



Gilman Alumni Representative

Angela Weir

Hungary, Fall 2009
DePaul University



I always knew I wanted to study abroad but the closer I got to it, the more unattainable it seemed. Money, graduating on time, being so far from home for so many months were all factors I took into consideration before I chose my program. Thankfully, I received the Gilman Scholarship which allowed me to have an unbelievable experience studying abroad in Hungary. It was an experience that absolutely changed my life.

I learned more about myself in my four months in Hungary than I have in three years at DePaul. I believe that studying in other countries is an opportunity that as many people as possible should experience. Not only does it benefit the person, but while in Europe I realized how much I was teaching those I interacted with as well. For example, in my program I lived in a dorm with two Hungarian students for roommates. On nights when we were all together, we struggled with language barriers but were able to ask each other questions about our cultures- an opportunity that we would not have had in regular circumstances. I attended Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary, a school that specializes in business and economics. As an English major, my economics courses in Budapest provided me an understanding of economics that I was lacking prior to going abroad. At Corvinus, I completed two elective courses, history and photography, for my university requirements at DePaul. I can't describe how exciting it was to be taught European history in Europe, and to photograph the landscapes of Hungary rather than Illinois. I also had the chance to take a class on the European Union with students from six countries in Europe, and one from Turkey- all offering unique perspectives on the debates surrounding the European Union.

While abroad, I participated in the Reach the World partnership with the Gilman Scholarship. Reach the World is a nonprofit organization with the mission of linking students and teachers to online, global journeys that have the power to expand learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. For this program I posted weekly journals for a young students in New York City classrooms, giving teachers information to incorporate into their curriculum and for kids to learn more about another part of the world through a new friend. I was constantly trying to think about what children would notice, find interesting, or want to learn about every day. I am extremely passionate about the benefits of studying abroad, as well as the fact that financial burdens should not be a deterrent when there are great programs such as the Gilman Scholarship available to help.



Angela on a boat tour of Budapest



Angela during Budapest's first snow of the season