The first two weeks abroad were not always easy. I thought the home sickness was going to get the best of me, but perseverance was only one of the life lessons I learned. After those first 2 weeks, saying I had the time of my life is an understatement. While I was abroad, I had the luxury of being able to travel to 7 different countries, including Spain, France, Holland, Ireland and the Czech Republic, all of which broadened my understanding of the world. I loved going to school in Florence! My professors were amazing, the class size was small and very interactive. The food in Italy was everything it has been talked up to be! Everything was so fresh and tasted better than anything I had ever eaten. The artwork and the ancient buildings around the city were beautiful. It was much easier to learn about Michelangelo when standing in front of the original "David."

I was able to keep in touch with friends and family from home through telephone and WiFi internet connections. My favorite part about studying abroad was in developing relationships with people who each had unique life experiences; although we have chosen different life paths, I will carry a piece of them with me wherever I go.

After studying abroad I now know that I can do anything. I can overcome any obstacle that may be thrown my way and I can face challenges with optimism and strength. I have such a different perspective of the world and what really matters in life after this experience. Travel is the best education; the bonus is learning so much about yourself.