

June 2013

Dear Class of 1955,

My time here in Vienna, Austria, is dwindling down to a halt. Both Fall and Spring semesters in Austria start much later than they do in the U.S. thus pushing my school year later than what I am used to. I enrolled in the Intensive German Language Program through the University of Vienna, one of the world's oldest. The course meets Monday through Friday for about three hours. I have found this to be rather attractive as it instantly reminded me of "home", aka Cornell. Before coming to Vienna I had also studied for a month in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany. Here I attended The Goethe Institut which is world renowned for its successful German Language curriculum. I found the quaint city of Schwäbsich Hall to be bustling with culture and activity and I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. In addition to my German courses I also participated in two weekend long seminars involving Opera and Electric Orpheus as well as an art internship. In my free time I made it a goal upon myself to experience as much of Vienna and surrounding countries as I could. I also learned to never say 'No' when being asked to try something new. In fact, that was my first rule upon arriving here. As a result I accomplished and saw more than I could have ever imagined. I walked through the desolate and somber ruins of Dachau, scoured the perimeter of Prague, and explored the wine cellars of France. I have learned to appreciate on a larger scale the smaller things in life, all of our world's wonderful cultures, and the fulfillment of learning a language through immersion. I have seen and experienced so much in just over five months it is difficult to believe it is almost over. Everything almost seems surreal. I have many things to be grateful for in life, but currently I am most grateful to the Class of '55. I want you all to know that I truly appreciate the help you have given me. Although none of you were with me on my endeavors abroad, I credit all of you for each memorial experience I had here.

Thank you!

Patrick Loughlin, Class of 2014



