



Ryanna Miller

Gilman International Scholarship Alumni
Ambassador
South Africa, 2012

“Through study abroad as a Gilman Scholar, I fully developed my true purpose and passions in life.”

Ryanna participated in a rigorous research-based study abroad program that led her through rural villages of South Africa. The experience allowed her to grasp historical background, conduct quantitative analysis, and hear citizen accounts of the infectious diseases, healthcare systems, and issues facing the country.

Ryanna credits her Gilman Scholarship experience in South Africa with helping her to fully develop her purpose and passions in life. A homestay experience in the village of Hamakuya gave her greater insight into global abject poverty. She was able to observe the intersection of culture, customs, and health in South Africa. The emphasis on health allowed Ryanna to analyze the root causes of disease and poverty, and solidified that as her passion and career focus.

- ★ Bachelor’s degree in political science from Alabama A&M University
- ★ Master’s degree in international affairs from American University, with concentration in conflict resolution and international negotiation
- ★ Conducted research on access to healthcare in rural South African villages
- ★ Hosted a series of forums on studying abroad for historically black colleges and universities

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