Student Profile: Mariah Hoffman

By Amer Taleb, staff writer

Mariah Hoffman wanted to see the world. So as a student in high school she joined an international exchange program and traveled to New Zealand. Ever since, her desire to explore the globe has grown.

“I traveled to New Zealand and it opened my eyes up to international travel,” she said of her high school experience. “It’s why I decided to choose International Studies as a major.”

Hoffman, a Chicago native, spent last semester in Medellín, Colombia, where she conducted independent study through U of A. She learned salsa dancing, surveyed the city and soaked in the culture.

Most important to her, she focused on environmental issues and sustainability, deep-rooted interests that stem from volunteer work conducted during her sophomore year at a local school garden.

In many ways, social justice fueled her desire to study in South America, where she studied at a bilingual school and assisted students, parents and teachers in green spaces like community gardens.

Hoffman claims she wouldn’t have had the opportunity to pursue her passions abroad if it wasn’t for the assistance of the Arizona Assurance Program—which has helped to fund her and provided a bedrock of support. And the helping hand extended to her by Arizona Assurance has motivated her to offer the same to others.

“Without Arizona Assurance, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to come to the University of Arizona. It keeps me grounded because I know that someone invested in my education. So I do feel an obligation to give back to the community.”

Of all the Arizona Assurance programs she has taken advantage of, Hoffman said a graduate school prep course has been the most helpful. She plans to apply to grad school this year to pursue a Master’s degree in landscape architecture, which would combine her passions of helping her community and working with the environment.

The growth she’s seen within herself over the course of her time at the UA is what she’s most proud of, and it’s what she believes will continue to carry her towards success.

“Arizona Assurance cares, and not just about the student transitioning from high school, but also about your development and exposure to ideas during college as well as beyond that,” she said. “I think it’s a testament to the program and their investment in students.”

Announcements

Are you considering a Pre-Health major?

A new program through the Pre-Health Professions Advising Center called P.U.L.E.S is available to assist all students considering health professions. They offer advising and information about job opportunities, internships, exam preparation, application processes and much more. For more information please contact Dr. Ambassador SarharaPrinter [sarhara@email.arizona.edu].

Are you interested in studying abroad in Italy?

As an Arizona Assurance Scholar you can use your financial aid to study abroad. Applications are now being accepted to study in beautiful Orvieto, Italy through the Arizona in Italy program. For more information please visit http://arizonainitaly.org.

Staff Update

Christa Kelli was the Co-Director working with Sophomore Scholars has decided to pursue her Graduate Studies full-time and therefore is no longer working with our office.

If you have any questions or need assistance please contact Arezu Carkhia at arezu@email.arizona.edu.