

## The College at Brockport: State University of New York Digital Commons @Brockport

---

Brockport Believes Essay Project

---

July 2014

# This I Believe

Kristen Fluhler

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bportbelieves>

---

### Recommended Citation

Fluhler, Kristen, "This I Believe" (2014). *Brockport Believes Essay Project*. 40.  
<http://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/bportbelieves/40>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @Brockport. It has been accepted for inclusion in Brockport Believes Essay Project by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @Brockport. For more information, please contact [km Myers@brockport.edu](mailto:km Myers@brockport.edu).

Kristen Fluhler

This I Believe

June 20, 2014

I believe that traveling the world is the key to understanding humanity. I began my life in Trenton, NJ and moved to New York State with my family at the age of two. Since then, I've visited eight different countries including Portugal and New Zealand. Since I've began traveling the world, I've come to the realization that despite my interest in World History, I've never completely appreciated or worked towards understanding how different the people of the world actually are.

Experiencing a different culture, whether it be for a few weeks or a few years, is a life-altering experience. Not only do you see how other people live but you are also given the opportunity to consider how other people are raised, what their values may be, and how they carry themselves. Living in an American culture where a variety of behaviors are accepted makes it difficult to accept the social, political, and economic boundaries that so many other people face on a daily basis.

One experience in particular that gave me a new perspective on life and how to live life successfully and happily was my experience in New Zealand. Native New Zealanders, or "Kiwis", work to live but do not live to work. Their perspective on life is to live it beautifully and to appreciate the present day. The Kiwis are maximizers in the sense that they never live down a moment. My two favorite Kiwis, a couple whose names are Cam and Amanda, are in their early thirties and make a living by taking foreign students on tours around New Zealand. They do not approach it with the attitude that the students are tourists or that they should not be

visiting their precious country; rather they approach it with the attitude that touring with them is a new adventure and that they have the joy and responsibility of sharing their culture and history.

Everyone has a different philosophy about life and that is perfectly okay! It would be brilliant if the human race could all understand and appreciate one another's life choices and culture but that's just not a probable goal. What would be great though, is if each person could dedicate time in their life to studying and experiencing a different culture in at least one different country. This effort alone would cause the human race to come together in a more cohesive way which in turn could lead to world acceptance and understanding.