



## Spring Break 2000: Road Trip!

Spring Break is traditionally a time when students relax and recharge their mental batteries. But almost seventy Concordia College students chose a somewhat more exciting path, using Spring Break 2000 to travel to exotic locales with faculty, staff and friends. The Concordia College Tour Choir traveled to Germany, where they are well-known for their grand performances. Two other groups elected to expand their horizons through study tours of Turkey, China and South Korea. These students spent their break touring, making lasting friendships and storing away memories that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.



## Turkey—Who Knew?

*Lori Luehje, Class of '02*

FROM THE SPICE MARKETS TO THE MOSQUES, the belly dancers to the baklava, Turkey enchanted me from the moment I stepped off the plane. Of all the countries I ever wanted to visit, Turkey had never come up on the list. Someone forgot to tell me what a beautiful country Turkey is, with its snowcapped mountains and lush, green countryside. Someone forgot to mention that I could stand where St. Paul had once stood when he preached in the ancient city of Ephesus, or that I could tour the very site where the Trojan War was fought. Someone forgot to mention how awe-inspiring it is to stand in the last known residence of the Virgin Mary.

For the first time, I felt completely lost and vulnerable. Signs in store windows and conversations going on around me were absolutely unintelligible to my American brain. I realized

immediately that I knew nothing about Turkish language or culture. And just by being American, we attracted attention. When touring Istanbul's Hippodrome, I found myself surrounded by swarms of teenagers, all eager to talk to the American girl. They told me their names and I told them mine, each of us embarrassed by our blundered pronunciations. They kept asking me to talk slower, to tell them about my school, to tell them about America.

And what's different now that I've returned? Everything! Now I know for sure that there is a larger world out there, just waiting for me to explore it. I spent thirteen short days touring museums, mosques, palaces and ancient cities. I will continue to walk through this life seeing, feeling and discovering new places and situations every day, and all I can hope is that it never ceases to be an adventure.