

By Sarah Avery

A triple major in political science, economics and international studies, Austen Eberhardt is any employer's dream. His cultured, collected and confident demeanor has landed him two demanding and prestigious internships in the past two years, while he also manages to schedule in time to travel freely around the globe.

Well-traveled is an understatement. Just short of visiting 20 cities, USF junior Austen Eberhardt has more than a few stamps on his passport, being that he spent 7 months traveling.

Eberhardt has plans to work at the Florida Department of State after graduation. Through the incredible amount of worldly experience he has acquired, he has aspirations of pursuing a career of public service.

After winning a generous scholarship his freshman year at USF, Eberhardt chose to spend several months backpacking through Western Europe.

"All you have with you is like 5 shirts, 2 pairs of jeans, a good pair of socks, a good pair of shoes, and I also had my iPod and my guidebook," said Eberhardt.

His favorite countries to explore on his backpacking trip were Germany, Italy, France, and Spain.

After taking a brief traveling break to take on a prestigious internship in D.C., where he worked on President Obama's campaign and foreign policy issues, Eberhardt grew restless with America again. He desired to travel to the places that have held his heart since the start of his college career.

"I visited Israel & Palestine, because the conflict has motivated me the entire time I've been in college," said Eberhardt. "[While in Palestine,] I fell in love with the people, the culture, and the struggle. I will find myself back there again someday."

Eberhardt's travels took him to Morocco, where he stayed with a host family, and had the memorable experience of climbing Mt. Toubkal, the tallest mountain in North Africa.

Eberhardt effervesces with passion as he recalled his travel experiences, and the energy has transferred to those close to him as well.

Even with a résumé a mile long, Eberhardt does not get comfortable with his accomplishments.

"I've done everything with intention," said Eberhardt. "Through my travel, I wanted to push and challenge myself, and broaden my perspective. I sought out positive

struggle because struggle builds character. That's why I'll continue to seek experiences that are worthy of being told. I want to be able to say that I actively sought life."