During my time of interning at Landesa, I learned the most through my various meetings with different staff members. These meeting were set up to discuss different projects Landesa is involved with, the work of the Center for Women’s Land Rights focuses on, and further advise about careers in development. I learned more about the limitations women face when it comes to land tenure and ownership. I was exposed to different cultural problems Landesa has faced in working with governments to create policies to promote land ownership for poor communities and women. I received advice on how to present myself well during interviews and received counsel on what type of skills and characteristics the Landesa hiring committee looks at. This advice will most assuredly come in handy when I start to apply and interview for jobs after graduation.

I learned the indepth approach Landesa takes, discussing with a staff member the theory of change and intened impact that Landesa seeks to have in its work. It follows a pattern of doing research in countries before they are involved, designing programs based on the research they collect in those countries, advocate for the implementation of the design with government leaders and make sure they are also on board and the move forward into implementaion, first with small pilot projects and then scaling them up to a larger scale once the program has been fitted to best meet the needs of the communities they are going to be implemented in. All of these steps are part of the theory of change Landesa functions by and the intended impact is for support of pro-poor land tenure by governements to increase
the number of rural poor, especially women, with secure access to land. The ultimate goal, although beyond landesa's directly influence and control, is for those with secure access to land to realize the economic and social value of the land and from that awareness, a decrease of poverty and conflict and an increase in economic growth, food security, social justice and legal empowerment will follow. I loved learning the holistic, thoughtful approach to addressing poverty I witnessed in action at Landesa!!

My work with my supervisor organizing the database was beneficial because it allowed me to work on these projects that my supervisor has not had the time to do as there were more pressing matters for him to deal with. My working on these different assignments freed him up to focus on the other important projects he had going on, while also completing the small tasks that I did, which were important to finish but not necessarily getting done without me. Simultaneously, I benefitted because I gained new skills working in Excel and Raiser’s Edge, a software system many different NGOs use.

Throughout my work with the staff of Landesa, I would identify my communication skills as one of my biggest professional strengths. Both verbal and written communication are areas that I have spent time mastering and I feel proud of the way I interact with coworkers and supervisors. My experience at Landesa helped develop this skill as I got to meet with many different staff members, asking questions about their work, formulating my own opinions and answers to the questions they asked me and getting to engage in dialogue about the goals and mission Landesa is continuing to move toward.
I am not the most technologically trained person and this is the area that my skill sets still need more development. Working with my supervisor was a great way to learn more skills and practice them with some oversight to make sure I was doing things correctly. This kind of oversight was exactly what I needed.

I love working with people and believe that my skills and passion will lead me to a career that is focused on serving people. I have enjoyed my time at the Landesa office, but I feel more excited and interested in a job that is relational with the people the organization is committed to serving. Hearing from Landesa staff members that get to do field work abroad as part of their job was very inspiring and motivational to me. I feel called to a vocation that allows me to be relational and engage with people. I know that my own time living abroad in Kenya and studying abroad in Guatemala have already established a deep cultural awareness and flexibility that I am curious to see how God uses those experiences to shape my future opportunities in the work place.

These opportunities in my future career will produce many chances for me to act according to the word of God. In this sense, my calling to help establish the kingdom of God here on earth will be used through my career of working with women and men around the world to see positive development and growth. My calling to hold onto the hope that lies in the power of God will strengthen me in my career work as I hold coworkers and myself accountable to positive attitudes focused on the potential at hand and not get overwhelmed, frustrated and discouraged with the seemingly impossible amount of poverty present in the world.