



"Most students can find two weeks off work, away from friends and family," he said.

Preparation yields results

Careful scheduling maximizes the learning opportunities of a shorter trip. With a \$1,500 curriculum development award from Marian, Szromba visited museums and talked with staff prior to the trip, which helped him eliminate sites that wouldn't work well with his group. He created an itinerary that included the National Famine Museum, National Museum of Ireland-Country Life, and the Dunbrody Famine Ship, plus time spent in Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, Westport in County Mayo,

Galway, and Dublin. The group visited a fjord and a fort, climbed a mountain, viewed memorials, and contemplated how people scraped out a living in areas of stark beauty and few resources.

"During the trip, students commented on how much history was readily available to people," recalled Chair and Associate Professor of History Mary Gross, Ph.D., who traveled with Szromba's class.

The students did their own preparation prior to travel. In addition to absorbing the origins and events of the Famine, they also learned the concept of historiographic analysis, in which they read and interpreted

nationalist, revisionist and post-revisionist histories of the Famine.

They also became quite familiar with potatoes.

Szromba brought the group to his own garden to plant potatoes, an experience that taught them that the "Irish Lacy Bod" is hard work and poorly named. Their labor concluded with a meal of potatoes and a clear visual of the up to 10-pounds-per-day eaten by the Irish prior to the Famine.

"The class provided the background and content knowledge to appreciate Ireland," Szromba said. "It was a really rich learning opportunity." ■

From two weeks to a year:

Marian students have many global education options

- Short-term study abroad offerings, like the Great Potato Famine course in Ireland.
- A summer medical mission, best suited to nursing and biology students, in Nicaragua.
- Summer month-long and semester-long programs at sites in South America, Latin America, Europe and Asia are available through collaboration with International Studies Abroad (ISA).
- Semester-long programs include new partnerships at St. Mary's University College in Twickenham, England, and at Loyola Chicago's Rome Center Campus, plus a continuing partnership at Harleton College in Grantham, England, as well as opportunities in Australia and Japan.

For more information about Marian's study abroad opportunities, or to provide financial support, contact Ann Doherty at (502) 523-8523 or ann.doherty@marian.edu.

Blog observations from Ireland

Two Marian students chronicle their study abroad experience

Wish you could have joined the study abroad class in Ireland? Enjoy the next-best experience by reading the blog entries of two Marian students who made the trip. Kelsey Beine '13 and Kim Schuenemann '12, both student interns in Marian's Office of University Relations, blogged about their educational travel as it was happening.

May 27, 2011

We were initially headed directly to the cliffs of Moher, but Declan, being a most excellent tour guide, decided to take us on a few short detours to show some interesting and relevant sights. ... we first stopped at a small memorial depicting a young, starving boy attempting to enter a workhouse in search of food. Declan was kind enough to read the Gaelic description inscribed on the memorial, as well as translate it to English for us. It was neat to hear the native Irish language, as well as his interpretation and telling of the famine. He explained how the translation of certain events relating to the famine differs from Gaelic to English, how the meaning changes through translation, and why certain words were selected in the translation process. I was fascinated to hear all of this, and found myself to already be well on my way to accomplishing one of my objectives: getting the different perspectives of native Irish men and women in regards to the famine. *KB*

May 28, 2011

Upon arriving at the National Museum of Ireland, we first were given a tour by a young woman named Aoife. Throughout the museum, we were able to apply our in-class knowledge to actual artifacts from Irish country life. Our first part of the tour was visiting the Turloch Park House, or the "Big House" as it was called, which was inhabited by the landowner's family. ... the tour guide also explained how the library/office room that we were able to see was the typical place for rent/transactions made between the landlord's land agent and the tenant farmers. Although it may seem odd that the landlord was not in direct contact with the tenant farmers, it was actually a prevalent occurrence, as the landlords did not speak the same language of the tenant farmers. *KS*

May 29, 2011

Our itinerary for the day consisted solely of a day trip to the famous Aran Islands ... to the largest of the islands, Inis Mór. We got a ride to the base of Dun Aonghusa, and were informed that we would have to do some more walking about twenty minutes from our current location to the fort itself. Feeling a bit rejuvenated from sitting for a short while, we trekked up the stone pathway.



Kelsey Beine (left) and Kim Schuenemann show a meal.