Biography

I was born and raised in Sandpoint, Idaho. Sandpoint is a very small resort town in northern Idaho. There was a huge emphasis on the outdoors and with my father being a wildlife biologist I grew up loving nature and wildlife. During my childhood I spent most of my time being involved in 4-H. I raised sheep, swine and horses, so with the influences of my father being a wildlife biologist and spending most of my time in 4-H I received a well-rounded idea of agriculture and the influences of agriculture.

It wasn’t until my senior year in high school that I started taking an interest in Africa. I was in in a model United Nations class. Our class’s country was Ethiopia, so for the whole year I studied and learned about Ethiopian people and cultures and the influences that the United Nations had on Ethiopia and other African Nations. In the spring my classmates and I went to New Yorks City and participated in the Model United Nations conferences. This was such a life changing experience for me and from then on I knew that I wanted to study and be involved in international affairs.

My father went to Colorado State University so he suggested to me that I should look at Wyoming as one of my options. I found that their international program was just what I wanted to be involved in.so I decided to concentrate in Sustainable development in Africa and the Middle East and with my previous interest in agriculture I decided to minor in agroecology. I really wanted to make a difference in people’s lives, but more than just going to Africa for a couple weeks and volunteering some time. I want to make this my life and commit myself to creating sustainable agricultural practices for African nations. Being an international studies student is more to me then learning a language and taking interesting classes. It is what I want to do for my career and life, and I can only hope that this wonderful opportunity can only get me closer to achieving my goals.