



## Young Alumni Spotlight: Madison Frame in South Africa

Cape Town, South Africa has an idyllic coastline where rocky mountains meet the ocean, while the city itself sprawls in between. When choosing to study abroad, an image of this very scene inspired Madison Frame ('17), a Psychology major enrolled in the Technology Management Program, who was searching for a non-traditional destination.

"When study abroad came around, I knew I wanted to go somewhere I had never been, that was far away and different," she commented. "I saw images [of Cape Town]

and committed to the program a few hours later."

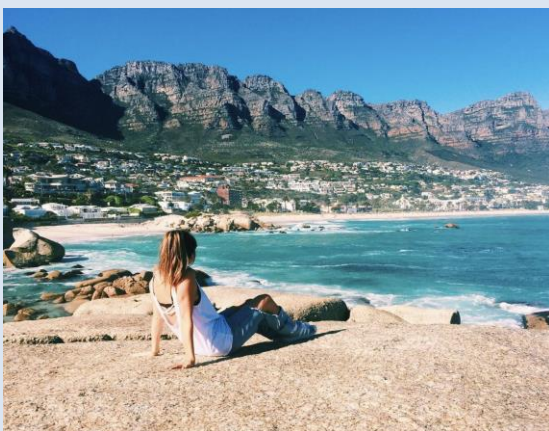
Madison enrolled in a 6-month study abroad program, making it a point to travel independently. "I forced independence and introspection onto myself," she said. "I had to be bold, open, and resilient to make the experience worthwhile."

While there, her most meaningful relationships were the ones she shared with her fellow abroad students, with whom she shared an 8-person house. "We were in a very foreign place, far from home, about to graduate college," she reflected. "We needed each other, but boy did we fight like siblings sometimes, but boy did we fight like siblings sometimes."

Madison found South Africans to be friendly and hospitable with vibrant social lives, especially while participating in local braais – the South African version of barbecue – designed to bring family and friends together. She was exposed to some of the more political aspects of her host country, including student-led protests against systemic racism in the school system.



Madison explored the country geographically, joining road trips to areas like Bloukrans Bridge, the world's highest bungee spot, where she tested her own boldness by being the first of her group to jump. Her travels also led her to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana, further expanding her cultural and personal experience in Africa.



Since graduating, Madison has moved to New York and entered a career in fashion technology, while also getting an early start on her philanthropic journey to give back to UCSB. As the former Co-Chair of UCSB First and employee of the Annual Fund, she discovered the exceptional impact donor contributions can have on individual student experiences. She highly encourages other alumni to do the same and increase the accessibility of programs like EAP.

"UCSB and EAP changed my life for the better, and I want to ensure future students can have the same experience. UCSB and Isla Vista are a dream, but they will always be there, and they will be the same. If you have the privilege of studying abroad, do it."