

Ingram Scholar Alumni Spotlight



JOY GRAY, Dec. 1998 (1999 graduation)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joydgray/>

DEGREES

BS. in Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University
Diploma in Counselling (in progress)

CURRENT LOCATION

Northern Ireland

CURRENT EMPLOYER

Baker McKenzie

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Legal Project Manager

DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER PATH

Varied. I investigated abuse and neglect for the State of Texas for several years. I moved to Northern Ireland to marry and live, and I set up services for victims of crime. I worked in project and bid management in the IT and training sectors. I'm currently a Legal Project Manager, and I'm also training to work as a therapist.

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

It set the foundation for multiple ways of being: To serve, seek, learn, connect and grow; to be vulnerable, brave and honest; to listen to one's heart and follow it, even when the route is long, dark and difficult. The latter reflects my recent journey through a fast-paced corporate life, experience of multiple bereavements, a subsequent calling to use my grief to serve others, and my current training in counselling.

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

Love, serve, grow

WHAT DOES THE INGRAM SCHOLAR COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

When I first met my co-scholars, my heart sang, "You too?!" We saw each other, truly, above the artificial levels that usually accompany social interaction. I still love these souls deeply, and I am continually touched by their gentle hearts, passion for change and wisdom, decades after our first gatherings. We still love, honour and support each other.

BEST INGRAM SCHOLAR MEMORY

All of it - being in the first group, the deeply moving seminars, listening to how the group was working in the community, phenomenal summer projects, restorative reunions

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

Make the most of every second! It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to work amongst a community who provide educational, financial, practical and pastoral support while you build your service career.