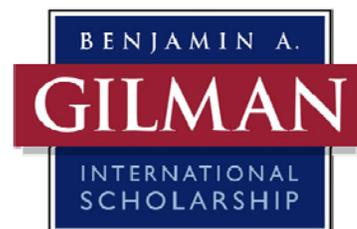


# TEMILOLUWA ADENIYI, SINGAPORE, 2013

University of Cincinnati  
Ohio



**A**s a Gilman scholar, I was provided the opportunity to study in Singapore during the spring 2013 semester, at Nanyang Technological University. The opportunity to study abroad has had a significant impact on my life; it allowed me to mature in ways that I could have never imagined. It yielded comprehensive growth that was professional, scholastic and personal.

The academic institution presented a wide range of experiences for scholastic development, including a diverse body of classes, from which students could choose, with a focus on cutting edge research. Among these classes, were those on tissue engineering or the

engineering of cells, tissues or organs, by artificial means. I desire to pursue this field, as a future concentration, in a research career. The multi-disciplinary way, in which, the courses were presented, allowed me to learn more about the tissue engineering field, meet prominent researchers and understand the immense need for tissue engineered products.

*“All in all, my study abroad experience allowed me the opportunity to gain a cultural competency that would not have been possible otherwise.”*

My academic work coupled with an opportunity to imbibe in the rich culture of the Southeast Asian region. Among the many things that it offered were the exquisite cuisines, diverse peoples and their accompanying languages. The culture of Singapore is composed of many diverse groups. This provided a great setting to learn new

languages and expand cultural dimensions. During my stay, I elected to study the Mandarin dialect of Chinese.

All in all, my study abroad experience allowed me the opportunity to gain a cultural competency that would not have been possible otherwise. With this increased competency, I feel that I have developed a better sense of self. With this renewed personal awareness, I am better equipped to take on challenges of the personal, academic and professional scope. As a result, I added Asian Studies, as a second major, upon returning home. Additionally, I took part in a class, which aims to improve underserved communities in Ethiopia. From this experience, I have gained so many lessons that I will carry with me forever. Among them, is the lesson of identity. My identity is not defined by my geographical settings – it’s so much more. I am a citizen of a global community, which awaits with open arms, ready to receive me.

## FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

As a part of my Follow-on Service Project, I wrote a children’s story, which aims to increase awareness of opportunities found in the STEM majors as well as in studying abroad for minority children. The story is told through the

perspective of a doll, who collects experiences from several individuals. It is presented in a 3-D format that captures the attention of the 21st century scholars. Upon completion of the story, I read it to a local science enrichment

program. I hope participants in this audience will be inspired to pursue these types of opportunities in the future.