

Semester in Spain create memories of a lifetime

Marietta College junior Lindsay DiPirro learns plenty from her time in Toledo, Spain during the fall semester.

By KATE DUNN
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Lindsay's DiPirro's memorable experiences started from the moment she began her study abroad adventure.

On Sept. 15, 2003, the Marietta College junior flew for the first time as she left for Toledo, Spain.

DiPirro, of Clarence, N.Y., and high school graduate of Buffalo Seminary in Buffalo, N.Y., spent the fall semester studying abroad.

"I definitely would recommend traveling abroad; it enhances your speaking skills. You are immersed in the language so you are forced to speak it. You can only improve," said DiPirro, the daughter of Carol Raczynski of Clarence, N.Y.

As part of her study abroad program, the school took the students on excursions one day a week, visiting local businesses. Every couple of weeks the students went on cultural excursions where they visited historical attractions, such as the Root of Don Quijote, a famous winery.

The culture shock was huge for DiPirro as she adjusted to the siestas from 2 to 5 p.m. every-day where the entire town closed down. Everything opens again and stays closed until 9 for dinner. "I definitely had to adjust to the eating habits," she said.

DiPirro is majoring in Spanish with a minor in Leadership at Marietta College. She attended classes in Spanish business, culture, and advanced conversation and composition at the University of Castilla de la Mancha as a requirement for her major.

"Everyone was so relaxed and the schedule was very laid back," DiPirro said. "Also we had



Photo by Tom Perry/College Relations

Marietta College junior Lindsay DiPirro enjoyed studying abroad in Toledo, Spain, during the fall semester.

weekly gatherings with local students where we would talk to them in Spanish and they would talk to us in English."

Marietta College encourages its students to study abroad to participate in a number of opportunities for educational study outside the college, which do not interrupt their affiliation with the College. Marietta has established formal relationships with several national and foreign institutions, which makes it easy for students to find a place to go. The College considers approved study abroad programs as an extension of its campus and transfers grades earned without question.