

Semester in Spain has feel of family vacation

Marietta College junior Jana Gil enjoyed studying in Spain during the fall, and now she hopes to return soon.

By RICK MEEKES
MC College Relations

Marietta College junior **Jana Gil**'s fall semester had the feel of a family vacation.

While the New Martinsville, W.Va., native was studying abroad at *La Universidad de Castilla La Mancha*, in Toledo, Spain, she also had an opportunity to visit family and travel around the country.

She chose Spain because she visited family there while in high school and she enjoyed her time there immensely.

"Studying in Spain was a wonderful experience for me," said Gil, the daughter of **Gary and Denise Gil** of New Martinsville, W.Va. "It gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of wonderful people and learn more about the culture than I ever expected."

Although Gil admits that at times she became homesick she was not alone in her journey to Spain. **Liz Nowr y** and **Lindsay DiPirro** accompanied Gil overseas. "Having Liz and Lindsay with me really meant a lot to me. If someone is thinking about studying abroad I would definitely recommend they go with a friend," Gil said.

Despite spending a lot of time on her studies, Gil was also able to do a lot of traveling while



Photo submitted by Jana Gil

Marietta College junior Jana Gil enjoyed her semester studying in Spain so much that she hopes to study abroad again some day. Gil hopes to be a high school Spanish teacher after graduation. She is a Spanish major with a minor in Latin American studies and Leadership. Marietta College encourages students to study abroad to participate in a number of opportunities for educational study outside the College.

in Spain. She visited a number of cities including, Valencia, Merida, Granada, Madrid, and even London. "Traveling was the best part about studying abroad. Although I really enjoyed each city I had the best time in Valencia because my aunt and uncle live there."

Gil, a graduate of Magnolia High School, is a Spanish major with a minor in both Latin American studies and Leadership.

Gil enjoyed her time in Spain so much that she plans on going back again next summer. After Gil graduates from Marietta she plans on attending graduate school in hopes of one day becoming a high school Spanish teacher.