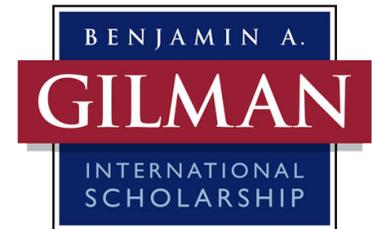


ELIZABETH HUNT, COSTA RICA, 2012

Arizona State University
California



Participating in the Costa Rica Community Health Research Internship during the summer 2012 semester was an incredibly rewarding experience. I was able to apply my studies to real life situations relating to health behaviors and health issues within an underrepresented population. Not only did my research skills grow tremendously, but my personal strength, independence, and world view did as well.

As a first-generation college student and the first in my family to study abroad, receiving the Gilman Scholarship allowed me an amazing opportunity to represent the scholarship, my family, my university and my country while abroad in Costa Rica.

While abroad, I lived in two home-stays, one family in San Jose and another family in the Ngöbe Territory in southern Costa Rica. In San Jose, I attended Spanish classes at the Costa Rican Language Academy, learned about the history of Costa Rican health care, and prepared for my research. In the Ngöbe Territory, I conducted research that consisted of participant observation and studying health behaviors as they relate to the presence of intestinal parasites.

With this experience, I gained exposure to the real world setting of health care and health research. This directly related to my education and career goals of working in public health within American Indian and Hispanic communities. My study abroad program and the research I conducted provided me the necessary research skills and real world experience, which will aid me as I progress towards these goals. Additionally, upon returning home, I enjoyed sharing information about another culture

and the research I conducted with my family and friends.

As am a senior Global Health B.A. candidate, with an Anthropology minor, at Arizona State University I will be graduating soon. My plan is to pursue a Master's in Public Health. Once I obtain my graduate degree, I plan work in tribal public health.

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I want to encourage my family, friends, and community to pursue a study abroad program and apply to the Gilman Scholarship. The opportunities provided by both are incredible and life changing! You never know what you are capable of until you try.

FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

For my Follow-on Service Project, I presented to Hispanic and American Indian students at my university. I chose to present about my study abroad experience and being a Gilman Scholar associated with these specific

groups (I am Mexican and Cherokee), I felt it was important to reach out to my peers of similar backgrounds and encourage them to pursue their educational and career goals.

Sharing my experience as a Gilman Scholar to my peers was incredibly rewarding and I continue to promote study abroad and encourage everyone to apply to the Gilman Scholarship.