



Nathan M. Crapis

PIA 2020

Biography

September 9, 2015

#### Background:

I was born in Maryland but spent most of my life in Pittsburgh, so Pittsburgh is where I call home. I attended Seton La-Salle High School in Mount Lebanon and graduated in 2003. While in high school and shortly after 9/11, I made the decision to enlist in the United States Marine Corps so immediately following graduation, I left for boot camp.

In the Marines, I served as their equivalent to a paralegal and handled matters pertaining to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Specifically, I was put into the Civil Law section where I was responsible for the prosecution of civilians that got in trouble aboard our base. In a nutshell, civilians aren't subject to the UCMJ but of course they still must adhere to state and federal codes and being these infractions happened on our turf, we were responsible for prosecuting. Most of the cases were simple traffic violations, but occasionally we got drunk driving, domestic violence, larceny, drugs and a few assault cases. In 2006, I deployed to Iraq the first time. Once I returned, I decided to get out of the Marines and return to the Middle East as a civilian security contractor. After five years in the Middle East, I resigned my position, registered at Penn State and graduated last December.

#### Goals and Future Aspirations:

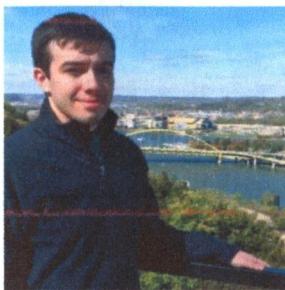
The only real goal I have left in life is retiring my mother and giving her the life she never had. My mother was a single mom to three children. After I was born, my biological father walked out and left his oldest daughter (from his previous marriage) with me, my mom and sister. Mom was forced to work two full-time jobs just to keep the lights on and food on our plates. So for the last five years or so, that's been my main motivation. How am I going to do that? There's a few options currently on the table. The first is going to law school which has been something I've wanted to do since doing law in the Marines. The second is becoming a GS and working in the federal government. My experience overseas is good enough to get me into the GS-11/12 range, however for most of the positions at that level require a Master's degree or higher (and knowing someone usually). The last option, and my fall back is going to Officer Candidate School (OCS). This year I joined the Army Reserves to get my foot back in the door in the event the first two do not pan out.

Michael Roth is currently a student at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School for Public and International Affairs pursuing a master's in Public Administration. With this degree he hopes to address issues concerning urban areas and environmental quality.

As an environmental studies major at Washington and Jefferson College, Michael took a multidisciplinary approach to learning. Realizing environmental issues involve economics, social issues, and the environment itself his course work included classes such as energy economics, issues in the developing world, and environmental policy.

Outside the classroom, Michael pursued his interest in sustainability and human health. Before attending college, he became a certified EMT, a skill set that would serve him throughout his college career, which enabled him to bring a CPR class to his campus to raise awareness. Other activities included participating in a solar energy research project funded by Dr. John Swanson and regular involvement in a food drive like program called Produce to People. This program provides fresh fruit and vegetables to low-income households in Washington County, PA.

Exposure to environmental issues and experience as a pre-hospital care provider allowed Michael to see that the environment and human health are deeply connected. Michael enjoys exploring new sustainable technologies, fitness, and traveling.







## The Biography of Eric S Jackson

Eric S Jackson was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey on January 27th, 1993. From there, Eric Jackson's life has led him to move around much of the area, such as Uniontown, Pennsylvania; Hagerstown, Maryland; Morgantown, West Virginia; and finally, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Eric Jackson comes from a relatively poor family. In 2011, Eric became the first and only of his siblings to graduate high school, and the first in his immediate and extended family to attend any form of higher education.

In 2011, Eric enrolled at West Virginia University. He hadn't developed a firm idea of what he wanted to do in life, but knew that he was interested in the international world. This was spurred on by the fact that Eric so badly wanted to travel, but had never had the chance due to financial struggles. This led Eric to acquire more knowledge about other cultures and the world as a whole. Later in his first semester at WVU, Eric declared himself a geography major. After a year and a half of learning about the workings of the world (and some pretty savvy GIS to boot), Eric decided that he needed something more. It was then that Eric took on a second major in International Studies. It was this department that Eric took great pleasure in serving, which was reciprocating by the wonderful faculty and staff. It was here where Eric discovered his passion for international affairs, and the study of international security issues brought on by conflict. Eric's interests were fueled by great faculty members, such as Cyanne Loyle and Dave Hauser (a GSPIA grad!).

Forwarding to his senior year at WVU, Eric, against the odds, had excelled. A kid who had no idea what college was or had to offer, fought his way to a 3.97 overall GPA (thus starting my eternal grudge against my international political economy class, my only B), and the honor of being the outstanding senior in international studies at WVU. Eric knew he had more to do, though. After taking some trips to the State Department and the United Nations, Eric knew that there was more in store for him. With that, Eric decided to give graduate school a try. After gaining acceptance from all three school that he applied to, Eric ultimately chose GSPIA as his new home, where he will study security and intelligence, with a minor in human security. During his time at GSPIA, Eric wishes to gain as much knowledge and skill as he can in order to set him up with a career focusing on the international world. Ideally, Eric would like to work at the State Department or the United Nations, working to solve the issues brought on by conflict all throughout the world.





YOUNG (TIM) AN

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Tim An is a current graduate student pursuing his Masters in International Development at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). He received his B.A. in Economics and Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010. He then travelled to work abroad for a year in the EPIK Program teaching English as a second language at a public middle school in Daegu, Korea. He also served as a US Peace Corps Youth Development Volunteer in Tiflet, Morocco from January 2013 through April 2015. In Morocco, he tackled youth unemployment by initiating and implementing vocational skills workshops. He and his counterparts led community based programs and projects in the following areas: CV/Resume building, networking, interviewing, social media, entrepreneurship, leadership, communication, and volunteerism. During his time in Morocco, he realized the need for further project management experience in field development work. Therefore, he intends to continue his studies at GSPIA specializing in project management in order to fulfill his dreams of working at NGOs abroad. While he isn't preoccupied, he is a passionate musician often dabbling around on his piano, guitar, and cello. Tim currently resides in Pittsburgh and can be reached by phone at (213)999-6265 or by email at [tim.young.an@gmail.com](mailto:tim.young.an@gmail.com).



## Sekwen Kim coming to Pittsburgh



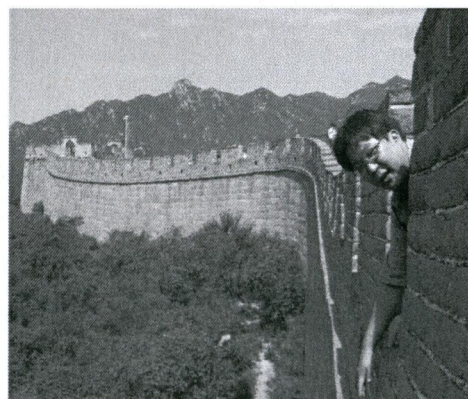
Every man is capable of writing his own history. Sometimes history is written in a piece of paper called resume, but the paper called resume does not explain who he is and what kind of history he has been writing as comprehensively as the conversation over coffee with the man.

Sekwen Kim, whose history could simply be described by three words, courage, passion, and boldness, took a huge step of courage and came to Pittsburgh. For him, coming to Pittsburgh requires huge courage, boldness, since he has to leave his own comfort zone and give up promotion which would happen in just one more year in service, meaning increase in salary and other compensation, and

Mercedes Benz S class which his wife promised after the retirement.

Sekwen Kim has three homes in Korea, China and the States. He was born in Korea, grew up in China, went to school in the States and worked in China and Korea. If business trip should be counted as working location, then Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, UAE, Chile should be included.

When he was in China, donkey pulling carts and taxis were sharing the same road, people were cooking meals and eating lunch on the roadside and the tallest building, the National People's Congress (NPC) Building, since the Chinese Communist Party banned any building taller than the symbolic NPC building. Still he enjoyed riding a bicycle around Beijing, practicing his Chinese with his grandpa playing Mahjong and eating street food.



Then he witnessed how not only Beijing, but China developed, eye-witnessed 50-story buildings and 8-way city highways being completed in a year and all historical hutongs, traditional back-alley residences, being disappeared. However, he was just amazed by how development changed people's way of life and realized that such rapid development was possible because of well-supported infrastructure and infrastructure requires a stable electricity supply.

Then he decided to enter the energy sector and was involved in a nuclear power plant which Westinghouse was building in China. After the experience in China, he moved to Korea and worked for a Korean power plant EPC and equipment supplier in the financial department and marketing and sales department.

However, after witnessing the people suffering from limited access to electricity and social benefits and welfare which they deserve when he was on a business trip to Bangkok, Thailand, he decided to devote himself to creating not only social, but also economic and political mechanisms in which equitable allocation of social benefits and welfare can be attained in developing and under-developed countries.

After experiencing the influence, efficiency and capability of such a sizable organization and witnessing how successful such a sizable organization can be, his short-term goal is to get involved in UN, despite UN is being criticized for being inactive and inefficient. He is a man who believes in passion and believes that passion can ultimately change the world. For two years in Pittsburgh, he will explore every single possibility and opportunity to make such passion work in real life.



9/06/15

## Introduction to Public Affairs

### Luis Fernando Alonso



Luis Fernando Alonso was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1993 to Laura and Javier Alonso. He grew up in the metro Atlanta area. Luis Alonso attended high school at North Gwinnett High School in Suwanee, Georgia. He was active with soccer, mock trial, and volunteered with his church, St. Monica's.

In Fall 2011, after accepting a soccer and academic scholarship Luis Alonso began his undergraduate career at King University in Bristol, Tennessee. While at King, Luis Alonso was involved with local community service, mission trips, student government, the editorial staff of a research journal, three internships, and as a board member of two different student organizations. He majored in Political Science, History, and Security and Intelligence Studies. Additionally, He was a Jack Sniders Honors Program Fellow. He graduated in May of 2015.

Luis Alonso started a MPIA degree program at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in the fall of 2015. He plans to major in security and intelligence studies, and minor in international political economy. He hopes to be able to become involved in research on non-state actors, ethnic separatism, and transnational crime.

Luis Alonso hopes to pursue a career in the intelligence community upon graduation, or a career in the foreign service of the state department. He has been fortunate enough to travel a fair share of the world around him, and hopes to find a career in which he can see more of the world as well as serve his country.





Evan Johnson, a 24 year old Buffalo New York native, graduated from Buffalo State College in 2013 with a degree in Communications and a minor in International Relations. During his undergraduate years Johnson interned and volunteered with a variety of elected officials, non-profits and professional organizations. He campaigned for candidates, assisted in helping refugees accumulate to a new country, volunteered at voter registration drives, and helped setup community events. After graduation, Johnson traveled to Belize to work with an indigenous Maya group. The Maya Leaders Association (MLA) were in a legal dispute with their government over land rights regarding exploration drilling. He participated in efforts to finalize traditional community land boundaries in order to obtain land titles, inform the local populace of initiatives through *Letters to the Editor* in a local paper, and organize a demonstration in support of a group who were being kicked off their land.

Johnson chose to further his education in pursuit of an international career much like his experiences in Belize. After putting off his acceptance for a year in order to work and save money, he arrived at GSPIA in 2015. At GSPIA, Evan hopes to achieve good grades in order to stay in school to take advantage of the many opportunities his program has to offer. He hopes to use both experiences with CONNECT and the Ridgway groups to gain an internship at a local consulting firm.

Johnson hopes to gain employment in a combination of fields. First, Evan would like to work in Africa or in Latin America for the government or a company that extracts resources. After his experience in Belize, Johnson believes there are opportunities to partner with indigenous communities to better the lives of community members and make money for the company. Lastly, Evan would like to work for a firm in the field of strategic communications and intelligence as part of an incident response team.





24 years ago, she was born in an ordinary Chinese family, which is located in a small city of the east part of China. As most other traditional Chinese families, Yang is also the only child in her family. Without the accompany of siblings, she learned how to be an independent girl from a very young age. Yang's father

has been doing business about chemical equipment for over 20 years, now he runs a small-sized private chemical equipment company in local place and her mother is a traditional housewife who quit her job 15 years ago because of health problem. Yang's family can't be ordinary any more but Yang is not a girl satisfied to be an ordinary person. She was convinced of a value that never feeling satisfactory to what you are which holds the similar meaning of Stephen Jobs' word 'keep hungry, keep foolish'. As a result, Yang becomes an ambitious girl trying to climb as high as she could.

After graduating from college one year ago, Yang had almost one year working experience in a private company in Shanghai as a headhunter. People she talked to everyday were those leaderships of client companies or elites she tried to pursue to job-hopping. She recognized that most of those leaders whom she dreamed to become if not had good education backgrounds, they may be very extraordinary in some specific fields. And her undergraduate major is Business Administration, four-year's studying of basic knowledge of management seemed not work much <sup>on</sup> her future either stuck in a limited circle could be helpful. So she quit her job, got her way over to the US, the most popular country in higher education teaching. Yang believes firmly that having a broad horizon is very needed to be a teacher and learning some specific knowledge about management is necessary too. Before making it, it has a long way to go. But Yang is clear that if she just keeps doing what she is guided to do, never give it up, she will finally become whom she wants to be.





*Biography of Qianwei Zhang, a passionate MPA student*

Engaging in volunteer work for a long time and experiencing Nepal earthquake, Qianwei Zhang determined to devote herself to serving the society and protect the environment in the future. Qianwei did an environmental protection project that aims to use biotechnology to replace chemical pesticides for three years during her college. It is this experience that makes her realize the field that she wants to work in. Furthermore, she is well aware of the power of the nature due to her experience of Nepal earthquake. Out of respect for the nature, she really wants to protect the environment and let human live on friendly terms with nature.

To achieve her goal, Qianwei decided to study public administration concentrating on public and nonprofit organization management for her master degree after finishing her undergraduate study major in accounting. First of all, it is essential for her to master the basic knowledge and skills of public administration. Secondly, she aims to doing some internship to equip herself with practical skills such as communication and projection management for her future work. Thirdly, she realizes that financial management also plays an important role in nonprofit organization, thus, she wants to continue her study in accounting to make it part of her skill set to meet the need of her work in the future. Last by not least, she wishes she can learn more from her superb professors and build up a network with her great schoolmates.

After graduation, Qianwei hopes that she can work for an international NGO to protect the environment such as saving endangered species and dealing with water pollution. Besides, she is willing to participate in rescue team to help people who suffer from a natural disaster. Now, she is getting closer and closer to her goal, and she is always ready to serve the society and make a difference.





Liu Zhang, she is from Beijing, China. She got her bachelor degree in Capital Normal University majoring comparative literature. Before she came here, she was a journalist and editor for 5 years in China Surveying and Mapping Newspaper, which is governance press belongs to China national administration of surveying, mapping and geo information. Now she is a student of MPA majoring nonprofit and public management. After her graduate from GSPIA, she wish to find a job in local government.



Amber "AJ" Stephens

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Amber "AJ" Stephens is a first year Panther, headed for a Master's of International Development. In partnership with the Peace Corps's Master's International program, she will receive a degree in NGO-CS in three semesters, interrupted by a 27 month volunteer shift. Given her background in Romance languages (Spanish in particular) and her plan to earn a certificate of Latin American studies, she hopes to volunteer in Central America, focusing on youth development and rural access to education.

AJ was born and raised in 'Buckeye Country,' Ohio, by a family of educational professionals. She moved to Kent, Ohio to pursue her BA immediately after high school, and ended up staying in Northeastern Ohio for nearly five years. Having just recently transplanted to Pittsburgh, she has already fallen in love with the city and delights in discovering new parts of it-which is easy enough to do, given that her terrible sense of direction gets her lost at least once a week.

Despite her recent arrival, AJ has made several efforts to get involved with the local community. She works some evenings canvassing for Clean Water Action, a water rights advocacy group, which has the double satisfaction of doing meaningful work and paying the bills. Her carefully orchestrated free time-what little isn't spent with her nose in a book-is spent volunteering. AJ can frequently be found helping in the children's section of the main Carnegie Library, and occasionally at the Carnegie Science Center.



PIA 2020 Administration of Public Affairs  
Fall 2015  
Assignment One: Personal Biography

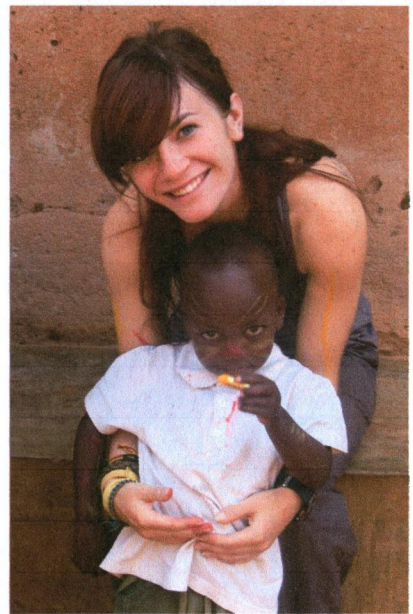
Paige T. Alderson is a first year student at The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. She is a candidate for the M.P.I.A. in Human Security, focusing her studies on human rights in Africa. Miss Alderson is also pursuing her Juris Doctor in International Law at The University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

She completed her undergraduate career at Washington & Jefferson College, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and Political Science with a concentration in Africa and the Middle East. During her time at Washington & Jefferson, Miss Alderson completed an independent research project studying the socio-economic status of Ugandan orphans and refugees while volunteering at God's Grace Orphanage in Kyebando, Uganda. Unfortunately the orphanage itself was an illegal organization and had trafficked a number of the children on site. As such, Miss Alderson began working with Ministry officials and embassy workers from the United States to create a database of the children to reunite them with their families. She also implemented a number of health and safety measures for the children including the creation of a safe and reliable water source. She also helped get the children tested for HIV/AIDS. She continues to sponsor the education of children who were relocated from the orphanage.

The following year she traveled to West Africa to intern at the Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (GAMCOTRAP). While in The Gambia, she focused her efforts on the promotion and protection of women and girl children's sexual, reproductive, social and educational rights. She gathered testimony of women who had undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and researched the various practicing villages in The Gambia. She also participated in a number of workshops that engaged women's political participation in their respective regions as well as workshops on the role of religion and FGM. For the past two years she has helped run her college's Model United Nations team, serving as their head delegate in 2014-2015. In the summer of 2010, she was named a Global Travel Scholar to Belize from the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, an organization she would later intern for.

Upon receiving her respective degrees from The University of Pittsburgh, Miss Alderson plans on working in both the government and non-governmental sector. She hopes to continue working with women and children in the developing world. She intends to work with either the United States Department of State or the United Nations. She is also currently discussing opportunities in the JAG Corps utilizing her background in International Law. Miss Alderson anticipates working with humanitarian relief programs and agencies across the globe.

For more information or to contact Miss Alderson by phone at (724) 993-3265 or email [PTA2@pitt.edu](mailto:PTA2@pitt.edu).





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Michaela C. Lies was born January 25, 1993 and spent over half of her life as a competitive roller figure skater. She was ranked nationally in her division before setting her sport aside to focus on academics. Michaela went to Washington & Jefferson College for her Bachelor's of Arts degree where she majored in Spanish and International Business and minored in Gender & Women's Studies.

Her passion for language and cultural learning has been enriched by her extensive travels. She has ventured to Guatemala, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Mexico, Italy, and most recently, Spain. During each of these trips she did something that scared her, whether it was canyon-ing down a series of waterfalls, or riding a bike in traffic for the first time. She has always been curious about other cultures and loves to connect with people through language and theatre. Michaela was part of Washington & Jefferson College's improv theatre crew for four years. She has also taken advantage of many opportunities to write, such as interning at the Three Rivers Community Foundation, and cataloging her experience abroad in Ecuador via a public blog.

Her goal is to work with people from backgrounds that are different from her own and have the financial means to continue travelling around the world. She would like to see herself working at a government agency or in the area of supply chain logistics one day.

The Graduate School of Public & International Affairs offers her the opportunity to learn from experienced professors as well as from her peers in a healthy and challenging environment. She sees GSPIA as a means to gain theoretical skills and applicable training in order to be prepared for the future and better define her focus of study. Michaela looks forward to collaborating with others on projects and working groups to add to her skillset. Through this university experience she hopes to calibrate her compass and find her own way due north.



# Nicholas G. Langston

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## Biography

Mr. Langston was born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois, a semi-rural community far enough from Chicago to be surrounded by cornfields but close enough to get a good pizza on the weekend. He studied philosophy and formal logic while enrolled at Western Illinois University, focusing on particular problems within the areas of mind and language. His thesis was titled, "The Depth of Cognitive Closure: Defending McGinn and Our Real Limits of Knowledge."

He is proud of having funded his university experience by working heavy-highway, bridge construction during the summer months and during one, off semester. For this he was connected to, humbled, and strengthened by the blue-collar roots of his family. He would not, however, be contented to accept the familiar.

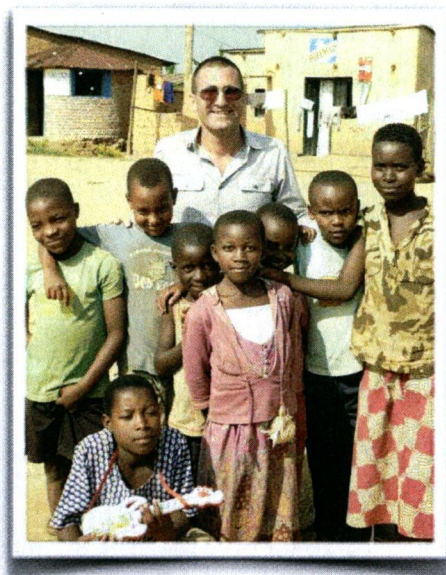
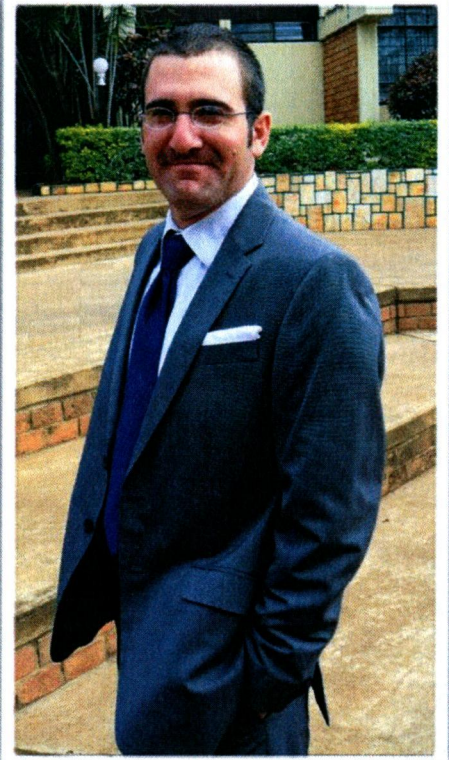
Nick joined the Peace Corps and served as an education volunteer in rural Rwanda from 2010 to 2012. With his host country partners, he was able to fund and supervise the construction of a school library. He also helped to spearhead the implementation and administration of a nationwide, English training program for Rwandan judges and court staff in coordination with USAID, the Rwandan Ministry of Justice, and the Rwandan Institute of Legal Practice and Development. He spent his free time volunteering at the UNHCR maintained refugee camp in the western province.

After closing his service with the Peace Corps, Nick travelled Africa making connections with several people in the field of development and forging friendships that redefined him.

He took a teaching position in rural Japan under the auspices of the JET Programme and remained there from 2013 to 2015. While in Japan, he ensured that incoming members of the JET community integrated seamlessly into their host communities and also organized several English camps for local students.

His international experiences, especially those in Rwanda, had a profound impact on him, shaping the decisions he would make for his future. He enrolled as a master's student at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) within the University of Pittsburgh and is now studying International Development, focusing on human security, NGOs and civil society.

It is his intention that the completion of graduate work will see him once more in Africa where he hopes to find employment as a field officer for UNHCR or with an NGO devoted to capacity building and humanitarian relief.







**John Richard MPIA 2017**

John Richard is currently a student in the MPIA program at GSPIA focusing on Security and Intelligence Studies. John was born in Brooklyn, New York and moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania when he was 11. He attended the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown for his undergraduate career and majored in both political science and history. While he attended Johnstown, John also obtained a certificate in International Studies focused on East Asia. Also while at Johnstown, John worked closely with his professors and received two mentorship grants. He was also given a stipend and sent to New York to present his (and his professor's) research on Infant Mortality Rates at the Eastern Sociological Society.

While at GSPIA, John primarily plans to focus on security studies from a policy perspective. He also plans to obtain a minor in public policy and analysis. John hopes the skills obtained in these programs along with working closely with the Ford Institute and Ridgway Center will give him a resume that is attractive to both think tanks in the D.C. area and people who need research done on Capitol Hill.



Matthew Davenport  
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PIA2020-1040

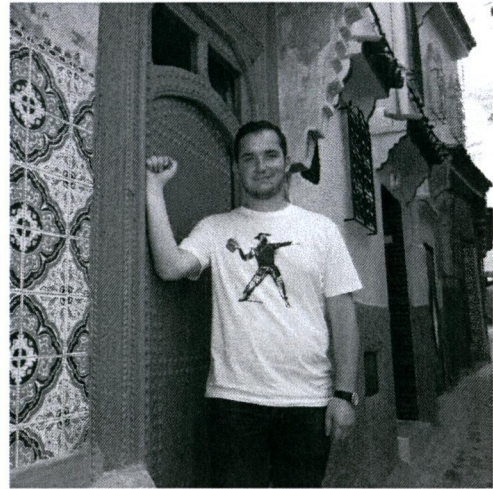
Matthew Davenport was born on June 15, 1991 to Daniel and Nancy Davenport in Clearwater Florida. Always excelling in school, he graduated summa cum laude from East Lake High School (ELHS). A musician by trade like his father, Matthew lent his talents to the ELHS Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Indoor Percussion Group and the ELHS Choir backing band. Logically he seemed destined to pursue a career in music.

After a rigorous audition process Matthew was admitted to one of the top ten public music schools in the country, the Florida State University (FSU) College of Music, where he began studying classical guitar under Bruce Holtzman. Although Matthew devoted most of his time and energy to music as the only entering freshman accepted into the FSU Guitar Ensemble of '09, he began expanding his academic interests by adding a second major in International Affairs. In the Fall of 2010 he joined FSU's Model UN speech and debate club allowing him to explore his other interests by debating international issues with other like minded students from around the US and, in some cases, the world.

The summer of 2012 was a turning point academically for Matthew. Pursuing two very different academic interests forced him to make a decision to either stay at FSU his last summer and finish his music degree, or study ethnic conflict abroad in the former Yugoslavia. Having a longing to travel, Matthew chose the Balkans. That summer he, along with four other FSU students traveled to Dubrovnik Croatia, to present their research the Inter-University Center Dubrovnik. In addition, they traveled to Sarajevo, Mostar, Srebrenica, Kotor and Korcula to see how the breakup of Yugoslavia was still affecting Croatia, Bosnia, and to a lesser extent, Montenegro nearly 20 years later.

Matthew graduated from FSU in the Spring of 2013 with a B.A. in International Affairs and a minor in Music. By September of that year Matthew, along with his long term girlfriend Farrah Neumann, had settled into two English teaching positions in Madrid, Spain. For the next two years Matthew and Farrah taught in English immersion schools in small towns outside of Madrid and traveled every chance they could get. Their travels would bring them to France, England, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Morocco, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Croatia, Russia and Turkey. However, after two years of teaching and traveling both Matthew and Farrah longed to get back into academia.

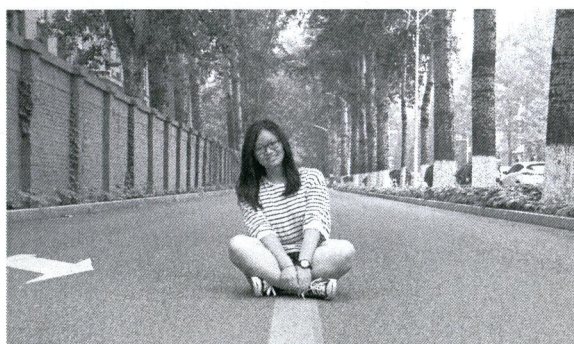
Having accepted a position at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs (GSPIA), Matthew is currently pursuing his Masters in Public and International Affairs concentrating in Security and Intelligence Studies along with Farrah Neumann, who is pursuing a PhD in Linguistics. Matthew aspires to join the State Department as a Foreign Service Officer.





## Shuang Song' Biography

Shuang Song, a Master student majored in Public Affairs now, is a quiet girl in her 22 age positively searching for her dreams and meaning of her life. Since she was a child, her mom who has been working in the field of administration for years has always been talking with her regarding her mom's work and the process to make policy decisions. As time goes by, Shuang found that she would like to think over the solutions about administration problems. Such



interactions taught her lots of practical administrative knowledge and experiences. However, gradually, she felt that her short of knowledge in policy making limited her expression. Therefore, after entering university, she bend herself to cultivate strong sense on policy, analytical methods on current social and political events with a burning enthusiasm by majoring in public administration.

Of all her practical attempts, her eligibility to Colleague Students Innovation Practice Program endowed her with the opportunity to obtain stronger social survey and research ability. The subject, Research of Citizenship Roles in the Construction of NIMBY Installations---on the Basis of Analysis of Different Cases, involves the benefits of government, society, enterprises and citizen and the various complicated relationships. Consequentially, she wrote the paper - Analysis of Citizenship Behavior and Government Responses in NIMBY Conflicts - Based on the Research on the Construction of Beijing-Shenyang High-Speed Railway. By analyzing the NIMBY Conflicts on the construction of Beijing in this paper, she tried to study the problems involved and provided some possible solutions. Finally, Shuang successfully publicized her paper as the first writer on the 10th Edition of 2014 on the TIME REPORT and was greatly encouraged to make further study on the effective public policy to balance interests of all parties during social developments. Therefore, at the end of her college year, she finished her study in university by accomplishing the graduation thesis titled "Research on Schemes about the Governance of NIMBY Conflicts- Based on the Comparison of China and USA", which led her to a deeper and more specific level of her former study.

In the following university semesters, she sought every chance to be immersed in kinds of practices. When working as an assistant at Dinghuidongli Community Service Station, she gained some practical knowledge to manage a community. This experience changed her impression of community management and made her think more about the predicament in the development of grass-roots organization of the community and their development potential. Another intern chance in Meituan Company also shaped her with strong sense of communication skills and critical thinking. The task of human resource let her meet a large number of different people and judge various conditions and people by using critical thinking.

Shuang's own experience of the imperfection of her country's problems and inefficiency on policy making drive her to find new ways of doing things and new solutions to problems from global, national and local perspectives. Although she is not sure about her future, she is now discovering a blueprint of her life. Therefore, as for her university goals, she would probably say that finding the ultimate aim of her whole lifetime is the most important thing during her university life. To work at NGOs or NPOs from the basic position and get promoted to a senior manager in next 5 to 10 years is a possible choice for her after graduation. Just like her major in GSPIA, urban affairs and planning, devoting herself into giving suggestions about policymaking on urban planning and development for the government will be meaningful for her.



Courtney Horvat  
Administration of Public Affairs BIO

Originally from the Philadelphia area, Courtney moved to Pittsburgh to attend the University of Pittsburgh in 2009. Having finished her program in 2013 with a BA in Sociology and History and a Certificate in Global Studies, she entered into the work force. For two years, she worked in admissions as a recruiter for online programs. While she knew she had been lucky to find a job so soon in the current job market, it wasn't something she wanted to be in long. She was really interested in International Affairs, and thought if she had specialized her education in the topic, she was much more lucky to find a job she really loved.

Courtney's interest in International Affairs was sparked during her study abroad trips during undergrad. She had studied in Greece and Cyprus for two summers. While abroad, the topic of study was tourism, and the Greek debt crisis. The students had the opportunity to meet with leaders from a wide range of political parties, and spent some time discussing the issues with a local think tank in Athens. They also were fortunate to have been in Greece at the time the protests broke out in Syntagma Square, in front of the Parliament building.

Having been fascinated by the whole situation and sympathetic to the Greeks, Courtney contacted her advisor and requested to complete her Sociology senior honors thesis a year early, so that she could write about Greece. She later published that thesis in Pitt's Sociology academic journal at the request of her faculty advisor. While she is still unsure what exactly she would like to do upon graduation, she is thinking something along the lines of a think tank. It was a fascinating experience. As her first year in GSPIA MPIA program continues, she plans on joining groups and clubs that will broaden her horizons, expand her knowledge base, and help her towards a future career. She is especially excited to complete and internship.



## *Emily Francis*



As a first year graduate student, I am pursuing joint degrees (MID/MPH) through GSPIA and Pitt Public Health. My major within the MID program is Urban Affairs and Planning, while my major in the Public Health Program is Behavioral and Community Health Sciences. Originally from the Detroit area, I completed my undergraduate education at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania where I earned two Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Intelligence Studies and Public Health with a minor in Political Science consisting of IR courses. I have studied abroad three times in England, Ireland, and Vietnam and have completed two internships with Human Rights organizations.

I am passionate about finding creative solutions to large-scale problems and hope to secure a career in improving the standard of living of communities based on studying and improving social determinants of health. I chose GSPIA because I believe working through the program and with faculty will give me the skills necessary to work toward my goals. I plan to use my Public Health background to identify issues within communities domestically and abroad. My career goal is to mitigate or decrease the effect of recognized problems through employing the skills and models from Public and International Affairs and merging them with the tools and methodologies I have gained through intelligence analysis and research.

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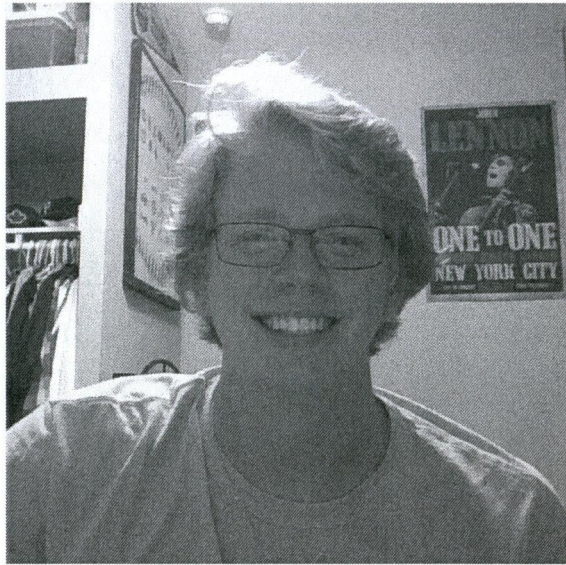


Molly Kestner is a first year MPA student concentrating on Public and Nonprofit Management. After graduating in 2012 from Valparaiso University with a degree in International Service, she spent two years in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps, volunteering and living in intentional community. She spent her first

year working at Bread for the City in Washington, D.C. and her second year in Chicago at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her time in LVC greatly informed her decision to pursue a master's degree in public administration. The Master of Public Administration program is the practical complement to her International Service degree. Her bachelor's education gave her the lens through which she sees the world and analyzes it and the MPA would give her the tools she needs to effectively serve her community.

After working on the local level in DC and the national level in Chicago, Molly learned that she prefers to be in the former. She hopes that she can gain practical skills in management and leadership of nonprofits during her time at GSPIA which she can apply to a community-based nonprofit in the Pittsburgh region. Her passion lies at the intersection of food justice, health, and the environment. Beyond the classroom, Molly plans to get involved with the Johnson Institute and the CONNECT project, although she finds most all of the GSPIA offerings to be of interest. Her interest in responsible leadership stems from her time in LVC where she was able to work with and learn about a variety of nonprofit organizations that serve their communities with varying degrees of success. She believes that the mark of responsible leadership is that which is led by the voice of those who are affected.

As a born and bred Pittsburgher, Molly is happy to return home to further her education at Pitt. She is looking forward to becoming reacquainted to her home city through the numerous connections and opportunities offered by GSPIA.



Brett Morgan is a graduate student at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Brett had always dreamed of going to the University of Pittsburgh. In 2011, after graduating high school, Brett was accepted into the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences and, after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in history and political science, he continued on at Pitt now studying Urban Affairs and Planning in the MPA program. Though his undergraduate major was focused on international affairs, Brett would like write policy or become a policy analyst, specifically in increasing economic development in poor, urban areas. This came a direct result of policy focused classes in his senior year and from experience while working as an intern for Congressman Tim Murphy. Though in the MPA degree program, he is currently planning on getting a minor in international affairs due to his undergraduate major and relative interest. When he doesn't have his nose in a book, you can find him watching Pirates' baseball, Steelers' football, or practically any Pittsburgh sport, playing golf or frisbee, or struggling to teach himself guitar. If you have any questions or need to get into contact with Brett, his email is [brm99@pitt.edu](mailto:brm99@pitt.edu).