Carly’s Major: Community & Nonprofit Leadership, African Studies and Global Health Certificates

Program: MSID Kenya, Fall

Internship: I interned with a non-governmental health organization that works towards emphasizing the importance of sexual and reproductive health and education as well as family planning. On an average day, I would meet my co-workers and supervisor at the office and then we would take a van to a community in the Mombasa area where we would set up a mobile clinic that included voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) for HIV/AIDS as well as a nurse. My role was to walk around the community and help mobilize people to take advantage of the free services being provided. Although I knew some Swahili, language was a large communication barrier, but even though not everyone could understand me, they would laugh and appreciate my efforts. Having the opportunity to work with Kenyans on issues that were prevalent in their communities was incredibly impactful.

Initial Thoughts on Arrival: I remember feeling overwhelmed but laughing because it was about 60 degrees out and everyone was wearing winter jackets.

Effect on Career Goals: Studying abroad will definitely be an advantage in applying for jobs when I graduate. Because I lived in Kenya for five months I am a global citizen and understand some of the challenges that come with it.

“My time in Kenya has been the most impactful, challenging and amazing experience. Life really does start at the end of your comfort zone.”