

Dear Class of '55,

There has been nothing in my life thus far that equates to the study abroad and independent travel that I have experienced. From them I have understood the value of cultural exchange and exploration that has led to a greater education not only of the physical world that is the relations among nation states, but a greater understanding of others and the growing desire to continue making connections with people from various backgrounds and taking those teachings into my development as an individual. These experiences are a part of the knowledge-seeking, adventurous woman that I have become.

You have recognized the value of study abroad as well and it is because of this recognition that one of the most important components to my college education as well as a sacred dream for myself to know cultures and peoples of the world was realized.

This off-campus study in Bolivia was of particular importance to me. As a Spanish major, living, working and studying in a Spanish speaking environment was one of the most valuable assets to my bachelor's degree and education of the language. The internship that I completed in Cochabamba, Bolivia was in a Hospital that houses the recently established national maternal and child healthcare program. Here, I witnessed the Bolivian healthcare system and the problems that the country faces with regards to childhood nutrition, pre and post-natal health, and women's health. After graduating from Cornell, I plan on working with maternal and child healthcare within the Spanish speaking community in the United States and in Latin America. I am currently applying for a position through the Healthcorps (a branch of Americorps) to be completed prior to graduate school that will be working in a Latino community health clinic, providing young women with maternal and child healthcare. My time in Bolivia gave me further

insight into what I would like to pursue in the future and prepare me as a strong candidate for graduate school in public health. By enabling me to study abroad you not only assisted in the experience of these incredible opportunities but prepared me for my future which is something I will reflect upon with immense gratitude as I continue to accomplish my immediate job aspirations and future career goals.

I am so grateful for your creation of this fund that enables young men and women to learn from one another and gain perspective on a walk of life that may be completely opposite of his or her own. These are not experiences that my parents or grandparents were able to enjoy and I feel very blessed and encouraged to have been chosen by you to pursue my goals and have that kind of mentorship given to me. Support for this very unique and powerful kind of education is honorable in a time when we are becoming more and more one global community and the need for tolerance and compassion rises. I am inspired by this gift to always remember the lessons taken from my study abroad experience and can only hope that years from now, when I am a Cornell College alum, I may gift a student with that same feeling and assist him or her in an impactful journey of exploration that will inspire change and action, as mine did for me.

Thank you very much for your extreme generosity. It is greatly appreciated!

Chelsea Coyne