

## It Will Change Your Life

“I have been forever changed by my experience abroad,” says senior **David Fenske** (*Great Plains LHS / Our Savior-Brookings SD*).

**Expected and Surprising Changes:** “I experienced the misery of culture-shock, the high of making friends from different cultures, and the growing pains of independence,” he says. “I expected these things to happen. What I didn’t expect was how much I was going to grow in my faith. Both the highs and the lows drove me to God’s Word.”

**His Studies:** As a secondary English education major, David’s courses at the University of Galway were Studies in Medieval Literature, 18th-Century British Authors, Iconography: Classic Art in the Western Tradition, and Shakespeare—all with credits that transferred to MLC.

Between classes, he walked around the city, visited castles and cathedrals, wrote and read in coffee shops, met new people, and compared American and Irish culture.

**Another Change:** What he found in the people of Galway resulted in another change—in his vocation. “Ireland is a post-Christian country,” he says, “so I met people who’d never heard the gospel message. Before Ireland, I knew that everyone needed Jesus, but when I met so many people who’d never heard the gospel, I learned what it truly means for someone to need Jesus.” The result? “All of these experiences caused me to reconsider my life and talents, which redirected me to study to become a pastor.”

It’s actually David’s fourth major. He began college at Iowa State, studying agri-business, then came to MLC for preseminary studies before switching to secondary English. Now back in preseminary, he says, “It took a while to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, but I’m thrilled about the path God has led me on.”

**Yet Another Bend in the Road:** Embracing another change, David has decided to delay his last year at MLC in order to work with another ministry. He’s giving a year to Academia Cristo, which seeks to make disciples in Latin America and train them as church planters. David will use his Spanish language skills (honed in an MLC immersion experience in South America) to interact with students and assist the missionaries. Then he’ll come back to MLC for one last year before going to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to finish his pastoral training.

**His Encouragement to You:** To any students considering MLC, David speaks with the voice of experience: “There’s a different attitude at MLC: you are growing and developing to become a part of something bigger than yourself. I can confidently say that without the support of MLC’s staff, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”



**MLC offers many different study-abroad options.** Whether you choose a language immersion program in South America, a faculty-led short-term course in Italy or the Lutherlands, or a semester anywhere else in the world, you’ll be sure to return home with a broader worldview and a new appreciation for other cultures. Our Cultural Engagement Center can help you get started!



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