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An Interview with Maria Gershuni

Maria Gershuni
SUNY Geneseo

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An Interview with Maria Gershuni

Hometown:

Brooklyn, NY

Major:

International Relations

What have you been up to since graduating from Geneseo?

I am currently attending the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) as a Masters of Arts candidate in International Relations and International Economics, with a concentration in European and Eurasian Studies. At SAIS, I am involved in our school acting group—SAIS Thespians—as well as the Russia and Eurasia Club, Model UN, and the annual Crisis Simulation. Right now, I am also a Defense and Foreign Policy Intern at the Cato Institute and plan to spend this summer interning in Moscow.

Why do you feel that GREAT Day is important?

GREAT Day is very important because it gives you the ability to see what your friends have been working on in their classes. So often we get wrapped up in our lives and forget that the people we see every day are also working on rigorous and interesting research. GREAT Day allows for us to come out and see what our peers have been working on for the past semester and year, which allows us to paint a more complete picture of what is going on in Genny.

What was your experience presenting your work at GREAT Day?

I presented at GREAT Day twice, my Junior and Senior year, both times with Professor Robert Goeckel in the Political Science & International Relations department. The first year was tough, because I had the first presentation and my alarm didn't go off in the morning so I ended up being late to my own presentation! However, I am very happy I presented that year, since my Junior year paper "Russian Soft Power Foreign Policy" ended up being selected for presentation at the Midwest Political Science Conference in Chicago.

The second year, presenting on the topic of my senior Honors thesis "The Eurasian Economic Union" I was able to be part of a group of Honors College presenters on a panel of Edgar Fellows from different disciplines, which led to a very interesting discussion during Q+A sessions. It was very nice to see people from my discipline, and other disciplines, come out to support the work that my presenters and I did. I appreciated the community coming out and having genuinely curious discussions about our topics of interests.