

LEARNING THROUGH

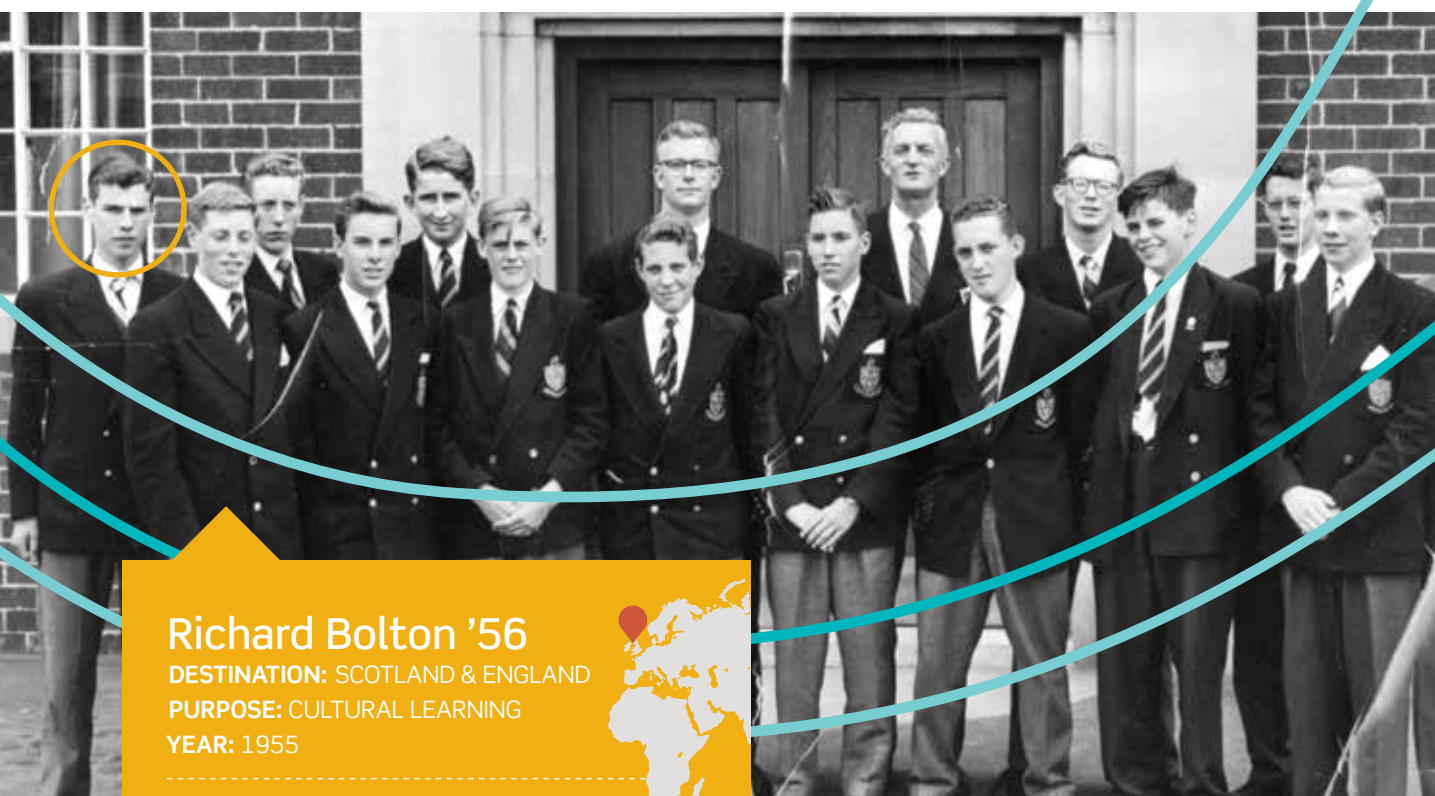
With a commitment to experiential learning, LCC offers a host of opportunities to broaden perspectives. Students and faculty participate in a wide range of travel ventures to learn first-hand about cultures and different ways of thinking and living. LCC first introduced trips overseas for small groups of students in 1924, and later in 1950 and 1955, with visits to England and Scotland. Annual trips to Britain in the early 1970s to 2003 were a highlight of spring break. Students have also enjoyed exploring our own country, beyond Montreal, through athletics and cultural opportunities. ▶

TRAVEL

ABOVE 2018-2019
DUKE OF EDINBURGH
GOLD TRIP TO COLOMBIA

OVER THE PAST DECADE, the number and scope of travel ventures to far-flung destinations has mushroomed, with students typically engaged in active learning or community service during their visits.

We asked alumni, students and faculty about their experiences. While not fully reflective of the array of the many travel opportunities, here is what was shared with us.



Richard Bolton '56

DESTINATION: SCOTLAND & ENGLAND
PURPOSE: CULTURAL LEARNING
YEAR: 1955



"We sailed on the TSS Captain Cooke from Montreal to Glasgow, and visited many cities in both Scotland and England. This was my first trip to Europe, where I met some relatives in Gloucestershire."

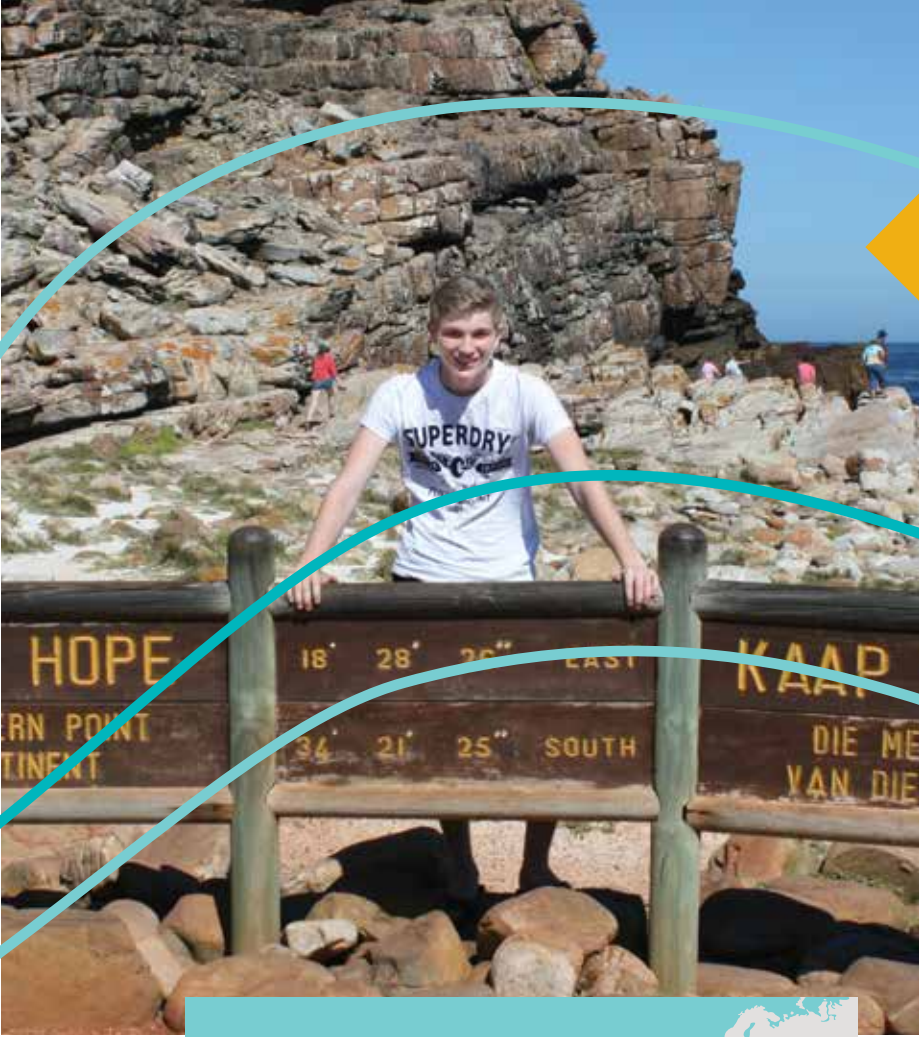
Note: More information about this trip can be found in the Spring/Summer 2013 issue of the *LION*, page 22.

Michael Attas '69

DESTINATION: STRATFORD, ONTARIO
PURPOSE: CULTURAL LEARNING
YEAR: 1968



"During this road trip with four or five students, we camped near Stratford and went to a couple of plays. They made a huge impression on me at the time, despite my lack of interest in the arts. I was taken out of my comfort zone (largely consisting of books) and, to my surprise, I had a great time. Seeing the teacher as a person with passions of his own, seeing the other students as more well-rounded, all opened my eyes to possibilities. And I continue to love Shakespeare."



**Meghan Fersten '18
(Pre-U '19)**

DESTINATION: CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
PURPOSE: ROUND SQUARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
YEAR: 2017



"The conference took place at three different high schools, but delegates from all schools spent a few days together in Cape Town for the opening ceremonies and keynote speakers. We then went to Bridge House School where we discussed the speakers and their messages and listened to more speakers. We also had service and adventure days in the surrounding communities."

Being surrounded by students from different cultures exposed me to new perspectives on important world issues. They opened my mind to different ways of thinking and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet them. In addition, by describing our conference that would be held the following year [at LCC] and voicing my opinion on certain issues, my leadership and public speaking skills improved immensely."

**Adam Vandenbussche '17
(Pre-U '18)**

DESTINATION: SOUTH AFRICA
PURPOSE: STUDENT EXCHANGE
YEAR: 2015



"I was hosted by a family living in Johannesburg. When I wasn't busy experiencing all that South Africa has to offer, I attended St Stithians Boys' College."

It is really hard to pick a single greatest memory, but one that has stuck with me over the years was stopping at a roadside stand near the Cape of Good Hope National Park and meeting a woman who was selling local crafts. In broken English, she asked me where I was from. When I told her I was from Montreal, she beamed and exclaimed, "*Nous parlons une langue!*" In French, she explained to me that she was originally from the Congo but had to flee her country with her family, leaving everything behind, because of increased violence. Her story, which I only got to hear because of our connection over a common language, really marked me.

Stories like that, and of the countless other people I met, opened my eyes to society's inequalities. Until that point, I had never really witnessed poverty and sacrifice to the extent that I did in South Africa. I felt extremely fortunate for all that I had and I acquired new perspective. To this day, I still reflect on my time on exchange and am beyond grateful for the experience." ►





Irene Assimes '19

DESTINATION: INDIA
PURPOSE: COMMUNITY SERVICE,
CULTURAL LEARNING & TOURING
YEAR: 2017

"LCC students set up an eye camp clinic in Indore, India, during which we screened over 7,000 patients who otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford the eyewear they needed. Our jobs included screening patients with the few Hindi sentences we had learned, counting inventory, and handing out glasses. We were in India during Holi, the festival of colour, where we were immersed in the culture and learned about the significance of the holiday. After leaving Indore, we embarked on many road trips to see sites such as the Sanchi Buddhist Monuments, the Shri Maheshwar Fort, the Jama Masjid Mosque and the Qutub Minar. We ended the trip with a rickshaw ride through the spice markets of New Delhi.

I'm so grateful for this experience because I was exposed to an entirely new part of the world. Not only did I learn about the culture of India, I also had the opportunity to interact with locals from rural areas. It was moving to see first-hand how many lives we helped change in such a short amount of time. The international service experience allowed me to come home with a completely new perspective and I felt so lucky to have access to basic necessities. It's definitely a trip I will cherish and I hope to go back someday."

Camila Araya Meier '19

DESTINATION: INDIA
PURPOSE: COMMUNITY SERVICE,
CULTURAL LEARNING & TOURING
YEAR: 2017

"We volunteered at an eye clinic in Indore helping people with eye diseases. After the five days, we went to the Bhimbetka caves, Bhopal, the City of Lakes, and Mandu, to see temples, forts and many other landmarks. The days of touring ended in New Delhi where we visited a mosque and had delicious traditional Indian dinners.

My greatest memory from this trip is not necessarily a happy one, but it changed me as a person. We had landed in Indore during the most beautiful sunset and were driving down the rural streets of India to get to our resting spot. I was shocked by the living conditions of these people, but what struck me the most was that they all had smiles on their faces. At the eye clinic, every person had a smile on their face as well. This made me feel grateful, and realize that a small act of kindness can go a long way."



Andrew Vandenbussche '19

DESTINATION: ECUADOR
PURPOSE: COMMUNITY SERVICE
YEAR: 2018

"On my trip to Ecuador, I worked with a group of 50 students from around the world to build a community centre and fence for a daycare. In the morning, we hammered nails into bamboo, mixed cement by hand, dug holes, laid bricks, and more. In the afternoon, we played soccer with the kids in the local village or lounged around in hammocks next to our cabins. We also went on other exploration trips to learn about Ecuador's history and nature.

During a visit to the small fisherman's port of Puerto Lopez, I purchased a recorder made from wood in the Manabi province of Ecuador. That night, at our campsite, I was playing it for the children in the community. One of them took it right out of my hands and ran away with it. I playfully chased him around the village, until he climbed up a tall tree, which I couldn't climb myself. He got so much joy playing it and, coming from such an impoverished community, the recorder was more valuable to him than it was to me. He returned it to me, but I wish I hadn't taken it. The recorder still sits on my desk as a reminder of that child's happiness."

Justin Fisher '20

DESTINATION: PRAGUE, VIENNA, BUDAPEST
PURPOSE: BAND PERFORMANCES
YEAR: 2018

"Performing at the St Nicholas Church was the most breathtaking experience I've ever had as a musician." ►



Ella Jangl '21

DESTINATION: COLOMBIA

PURPOSE: ROUND SQUARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

YEAR: 2018

"Bogotá, Guatavita, The Gold Museum, a graffiti tour, the lagoon, attending conferences and presentations, doing leadership activities and spending a weekend with our billets... The whole experience was life changing. I learned to be more open to cultures, ask questions, be more outgoing, and less afraid of meeting new people. Still today, I use what I learned from this experience when visiting new countries or meeting new people here in Montreal. I'm still good friends with those I met in Bogotá. Colombia was one of the best experiences of my life."

Clara Hamilton '21

DESTINATION: HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

PURPOSE: SOCCER TOURNAMENT

YEAR: 2018

"I played a lot of soccer and bonded with my teammates. Going to an escape room* made me a better soccer player because we had to solve problems together."

*A puzzle-solving adventure game

FACULTY

Stephen (Steeve) Lee

DESTINATION: UK & IRELAND

PURPOSE OF TRIP: RUGBY, TOURING

YEARS: 1992, 1996, 1999

"Students toured in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, usually billeted, sometimes in hotels, and participated in training sessions with rugby pros, and games against clubs and schools. My greatest memories: Getting on the tour bus, and a student excitedly says: "Sir! My billet is a fisherman!", attending a Scotland vs. Ireland International match in Edinburgh, and seeing a quinzee shelter on the 18th fairway of Royal St. Andrew's Golf Club, built by Canadian international students attending St. Andrew's University.

On this trip, I learned more about the value of getting to know students outside of classes, and the importance of students getting to travel with friends."



STEPHEN LEE'S CLASS
IN THE UK & IRELAND

FACULTY

Julie Poirier

DESTINATION: PRAGUE, VIENNA, BUDAPEST

PURPOSE: BAND PERFORMANCES

YEAR: 2018

"I was a trip chaperone, supervising and accompanying students on the tour. We visited these beautiful cities, went to concerts and the students performed.

As a ballet fan and theatre maniac, standing at the side of the Wiener Staatsoper (Vienna State Opera) stage was a magical moment for me. It is enormous: 88 feet high and, behind the curtain, it is four times the dimensions of the auditorium. Fun fact: there are 70 productions every year and the same performance is never repeated two nights in a row. The students were stunned to see how much I knew about it and how excited I was just standing there, in awe, looking at every detail from as many angles possible.

This trip strengthened the bonds I already have with many of the students. They saw me in a different light and I saw them differently too."

FACULTY

Sylvia Tracy

DESTINATION: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PURPOSE: COMMUNITY SERVICE

YEAR: 2012, 2013

"The purpose of my first trip was to help improve or build elementary schools in small communities in the Dominican Republic. We travelled with other schools from Montreal and worked as a team. We also brought many items to give away to needy families and helped out at a medical clinic. On my second trip, we worked in a very poor Haitian slum, building showers and painting a community centre. I also taught art and English to the Dominican students who were displaced while their school was being built.

I enjoyed the camaraderie that developed quickly among the students from the different schools, and was inspired by their willingness to work hard. The warmth and joyfulness of the Dominicans were also very contagious. I attempted to teach art with a few Spanish phrases and a lot of gestures. The process was very entertaining and especially enjoyable for these children who did not normally have access to art supplies.

Since this trip, I have never taken running clean water for granted. It also strengthened my resolve to do more volunteer work and opened my eyes to the results of systemic racism." 