Jessica Brumley – Ogden Foundation Scholar

VFTH

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This Saturday, more than 14-hundred students will graduate from Western Kentucky University.

Amy Bingham sits down with this semester’s top academic scholar in this week’s View from the Hill.

Jessica Brumley of Lawrenceburg calls herself a small town girl who had never been on a plane or hailed a cab before her first trip to China in 2012. Since then, she’s also been to Taiwan, Cuba and New Mexico. Now she’s back in Bowling Green and will be recognized Saturday as the Ogden Foundation Scholar.

It’s a celebration before the celebration at the study abroad graduation reception where students like Jessica Brumley are being recognized for their studies out of the country.

“To think that I’ve had all these experiences but also these experiences on an international level is mind blowing.”

Involved in both the Honors College and the Chinese Flagship program, Brumley now has the distinction of being the Ogden Foundation Scholar.

“It’s purely through hard work and being very dedicated to those opportunities that I’ve been able to do that.”

For the Literature and English for Secondary Education major, that hard work included an English/Chinese translation of Ernest Hemingway’s “The Old Man and the Sea” for her Honors Senior thesis.

“We went to the fishing village, the estate, the boyhood home, only missing Key West, gonna have to go obviously.”

Through the intense Flagship program, Brumley realized how she could use her passion for the written word to move toward a global career in the classroom.

“I’ve always loved English and literature and was never sure I could make a career out of it until I realized teaching was probably the best path for me.”

Brumley’s path now includes setting her sights on post graduate degrees, but she will forever be thankful for her time at WKU.

“I’m so indebted to WKU for the experience and amazing opportunities I’ve had while I’ve been here. (laughs)”

Brumley will be recognized at the 2 pm ceremony on Saturday. There is also a commencement at 9:30 am. For more information on WKU’s 178th commencement, log onto wku.edu.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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