Megan Moffitt
Graduation Year: Senior
College: Arts & Letters
Major(s): Political Science and Peace Studies
Minors(s): Gender Studies
Scholar Group Membership: Triota Honor Society

Did you received other funding for this project?: No
Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding? No
More details on CUSE funding assistance? I would not have been able to expand my academic experience without CUSE, and I am extremely grateful for their support!

Project Title: Public Perception and the International Criminal Court: Observing the Gbagbo and Blé Goudé Case
Project Location: International Criminal Court, The Hague, The Netherlands
ND Faculty Mentor: Prof. Danielle Wood
Project Type: Research

Why did you undertake this project/experience? Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue

Did your funded experience help you:
[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]: Very Much
[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]: Very Much
[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]: Very Much
[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]: Very Much
[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:Yes

Tell us about your experience.
I received a grant from the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement to research the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. The ICC is a controversial institution that has been facing increasing resistance from member countries, particularly African leaders who feel their region has been unduly targeted. I attended hearings of the current trial charging the former president of Côte d'Ivoire and analyzed media coverage about the trial to compare differing international perceptions. Through this project, I wanted to develop an ICC case study to determine the international perception of its effectiveness and fairness. By visiting the ICC and attending the trial, I was able to gain a much more holistic view of the process and a new critical eye towards international organizations that I will bring to future academic endeavors.

Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.
Three weeks after my project, I am still discovering new ways that this experience has affected me as a student-scholar. The International Criminal Court has already been a topic in two of my

classes, and I was able to offer personal insight to the discussion that was hopefully helpful to both my peers and my teachers since no one else had had the opportunity to attend an international trial. Personally, I feel a much greater connection and engagement to my studies because the actual experience creates a much greater depth than any book can describe. It also allowed me to develop my own conclusions using my previous knowledge instead of relying on another person's filtered analysis.

Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.

My experience at the International Criminal Court will have lasting impact on my future schoolwork in my political science and peace studies class, which are often focused on sustainable peace practices. I felt an unexpected excitement at attending the trial, which caused me to newly consider pursuing law school. The visit also confirmed my passion for international relations and transitional justice. The successful completion has also given me new confidence about pursuing other research projects and perhaps completing a capstone, which I had not seriously considered before.

What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?

I would advise other students to research institutions that seem interesting as a starting point and then building a research project off of that information. They should also consider the common themes in the class that they are choosing to take and then pursuing that thread, even if they do not feel it directly relates to their career path. Having this independent experience is extremely important for building confidence and experience with new environments and challenges.