



"Parade of Beers"

My first fun memory of Thunderbird was at orientation, when our cohort came up with the skit of a parade of beers to spoof the parade of nations. As goofy as that idea was, it brought our cohort closer together, and in a way symbolized how cultures also come together through a unifying factor. In listing all the beers of the world, we found that there were a lot of them. To have the bottles as props, we enjoyed a beer tasting while contemplating the phrases in the language of the beer of origin to use during the skit. The beer labels were drawn onto poster boards to serve as flags, and a native speaker would speak about the beer in their language, translated in English by another "doublebird."

Maike van Wijk, '99

Orientation Week Fall 2003 Global MBA for Latin American Managers



Regional Nights

Regional and theme nights definitely were a highlight of my Thunderbird experience. It was a pleasure to be immersed in other cultures without traveling there for hours, and to sample the foods and customs of different nations through the efforts of students born and raised there, as well as those who wished to go there. Through the universal language of music and the vibrant colors of beautiful costumes and dancing, regional nights brought us closer to the countries we yearned to visit or didn't know much about. But it didn't take a cultural night to make students seek out those of other nationalities. Whether at the Pub, in the IBIC or at The Commons, I saw Americans who had never set foot outside the country fall in love with Asian culture, Asians seeking out European students, and Latin Americans seeking ways to work in Europe upon graduation. In the midst of the Phoenix desert, Thunderbird is an unlikely melting pot of different cultures and traditions, but everyone who comes embraces these differences rather than being taken aback by them. It has often been said that the United Nations should be hosted at Thunderbird as it appears that on this campus the diversity of the world is seen as a positive rather than a divisive factor.

Maike van Wijk '99

There's no need for me to go to Paris to see a fashion show, because I can see it right here in Thunderbird. Manager of Campus Services

Chapter Eight. The Life of a T-Bird





My aim as a Das Tor Editor was to promote events at Thunderbird and provide a forum for T-birds and affiliates to make announcements and offer perspectives on events happening on campus. It was a joy to me to share the events around campus with the student body and staff at large, and offer those who may not have been able to attend an international night or a guest speaker a glimpse of what happened on campus.

During my tenure I saw students involved in giving back in many ways, from offering time and education to children of the Phoenix community through Interfest to their engagement in charity causes overseas. Many also donated numerous hours apart from their full-time workload to increasing the value of a Thunderbird education with their involvement in student government and campus organizations. My role brought me in touch with Thunderbird's Crème de la Crème, students and campus leaders who wanted to express what Thunderbird was truly about—a tolerant, giving community eager to learn more about other cultures and finding ways to make an impact in the world without preconceptions.

> Maike van Wijk '99 Das Tor Editor





THUNDERBIRD Taking Flight in Global Leadership

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