

Dear Mary and Elliott Wood Foundation committee:

Thank you again for another amazing year at UNC-Chapel Hill. As I write this letter I am overwhelmed by the experiences that I have had since this time last year. Last January I was preparing for my semester abroad in Valparaiso, Chile. And what an unbelievable five months it was! I lived with a wonderful Chilean family in Vina del Mar, Chile and attended classes at the Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso (Catholic University of Valparaiso). I met so many wonderful people and was able to travel all over Chile and South America including Uruguay, Argentina, and Machu Picchu (the great Incan ruins) in Peru. I also visited places all over Chile from the farthest northern city of Arica in the Atacama Desert, to the farthest southern city of Punto Arenas near Antartica. Amidst all of this, I was able to receive a full fifteen hours of credit completing courses in Spanish language, literature, history, and philosophy (all of which were taught in Spanish). I was also able to hone my Spanish speaking skills and became fluent in the language.

Returning to the United States wasn't as difficult as many said it would be for me. I welcomed a new semester at Chapel Hill with open arms and jumped right into my sorority's Rush as the Assistant Rush Chairperson. I was also excited to finally begin courses in my broadcast journalism major as well as continue with my Spanish minor (of which I will declare this Spring). I suddenly realized why UNC-CH has one of the best journalism schools in the nation. Although classes were extremely demanding, I was definitely up for the challenge. I have never worked so hard, but I have never enjoyed school more than I did this past semester. I am thrilled by the thought of a career in broadcast journalism and have begun working for UNC's student news program *Carolina Week*. I was also recently accepted as an intern at WCHL radio. WCHL 1360AM is a news radio station that broadcasts to Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Durham and I feel honored to have been accepted as a student reporter for them.

Thank you again for providing me with all of these incredible opportunities. As they say in Chile . . . "aproveche el momento" – "seize the moment!" And that is exactly what I try to do everyday. I hope that you will renew my Mary and Elliott Wood Scholarship for the 2004-2005 school year.