



THE GLOBE



A newsletter for students, alumni, and friends of
WCU's International Studies program

2018 Dean's Scholar for International Studies



Congratulations to Ali Russell, the winner of this year's Dean's Scholar award for International Studies. The International Studies Advisory Board selected Ali for this honor because of her outstanding academic achievement during her WCU career. Ali is graduating this May with a double major in INST and Philosophy, summa cum laude. If that's not impressive enough, she also has double minors in both Leadership and Film Studies. Ali is a member of WCU's Honor's College, and after graduation, she will be moving to Washington, D.C. to pursue a Master's degree in Philosophy and Social Policy. She's been accepted to both American University and George Washington University, and now she has to decide which program will be lucky enough to have her as a student. We are proud of you, Ali!

International Studies Student Achievements!!

Graduating International Studies majors have been accepted into some amazing graduate schools for the fall, including the University of Denver, University of Pittsburgh, American University, the University of San Francisco, NC State, and George Washington University (just to name a few).

Additionally, three International Studies majors were recently named Diversity Student Ambassadors at WCU. Congratulations to David Benoit (sophomore), Josiah Buchanan (junior), and Robert Mack (sophomore) for your dedication and service to the university community!

Last, but certainly not least, four students were awarded \$500 Global Catamount Awards this semester to help fund their study abroad experiences this coming fall. Congratulations to Josiah Buchanan (who will study in Spain), Chelsea Conrad (France), Jansen Haneline (Sweden), and Levi Parham (Japan)!

Congratulations to Madison Green

Winner of the Fall 2017 Global Catamount Study Abroad Award

Madison is studying in Valparaíso, Chile this semester, and she was kind enough to share a little information about herself and her interests. Here's what she had to say:

Hola! My name is Madison Green, and I am majoring in International Studies and Spanish, with a minor in business law. While abroad in Valparaíso, Chile I will be focusing on becoming fluent in Spanish and developing relationships with the local people and other international students.



Long term, I aspire to be a lawyer with a concentration in international law and border relations. I hope to own a non-profit one day helping immigrants adjust and integrate into the United States. My passion for international relations and race relations within the United States has driven me to study abroad in South America so that I may better understand the set of problems that Latin American immigrants face. My experiences will serve as a foundation for me to grow from in my relations with Latin Americans and ultimately, South America.

Valparaíso, Chile is a perfect fit for my aspirations because of its location in South America and the level at which Spanish is spoken. Going to Chile will force me to take the leap I need in order to become fluent in Spanish. Geographically, Chile is diverse in its climates and features. The north of Chile consists of a desert, while the south is filled with ski slopes, ice bergs, and penguins. To the east of Valparaiso is the Pacific Ocean, and to the west, the Andes Mountains.

If you have any news or announcements you'd like to submit for the next edition of the newsletter, please send that information to Dr. Schiff (jsschiff@wcu.edu). Thanks!

Important Dates to Remember!!!

May 4: Last Day of Class for Spring Semester

May 12 @ 10:00 am: Graduation Ceremony for International Studies!

Alumni Spotlight on...

Emma Tate (2017 INST Graduate)

Q & A with Emma

1. You majored in International Studies and what other major during your time at WCU?

Political Science.

2. Where are you from originally, and where do you live now?

I grew up in a tiny northeastern NC town called Coinjock, and currently I reside in Chicago, IL.

3. What is your current occupational/educational status?

I am a graduate student at the University of Chicago, Earning my MA in International Relations.

4. Does your current position relate to your International Studies major, and if so, how has the major helped you achieve in your field?

If it doesn't, then I am definitely in the wrong major! But in all seriousness, yes my current educational pursuit pertains to International Relations. I think my degree from Western in particular prepared me for this latest adventure in my life because of the mix of knowledge I received in the classes I took. My favorite thing about all the classes I took relating to the INST major was the mix of theoretical knowledge and real-world application.

5. What advice do you have for current WCU students who are interested in attending graduate school?

Just as with all decisions about your future, don't take the decision to go to graduate school lightly. Its not easy; its stressful, its expensive, its time consuming. But it is so completely worth it. If you are thinking about graduate school because you believe that it will help you in your future endeavors, then by all means do it! Just please have an idea of what you are getting into before you go.

Don't underestimate the value of your time in undergrad. Academics are important, but I would argue that extracurriculars are even more important. When graduate admission boards look at your application, they are looking at a pool of academically gifted students. What sets you apart from this pool is your involvement in non-academic activities. I know that sounds really cliché because everyone says to get involved, but its true. Join everything that you can within the constraints of your schedule and your mental and physical health. You have to set yourself apart if you want to increase your odds, especially in already competitive programs.

My final piece of advice is to not let rejection stop you from pursuing your dreams. If you apply for an internship and don't get it, try another one. If you don't get into your dream school, you will get into one that will turn out to be more than you ever thought it could be. Rejection makes you more tailored to succeed in the opportunities you do get because you don't take them for granted.

6. What was your favorite International Studies class at Western? Why?

Well, besides literally every class I ever took, I would have to say International Environmental Politics. That class was structured to mix theory with real-world application, and it really solicited my desire to pursue further education in environmental politics, specifically in water policy and management.

