



Gilman Alumni Representative

Clifton Johnson

Argentina, Spring 2006

Elon University



During the Spring of 2006 I had the opportunity to study abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. My program hosted through CIEE allowed me to take a diverse selection of courses at local universities, Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA) and Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO). My program sponsored group trips throughout the country and cultural activities within the city such plays, tours, and tango shows. My study abroad experience allowed me to live and experience a culture different from the one I experienced growing up with my family and at college. My experience allowed me to see the world from a new perspective and enjoy all the little things in life.

The Gilman Scholarship was an important aspect to my study abroad experience. Not only assisting me financially, the Gilman Scholarship also allowed me to appreciate my experience even more. I was able to reflect on my personal growth and development while abroad, which would be an integral part of my Follow-on Project. The Gilman Scholarship inspired me to volunteer and help others while in Argentina, making a difference the lives of many others.

My Gilman Follow-on Project consisted of developing a manual that would assist students who tutored ESL students in the local community. The manual consisted of personal reflections of learning a new language, emphasizing the feelings and frustrations associated with such an arduous task. The manual was also supported by research relating to second language acquisition. My experience and project also allowed me use its content to co-teach a three-week study abroad course in Costa Rica.

I am currently working at Elon University as the Assistant Director of Campus Center Operations while completing a master's degree in Public Administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. As a member of the Student Life Division at Elon, I have had the opportunity to co-advise a service trip in Honduras and co-teach a study abroad course in Costa Rica. My study abroad experience has made me realize my passion is working with people, especially college students. Upon completing my master's degree, I hopefully will begin a doctoral program in Higher Education Administration. I will continue to work in education with hopes of working with the development of students through their study abroad experiences.



Clifton with his host family and friends.



Clifton in Ushuaia, Argentina's capital of the province of Tierra del Fuego, considered the southernmost city in the World.



A street tango show in the La Boca neighborhood.