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Alumna Joins Teach for America Corps

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Alumna Joins Teach for America Corps

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Post-graduation plans vary for every Illinois Wesleyan student; some will enter the workforce right away, while others will continue on to grad school, but for recent graduate Christy Ivie, these plans include a two-year commitment to the Teach for America Corps.

Ivie, originally from Galesburg, Ill., graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 2009 with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology. She will spend the next two years teaching first grade in Greenwood, Miss. as a part of the Teach for America Corps.

“My sophomore year of college I took a sociology of education course with Dr. Evans-Winters, and it opened my eyes to the inequalities that exist in the United States education system,” said Ivie, who comes from a family of elementary school teachers, both her mother and her grandmother teach lower level grades. “I remember a quote that one of my professors, Dr. Teddy Amalozza, had on a mug in her office: Teach for justice, not for privilege. The more I thought about it, the more I became excited to spend some years in the classroom. When I began looking for options for after graduation, Teach for America just seemed like the right fit.”

Ivie’s plans for after Teach for America are still undecided, but her dream job combines her interests in education as a social justice issue, sociology, and international studies. While at Illinois Wesleyan, she studied abroad in India and spent time working in Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) schools associated with the United Nations that serve children such as the urban poor, Dalit (a self-designated group of people of lower castes in South Asia that are generally regarded as “untouchables”), and working children. Ivie also studied French, Hindi, and Chinese as well as taking some internationally focused courses.

“When and if I stop teaching, I would love to find a job where I can combine all of these interests,” said Ivie, “I definitely want to go to grad school, but I’m not sure yet if it will be for elementary education. It will be interesting to see where the next two years lead me.”

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