

Undergrad Connection

City Planning and Social Policy Made Possible through Zwart Scholarship

By Brand Koster

Let me first give a special thanks to the Department of Germanic Languages & Literatures and the Zwart family for presenting me with the Martijn Zwart Scholarship. It provided generous financial relief toward my study abroad in the Netherlands. I was in the Netherlands for almost two months this

I traveled almost every weekend to visit and meet members of my extended family for the first time. Both my mother and father have Dutch roots, so I have many second- and third-cousins that still live in the Netherlands. It was great to connect with family and experience my Dutch heritage firsthand.



Panoramic view by Brand Koster ('12), from his Netherlandic travels made possible by the Martijn Zwart Scholarship

past summer, studying City Planning in Groningen and Dutch Social Policy in Amsterdam. As an undergraduate who is specializing in city planning and has family ties in the Netherlands, this program was both educational and meaningful. The classes incorporated numerous excursions around the country, offering insight to the Dutch way of life. The course work was intense at times, but never overwhelming, allowing plenty of time to travel and explore the country.

I had taken Dutch language courses at the U-M with Professor Ton Broos before traveling to the Netherlands. Although my abroad program did not require me to have experience with the Dutch language, I found it to be extremely beneficial in day to day life.

The Martijn Zwart Fund provides scholarship support for undergraduate or graduate students to attend a summer Dutch Studies program in The Netherlands.

