

Abby Donovan

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Spain, 2019



“My experience abroad led me to lifelong friends and memories I will never forget. Gilman can help make it happen for you, too!”

Abby spent the summer of 2019 at the Universidad de Valladolid, Spain, where she took 7 semester hours of credit focused on Spanish culture and language skills while meeting new people from all over the world. This experience broadened Abby’s understanding of culture and helped her develop a new way of understanding people from different backgrounds. The most influential parts of her trip included visiting major architectural landmarks and cultural museums across Spain.

After returning from her Gilman Scholarship experience in Spain, Abby received her bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies and Spanish. Since graduating, she has started a full-time position in a research lab, where she works with many people who come from different parts of the world. Abby’s participation in studying abroad has prepared her for a position that requires cross-cultural communication and independence.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of Iowa
- Improved Spanish skills through 7 semester hours of language and culture courses
- Became more independent and open-minded through traveling abroad
- Strengthened Spanish-speaking abilities, which now enables her to communicate proficiently with Spanish speakers within the professional workplace

20 YEARS with Gilman

Abena Afari

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Chile, 2019



“The opportunity to study abroad as a Gilman Scholar reinforced the idea that I am not bound by circumstance.”

Abena’s interest in health care systems abroad led her to spend a semester participating in a Health Studies program in Santiago, Chile. Her program offered a comprehensive curriculum, which allowed her to take a Spanish course for health care practitioners, learn about the Chilean health system and shadow health care professionals in a public hospital. She also elected to work with Educación Popular en Salud (EPES), helping to combat childhood obesity through community engagement.

In the semester following her Gilman Scholarship experience in Chile, she became an IES Abroad Ambassador. Her time abroad strengthened her interest in public health, and she hopes to obtain a Master of Public Health degree.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Grinnell College
- Worked with a community health nonprofit organization abroad
- Improved Spanish language skills and stepped outside of her comfort zone by participating in outdoor enrichment activities, such as trekking
- Learned about the principles of popular education and how to apply them

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Andy Wu

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Hong Kong, 2019



“Studying abroad helped me personally and professionally by giving me the opportunity to see how globalized businesses can successfully link the Eastern and Western worlds together.”

Andy studied at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), one of the world’s leading business schools in Asia, where he learned more about one of Asia’s key economic and financial hubs. At HKUST, Andy studied data science, internet commerce, strategic business decisions and contemporary Hong Kong society. Outside of the classroom, he completed a voluntary project on domestic migrant workers and their economic reasons for moving overseas.

Andy returned to the United States with a newfound perspective on the importance of STEM. He currently works as an Investment Associate for a financial services firm. In the future, he hopes to pursue a Master of Business Administration, which will allow him to use his language skills and multicultural identity to help bridge the East and the West together economically.

- Studied Finance and Business Information Systems and minored in Chinese while earning a Business Analytics Certificate at Lehigh University
- Gained a deeper understanding of the business cultures of East Asian countries and Hong Kong’s unique identity
- Increased cultural awareness and intercultural communication skills
- Promoted study abroad programs on campus as a Global Mountain Hawk peer mentor

20 YEARS with **Gilman**

Arria Hauldin

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Vietnam, 2019



“The ability to establish a global presence in a way that is impactful and socially conscious, while representing something bigger than myself, was the focal point of my Gilman Scholarship experience.”

As a Gilman Scholar in 2019, Arria spent 4 months teaching English and conducting research in Vietnam. While there, she taught students ranging from 4-year-olds to adults. Her time in Vietnam shaped her pedagogy and inspired her to continue teaching outside the United States. Arria strives to combine teaching, research and social awareness into a future career as an educator.

Upon returning home, Arria continued her role as an undergraduate Teaching Assistant in social science research, completed her Global Citizenship certificate at Florida State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology. Her research in Vietnam was published in an undergraduate peer-reviewed research journal. She currently serves as an AmeriCorps member and hopes to work and study abroad again in the foreseeable future.

- Earned Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from Florida State University
- Conducted research on ethnic minority single mothers in Northern and Southern Vietnam
- Served as a Reach the World Traveler, corresponding with an elementary school in Brooklyn, New York
- Achieved 120-hour Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Certificate while teaching English to students ranging from preschool-age to adult learners

20 YEARS with **Gilman**

Ben Guo

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
United Kingdom, 2019



“[Through the Gilman Scholarship,] I have obtained a broader, more international perspective, which has provided a new layer of responsibility of what it means to be a global citizen as well as an advocate for making studying abroad more accessible to all.”

While studying as a Gilman Scholar in London, Ben was exposed to the developments of Brexit. Through the lens of British politics, he saw the effects of people-to-people diplomacy and the intricacies needed to formulate substantial changes in society. This fueled his motivation to protect vulnerable populations through fairer housing and increased financial accessibility through programming, regulatory and policy reforms.

Upon returning from his Gilman Scholarship experience, Ben studied abroad briefly in Beijing, China, focusing on the FinTech industry. In addition, Ben was awarded the Hanyu Enrichment Scholarship to study Mandarin at National Taiwan University. He also interned at the U.S. Department of State within the Economic Bureau. Currently, Ben is an Associate Consultant at PwC, within the Banking and Capital Markets group in their New York City office, working on lending regulatory reform. Ben hopes to become a Foreign Service Officer.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Fordham University
- Explored bilateral trade policies between the U.S. and the UK, pre- and post-Brexit, and Brexit's economic effects on the European Union (EU)
- Studied the fundamentals of international trade with an emphasis on public policy and securities reforms
- Served as an intern with the U.S. State Department's Economic Bureau after his Gilman Scholarship, specifically the Transportation Division, working on airline negotiations policy during the COVID-19 pandemic

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Brandon Penrod

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Brazil, 2019



“Study abroad, no matter where, opens your heart and mind to unforgettable experiences and people that inevitably shape your future path for the rest of your life. It makes everyday moments of cross-cultural connection feel special. Be brave, take a leap of courage, and explore. Study abroad is for all of us!”

During his time in Brazil, Brandon focused his studies on learning the Portuguese language and Brazilian culture. After 3 months of study, he moved from beginner to advanced-low on the ACTFL scale. Brandon used his language skills across various settings to better understand Brazilian geopolitics, history and medicine. He also mustered up the courage to try surfing, capoeira and Brazilian cooking.

Following his Gilman Scholarship experience, Brandon graduated from Loyola University Chicago, worked with AmeriCorps and taught ESL virtually. He also worked as a Bilingual Health Promoter in Canada, promoting Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders services to targeted vulnerable communities in Toronto and Montreal. Brandon is currently pursuing a master’s degree in International Affairs with a concentration in Global Health and Human Rights from Pennsylvania State University. He plans to pursue a Juris Doctor/Master of Public Health dual degree program and work in the global health field before entering the Foreign Service and, hopefully, serve in Brazil.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Loyola University Chicago, where he studied Political Science, International Studies and Neuroscience
- Previously studied abroad in Thailand as a Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange & Study (YES) Abroad Scholar
- Connected with his LGBTQ+ identity through a different cultural lens and enhanced his understanding of the LGBTQ+ experience in the Lusophone world
- Speaks French, Italian, German, Thai, Portuguese and Turkish, and is beginning to learn Mandarin

20 YEARS with **Gilman**

Brandon Vanlandingham

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
New Zealand, 2020



“Studying abroad has the capacity to be a life-altering experience. The Gilman Scholarship Program allowed such an opportunity to redefine my perspective on fundamental problems we face as a single worldwide community.”

Through his experience studying at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, Brandon gained firsthand insight into successful and collaborative efforts toward renewable energy and dove into the philosophical and religious belief systems of the Maori culture. This exposure, paired with a pandemic isolation period abroad, gave Brandon both invaluable experience in engineering sustainable energy systems and a more thorough understanding of cross-cultural connections within Indigenous culture.

Since returning from abroad, Brandon has been interning at Airbus Helicopters, Inc. His plans for graduate school have shifted and he now hopes to pursue higher education to study space systems engineering with the intent of becoming a Project Manager focused on a more sustainable aerospace industry. Brandon also aims to continue his interactions with Indigenous cultures through world travel and graduate study to serve as an advocate for misunderstood communities.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Mississippi State University
- Studied sustainable energy systems and the belief systems of the Maori, New Zealand’s Indigenous population
- Gained a more thorough understanding of cross-cultural communication
- Reprioritized career goals as a result of international networking and is now focused on promoting sustainability and positive community impact

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Christina Tran

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
France, 2017



“The Gilman Scholarship was a catalyst to my career and has helped me cultivate an international viewpoint.”

Christina received the Gilman Scholarship to support her pursuit of becoming a teacher, and the experience provided her first introduction to international education. Studying abroad in France, she stayed with a host family and volunteered to teach English at local middle schools in Lyon.

After returning from the Gilman Scholarship experience, she volunteered at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte’s Office of International Programs to continue advocating for the Gilman Scholarship and education abroad. She also interned as a French Teaching Assistant at the language immersion school in her hometown. After graduation, she returned to France to teach English for the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) while volunteering for EducationUSA in Paris. Christina’s goals are to mentor and encourage traditionally underrepresented students, including first-generation college students, to study, work or intern abroad.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Studied French language, culture and pedagogy
- Proficient in three languages — French, Vietnamese and English
- Currently pursuing her master’s degree in International Education Management at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Erika Evatt

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Japan, 2021



“My online experience opened my eyes to the struggles that children experience on a global scale and the necessity to provide a better future for them.”

As a Gilman-McCain Scholar, Erika completed a virtual internship with a nonprofit located in Tokyo, Japan, called YouMeWe NPO. This organization’s mission is to help orphans in Tokyo to become financially independent and achieve higher education or find a job. They also provide educational and mental health services. During her time with YouMeWe, Erika learned different aspects of nonprofit management and gained practical experience.

After finishing her internship, she decided to stay with YouMeWe and continues to intern with them virtually. Erika will attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for a master’s degree in Business beginning in August 2021. Eventually, Erika would like to work at the United States Embassy in Tokyo.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending The Ohio State University
- Interned virtually with Japanese nonprofit YouMeWe NPO
- Strengthened Japanese language skills to communicate effectively with coworkers and customers, assist with translations and better understand Japan’s work culture

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



I'yanna Barker

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Costa Rica, 2016



“While studying abroad allowed me to see the world from a new perspective, it also gave me a spirit of exploration that I will carry with me throughout life.”

I'yanna studied and lived in the small town of Santa Ana, Costa Rica, located just outside of San Jose. Although she had taken Spanish courses since middle school, her intensive studies at the Conversa Linguistics School accelerated her knowledge and understanding of the language. Her program included overnight stays in various cities and excursions to mountain ranges, rainforests and an active volcano in Arenal. This gave her a deeper appreciation for nature and biodiversity. She credits her host mom, Liliana, for her ability to speak Spanish. Since her time in Costa Rica, I'yanna has advocated for first-generation college students to engage in global experiences through workshops and application assistance.

I'yanna is currently working at Alston & Bird, LLP, a law firm in Atlanta, Georgia, where she assists small businesses in search of financial relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. With a goal to attend law school in the near future, she hopes to advocate on behalf of communities who have been historically marginalized by the legal system.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish, from Florida State University
- Honed Spanish-speaking and writing skills to become a conversational speaker
- Worked with a team of 10 students to produce a short film about global experiences
- Assisted 50+ students in the application process for study abroad programs through writing and editing

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Jade Fong

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
South Korea, 2019



“When I first arrived in Korea, I attended a Pride Festival that had more protesters present than attendees. Despite the country’s discomfort with the LGBT+ community, I was able to find a coterie of queers and engage in important conversations about critical race theory, feminism and socioeconomic status.”

While abroad, Jade studied at Yonsei University, one of the three most prestigious universities in South Korea. She completed intensive coursework in the Korean language and urban natural disaster planning and management, which complemented her interdisciplinary major. Jade conducted research that compared Seoul’s and New York City’s natural disaster management for cyclones and hurricanes. The Gilman Scholarship also opened opportunities for her to intern as a digital marketer at Korean start-up Dreamfora.

Jade returned to the United States shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic began. During self-isolation, she and a friend drafted plans to create a sustainable farm on the Navajo Nation that will utilize Korean Natural Farming (KNF), a farming technique Jade learned about in Korea that produces fertile soil and draws high-yield outputs without the use of pesticides or herbicides. Jade is currently exploring a career in digital marketing before pursuing a PhD in Indigenous and Environment Studies. She also plans to apply for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

- Earned Bachelor of Science in Society & Environment from the University of California, Berkeley
- Interned for Korean start-up Dreamfora
- Tutored North Korean refugees in English
- Served as a Reach the World travel correspondent

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Jonathan Banasihan

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
China, 2019



“The best way to learn and appreciate a different culture is to immerse yourself in it.”

As a Gilman Scholar, Jonathan spent the summer of 2019 participating in an intensive Chinese program in Beijing. Beyond language and cultural immersion, he also participated in a cross-cultural dialogue on social media use with Chinese university students at the United States Embassy in Beijing.

His time abroad allowed Jonathan to complete his bachelor's degree at American University with a minor in Chinese. He is currently working with an aerospace corporation as part of their Global Ethics & Compliance team, applying the skills and patience he learned abroad. Jonathan intends to pursue graduate school to study U.S. foreign policy.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending American University
- Enhanced Chinese language competency and cultural awareness
- Promoted study abroad at Student Veterans of America's 2020 National Conference (NatCon) and The Washington Center and with American University's Office of Merit Awards

20 YEARS with Gilman



Kashmiere Dotson

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Brazil, 2017



“The more I study and travel the world around me, the more I learn about myself and my purpose in the world.”

Kashmiere’s immersive experience studying Afro-Brazilian culture as a Gilman Scholar in Bahia, Brazil, shaped her global perspective. There she met many entrepreneurs and community activists, which increased her understanding of the importance of using her gifts and passions to uplift her communities. The intersectionality and identity expression present in Afro-Brazilian culture empowered her to proudly claim all elements of her story and to see her layered identity as a superpower. Kashmiere filmed a documentary about her Gilman Scholar experience in Brazil, which challenged her to advance her skills as a storyteller and allowed her to contemplate her roles as an artist, scholar and activist.

Kashmiere went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Comparative Women’s Studies, with a Film concentration and a Spanish minor, from Spelman College. After graduating, she worked with high school students at the Douglas County Student Support Center. She was also selected to participate in the Peace Corps and Fulbright U.S. Student Program. She aspires to obtain her PhD in Sociology or Visual Anthropology. She hopes her work can empower others to utilize their autonomy and share their stories.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Spelman College
- Studied Afro-Brazilian Culture and the Portuguese language
- Filmed documentary about her Gilman Scholarship experience
- Certified as a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) instructor and currently works as a high school counselor

20 YEARS with Gilman



Kerry D. Johnson II

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Costa Rica, 2017



“The Gilman Scholarship affirmed the sentiment that representation matters and profoundly impacted my humanity by tethering my education to my ancestral background.”

Kerry completed an 8-week intensive Spanish and cultural immersion program at Universidad de Costa Rica during the summer of 2017. Upon his arrival in Costa Rica, Kerry consumed Latin American, Spanish-speaking media via various platforms to strengthen his ability to communicate while abroad. One common denominator rang throughout his experience of with these different platforms: a lack of diversity in these spaces. While visiting Limón, Kerry engaged in conversations with Afro-Latinos and Afro-Latinas. This rich cultural experience expanded his appreciation for the Spanish language and the profound reach of his ancestral background.

Kerry receiving the Gilman Scholarship served as the inspiration behind the Study Abroad Access Initiative, a partnership between the University of Memphis Center for International Education Services, TRiO Programs at the University of Memphis and the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change. The basis of this partnership is to encourage student populations that are traditionally underrepresented in study abroad programs to participate in international education experiences by eliminating financial barriers.

Kerry currently works in broadcast media as a Digital Sales Coordinator for a local news network. He intends to pursue a master's degree in Global Media and Culture.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of Memphis
- Honed Spanish language skills via advanced Spanish courses at Universidad de Costa Rica
- Chose a career in media to expand awareness of the Black experience on an international scale

20 YEARS with **Gilman**

Libby Pollak

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Ghana, 2018



“Studying abroad made me appreciate the opportunities I have back home, as well as planted my desire to want to help others achieve those same opportunities, despite challenges that may stand in the way.”

Studying abroad in Ghana opened Libby’s eyes to ways of living and perspectives she had not been exposed to before. At the University of Ghana at Legon, Libby studied African literature, and her professors provided insight on the political background and history of African countries. Learning the local dialect Twi while mingling with locals in cities and villages helped her to develop curiosity and patience while gaining an appreciation for different cultures.

After returning from her experience in Ghana, Libby promoted the Gilman Scholarship and supported Gilman applicants through YouTube videos and workshops at Hunter College. She is currently a voice contributor for the language learning app Duolingo and works as an English/Yiddish translator. She plans to pursue a PhD in Linguistics or Psychology in 2022 and credits her time in Ghana with inspiring her to further study humor and wit in translation.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the City University of New York, Hunter College
- Completed academic coursework abroad that directly related to her sociolinguistic studies at Hunter College
- Sharpened critical thinking and listening skills during her experience in Ghana, leading her to a 2019 Grove Fellowship with StoryCorps
- Conducted research on the linguistic and cultural effects that influence humor translation and presented her findings at a conference after her return from Ghana

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Lydia Lara

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Ecuador, 2017



“The Gilman Scholarship is a galvanizer for students like me, who may never experience studying abroad without financial support. This scholarship changes lives and has positioned me to be a true global citizen in the U.S. and abroad.”

During their summer abroad in the Andes Mountains, Lydia immersed themselves in the Spanish language and culture of Ecuador and Peru. While abroad, Lydia enhanced her Spanish language skills while witnessing Indigenous cultural practices and urban revolution. These life-changing experiences have greatly influenced her choice to become a politician in the United States one day.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in both Political Science and Spanish in 2019, Lydia served two AmeriCorps terms in the field of college access. They hope to give back and aid minority and first-generation students on their path to college. Lydia hopes to continue their work within the Chicago community with the hope of one day returning to school and eventually using her firsthand knowledge to create change as a public servant.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Augustana College
- Interned at the CEDEI Center for Interamerican Studies with EducationUSA
- Led the Conservation Club and dedicated time to organizing community-based events for CEDEI
- Learned the sociopolitical history of Ecuador and its relationship with Indigenous folx while fully embracing their bilingual and Latinx roots
- Plans to advocate for Indigenous rights and resources in the U.S. and push for equity for all people in her future career

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Olivia Ellis

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Vietnam, 2021



"Participating in a virtual international internship has shown me that we can continue to learn about diverse cultures and build connections with people around the world. I have learned that we are all living similar lives, just in different countries and time zones. In many ways we are connected, and in many ways we are different, but that is the beauty of understanding who we are."

Olivia interned remotely as a teacher of English as a Second Language/English as a Foreign Language (ESL/EFL) through the Will to Live Center (WLC) in Vietnam, a center for people living with physical disabilities to learn technology skills and English. Her program included 16 weeks of teaching, conducting lesson plans and translation work. By the end of her internship, Olivia learned the soft and hard skills of working remotely in a different country. She also learned the skills needed to become an efficient ESL teacher.

After completing her virtual internship, Olivia graduated with a degree in International and Global studies. She now attends the International TEFL Academy and is working towards her EFL licensure online. Olivia hopes to eventually teach English in Japan, Vietnam and South Korea.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of North Carolina Greensboro
- Taught English to beginner and advanced-level students
- Developed time management and organizational skills through a leadership role in her internship
- Gained confidence in her ability to become an ESL teacher and strengthened her passion for traveling, which increased her cultural competence and gave her opportunities to meet new people

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Saliya Ali

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Kenya, 2019



“My ideas around diplomacy, cultural exchange and travel have grown as a result of my experience, and now I feel like a whole new world has opened up for me!”

As a Gilman Scholar, Saliya interned at the Kenya Ministry of Health and studied Swahili. Her internship included hands-on experience with Public Health Officers and various nongovernmental organizations. In addition, Saliya worked for the Ministry of Health in Kisumu during the launch of Universal Health Coverage. Saliya conducted independent research and presented her findings to her peers and instructors.

During the past year, she volunteered with organizations in her local community to provide information about COVID-19 in the Afaan Oromoo language. Saliya remains involved in her community and works to advocate for vulnerable immigrant and refugee populations. She plans to obtain a master's degree in International Development and hopes to become a Foreign Service Officer. Saliya is interested in social entrepreneurship and, in the years to come, she hopes to empower vulnerable community members, particularly women and young people. She plans to accomplish this by offering a path to finding meaningful employment and a means to rise above poverty.

- Earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government/International Affairs and Spanish from Augustana University
- Conducted independent research on Kenyan public health and Universal Health Coverage
- Gained an understanding of Kenyan public health through experiential learning, field visits and guest lectures
- Honed language skills and made long-lasting connections with her host community

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Soren Fuchs

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Hungary, 2017



“[Studying abroad] opened up a world of opportunities for me — travel competency, professional and personal development, friendships, culture and food!”

While studying in Budapest, Hungary, Soren lived and studied at Corvinus University of Budapest, taking courses in marketing, European history and the Hungarian language. Soren completed an internship with tech start-up SSP as a Sales Representative. His semester in Hungary gave him an immense ability to adapt to new situations, seek the unknown and strive for a global career. His experience as a Reach the World correspondent enabled him to inspire young children to pursue opportunities away from home and follow their passions.

After returning from his Gilman Scholarship experience and graduating, Soren immediately moved to Berlin, Germany, where he worked for a travel marketplace for 2 years. Currently, he works as a Marketing Manager at a small agency in California and plans to continue pursuing opportunities abroad in the future while practicing his French. He hopes to inspire others to live in foreign countries and chase life-changing opportunities.

- Earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Marketing and Real Estate) at the University of Colorado Boulder
- Studied the Hungarian language and served as a Reach the World correspondent
- Interned at start-up tech company SSP
- Developed a passion for living in other countries and a curiosity to learn other languages, such as Spanish, German and French
- Worked remotely for a tech start-up for 2 years and moved to Germany upon graduation

20 YEARS with Gilman



Steve Anthony Maravillo

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Spain, 2018



“My year abroad was critical in validating my confidence, shaping my independence and allowing me to have built a stable sense of resilience and adaptability to change.”

Steve Anthony completed an academic year abroad in 2018–2019 as an exchange student at the University of Granada, Spain, where he studied in the Faculty of Social Work and the Faculty of Psychology. His program abroad focused on Education Sciences, Cognitive Development and Teaching English as a Foreign Language. During his program, Steve Anthony had the opportunity to complete an English Teaching Assistantship at a Spanish charter school, teaching students at the ninth-grade level. Steve Anthony developed his language skills and became fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and moderately fluent in French.

Currently, Steve Anthony is entering his first year as a licensed teacher for students in the fifth-grade level in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is also pursuing a Master in Education (MEd) in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, beginning this fall.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of California, San Diego
- Worked as an English Teaching Assistant while abroad in Spain, prompting him to advance in his development as an educator upon his return to the United States
- Developed language skills in Portuguese, French and Spanish

20 YEARS with **Gilman**

Steven Escobar-Mendez

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Jordan and Nepal, 2020



“It is beautiful to get an education, it is even more beautiful to expand that education to a new horizon. That is what the Gilman [Scholarship] allowed me to achieve”

Steven studied as a Gilman Scholar in Nepal and Jordan during the spring of 2020 through the SIT Study Abroad Human Rights program. He was inspired to study human rights as a result of his previous work with migrants from Latin America. Steven established close bonds across cultures while also completing academic work. During his time abroad, he learned about the context of global politics and economics, the UN system and international law in connection with human rights.

Since completing his Gilman Scholarship program abroad, Steven has sought to continue his experience in the field of international studies and human rights. He is currently doing research on COVID-19 and communities of color while also volunteering virtually for a nongovernmental organization in Colombia. He hopes to continue this course of work into law school and study international law.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending Lehigh University
- Served as a Reach the World correspondent
- Conducted independent research on Indigenous rights in Nepal and Jordan
- Kept a research book during the program documenting political, social and economic changes due to the pandemic

20 YEARS with **Gilman**

Thomas McLouth

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador

Jordan, 2019



“The Gilman Scholarship provides an opportunity to see the world, leave one’s own shell and learn in another’s culture, and provides motivation to not only travel more but also work within one’s own community to show what’s possible!”

Studying in Jordan provided Thomas with experience in quickly and seamlessly integrating and living in different cultures and locations, the ability to relate to and befriend those from differing backgrounds and cultures and knowledge of how to thrive in unexpected environments.

Thomas learned Arabic from native-speaking professors and exercised his skills with local language partners both inside and outside the classroom. Though the curriculum was intense, the ability to immediately use Arabic in different contexts was a unique opportunity for Thomas that he could not have experienced at his home university. Because of the Gilman Scholarship, Thomas vastly increased his comprehension of both Modern Standard Arabic and the Levantine Arabic dialect.

After returning from abroad, Thomas graduated from his undergraduate program in International Studies. The Arabic language skills and cultural knowledge he gained from studying abroad have become vital parts of his research for his master’s degree thesis and his professional career.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Studied colloquial and Modern Standard Arabic
- Related to and befriended people from different cultures and learned how to thrive in unexpected environments, which inspired further research of the Middle East and North Africa
- Graduated from his undergraduate program, began his master’s degree in the Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights and started a new career as a Manager in Cyber Threat Intelligence

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



ZENA JEFFERS

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Cyprus, 2016



“Studying abroad provides students the unique opportunity to widen their worldview, making them better decision-makers and leaders in their communities. The Gilman Scholarship plays a significant role in creating these opportunities for all.”

Zena was awarded the Gilman Scholarship, which she used to study global economics in Nicosia, Cyprus. During her time abroad, she studied the Greek language, met the U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus and volunteered for EducationUSA. Through her studies and volunteerism, she assisted more than 100 Greek Cypriot students with their college admissions process.

After completing her Gilman Scholarship experience, she studied abroad again in Freiburg, Germany, where she met with members of the European Union (EU) and attended Model EU events. Today, she works in global security and intelligence and actively promotes the inclusion of global studies in secondary education for all students. Zena intends to work in emergency management upon completion of her master’s degree.

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- Researched the economic recession of Greece and analyzed the role that EU-U.S. relations play in strategic goal-setting to avoid economic turnover in the future
- Developed diversified leadership, collaboration, communication and peacekeeping skills to utilize in times of heightened political tension
- Connected with members of the U.S. Department of State and increased language skills to utilize in the workplace

20 YEARS with **Gilman**



Zhané Bradley

Gilman International Scholarship
Alumni Ambassador
Argentina, 2021



“Traveling abroad, whether in person or virtually, benefits everyone. When you make a choice to do something different, to see and experience new people and places, you offer yourself and everyone around you a chance to grow.”

Zhané’s desire to continue gaining international experience during the COVID-19 pandemic motivated her to complete a virtual internship in Buenos Aires. She worked with L.I.F.E. Argentina, whose mission is to serve youth living in socially marginalized and impoverished areas of Argentina. Through collaboration with on-site supervisors and another U.S. student, Zhané helped redesign the organization’s logo, website and social media content. Working in a cross-cultural environment has helped her become a stronger intercultural leader.

After her Gilman experience, Zhané graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Communications. She plans to continue learning about storytelling for social impact by pursuing a master’s degree in Visual and Digital Media at IE University in Madrid, Spain (2022).

- Received the Gilman Scholarship while attending the University of South Carolina
- Worked as a Visual & Digital Media Intern for L.I.F.E. Argentina, a nonprofit based in Buenos Aires
- Earned a Working Remotely Across Cultures micro-credential
- Produced and hosted a podcast with her home university to promote study abroad and highlight stories from students, faculty and staff

20 YEARS with Gilman

