

March 26, 2019

Dear Class of '55

I am so very grateful for your generous donation which allowed so many Cornell College students to further their education through studying abroad. Without this scholarship, many students, including me, would have missed out on such a valuable life experience. The importance of study abroad courses comes from gaining a broader world view and hands on experience that improves their understanding of the subject. It is part of being a well-rounded student.

I have wanted to study abroad since I applied to college. I chose Cornell for the ease at which you are able to travel since you wouldn't be missing other classes when your professor takes you on a field trip for three days or when you study in another country for the entire block. It's my junior year, and I had the privilege of studying the geology of New Zealand, in New Zealand. I traveled with 15 other students and my professor to the South Island. In the North of the South Island, we learned how to map an area from looking at the bedrocks. On the West Coast in Hokitika, we explored schist deposits from the Southern Alps to understand the formation and tectonic activity of these mountains. New Zealand is such an interesting place geologically to study because not only does it have an active fault running through it, but the Southern Alps are one of the fastest-rising mountains in the world at about 10-20mm per year.

This experience was very valuable in my studies as a geologist. It is not often that we get to see the things from the classroom in real life, such as river terraces along the Alpine Fault that when drawn on the blackboard, look like stair steps. Seeing geologic structures like these up close really solidifies our understanding of them, and personally makes me excited for the career I could have as a geologist.

By the end of this course, I learned that I enjoy geology field work and that study abroad courses can be challenging but also super fun. This course gave me the experience and confidence I need to finish my geology degree and to pursue a career in the field. Again, thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Zoe Kane-Preissing



(At the top of Mt Robert in the Nelson Lakes area)



(Taking the strike and dip of a sandstone layer)



(Classmate, Cali Pfleger, and I posing with the sign for Geologist Creek)