

Dear Class of '55,

April 22, 2011

With your wonderful generosity, the art and architecture of the historically rich and remarkable city of Rome became a reality for me, being able to be in the city in person after studying about many works of art and famous sites for four years was a rewarding experience. The financial support you graciously awarded me eased the means behind my off-campus course in Rome and I thank you.

The trip was unforgettable and I have many pictures to remember the weeks by. The experience I had, every morning waking up and going to a historical site and the people I met in Rome for two and a half weeks was once in a lifetime experience. The chance to make this pilgrimage to see these works of art that have been studied for centuries, such as the Ecstasy of St. Theresa, the Pieta, Caravaggio's dark yet expressive canvases, the Venus that Botticelli painted, The Sistine Chapel and architecture like the Coliseum, the Vatican, the Piazza di St. Pietro (St. Peter's square) that I have studied in numerous art history classes, was breathtaking in person, I will never forget it. It was also an amazing honor to be standing 6 feet from where St. Peter was and still is buried in the Necropolis in the Vatican to be standing next to one of the founders of Religion, not many have access to the Necropolis as only special tours with permission can see the tombs of religious aficionados.

Through this experience I improved not only my knowledge of Italian culture, but language and it increased my passion to one day be working for a costume shop in a theater in Italy. I'm hoping to be able to go abroad again during or after graduate school and use the knowledge and skills attained from this experience to help me further my career and education.

College is the time in one's life when one can be presented with extraordinary opportunities, to study abroad and I am very grateful Cornell provides such a variant of off-campus classes. This is a great scholarship for students wanting to go abroad and the giving of this scholarship is important for making other students have a once in a lifetime opportunity. Being overseas made me have a refreshed sense on life and a new feeling for adventure. It was nice to get off campus and gain some clarity before graduation in May.

I thank you once again for all your generosity for making my travel and experience in Rome a fantastic end to my four years here at Cornell College.

Sincerely,



Amanda Kai Newman



This is me on the Janiculum Hill in Rome with the Vatican behind me .



This is the class and I am in the Turquoise shirt sitting on the ledge 7th from left



Some of my class members and I at the Trevi fountain at night, I am 3rd from right.