

NOTES FROM THE ROAD

Jennifer J. Liskow'02G*
(From: *Rivier Today*, Fall 2009)

The women's soccer team spent 10 days in Europe, exploring the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany



(PHOTOS BY JEFF SIMONEAU & THE WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM)

In the Netherlands, the team competed against a local club team and enjoyed three training sessions with a Dutch National coach they nicknamed Uncle Leo. “He was very decisive on what he wanted from us,” says senior Heather Brown. “We could see ourselves improving. He incorporated a lot of fundamentals into our training, and we used every drill in a larger match.”

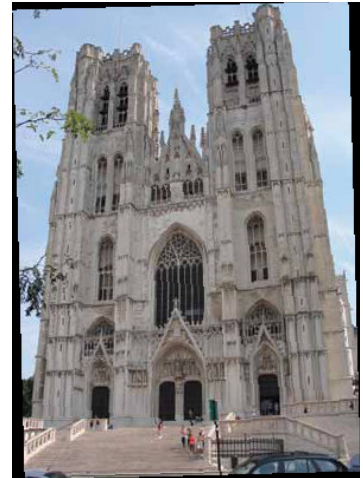
The Raiders played teams from Belgium and Germany. “We got to play against amazing girls. Being in an environment where the style of play is completely different is definitely an experience to be remembered,” says Brown. She and her teammates were impressed with their opponents’ footwork.

The trip included some sightseeing as well. The team visited the Ann Frank house, the Van Gogh and Rembrandt museums, historic cathedrals in Cologne and more. They also enjoyed a bike ride and scavenger hunt in a huge network of tunnels and caves. “It was a good team bonding experience—something really different,” says Kathleen Moran ’10.

Head Coach Jeff Simoneau says that one of the most moving sites the team visited was the World War II Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten. The memorial included a map of the Allied campaign in Europe and the places they helped liberate, as well as Tablets of the Missing listing the names of American soldiers who remained missing after the war. “We walked around in silent awe,” Simoneau says.



(PHOTOS BY JEFF SIMONEAU & THE WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM)



Members of the team were impressed with European architecture—and even more impressed with the culture’s passion for soccer. All agree that the trip was a great experience. “It’s one of those things we’ll always remember,” says Moran. ■



* **JENNIFER LISKOW** is Rivier’s Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications and teaches in the College’s Professional Communications program. Jennifer earned her bachelor’s in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master’s in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features and essays published. She serves on the Board of Directors for NH Roller Derby, the state’s first competitive flat-track roller derby league.