

“My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”

— Maya Angelou

A Hartford, Connecticut native, Raven Monique Gaddy was born with a passion for travel and a gift of helping others in need. Born to a supportive single mother, she has always been encouraged to live life on her own terms, and seize every opportunity afforded to her. Whether it is a new travel destination, or new craft she learned, Raven is always up to something new.

The journey began with a solid 10-year foundation at Renbrook School, which allowed Raven entry into the prestigious Choate Rosemary Hall preparatory school in Connecticut. Raven then graduated from Lehigh University in 2015 with a BA in Global Studies and Africana Studies. With a minor in Sustainable Development, she had aspirations of working in the non-profit sector within developing nations and economies. She spent much of her undergraduate career abroad, including a semester in Morocco, two consecutive sustainable development course trips to Kenya, and an internship with Gariwo – la foresta dei Giusti, an NGO in Milan. No stranger to new lands, she had previously traveled Fiji, Costa Rica and Italy an additional two times in her youth.

After her graduation from Lehigh, Raven moved to Paris, France for 2 1/2 years to attend the American University of Paris. There, she received an MA in International Affairs, and spent 1 year working for the Directorate for Education and Skills within the well-known development organization, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). With a detour in the field of Human Rights Law, brought on by a summer course in The Hague, Raven used her time in Paris to eventually focus her professional ambitions to educational policy and development.

After a whirlwind Parisian adventure, Raven brought her talents to the Peace Corps, inspired by Lehigh Professor Dr. Bruce Whitehouse, where she served as a TEFL educator in Madagascar. Along with her daily English classes at the Antsirana Higher Institute of Technology, a university in the far-north city of Diego-Suarez, Raven also played key roles in an empowerment program for incarcerated women at a local prison and volunteered a great deal of time at a local home for at risk and abandoned children, focusing mostly on their summer program that included kids from the local community. She was also afforded the opportunity to work as a Peace Corps Volunteer Leader (PCVL), training new volunteers until the unfortunate global evacuation due to COVID.

After some time to rest and readjust, Raven began a short tenure at the U.S. Department of Education, where she worked in Marketing and Communications for the Office of Human Resources front office. For the duration of 2021, she worked as an International Affairs Specialist for the Office of International Affairs within the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Raven is now in a supervisory role as the Administrative Officer in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, serving as the “number two” to the Chief of Staff.

Raven's passions include her endless travels; community service; getting out into nature with her dogs, Napoléon and Ramsès; sisterhood within her sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; and a good, thought-provoking book.