



**Brooks World Travelers** – top row from left to right, Meghan Cassidy, Nicole Hayward, Colleen Goodhue, Nicole MacKinnon, Chris Kozlowski, Tom Travers, Alex Canning, Kim Fletcher, Michelle Cugini, Mr. Dominic Centorino, Matt Pugatch and Kim McGourty. Bottom row from left to right, Cynthia Goode, Dana Martin, British tour guide Jodie, Jenna Litchfield, Joelle Silva, Ron Everett, Justin Fleming, Joe Biviano and Heather Gibbons.

## Travels with a purpose

By **DeeDee Winterson**  
Special to MPG Newspapers

**T**hey started with an idealistic concept – world travel so students can exchange ideas with those from another culture. The trip became a living honorarium of a pure and idealistic child,

Brooks Singer.

Nineteen Marshfield High School seniors, with three chaperones, returned at the end of March after traveling abroad to see new sights, but more importantly, to meet new people.

The Marshfield High School Brooks World Travelers returned from their weeklong trip abroad

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# Brooks World Travelers return from London

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with stories of adventure, fun and new friendships among their peers and with strangers from a foreign land.

It was just what Molly and Dr. David Singer had envisioned when they proposed their idea to then-Marshfield High principal Peter Deftos last year. They wanted the trip to be a memorial for their son, Brooks. (Brooks would have graduated with this year's senior class).

David Singer and his son often went on adventures to wild and exotic places.

Marshfield High School wanted to honor Brooks' passing in some manner. David Singer said Deftos had nice ideas for memorials and statues. However, his wife knew that for Brooks, there needed to be something more living and perpetual. That's when Molly came up with the idea of Brooks World Travel.

Once the concept was accepted, they had to figure out a destination. According to social studies teacher and trip leader Dom Centorino, a compromise had to be reached.

"It's sort of a funny story," Centorino said. "Dr. Singer's first suggestion was Indonesia," he said. Deftos had in mind something a little closer to home and with less of a culture shock – say Tennessee.

Tennessee? London was picked as a neutral yet culturally inspiring destination. The France leg of the trip was just luck, Centorino said, because it came at a bargain price they couldn't resist.

Centorino and Singer agreed that

a friend of another culture," Singer said.

● Independence – "For some it's the first time on a plane, for others it's their first taste of independence, getting them ready for college – or what ever they do in the coming year," Centorino said.

If the trip's success are measured on these goals, than it should be rated an A+. According to the students who traveled and Centorino, all three goals were met and exceeded.

The adventure started when a group of diverse Marshfield teens were put together and tasked with fundraising projects.

"We didn't know each other going in," Jake Labo said. "But after the trip we are best of friends."

Dana Martin agreed with Labo. "It is senior year, and we're building new friendships," she said.

Labo explained that the hard work the group put into the planning and fundraising for the trip not only helped develop friendships, but trust in one another as well.

Because of this, when abroad, the chaperones were able to give the students a bit of independence, and let them go out on their own.

"We felt comfortable doing that," Centorino said.

He said they had no problems with any of the kids and allowed them to go out when appropriate.

Rugby game as well, but England's team was playing away (which means out of the country).

Labo noted that the biggest cultural difference was the food. "The serving sizes are very small, and I have a big appetite," he said.

Many who went this year said they would like to go back to London again.

"There's so much more to do," Labo said. "And a week wasn't enough." He is keeping in touch with an English friend via e-mail and hopes to reconnect some day, either in the states or back in London.

Martin urges incoming seniors to apply for the trip. "Get involved," she said. "It was the opportunity of a lifetime."

She plans to study abroad in Italy but will have to wait until her junior year at LaSalle University.

Martin's mom, Doty, also expressed her enthusiasm about the opportunity for students to travel. "Meeting kids from another culture is important," Martin, who has not had the opportunity to travel overseas, said.

Brooks World Travels has the official green light to make it an annual trip, at least for next year, Centorino said after a followup meeting held between him, McGourty and Marshfield High School principal Bob Keuther.

There will be a few changes to

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**Girls just want to have fun** — In France with the Eiffel Tower as a back drop, Nicole Hayward, Colleen Goodhue and their British tour

The France leg of the trip was just luck, Centorino said, because it came at a bargain price they couldn't resist.

Centorino and Singer agreed that although the trip began in memory of Brooks, they wanted to make the annual adventure for a greater purpose.

He said he tried to instill some of Brooks' values in the trip.

"Brooks was that way," Singer said. "I think that (making friends) makes for world peace."

David Singer outlined the three aspects that he and his wife, Centorino and fellow social studies teachers and trip chaperones Kim McGourty and Cindy Goode wanted the group to achieve.

● Adventure - "To have the opportunity to meet people and get a flavor for another culture," David Singer said.

● Diversity and friendship - "To recognize how much more we are the same and different at the same time - there's nothing like making

Centorino said.

He said they had no problems with any of the kids and allowed them to go out when appropriate.

Friendships spread beyond the group. The travelers bonded with their tour guide, Jodie. One of their favorite destinations was visiting Villiers High School in London. Nicole MacKinnon said she felt the friendships made while visiting this high school were in honor of Brooks Singer.

The group met with several of the classes and answered basic questions, like whether they wore uniforms to school.

"In the classroom they asked us a lot of questions," Labo said. He said they didn't see a big difference between them.

The Marshfield travelers enjoyed their new friends so much that they went back for a second day to meet informally, hang and play a little football (American soccer).

Labo was hoping to catch a

meeting held between him, McGourty and Marshfield High School principal Bob Keuther.

There will be a few changes to the program, including the timing of the trip. It will take place during April vacation rather than during school hours.

Also, there will be modifications to the fundraising. Centorino explained that the students would have more ownership for their share of the trip, but that a scholarship fund would be established. There will be fundraising events, he said, but the fundraising just may not be so elaborate.

The group will have to put off meeting until the teacher contract negotiations are settled. The teachers are engaged in a work-to-rule move, which means they won't participate in activities not spelled out in their contract. Many extra-curricular activities are volunteer.

"We would love to get started right away, but can't," Centorino

**Girls just want to have fun** — In France with the Eiffel Tower as a back drop, Nicole Hayward, Colleen Goodhue and their British tour guide, Jodie, are all smiles. Jodi traveled with the Marshfield High School group to complete the tour.

calmly said.

So for those interested in getting involved and applying for Brooks World Travel 2006, patience is key. This year's members claim it will be worth the wait.

The group itself will be targeting 20 seniors and is hoping to attract students who have not yet had an opportunity to travel abroad. Although, Centorino said, that is not a blanket rule.

Brooks World Travel's group will be working with Villiers High School to work out an exchange program, he said. "Exchange of ideas - that is something that David and Molly wanted."

## Legal Notices Legal No



### Bids

**TOWN OF  
MARSHFIELD  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WORKS  
Phone (781)834-5575  
INVITATION FOR BIDS  
BID #05-16  
MUNICIPAL SOLID  
WASTE AND REFUSE  
AND RECYCLABLES  
COLLECTION**

The Town of Marshfield, by and through its Board of Public Works, will accept bids from qualified parties for providing the following town-wide services: curbside solid waste (refuse) collection; curbside recycling collection; curbside yard waste collection; curbside white goods collection; and curbside bulky items collection.

The bids were received at the Department of Public Works Office in the second floor of Town Hall, 870 Street, Marshfield 02050 until 29 April 2005 at 1:00 PM. Please submit 1 copy of sealed bids before that date. There will be an opening and the bids at 1:05 PM above-mentioned and time in Room #2 of the Marshfield Town Hall. These bids are not governed under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30B, and as such the Town reserves the right to negotiate terms after the bids have been received.

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside with the following: "Bid for Curbside Collection Contract". Specifications may be obtained after April 4, 2005 at the Marshfield Department of Public Works Office, Mondays 8:30 A.M. - 7:30 P.M., Tuesday thru

sum cost consistent with good performance and service and compliance with federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.

Each bidder must submit to the Town a Bid Bond for 5% of the bid as bid security. The Bid Bond shall be made payable to the "Town of Marshfield" and shall not be enclosed in the sealed envelope containing the bid, but shall be contained in a separate envelope that shall be attached to the bid.

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