

## Three Students Win Coveted Gilman Scholarships



Gerald Sorroza (l.) and Professor Luis Barrios in Quito, Ecuador.

Three John Jay students enjoyed singular study-abroad experiences this summer, after having won highly competitive Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship awards to fund their travels.

Gerald Sorroza and Janiri Carrasco used their State Department-funded awards to travel to Ecuador for the course “Critical Studies of the Andean Community,” taught by Professor Luis Barrios of the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies. The third award winner, Paola Rivera, spent part of her summer in Morocco for a course sponsored by the nonprofit organization AMIDEAST (America-Mideast Educational and

Training Services Inc.).

John Jay had more 2014 Gilman Scholars than all but two other City University campuses, noted Maureen Brady Coyle, Director of the Office of International Studies and Programs. “The Gilman Scholarships are nationally competitive,” said Coyle. “And they’re looking for students who otherwise won’t have the opportunity to go.”

Candidates for the awards must be matriculated students who are Pell Grant recipients. Students must commit to a minimum 28-day study-abroad program, with an emphasis on non-traditional sites. “No Western Europe, no Australia,” said Coyle.

Coyle and Michael Scaduto, Coordinator of the Scholarship Office, certify applicants for Gilman scholarships. “We hold weekly workshops on study-abroad scholarship opportunities, especially Gilman, and we help students with the actual study abroad program,” Coyle said, adding that, increasingly students are turning to the Writing Center for help with their personal statements on scholarship applications.

Anderson Rosa of the [International Studies and Programs](#) office was credited with encouraging Sorroza to apply for the Gilman award. “He was very helpful, big time,” said Sorroza, who works in the John Jay mailroom and has been a part-time student majoring in Public Administration since 2006.

Both Sorroza and Carrasco also received John Jay study-abroad scholarships in addition to the Gilman awards.

Sorroza was not unfamiliar with Ecuador, since both his parents hail from the South American country, and he has visited there a number of times. Yet he was quick to point out, “While I’ve

been there before, I saw Ecuador in a different light this time. I'm seeing more places than I had as a tourist."

As important, the course's subject matter, taught through classroom presentations as well as field trips, was something of a revelation. "Part of the class was to show how the society discriminates within itself," Sorroza said. "I never paid attention to it in that way before. It was kind of eye-opening."

For more information about the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program, contact the Office of International Studies and Programs at 212.484.1390. E-mail [arosa@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:arosa@jjay.cuny.edu).

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