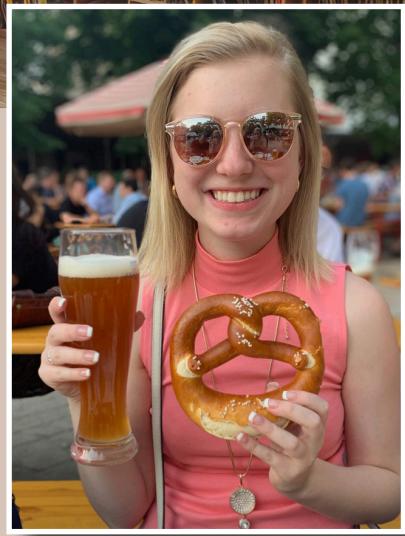
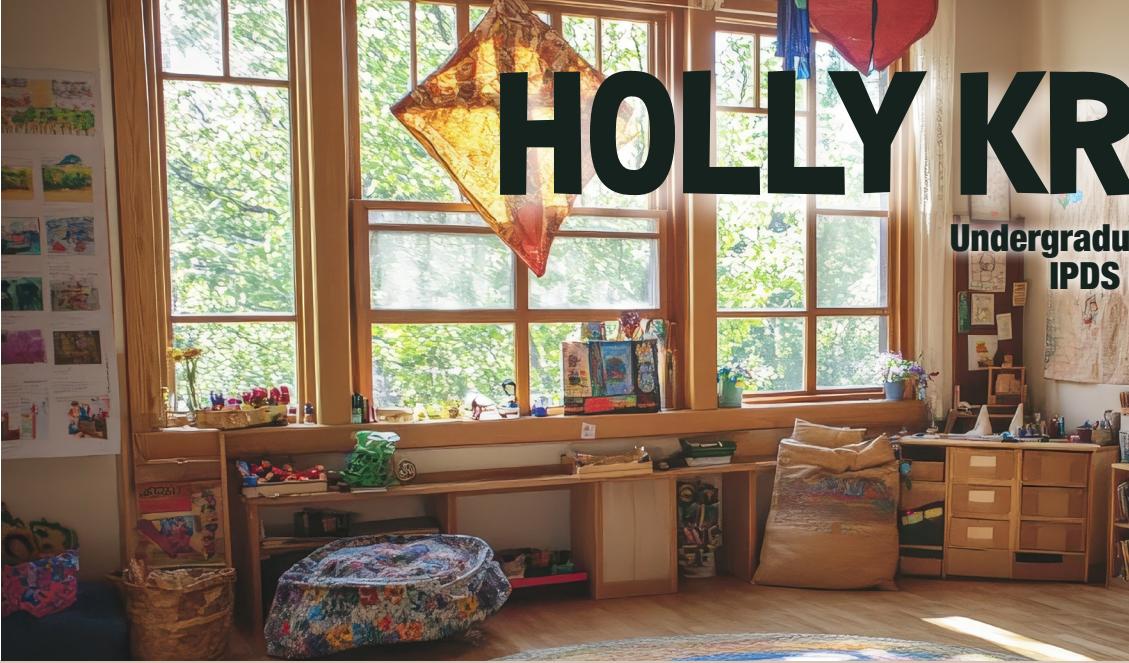


HOLLY KRUPSKI

Undergraduate, Elementary Education
IPDS Germany | June/July 2019



FINDING BELONGING

This program changed my life, and I promise it will do the same for any teacher candidate. As a transfer student, it was difficult for me to fit in, so I chose to get involved on campus. I researched the study abroad programs and read the IPDS alumni blogs. After joining the Germany program I felt like I finally found my place at Buffalo State. The pre-travel class was very beneficial. We learned about German culture and researched the sites we would be visiting, which was a great way to connect with each other and our host country. I also really enjoyed visiting the Aurora Waldorf School and visiting another Waldorf school in Stuttgart. I was fascinated by, and completed a research project about, the similarities and differences of the two. My adventure with IPDS was the best experience I had in college.

EVOLVING

I was a little anxious to visit the schools because I knew the language barrier would not be easy. My host teacher only taught in German, so I figured I'd be lost the entire time; however, I found myself starting to understand what she was teaching based on the activities she shared. I realized that I can be much more engaging with my future students and that I want to help them to appreciate other cultures beyond their own. I became more confident overall and my leadership skills improved immensely. The trip tested my ability to adapt to diverse situations and to problem-solve. I feel it brought out my independent nature.



FAVORITE MOMENTS

- Hiking up to a beautiful waterfall in a quaint town outside Stuttgart.
- Taking a field trip to a Roman museum with my host's class.
- Becoming a regular at the best Italian restaurant in my host's town.
- Attending a music festival and dancing with locals in Strasbourg, France.
- Acting like a kid again on a playground in the Black Forest
- Visiting my first "official" Biergarten.

Check Out Holly's IPDS Blog: <https://buffalostateipdsgermany.weebly.com/holly>