

EQV Intern

Gabriel Doss '17

Hometown: Portland, Maine

What is your major?

I am a film studies major. I have wanted to be a filmmaker since I was in middle school, and Wesleyan has one of the best programs in the world.

What was your job title and what type of work did you do through your summer experience?

This summer, I was a volunteer at Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi's Parque Ambue Ari, located three hours south of Trinidad in Bolivia. As a volunteer at the Ambue Ari wildlife refuge, I took care of animals like jaguars and howler monkeys for 40 hours per week for four weeks. Simultaneously, I helped fellow EQV Internship recipient Jacob Sussman '17 produce a documentary about the park, and I produced my own short film—a dark psychological thriller.

How will your work this summer relate to your major or area of study at Wesleyan?

The production experience I gained this summer will help me a great deal going forward with my film studies major.

How will your work this summer relate to your post-Wesleyan career?

My work this summer made me more comfortable with the prospect of traveling, which is especially important when it comes to producing a feature film. I learned a great deal about the process of making a film, as well as some of the challenges in filming outside the United States.

What did this summer experience mean to you?

This summer experience was incredibly meaningful. I had the opportunity to build a relationship with an old male jaguar named Sama. Also, I made friends with countless fellow world-travelers from Europe and Australia, many of whom I will never forget. The experience as a whole made me more considerate and worldly, and provided me with a wonderful opportunity for introspection.

Thank you!

Dear Donors,

Thank you for your generosity, which allowed me to pursue an adventure that would have been otherwise utterly impossible. I grew up in a lower-middle class family with a single mother, and though she has always supported me as much as she reasonably could, it wasn't until I got accepted to Wesleyan that I felt like all of my dreams could actually come true. Money has always been a bitter obstacle for me, but this summer was proof that my talents and the kindness of a few strangers are powerful enough to stop anything from standing in my way. Spending six weeks in Bolivia changed my life. It challenged me, pushed me, and on countless occasions rewarded me with unique perspectives and beauty—beautiful connections with animals, other humans, and contact with the most extraordinary natural sights I have yet witnessed. Because of you, I was able to spend this summer learning more about myself, thinking about what I will do with the rest of my life, exposing myself to alternative perspectives, and directly advancing my career pursuits. For all of this, and more, I am forever indebted to you. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Gabriel Doss