

Class of 2005 Legacy Gift Provides Much Needed Assistance to Current Students Studying Abroad

International education is a top priority in New York University's global mission, which is why it may come as no surprise that NYU remains the leading sending institution when it comes to students studying abroad. The cost of spending a semester abroad, though, can be a deterrent from this invaluable educational experience. That's why one graduating class helped make it a more realizable goal for future generations. A legacy gift from the Class of 2005 raised funds to provide stipends of \$850 to help twenty one NYU students afford a semester abroad. This spring, another two NYU students are benefiting from the class's generosity by exploring two of the most versatile and culturally rich cities of Europe.

Savanah Washington, a School of Nursing sophomore from Mountain View, California, is studying at NYU in Paris this spring. While in New York, Savanah works as a Welcome Week Leader, on the cheerleading team and on the Class of 2011 Activities Board. Now in Paris, she's putting those activities on hold to absorb the rich culture and encounter a new way of life.

Washington said this semester abroad and her introduction to a foreign culture, a new language and differing beliefs are an enriching addition to her education and her future profession as a nurse. "I appreciate NYU's belief that all of their students should be well-rounded, knowledgeable people," she said. "Being a nursing student, I have a heavy focus of science courses in my academic progression, but studying in Paris is allowing me to learn about things like photography, literature and religion. With these other subjects, I'll leave NYU and enter the medical field with the ability to bring new and unique ideas to the attention of my colleagues. Especially in a field like nursing, where you come across so many different cultures, I think learning French has been useful in making me more accepting of other languages and cultures."

Savanah acknowledged that her receipt of the award affirmed her desire to give back to the University that has provided amazing experiences and shaped her as a student, as a nurse and as a person. "I was very honored and grateful to receive the Legacy Scholarship. It's so amazing that the alumni of NYU are still taking an interest in their fellow students, especially in a situation such as study abroad, which could easily be overlooked for other scholarships that pertain to NYU's main campus," she said. "From very early on in my experience at NYU, I had decided that I owe it to NYU and the student body to give back and help other students with financial need, such as myself. I will definitely be a contributing alumna to NYU and would be proud to participate in a legacy gift for my class."

A little to the north, in a city just as rich in history as perpetual modernization, **Joshua Lieberman**, a Gallatin junior from Batavia, New York, also is benefiting from the Legacy Award. At NYU in Berlin, Joshua is expounding on his studies of social identities in relation to politics. "The academics here have been wonderful, especially in the field of politics," he said. "I hope to learn both through the Academy and outside the Academy –

watching and participating in life, making notes on the similarities and differences to observable life in the US, and hopefully, I will end up having a great time while learning how to comparatively analyze and talk about two different cultures in relation to gender roles, sexuality, racial formation and politics.”

Joshua, who said his ultimate goal is to one day pursue a Ph.D. and become a college professor, has expanded horizons and gained personal insight in the short time he’s already been in Germany. “Monitoring the situation of racial formation in regard to the Turkish and Middle Eastern population in Germany is allowing me to see myself possibly working abroad with NGOs or lobbies for something I find myself quickly gaining interest in,” he said.

Joshua, like Savannah, said the generosity of a past class has provided motivation for him to help future generations of NYU students. “I was really excited to have received the Legacy scholarship. Any extra money at NYU is really appreciated, and as far as I’m concerned, I’m putting the money to the best use it could be put to.”