

French student

Scharen to study in France

Spring has begun to show us the new beginnings with the flowers in bloom, the cherry blossoms on the trees and the beautiful warm weather. These signs show us that summer is on its way. For Diana Scharen her summer may be a dream come true.

Scharen, an Elementary Education major, is in her third term in French at the College. Recently, she heard about the "Study Abroad" program, took an application, and filed for a scholarship.

Applicants from all over the United States filled out the form and sent it in. The wait seemed to last on and on for Scharen. "I wasn't really expecting anything," said Scharen, a modest student with a G.P.A. of 3.8. "There were so many who would apply," she said.

To be able to study at the University of Caen, in France would be a dream come true for any promising French student. "I am interested in history and architecture. I think that in France I would be able to study and observe both," Scharen said.

A letter arrived. Scharen received a \$600 scholarship from Bergan College who sponsor the Study Abroad program. "I had been saving my income tax returns for two years so I could go to France as a tourist, now I'm going as a student," Scharen said. Her savings may come in handy.

"I wonder how much you can learn on a trip like this."

Tuition at the University of Caen is \$1990, excluding book costs. "That fee includes," Scharen said, "all ground transportation (for school related events), air travel to and from France and meals," said Scharen.

Money will be a problem for Scharen as her 16-year old daughter will be going as well. Scharen said her daughter received a scholarship also and she will be studying french cultures and basic studies there.

Scharen will be going to the ASG to see if they can help her out with the expenses. Scharen will present her case Thursday at the noon ASG meeting.

"We will be leaving on July 3, and the day after we land we will be tested on our abilities and then placed into classes," Scharen said. Scharen's class routine will consist of French studies, and culture, and she

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Photos by Duane Hiersche**



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during her tutoring career she received a student who couldn't pass one of his general courses. "Other tutors had tried but failed," Scharen said. However, her assistance helped him pass the class.

Scharen, a mother of seven and the head of her household says, "I've always communicated well with children. It has always been easy for me to handle them. Some people would go crazy having a lot of children around, but not me," Scharen said. "Going back to school has helped me work and be more at ease with adults," Scharen added.

"I want to learn more," she said, of her evening French conversation class. "I guess at times I expect more from myself," With both french classes Scharen claims, "I'm getting better in hearing the language.

"If I could learn to speak French well enough, I'd like to be an English instructor for French students someday," said Scharen.

"I don't care much about machines," Scharen said, "I care about people." For the past two summers the Scharen family has hosted French students in their home. "The boys taught us many new customs. For instance table manners," Scharen began, "The person who has the food first serves the persons to his right and left before taking his serving," Scharen commented. "That's the way the family dined from then on."

"This trip will be good for me," said Scharen, "In the past few years I had to begin to do things on my own, you might say I've just started living after I turned thirty." Scharen said, "I didn't learn to drive until after thirty, and now I'm beginning to go on my own."

During Scharen's stay, she will be roomed in the student dormitory that houses 12,000 students. "I know that most of my time will be spent studying," Scharen said, "I hope that on weekends I will be able to mingle a little with the people and then maybe make some new friends.

"I feel this trip will allow me to have a better understanding of the French and their language."

