

Received from Karyn Collie on December 16, 2004

Festive Greetings from Glasgow!

Wow, I can hardly believe that the holiday season is here. It doesn't seem like I've been in Glasgow for three months, but at the same time I feel like I've lived here for years! I am really feeling settled in and completely adjusted to life as a graduate student. I've even become a decent cook, as hard as that may be for some of you to believe. If in doubt, I have reliable witnesses who attended a Thanksgiving dinner cooked by myself and another American, Gretchen! It ended up being a huge success. We had about sixteen people there from all over the world. Apart from the Americans, we had people from England, Ireland, Taiwan, Greece, Russia, China, and Germany enjoying their first Thanksgiving feast. We had a little trouble finding some of the traditional Thanksgiving ingredients (like pumpkin for the pumpkin pie and cornbread for the stuffing), but still managed an impressive spread of food. We have also had several Christmas parties around the flat, including one thrown by our residence hall, Queen Margaret Residences, and one by ourselves. I've added pictures from these events to my website.

The life of a graduate student is not all about social events, and I have been busy working as well. It is the end of the term here and everyone has exams to take and essays to write. I turned in my first graduate school essay today and am hoping for the best. I have another one due at the beginning of January, so part of my Christmas break will be spent working. The other part will be spent back home with my loved ones. I am very excited to be going home for a few days to see everyone. My luggage is all packed (and hopefully not over the weight limit with everyone's presents!) and I fly out of Glasgow early tomorrow morning. I hope to have a chance to see several of you while I am home! I have also been busy with Rotary events. Since my arrival in Glasgow, I have already spoken to four clubs and have several more speeches planned for next term. I have been very impressed with the friendliness of the Rotary Clubs that I have spoken to. The Scottish Rotarians are a fun group and always go out of their way to make me feel welcome!

Well, I guess that pretty much sums up my past couple of weeks in Glasgow. I've been enjoying myself and am looking forward to all the adventures that await me in 2005. I hope you are all doing well. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone!

Sincerely,
Karyn Collie

PS I have also posted pictures of Glasgow and the University of Glasgow on my website. I hope you enjoy!