

Erin Daly

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Dear Class of 1955,

I cannot thank you enough for the gift you gave me. I dreamt of journeying to Italy when I was a little girl, and as an Art History and Classical Studies major, traveling to Florence in order to study the art of the Renaissance has truly been a childhood dream come true. I studied with *Professoressa* Mariotti, (as they say in Italy) a specialist in the art of the High Renaissance, and *Professoressa* Solberg, who is primarily a medievalist. Going to museums and galleries with their differing scholarly perspectives gave me a broad view of the development of Florentine art. I couldn't have asked for a better educational experience. I've attached two pictures, the first is from Rome, and the second is from a trip I was able to take to Pompeii.

Apart from my classes and trips around Italy, I was immersed in the rich culture of contemporary Florence. I lived with *mia famiglia Italiana* in an apartment in the Florentine city-center. Not only was I able to pick up quite a bit of Italian, I also gained an appreciation for the Italian lifestyle – not to mention an appreciation for my host mom's cooking! I actually took some cooking classes from my host mom, and I brought back recipes that my American family loves. Oddly enough I was even able to be an actress in an Italian commercial my host dad was filming for his pastry shops!

By summarizing all of these experiences, I hope to demonstrate the breadth of my trip and my own sincere gratitude towards you for making all of it a reality. My family and I are not struggling by any means but like many others today we have been pressed to make ends meet. My dad has gone on a second mandatory furlough and I worked two jobs this summer in order to save up for my study-abroad trip. The extra money I've been granted has truly relieved some of the monetary pressure put on my parents and for that I am greatly indebted. They work so hard for me and this is truly a gift to them. I offer the warmest thanks from both myself and my parents: thank you.

Sincerely,

Erin Daly



Me on the top of the *Castello Sant'Angelo* in *Roma*



A picture from the ruins at Pompeii of the *Vulcano Vesuvio*