

HUA TRUONG | COSTA RICA, 2013

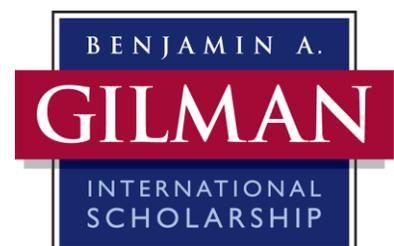
- Biology at University of California, Berkeley
- Increased Spanish language skills
- Conducted independent research which ultimately influenced him to pursue a career in ecology
- Shared his experience abroad with a middle school classroom through Reach the World

**Reach the World Traveler**

Hua participated in the Tropical Biology and Conservation program in Costa Rica where he experiences different habitats along the Pacific Ocean and lived at the Estación Biológica Monteverde in the cloud forests. He studied Spanish and took classes on tropical diversity, community ecology, food production in the tropics and agroecology. His courses paired classroom learning with hands-on field experience. All of his classes prepared him for his independent research project conducted at the end of his program. He focused his project on associative learning in jumping spiders and presented his findings at the final research symposium for his program and his study was also published. His experience influenced him to pursue a career in the field of ecology with a specific focus on animal behavior and cognition.

During his independent research, he had the opportunity to live with a homestay family. This helped him to not only improve his Spanish speaking skills, but also to better understand the Costa Rican culture, which he shared with middle school students through Reach the World.

“At the end, I was convinced that I wanted to pursue a career in the field of ecology, particularly animal behavior and cognition.”



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