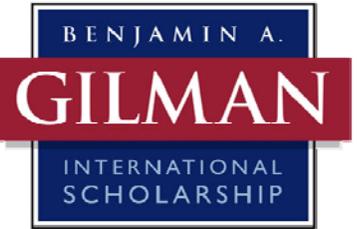


KAISHA SUTTON, ECUADOR, 2011

Mount Saint Mary's University of Maryland
District of Columbia



For the majority of my life, I have always had a desire to travel, to explore and to try new things. Thanks to the generosity of the Gilman International Scholarship, I was given the opportunity to participate in an internship in Ecuador. What I learned while studying abroad will never be forgotten and I am very grateful to everyone who supported me in this endeavor.

The internship in Ecuador was with Fundación de Bienal, a non-

profit organization responsible for organizing an annual cultural event for the city of Cuenca. I was assigned to the International Relations and Communications Department. Among my duties, I translated documents from Spanish to English and vice versa, which really helped me develop my language skills. I also assisted with planning an event called “The Bienal”, an event which gives the residents of Cuenca an opportunity to experience the beautiful art and culture of the region.

Studying abroad affirmed my future career goals. I am currently pursuing a Master’s of Arts Management at George Mason University. This degree is typically a two-year program that expands traditional arts business and management courses to include public policy, the impact of multiculturalism, cultural education, and innovation in operating and communications technology. It has everything I’m looking for in a career: combining

my love of community service, cultural diversity, music and art. In addition, this year I started working as a Program Coordinator for the U.S. Department of State, Office of International Visitors.

I would like to personally thank the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, for granting me this award and allowing me the chance to fulfill my dreams.

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FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

For my Follow-on Service Project, I gave a series of presentations for Global Studies classes at my former high school, Bishop McNamara. Many students expressed an interest in studying abroad and sent thank you notes

expressing their appreciation for my inspirational presentation. In addition, I arranged an information session for students at Mount St. Mary’s University who were interested in studying abroad. This presentation was tailored for college students; many

of whom were preparing to leave for study overseas. Most of the questions that were asked pertained to financial aid. I highly recommended the Gilman Scholarship Program as a potential source of assistance.