

Jaya Patten

Borgen Project

Wellman Hill Experience

Thanks to the generous Wellman Hill grant, this past summer I was able to pursue a writing internship with the Borgen Project. The Borgen Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that seeks to address extreme poverty and its resulting problems, such as malnutrition, disease, and lack of access to education, in the United States' foreign policy through lobbying and awareness campaigns.

Through this work experience, I hosted a fundraiser that collected over \$1200 for the cause, and researched and wrote nine articles on issues relating to global poverty. I predominantly focused on international women's health issues, such as fistulas, female genital mutilation, and period poverty. I was also able to explore human trafficking and demining campaigns. This experience was crucial in the development of my Political Science Capstone, which I am currently completing, examining the various success rates of different ways to combat female genital mutilation in Senegal and Sudan. Part of my responsibility as an intern was to contact members of Congress each week through emails, phone calls, and handwritten letters to encourage them to pass anti-poverty legislation. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity given to me by this very generous grant, to take such an illuminating and challenging internship that expanded my knowledge and interest in both public service and international issues.