



# Travel to Ecuador Sparks a Passion for Evolutionary Biology

From Spokane, Washington, Elliot Eaton '11 wanted to come to Yale to experience its dynamic academic and extracurricular environment. Like many bright students, Elliot maintains diverse interests and dreamed of a place where he could pursue them all. He says that Yale's financial aid program made it possible. "I was concerned about the cost of attending Yale, but the financial aid package I received ended up being better than what I got from my state school," Elliot said. "I was able to go to Yale without constantly worrying about what the financial cost was doing to my parents."

A resident of Jonathan Edwards College, Elliot is taking advantage of Yale's academic opportunities and is involved in a variety of activities. He has decided to major in ecology and evolutionary biology, an interest heightened by his experience traveling to Ecuador with Richard Prum, the William Robertson Coe Professor of Ornithology, and his ornithology class. "We ended up seeing 450 different species of birds. It really allowed us to apply what we learned in the lab about taxonomy and different breeding systems," Elliot said. "It definitely wasn't your typical spring break; it was the trip of a lifetime."

Elliot has also rowed as a member of men's varsity lightweight crew, is a devoted trumpet player in the Yale Precision Marching Band, and participates in the Yale Dramatic Association. Awarded a prestigious Richard U. Light Fellowship, he spent last summer in Hakodate, Japan, learning to speak Japanese in an intensive language study program.

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Elliot to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit [www.yale.edu/yaletomorrow](http://www.yale.edu/yaletomorrow) or call 800.395.7646.

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## STUDENT PROFILE

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– Elliot Eaton '11