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## Meet Your Departmental Student Advisor!

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Sarah Holman

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*Japanese*

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**Hometown:** Chelsea, MI

**Major:** East Asian Studies

**Minor:** History

**Study Abroad:** Kyoto, Japan

**Favorite Ice Cream Flavor:** Chocolate Rainbow

**Best Adjective to Describe You:** Passionate

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### **In 10 words or less, why should someone want to be a part of this department?**

We have great (and extended) study abroad programs.

### **When did you know you wanted to study this area? What pathway led you to this department?**

Ever since I was in middle school, I knew that I wanted to study Japan. I went on a short exchange to Japan and ever since then, I wanted to go back. I came to Kalamazoo because I heard they had great study abroad opportunities. It was a natural fit for me.

### **What is the best way to get (and stay) connected to this department?**

The language classes are the key to staying connected. They are the core of this department and you will meet the people you will probably be studying with for your entire career at K.

### **What would you miss the most if you were no longer a part of this department?**

The professors in this department are wonderful and very kind. The wonderful people you met and work with at K are the best part of the experience.

### **What are your career aspirations/next steps after K?**

I plan to go to graduate school and study East Asian Studies. I also intend to live in Japan for another year as well, either before or during my graduate studies.

### **What has been the biggest surprise you have encountered at K?**

The thing that surprised me the most was how quickly everything went by. I feel like I was just a first year the other day. I recommend participating in as many activities as you can because this time doesn't last long. However, I've enjoyed every minute of it.

### **How does your department connect to your other interests and activities?**

My hobbies are pretty much my major. I really enjoy Japanese culture, such as anime, music, and history. I get to study all of that in the Japanese department. The East Asian Studies major links together all my interests and helps me explore the cultural meanings behind them.

### **What has been your favorite class at K? Why?**

My favorite class was Japanese Culture through Film. It took a little extra time out of my evenings, but we got to watch all sorts of interesting Japanese movies together and spend our class time discussing them.

### **What is your SIP?**

I am researching a type of Japanese musical theater called Takarazuka. It is something I discovered on my study abroad in Japan. It is very unique because all the acting roles are performed by women. This is the opposite of traditional Japanese theater and it provides a medium through which to examine gender roles and sexuality in Japan.

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