**Isabel Last: Personal Statement**

In 2015 I was accepted into University of Maryland, College Park scholars program with the intent to major in psychology. I was content at first with the level of coursework I found there, but soon grew very frustrated with the stark differences between College Park the University campus and College Park the community. It seemed deliberately constructed, not unlike Washington DC. I, perhaps unfairly, compared these two communities to European ones, which were developed more slowly and naturally and without such explicit intent for cars. Both D.C and the campus of College Park seemed to be made with less care for culture and more attention to making the communities as efficient for people as possible. The education and the Spanish classes that I took were also not challenging enough. In order to ease my access to challenging courses and an environment better suited for my artistic endeavors, I transferred to Towson University after three semesters at University of Maryland. Here, I have been able to get a server and bartending job in Baltimore City to save money for Spanish excursions, be in touch with many branches of the city art scene, be more challenged in my spanish and education classes, and have the perfect workspace to paint, create light installations, sew, and make floral arrangements and flower crowns. I will graduate in 2019 with a Bachelors of Arts in Spanish with a concentration in Secondary Education and a minor in Linguistics. This will give me the certification to teach Spanish in most states across the country.

After graduating I will have a more solidified understanding of careers and the job markets available for the skills that I have. Until then, my understanding of my academic and professional goals reaches only as far as the following three concepts: learning linguistics and Spanish, living abroad, and teaching. The order in which they occur is of a lesser importance to me than the end result of having learned all of the skills and experiences involved. The manifestation of achieving those three things will most likely be as follows:

My intention is to spend at least a year living either in either Chile, Argentina, or Spain teaching English to sustain myself and spending every bit of downtime reading papers on the philosophy of language (for example), improving my Spanish, making art and mind maps, and exploring the area and its people. I trust that I will eventually return to the United states and teach Spanish secondary education in hopes that the job doesn't ruin my currently burgeoning faculties of optimism and curiosity. Then, I would either get a masters degree or a doctorate in a discipline of Linguistics. This discipline would likely be among psycholinguistics, language acquisition, cognitive science, fieldwork, or linguistic theory.

I will be looking at graduate schools not for the country in which they reside but for the programs offered. One will hopefully give me the opportunity to learn as much as possible in all disciplines related to linguistics (evolutionary psychology, computation, proxemics, just to name a few) while also focusing on linguistics and language.