

# Ingram Scholar Alumni Spotlight



**RACHEL KING**, Class of 2016

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rachel-king-54031367>

## **DEGREES**

B.A. Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University

M.A. International Development, American University

## **CURRENT LOCATION**

Washington, DC

## **CURRENT EMPLOYER**

U.S. Department of State

## **CURRENT OCCUPATION**

Foreign Service Office

## **DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER PATH**

The Fulbright and Pickering Fellowships have primarily driven my career path post-Vanderbilt. After graduating, I spent a year in Malaysia on a Fulbright grant teaching English. I then pursued a master's degree in International Development at American University. During graduate school, I interned at the State Department in the Office of Israeli-Palestinian Affairs as part of the

Pickering Fellowship. I also spent time at the Defense Department in the Europe/NATO Policy office as Country Director for Finland, Sweden, and Iceland before completing a second Pickering internship abroad at the U.S. Embassy in Moldova. While in Chisinau, I filled the role of the Deputy Economic Officer working closely with the Moldovan MFA authorities and supporting U.S. energy and investment goals in Moldova.

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

Two summer projects abroad fueled and confirmed my interest to incorporate international service into my career. Our weekly gatherings instilled the importance of creating habits of service and self-reflection. Of course, the people I met through the Ingram Program as well as the friendships made were and continue to be sources of wisdom and support, professionally and personally. But above all, I think the Ingram Program best prepared me for today because I'm more curious. More concerned about asking better questions than having satisfying answers. More keen to listen closer than to speak first or loudest. The Ingram Program helped me realize--and practice living into--the reality that I want the Why in my story to matter more than the What.

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

Iron Sharpens Iron

**BEST INGRAM SCHOLAR MEMORY**

The collective memories of two years of teaching weekly songwriting classes at Room in the Inn homeless shelter. Impossible to fit the impression of those days in a few lines.

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

You get out of it what you put in. My best advice is to put in everything you have. You'll be glad you did, because the interest on that investment compounds.