ALBION COLLEGE

Modern Languages & Cultures Department

Reflections of Fall 2010 trip to France

I found strength in myself that I didn't know I had. I learned that I had the ability to adapt to other cultures and that I was open-minded. I never realized how much I would enjoy living in another culture and how much I wish I could incorporate it into my life more. When I returned to the States, I brought back a lot of new lessons. I have a higher appreciation for food, manners, and family after the trip. I am so thankful that I got this opportunity to experience France in a way that's deeper than through a college textbook. —Holly Paxton, '14

I was stretched in my abilities to speak French, which made relating and learning a little difficult. The struggle only enhanced my growth. I had to rely heavily on experience through action, trial and error, and correction by others. In this way, I was truly able to feel myself changing from an American cultural perspective to a French cultural perspective. –Grace Dougherty, '14

The experience of living with a family in Bailly for a week is, without a doubt, the highlight of my life at this point. I [had] never been outside of the country or seen such a beautiful city. Everyone was so welcoming and warm; I truly felt at home. It made me more aware of my surroundings and the way I perceive people around me. Traveling with a group of classmates to a foreign country [was] a life-changing experience that I would never trade for anything. It taught me so much about myself as well as what I want to do with my life. – Jill McManaman, '14

I learned that the past, present and future are all intertwined with each other. Many French citizens rely on the past to connect with the present and be part of the future. All their monuments have a story that defines France. All the citizens incorporate the past into their knowledge because it is part of their background. It is the core of being French. You must have the ability to utilize the past in order to create a future. — Lindsay Thompson, '14