Hello Brian,

I hope that you are off to a great start already this new year, and as a small surprise I made a photo collage of some of my adventures here in Aberdeen that I thought you might like! The photos are all mine, and are from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Stonehaven and even some from Italy where I went with a friend for Christmas.

This exchange year has been INCREDIBLE so far. The university is fantastic, the people I've met are life-changing, and the different lifestyle and world-view has stretched my intellect and experience. Actually living here has surpassed my expectations for what Scotland would be like. I feel a bit like I'm writing a mushy advertisement, but really, I'm so glad you encouraged me to stay a full year instead of just one semester.

Only getting to be here for a few months wouldn't have been enough. The first semester I felt like I got my feet underneath me, and so I moved off campus into a flat with a very good friend I met. She's from Hungary, and is doing her whole degree here. Living like an "adult" in my own place has been such a great experience so far, and I am ready to tackle my courses this semester with gusto. I've gone hiking, and traveling, and out for waffles with ice cream and have loved every single second. Next up is to celebrate Robert Burns Day, go to a Ceilidh, and to go to a whisky distillery!

Side note: My actual favorite this about the university so far has been the career center they have here, I feel like the resources for students to contact employers that might actually hire a recent graduate are really exceptional.

Thank you so much for helping me to get to Scotland,

Best wishes for your upcoming semester,

Carol Buydos

