

DAVID'S MAJOR(S): studio art and mathematics, minor in art history

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: summer 2003

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I've had a couple of classes with Professor Ed Bernstein. When I thought about doing a program, Ed was there to remind us about the Venice program. I trusted his assessment of it. I thought I'd never do it, but printmaking was on my mind. I looked into financial assistance, I received a grant from the Honors College, and extended family helped. So something that I didn't think was possible really came together so I decided to do it. It was an unexpected move.

BEST MEMORY: I found a Baptist church in Mestre, which helped me branch out a bit. I got to know the pastor and members, and one night, the pastor invited me to a fellowship meeting. I drove out to a couple's apartment in the country with the pastor and his daughter. We were on the outskirts of a town - beautiful scenery - and we worshipped together. It was wonderful to have meaningful contact with them in a setting I never thought I'd be in.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: I had a pretty challenging time. Ed was very much about us interpreting our experience in Venice into our art. At first, I was a bit bitter about Venice; I felt like it was too touristy and that it had a weird, museum-like environment. I had a hard time seeing Venice as a thriving city. What helped me overcome these feelings was finding a church and meeting these music students near our apartment (I attended one of their recitals). I started having these real experiences with real people in Venice.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: Biennale. It's a big art show in Venice where artists from all over the world attend. Seeing all this contemporary art and feeling the atmosphere was the most multicultural experience I've ever had.

COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD ... I really tried to consume the culture as much as I could. I really made an effort to go out and see museums and churches, just to see the buildings. I traveled. I felt like I would have followed the same strategy.

davidfreeman

venice, italy



On a weekend trip to Florence, David Freeman takes in the scenery. Class excursions also included trips to Padua and Verona.

“Ed makes the program really special. He really seemed to want us to be excited about it. It was an interesting bonding time for us and Ed. *it wouldn't be the same if he wasn't leading it.*”

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Wait until you've taken in Venice to commit to your art. Don't commit to something until you've given Venice a chance.