

Former Tri-County student exploring career options here and abroad

by **Brianne Kotolski**

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee senior and 2012 Tri-County High School graduate, Haley Wadel, can be found studying during the school year and traveling abroad learning even more about her studies in the summers.

Though she started her college career with a major in Piano Performance, Wadel switched directions when she realized she was more interested in International Business and Economics as a career. Now, majoring in International Studies and Economics, with a minor in Political Science, she is able to learn about and explore her career options.

She is the secretary for UW-Milwaukee's Society



Wadel in the meeting room of the United Nations Security Council in New York City, New York - June 2014

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for Advanced Economic Studies, which is the university's econ club. The club members meet every week with speakers to discuss opportunities for economic students after graduation.

Wadel not only spends her time studying but also works as an International Trade Intern for the United States Department of Commerce, specifically the U.S. Commercial Service. "I assist in helping Wisconsin-based companies that are interested in trading internationally by researching trade data, country industry and technology trends, political and economic environments, trade regulations and standards, leading sectors for U.S. exports, and the investment and business climate of specified nations," Wadel said.

In June of 2013, she traveled to Italy for an Art History seminar. While in Italy, she was able to visit four cities including: Rome, Siena, San Gimignano, and Florence.

In June of 2014, she traveled to New York to participate in a seminar at the United Nations, where she and other students met with over 35 country's delega-



Barcelona Cathedral in Barcelona, Spain - June 2015

The Cathedral is a celebrated example of Catalan Gothic architecture dating back to the 14th century. Construction on the present Cathedral began in 1298 under King Jaume II and was completed in 1448. The west facade dates back to the 19th century. The Cathedral still holds its own as one of the most impressive cathedrals in Spain.

tions to discuss foreign policy and learn about the United Nations system.

Then in 2015, Wadel was accepted into the World Economics Program, which is part of a study abroad program, not affiliated with UW-Milwaukee. The study abroad program allowed her to travel to Spain, where she visited four cities, including: Barcelona, Girona, Palamos, and Figueras.

According to Wadel, the trip was mainly to study international economics, specifically the Spanish Economy in the European Union. Though the main focus of the 2015 trip was Barcelona, Spain; Wadel also visited Collioure, France and Berlin Germany while in Europe.

"I knew that I wanted to travel, but I wasn't sure how much I would be able to do while in school. Italy was always my dream destination, but I had no clue that New York City and Spain would ever happen, until I continued on in school and learned about specific programs," said Wadel.

When asked what her favorite part of her travels were, Wadel answered, "Experiencing a culture completely different than what we are used to in the United States and getting put outside of my comfort zone has really helped me grow as a person. Also, the Spaniards make some delicious food; definitely one of the things I miss the most."

Wadel hopes to continue her travels in the future. "I would love to visit the Middle East as well as part of Asia. There is an amazing world out there with great people that we should all experience."

Her favorite parts of her education include the opportunities offered through the school to help students excel in their programs and life after school as well as economics professors and their passion for what they do. "They are so passionate about what they do, that it really makes you proud to be a part of that department," Wadel said.

When asked what she plans to do after college, Wadel responded, "I hope to attend graduate school and receive an MBA focusing in International Business and Economics. I would like to start my own international trade consulting firm."

Wadel said two high school teachers really helped influence her throughout the years. "Mr. Femal, (Tri-County High School) always pushed me to do my best and expand my horizons outside of Plainfield. I think it's because of him that I am extremely passionate about what I want in life, because of how passionate he is about music."

"Mr. Sherman, (Tri-County High School) also prepared me for my future. Being one of his students and then also his teacher's aide my senior year, gave me an insight into working hard for what I want. No one is going to hand you anything in life and he really showed me that hard work will help you accomplish your goals," Wadel added.

Though she didn't expect her life to be what it is today, she is definitely happy that she has accomplished



Wadel at the Colosseum in Rome, Italy - June 2013

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all that she has. "I thought I had it all figured out in high school, but when I went off to college my plans changed with every different event happening in my life."

Wadel's advice for high school students is, "Take chances and go after whatever it is you want in life. Don't settle for mediocre, only settle for the best in every aspect of your life. You are capable of so much and each person has the power to change the world if they want."



Wadel at the Duomo in Florence, Italy - June 2013 -

Looking out over Florence, Italy.

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Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany - June 2015

Info: The Brandenburg Gate is a very well-known landmark in Germany. It is the national symbol of the country. The Brandenburg Gate became notorious in the Cold War, as it was the symbol for the division of Berlin and Germany. The Gate stood between East and West Germany, becoming part of the impassable Berlin Wall.