

An Interview with Kaitlyn Morgan, Student Author

Brendan Mahoney

What's great for you about GREAT Day?

Morgan: What makes GREAT Day so special is that it gives students an opportunity to showcase their hard work at Geneseo. It's a wonderful way to share ideas with our fellow students and expand our knowledge. We get to not only better our own speaking and research skills, but also learn from our peers about topics we may never have researched ourselves.

What impact do you think GREAT Day has on our campus culture?

Morgan: GREAT Day creates a campus culture of knowledge sharing and continuous learning. It's just as important to learn from our peers as it is to learn in a classroom. It encourages students to take a break from being wrapped up in their own curricula and appreciate what other students around them are doing. It's easy to forget that so much more is happening on campus when you're focused on your own work, and GREAT Day allows students to expand their horizons past that.

Why does undergraduate research in general matter to you?

Morgan: Undergraduate research has given me the skills necessary to be a Peace Corps Volunteer. It has taught me to think critically and analyze a topic from all different aspects. The skills I gained during my research on doulas has carried over into Rwanda, as much of what I do requires me to monitor and evaluate my community in order to make life-saving changes. Without my directed research, I would've never been able to try to address the issues in my community now.

What's your interest in the specific topic being researched in the following paper?

Morgan: I have been interested in "alternative" (non-medical) birth practices since my Freshman year at Geneseo. Childbirth is a wonderfully beautiful process that is fascinating to me. I became curious why medical interventions seemed so necessary to a completely natural process. It was then that I decided I wanted to be a midwife, and I switched my focus from a biological standpoint to an anthropological one. Many midwifery journals suggested the use of a doula in childbirth to reduce stress, and I knew I had to learn more, leading to me eventually becoming a doula in the process of doing this research.



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