Ogden Foundation Award – Nellans

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The Iowa senior being recognized with WKU’s top undergraduate award made genocide the focus of her academic career early on.

Amy Bingham introduces us to Ogden Foundation Award recipient Lillian Nellans in this week’s View from the Hill.

Lillian Nellans has studied abroad four times while attending WKU—places like Israel, Bosnia and Kosovo. The Cherry Presidential Scholar, Truman Scholarship finalist and now Ogden Foundation Scholar never imagined the opportunities she would find in Bowling Green and around the world.

“ I grew up in Des Moines Iowa. When I was in high school or actually when I was in middle school I joined the speech and debate team and was fortunate enough to have a fair amount of success at the national level and WKU has a national championship speech and debate team so I was recruited to come compete for them and that’s how I ended up moving from Des Moines to Bowling Green.”

“that’s really been my core group of friends and mentors and my support here on campus has been the 40 other members of the speech and debate team.”

“My freshman year I knew I wanted to study genocide.”

8:00 “When I got to WKU and saw that we had a study abroad program, specifically looking at peace and conflict in Bosnia, I signed up for it.”

“I spent so much time especially up in the office of scholar development working on applications for study abroad scholarships and grad school.”

“There are several different forecasting models that people use right now trying to predict how likely genocide is in a certain country, political instability, certain levels of hate speech and economic decline.”

“I think there should also be some sort of element that measures gender attitudes. I’m not sure what those measurements look like yet. That’s what I want to do my masters and eventually phD research on.”

“It’s been my dream for a really long time to go to the London School of Economics and Political Science because they have a world renowned International relations program.”

“I’ve also wanted to live outside the U.S. for a long time so I’m really looking forward to packing up and moving in September.”

Nellans is among the nearly 33 hundred graduates who will have their degrees conferred at commencement tomorrow night in L.T. Smith Stadium. For more information on WKU’s graduation schedule log onto wku dot edu slash commencement.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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