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Communications

May 3, 2018

Haddie Winters Will Participate in Intensive Study of French Language



Haddie Winters (front row, third from left) served as a peer leader for GWU orientation.

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—A senior from Gardner-Webb University has been selected to receive a scholarship from the National Security Education Program (NSEP). As a recipient of the David L. Boren Scholarship, Hadassah “Haddie” Winters of Lancaster, S.C., will participate in an intensive language study program and then fulfill a one-year service agreement with the federal government.

Winters grew up in West Africa, where her parents served as missionary linguists. Because her closest friends were from Senegal and other countries, she developed a passion for international affairs. She came to Gardner-Webb because the global studies program offered three concentrations and several course options. Her advisor, Dr. Casey Delehanty, assistant professor of global studies, encouraged her to apply for the Boren Scholarship.

“I wasn’t so sure of my chances of success, since it is such a competitive scholarship, but Dr. Delehanty kept telling me I should apply, assuring me that he would work with me every step of the way,” Winters shared. “I started my application essays in late November and submitted the final drafts in February. This semester I am interning as a grade-school teacher in Cameroon until late May, so I submitted the final application from here, and completed the required French oral proficiency interview over a long-distance phone call from New York.”

Her six-month study of French and the Wolof language begins this summer at the University of Florida in Gainesville. In the fall, she will continue her studies at the West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal. After graduating from GWU in December, she will complete the service requirement of the scholarship. Winters is hoping to work with the U.S. Department of State in a French-speaking African country.

Haddie Winters

Winters praised everyone who contributed to the success of her application. Delehanty and Dr. Joseph Moore, assistant professor of history, proofed her essays along with her parents and some friends. Dr. Tamara Cox, professor of French, completed her language proficiency form. Her letters of recommendation were written by Cox, Delehanty and Dr. Don Berry, professor of religious studies.

“I was absolutely floored when I received the email informing me that I had won the scholarship,” Winters disclosed. “It was a Gardner-Webb team effort and it is a Gardner-Webb team celebration. I am expecting to make rapid progress in advancing my French, and also grow through the myriad of cultural experiences this scholarship will enable me to have.”

Boren Scholarships, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, fund opportunities for U.S. undergraduate students to study less commonly-taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. interests, and underrepresented in study abroad, including Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East. For more information, visit borenawards.org.

Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb ignites learning and service opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.