

Tibetan Studies Study Abroad Student and Recent Emory Grad Wins MESAS Distinguished Paper Award

Bryan Reines, a recent Emory College graduate ('16) and student in the 2014 spring-semester Emory Tibetan Studies Program, was awarded the MESAS Distinguished Paper Award by the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at Emory University for an essay he wrote on Sino-Tibetan political affairs. This paper, "An Analysis of When Civil Resistance Works and Why: The Case of Tibet," was the direct result of research he did in Dharamsala, India, during this study abroad program, as well as classes he took with MESAS professor, Tsepak Rigzin. Bryan generously decided to give the \$250 award he received from MESAS to Gu Chu Sum, an organization devoted to Tibetan political prisoners where he volunteered while in Dharamsala.

With respect to the award, Bryan notes: "Being with Tibetan refugees during the Tibetan Studies Program of course taught me about their specific struggles borne from political conflict. But these relationships and experiences, particularly while volunteering at Gu Chu Sum, also guided me towards a graduate program, and hopefully a career, in international law and human rights. Given all this community has taught and shared with me, I'm grateful that I can reciprocate in this small way."

Dr. Tara Doyle, founding director of the Tibetan Studies Program, writes: "Bryan's generous donation to Gu Chu Sum reflects the deep, lasting connections our students forge during the semester with Tibetan individuals and organizations while living, studying, volunteering, and doing research in this exile community. It also demonstrates the altruistic attitude so valued by our Distinguished Presidential Professor, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who meets with our group each year. I am thus extremely proud of Bryan's excellent scholarly work *and his kind heart*"

In addition to receiving the MESAS award, Bryan received the prestigious Bobby Jones Fellowship enabling him to study for a year at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.



Photo taken by Tyler Sit, 2014