

Sabina Muccigrosso '16

My first major experience with Italian was during middle school, when my family got the opportunity to visit Italy for 10 days. Being in the country for the first time sparked my love of everything Italian, including the language and the culture. This trip inspired me to study Italian as my second language during high school. Throughout the next four years, my interest grew even more, and summer trips to Italy helped to reinforce my skills and nurture the passion I had developed.

Coming to Muhlenberg I knew that I wanted to continue my Italian studies, and I did everything I could in order to accomplish this. Thankfully, my time at Muhlenberg coincided with the growth of the Italian Studies Program under Prof. Leisawitz and Prof. Viale. All my learning, both in the classroom and out, culminated in the semester I spent studying abroad in Italy at the Siena Italian Studies program in that ancient Tuscan city. This experience was supported wholeheartedly by the department and by Muhlenberg, and it truly fostered my love of Italy and gave me the opportunity to cultivate it. When I came back to Muhlenberg, I was able to bring into my Italian classes everything that I had learned abroad, including further perfection of my language skills. I was very lucky to go to a college that had a department that was so supportive of my desires, and could offer me the opportunity to follow the path I chose; hopefully, I can continue to do so.

Of course, I also wish to thank the anonymous donor who so generously funded the Corona d'Alloro Award. It is wonderful for students to have the support of the community as well as the support of the college as we pursue our passions and our educations.