the bus with us. Mary Bee is staying with us for the rest of the tour. Eric threw away his plane ticket and bought a train ticket to Austria so he could stay an extra day with us in Paris. Natalie had to take the bus back to Confolens after they dropped us off.

On our way to Paris we stopped at Versailles. The lines were really long, so we went to see the gardens while Shane and Eric went to buy museum passes for us. The gardens were incredible. We had two hours to wander through the gardens and were only able to catch just a glimpse of them. They are so big! Luckily it waited until we were leaving to start raining.

The hotel in Paris is nice. It is close to the Eiffel Tower. The rooms are very tiny, but the beds are comfy. After arriving we were able to go out for a few hours. Everyone went in small groups to explore the city. Some went to Hard Rock Café. Luckily they had Eric to show them how to navigate the subway. Many groups went to see the Eiffel Tower — every so often at night they turn on some extra lights that make the tower sparkle. The lights only stay on for ten minutes so you have to time it right.

After meeting together in the basement of the hotel, we retired to our soft beds excited for some rest, and excited to explore Paris the next day.

Adam Marriott
Paris, France

Friday – August 17, 2007

Everyone went their separate ways this morning — to the Louvre, Notre Dame, Arc de Triomphe, Sacre–Coeur, Sainte-Chapelle, and many other sites of Paris.

Following a day of exploration we all met back together at 9:30pm to take a boat ride and see the sites of Paris from the river at night. Notre Dame looked very majestic and beautiful lit up at night. We also passed the Latin Quarter where the students were dancing tango. We all wanted to get off the boat and dance with them. After our boat ride many of us said good bye to Eric as he headed to the train station. He was a great guide and friend to us and it was fun to have him stay with us a little longer.

Upon arriving back at the hotel we were all anxious to share with each other the places we had been that day. Everyone was busily planning the things they would go see the next day, excited for another day in Paris.

Benjamin Watson
Paris, France

Saturday – August 18, 2007

Today was our last day of crêpes, delicious bread, and other tasty French pastries. We will miss the friendly French and their polite manner. Everyone set out early again for their final day in Paris. Many people went to the Musée d'Orsay (the Impressionist museum).

After running to the last minute places we all wanted to see everyone came back to the hotel to pack their bags to prepare for departure in the morning. Later in the evening several groups went to the Eiffel Tower one last time. This time they went to the top to overlook the city at night. We have had a great time exploring the beautiful city of Paris and learning how to ride the subway. It is an adventure we will never forget and will always look back on with fondness.

Today we are going home. Even after the best of tours, the thought is always a warm one.

The trip from Paris to Provo went very smoothly and without incident.

The most unique part of our airplane ride home was the noise which accompanied our group wherever we went. Everyone seemed to be battling a cough and one could certainly hear our group coming. When we got onto the plane I was worried that we would annoy the rest of passengers with all of our restlessness ... and it probably did to some extent. Other than the fact that a few of us arrived home only to find out that we had “walking pneumonia”, to listen to us on the plane was actually quite amusing ... at times.

This tour has some amazing memories ... the castles, beautiful towns built into the landscapes, Capri—an island paradise, wonderful new friends, incredible opportunities to dance, gelato, art everywhere, and one of the most amazing festival experiences I can remember as we participated in the 50th anniversary of Arts and Traditions Populaires du Monde in Confolens, France.

I do not believe there has ever been a tour, that I remember, which has had the amount of free time we had in Italy and France to see the sights. We were afforded so many opportunities in Rome, Florence, Venice, and Paris ... just to name a few. What a dream tour for those interested in art and beautiful architecture.

This tour also allowed us to introduce our LDS culture to many people. Not only did we perform for thousands of people, but we had many sweet experiences with some wonderful new acquaintances—one on one. Few people are given the opportunities to share the gospel in the way in which we do. What a great privilege it is.

I want to especially thank our tour leadership who accompanied us this year on tour: Shane Wright, Mark Ohran, Cathy Thomas and my wife, Vickie. They supported the students so well, and helped each person have a fun, positive, and educational experience that they will never forget.

I am so grateful to all of the students. They have been such good examples to those we have met on tour, to each other, and to myself. What a privilege it has been to work with each one of you this year.

What a privilege it has been to be part of this wonderful folk dance tour!

Europe Survey 2007

Who?

Will be the next to be engaged?	Jeff and Laura
Will be most likely to have a tour romance?	Cami and MacKay
Will be likely to put on the wrong tour clothes?	Sam
Will become a Solid Gold dancer?	Brian
Would you want to study with for an exam?	Woolseys
Will become a millionaire?	Adam M.
Will win the Nobel Peace Prize?	Jon
Will have the most kids?	Adam M.
Will live in Provo for the rest of their life?	Steve
Will end up living abroad?	Deborah
Will become a daytime talk show host?	Ashley
Will become a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir?	Lyndsey W.
Will be a full-time student of BYU for the rest of their life?	Jeff
Will replace Ed and Delynne when they retire?	Rustin
Has the best smile?	Michelle
Has the most kissable lips?	Sarah
Will become a door to door salesperson?	Steve or Adam G.
Will become President of the USA?	Ben
Will become famous on Broadway?	Lyndsey W.
Will be the last to get married?	Craig

Birthday's and E-mail's

<u>Name</u>		<u>Birthday</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
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Deborah	Bailey	12-Jun	deboorah@gmail.com
Laura	Bates	8-Feb	blaura@byu.net
Jon	Bay	6-May	jonny.bay@gmail.com
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