

HILLARY BLUNT | INDIA, 2013

- American Studies and Sociology majors at Goucher College
- Gained experience working with people of different backgrounds and cultures applicable to her teaching profession
- Choreographed independent dance piece based on inspiration from India



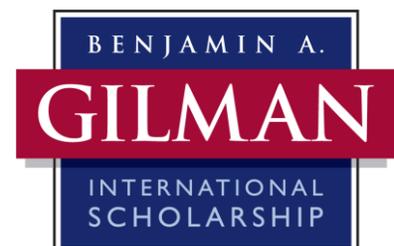
Gilman Alumni Ambassador

During her study abroad experience, Hillary took a course related to her sociology major in addition to several elective classes such as Bollywood dance, yoga, and Indian cooking. Through these experiences Hillary gained a true understanding of aspects of India’s culture that lie beneath the surface, such as body language, understandings of time, and concepts of fairness.

In addition, Hillary developed her self-conception as a white woman and being a part of the minority enabled her to experience unique dynamics of race. She grew a deeper and more complex understanding of her identity as a white woman and the privileges that come with that identity. Hillary brings these experiences and realizations to her work as a teacher of a diverse population of students in Kansas City, Missouri.

When she returned to her home campus, Hillary shared her experiences in India by choreographing a five-part dance composition that was performed at her senior showcase concert. Her choreography was reflective of walking through the streets of India. Hillary promoted the Gilman Scholarship to audience members by describing the program’s goals in the concert’s pamphlet.

“My time in India was the first time I was forced to examine my race and to feel the implications of my race. This knowledge is something I purposefully bring with me wherever I go in the world.”



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The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship is a program of the U.S. Department of State, supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The Program offers grants for U.S. citizen undergraduate students of limited financial means to pursue academic studies or credit-bearing, career-oriented internships abroad. Such international exchange is intended to better prepare U.S. students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.