



## Gilman Alumni Representative

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Norway, Fall 2009  
University of Alaska, Southeast



I never knew how much studying abroad for a semester was really going to change my life. In the fall of my fifth year at the University of Alaska, I went on an exchange to Norway through the International Student Exchange Program through my home institution. Looking back on the experience, I laugh at how nervous I had been, but I smile at all of the memories. Living abroad was challenging at first, but once I integrated myself with other students and embraced Norwegian culture, I felt right at home. During my time abroad, I traveled to Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and the United Kingdom. I was able to glimpse into both the greatness and horror of the world, by seeing the toll World War II had taken on the people and countryside, and at the same time learning about some pretty amazing cultures.



*Bergen, Norway*

My hopes for my Follow-on Project were to inspire international study and promote Scandinavian culture. I hosted a Norwegian Middag: A Night of Scandinavian Culture, where I presented peers with information about the Gilman Scholarship and study abroad. The menu for the Middag included traditional Scandinavian fare: Norsk Fiskesuppe (Norwegian fish soup), Lefse, and boiled potatoes. While the menu was meant to feature only Norwegian cuisine, I added in Svenska Köttbullar (Swedish meatballs) for a great flavor choice and an easy dish for a large crowd. These four dishes were amazing and really

illustrated the main staples that Norwegian live off of: fish, starch, and a little sweet. The Swedish meatballs helped illustrate the rich flavors of Sweden in comparison to the somewhat mellow tastes of Norwegian cuisine. My fellow students were very excited to share a glimpse into Scandinavian culture and receive information about the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad.

In the future, I hope to become a professor of ichthyological paleontology. My study in Norway provided me with a glimpse into scientific research on a more global level; provided me with contacts for the future, further research opportunities available in different areas; and an understanding of scientific research conducted in different climates than those found in the U.S. The curriculum was also more advanced than the U.S. which challenged me in new ways on an academic-level. I now attend graduate school in Michigan where I study the population ecology of lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*).



*Kari and her classmates fishing for cod in the icy Norwegian waters.*