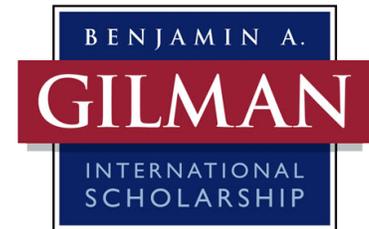


DARIUS BRASWELL, MOROCCO, 2012

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In Morocco I attended classes at the Arabic Language Institute of Fez (ALIF). The ALIF class system challenged me to manage my time in ways I had not done before. It served as a great learning experience to balance my school work and free time. ALIF hosted tours, field trips, and other experiences for students to get outside the classroom and experience the culture of Morocco within a continuous learning environment. Students also participated in on-campus events to get to know each other. In addition, I was assigned a homestay within the “old city” of Fez, where the Arabic culture is focused and a traditional way of life is upheld.

My host family consisted of a mother and father with four sons and two international students; myself and

another American. None of the family members spoke fluent English, nor studied it extensively. The two oldest sons, whom I hung out with the most, spoke the most English because they had English friends.

Spending so much time with a family that spoke very little English was unique and challenging to me because I love to talk. Through mutual laughs at my endeavors to learn Arabic, I grew close to this family. This was a delightful experience, and it pushed me to learn the language more intimately.

I love to travel, learn new things, and experience new cultures. As my first experience overseas, Morocco has reinforced these desires to participate in the said things. Going to Morocco has only encouraged me to study abroad again. I will continue to travel and seek to learn different languages while establishing long-lasting relationships with individuals from different parts of the world.

My study abroad experience has helped me play a more professional role on campus. My Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Political Science is more versatile with my experience in

the Arabic language. Additionally, the knowledge acquired has opened more doors toward studying Arabic in the future. My career interest includes working towards pursuing a job in diplomacy to promote peace and compromise within Foreign Affairs.

“My bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Political Science is more versatile with my experience in the Arabic language.”

Studying abroad in Morocco has connected me with the minds of many different people. After six weeks, I have made friends, learned how to manage my time in different ways, and enhanced my knowledge of Arabic to a whole new level of expertise professionally.

FOLLOW-ON SERVICE PROJECT

For my Follow-on Service Project I helped spread the word around Lincoln University about the Gilman Scholarship through several campus-wide programs. I performed a ten minute presentation at the annual Lincoln Study Abroad Student Panel, which was an opportunity to give the students a glimpse of Lincoln’s study abroad programs.

Additionally, I hosted a Gilman Scholarship meeting which served as a workshop to get students interested in studying abroad. At each program between ten and twenty students attended to inquire about studying abroad and the Gilman Scholarship. I feel these workshops changed many student’s minds about studying abroad during their college career.

Furthermore, I created a “Welcome to Morocco” movie that was shown to various students as an introductory look to my experience and one they could look forward to.