

### My second semester in Tucson

“Calendars and clocks exist to measure time, but that signifies little because we all know that an hour can seem as eternity or pass in a flash, according to how we spend it.”- Michael Ende

This quote best describes what I feel when I look back: It seems like only yesterday I got off the plane in Tucson looking forward to an adventurous year.

Ever since I got back I have been thinking about how to write this second report. After starting at least 10 times and then deleting everything again, because it was just so confusing and disordered, I finally came up with an idea how to share my experience. From all the photos I took, I chose 3 that show some of the most memorable moments from the second half of my exchange year. I will write a paragraph about each photo.



The first photo I chose is a photo of me playing rugby. The first reason why I picked this one is obvious: Not only did I spend most of my free time on a rugby field; I also found most of my friends playing Rugby.

The second reason is that the photo shows me during my best game. It was during the time my boyfriend was visiting. I told him that I would probably only play 10 minutes, since I was the only rookie for the position I played. Usually my coach would put me in towards the end of the game. During this game against University of Santa Barbara the girl I subbed in for fell very hard right at the beginning of the second half. Because she couldn't run anymore I had to go. I knew this was an important game and I knew my boyfriend was watching: Knowing that made me stop thinking about getting injured (I was always scared of breaking my ankles) and it made me put my mind into the game.

That made this game the most fun and the most important game of the season for me.



The second photo shows me waiting for the sunset at Lake Powell.

When everyone started planning their spring break, I found out about this trip organized by the Outdoor Adventures Center of the University: 7 days of kayaking in Lake Powell. Because I wanted to spend Spring Break with my friend Lucy, I talked her into it and we both signed up for the trip. What we didn't realize at that point was, that we wouldn't be camping on official camping sites!

No!, we camped anywhere that looked like a nice place to spend the night. That of course meant no showers, no restrooms, no nothing for 7 days. What sounds like a terrible way to spend Spring Break, turned out to be the best trip I have been on so far! The beauty of Lake Powell is breathtaking and being able to kayak through these red canyons was surreal. Never in my life have I seen so many stars and such clear skies. I also don't think that I have ever been as relaxed as I was on this trip. Not having to worry about checking your cellphone or what to wear was great. It was all in all just an amazing opportunity to really enjoy nature and take a break from school.



The third photo I picked shows the special landscape surrounding Tucson. During the second semester I took the time to go hiking a lot. Especially during the time when I had visitors from Germany (one of my best friends Rebecca, my boyfriend Alex and my parents) I explored the fascinating nature in Arizona. I never thought I would be a passionate hiker, but I was wrong: I find hiking very enjoyable which makes me miss the beautiful canyons every day. This is interesting to me, because people from the flat land who moved to mountain areas told me, that they find it narrowing to see the mountains in every direction. I loved walking across campus or riding my bike to the apartment with the beautiful view of the canyons.

I could pick so many more pictures and write so many more paragraphs, which made it very difficult to narrow it down to three.

All I can say is that I will never forget this amazing time at the University of Arizona. I think I can say that I enjoyed every day in Tucson and at the University of Arizona and that I will miss so many things: I will miss the style of teaching and the endless amount and variety of classes that are offered. I will miss all the smiling faces walking across campus and the respect that people show one another. I will miss the huge amounts of food at the supermarkets and at the restaurants. I will also miss the straightforwardness of Americans, which makes things so much easier. I will miss the Recreation center with the many elliptical machines, the weight areas and the pool. I guess I will even miss those things a little bit that I thought I would never miss (like the A/C).

Thank you VDAC (including the Daniels family) for giving me the opportunity to live in Tucson, where I found great friends and made great memories! I will definitely be back.