Robin Jensen

WLC 300

Personal Statement

 From the moment I started basic high school Spanish I knew it was what I wanted to study and what I was most passionate about. As we were high school seniors about to graduate, we were told we had to decide what we wanted to do with our futures. I remember how stressful that was, but I also remember how easy that was. I already knew what I wanted to study. It had to be Spanish. I’ve never really taken an interest in any other subject the way I have in Spanish. I found it so easy to pick up and learn and I was so fascinated by how much it allowed me to communicate with other people.

 As I was looking for colleges to attend that had a really great Spanish program, I stumbled upon CSUMB. I knew I had to go here because of the great program as well as its connection to Service Learning. As I started my courses at CSUMB I wasn’t really sure what I would be studying when I thought of Spanish, but I was so excited to find out. Little did I know how much I would learn through my time at CSUMB.

 By my sophomore year at CSUMB I knew I wanted a concentration in literature and culture because I love to learn about the deep history associated with the Spanish-speaking world and how I can access that through the literature.

 I also spent one year abroad in my time here and that truly helped me expand my vocabulary and learn how to speak different dialects and accents of Spanish depending where you are in the world. By going abroad it helped me become a conversational and fully bilingual speaker, which has been such an advantage in my final years here at CSUMB, where all the courses are taught in Spanish. I am able to communicate with everyone and I’m learning great things about Spanish culture and heritage.

 I started off at CSUMB with the idea of wanting to be a Spanish teacher for high school, but over the years and through the diverse classes I have taken, I find myself going down a completely different path. I no longer wish to be a teacher to students in high school who speak English as their first language, instead, I find myself much more interested in going abroad once again to be a teacher to adults and students who wish to learn English.

 I am hoping to apply to graduate school in order to obtain my MA in TESOL(teaching English as a Second Language) and go abroad to continue my work there. I hope to become an advocate for the voices not always heard in other countries and use my knowledge I’ve learned at CSUMB in order to do so.

 My time at CSUMB has been well-spent and helped me decide what I want to do with my future. I will continue to use this knowledge and remember it throughout my lifetime.