

# Ashley White

Leveraged experience abroad into a career as a digital content producer and strategist

*Netherlands, 2010*



*“I’m passionate about being the change and creating opportunities for people of color.”*

During her four-month program abroad in Leiden, Netherlands, Ashley was challenged to break out of the norms of American learning and thought processes. She discovered how to constantly think outside of her personal experience and ask questions more directly. Since returning, Ashley has contributed to her community by serving as a Board Intern for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee and completing leadership training with the Young Leaders Council.

She is currently a Senior Content Strategist with Anthem Inc. Ashley’s career has included content strategy and production roles with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Vanderbilt University Medical Center and Playback:stl.

- ★ Works as Senior Content Strategist at Anthem Inc.
- ★ Interned with the board of Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee
- ★ Earned a Certificate in Publishing from New York University
- ★ Earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from Webster University

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The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).



# Cristine Brosas

Gilman alumna used noncompetitive eligibility to secure employment with USCIS

Spain, 2017



*“The Gilman Scholarship Program shaped my intercultural communication and adaptability skills, necessary in my career in the immigration field.”*

Cristine notes that her time abroad with the Gilman Scholarship helped her adapt to an unfamiliar environment and gain intercultural communication skills. Getting to know people from different cultural backgrounds has helped her serve people from multicultural backgrounds in the immigration field. These skills also help her successfully work with her colleagues to create a positive and productive workplace.

As a Gilman Alumni, Cristine has been able to leverage the noncompetitive eligibility offered to her under Executive Order 13750. Working in immigration gives her the opportunity to use the valuable knowledge and skills gained abroad to provide immigration services to society.

- ★ Used noncompetitive eligibility to gain employment as an Immigration Services Assistant for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
- ★ Gained foreign language skills abroad that are used in her job in immigration services
- ★ Encourages other Gilman alumni to leverage their noncompetitive eligibility benefit

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# Georgia Humphries

Research experience abroad has had a lasting impact

Cyprus, 2018



*“Skillsets I developed abroad allowed me a choice between multiple graduate programs, and the wherewithal to finally work in a professional laboratory.”*

During Georgia’s study abroad program in Cyprus, she collected data for a plastic pollution catalog that predicted areas of high risk based on beachgoer demographics as well as other biological and socioeconomic factors. This data helped her develop her senior thesis and allowed her to work closely with the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative. The scientific paper that emerged from her studies garnered her the 2019 Westchester County Association’s Science Entrepreneurship Award and helped her get into graduate school.

Georgia currently works as an Adjunct Professor of environmental science at City University of New York, Queens College, and operates as a Research Assistant in a marine microbiology and biogeochemistry lab, investigating harmful algal blooms.

- ★ Works as a Researcher at the Advanced Science Research Center, investigating the complex ecology and biogeochemistry of phytoplankton dynamics, and harmful algal blooms
- ★ Received 2019 Westchester County Association’s Science Entrepreneurship Award
- ★ Recruits for the Memory Project, an arts-based nonprofit
- ★ Plans to pursue a Ph.D. in 2021

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# James Brownsmith

Cultural experiences abroad influence approach to sustainability

Germany, 2009



*“Learning a language has had a lasting use through my personal and professional life.”*

As a Gilman Scholar in Germany, James took intensive German language courses, allowing him to complete his minor in the language. This study abroad experience further developed his need to see other parts of the world and work in them. After graduating from college, James lived in Taiwan and Japan.

James' experiences in Germany and Japan were very influential to how he views waste and efficiency, and the work he does now directly impacts his company's waste output.

A Culinary Product Developer at Amazon, James focuses on creating better, and more affordable and accessible, food product alternatives from both a sustainability and nutrition standpoint.

- ★ Earned Bachelor of Science in hospitality management from University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- ★ Worked as an Executive Chef in Taipei and Tokyo from 2015 to 2017
- ★ Works as Culinary Product Developer at Amazon, leading end-to-end development of prepared food products for Amazon Go

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# John Sullivan

Skills gained abroad support a career in international business

*Hong Kong, 2006*



***“I have used the lessons that I was fortunate enough to learn in Hong Kong throughout my professional career in leading global enterprise transformations and change initiatives — managing colleagues and subordinates in other countries of both business and technical backgrounds.”***

While studying in Hong Kong as a Gilman Scholar, John participated in a five-month global sourcing cooperative with a multinational firm located in Shenzhen, China. Upon completion of both the international exchange program and the cooperative experience, he was offered a full-time position with the firm. That experience put him on a trajectory to cultivate personal and professional relationships all over the world.

John's graduate program at the University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School was an institutional member of the OneMBA consortium, consisting of four other sister institutions in Brazil (Fundação Getulio Vargas, São Paulo), China (Xiamen University), Mexico (Escuela de Graduados en Administración y Dirección de Empresas) and the Netherlands (Erasmus University's Rotterdam School of Management).

Every professional role John has held since completing his undergraduate studies has had a global component to it. His studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as in the OneMBA program, have prepared him to be a vital international asset. John feels blessed to have an international rolodex of colleagues and friends from whom he can gather local perspectives on regional news and/or trends.

- ★ Has led multiple international assignments on six continents
- ★ Completed Master of Business Administration at the University of North Carolina in 2016
- ★ Works as Strategic Initiatives Program Manager with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.
- ★ Participates in the development of products toward sustainable solutions

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# Michelle Sheu

Gilman experience abroad launched her global career

*Costa Rica, 2017*



*“My semester abroad crystallized my ambitions to work abroad, hone intercultural competencies and work with people from diverse backgrounds.”*

A Gilman Scholar in San Jose, Costa Rica, Michelle spent a semester exploring design and nature, painting murals for social activism and digging into globalization studies. Enhancing her conversational Spanish skills helped her connect with people from backgrounds she was previously unfamiliar with, which shaped her current views on being a global citizen.

After graduating from the City University of New York in 2018, Michelle spent nine months working in artificial intelligence at a high-growth startup in the San Francisco area. She is now based in Mumbai, India, and works at Vera Solutions, an international social enterprise. An aspiring global leader, she is eager to continue learning about technology and governance in different parts of the world to inform learnings in a United States context.

- ★ Has lived and worked abroad, in Mumbai, India, since 2019
- ★ Plans to pursue a master's in global affairs in Beijing
- ★ Is driven to support and build equitable technology tools and platforms that facilitate greater access to social services

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# Nizhoni Tallas

Advocates for fellow Native American students to seek global opportunities

Switzerland, 2019



*“My experience abroad changed the way I see other cultures and the natural systems that exist.”*

Nizhoni studied in Switzerland during the summer of 2019 as part of the Virginia Tech Honors College Presidential Global Scholars Program. She credits her time abroad with strengthening her critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Traveling through new areas and using Italian to communicate, she learned to solve problems quickly and effectively.

After returning from abroad, for five weeks, Nizhoni traveled to Montana, where she built relationships with the Blackfeet people and advocated for Native students in higher education. She is very passionate about encouraging more Native students to attend college and seek study or intern abroad opportunities.

- ★ Is an Indigenous Navajo and grew up on the Navajo Reservation
- ★ Promotes and advocates for study abroad and the Gilman Scholarship for Navajo students
- ★ Studies environmental sciences (natural resources and conservation)
- ★ Received prestigious Udall Foundation scholarship

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# Vanessa Diaz

Experience in the Middle East has had direct impact on career in graphic design

*Qatar, 2014*



*“By studying in Qatar with the Gilman Scholarship, I was able to expand my network to include designers from the Middle East, as well as learn about other programs abroad that interest me.”*

While studying in Qatar with a Gilman Scholarship, Vanessa learned Arabic and began creating bilingual design pieces for her portfolio. Now conversational in Arabic, she is able to expand her client base.

In 2017, she was accepted to the Arabic Type Design course at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, where she researched Arabic calligraphy and turned her research into digital fonts that can be used in computer software like Microsoft Word and Adobe Illustrator.

Vanessa credits her time abroad with teaching her how to be adaptable. This skill was especially important as she learned how to design with a language with which she was not familiar.

- ★ Served with AmeriCorps in 2015-2016, focusing on youth development
- ★ 2016-2017 U.S. Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Jordan
- ★ Volunteered as an English Teacher and Graphic Designer for Hopes for Women in Education, a nonprofit in the Gaza refugee camp in Jordan
- ★ Worked as Graphic Designer for AmeriCorps VISTA at Global Game Changers

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# David Rader

*Skills gained in South Africa support career in finance*

South Africa, 2011



***"I became much better at understanding and working with people from different backgrounds and viewpoints and that has made me a much better communicator, helping me both professionally and personally."***

Gilman Alumnus David Rader credits the Gilman Scholarship with granting him exposure to a whole new part of the world he would not have had access to otherwise, inspiring him to pursue continued higher education in order to make meaningful contributions to the world. Since returning from his Gilman Program, David attended law school at Michigan State University before working as an Investment Manager at the Pentagon and then as Vice President of Corporate and Investment Banking at JP Morgan. He now works at EY, advising the government on global economic trends as well as mergers and acquisitions.

After finishing his Gilman experience abroad, David began coaching youth and college rugby. He recognized students are the next generation of leaders and wanted to help strengthen them as both students and athletes using lessons he learned from other leaders.

David is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Finance at Johns Hopkins University and hopes to pursue a career with the government after graduation.

- ★ Studied Political Science in South Africa as a Gilman Scholar
- ★ Received JD at Michigan State University
- ★ Currently in Master of Science in Finance program at Johns Hopkins University
- ★ Has worked at RAND Corporation, Pentagon, and J.P. Morgan.



[www.GilmanScholarship.org](http://www.GilmanScholarship.org)

# Dennis Schneider

*From Gilman scholar to Fortune 500 employee*

Netherlands, 2017



***“Living and studying abroad helps develop skills that are crucial to professional development.”***

Dennis considers himself fortunate to have obtained cross-disciplinary studies during his undergraduate studies in business and engineering. While having managerial and professional work experience is very important, he believes that living and studying abroad helps develop crucial professional skills such as networking, understanding complexities of diversity in the workforce, self-advocacy, and setting priorities. Another skill Dennis is happy to have practiced while abroad is working in challenging and fast-paced environments. Learning to change the way you proceed through day-to-day life is very challenging, but it allows you to learn to adapt and succeed. Dennis believes that studying abroad enabled him to obtain his dream job as a global material planner for a fortune 500 company shortly after graduation. Though the world is very large, it is becoming very connected through globalization. For young professionals, it is very advantageous to embrace the challenge of learning to work with individuals much different from themselves. Studying abroad presents ambitious individuals an incredible amount of opportunity to grow, and Dennis would highly recommend embracing the journey.

- ★ Studied Industrial and Entrepreneurial Engineering with International Business Skills
- ★ Studied in Utrecht, Netherlands for six months
- ★ Volunteered with Reach the World and the Erasmus Student Network
- ★ Current Global Material Planner based in Michigan



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# Kelli Barr

*Finding a passion to work with others through international education*

Ireland, 2018



***“What impacted my study abroad experience the most was learning to respect other peoples’ choices regardless of my own personal opinion.”***

While studying abroad, Kelli Barr learned to respect individuals and their choices on a deeper level regardless of her opinion. Living in Ireland, Kelli learned the value of people to people relationships and made the most out of her time by planning ahead, visiting other areas of Ireland, and even volunteering at a horse farm.

Upon her return, she was offered a job working as the Orientation Assistant for the Community College Initiative program (CCI) at Scottsdale Community College in Scottsdale, Arizona. CCI is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and administered by Northern Virginia Community College on behalf of the Community College Consortium. She worked with students from ten different countries around the world and helped orient them to the United States during a five-week orientation process. She then accepted a job as a part-time Administrative Assistant in the Center for Civic and Global Engagement at SCC. Kelli helps assist in special events on campus, creates displays, performs clerical duties, and supports the international students while encouraging Americans to study abroad any chance she gets.

- ★ Studied in Athlone, Ireland for four weeks
- ★ Increased intercultural communication skills and global awareness while abroad
- ★ Pursuing a career in International Education
- ★ Completed a Culinary Certificate in Commercial Bakery & Pastry Arts at Scottsdale Community College; currently pursuing a Business Certificate at Mesa Community College



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# Naledi Nyahuma

## *Gilman Alumna Continues to Support Community Through Career and Volunteer Work*

United Kingdom, 2004



***“I often give back to my community by speaking to high school and college students and try to emphasize the importance of travel to all young people.”***

As an economics major, Naledi was able to study international economics in London with the Gilman Scholarship in 2004. After graduating from Spelman College in 2006, she worked for IBM in corporate finance in New York for three years before returning to school to obtain an MBA in entertainment marketing at the University of Southern California.

In London, Naledi learned how to perform in various corporate environments and gained a greater understanding of people from different backgrounds around the world. She employs this knowledge in her current role as the director of the Careers in Entertainment Tour, an initiative of the Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation to give young people from underserved backgrounds a guide to working in the entertainment industry.

Naledi enjoys giving back to her community by speaking to high school and college students about her journey in education, as well as her journey abroad, and cultivating relationships with mentees.

- ★ Tour Director at The Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation
- ★ Received MBA in Entertainment Marketing at USC
- ★ Passionate about supporting young people and education in the black community



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# Stephan Brown

*Skills gained abroad lead to social media career*

Cyprus, 2015



***“Gilman gave me the opportunity to expand my world views, travel to other countries, meet some of my best friends, and build skills preparing me for a career adventure of a lifetime.”***

Gilman alumnus Stephan Brown considers himself a “growing expert” in all things social media, marketing, and public relations. He studied abroad during the spring semester of 2015 in Nicosia, Cyprus where he had the opportunity to shadow in the social media marketing department at Action Global Communications, the largest public relations firm in the Mediterranean.

Since returning from his program in Cyprus, Stephan pursued additional international opportunities and has been able to visit twenty different countries across Europe, Africa, and Asia. He has been able to combine his international experiences with his marketing education and skills into a career.

Stephan is currently a creator partner manager for TikTok, one of the world’s fastest growing apps with more than 500 million monthly users.

- ★ Studied Digital Communications at Albright College
- ★ Received Santander Bank Study Abroad Scholarship and Global Learning Semester’s Takis Cysanthou Honored Scholar Award
- ★ Currently works as creator partner manager for TikTok, a social media app for creating sharing videos, as well as live broadcasting



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