

I am a 4th year in the School of Architecture minoring in Italian. While studying abroad in Rome last year, I was fortunate enough to travel to Vernazza, Italy just two weeks before torrential rains and flooding destroyed much of the town's historic architectural character. As a student of both architecture and Italian, I felt that the flood presented a unique opportunity to apply what I have learned at Notre Dame to a real situation that necessitates immediate attention and care. After choosing Vernazza as the site for my thesis project, I set out a strategy and timeline for the project with the help of Prof. Neil Hoyt. A grant from CUSE allowed me to travel to Vernazza, where I met with city officials, builders, and townspeople to assess the damage and the town's greatest needs. Over the next year, I will continue to develop my thesis into a project that will address Vernazza's future from an architectural, urban, and social perspective.