

To the Class of '55:

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the scholarship which allowed me the amazing opportunity to take ART 364 Rome Reborn in Rome, Italy. My name is Nina Morris and I am originally from Maxwell, IA. I am currently a senior at Cornell and am a double major in geology and English with a concentration in creative writing. Traveling internationally was not an opportunity available to me when growing up, though it was something that I hoped to one day be able to do. Having arrived at Cornell I had the opportunity to travel to Rome, Italy with Professor Penn-Goetsch Rome Reborn course.

Being a geology major one of the most meaningful parts of this course was the weekend trip we took from Rome to Pompeii. The train ride there allowed me to see the beautiful Italian countryside, but even more amazing was seeing the ancient town of Pompeii and the volcano responsible for burying it. Seeing Mount Vesuvius was the first time in my life I had seen an active volcano and I was able to see firsthand the results of a volcanic eruption. I was able to explore the streets of Pompeii overwhelmed at the power of a volcano and the amount of volcanic rock and ash it would have taken to cover the city. This was an awe-inspiring experience that I just never would have been able to get in a classroom setting.

For me, other highlights of the course included admiring the architecture of the Parthenon, walking under the arches of the Roman Colosseum, and spending an afternoon, sharing a pastry with a seagull, overlooking the Roman Forum. Through this experience, I improved not only my knowledge of Roman antiquity but found an increased passion for decorative stones and their use in architecture and buildings.

Being overseas has given me a better perspective of just how big the world is and how much has changed throughout human and geological history. I want to thank the members of the class of '55 for giving me the opportunity to go on this amazing adventure. It has provided me with an invaluable life experience that I will never forget.

Sincerely,
Nina Morris



Photos of me overlooking the Roman Forum and me in Pompeii with Mount Vesuvius in the distance.