

#1 My First Month in Rome...

...with ups and downs.

Hey! After more than one month I am back!

As already mentioned, the college started one week after my arrival in Rome. I was completely taken by surprise by college life and thought for the first couple of days that I would completely fail. An example: After the first week of college I was thankful for the weekend. I was sitting with my host family on Saturday evening when some of my classmates from my management class started writing about some assignment in our group. I was totally confused and had no idea what was going on. Well, it turned out that an essay was due by Sunday evening at the latest! So much for "jump in the cold water".

Despite the shock, I managed to get a good grade and everything was good. College life isn't the way we might know it from typical American films in certain respects. When you look at movies, everything looks so easy. But the truth is that many of my college colleagues sometimes have full-time jobs besides college and sometimes even have children! I can't imagine how much stress that has to be!

Besides college, there are a few other things I had to take care of last month. Unfortunately, my Social Security Card has still not arrived. The number on it is needed for everything here; bank account activation, car insurance, driving test and college registration are just a few examples. That's why I went to the Social Security Office with my college coordinator (Since I don't have a car yet...) to find out why it takes so long. It turned out that the lady in charge of my case wasn't in the office for family reasons and hadn't worked on anything yet. Tell me about Bureaucracy! 😞 For me that means waiting at least 6 days again. 😞

Despite the many hurdles I love it here. Rome is a small but versatile city with many possibilities to get to know people. Also, through the college I was able to get to know many great people. 😊 All the people I have met so far are totally open and kind. The worship band of my church even offered to sing with them! You can't imagine how much I'm looking forward to it!

Over the Labor Day weekend, I went to Mentone, Alabama with my host family. We stayed overnight in a small, comfortable cabin. We hiked and saw waterfalls, I had the best coconut cream cake EVER, barbecued S'mores, paddled in a canoe and just had a great time.

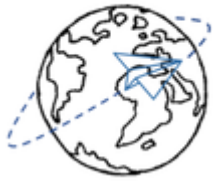
Together with my choir class I was allowed to sing at a Naturalization Ceremony. This is a ceremony for people who get the American citizenship during this event. It was just great to see the joy of these people!

My host family is wonderful and I am so grateful for their help. My two host brothers are very sweet and are like two real brothers to me. We already had a lot of fun together and I am looking forward to the next adventures!

Until then I look forward to your comments and wish you a great weekend!

Lena





Labor Day Weekend



Football Game of the Darlington Tigers



Davis and Me 😊



My first Frozen Yoghurt!



I felt like a child!



S'mores