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EDITOR'S PICK

FEATURED

## Daniels receives Gilman Scholarship

BY GINA KINSLOW [gkinslow@glasgowdailytimes.com](mailto:gkinslow@glasgowdailytimes.com) 16 hrs ago

Katie Daniels of Glasgow, a senior at Western Kentucky University, is shown playing her Celtic harp. She was recently awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

SUBMITTED



Katie Daniels of Glasgow was recently awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship that will enable her to study abroad for a semester.

Daniels is a senior English and religious cultures major at Western Kentucky University. She was one of three WKU undergraduate students to be awarded the scholarship. Each of the WKU students who were awarded the scholarship will receive up to \$8,000 to fund their study abroad programs.

“It's given out by the U.S. State Department to students who qualify for federal grants. If you get a Pell Grant, you are eligible for the Gilman Scholarship and it enables people to study abroad who otherwise might not have the opportunity or the funds to do so,” she said.

Daniels plans to spend the fall semester studying English literature at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland.

Daniels plays the Celtic harp, among other instruments, and has been a professional entertainer who has performed at the Glasgow Highland Games numerous times.

“Part of the terms for the Gilman is you have to do this thing Follow-on Service Project. Part of the application is to come up with a project and pitch your ideas. You write two essays. One is on why should give me the scholarship and the other one is what I'm going to do with it,” she

said.

Daniels plans to do a series of music videos while in Scotland.

“I'm also going to be bringing my harp so I'm doing traditional Scottish music or storytelling and will release those on YouTube when I come back,” she said. “That's my big project. I'm pretty excited about it because I've never done anything like this before and there's also very little out there in terms of Scottish music repertoire and it's a way for me to share the experience with people back at home.”

More than 3,400 Gilman scholarships were awarded this year to undergraduate Pell Grant recipients. Since 2001, the Gilman Scholarship has enabled more than 25,000 Americans from diverse backgrounds, including ethnic minorities, students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics and students with disabilities to study abroad, said a WKU press release.

“The Gilman Scholarship is a vital program that helps students with financial need study abroad,” Cory Dodds, coordinator of nationally competitive opportunities in the Office of Scholar Development, said in the press release. “Our students' successes in this competition reflect WKU's commitment to ensuring international experiences are open to all, regardless of financial background or major.”

Each of the WKU students who received the scholarship worked with the Office of Scholar Development in preparing their scholarship application and with the Office of Study Abroad and Global Learning to find the best academic program abroad to fit their goals, the press release said.

Daniels plans to return to WKU for the spring semester. She is considering obtaining a master's degree in applied linguistics with the hope of teaching English as a second language abroad.

“I want to teach English preferably in some place like a third world country like India,” she said. “I want to go somewhere where people are more needed than wanted. I know there is a big market for paid instructors in China. You could make a lot of money teaching English overseas in

places like China and Korea, but there are also places where they need English teachers and they can't afford state sponsored programs to bring them in. I would rather do something like that.”

Daniels graduated from Gateway Community and Technical College in May 2017 with an Associate Degree in Arts and additional certifications. She was a member of the Hart County Chorale Society from 2014-15 and a director at the Glasgow Youth and Children's Theatre from 2009-2013.

Daniels is the daughter of Scott and Susan Daniels of Glasgow.

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