

Dear Class of '55,

I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity in providing scholarships for off-campus study. Unfortunately, attending college is becoming more and more expensive. By making the decision to study in England with a class, I accepted that there would be financial responsibilities that went along with my decision. I want to thank you in helping with some of this responsibility. I really appreciate your generosity and consideration.

Studying abroad is an opportunity that everyone should take advantage of. One of my biggest regrets from high school was not taking advantage of travel opportunities. Before starting classes at Cornell, I had already decided that I would study abroad before I graduated. I'm glad I made that decision. I learned more the three weeks I was in England than I have in any other course I have taken. I learned so much about architecture, literature, theatre, art, and most importantly, about myself and my culture. This experience has opened my eyes not only to different subjects such as architecture and theatre, but it has opened my eyes up to a different and interesting culture. As I understood more and more about the English culture, I started to understand more and more about American culture and how it has shaped me as an individual. Although this experience didn't really change my mind with respect to my course of studies, it exposed me to the world of traveling. Experiencing and living in another culture was one of the most exciting experiences I've had so far, and I have changed because of the experience. Now that I'm back in Iowa, some of the simplest occurrences bring me back to my travels and experiences. It is funny what amazing effect just three weeks can have on a person.

I feel that I can truly say I made the most of my study in England. I think it's safe to say this class was a "once in a lifetime opportunity." I hope that it is just the first of many opportunities I will have to travel and experience different cultures. I want to thank you again for your generosity. Your generosity makes opportunities like this more of a possibility for students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Burnham". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Emily Burnham