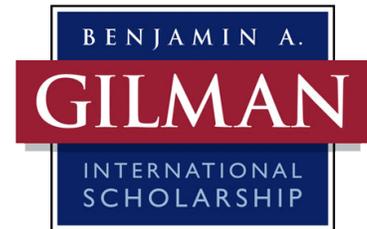


EMILIE WARDRIP, SOUTH KOREA, 2009

St. Cloud State University
Minnesota



Training with blackbelts in Taekwondo on campus, eating homemade Korean food for breakfast daily at a home-stay, and learning to use the amazing public transportation system in Seoul as a commuting student are some of my favorite experiences from my very first study abroad program in 2009 in South Korea.

The Gilman International Scholarship has done so much more for me than just financially support part of my 2009 study abroad program. When I returned to Minnesota, I was in search of an internship that would compliment my time abroad and Global Studies major. I applied to intern at the U.S. Department of State. I believe

it was my time in Seoul as a Gilman Scholarship recipient that made my application stand out among the others, because I was selected to intern during the fall 2010 semester. I joined the Japan and Korea Affairs desk at the U.S. Department of State as the Public Diplomacy intern. I assisted with preparations for the U.S.A. delegation to participate in the 2012 World Expo in Yeosu, South Korea, and met fellows from the National Security Education Program's Boren Scholarship, also administered by the Institute of International Education.

After the internship, I applied for and received the Boren Scholarship. I returned to Seoul in 2011 and completed nine months of intensive language study. Then I had the amazing opportunity of working at the U.S.A. Pavilion as one of the forty Student Ambassadors during the 2012 World Expo.

At the U.S.A. Pavilion's opening ceremony I was given the honor of translating the introduction speech

to welcome the U.S. Ambassador to South Korea. It was a special moment, especially because I had met Ambassador Kim before he was appointed while at the U.S. Department of State. At the U.S.A. Pavilion I loved engaging with our guests in conversation, appreciated our Student Ambassador community outreach events, and especially enjoyed teaching English at the local boys' high school.

"The Gilman International Scholarship has done so much more for me than just financially support my study abroad program..."

These experiences have confirmed that I will enjoy a career in international affairs and have lead me to pursue a Master's degree from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies in International Administration.

FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

My home university has great study abroad partnerships with universities in many different countries. They showcase these programs every semester at study abroad fairs. I worked with the

study abroad office to have an informational table devoted to the Gilman International Scholarship.

I shared details of my experience abroad, handed out informational

flyers, and listened to students' ideas about studying abroad. I also gave presentations to classes of freshmen, encouraging them to look into studying abroad and the Gilman Scholarship.