
2009-10 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

2-27-2010

New Routine

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Recommended Citation

Leith, Brian, "New Routine" (2010). *2009-10 Postcards*. Article. Submission 8.
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Journals from Oslo Norway SP10

2010-02-27 New Routine

I have been in Oslo for almost a month now and I am getting used to a new routine of getting up at 7:00 a.m., eating breakfast, and then getting to my class by 8:30 a.m.

The education system in Norway is a lot different than what I am used to coming from Linfield. I have class from 8:30 a.m.-11:15a.m. One difference is that the class gets a 15-minute break after 45 minutes of teaching. I enjoy the breaks because it gives my mind time to take in the information from the lecture. This is great because my mind can only take in so much information and the break usually gives me time to get some coffee and food and recharge my brain for more learning on the topic of the day.

I am taking an education course called Multicultural Identity in a Global World. It is a very interesting class looking at how people from other parts of the world live in their own cultures that are very different from the one you live in. Being open to different cultures than your own is key in trying to understand what they are going through, because if you have preconceived notions about a culture, you wont be open-minded in getting to know them.

Part of the class is doing some field work by going to Norwegian schools and observing how the classes are taught as well as how the students interact with the teacher. This will be extremely interesting to observe, because I can compare what I went through at that stage in my educational career and also see how it differs. I will go to two different schools throughout my time hear.

The colleges international office is very organized in getting the international students together and going on different culture tours every Friday. For example, I had the opportunity to go skiing last Friday, and yesterday I went to Akershus Fortress. Akershus Fortress is a medieval castle built towards the end of the 1200s by King Haakon V due to an attack on Oslo. It has a lot of history behind it and being able to go inside the castle and learn about the long history was great. The Fortress is still used today for a variety of events: weddings, baptisms, dinners, and venues for state receptions by the government. I am looking forward to more culture tours as well as being able to travel some around Norway and the rest of Europe.

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