



# BUFFS *abroad*

**Office of Study Abroad**

SSC 115A

wtamu.edu/studyabroad

Fall 2017

## Texas to Thailand

"I studied abroad in Thailand, in a city called Salaya, which is right on the outskirts of Bangkok. Coming from Canyon, and a hometown just as small I was completely amazed. Tall buildings, traffic everywhere, and people speaking a foreign language I had never heard before was exciting. I knew instantly I would never have an excuse to be bored.

Everyday there is something new I encountered, and I mean that wholeheartedly, but the most interesting thing I found while there is how CHEAP South East Asia is. Each meal cost me less than a dollar, taking a 30 minute taxi is around \$5, and a 4hr. train ride was only \$1.27...basically, I lived like a Thai Queen, tasting all kinds of different spicy foods, relaxing on some of the worlds most beautiful beaches, and discovering new places every weekend.

I studied at Mahidol University, one of the best universities in the country. In Thailand, college students wear uniforms. You would think this is a downside, but



honestly I loved it (you guessed, it meant less laundry for me!) My classmates were some of the kindest people, they all studied extremely hard and were helpful with anything. Whether it be with homework, travel ideas, they would help anytime.

Something I really enjoyed is that classes are smaller than at home.

Having small classes, meant I could not skip class and I had to consistently be engaged in lecture. This was helpful, because it forced me to learn new things and also allowed me to form a strong relationship with my professors. There, they all knew me by name and strived to help me do my best".

*-Monique Lucio, Spring 2017, Thailand*

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### 2018 Faculty-Led Programs:

- Global Media for Social Change, South Africa, 03/03—03/18
- Renewable Energy Systems in Central America, Honduras, 03/09-03/16
- Steinway's German Heritage, Germany, 03/09– 03/18
- Symphony Korean Performance Tour, South Korea, 05-13 –05/21
- Spanish for Agriculture, Nicaragua, 05/14–05/23
- China: Politics and Culture, China, 05/13–05/31
- Communication Disorders, Uganda, 05/19–06/02
- Education, Italy, 05/29–06/08
- Nations and Borderlands, Germany & Poland, 06/02–06/12
- Spanish, Costa Rica, 06/02–06/30
- Horn Choir Concert Tour, Scotland, 08/01–08/09
- "Las Clavelinas" Initiative, Mexico, different dates throughout summer.

For more, visit our [Faculty-led programs page](#).

# Fall '17 GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

## Karina Hernandez

*Major:* Nursing

*Minor:* Biology

*Classification:* Junior

*Location of study abroad program:* Suva, Fiji

I chose to study in Fiji because I aspired to expand my view of different cultures and wanted allow myself to grow spiritually, culturally, and personally. Fiji was also a location that provided opportunities to expand my knowledge in marine biology. Another reason I chose Fiji, is because it is an unusual place to study abroad at.

The Gilman Scholarship opened many doors for me and made my study abroad trip possible. At the beginning of this process, I encountered many financial problems and worried that this opportunity was not going to happen. Luckily, because of this scholarship, I was able to travel to my dream location and study for an entire semester. Based on my experiences, I want to share the plethora of opportunities that are available to hardworking individuals.

I know from experience that financial obstacles are what stop many people from pursuing to study abroad. Studying abroad is definitely worth the extra effort and hard work, and can be achieved with determination and perseverance. Just like everything worth having, it won't be easy but it is definitely worth every effort. Like many individuals, I too struggle financially, however that cannot be an obstacle that stops us from accomplishing our goals. Many scholarships are available that do help to accomplish this, such as the Gilman Scholarship. The value of studying abroad, has proven to be invaluable in my life, and will affect the outlook that I have for the rest of my life.



## Roger Onofre

*Major:* Political Science

*Classification:* Senior

*Location of study abroad program:* Rabat, Morocco

Being awarded a Gilman Scholarship has been a blessing. Gilman has provided me ease and freedom to truly enjoy Morocco. Being able to explore this country without financial worries is a benefit as a recipient. I am able to discover and experience new things everyday that will be of great benefit in my future. Arabic will be a significant asset for my future in the Air Force and political career. Morocco is near many countries I have been wanting to visit, and during my semester here, I will finally be able to.

A study abroad program is costly but worth every cent. When I met with Carolina in the OSA, she explained there were many scholarships specifically for studying abroad, and WT offers some. After doing some online research, I realized paying for the program should be the last thing students should worry about. Plenty of organizations offer financial and moral support to students who wish to go abroad. They suggest different methods for fundraising, and even your local community will contribute. I advise any student interest to visit Carolina and Laura, as they can guide you to the right path, find a program that interests you and assist you with your application. The rest will fall in place, and before you know it, you will be on a flight to a whole new world.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP, VISIT: <https://www.gilmanscholarship.org/>**

# “Buffs Abroad 2017” Photo Contest Winners

## JUDGES' CHOICE CATEGORY

Judges for this year's contest:

Blake Decker  
Amber Black

Jerry Faltinek  
Vicki Hamblen

Andrea Porter  
Laura Seals



## 1<sup>st</sup> Place:

**“SALZBURG FROM ABOVE”**  
by Arne Van Mourik  
Faculty Led Program 2017,  
Austria

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

**“CONQUERING MY  
COMFORT ZONE”**  
by Shelby Willburn  
ISA Program,  
Spring 2017,  
South Africa



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Place:

### **“ANOTHER DAY OF LEARNING”**

by Mariela Mendoza

Faculty Led Program 2017,

Mexico



## **PEOPLE’S CHOICE CATEGORY**

Determined by number of “likes” and “reactions” on Facebook.



### **“THE MAJESTIC BEAST”**

by Shelby Willburn, ISA Program,  
Spring 2017, South Africa



***“Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow.” -Anita Desai***