With the support of the Huntsman Scholars Program and the USU Honors Program, Allison Fife, ‘15, Economics and History, recently attended the Insight Dubai conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Throughout the conference, she attended lectures and discussions focused on subjects ranging from governance and culture in the UAE to Sharia law to being a leader as a twenty-first century woman.

“This exceptional conference helped me to expand my understanding of different cultures and provided me with an incredible opportunity to get to know women my age from all over the world,” Allison said. “When I returned to the United States, I came with a strong desire to share my new insights about women in Islam, Dubai, and the UAE with others to combat misunderstanding and stereotypes.”

One way she has done this has come through her involvement in the USU Interfaith Initiative. After her return from Dubai, Allison was introduced to a number of interested faculty, staff, and students that were coming together to build awareness and safe spaces for interfaith cooperation on campus. They organized into a committee as the USU Interfaith Initiative. Specifically, the initiative “works to create positive and meaningful interactions among people who orient around religion differently.” As president of the new Interfaith Student Association, Allison hopes to personally fulfill this mission by developing events, networks, and opportunities for students of diverse faith backgrounds to voice their values, engage in discussion, and act together in service for the good of the community.