Biology Major Leaves Heart in Australia  
By Jacquelyn Shencavitz ’08 Biology

Last semester I had the opportunity to study abroad in Australia. Traveling to Australia is a dream I have had ever since I was a little girl, so this was my chance to fulfill that childhood fantasy. I went with Houghton College (yes... for a semester I joined with the “enemy”) and our group studied at Kingsley Bible College which is located in a suburb of Melbourne, Australia. I had so many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities while I was there including, traveling to Tasmania, a weekend trip down Great Ocean Road, a weekend trip to Sydney, and exploring up north at the Great Barrier Reef and in the rainforest.

While I was at the Great Barrier Reef in Cairns, Australia I had the chance to go snorkeling and scuba diving. While snorkeling I saw a shark (about 5-6 feet long and 30 feet below me) and when I was scuba diving I was able to hold a sea cucumber, see two different types of clown fish (and their anemones), and lay across a giant clam. I was able to go for a one hour cruise in the harbor of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia on a ship which was a replica of the Lady Nelson which made the journey from Britain to Australia back in the early 1800’s. I also was able to see Port Arthur (in Tasmania, or Van Diemen’s Land as it was then referred to), which was the prison set up for the convicts who repeated crimes once in the penal colony of Australia (or New South Wales as it was called back then).

There are so many other experiences which I could speak of, but there just isn’t enough space, suffice it to say that I left my heart back in Australia. I fell in love with the culture, the flora and fauna, the people... you name it and I can tell you something I liked about it. The only negative thing I could say about my trip is that I had to come home too soon.

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