

Ingram Scholar Alumni Spotlight



AMY LEONE, Class of 2008

DEGREES

B.A. English and French, Vanderbilt University

Masters in Public Affairs (Health Policy specialization), University of Texas

CURRENT LOCATION

Atlanta, GA

CURRENT EMPLOYER

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Senior Analyst, Health Care

DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER PATH

Through my volunteer work at Vanderbilt, I became very interested in public policy, particularly as it related to health care. I went to graduate school at the University of Texas during which time I interned at the GAO. I've been there ever since!

HOW DID THE INGRAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING TODAY?

The Ingram Scholars Program taught me the importance of challenging myself, even if it meant I failed, because those failures taught me more about myself than any other moments in life. It also taught me how to effectively collaborate with others, see the bigger picture, and how to be an effective leader in my community.

IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE THE INGRAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN THREE WORDS WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Integrity, Character, Compassion

WHAT DOES THE INGRAM SCHOLAR COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

The Ingram Scholar community means more than I could effectively describe. It has brought me tremendous strength and joy well beyond my time at Vanderbilt, and I think about the program often. At graduation we received a plaque with Albert Schweitzer's quotation ("the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve"). It is the first thing I see each morning in my office and reminds me of the friends I made who are now family and the importance of reflecting each day on how I can better serve my community. Ingram gave me that gift, and I am forever grateful.

BEST INGRAM SCHOLAR MEMORY

It's not a single memory but instead the relationships built with not only people who were there while I was in school but also other alumni. I still talk to many of my fellow Ingram scholars at least monthly. They help keep me grounded, can make me laugh more than any other, and remind me of what is important in life (especially during particularly challenging times).

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT SCHOLARS WHO WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR INGRAM SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE?

Do not strive for perfection but personal growth. (A great book to read is Mindset by Carol Dweck). Be as present as you can be, which I know is harder to say than to do. Time at Vanderbilt goes by so quickly! Take the time to get to know your fellow scholars AND alumni if you have an opportunity. Take the time to go out into the Nashville community.