



The Ambassador

Junior Government and International Relations major Thad Titze has interned for a U.S. Senator and has studied in Greece, London and India. This summer, he'll head to Norway as a Nobel Peace Scholar.

Meet Thad Titze, class of 2013, a Government/International Relations major from Watertown, SD.

Q. Where do you live?

A. For the 2010-2011 academic year, I lived in Granskou. This fall, I'll live in the Summit Apartments.

Q. What's the best part about living on campus?

A. It's definitely seeing friends in the dorms and easily meeting new people. And, best of all, it's affordable housing where someone cleans my bathroom seven days a week!

Q. What are you involved in on campus?

A. I'm involved with the Augustana Student Association (2011-2012 Vice President), Civitas Honors Program, Augie Green, COUPS (Government Club), Augie Dems and the Augustana Cultural Exchange Program.

Q. How's the food?

A. The food is great! There's only one dining room on campus, so you can always find friends to sit with. Each meal has plenty of options so you can always find something you like. Peg's omelets in the morning are my favorite food, hands down.

Q. Can you describe a typical weekday?

A. A typical weekday keeps me in bed until 30 minutes before class. I'm a night owl so I rely on staying up late and sleeping in. I usually have two or three classes in a day. In between classes, I grab lunch and might grab a spot in the library for the rest of the afternoon and/or evening. I might take a break in the late afternoon to go back to my room, visit with a professor, or listen to a country presentation from one of our international students. After supper in the commons, I go to the library until my work is done for the next day. Most nights there is a game, or

the foothills of the Himalayas, and the home of an Indian Professor.

I'll spend this summer at the University of Oslo International Summer School as part of the Nobel Peace Scholars Program. I'll travel with a group of 10 students from the five schools and take classes at the University of Oslo International Summer School (500 students from over 75 countries!) and research in collaboration with the Nobel Peace Prize Center.

Q. What advice would you offer to someone searching for a college?

A. Look for a place that you will want to call home for four years. College is more than just going to class, but rather a four-year experience. Look for the place that will present you with opportunities, help you to think critically, and let you look out into the world. This will give you the best four year experience and also best

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– Thad Titze, Class of 2013

Q. What are you involved in off campus?

A. I've been involved with various political campaigns. I also completed an internship at U.S. Senator Tim Johnson's office this spring.

Q. Why did you choose Augustana?

A. I chose Augie because of the opportunities to be involved on campus, travel, meet people and establish meaningful relationships with professors. I also wanted to go to a school that would be affordable considering the value it offers so that I have more freedom to go to a graduate school that is further away and/or more expensive.

Q. Where's your favorite place on campus?

A. The Campus Green. Whether you're walking across campus between classes, sitting on the grass with friends, watching a South Dakota blizzard, or lighting the Augie Christmas tree, the Green is always a place where people gather. It's central location around which all the buildings sit is kind of a metaphor for our community.

Q. In your opinion, where's the best place to study on campus?

A. It's definitely the Mikkelsen Library. This is where I am the most productive, but also see and talk with friends. If I'm working on a paper or translating sentences I sit at one of the big tables by the windows. When I'm reading, I grab one of the big chairs by the fireplace or magazine rack.

Q. Where's your favorite off-campus spot?

A. Coffea. When I need to get off campus and either work on projects or relax with friends, we go to Coffea. It's a pretty popular place for Augie students and we always see more people we know.

meeting, or something else going on that I go to for a few hours. I'm usually asleep by 1:30-2 a.m. and ready to do it again!

Q. What's a typical weekend like?

A. I rarely go home on weekends unless it is an extended break. Friday and Saturday night I do something with my friends both on- and off-campus. Saturday, I usually try to get some work done for the next week, but also sleep in and relax with friends. Sunday is much the same, spending time in the library to get ready for the week.

Q. Can you talk about your internship experience?

A. I recently completed an internship with U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson at his Sioux Falls office. I was able to take the internship for letter grade credits so I could lessen my class load back at Augie. The internship was a valuable experience and one that shaped the way I think about my major and possible career paths.

Q. What countries have you studied in?

A. I studied in Greece and London during Spring Break 2010. That trip inspired me to pick up a Classics minor and study Attic Greek as my foreign language. The experience was crucial to how I think about the liberal arts today.

I studied in India over J-Term 2011. Going somewhere non-Western is an experience that I knew would help me see things differently, and that it did. We did yoga in the mountains, heard a four-hour lecture from the Dalai Lama and attended an incredible international literature festival. Less glamorous, but equally important, were the times we spent studying Hindu texts and discussing them as a group in such places as

prepare you for whatever lies ahead.

A. What is the one thing you'd say to students considering Augustana?

A. In today's job market, a liberal arts education is essential. Augie makes it easy and affordable to go explore the globe and I hope you'll do that wherever you decide to go. We play hard, we study harder and love the college we go to!

Q. What's been your favorite class?

A. Class...singular? It's too hard to pick just one. Dr. Looney's Literary Experience (English 200) improved my writing more than any other professor or class. It was truly a class I enjoyed going to each day.

Q. Do you have a favorite professor? And if so, why?

A. That's not a fair question; they're all so good! It's no coincidence, though, that my "favorites" are the ones who I have traveled with: Drs. Janet Blank-Libra, Sandra Looney, Dave O'Hara, and Rocki Wentzel. All four took me to a place I likely would not have gone on my own. They each kindled a desire to learn more about the field in which they specialize.

Q. What's been your best Augustana memory or moment so far?

A. My first semester of freshman year, I took Current Events, a one-credit class that meets once per week and is taught by all four members of the Government department. Dr. Schotten's amusing five-point quizzes, usually with a jab at Luxembourg (the homeland of one of his colleagues), started each class and then a fantastic scene of wild claims and devil's advocate argument ensued.