



Silver Lining

BEGAN MY TERM at Háskóli Íslands as a humanities major, studying Scandinavian literature and Norse mythology in the spring term of 2010. Living right in the heart of Reykjavík's downtown, it didn't take long for me to become acquainted with the impacts of the financial crisis that disintegrated the nation's economy. From the start, I was beginning to witness the clear symptoms of a deflating state and saw its people in an uproar. Within a couple months time, the island suffered another serious misfortune. The volcanic eruption of Eyjafjallajökull obstructed global air travel and the ash it

spewed found its way into the water sources, forced overnight evacuations, and mutilated nearby agriculture.

I soon began attending guest lectures in the university's volcanology department. I was drawn to it. As the eruption entered its second stage in the middle of April, I assisted the research by helping to document some of their field work. In the following month, accompanying three other students, I set out on a collaborative project to take photographs, conduct interviews, help collect specimens, and survey the eruption's impact on the surroundings. This photograph is the

last picture we took together; it shows the group (with me on the car) during our last day on the scene, taking a second to commemorate this strange moment right before we'd all turn back. This experience sparked a new interest and helped me get a position with the Beaty Biodiversity Museum. From this tragedy came a silver lining—it sparked a new passion that would have otherwise gone unrecognized if I hadn't been in Iceland studying abroad.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at elainal@nafsa.org.