

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM FUNDED EXPERIENCES

INTERESTED IN STUDYING ABROAD? CHECK OUT THEIR EXPERIENCE BELOW!

DESTINATION: THAILAND

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR: VETBIOS 7193 LEAD BY DR. INPANBUTR

AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: ANGELICA MENDOZA, CLASS OF 2022

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"I chose to go on this trip for the hands-on experience with zoo and exotic species. This trip gave me the opportunity to experience what it would be like to work with these animals and solidified my choice in pursuing a career in zoological medicine. During our first couple of days we were simply tourists, in that we visited a snake farm in Bangkok and the Chiang Mai Zoo. Then we transitioned to our hands-on work. Our hands-on experience involved working with elephants, macaques, aquatic species, and assisting with acupuncture on domestic species. We were able to experience the eastern ways of veterinary care. While it is similar to western medicine, they have different beliefs, such as their disbelief of euthanasia and how it is rarely performed. I had not witnessed the difficulty of language barriers until my visit to Thailand. However, there didn't seem to be a big barrier within the medical language and the terms we use within the medical field. Overall my experience in Thailand was humbling as well as rewarding and beneficial."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

"Traveling abroad is stressful, especially if it is your first time, and money plays a big role in that stress. Having received the scholarship relieved a bit of that stress for me as I was provided the funds to secure better travel accommodations in terms of airfare and lodging and have the peace of mind that is so elusive while planning a trip abroad. The scholarship enabled me to focus more on planning my trip and less on worrying about my comfort and safety. I would encourage others to apply for the travel scholarship simply because trips abroad are not cheap. I would say our flight to Thailand was by far my biggest expense. For me, the scholarship was able to cover at least half of the flight. Any type of funds received I would say would be a big help. It would also allow for more of your focus to go towards planning a trip in contrast to trying to find money to fund the trip."



Figure 1: "A Mahout assists by pulling back the elephant's ear while I scan for a microchip."



Figure 2: "The veterinary assistant is restraining a sedated macaque as I administer medication subcutaneously."

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AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: ADAM ANDREW MORENO, CLASS OF 2022

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“The opportunity to explore and experience the ways in which animals, both domestic and wild are perceived, utilized, and cared for in Thailand was extraordinarily valuable. Having strong interests and a passion for conservation and wildlife medicine, this course was a phenomenal learning experience. Even more beneficial than the hands-on practice that we were given, being able to speak with the veterinarians and animal caretakers from Thailand gave me a deeper insight into many controversial conservation topics relevant in Thailand and globally.

After completing the travel course to Thailand, I spent a week in Vietnam at Save Vietnam’s Wildlife, a conservation center and hospital. This center rescues, rehabilitates, and releases more pangolins than any other hospital or rehabilitation center in the world. Pangolins are a vastly understudied species. They are also drastically over-exploited and are the worlds most trafficked mammals. While visiting SVW, I was able to play an active participatory role triaging new patients, formulating and executing treatment plans, and assessing the release criteria for pangolins intercepted from the illegal trade. Being able to work with critically endangered species in a rescue and release setting fueled my passion for conservation medicine.”

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

“The global engagement scholarship allowed me to spend more time researching the species and topics that would be covered in the course. As wildlife trade and exploitation are of particular interest to me, I spent a considerable amount of time before the trip researching trade routes, laws, and practices in Thailand. Scholarship funding allowed me to spend thorough amounts of time on this research without worrying about covering the costs of the trip. I would absolutely encourage anyone planning on participating in an international veterinary experience to apply for the Global Engagement Travel Scholarship. There are very few travel grants in the veterinary field applicable to students participating in international learning. Because of this, the Global Engagement Travel Scholarship is a vital resource for the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine students.”



Figure 1: Adam Andrew working with a Pangolin in a wildlife conservation hospital.

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DESTINATION: THAILAND

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR: VETBIOS 7193 LEAD BY DR. INPANBUTR

AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: COURTNEY ADAMS, CLASS OF 2022

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"My trip to Thailand was extremely eye-opening and educational. I had expectations prior to arriving and anticipated I would receive hands-on experience, training for exotic veterinary care, and learn more about Thai culture. However, after the experience I also feel very knowledgeable in the fields of wildlife tourism and exploitation as well as more familiar with the Thai human-animal bond. Wildlife and environmental conservation as always been a passion of mine, so I'm excited that the trip has made me a well-informed wildlife advocate which will help me as I educate others about the struggles wildlife face in Thailand and around the globe. Additionally, my devotion to animal behavior and the human-animal bond has only been affirmed further as I have loved learning about the types of relationships Thai people have with their pets or with wild animals. It is intriguing to see how it affects veterinary care, animal training, public health, conservation, and so many other things. I found it to be very different than what I am used to in the United States. In a way I think that it also made me more well-rounded student, which ultimately will make me a better clinician, as I have seen animals managed in different ways and learned veterinary medical techniques that are not traditionally practiced in the United States."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

"The global engagement travel scholarship went towards the cost of my course fee and supplemental health insurance while I was abroad. This not only saved me from having to increase my borrowing amount for student loans with an extremely high interest rate, but also provided me with peace of mind as I entered the trip knowing I had health coverage in case of an emergency. Students already need to take out thousands of dollars in student loans to get an education. It affects what we do during school, how far we can go in school, and what career we will have afterwards. This often can contrast our aspirations as we need to do what is financially feasible, not what we want. The scholarship eliminated any stress or guilt I would have had about allowing myself to participate in an experience that would benefit me and my career. Going forward, this scholarship also benefits me because I don't have to "give up" my desire to pursue a career in animal behavior because I will be able to afford further schooling if I need it as well as more freedom in income when I graduate because I have less loans to pay back. Whatever the financial concern or need, I would absolutely encourage other students to apply for a global engagement travel scholarship. Traveling, while also very fun, creates well-rounded, experienced, and informed people. These people can then go on to make a difference in the lives of their peers and even improve their own lives. Professional school loans have an extremely high interest rate and most students need to increase their borrowed amount to pay for educational travel experiences. The scholarship helps to ease the stress of finding spending money, the cost of transportation, or the cost of the course fee and supplies."

Pictures from the Program!



Figure 1: A large component for this award is gain cultural insight from studying abroad. Pictured (left) are the dogs of the conservation center wearing a sweater as an identification collar. The dogs typically wear this regardless of the heat, and do not receive veterinary care, which was an eye-opening experience for Courtney. Above (right) is locally grown supplements provided to the elephants at the conservation center. This is different than in the United States where they typically are liquid injectable forms!



Figure 2: Courtney is shown auscultating a Bengal tiger. The zoo which this tiger is housed does not have a formal breeding program which leads to aggression and altercations. Courtney and her fellow classmates had the opportunities to perform health checks on these tigers through their Thailand experience.

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AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: JESSICA KNISELY, CLASS OF 2021

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"My experience in Thailand was incredible. It is always an amazing experience when one gets to meet other professionals within the veterinary medical field and to work/learn alongside of them. I have been fortunate to be able to travel to a couple different places to learn and practice veterinary medicine around the world, and one of my absolute favorite things to observe is the differences in medicine. Yet, even with sometimes very different practices, there is always the same end goal, and that is providing the absolute best care possible to any animal in need of treatment. That is what I find so amazing about trips like this. Particularly with this trip, we come from a vastly different culture than the Thai people we worked with. Yet, we were able to provide amazing animal care because we all have the same end goal.

During this experience, we were able to work with many different species. We performed physical exams on multiple Asian elephants and worked through some cases of sick elephants with the attending veterinarian. We discuss a couple cases of sick tigers with the veterinarians and were able to watch a crocodile necropsy in the field. Finally, on our most hands-on days, we learned fish anesthesia along with blood draws and biopsy sites, prawn blood drawing and biopsy sites, and we had an excellent lecture and lab, followed by 2 practical cases in the clinic, on veterinary acupuncture. Each day was something new and different and whenever possible the veterinarians jumped at getting us hands-on experience. For example, during the 2 practical cases of acupuncture, with the guidance of the veterinarian, and with the owner's permission, we were allowed to find the acupuncture points and insert the needle into its location. It was a day where me and my classmates were really able to see the true benefits of acupuncture and how it can be a real asset to us in our future. I know that I for one will now be planning to pursue a certification in veterinary acupuncture all thanks to this experience."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

"Having this scholarship for this particular trip really helped take my mind off of the finance side of the trip. Given that we flew halfway around the world, the flight itself was fairly expensive, then we had to add on the course fee. The addition of this scholarship pretty much helped cover the rest of my expenses so that I did not have to worry about any finances involved with the trip going into it. This basically allowed me to be care-free during my travels, which not only allowed me to be 100% focused on veterinary medicine while I was there, but also allowed me a breather from the constant concern of finances that all vet students have, ultimately aiding in my mental health. Although not a true "break" from classes, I was able to come back feeling mentally refreshed coming back into my final didactic semester at OSU. So, thanks to this scholarship, I not only had a care-free trip to Thailand, but I also had a very smooth mental start to the semester, which is something many of my other classmates are not benefiting from.

I absolutely would encourage others to apply for the global engagement travel scholarship. Ultimately, I think traveling and learning about veterinary medicine in other countries and about other cultures is a fantastic way to grow as a veterinarian. I think it can really enhance your knowledge about yourself and also enhance your knowledge about diverse clients and what may be the best ways to interact and serve them. This scholarship I think is a great way to get out and travel, and really engage with others in the field and make lifelong connections. You never know when an opportunity will come up in the future to use connections you've made during your life! Gaining these relationships is really kind of the whole principle of the Global Engagement Travel Scholarship. I would recommend anyone to apply and use this scholarship to travel and start developing those relationships because it is a truly incredible opportunity to grow both personally and professionally."

Pictures from the Program!



Figure 1. Jessica is shown practicing veterinary acupuncture on two dogs.

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COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR: VETBIOS 7193 LEAD BY DR. INPANBUTR

AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: GRACE KRZAN, CLASS OF 2022

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"The two weeks that I was able to spend in Thailand were unrivaled to any other experience I have had. Being able to practice veterinary medicine in another country amongst a different culture was an incredible gift. I was fortunate enough to learn different ways to treat, diagnose, and stabilize sick animals. I learned how to open my mind to medicine practices that were unlike my own and unlike ones that I have learned previously. No matter how different the medicine was between our two cultures, there was always one thing that completely connected us, and that was, the wellbeing of every animal that we treated. It was amazing to know that we were all there for the same purpose; to learn from each other and to do the best we can to save as many animals as possible."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

"The global engagement travel scholarship that I was granted enhanced my experience because it truly was what allowed me to go on this trip. I would not have been able to make this happen for me on my own. It allowed me to not take anything or anyone for granted, and it allowed me to be the present moment where I could fully enjoy every experience fully. There is a sense of wanting to make the most out of any situation when someone who does not personally know you, gives you the opportunity to better yourself, your career, and hopefully in return, those around you. I absolutely would encourage others to apply for a global engagement travel scholarship because although it significantly helps with the expense demand of a trip, it also makes you a part of a greater whole. It makes you extremely grateful and full of gratitude to the people who have made an incredible experience possible for you. It creates a cycle of wanting to give in return, and help someone else's dreams come true."



Figure 1. Grace shown practicing anesthetics, blood draws, gill and scale sampling, intramuscular and intraperitoneal injections on several fish species.



Figure 2. "My favorite day of the trip!" Grace performed complete physical exams on the elephants at the conservation center in Thailand.

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AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: JANIS MCGILL, CLASS OF 2021

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"I had the opportunity to travel to Thailand to learn about wildlife, veterinary medicine, and the culture. The current curriculum at Ohio State does not provide hands on or didactic learning for treating animals of zoological or exotic species. While in Thailand I got the opportunity to work directly with Elephants, tigers, palm civets, and aquatics, animals I've never been in direct contact with before. I was able to learn from the excellent veterinary faculty at Chiang Mai University about how to handle, examine, and treat their wildlife species."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

"The scholarship helped me cover the cost of the course fee and flights to Thailand. Because of this monetary help it lightened the financial burden and allowed me to stress less about the costs of travel. I was able to have more confidence in my ability to pay for the experience. I do encourage others to apply. I almost didn't apply for the scholarship because I felt like others deserved it more or had more need than I did. But I was encouraged to apply anyway, and I ended up being one of the students selected. Everyone is deserving of financial help, especially in vet school when the cost of that extra activity might be a deterrent."



Figure 1: Janis and fellow classmates visiting the CDC branch in Bangkok. There they received a presentation from public health officials on zoonotic disease surveillance.

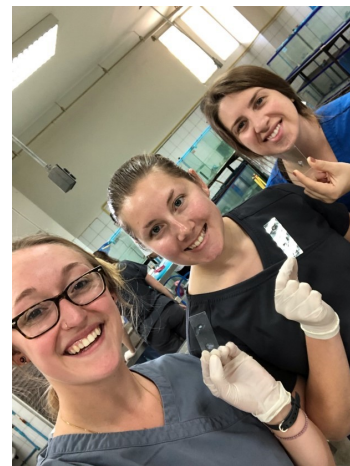


Figure 2: Above the students learned aquatic veterinary medicine in a wet lab practicing diagnostic sampling on giant shrimp.

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AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: KELSEY BICK, CLASS OF 2022

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“My trip was simply amazing, starting in Bangkok at the Snake Hospital, learning about the venomous and non-venomous snakes of Thailand and their physiology, as well as associated public health risks — like bites! We then traveled to Chiang Mai, where we were introduced to the veterinary school at Chiang Mai University, then got to visit the zoo. The next day, we drove to Lampang, where we spent two amazing days learning from the university’s top minds about elephant wellness and care. We learned elephant physical exams, talked about pathology associated with current elephant management, and held a fascinating discussion about elephant welfare in the light of the logging ban and the current turning of the tide of public opinion surrounding elephant riding programs.

The weekend meant a class trip to Doi Inthanon, a national park of Thailand that includes the highest point in the country! We hiked to waterfalls, a subalpine prairie (an extremely rare biome), and got to visit the twin pagodas. An adventure-filled Saturday was followed by a chance to explore Chiang Mai on our own, during which we toured ornate temples and perused street markets.

Monday brought a visit to an animal rehabilitation facility where we conducted physical exams on civets — my first ever wild cat exam! That practice with health checks and administering sedation and reversal was quickly followed by an even bigger cat the next day — we got to help with the anesthesia of a tiger at Chiang Mai Night Safari! A once in a lifetime opportunity, indeed.

Back at CMU, we had the chance to learn from leading aquaculture veterinarians about fish and prawn anesthesia and medicine and had the chance to practice our new knowledge in a wonderful hands-on laboratory. Our last day of the program gave us the chance to learn about acupuncture and even practice on real patients. Seeing the difference acupuncture can make on patient outcomes was fascination and definitely piqued my interest in learning more!”

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

“The scholarship very nearly covered my entire flight cost. This was a huge help and gave me room in my budget for other experiences. With my round-trip travel very nearly covered, several friends and I were able to stay beyond the program and travel to Laos, Cambodia, and the Thai islands. We were also able to gain additional veterinary-related experiences during our travel, such as visiting the CDC in Bangkok and learning more about One Health programs in the area, touring a water buffalo dairy farm in Laos, and visiting an animal shelter focused on sterilization and vaccination of stray cats and dogs on Koh Lanta and the other islands of Krabi. Without this scholarship, I likely could not have afforded these opportunities! That being said, I absolutely encourage others to apply. I know that we all struggle with finances while in veterinary school, but now is the time to travel. We have the opportunity, the free time over breaks — and now is the time to

learn new things and expand our horizons! There is more to vet med than the classroom and the travel scholarship makes sure we get to access those things.”

Pictures from the Program!



Figure 1: Kelsey is seen performing physical examinations on both an elephant and tiger at their respective conservation centers.

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COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR: VETBIOS 7193 LEAD BY DR. INPANBUTR

AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: LINDSAY COURTNEY, CLASS OF 2021

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"My trip to Southeast Asia is something that I will treasure for the rest of my life. In a relatively short time abroad, I had unforgettable experiences and gained knowledge that I will carry with me in both my personal and professional life. Upon arrival in Bangkok, I traveled to the CDC office located within the Ministry of Public Health, which was an amazing experience! During my time there, I learned how the CDC partners with the Royal Thai Ministry of Public Health to combat several public health concerns. I had the opportunity to meet the program management assistant of their division of global health protection and their director of the influenza program. I have a strong desire to bridge the gap between human and animal medicine on a global level. I enjoy population health field research and plan to enter a career that involves disease surveillance or disease outbreak investigation. Within just a few days of being in Bangkok, I discovered my dream career and plan to keep an open line of communication with the contacts I made while at the Ministry of Public Health.

We first visited a snake hospital associated with the Red Cross in Bangkok and then traveled to Lampang to visit the National Elephant Institute. I loved having the opportunity to perform physical exams on the elephants. It was interesting to see that the Thai veterinarians use the same systematic approach for their physical exams on elephants as we use in large animals back home. The Thai veterinarians also explained using elephants for tourism relieves stress, decreases cortisol levels, and reduce the incidence of obesity amongst the elephant population.

I then traveled to Huay Hong Krai station where I worked with macaques. In addition, this was my first true exposure to field medicine, and it was amazing to see how much the veterinarians could do with such little resources. My favorite hands-on part of the program was during the last two days. I spent one day working with aquatics where I anesthetized a catfish and prawn and completed a physical exam with blood draws. The next day I learned about acupuncture and got the opportunity to place needles in a cadaver as well as a live patient.

This trip has had a major impact on who I am as a person. Having the opportunity to immerse myself in a different culture and view veterinary medicine from a completely different perspective has reshaped the entire trajectory for my future as a medical professional. I knew going into the program that I had an interest in pursuing a career in global one health and that this experience would be beneficial, but I did not know that I would come home with such an appreciation for the Thai culture that I would want to live and work there in the future. I have a newfound appreciation for other cultures and my experience has inspired me to continue to learn about cultural differences and their impact on personal interactions as well as the practice of veterinary medicine. I hope to work internationally one day so I can continue to grow and become a more well-rounded and culturally aware person and professional."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

“This scholarship helped to take the financial burden off of me while traveling. Knowing that I had this scholarship to cover some of my expenses allowed me to truly immerse myself in the Thai culture and worry less about expenses. I would highly encourage students to apply for this travel scholarship. In addition to the financial support, which allowed me to truly enjoy my trip, creating a budget for the application was also extremely beneficial. Creating a budget allowed me to see where I would be spending my money before I even left. It allowed me to keep track of what I was spending and prevented me from coming home to a surprise in my bank account.”

Pictures from the Program!



Figure 1: Lindsay outside the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand.



Figure 2: Shown is Lindsay celebrating a successful blood draw on a catfish.

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DESTINATION: THAILAND

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR: VETBIOS 7193 LEAD BY DR. INPANBUTR

AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: LISA BOTROS, CLASS OF 2022

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"Going to Thailand was a remarkable experience where my colleagues and I had the opportunity to work with elephants, macaques, fish, shrimp, and also had the chance to do acupuncture on canine patients at Chiang Mai University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Not only has this experience given me the opportunity to practice clinical skills such as physical examinations and venipuncture on a wide variety of animals, but also the chance to be able to communicate with veterinarians of a different culture. If there was one thing that I could take from this cultural and veterinary experience, it was that it is important to not only treat the patient, but also be able to make a treatment plan that is suitable for the owners/facility's needs. If there is something major that I will take from this experience, it is that I will have the ability to adjust to the situation at hand and meet the needs of owners that come to me for patient care in the future. I feel that this experience has helped me gain confidence as a future veterinarian and I hope to take the lessons I've learned abroad and apply it not only in my studies, but also in practice."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

"The global engagement travel scholarship gave me the funds to take the necessary vaccinations and budget in a timely manner for Thailand. Having some financial income from the global engagement travel scholarship helped me allocate funds for my time in Thailand for lunch and dinner, along with travel expenses in Chiang Mai. Moreover, getting this scholarship helped with the expense of the flight, and also with the expense of the vaccinations, medications, and other travel necessities for the trip. I would recommend this scholarship to help aid with funds to alleviate the expense of travel. Moreover, having the money helped immensely with budgeting and helped with vaccinations and medications I needed prior to travel."



Figure 1: Lisa is shown practicing venipuncture on giant shrimp. She was able to apply her small animal knowledge to aquaculture medicine with this experience.

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DESTINATION: THAILAND

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR: VETBIOS 7193 LEAD BY DR. INPANBUTR

AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: MARY ANN GOTTSCHLICH, CLASS OF 2022

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"My experience in Thailand is unparalleled to anything in my life thus far; by immersing myself in the suay māk māk (very beautiful) Thai culture, I stepped outside of my comfortable American "bubble," adjusted my current thought processes regarding various veterinary practices, and considered the impact of western vs. alternative medicine in today's patient population. I am so honored to have learned about venomous snakes, sedated fish, taken blood from shrimp, provided physical exams on elephants and macaques, the list goes on and on. I enjoyed learning about Buddhism, Thailand's history, and being able to execute concepts I learned from Thai professors on current patients. I better understand how to best communicate with diverse people who may not speak English or share my religious perspectives. The knowledge and skills I gained on this excursion goes beyond what can be taught in lectures and has instilled a fire within me to assist various animal sanctuaries and conservation centers post-DVM; I am fortunate to have gained an invaluable amount of confidence that I will carry with me throughout my veterinary career to help me be the biggest asset in my future endeavors."

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

"The global engagement travel scholarship enhanced my experience greatly as it helped minimize my financial stress associated with traveling to another country to be able to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity! Veterinary school and educational opportunities can be expensive and thus mentally straining; by having financial assistance in my travel to Thailand to learn about elephant, wildlife, zoo, and aquatic medicine, I was able to more fully engage with the educational opportunities offered and take away skills that I will utilize throughout my career. Yes, I would absolutely encourage others to apply for the global engagement travel scholarship! Being able to see the multifaceted world firsthand can teach one more about veterinary medicine, society, and oneself than a typical veterinary education offers. I gained invaluable multicultural and religious communicative competencies, veterinary expertise, and clarity on my future career aspirations through my participation in the global engagement travel scholarship. I will be forever grateful to OSU CVM and its donors for their support in my career ambitions."



Figure 1: Mary Ann learning how to evaluate an elephant's oral cavity as well as evaluate the capillary refill time (CRT).

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AWARD RECIPIENT AND CLASS: BECCA MAKII, CLASS OF 2021

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

“Through this course, I was able to gain a better perspective on the Thai culture and how animals are integrated and viewed in society. Additionally, I learned about the influence of Buddhism on veterinary medicine, which turned out to be absolutely beautiful. Euthanasia practices in America are commonplace and widely accepted, and while there is certainly justification in some quality of life cases, it was impressive to see the creativity utilized in a country that has a stricter viewpoint on euthanasia. Better understanding this resilience, creativity, and resourcefulness in a country that is still developing truly impacted me as someone interested in pursuing research, as this experience served as an excellent reminder that there are a plethora of ways to achieve the same goal and there is benefit to not giving up so quickly. I also learned there is merit in exploring adjunctive therapies and studying them effectively. This trip was my first exposure to acupuncture, and it was interesting to learn more about how it is utilized most often in cases where Western medicine falls short.

Additionally, I had initially planned on an additional opportunity to meet with a former colleague who currently works as faculty at Kasetsart University, unfortunately the timing just did not work out. However, this opened up an opportunity to meet with Joshua Mott, the current influenza program director at the CDC SE Asia Regional Office in Bangkok. I learned about the work that his team is doing to work with locals to better survey disease within the region and conduct research. Again, I was impressed at the resourcefulness and creativity required to complete some of these tasks with limited resources available, yet still achieve meaningful results. This experience helped me learn about the different opportunities available to practice veterinary medicine abroad in a meaningful way that has a lasting positive impact on these communities. I hope that I will be able to engage with these networks I have developed again as I pursue additional training in the future.”

How did the scholarship enhance this experience? Would you encourage other students to apply?

“The scholarship allowed me confidence that I could truly enjoy the trip as it was happening and live in the moment. Knowing that part of my journey was covered alleviated some of the financial stresses of traveling abroad. These experiences are so important, as there is a massive difference between reading about a culture in a textbook and truly seeing how others live their day to day lives. Additionally, there is something so amazing about being welcomed into that country and culture that really allows for self-reflection and reprioritizing your perspectives. Traveling is such a privilege and opportunities to make it more accessible to those with financial limitations are so important to create more awareness in our profession of the issues face both people and animals all throughout the world. Most importantly, I think it is important to understand that there are more traits that unify us all rather than differences but recognizing and learning how to work with those differences is how we create changes that benefit everyone. I wholeheartedly believe in travel as an

effective method of learning, so I would encourage anyone who is willing to step outside of their comfort zone and keep an open mind to apply and see where this opportunity takes them. We are so fortunate to be in the position that we are, so finding any method possible to enhance your understanding of the world is going to ultimately be worth so much more than the flight ticket or the cost of a hotel. That being said, I understand the financial restrictions that prevent students from experiencing amazing opportunities like this, but the more people that are able and willing to apply, the more donors and administration will see that this is such an important area to finance!”

Pictures from the Program!



Figure 1: Rebecca remarks that learning about Thai culture including elephant tourism was one of the most informative and immersive experiences that she gained.