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Friendships

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Before coming, I knew I was the only Linfield student going to Seville, so making new friends was going to be a must. I have met a lot of new people and built great relationships that I know I'll have forever. Some friendships I made were with other American students studying at the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies with me, but Spaniards as well. Looking back I thought I would've made more Spanish friends, but the truth is that I've found it difficult to meet and maintain friendships with other Spaniards my age. However, of the three speaking partners I've had, one of them has been great and I've learned so much from her. I'm very thankful for everything she's shown me about her city and culture. I know someday she'll come to visit me in Oregon so I can show her my home and the culture I've grown up in. There are also two families that I've become pretty close with from tutoring their kids, and it's going to be hard to say good bye to them as well. I've enjoyed helping them with their English and getting to know them while being able to see what it's like to grow up here in Spain. Finally, the two host moms I've had (from living in two different houses from first to second semester) have been a big influence on my time here. Everything from the delicious food they've cooked for me to the interesting conversations we've had. I've learned a lot about their culture from a distinct point of view. Although it would've been a different experience living with a family with young children, I'm happy with the houses I've lived in. I still got to see what family life was like from going to the tutoring houses as well as when my host mom's kids and grandkids came over to visit. All in all, I'm happy to have met everyone I did and look forward to coming back to visit them in the future.

Jessica