Law student studies with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia
By Stephanie Gehringon
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Law student Lauren Anderson may look at U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's opinions a little differently now.

The 2004 Sandburg High School graduate took a summer course on separation of powers -- with the justice as her professor.

Did we mention that the course was in Italy?

"It was pretty awesome," Anderson said from the Orland Park home of her parents, Jim and Patti Anderson. "It was quite an experience."

Lauren Anderson attends John Marshall Law School in Chicago, but the overseas program was through Loyola University's Law School.

"It was mostly Loyola students, so I was really lucky to go," she said.

Anderson had inquired about the program the previous fall and learned Scalia would teach a course.

"I thought, 'I have to go,'" she said. "I was so happy."

She took a total of four courses during her month abroad. Scalia's course was the last one.

She said she was nervous, unsure what to expect.

"We read a lot of his opinions in school," she said. "Some people think he's strict. He's an originalist."

She said she and the other students in the Comparative Constitution Law course were trying to read as much as they could and cram before the class started.

"We didn't know if he would be mean," she said. "He's really funny and sarcastic. He definitely keeps you interested in the class."

Scalia liked to crack jokes. But he definitely had much information to disseminate.

"There was a ton of reading," Anderson said. "We weren't shocked though. He's a Supreme Court justice."

And he taught that the United States has the best government.
"He said, 'Separation of powers is the best government.' We need to make sure the legislative branch doesn't get too much power. The same for the judicial branch," she said. "He said, 'Don't let us have too much power.'"

Besides studying, Anderson, who received an A in Scalia's course, had a chance to do some traveling including trips to Florence and Cinque Terre on the coast.

"It was my favorite place," she said of Cinque Terre. "We got to swim in the Mediterranean. We did some hiking in the mountains."

She said she made many friends during her month long stay in Italy.

"I miss it a lot already," she said. It was great way to take summer classes, to study in Italy."

Home again in the United States, Anderson, who is in her second year of law school, has been thinking about how she can share some of the information she learned with other students.

"I talked to my constitutional law professor," she said. "All my friends have been asking about it. They're all jealous."