

Alexandria Hollett

Bologna, Italy

ALEX'S MAJORS: Italian, Spanish, English

TERM ABROAD: 2006-07 Academic Year

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I wanted to become fluent in Italian, learn about a different culture and immerse myself in a new way of life.

FAVORITE CLASSES: *The History of Italian Cinema, Italian Female Mysticism, and East Asian Philosophy*



Alexandria Hollett enjoys the beach in Castellammare, Italy.

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: I lived with two Italians, one was a Rastafarian punkabestia who only listened to reggae and Sublime and the other was a first-year student from Puglia.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: Keeping a budget within the limits I had expected. Due to the weakness of the dollar and the strength of the euro, this was difficult.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: There is no Italian music scene in Italy. There are hugely popular Italian artists like Vasco Rossi and Bocelli, but the music on the radio, in the clubs, and in the iPods of Italians is filled with American and British hip-hop and pop.

BEST MEMORY: Returning from a spring break trip through France, the Netherlands and Belgium, I exited the train station and was struck by the knowledge that Bologna had truly become my home.

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Don't freak out. You're going to do things you never expected and you might go through periods where you wonder who you are.

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS: I was concerned when I went abroad that I would miss my friends and my favorite campus events like Halloween and Little 500. While I did miss campus life while I was overseas, I feel like I gained far more.

“Bologna truly became more than just a place to eat, sleep, study and socialize; *Bologna became home.*”

FACTS ABOUT ITALY THAT YOU THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO

LEARN: The tomato plant, although a staple of what we think of as traditional Italian cuisine, is not native to Italy. This is not the tomato's fault.