

BRENT BUFFONE | COSTA RICA, 2013

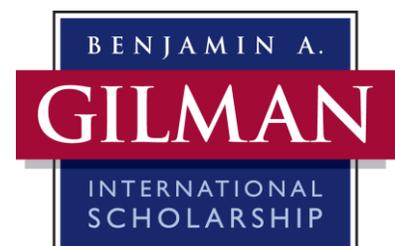
- Inter-disciplinary Studies at University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Enhanced his Spanish language skills
- Learned about himself, his identity and his culture
- Created a video compilation of himself and other students he studied abroad with explaining the benefits achieved from studying abroad

**Gilman Alumni Ambassador**

During his program in Costa Rica, Brent studied Spanish and the local culture and history. He also had the opportunity to intern with a local glass recycling center and led a community service cleanup project in the city with other students in his program. He also took the opportunity to visit where his mother grew up and was able to reconnect with one of his uncles. He also gained a deeper understanding about himself, his identity and his own culture.

When he returned from abroad, he was ready to blaze through the remainder of his studies. His time abroad was a catalyst to help him focus on making the most out of the rest of his undergraduate career. He knew that if he could complete his goal of studying abroad, he could complete many other goals he set for himself. This gave him the confidence to pursue and ultimately obtain various other opportunities that followed and helped him to develop professionally, as potential employers were impressed with his tenacity, courage and ability to take the initiative to study abroad.

“When you put yourself in a new environment, it is certain that you will evolve and a new you will be created.”



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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.