April 14, 2018

Dear Class of '55,

Hello, my name is Elisabeth Sage and I am currently a junior at Cornell and am majoring in Psychology. First off, I wanted to thank you for allowing me to be one of the recipients of the Class of '55 award for the 2017-2018 academic year. With this award, I was able to travel to four countries in Eastern Europe to learn about the Holocaust and the psychology behind this infamous event in history. Without this scholarship, it would have been very difficult for me to pull together the funds to be able to cover the costs, so for that I give my gratitude.

Through this experience, I was able to see a part of the world I've never been before while taking in four distinct cultures in Vienna, Prague, Kraków, and Budapest. As a class, we were exposed to a multitude of historical landmarks relevant to each country, museums focusing on the Holocaust, many concentration camps and ghettos, as well as, an array of cultural experiences. Being able to witness places like Sigmund Freud's apartment and practice, Schindler's factory, Viktor Frankl's home, and Auschwitz/Birkenau are experiences that I will never forget.
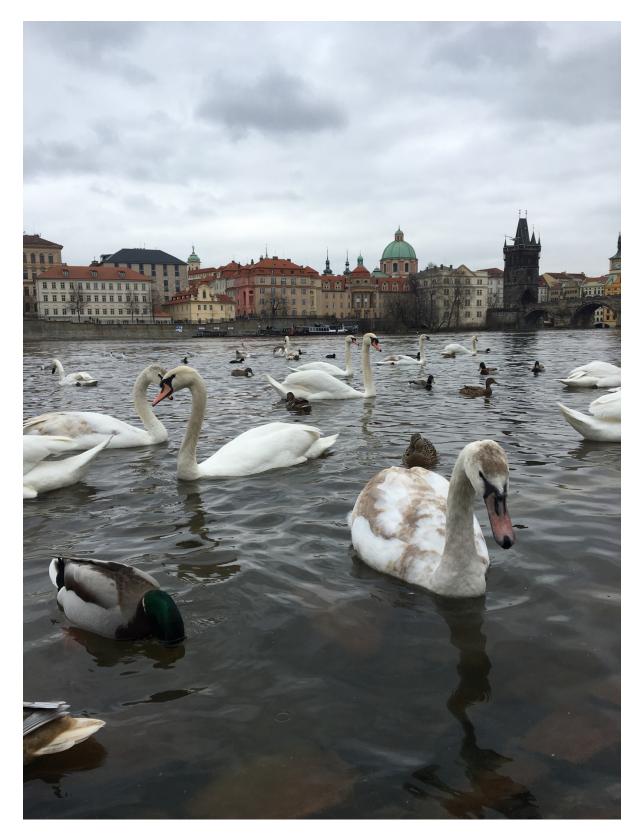
I have wanted to study abroad for my entire career at Cornell and being able to do so in an area that I am so passionate about was amazing. I would love to continue my education in a clinical psychology PhD program researching trauma. The Holocaust allows for many people to learn about the effects of trauma but also the ways in which the victims were able to resist and overcome such challenges. Throughout this experience, I have grown personally, professionally, and have expanded my world view. I am thankful for this experience and for your contribution through this award.
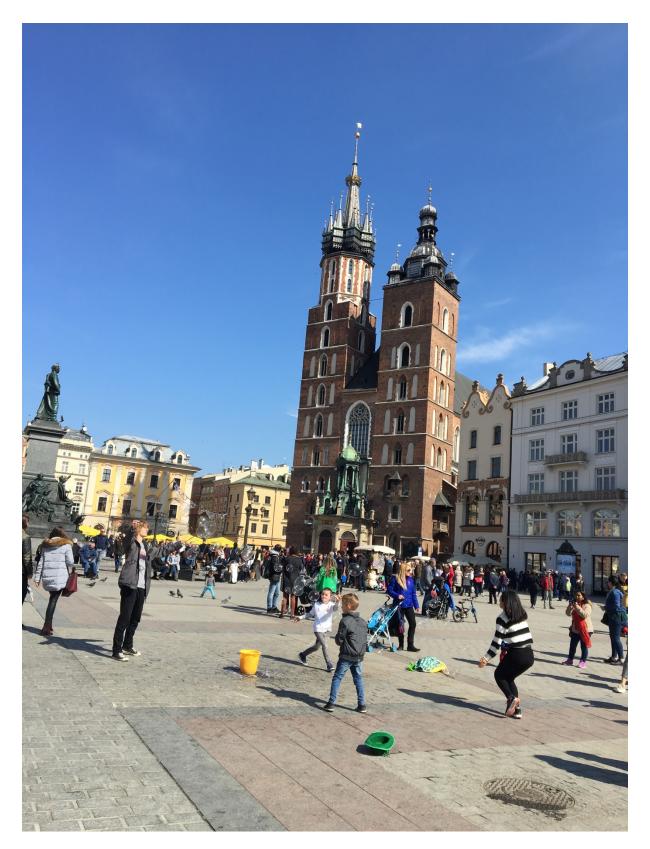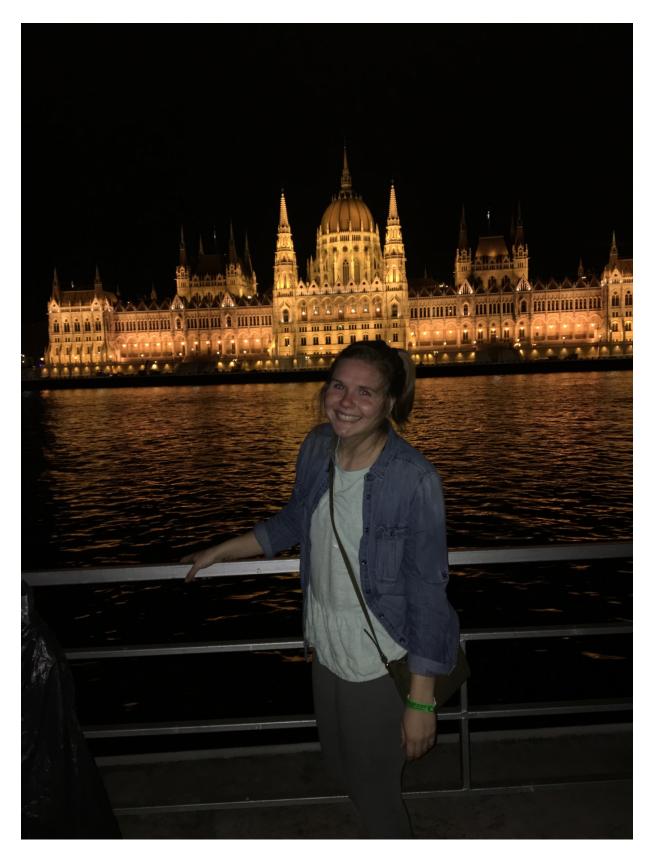
Sincerely,

Elisabeth Sage '19

St. Stephen's Cathedral: Vienna, Austria

Vltava River with Swans and Charles Bridge in Background: Prague, Czech Republic

Main Square with St. Mary's Basilica: Kraków, Poland

Posing in front of lit Parliament on the Danube River: Budapest, Hungary