

April 15, 2018

Dear Cornell Class of '55,

I can't imagine my experience at Cornell being complete without studying abroad for Psychology of the Holocaust. For a few weeks, the museums and memorials of Vienna, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest were my classroom, and the things I learned go beyond school.

We engaged with heavy content, that which makes you come face to face with the worst of humanity. Whether it was a trip to perhaps the most infamous concentration camp, Auschwitz, or to the forgotten town of Lidice, everything we encountered was deeply humbling. Reading about the suffering of Holocaust victims is incomparable to walking where they walked. And yet, there were many times I was hopeful; when I was reminded, by the stories of rescuers who risked their lives to save others, of our species' infinite capacity for good. It was the actions of these individuals—among them Carl Lutz, Raoul Wallenberg, Irena Sendler—that have once again sparked my interest in diplomacy and international humanitarian work. I am grateful to have been able to take this abroad course as a sophomore, because I will have more time to explore the avenues of knowledge that were just opened to me. Regardless of my eventual career and where I end up, I am certain that I will be thinking and learning new things in retrospect about this trip for the rest of my life.

On few occasions have I been so busy. There was so much to do and see that it seemed we were constantly up and moving. Nothing could have been better for my confidence in my own ability to be present and participate; I simply did not have the time

to doubt myself. I stepped out of my comfort zone and was rewarded with incredible sights, delicious food, new friends. And none of it would have been possible without you.

Your generosity has given me an experience that I will never forget. I hope to someday pay it forward.

My sincere thanks,

Eliza Thompson, Class of 2020



View of Buda across the Danube river





Dohany Synagogue, Budapest





Mauthausen Camp, Austria





Children's memorial, Lidice





Salzburg





Bridge in Kraków



Auschwitz





Easter market, Prague