

## **Samantha Abear**

From small town roots in Antioch, Illinois, to Germany to Seattle to Alaska to Italy, Samantha Abear has followed an interesting route on her path to Rome. Curious and creative, she worked as hard at her intellectual studies in school as she did at her creative pursuits, acting in high school and community theatre productions. She was selected for a Rotary Youth Exchange to Augsburg, Germany in her senior year, where her love for European culture and languages was truly awakened. While on exchange, she participated in a European Union Comenius project on the topic of democracy, traveling with classmates to Puglia for 10 days. That experience sparked a strong desire to discover more of the Italian language and culture, though an opportunity to do so had not yet become clear.

Instead she took a detour to Seattle University for a year of undergraduate studies. Following Freshman year, curious and continually game to follow a growing passion for food and sustainability, Samantha spent two months working in a fish cannery in Alaska. Still, Italy seemed to be calling, her research leading her to apply to John Cabot University. Italy seemed the perfect location to pursue her dual passions, with a culture so heavily steeped in the arts and local cuisine.

Samantha is now a JCU senior, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications with a Minor in Business Administration. Involved with multiple clubs at JCU, she has served as Theater Society President and is Treasurer for the Universities Fighting World Hunger Club. For the last two summers, she worked on organic farms and most recently is interning in communications at the Lake County Health Department. She hopes to combine her talents and passions by pursuing work in one of the UN's food agencies located in Rome after graduating.