

Dear Class of '55,

I'm writing in an attempt to express my appreciation for the wonderful opportunity you have given me. This letter is only a small token of the gratitude I feel. In fact, it is impossible to truly explain in so few words the appreciation I feel for your help in achieving my dream of studying abroad in Spain. This opportunity you gave me to study abroad offered a world of experiences that I could not have obtained simply through books and lectures. My time abroad allowed me to experience the uniqueness of the Spanish culture and language in magnificent ways. I lived with an incredible host family, made lasting friendships, and took numerous classes that helped me improve my Spanish and understand better the history and culture of the country. I also traveled to various cities, worked in a residency for adults with disabilities, and volunteered in a Spanish pre-school. Through the blessing of all of these experiences I improved not only my knowledge of cultures and language but increased my passion for reaching my dream of using Spanish to help children in need. I'm hoping to be able to go abroad again and use the knowledge and skills attained from this experience to serve children and families in Latin America. Spending this past semester in Spain has truly prepared me for the rest of my college goals and has really brought me closer to reaching my career aspirations. And all of this is possible because of your willingness to support me in fulfilling this dream! It is a blessing to have people like you and I just want to say thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Words can not adequately express how much your funding and kindness means to me but please know that I truly appreciate your support of more than just my education but also my dreams!

Forever grateful,

Alissa Benjamin



