Recent Wake Forest graduates speak about their personal encounters with the Humanities and how they were changed by the experience.

Kristy: 
I came into college assuming I would major in chemistry. Then, after taking organic chemistry, I realized that I didn’t want to spend my entire college career taking labs. That decision opened the Humanities to me, but I had no idea where I wanted to go from there. So I read the entire undergraduate bulletin and Religion was the only major that caught my attention. Coming from the world of science, religion offered a freedom of learning, moving beyond the world of science to explore things that are intrinsic to the world at large. I have loved it so much.

Austin:
I was a political science major with minors in economics and global trade and commerce so I had never really considered the Humanities as an academic option. When a good friend recommended a Humanities course taught by Professor Robert Utley, however, I was curious. Before I took that class I didn’t have a comprehensive framework with which to view my education at Wake Forest. I didn’t understand that all the courses I had taken in Economics, English, Political Science, Psychology... they are all under the umbrella of Humanities. My class with Professor Utley made me question my university education: its purpose and format.

Madeline:

I took a class here at Wake on Islam and the history of Islam in Africa. Following this course I traveled abroad to study an historic form of Islam in Egypt and South Africa. My research and reading within a university setting led me to a broader notion of what Islam really is. It prepared me to be more open minded, more receptive on my trip.

I think if I had not studied the literature of Islam in Africa before I encountered the reality of Islam in Africa I would not have had the same experience.

Elaine:

I am someone who is really passionate about the sciences, about medicine. Before I came to Wake I had never thought about the practical usefulness of the
Humanities. After taking Medical Anthropology, however, I learned that culture and individual differences are really the driving forces behind scientific endeavors: we seek to create new medical technologies for a reason, and that reason is to improve the human condition.

**Teddy:**

The power of the Humanities is in establishing context, a context in which the aims of science, of art, of all the world religions find their realization. I found this based on my own studies, especially within the Humanities program, which really helped me to examine my world and find ways to gain a new perspective.

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