

This past month I experienced several victories/successes, but faced a few challenges at the same time. One success I had this past month has been in establishing a significantly better relationship with my Study Abroad supervisor. Having had a somewhat dramatic and frustrating end to the fall semester through my evaluation and relationship with my supervisor, it has been an incredible relief to have started with a clean slate this semester. She and I have already had two one-on-ones this semester, equaling the total number from last semester. Our candor has been much more open, much more mutually respectful, and generally positive and healthy. The only real explanations I have for the change in candor between the two of us is that I have dedicated more time to working in the Study Abroad office, my supervisor has become less stressed and generally more understanding, and both of us have much more positive attitudes about our positions this semester. Essentially, with better attitudes and a clean slate, with a desire to do the best I can, it's been a completely different experience in my internship this month.

One challenge I've had this past month is in telling the various peers, supervisors, and counterparts of my decision to change internships. There are many people at Baldwin-Wallace that I've come to have a great deal of respect for, just as there are many people that I truly care about here. Most of the individuals I have told about the change have been very supportive and generally happy for me, and for the opportunities to grow and develop that I will have next year. However, there have been a few cases of people being upset over the news, or even downright standoffish since. I understand that people have the right to be sad and upset, however, it has been challenging to deal with the emotions and standoffishness, especially since it has begun to interfere with job responsibilities/expectations.

Another success that I've had this semester is in feeling much more connected to the other members of the program. I had the opportunity to spend a long weekend in Bowling Green and interact with several other students in the first year cohort, have traveled to Tiffin, Ohio twice this semester already to visit my off-offer cohort members there, and have also begun "Google hanging out" during BGSDA General Assembly meetings. Part of my efforts to better interact and connect with my peers has been in preparation to assume the responsibilities of the Assistant to the CSP Chair next year, as well as a greater general desire to be more involved with the CSP program itself. This success, paired with the fact that my relationship with my study abroad supervisor has become drastically improved, has had a significant impact in improving my graduate school experience this semester.