

Angela Meyer

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Korea, 2016-2017



“My study abroad experience helped me to understand world issues and cultures in ways that would not have been possible if I had not studied in South Korea.”

During her study abroad experience, Angela was able to complete 2 levels of intensive Korean language courses offered at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Angela’s experience abroad allowed her to become confident in her Korean language skill and understanding of Korean culture. During her year abroad, Angela tutored a variety of students from the university, as well as Korean company workers, in English speaking. Through this, Angela discovered her passion for helping people improve their English skills because she saw the doors that could be opened for people that knew English in South Korea.

After returning from her time abroad, she studied methodologies and techniques of teaching English as a second language and earned a TESOL certificate. Angela also became part of the study abroad marketing team at her university and has encouraged students to take the chance to study abroad.

- ★ Journalism and Mass Communications at New Mexico State University
- ★ Improved Korean language skills
- ★ Tutored Korean university and non-traditional students in English language speaking
- ★ Wrote article about Korean food and culture for Her Campus Online Magazine



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Cameron Peagler

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Japan, 2013



“I learned during my study abroad experience that cultural diversity is not the nail that divides us, but the hammer that forges innovation and unity.”

Cameron learned about Japanese technology, language, and culture during his study abroad program. Numerous experiences such as staying with host families, learning the inner workings of a Japanese hospital, and attending college level language classes influenced him in many ways. Professionally, these exchanges helped propel his career as a nurse. However, it was the everlasting bonds formed with new family and friends in Japan that impacted him the most on a personal level and in turn changed his life.

These changes transformed Cameron’s perspective on cultural sensitivity and diplomacy which transferred into all aspects of his daily living. In the hospital setting, he is now able to provide more individualized and culturally competent care to his patients. Outside of work, Cameron continuously promotes studying abroad by hosting students through the KAKE Japanese Exchange program. He also advocates exchange by giving presentations to college students thanks to Gilman outreach events and self-propagated projects.

- ★ Nursing and Psychology at Wright State University, first-generation college student
- ★ Enhanced Japanese language proficiency
- ★ Shared study abroad experience via several university presentations and Gilman outreach events
- ★ KAKE Japanese Exchange program participant 2014-2018



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Chinwe Obudulu

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Korea, 2016



“The most significant attribute I gained from my experience abroad was to never stop exploring. Professionally and personally, I remain open to new experiences.”

During her exchange at Korea University, Chinwe hopped on Seoul’s subway almost every day, learning how to navigate the city and the Korean language while exploring the many neighborhoods of Seoul. She increased her international nutrition knowledge through completion of a multi-week traditional Korean cooking class and fostered her cross-cultural communication skills through interactions with not only the locals but also the students and professors from all around the world who came to Korea University.

Chinwe’s adventures in South Korea left her eager to continue having new experiences when she returned to the U.S. This new perspective encouraged her to explore dietetics, a career field that she had previously dismissed. She applied and was accepted to various internships and experiences that reignited her passion for the field and positioned her to be accepted to the 2019 class of the University of Texas Medical Branch combined Masters in Nutrition and Dietetic Internship.

- ★ International Summer Campus Exchange at Korea University
- ★ Self-studied the Korean language and overcame communication barriers
- ★ Completed Cook-N-Dine course at the Korean Cuisine Cultural Center and learned about Korean nutritional practices



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Chou Moua

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

China, 2006



“I returned home a global citizen, with a thirst to better improve relationships and build bridges with other cultures and people.”

A graduate of the University of Minnesota and 2006 Gilman Scholar, Chou focused much of his time as a Gilman Scholar researching and visiting Hmong/Miao populations across the Greater Mekong area. Afterwards, he also completed both Boren and Chinese Government Fellowships, studying Chinese language and Chinese models of development at Fudan University.

Chou has worked extensively in local community development, most notably with the Hmong community in healthcare, mental health, and tourism management as well as advocating for workers' rights and culturally conscious healthcare in Minnesota. In the past, he has worked as a consultant developing non-timber forest enterprises in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund. Additionally, he has assessed ecosystem services for the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. He has a strong interest in utilizing monitoring and evaluation to improve effectiveness of programs and is a strong advocate for culturally conscious methods of data collection.

- ★ Chinese Language and Literature
- ★ Hmong American delegation member to International Huashan Festival, Xingwen County, Sichuan, China
- ★ Continued study abroad experience as a Boren Fellow and Chinese Government Scholar
- ★ Blogged about experience abroad as a Gilman Global Experience blogger



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Cierra Powell

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Ecuador, 2017



“I learned so much from the people that I worked with and through my interviews. Now I feel confident in my preparation as I pursue my future endeavors.”

During the summer of 2017, Cierra Powell held an internship in partnership with the non-profit organization Families with Heart in Ecuador. Like other volunteers, Powell helped care for children and offered assistance during home visits alongside medical staff. In addition, Powell also conducted interviews on Ecuadorian residents' views of developmental aid. What do they think about outsiders trying to help? Powell's research inspired her final undergraduate research project on the effects of international aid on foreign public opinion.

Powell's experience in Ecuador has strengthened her convictions about promoting intercultural understanding and cooperation. Her experience abroad also gave her the confidence to overcome difficulties and be prepared for entering today's competitive global marketplace. Powell intends to pursue a master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy. Before that, she intends to work as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Madrid, Spain.

- ★ Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Spanish from Carroll College
- ★ Volunteered to help special needs children, and conducted interviews on local views of foreign aid
- ★ Learned to properly document and analyze data through internship with Families with Heart
- ★ Interviews shaped research projects for an International Relations Research Seminar and a Spanish Capstone



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Emily Radford

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Netherlands, 2018



“The most significant attribute I gained from my experience was the confidence that wherever I live, I will be able to create a sense of community.”

Emily studied abroad for a year in Quito, Ecuador and Amsterdam, Netherlands. She spent time focusing on her second major, gender studies, in two drastically different cultures. For the past two years, she’s identified as both a feminist and a queer woman. She blogged about these aspects of her identity abroad as well as her experience with white privilege, class struggle and culture shock via her personal blog and later as a blogging correspondent for IES Abroad. By doing so, she helped to foster a sense of openness, honesty, and solidarity among her readers.

Emily’s passion for travel and the strong sense of community she establishes in each new place she lives inspired her to pursue a career of community involvement, activism, and change. She is currently applying for a Fulbright Grant to teach English in Argentina and is hoping to become involved with women’s shelters and LGBTQ organizations while there. She hopes to eventually pursue a PhD and continue to teach and research at a university level.

- ★ Psychology and Gender Studies at the University of Rochester
- ★ Gained knowledge of the surrounding community with in-depth classes on identity politics and intersectionality
- ★ Active member in University of Amsterdam LGBTQ organization
- ★ Blogged as an IES Abroad correspondent



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Emily Smith

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Africa, 2018



“For the first time in my life I recognized my perspective rather than removing it. By embracing my perspective, I realized an individual’s experience is invaluable to their education.”

While studying abroad, Emily’s program- SIT South Africa: Community Health and Social Policy, focused on the diverse forms of healthcare in South Africa and the methods and ethics of research. For 15 weeks she traveled across the country, visiting a range of rural and urban hospitals, school, and government facilities, to try and better understand the various dimensions of South Africa’s society.

A significant portion of her semester was spent in the city of Durban, where Emily lived in the township of Cato Manor with her Zulu host family. She attended Zulu lessons daily and frequently used it in her home and community. Learning the native language helped her build strong local relationships and better understand cultural practices. While living in Cato Manor and experiencing the reality of daily life, Emily was able to understand her curriculum on a profound, empathetic, level.

This experience brought to light Emily’s passion for education and shaped her new career path. While working in a special needs school she realized her heart belongs to the youth. It belongs to those who were not born with her privilege or opportunities, and she will try to make a difference until the day her world stops turning. The skills and life lessons gained from studying abroad have inspired Emily to apply for Teach for America and work to empower the youth and bring more diversity to the world of education.

- ★ First Generation College Student, Global Health Major at the University of Iowa
- ★ Enhanced understanding of non-Western society and how to accommodate multiple perspectives respectfully and productively
- ★ Gained experience conducting research and writing extensive reports
- ★ Blogged about her experience abroad for the University of Iowa



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Farhonda Alizada

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

United Kingdom, 2016



“Studying abroad empowered me as an individual and gave me a level of confidence and self-assurance I would have never reached had I confined myself within society’s expectations.”

During her year abroad in London, Farhonda completed intensive seminars discussing the securitization of human rights in regards to the ongoing refugee crises in Europe. She received a position as a political engagement and strategic development intern at an NGO in East London. It was here that she was able to apply the theories she had learned in her seminars into practical use with her volunteer work. Farhonda took on various roles throughout her internship; she assisted children from refugee backgrounds with schoolwork, collaborated with local politicians and charities in order to help integrate newly resettled refugees into British life and culture, and offered translation services for Dari speakers.

Upon her return to the U.S., Farhonda worked closely with her campus’ global education office to promote study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship to underrepresented students just like herself. She hopes that her stories and experiences will inspire her peers to realize that they too are capable of studying abroad.

- ★ Studying Global Studies and Political Science at California State University, San Marcos
- ★ Advanced Dari language skills
- ★ Volunteered with refugees resettled within the East London area
- ★ Conducted biweekly study abroad info sessions at her home university and encouraged eligible students to apply for the Gilman Scholarship



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Jenna Parker

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Korea, 2014



“My experience abroad allowed me to develop a newfound sense of confidence and taught me to be resourceful and creative in taking on unexpected and unfamiliar challenges.”

Through her internship hosted by the Jeollanamdo Provincial Government of Education, Jenna found a new passion for working with children from rural areas and helping them achieve their goals through education. Her internship hosted students from various universities across the United States and paired them with Korean university students to serve as English teachers for two separate English language camps located in different counties across the Southern Jeolla province. The majority of her internship focused on lesson planning, event planning, grading, teaching and instruction.

Jenna's time in South Korea not only helped shape her aspirations for the future, but it also instilled a sense of confidence in herself and her past experiences, as this was her first opportunity to return to her country of birth since being adopted at a young age. These moving experiences, her strengthened teaching skills, and her desire to promote cultural engagement has encouraged her to pursue a career and graduate education in educational policy with hopes to return abroad.

- ★ Political Science (International Relations) and Linguistics at University of Arizona
- ★ Improved Korean language skills
- ★ Provided experience teaching English as a second language
- ★ Gained professional experience through internship with the Jeollanamdo Provincial Government Department of Education



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Katrina Kniss

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

India, 2016



“[Studying abroad] redefined what it means for me to be a global citizen. In an ever more interconnected world like ours, the local is the global. I now strongly believe we need to initiate change from our own context and communities, wherever we find ourselves.”

Through homestays, Hindi lessons, hands-on research courses, and class excursions, Katrina was immersed in a new culture and forced to examine many ingrained parts of her worldview. A month of independent research alongside an indigenous group in a reserve in Sikkim opened her eyes to the effects of climate change and globalization for community autonomy. She also gained the invaluable experience of learning and practicing research ethics in a cross-cultural setting.

In addition to increasing her confidence in facing new challenges, Katrina’s time in India also taught her about the importance of being a globally-minded citizen who understands the impacts of US policy, and even our cultural ways of life, on our neighbors around the world. Hoping to get involved in the manifestations of global issues on the local level, Katrina spent her first year out of college volunteering with Mennonite Voluntary Service in San Antonio, TX. She plans to pursue a career in immigration law.

- ★ Sustainable Development and Social Change
with the School for International Training
- ★ Developed Hindi language skills
- ★ Gained research experience through a month
of independent study in Gantok and Dzongu,
North Sikkim



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Kwame Crawford

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Ghana, 2017



“6 months, 4 countries, on 3 continents, and official visits to HQ U.S. Navy 6th and 7th Fleets are stories some only read about. I proved to myself I can make a life traveling, supporting development and economic growth efforts, it’s obtainable.”

After serving temporary duty with U.S. 7th Fleet in Japan, I furthered scholarship as a Business Development Intern at startup incubator, The Founder Institute. Understanding relations between Economic Coalition of West African State (ECOWAS) Allies and the developed world, while coming to understand ECOWAS economic growth patterns through community engagement aligned me with the Ghana Center for Democratic Development. Seeing accountings big 4 made me question, stop, and think of the social demands around me, and the market arming itself to produce those demands.

To get acquainted with the sentiments of Ghanaians on life, their world, and the world around them, I traveled around the capital, and country. Using public transit and Uber allowed me to engage with many I otherwise wouldn’t’ve. From NGO’s to meetings with Commerce and Defense at the U.S. Embassy the wholistic view I gained as a West African Scholar lead me so far as to form an undergraduate research thesis which I would like to complete on a return visit home to Ghana. Living as a cultural ambassador and continuing the conversation isn’t something I could’ve done without Gilman, thank you for that!

- ★ International Relations, and Economics double major, Howard University, Washington D.C.
- ★ Owning my heritage and recognizing my agency in the development of ECOWAS Economies in West Africa I engaged professionals and economic scholars at the Ghana Center of Democratic Development with Johns Hopkins Vice Dean Peter Lewis (SAIS).
- ★ Immersion into Ghana’s growing industrialization as an intern at The Founder Institute, an International Start Up Incubator for ecommerce entrepreneurs
- ★ Off time in the Eastern Region, as a Krobo myself, and casual meetings with Para Chief of the Krobo people furthered my Twi and Krobo language skills



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Kyra Taubel-Bruce

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Czech Republic, 2017



“The most impactful part of my experience was seeing the real-life impact of journalism and rediscovering the importance of a free press and intercultural communication.”

During her time in the Czech Republic, Kyra studied Czech Language, diplomacy, and media in communist and post-communist society. Her studies focused on the role of Radio Free Europe in the communist bloc and the impact of journalism on politics, diplomacy, and everyday life. She used her research on the Czech, and Central and Eastern European media landscape, in addition to her studies of diplomacy and authoritarian regimes, to better understand the role of media in countries without a free press and its role in global diplomacy.

Kyra's time in the Czech Republic piqued her interest in a career in the foreign service, reminded her of the reason she began studying journalism, and developed her self-confidence and adaptability. These new perspective and language skills have influenced her decision to continue studying language with the ambitions of pursuing a graduate degree in linguistics, applying for a Fulbright to study media in the Middle East, and eventually taking the foreign service exam.

- ★ Visual Journalism and Linguistics at Western Washington University
- ★ Elementary Czech Language skills, and media studies during- and post-communism
- ★ Gained further language study and new cultural perspectives on journalism and media
- ★ Volunteered with the American Student Association in collaboration with the US Embassy



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Loan Tang

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Vietnam, 2017



“The most significant ability I was able to acquire from my experience abroad was the confidence to live life bravely and explore unfamiliar paths.”

During her internship at the National Hospital of Traditional Medicine, Loan was introduced to different methods of incorporating traditional Chinese medicine techniques into modern medicine. This internship allowed her to experience a different approach to medicine—one that is unfamiliar to individuals in the United States-- and experience how healthcare and healthcare facilities vary in a different country. She hopes to use the holistic approaches of traditional medicine for improving healthcare in the U.S. During her time abroad, she also volunteered to teach English to students in a village nearby Hanoi. Through this experience, she was able to discover her passion for communities and learning.

Loan's time in Hanoi, Vietnam provided her with the opportunity to discover a different sector of healthcare, as well as develop an appreciation for culture and people. These experiences also gave her the confidence to live life bravely and explore unfamiliar paths. These new skills and experiences abroad, has encouraged her to pursue a Master's in Public Health.

- ★ Life Sciences, Leadership Studies, and International Studies at Kansas State University
- ★ Gained professional experience through interning at The National Hospital of Traditional Medicine
- ★ Increased Vietnamese language skills
- ★ Created a global network with individuals during internship



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Minhkhang Truong

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Japan, 2014-15



“Nothing has been so impactful to forming my identity and values than my time on study abroad.”

During his time abroad Minhkhang studied at Waseda University International Liberal Studies Program, where he took Japanese and Anthropology classes. He was able to build community and lasting friendships through joining GLOW a student organization that advocated for LGBTQ inclusivity on campus. Through his stay with a host family Minhkhang learned to leverage and scaffold cross cultural communication skills, leading to intermediate Japanese level fluency.

Minhkhang's time in Japan allowed him to identify his talents, interests, and values that ultimately funneled into his current career path. During his time in Tokyo, Japan, Minhkhang worked as an English consultant and volunteered at a language café sharing Vietnamese, Japanese and English exchange. Minhkhang translated his time in Japan to conducting his senior thesis on the Vietnamese education system while teaching at an international high school in Hanoi. This experience lead him to apply, accept, and honor his two-year commitment with Teach For America, serving as an elementary teacher in Brooklyn, NY. Minhkhang's time abroad gave him the skills and passion for education and equity, bringing that to his role as the Academic Services Manager at his current school.

- ★ Anthropology/Sociology & Japanese at Kalamazoo College
- ★ Increased Japanese intermediate proficiency skills
- ★ Gained professional experience through internship at EigoPass, an English consulting firm
- ★ Blogged about experience abroad with Reach The World



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Natilie Williams

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Singapore, 2013



“Studying in Singapore was a clear indication that flourishing in new environment is a true stepping stone on the pursuit of greatness.”

Natilie studied at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) as the only student from her home university at that location. She persevered through homesickness and embraced the life-changing opportunity. The classroom experience focused on international branding and how national and international corporations merge, as well as market to their consumers across the global. She was able to use her international experience to gain better insight to the public relations field.

Upon returning from her Singapore trip, she was on a mission to increase the number of Black students from Central Michigan University that studied abroad, or at least visited the Office of Study Abroad (OSA) to inquire about possible participation. The OSA office saw a clear increase in the number of Black students taking advantage of studying abroad through Natilie’s work.

Currently, Natilie is a doctoral student at the University of Missouri Columbia studying Communication, Identity and Diversity, while also serving as professional speaker to college students under her company, Nat Will, Speak! LLC.

- ★ Integrative Public Relations, Central Michigan University
- ★ Intercultural Communication, Illinois State University
- ★ Increased cultural competency
- ★ Studied Corporate Communication and Branding at Nanyang Technological University
- ★ Served as a Peer Advisor for the Office of Study Abroad at CMU



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Nicholas J. Fowler

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

China, 2017



“Being abroad took me out of my comfort zone. I learned critical skills, such as adaptability and improvisation. Those skills have been beneficial to my professional career.”

During his journey at Prairie View A&M University, Nicholas has been active in the Civil and Environmental Engineering program. Not knowing what the field consisted of, he proceeded to learn that Civil and Environmental Engineers’ focus on the safety of the people and resource accessibility to the community. He was able to join and work alongside other inspired soon-to-be engineers in China at Jinan University. While pursuing his academics, he had the opportunity to be active in the community by site seeing and engaging in local cultural activities.

In addition to participating in a Net Work Theory course, he had the opportunity to visit the campus laboratories and conduct experiments. He developed and improved skills that will be beneficial in his academic and professional career. Even though the new environment was challenging, he adapted and used all the resources available during his stay overseas. When there weren’t any resources available, he improvised his way through the situations.

- ★ Civil and Environmental Engineering & Construction Science major at Prairie View A&M University
- ★ Completed an Electrical Engineering course at Jinan University
- ★ Gained educational experience by conducting lab experiments
- ★ Promotes studying abroad and the Gilman Scholarship at local speaking engagements as a Gilman Ambassador



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Pandora White

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Ghana, 2012



“Studying abroad forced me to stop thinking about the person I could be and become her.”

While abroad, Pandora took science courses towards her degree and experienced teaching methods different from those in the United States. She had an opportunity to take lab courses that inspired her to see that although there are differences in facilities, science can be done anywhere.

After Ghana, Pandora was passionate about enhancing her knowledge of the world as well as scientific techniques, so she applied for multiple study abroad opportunities to do so. In 2013, she conducted research on Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Bangalore, India at St. John’s Research Institute through the National Institute of Health Minority Health and International Training Program (MHIRT). In 2015, she researched the effects of trivalent chromium on wound healing in Taichung, Taiwan at National Chung Hsing University through the National Science Foundation East Asia Summer Pacific Islands Program. From 2016-2017, she was a Fulbright Student Researcher in Poznan, Poland at Poznan University of Life Sciences where she conducted research on type 2 diabetes. She is currently completing a PhD in biochemistry at the University of Alabama.

- ★ First generation college student
- ★ Chemistry at Alcorn State University
- ★ Became more independent and confident
- ★ Partnered with the Office of Global Programs at Alcorn State University to conduct a study abroad workshop



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Sharonda Watson

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Korea, 2016-17



“Without the support of Gilman, I would not have gained a clearer direction into my career path.”

During her year abroad in Seoul, South Korea, Sharonda not only gained more knowledge in the classroom, but cultural immersion outside of it. She had the opportunity to meet many friends and volunteered as an English teacher while abroad. Those experiences provided her the opportunity to improve her Korean language skills and gain insight into the influence of English education in South Korea. She discovered her passion of wanting to understand how East Asian countries implement globalization through their English educational policies.

Additionally, Sharonda believes that without her experience abroad, she would not have gained interpersonal skills on how to interact with people from different cultures. After her time abroad, she interned at an international NGO and now is currently applying to graduate schools to obtain a Master's degree in Public Administration.

- ★ Studied History and International Affairs at Kennesaw State University
- ★ Increased Korean language skills
- ★ Volunteered as an English tutor at her host institution
- ★ Blogged about her experience while abroad



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Simone Frazier

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Africa, 2016



“The most significant attribute I gained from my experience abroad was the ability to adapt my project to fit the needs of the patients, doctors and hospital.”

During her time studying abroad, Simone attended the University of Cape Town where she completed studies in sustainability and community development. As a part of her community engagement project, Simone interned at Victoria hospital, which provides service to over 800,000 patients in the local residential area. After talking to various doctors in the hospital, Simone learned that one of their main areas of concern was on providing guidance to cardiac arrest patients after they leave the hospital. Thus, Simone created post-cardiac arrest brochures and pamphlets which detailed recommended dos and don'ts for the first seven weeks after a cardiac arrest. Simone then took it a step further by translating these brochures into English, Afrikaans and Xhosa in order to meet each patient's needs.

Simone's time in South Africa has helped her foster her love for medicine and patient care. It has helped her develop her leadership skills and the ability to adapt to any situation. Simone plans on attending medical school and later working with international organizations to provide the best global healthcare and patient care.

- ★ Family Science major and minor in International Development and Conflict Management at University of Maryland
- ★ Lived in Cape Town South Africa for 3 months
- ★ Gained professional experience through internship at Victoria Hospital
- ★ Increased language skills in Afrikaans and Xhosa



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Taneisha Carter

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Korea, 2015



“Going abroad forced me to toss my fear aside and embrace the unknown.”

While studying abroad in Seoul, South Korea Taneisha was able to combine her interest in Korean culture and mental health. Taneisha stayed on Korea University’s International Summer Campus and took part in the Korean Buddy Program. This allowed Taneisha the opportunity to fully immerse herself into the culture while enhancing language fluency. Additionally, Taneisha took courses in Korean Art & Cinema and Mass Media. Taneisha attended many cultural activities including making kimchi and visiting a Buddhist temple.

Taneisha’s time in Seoul bolstered her confidence and enthusiasm for her future career goals. It was a summer she will never forget and she is grateful to have been given an opportunity to learn more about this fascinating country. Taneisha is currently in a post-baccalaureate position as a clinical research assistant at the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Baltimore, MD.

- ★ First generation college student, Psychology major and Korean Studies Minor at University of Maryland College Park
- ★ Increased Korean language skills
- ★ Gained knowledge about cultural practices surrounding mental health
- ★ Shared her experience abroad with an underrepresented group of students at College Park



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Ting Wu

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

China, 2016



“Studying abroad helped her conquer her fears, make lifelong connections and strengthened her passion for her future career.”

Ting’s time in China was rewarded with not only lifelong friends and experiences but also with a newfound interest in oriental medicine. She was able to not only finish her Chinese Studies minor in China but was also able to immerse herself in the Chinese culture as well as improve her speaking and reading skills tremendously. Studying abroad helped her conquer her fears, make lifelong connections and strengthened her passions for her future career.

During her short time abroad, she volunteered for a summer camp of children from a leprosy village. She was able to teach them English, art, and sign language. She discovered her passion to help others and it opened her interest to eastern medicine. As a Biology major, she always had a interest in healthcare. To read about another country’s healthcare in textbook is one thing but to be able to experience another country’s healthcare was an extraordinary experience. She is grateful for the opportunities and roads Gilman Scholarship has opened for her and hopes to inspire others to study abroad as well.

- ★ Biology major and Chinese Studies minor at University of Nevada, Reno
- ★ Increased Chinese language skills
- ★ Taught English to leprosy village children
- ★ Gained experience to pursue career in Oriental Medicine
- ★ Promoted studying abroad through blog and a video



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Tom Mitchell

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

United Kingdom, 2013



“The greatest learning outcome I gained from my experience abroad was the importance of being culturally open minded and the ability to collaborate in a diverse global setting.”

As a Gilman Scholar, Tom studied global travel writing and global tourism marketing in East Sussex. Through his program, he gained valuable exposure in a diverse multicultural learning environment with students from around the globe and learned how to work with people from other cultures to succeed. He also took this opportunity to lead his classmates by example, standing up against instances of cultural insensitivity and demonstrating discipline that he learned from being a veteran. Furthermore, Tom’s study abroad experience created a passion to work and write in diverse cultural settings.

Tom credits the Gilman Scholarship community for saving his life. After he was diagnosed with cancer in 2016, he says that he lost his way, but he was able to find purpose and connection again after joining Gilman social media groups and connecting with fellow Gilman Scholars. As an alumni ambassador, Tom is extremely motivated to spread the word about Gilman, especially among veterans such as himself. Tom acknowledges that he has unique connections being a veteran and a Gilman alumnus and plans to leverage these connections to raise awareness of the program and encourage veterans to apply. His advice to veterans regarding study abroad: “Go for it. You served our country and can still be a leader to others by studying abroad. There [are] no limits to what you can do, and the Gilman is a key instrument.”

- ★ Professional & Technical Writing and Honors College Degree at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- ★ Increased professional and travel writing skills
- ★ Gained professional writing experience through Honors College Study Abroad Program
- ★ Advocated Study Abroad and the Gilman Scholarship Program at Center of International Education Fairs, Veteran and LGBTQ Study Abroad Seminars



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Uriel Alejo

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

Scotland, 2015



“As a Scottish Parliament Intern I had the opportunity to delve into a professional environment that allowed me to learn about the important and relevant policies affecting Scotsmen.”

During his internship with the Scottish Parliament, Uriel took a keen interest in researching a number of topics to draft policy briefs for a Member of the Scottish Parliament. Much of his internship focused on researching the most pertinent policy issues affecting the Inverclyde constituency to inform the MSP about the most pressing issues in his jurisdiction. Uriel also used what he learned from his research to inform his work around the MSP's reelection campaign. Since his time at the Scottish Parliament, Uriel has worked in the non-profit sector as a Program Coordinator to inform Latino elected and appointed officials about timely discussions around workforce development, energy, emergency preparedness, and other relevant issues. His passion to learn about matters that affect people's lives still persists today.

Uriel's time in Scotland not only provided him with a wealth of knowledge about British politics, but also allowed him to develop an invaluable set of communication and organizational skills that are transferable in any work environment. These new skills helped him transition seamlessly into professional environments, and have encouraged him to pursue a career in Public Administration.

- ★ Political Science at UC Edinburgh Study Centre
- ★ Learned about Scotland's political ramifications, post-Referendum
- ★ Gained professional experience through internship at the Scottish Parliament
- ★ Shared my experience with Southeast High School students



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Wendlassida Arianne Ouedraogo

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni Ambassador

South Africa, 2017



“My experience abroad enabled me to exhibit personal growth and find a sense of self. It challenged me to think critically about who I am as a person, and how the decisions the U.S. makes impact the world.”

During her time abroad, Arianne volunteered with Students Health and Welfare Centres Organisation (SHAWCO). SHAWCO allowed her to tutor elementary aged children afterschool in Nyanga. Through volunteering Arianne could carry out her passion of working with young children while building close relationships with other South Africans. While abroad, Arianne also had the opportunity to meet the Ambassador of Burkina Faso. Her knowledge of politics afforded her the ability to hold a unique discussion with the Ambassador about both political and cultural issues concerning the United States, Burkina Faso, and South Africa.

Arianne's time in South Africa not only provided her a window into potential career opportunities, but it also allowed her to hone in on her intercultural and intrapersonal skills. Her new developed skills and strong support of international education, prompted her to apply and to be accepted as a Gilman Alumni Ambassador.

- ★ Political Science and Business Administration Minor at University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- ★ Increased cultural awareness
- ★ Gained Intercultural experience through SHAWCO
- ★ Blogged about experience abroad through Lloyd International Honors College blog and presented at Western Guilford High School



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