



Mamadou Ndiaye Jr. is enrolled in the Master of International Development program. His specialization is Nongovernmental Organizations & Civil Society, along with the African Studies certificate.

Although a native of Maryland, Mamadou completed his undergraduate degree at Kent State University in May 2016. Earning a bachelor's of Business Administration with a major of Computer Information Systems and dual minor in International Business & Spanish. Mamadou had worked as a Business Analyst intern for The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for over a year. During his time he worked on planning and implementing a variety of IT projects. After graduation Mamadou worked as a Program Coordinator for Kent State University's Academic S.T.A.R.S. program. A summer program where incoming freshmen took college courses and gained a valuable cultural experience.

Mamadou always had a passion for global affairs for a multitude of reasons. The first is due to his personal background as a first-generation American. With parents from Senegal and Burkina Faso, Mamadou learned first-hand anecdotes of the impact of global poverty. Mamadou was then able to encounter various issues personally during his undergrad at Kent State by participating in three different study abroad trips. One of the trips was to Cuba where he conducted a research investigation of the socioeconomic implications of the dual currency system to the country's citizens.

Through his global experience and love for academic research, Mamadou then joined the Ronald E. McNair Scholars program. An undergraduate research program, where he investigated how community members within the African-American communities of Ohio organized in order to solve communal issues. Although the project was on a domestic population, Mamadou greatly valued the experience and began to yearn for the opportunity to continue his studies within an international context. Leading to his decision to join GSPIA's MID program.

After completing his studies, Mamadou plans to work for the African Union to aid with the organization's economic development projects. As an end goal, Mamadou plans to start his own nonprofit organization, which will assist aspiring entrepreneurs from economically repressed areas. He also wants to foster the practice of group economics within those communities. Mamadou aspires to earn a doctorate degree as well, either continuing with GSPIA or an Africana Studies program.

For his contact information you can reach Mamadou either through email mrn35@pitt.edu or cellphone (240)-640-8579.

Paul Stefano

PIA 2020

Fall 2016

Paul Stefano was born on May 27, 1974 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He was raised on the city's North Hill and still resides there. He attended the city's public schools and graduated from New Castle High School in 1992. While in high school, Paul became active in local politics, an activity that continues today. He went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in History from Slippery Rock University graduating in 1996. After graduation he became a Legislative Assistant in the office of State Representative Chris Sainato. Mr. Sainato represents the 9th district which includes New Castle. His work as a Legislative Assistant was in the district office and consisted mostly of constituent services. During the time with Representative Sainato, he earned a Master's Degree in Education from Duquesne University. In 2000 Mr. Stefano returned to New Castle High School to teach Civics, Pennsylvania and U.S. History and Law. He has taught there since. While teaching Paul continued his political activity as a member of the American Federation of Teachers serving as a local COPE Chairman and an election coordinator in 2004, 2006 and 2008. He also serves as a Democratic precinct committee man, Lawrence County's Democratic state committee man and a member of New Castle City Council. Currently, Mr. Stefano is on a sabbatical leave from teaching to further his education at the University of Pittsburgh's GSPIA. He is interested in studying the effects of globalization on cities like New Castle and its residents. Paul hopes his studies can assist him in crafting and promoting better policies for the residents of New Castle. He is truly rooted in the New Castle community. At this time, Paul's teaching career is his sole professional focus and he intends to return to his classroom. In his spare time Mr. Stefano is as busy as in his work life. He is a voracious reader of newspapers and political history. He is an avid tennis player and a baseball fan, particularly of his beloved New York Yankees. He vacations several times a year visiting historic sites of the Northeast along with the beach and boardwalk in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Paul Stefano

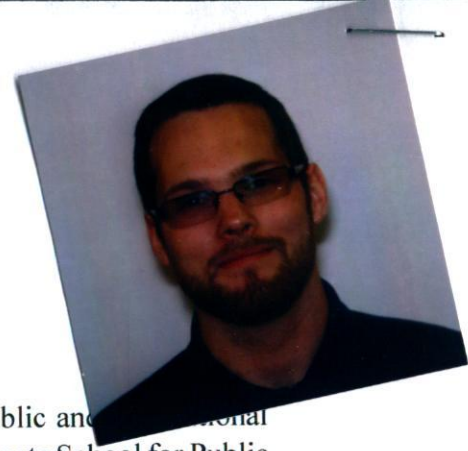
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Matthew Peters

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Matthew Peters is currently a first year student in the Master of Public and International Affairs program with a major in Security and Intelligence Studies at the Graduate School for Public and International Affairs within the University of Pittsburgh. Matthew prefers to be called Matt. Since elementary school, his interests academically have rested within the realm of social studies and more specifically in history. He has always excelled at the subject and enjoyed to read more about how the world had developed and interacted since the creation of early city states. In high school, this passion continued with history teachers often joking that Matthew could have taught the classes in their stead. While at his best in a history class, Matt excelled in all of his classes and graduated second in the class from high school. During this time, He took an opportunity to attend the Global Young Leaders Conference, in which provided him with an experience of German, Czech, Hungarian, and Austrian culture while visiting each nation. As well as, learning leadership skills and qualities. It also facilitated meeting with keynote speakers from a Czech Diplomat to a UN worker in Vienna, this trip instilled a want for government service in Matthew.

After high school, Matthew attended Seton Hall University to pursue a bachelor's degree in history with a certificate in Russian and East Europe Studies. While at Seton Hall, he grew fascinated by Russian History and took every course that the history department had to offer on the subject. To supplement the history course, Matthew also took Russian language courses for three years to advanced Russian, the highest level Seton Hall had to offer. Within the history department, Matthew pursued an honors thesis which required a more rigorous examination of first person sources, longer page count, and higher standards of writing. For his thesis Matthew wanted to looker closer into Russia and its peculiar history. He decided on the topic of political reform in Imperial Russia, specifically the reforms under the reigns of Alexander the First and Nicholas the First. For his efforts, Matthew received an A and graduated with a 3.8 GPA from Seton Hall, magna cum laude. That summer Matthew enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh for its summer language institute to pursue Russian further. The program included 5 weeks of instruction at the university and 5 weeks of immersion and classes in Moscow at Moscow State University. The program gave him a better understanding of the life of an everyday Russian and the language.

Matthew hopes with a degree in security studies to pursue a career within the federal government in either the International Affairs or within the intelligence community. He believes that his academic and personal experience lend well to a career within government. Outside of the classroom Matt enjoys to unwind playing video games within the grand strategy/historical genre. He also enjoys to read on a variety of topics and genres. From science fiction/fantasy to politics/historical monographs. His favorite series at the moment is A Song of Ice and Fire by George RR Martin, which combines a well-researched historical background with just the right amount of fantasy as to be believable.

Ziyin Wei

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Education

East China University of Political Science and Law (ECUPL)

2012.8-2016.6

Major: Journalism

Minor: Law

Work Experience (Internship)

Ningxia Television Station, City Sunshine Programme

2014.7-2014.9

Journalist (Intern)

News Participated:

-*Exposure type*: exposed the clinics without medical licenses and spread related knowledge of illegal medicines and precautions; examined fast food safety, etc.

-*Press conference*: held live broadcast of Professional Technical Competition for the Disabled;

Personal Statement

I am Ziyin Wei, first year student of MPA, focus on Public&Nonprofit Management. I came from Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, located in north-west China, which is one of the five autonomous regions of Chinese city, attracted people for its particular desert landscape as well as specific Muslim culture.

I have finished my bachelor degree in ECUPL, major in journalism and Law. I love both major and enjoy to explore some jolt areas of them, such as the law cases about intellectual property, the legislation in mass media, etc. Pursuing these two majors benefited me begin to consider issues from both perceptual and rational aspects.

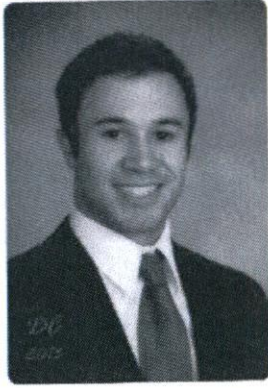
During my undergraduate period, I got some social experience out of school as a journalist in local TV Station, which equipped me with easy access to the most hot social issues and had chances to communicated with various kinds of people, from different filed or industries. At that time, I got a outline of my future career goal, to be a social worker to help the people in need, especially the children and the old. So that I have served as a volunteer of Ningxia Volunteer League and contacted with many social organizations, offering assistance to



I'm Sihan Mu, now a MPA student of PITT majoring in the public and nonprofit management. I'm full time student and studying for my master degree. My cellphone number is 4123300632, and my E-mail is SIM39@pitt.edu or musihan1203@outlook.com. Here are some experiences of mine during my undergraduate.

I graduated from North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power (NCUWREP) in Henan province of China (2012-2016). I majored in the Administration Management for the bachelor of management. During my undergraduate, I owned the Provincial- Level Merit Student (2015), Outstanding Student Award (2014-2015, 2015-2016), School-level Outstanding Student Cadres (2014, 2015), Award of Excellent Organization of Student Union (2013), Third Class Scholarship Award (2013) and Advanced individual of Military training (2012). On the other hand, I worked as the Vice President of the Student Union (Sep.2014—Jun.2015) Participated in provincial-level Undergraduate Student Cadre Conference and school-level Love Mutual Funds; hosted school-level Dormitory Design Competition and the Outreach Minister of School of Law, (Sep.2013—Jun.2014) hosted like the image design competition and the career planning competition.

Considering the internship and volunteer experiences, I worked in the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) in Hebei, China as the intern of Intern of Committee for Handling Proposals in Qinhuangdao City Commissioner (Jul.2015—Sep.2015). The internship event included that suggesting committee should announce to the society to collect proposals widely so that it could conquer the traditional problem of slow efficiency and people's low participation. Choosing and compiling the earthly proposals from all of collected 116 proposals for she should connect different kinds of people



David Contosta

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David was born and grew up in the northwest suburbs of Philadelphia. He attended Quaker schools from second through twelfth grade. Upon graduating from Abington Friends School, David attended Saint Joseph's University and majored in International Relations with minors in Spanish, Latin American Studies, Economics, and Political Science. While at St. Joseph's, he participated in many extracurricular activities, including club baseball and soccer, the Latin American Studies Club, and semester-long service learning projects at local afterschool programs for middle schoolers. He also was an intern with the Foreign Affairs Council of Philadelphia, during which he taught middle school students about the functions and responsibilities of the UN.

After Graduating from college in the spring of 2013, David worked for Pennsylvania State Senator Daylin Leach's campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives. Following the campaign, David worked for an online entertainment ticketing business, as a customer service representative, as a middle school baseball and soccer coach, as a substitute teacher, and as an event planner for a small Philadelphia based company.

David will continue to work part-time as an event planner while attending the University of Pittsburgh for his Master's Degree in Public and International Affairs. During his time at the University of Pittsburgh, David plans to study abroad in a Spanish speaking country, engage in a few extracurricular activities, and possibly learn a third language for fun. He also plans to join a working group at the ridge Ridgway Center and join an intramural soccer team with other GSPIA students. Following graduation, David hopes to work for the UN and or in the private sector doing consulting work.

Besides his studies, David enjoys playing sports and traveling. As an event planner, he has had the opportunity to travel to every major city in North America. His desire for travel has also taken him to Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Japan, England, France, Italy, and Germany. In the future, David would like to travel to Iceland and to visit his brother again in Tokyo.



Rachel Vinciguerra, MID/MSW Candidate

Rachel graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in History in May 2014. During her time at Ohio Wesleyan University, she led three domestic mission trips. Each trip served a different vulnerable population from a Somali refugee building a home for herself and 14 children to veterans of the Vietnam War. During those trips, Rachel learned about different stakeholders in domestic aid efforts. She was awarded the Student Humanitarian Award at graduation.

Rachel conducted research in Nepal in 2013 studying the social and economic implications of trekking tourism in the Himalayas. In the fall, she spent 4 months in Pune, India studying processes of globalization. Her research evaluated perceptions of Pune college students towards interfaith and intercaste relationships.

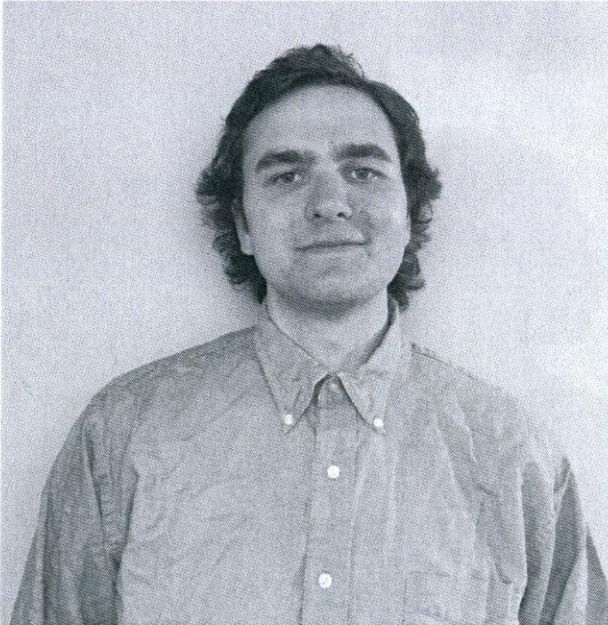
After graduation, Rachel worked in Haiti as Volunteer Coordinator of *Pwoje Espwa* orphanage. She was responsible for creating some programming for the children in addition to her primary responsibility as a liaison between local Haitian administrators and American donors, volunteers and a US-based funding organization. At *Espwa*, Rachel learned to speak Haitian Creole. In response to the gender inequality she and her colleague observed at *Espwa*, they worked with a volunteer group to develop the *Write to Be* pen pal program on the ground in Haiti. They worked with Haitian administrators, D.C. volunteers and the teenage girls to create a sustainable program model. It has resulted in two years of bimonthly cross-cultural letters and has provided 12 girls with confidence to be successful. Before her departure, Rachel facilitated a dialogue between volunteers and administrators to create the *Fi Ki Fo* (strong girl) program. *Fi Ki Fo* connects nearly two dozen teen girls at *Espwa* with Haitian women role models who provide hands-on learning afterschool. This is the first vocational program for girls at the orphanage. Rachel stays connected with this initiative as a volunteer and pen pal.

In the past year, Rachel has worked in the Pittsburgh nonprofit community at Repair the World Pittsburgh and East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM). At EECM, Rachel worked with a team of directors, supervisors and case managers to provide integrated care to adults in EECM programs. She assisted with the development of a job training program for adults with barriers to employment and supported clients as a course instructor (Resume, Employment Skills, Computer Skills) and a job coach.

In addition to the MID/MSW joint-degree program, Rachel is currently working as a graduate student assistant for Dr. Nelson and Dr. Finkel. She will participate in the GEPA working group and hopes to earn a certificate in Latin American Social and Public Policies focused on the Caribbean. While at GSPIA, Rachel would like to gain skills in statistical analysis (Quant 1 and Quant 2). She would like to utilize her internship to work abroad either in an internship in Haiti with UNICEF or in a developing country where she can learn competencies relevant to program evaluation and child protection. In the MSW program, Rachel will specialize in Community Organization and Social Administration and hopes to tailor her field placements in Pittsburgh to work with refugee communities and children.

After graduation, Rachel would like to consult at *Pwoje Espwa* as they transition away from their residential model in favor of supporting children as they live with guardians off-site where appropriate. Rachel would collaborate with administrators to develop, monitor and evaluate such a program. Ultimately, she would like to begin a career track as a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF.

Paul Normolle
September 7, 2016
PIA 2020 – 1040
Personal Biography



Paul Wheeler Normolle was born January 17th, 1992, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he lived for the next 18 years. His mother was a sociologist, his father a statistician, and he grew up immersed in a continual pursuit of knowledge. Paul began his undergraduate education at Marquette University, where he developed an interest in history, particularly regarding that of complicated conflicts. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh

with a B.A. in History before entering the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs to work toward obtaining a Masters of Public and International Affairs degree, majoring in Security and Intelligence Studies.

Paul's primary academic interest is in how non-governmental power centers such as religious organizations, criminal syndicates, and tribal groups intersect with traditional government structures in ways that can produce, prolong, or shorten violent conflict. Paul maintains a historical interest in south- and east-Asian empires, both as sources of examples for his current studies as well as subjects of personal interest and enjoyment.

In the future, Paul plans to secure an analyst position in an organization possessing the power to have a practical effect on the world. Where that practical effect is directed is secondary to the necessity that the work being done is not purely speculative. In the long term, Paul aspires to publish both fiction and nonfiction on matters both grave and superfluous.

PIA 2020 Introduction to Public Administration Biography Assignment (9/7/16)



Sloane Davidson
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Sloane Davidson is a social entrepreneur, philanthropist and writer with 15 years of experience in fundraising, digital marketing and community activism. She is the Founder of Farsight Media, a strategic communications and marketing consultancy. From 2005-2012 she wrote one of the leading cause-based blogs, The Causemopolitan. In 2011 she published The Giving Manifesto and in 2013 she launched DinnerMode, an app and national movement focused on the intersection of food and technology.

Sloane has raised millions of dollars for nonprofits in both fundraising and board roles. She is currently on the Board of Resolve Network, an NGO that focuses on jobs for women in post-conflict countries and the Women's Philanthropy Institute at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, one of the leading research institutions in the study of philanthropy. Previous involvement includes a 2009 Kiva Fellowship in the Philippines and strategic communications and impact-assessment work for NGOs and nonprofits in countries including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti and over a dozen U.S. states.

Sloane has created nationally recognized fundraising campaigns, the most well known being "Cause It's My Birthday," a nationwide malaria prevention campaign and Gulf Coast Benefit, to support Gulf Coast communities after the BP oil spill.

In 2010, Sloane attended the World Economic Forum as the citizen journalist for NewsCorp. That same year, she organized the first CrisisCampNOLA, as a response to the earthquake in Haiti. She was named a top influencer at the 2010-2012 Clinton Global Initiatives and "Top Woman to Follow" on Twitter by Forbes. She is the 2009 recipient of the Pigman Prize at Shady Side Academy, her high school alma mater, for excellence in citizenship and leadership.

A frequent public speaker on social media for social good, Sloane has spoken at SXSW, Social Media Week, Philanthropy Day NY, Women's Philanthropy Symposium, the United Nations, the World Bank, CalTech, New York University, Columbia University and over 25 leading schools and conferences. She also advises social impact startups including Horizon and Modern Loss.

Jim Ji

DOB: 02/02/1992

Email: XIJ25@pitt.edu

Phone: 412515500



Career Objective

Program measurement, evaluation and verification or marketing and trading
Physical and financial energy products

Publication

Realizing a Complete Coverage of Ethanol Gasoline--Fuel Ethanol Increase American Energy Independence, China Economic Weekly [J], 2015, ISSN 1672-7150/CN 11-5196/F

Intern Experience

Intern, Equity Investment Department, China Great Wall Asset Management Corporation 09/2015-Present

--- Responsible for preliminary investment market survey, collecting information of investment market and program, summed up and analyzed all information and datum, came up with capital proposals, wrote investment feasibility report

--- Quantitative analysis of the investment value including corporation estimation and return on investment, assisted with manager to follow up program

Integrated Office, Bureau of Supervision, Ministry of Science and Technology 07/2015-08/2015

--- Responsible for conference documents translation and audit, personnel files management, according to department and entry time to manage personnel files

--- participated in Square Kilometre Array program, translated plenty of program document, conducted cost accounting

Extracurricular Activity

President, YouthVoluntary Association in University of International Relations 05/2015-05/2016

Vice-President, YouthVoluntary Association in University of International Relations 05/2014-05/2015

--- As head of volunteers in The 2015 China (Beijing) International Service Trade, The 2015 Beijing International Film Festival, IAAF World Championships Beijing 2015, The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2014 Leader's Week, mainly responsible for volunteers recruitment as interviewer, trained and organized volunteers in their position, scheduled and assisted their work while they were in trouble

--- Organized and hosted The 2014 Annual Volunteer Summary Commendation Congress successfully

--- Promoted the implementation of social practice credit hours system, drafted related credit institution

Member, Voluntary Association in University of International Relations 09/2012-05/2014

--- As Head of University International Relations' volunteers in World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF) 2013 Beijing Fragrant Hills Tourism Summit, took charge in dispatching cars and each volunteer's work schedule, clearly knew each leaders' accompanying volunteer

--- Kept company with Deputy Mayor and Mayor's Assistant of Houston and took them to visit Beijing famous scenic spots and experience Chinese culture

Hobbies

--- Kind of sports, such as basketball, swimming and fitness

--- Travel

--- Watching movies and listening to music

Zhihan Zhang

Email: ZHZ101@pitt.edu Tel.: +1 412-330-9256

Add.: Apt#1004, 101 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15213

CAREER GOALS

Working as a local officer in the UN Beijing branch/office.



EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Nankai University	09/2012-06/2016
Degree: Bachelor of Economics	
Major: International Economics and Trade	GPA: 3.38/4.0
University of California, Berkeley	GPA:4.0/4.0
Major: Summer session	07/2015-08/2015

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

China Written Works Copyright Society	09/2015-10/2015
Intern	
◆ Completed the searching job of finding the data and the contact information of 431 writers who become members of Chinese Writers' Association in 2015.	
◆ Assisted in sorting out the files of members of the Society and helped to set out furniture.	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research on Movie Watching Channels of College Students	03/2014-05/2014
Participant Nankai University	
◆ Calculated movie watching channels and analyzed possible reasons of college students, and obtained a better understanding of college students' movie consumption habits.	
◆ Adopted the way of online investigation, and conducted a research based on college students from Nankai University.	
◆ Employed descriptive statistics, parameter estimation and hypothesis testing during the process of analyzing statistics.	
◆ Sorted out and prepared the report, and gained a better understanding of college students' movie watching channels.	
An Investigation of College Students' Pressure	10/29/2012-11/08/2012
Participant Nankai University	
◆ Responsible for the design and formulation of posters, and the promotion of the event	
◆ Visited Tianjin Normal University, Tianjin Polytechnic University and Nankai University to promote the event and conduct random investigation.	
◆ Conducted the statistics of result of paper investigation.	
◆ Identified the sources of college students' pressure and gained a primary knowledge of pressure's influence on college students' psychology.	

SOCIAL & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

"13&ZD134" Acoustic and Perceptive Parameter Database of Mandarin Pronunciation Standard, Institute of Linguistic, Nankai University	11/2014-12/2014
Hearing and Judging Volunteer	
◆ Invited to participate in the activity and acted as a hearing and judging volunteer	
◆ Weathered through the tedious mandarin proficiency tests by paying close attention to the subtle distinctions between the pronunciations of different monosyllables and disyllables	
◆ Cultivated my great patience and spurred me to attach more significance to the subtleties in everyday life	

James Dillion Asher, Jr.
dillionasher@gmail.com

Dillion began his career as a geologist, obtaining his B.S. in Geosciences from Virginia Tech in 2004. Following consulting work in the Rocky Mountains and in North Dakota's Bakken oil field, he relocated to Hattiesburg, MS in 2007 to pursue a master's degree at the University of Southern Mississippi. While in school, Dillion used his knowledge of drilling techniques and shale gas development to help launch Arrowhead Wireline, a directional steering services company. Splitting time between coursework, field research in the Bahamas, and co-managing a business, he completed his M.S. in Geology and obtained his geologist-in-training certification from Kentucky in 2009.



Following an industry-wide decline in oil and gas drilling activity, Dillion stepped away from the directional service industry to pursue post-graduate research interests in coastal management at the University of New Orleans from 2010 to 2012. During his two years at U.N.O. he worked as a field research assistant, completed additional coursework in coastal geomorphology, oceanography, and sediment transport, and explored the challenges associated with coastal planning, protection, and restoration initiatives along the Louisiana Gulf Coast.

In May of 2012, Dillion relocated to Colorado to work as an engineer for Weatherford Directional Services. He devoted his free time to travelling abroad and raising money for charitable causes, completing a two-week, 1400-mile journey across Peru (the Mototaxi Junket), as well as a 40-day, 10,000-mile trip from England to Mongolia (the Mongol Rally) to raise money for the rainforest protection organization Cool Earth. In the fall of 2013, Dillion left Mongolia to backpack through Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. After returning to the U.S. in 2014, Dillion committed to working towards a more environmentally focused and internationally oriented career. He joined GSPIA's International Development program in August of 2016, with a focus on Energy & Environment.

Dillion's research interests include 1) exploring and evaluating international sustainability policies, practices, and emerging technologies in developed urban centers, 2) quantifying cost/benefit and environmental impact of various sustainability initiatives, 3) identifying effective policy, practice, and technological adaptations, and 4) promoting sustainable adaptations on islands and in developing urban centers. He also has an interest in pursuing study abroad at Utrecht University's Sustainable Development program. An avid traveler and scuba diver in his spare time, Dillion tries to visit at least one new country each year (44 and counting), and is a regular volunteer at Pittsburgh's PPG aquarium. Upon completing the MID program, his career goals are to continue working collaboratively on a variety of sustainability initiatives at a green NGO or a comparable research institution.



Natalie Boydston grew up in a small farming town in the “Thumb” of Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Arts and Science in Wildlife Biology from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio in 2010. During her education at Ohio University, she participated in population studies of Diamondback Terrapins in the Patuxent River and as part of the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project in Maryland. She also contributed to a study on the movements of two species of map turtles in the Scioto River in Ohio. In the summer of 2009, she traveled to Arizona to assist on a study investigating how prescribed fires affect lizard communities and assessed lizard habitats through arthropod and vegetation analysis.

After graduation Natalie worked briefly as a substitute teacher and GED Preparation Teacher Assistant until she had the opportunity to follow a lifelong ambition; to work at an animal rescue organization. She joined The Western Pennsylvania Humane Society staff and moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May of 2010. At the humane society she cared for animals, interacted with potential adopters, and educated visitors on the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society’s mission. She later became Assistant Director of Training and Humane Education, where she participated in events advocating humane education, executed marketing strategies to promote obedience training classes, and assisted with basic dog obedience.

After three years at the humane society, Natalie transitioned to a career in the consulting industry working at a civil engineering firm as a biologist and GIS coordinator. She performed wetland and stream delineations, and prepared agency consultation letters and USACE Nationwide Permits. While working in the consulting industry, Natalie earned a Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Pennsylvania State University.

In the fall of 2016 she joined the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs as a candidate for a Masters of International Development in Urban Affairs and Planning. Natalie's aspirations for the future include incorporating her environmental and GIS background with her continuing education. Over the years she has become more involved in the Pittsburgh community, including volunteering for organizations such as Tree Pittsburgh and this has led her to become interested in contributing to local urban community development. Natalie hopes to reflect a positive impact locally and potentially expand that vision as she aspires to strengthen communities by supporting the individuals within them.

In her free time Natalie enjoys boxing, hiking, amateur botany, and spending time with her dogs, Argy and Nala, and cat, Apo. Natalie can be contacted via email at nsb26@pitt.edu or by phone at (989) 233-5067.

HANIFA NAKIRYOWA BIOGRAPHY

Degree: MID- Human Security Studies

Contact: 424-558-4962

Email: hanakiryowa@gmail.com

Personal qualities: Resilient, Reliable, Enthusiastic, Positive minded with a good sense of Humor



Hanifa Nakiryowa is currently a H. J. Heinz fellow at GSPIA from Uganda pursuing a master of international development, majoring in human security. Prior to joining GSPIA, Hanifa completed a global change leaders certificate program at the COADY international institute in Nova Scotia Canada and a master's degree in Economics at University of Nairobi. She has also worked as a UNICEF-FBO partnership program monitoring and evaluation specialist, Human rights advocate for Acid Survivors Foundation Uganda as well as part-time tutoring at the Islamic University in Uganda. This exposure helped her build her passion as a children's/women's rights advocate, motivating women and girls to exercise their rights for dignity.

It is with this experience that she founded the Centre for Rehabilitation of Survivors of Acid and burns Violence ([CERESAV](#)) an NGO in Uganda to advocate against violence against women and children, concentrating on acid attack violence. As a spokesperson for this minority group, she lived, worked, and travelled in the various regions of Uganda. She has also travelled internationally which has gained her invaluable cross-cultural experience as a leader of a multi-cultural task force, which advocates for improved human rights protection of minority groups; through advocacy for change, awareness raising and public sensitisation on the dangers of acid violence, a specialised form of gender based violence that is becoming a global challenge to humanity, but with less attention and less effective interventions in recent years.

Her goal is to gain valuable exposure to knowledge required to address gender-related challenges facing women and children in institutionally oppressive societies. As a development consultant she will work with multidisciplinary advocacy teams, planning and implementing sustainable development programs for underserved populations.



Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest of the United States, Sophia Sanders is currently a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh pursuing her Masters of International Development at the Graduate School of International and Public Affairs. Since learning about the crisis in Darfur in middle school Sanders has been concerned with finding the answers to questions pertaining to poverty, inequality, and gender, especially on the African continent: if these issues could be successfully and sustainably addressed, the potential for violent escalation could be significantly lessened.

Building off this curiosity, she pursued a Bachelors of Arts in Humanities from Seattle University with a specialization in international economic development. As an undergraduate she taught English in rural Tanzania, served as a development intern working in Moldova on civil society strengthening programs, and was a decorated international debater traveling frequently for competitions. These experiences solidified her career aspirations of working in development and helped narrow her intended focus to post-conflict societies.

After graduation Sanders spent the next five years working full time and teaching university international development courses with international travel components, including taking student delegations to Bosnia, Congo, and Ghana. During this time she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to Kenya. In the U.S., as a program assistant at Eastern Congo Initiative, Sanders focused on policy research and writing on agricultural interventions in the coffee and cocoa sectors in the eastern Congo. Sanders then went on to serve as the Director of Operations and Programs at StolenYouth, a Seattle based nonprofit focused on fundraising and grant-making to local organizations providing services to youth victims of domestic sex trafficking. Armed with a firm understanding of nonprofit management, fundraising, and strategic grants, Sanders entered graduate school in order to focus on the specialization and skills acquisition needed to do meaningful work abroad in poverty alleviation and economic/human development programs.

Upon graduation Sanders plans to work in the Rift Valley region of east Africa focusing on post conflict economic and human development, likely in the eastern Congo, beginning as a program or implementation manager. After spending time in the field, she sees herself working for an international philanthropic foundation that prioritizes impact investing in east Africa and portfolio management. Additionally, Sanders still enjoys teaching and plans to continue to teach in some capacity throughout her career.



Alicia Houser

MPIA, Security and Intelligence Studies

Contact info: alicia.houser@gmail.com or alh215@pitt.edu

Phone: 972-835-2082

Alicia Houser graduated in 2012 from Austin College (in Sherman, TX) with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and African Studies. As an undergraduate, Alicia traveled to China, Sierra Leone, Morocco, India, Rwanda and Uganda in order to increase her understanding of public affairs in different countries and to expand her knowledge of and

appreciate for foreign cultures. She fondly recalls her Rwandan host mom running to greet her with a bouquet of flowers and, upon learning Alicia drank coffee, bringing home instant Nescafe that Alicia enjoyed throughout her four-month stay.

As an undergraduate, Alicia researched the role of history education upon collective memory formation and reconciliation in three post-conflict societies: Northern Ireland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Rwanda. She examined the way each society recorded the conflicted events of its past in primary and secondary textbooks and curriculum. Her observations can be found in *The Multicultural Dilemma*, edited by Michelle Williams. New York and London: Routledge, 2013. While studying Peacebuilding and Post-Genocide in Rwanda, Alicia also conducted field research where she interviewed secondary school teachers to ascertain how closely teachers adhered to the prescribed curriculum in their classroom teachings. She found that teachers openly discussed the genocide and even ethnicity with their students - a finding that counteracted recent research emerging from the field.

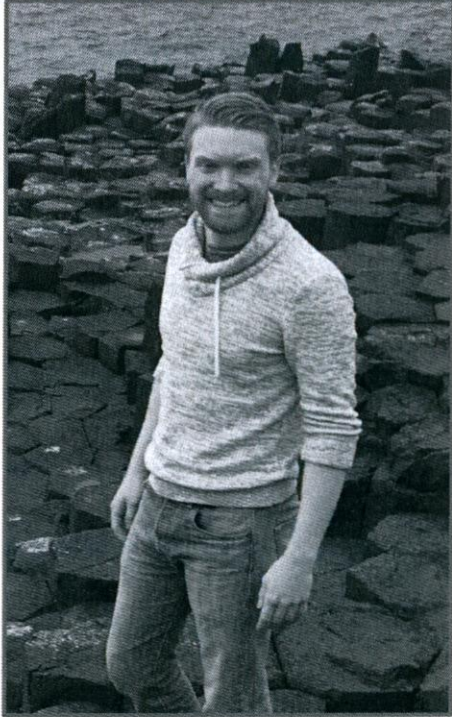
After completing her undergraduate studies, Alicia served as a reading tutor in a low-income school through Americorps. This experience opened Alicia's eyes to the many challenges facing public schools. After Americorps, Alicia worked as: a nanny, a weekend manager for a nonprofit hospitality house, and a fundraiser for Denver's leading hunger-relief organization. Though she learned these experiences, something was missing from each - impact at a higher level. This is what motivated her to return to school and pursue a degree in Public and International Affairs to try to affect change at a policy level.

When not occupied with school, Alicia can be found walking her dog, Sabrina, around Squirrel Hill. Alicia has had Sabrina for over half of her (Alicia's!) life. Alicia also loves the great outdoors and will miss waking up at 3am to reach trails in Rocky Mountain National Park as the sun rose. She also dabbles in photography and even obtained a certificate in digital photography and briefly operated her own gallery site. Fun fact: Alicia recently became a pescetarian.

Scott Dempsey Biography

Contact Information

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Background

I grew up on a farm near Slippery Rock, about 40 minutes north of Pittsburgh. I graduated from Mercyhurst University with a degree in Intelligence Studies and a minor in Russian Studies in December 2013. One particularly relevant work experience from this time was an undergraduate research internship for the Sentinel Project for Genocide Prevention, a Toronto-based non-profit, in which I was a researcher and editor for a team of six students analyzing the risk of genocide in Kyrgyzstan and developing new processes and criteria for the organization's future risk evaluations. After a brief stint as a lumberjack in West Virginia, I spent just over two years working as an anti-money laundering (AML) investigator for Huntington Bank in Columbus, OH, which consisted of reviewing flagged accounts and customers and filing suspicious activity reports. My interests are broad, but I think that the best way to leverage my academic and professional experience is to find work related to international financial crime, money laundering, and other related topics.

Andrew Weitzel

Andrew is a recent graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania outside of Lancaster. During his undergraduate study Andrew majored in International Studies with concentrations in International Relations and European Area Affairs. Andrew also completed minors in both Spanish and Government & Political Affairs. During the spring semester of 2014 Andrew studied abroad at the Universidad de Burgos in Burgos, Spain, taking political science classes taught in Spanish as well as intensive language courses. He was certified level B2 fluency in Spanish by the Cervantes Institute of Spain at the end of the semester. After studying in Spain Andrew traveled through much of the rest of Western Europe and North Africa, visiting a total of 13 countries.



During his senior year at Millersville, Andrew was fortunate enough to be able to assist his faculty advisor, Dr. Kirsten Bookmiller with research for her upcoming book on international disaster response focusing on unaffiliated and spontaneous volunteers responding to natural, man-made, and complex disasters abroad. Because of the experience, Andrew became increasingly interested in international disaster response policy and plans to continue to pursue the topic at GSPIA. Additionally, Dr. Bookmiller offered Andrew the opportunity to attend an international humanitarian conference in March of 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where she presented preliminary research on the book.

After graduation, Andrew spent several months interning at the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg which, much like the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, educates the local community on current international issues and American foreign policy. Although Andrew's was only working as an intern, he effectively took control of most of the organizations day to day operation since the lead Program Coordinator was out on maternity leave. This provided him with invaluable experience running a non-profit organization.

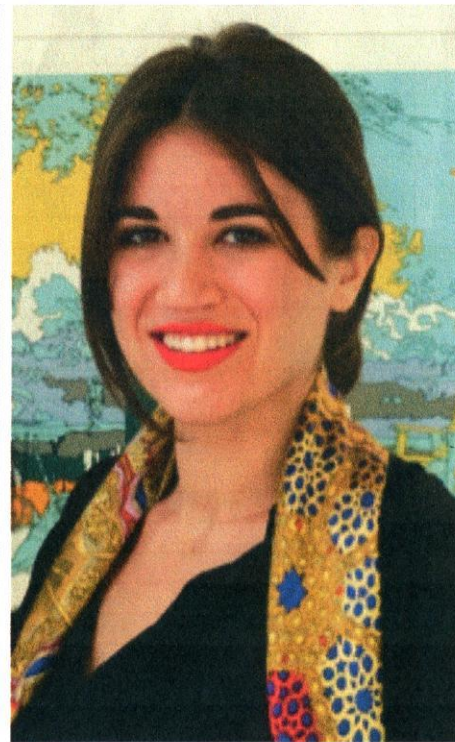
At GSPIA, Andrew is pursuing a Master of Public and International Affairs majoring in Human Security and plans to also pursue a minor in Disaster Management. Andrew is also interested in such areas as European Affairs, Latin American Affairs, Foreign Humanitarian Aid, Diplomacy, and International Law. Andrew also hopes to solidify his future career plans while here at GSPIA.

Allegra Agata Tartaglia

GSPIA Masters in International Development
Global Governance and Public Management

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Fun Facts: Allegra is currently working on becoming a K-12 certified History teacher and a Court Certified Interpreter for the State of Louisiana. While at Loyola she has tutored opera students in Italian diction and was part of the Loyola Ballet Corps de Ballets. Current hobbies include: drawing and painting, lyrical singing lessons, ballet classes at the Pittsburgh Ballet, and swimming.



Allegra Agata Tartaglia was born in New Orleans, LA. Her mother is a native New Orleanian and her father is a native Italian from Campobasso, Italy. Since she was nine months old, Allegra has resided in Naples, Rome, and Vicenza Italy. Her education began in the American Department of Defense Education Activity School System. She then attended the Italian Middle School, and two years of Italian High School, "Liceo Linguistico," focusing her studies in languages. She moved to the United States in 2009 to embark her college career. Allegra is a 2013 Loyola University New Orleans Graduate. She has a B.A. in History and minors in French and Medieval Studies. Allegra is bilingual in Italian and English, and proficient in Spanish and French. Her expertise in languages has led her to be an Italian Language instructor at the American Italian Cultural Center of New Orleans, the Italian Cultural Society of Washington D.C., and Casa Italiana Language School in Washington, DC. She loves community involvement and making a positive difference in society. While at Loyola she was President of the History Department, Vice President of the History Society chapter at Loyola, and active member of university groups such as: the Loyola Asian Society, Loyola Sailing Team, and the Recycling Club.

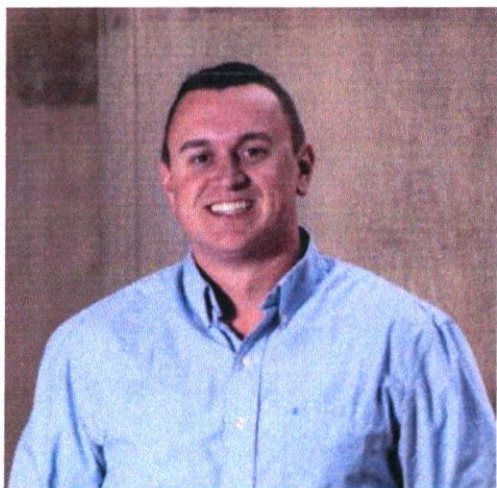
Wanting to pursue her lifetime goal in diplomacy Allegra moved to Washington, DC. She initially worked with the non-profit community, interning at the World Affairs Council of Washington, DC and seeking temporary employment with the US-Algerian Business Council of Washington, DC. She later pursued a career with the private sector working as a Project Specialist for LSM Architecture and Design Firm. Her two years at LSM led her to want to embed her creativity in project development. She was recently accepted at University of Pittsburgh to pursue a Masters in International Development. She hopes to combine her degree at UPitt with the University of Geneva International Organizations program and graduate from University of Pittsburgh with a Dual Degree in MID and IO-MBA in Spring 2019. Upon graduation, Allegra intends to take the Foreign Service Exam and hopefully embark in a career with the State Department as a Public Diplomacy Officer.



Blair Wegescheide graduated in May 2016 from the University of Pittsburgh. She completed a dual degree in Architecture and Urban Studies while also minoring in History. She is currently enrolled at GSPIA in the Master's of International Development program pursuing her interests of urban affairs and planning. In her undergraduate career, Blair acquired research hours and field studies in varying urban topics culminating in a completed Honor's Thesis and Capstone project. These domestic and international topics include researching the adaptive reuse of abandoned underground Tube stations in London, cultural and historic preservation in Kuala Lumpur, and the design process and construction of the new World Trade Center site and memorial in New York.

Along with research skills, Blair also has grant writing experience for Uptown Partners in Pittsburgh and has worked in several positions in both the public and private sectors. She served as a summer intern for the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning helping with land use and strategic planning. Her responsibilities included assisting senior planners with the developing EcoInnovation District and bus rapid transit implementation in Uptown, Pittsburgh. She recently completed a position as a project assistant with Tripp Umbach, a consulting firm in the Strip District of Pittsburgh that focuses on market research and feasibility studies for healthcare networks, hospitals, and universities.

Blair has a strong sense of commitment and time management from her background in balancing both collegiate athletics and academics. She is a school record holder in five events as a Division I student athlete for the University of Pittsburgh, completing four years on the Women's swim team and serving as a captain during her senior season. Blair continues this extracurricular balance as the Assistant Swim Coach at Chatham University. She is excited for the future and to be able to pursue her career goals after completing her master's, specifically working in urban planning and development for an institution such as the World Bank.



Alex Austin

MID Energy & Environment

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Alex Austin is an Air Force veteran, full-time single father and student at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs working towards a Master of International Development majoring in Energy and Environment. As an airman, Alex served as a lead maintainer for C-130 aircraft and was medically retired after being diagnosed and treated for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. After leaving the Air Force, Alex began studying full-time at the Community College of Allegheny County while working full-time as a FedEx courier. He then made the decision to resign from his position at FedEx and transfer to the University of Pittsburgh full-time for daytime classes where he graduated in April of 2016 earning a Bachelor of Science with a major in Natural Sciences and minor in Political Science.

As an undergrad, Alex held a one-year internship with the Allegheny County Democratic Committee where he was heavily involved in local politics and working within the community. This one-year internship led him to get involved with grassroots movements for college affordability, workers' rights, and the Bernie Sanders presidential campaign. Through his hard work on the ground he was invited to give the opening speech for the Bernie Sanders presidential rally in Pittsburgh at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in front of a crowd of nearly ten-thousand supporters. Alex was also selected to run as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and won his election to represent PA Congressional District 14 (Allegheny County) in Philadelphia. Alex is a founder of 'Bridges Not Walls', a local grassroots organization that grew out of the 2016 election cycle to help elect progressive local and state level candidates. During the Summer of 2016 Alex held a full-time government pathways internship with the Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in Pittsburgh where he assisted in locating abandoned mines using GIS and other mapping tools. Recently Alex was invited by 'Hillary for America' to speak on the topic of national security alongside Hillary Clinton's national security advisor, Laura Rosenberger, and remains an integral actor in the local political scene. At GSPIA, Alex plans to focus his studies on clean water rights and access to clean water in the Western Hemisphere with great interest in Latin America. He hopes to one day be employed by an NGO or government agency working toward new policy in access to water and conservation of water resources.

Alex currently resides in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh with his 12-year-old daughter, Caitlyn. He enjoys snowboarding in the winter and in the spring/summer mountain biking in Frick Park and along the Allegheny Passage as well as coaching inner-city girls' soccer for the Pittsburgh Dynamo. Alex also loves to travel, any trip out of the city is a good trip but a trip to a sunny beach is always the best.

Biography



Tammy L. Kammenzind
University of Pittsburgh, Department of Property Management
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Tammy is currently employed full time with the University of Pittsburgh as a Business Manager in the Department of Property Management. She has been in this position for the past six years. In her role, she prepares and monitors budgets and financial statements, handles human resource and payroll functions, serves as the IT liaison, and manages/mentors a staff of three full time employees, and a number of part time student employees. Prior to her employment at the University, she worked in the banking, corporate real estate/property management, and healthcare industries, for companies of all sizes.

She received her B.A. in Accounting from Robert Morris University in December of 2000, pursuing her degree while working full time as an Accountant for a mid-sized real estate firm. She is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in the MPPM program at the University of Pittsburgh, and anticipates graduation in Early 2018.

Tammy hopes that, after completing her studies in the MPPM program, she can use her newly acquired skills and education to propel her career within the University, or to perhaps pursue a new position within local government.

Tammy is a Pittsburgh native. In her leisure time, she enjoys hiking, traveling, and participating in outdoor activities. She is also a dog lover, and volunteers regularly with animal shelters (as disclosed in her profile picture, with one of her "clients"). Tammy has a passion for animals, she is known to dress up in an Easter Bunny costume to take pictures with pets as part of a shelter's annual fundraiser. She also fosters homeless animals in her home as needed.

Tammy is very excited about all there is to learn about Public Affairs, from both a national and global perspective, and is looking forward to forming strong associations with both her professors and classmates. She is eager to learn inside and outside of the classroom and feels compelled to look for solutions and innovative ways to tackle challenges.

Personal Bio



First things first, my name which tends to spark interest or at least raise an eyebrow is Mahao Mahao. This is a name which hails from a little known country of 2 million people called the Kingdom of Lesotho. It was given to me by my father: the name of our ancestor, a Chief who had been involved in the formation of Lesotho, from whom we also get our surname. I was however very nearly named Nelson. I was born in 1994 in Bloemfontein, South Africa, a year of great social change to a Mosotho father and a South African mother. My mother had wanted to name me for Nelson Mandela in celebration of his release from prison and the prospect of him becoming the first democratically elected President. She lost to my father and Mahao Mahao stuck.

Either way Chief Mahao and Mandela would come to influence me in the sense that I grew up in societies they had both helped shape: I grew up in both Lesotho and South Africa spending eleven years in each. Both are of course considered to be 'developing' countries and 'third world'. Whilst this might not have been my personal experience my parents made it a point that I be vividly aware of the socio-economic hardships experienced by the majority. My mother also being a Social Development lecturer- development issues have always been close to my heart.

It was this deep-rooted interest in development that led to me doing weekly volunteer work over three years for Siyaphila (We are Alive) a South African NGO that specializes in youth development. My tenure at Siyaphila afforded me the opportunity to establish a free tutoring program that links tertiary students with underprivileged kids in South African townships. It also solidified my belief in public service and my desire to pursue a Graduate degree in International Development.

My plan with this degree is to use it on a grand scale for all societies across the globe. After graduation I would like to pursue a career at the United Nations Development Program. I would also like to do consulting work in African countries in particular advising them on development policies. During this period my plan is to also employ my writing ability to document the stories of Africans and those living in the third world.

Brittany Cheeks
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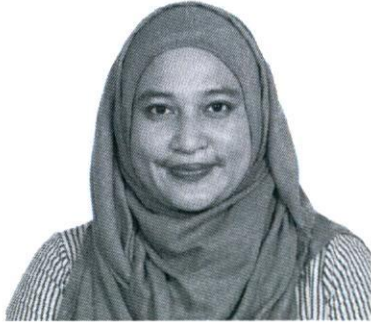
Brittany Cheeks was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received a bachelor's degree from the Pennsylvania State University with a major in Spanish and minor in International Studies. She had the opportunity to study in the Dominican Republic, which was her first international experience and ignited her desire to travel. While in the Dominican Republic, she experienced the earthquake that destroyed Haiti. Although she wanted to, Brittany was not able to cross the border at the time to offer assistance but she vowed to return. A year later, Brittany went to Haiti to offer humanitarian aid and returned once more after that. Upon returning home, she began a graduate program in Journalism at Point Park University. She completed one year and realized the program was not best for her. Instead of writing about humanitarian and developmental work, she wanted to facilitate the changes needed in many parts of the world.

Finally, she stumbled upon the joint program with the School of Social Work and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Brittany is in her final year of a dual masters in Social Work and International Development with a focus on Human Security.

Brittany finds fulfillment working with marginalized populations. She has done an extensive amount of volunteer work with a variety of local nonprofits including a refugee resettlement agency, women's shelter, food pantry, and a homeless shelter. She previously interned with The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh. She helped conduct a mentoring program for middle and high school students at two city schools in Pittsburgh. In addition, she was the Community Coordinator for the African American Achievement Trust, a mentoring program for the advancement of African American youth in schools and a Cluster Leader for the Black Female Leadership Development Institute, a program that empowers black females at The Urban League. This past summer she was in Uganda working with Bright Kids Uganda and Noah's Ark as an Occupation Transitional Coordinator, where she worked with high functioning disabled youth develop life skills and job preparedness. She currently interns at Jefferson Regional Foundation, a small grant foundation in the South Hills. She also works part-time for UPMC as a Patient Information Coordinator in the emergency rooms. During leisure time, Brittany thoroughly enjoys riding her motorcycle and enjoying a good meal with friends and family and traveling.

Her interests are health and education, women's rights, food accessibility, child soldiers and combat, and offender re-integration. Her geographical areas of interest are Northern Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. Upon graduation, Brittany will join the United States Air Forces as an officer and aims to pursue development work through public and civil affairs. She hopes to use her experience in the military as a catalyst to obtain a government job working for the US government on developmental endeavors. Eventually, she hopes to become a country director and utilize the skills

BIOGRAPHY



Alia Nur Dwirahmani is a graduate student of Master of International Development majoring NGO and Civil Society in Graduate School Public and International Affairs program at the University of Pittsburgh. She is a full scholarship awardee of Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education from Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia. She holds Bachelor of Political Science in International Relations from Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, Indonesia. After graduated in 2013, she worked in Human Resources & Recruitment Consultants specialized in Mining Industry named Verity HR as administration assistant (2014-2015). Her works involved mainly

in supervised company's social media activities as she became Coordinator of Social Media and managed client's job ads design.

She is originally from Indonesia. She was born and raised in Jakarta. She has traveled to several countries but this is her first experience to live abroad and come visit United States. Her work related to her interest in disaster management and foreign aid is presented in her undergraduate thesis, *Factors Behind the Success of World Vision in Penetrating the Foreign Aid Restriction in Case of Myanmar Cyclone Nargis*, written in Bahasa Indonesia. Her future career plan is to build career in INGO involved in disaster management which perhaps has program related to her home country.

Alia believes in her decision to step out from her comfort zone by moving to Pittsburgh would embrace the opportunities to get closer to her dream which become program specialist in humanitarian aid. She also interested in issues regarding children protection and education. In 2011-2012, she served as Chief of External Division of International Relation Student Association at Parahyangan Catholic University. Her successful programs include excursion study to China and South Korea and several embassies visit in Jakarta. She has only one bucket list in her life which is to travel the world. Her contact information is 4124995385 or alianurdwurahmani@gmail.com



Kayla Whitehouse
University of Pittsburgh – GSPIA
Masters in International Development

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Kayla grew up in Columbus, Ohio. She spent her undergraduate career as a Buckeye at the local Ohio State University, where she studied French. Her final semester was spent in Dijon, France participating in an intensive language acquisition program, from which she earned a C1 level certificate. This first opportunity abroad allowed her to travel within Europe, and to make far-reaching relationships with fellow international students. A hostel stay in Paris introduced her to another American that opened her eyes to the PCMI program.

Upon receiving a B.A. in French, Kayla went back to France to teach English through the TAPIF program. She was placed in the department of Maine-et-Loire, in the city of Saumur. There she worked as an English language assistant in three primary schools, collaborating with teachers to create sustainable lesson plans, and engaging students in learning about both language and Anglophone culture. The experience opened her eyes to the role of teachers in difficult neighborhoods with minimal parental involvement, unemployment, and a mentality of stagnation. Kayla also joined a local basketball team and gave private English lessons.

After returning to the US, Kayla spent the summer of 2016 in Chicago. She worked as an Educational Youth Outreach and Events intern for the large, international non-profit Hostelling International. There she assisted in engaging local youth, travellers, and local community members in a variety of events meant to promote cultural acceptance. Kayla also researched, wrote, and gave Haunted Chicago ghost tours that provided a historical overview of Chicago through an entertaining lens.

Kayla is now a graduate student in GSPIA at the University of Pittsburgh, where she studies international development. She intends to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer as part of the PCMI program after a year of study. She looks forward to using the knowledge gained from her Gender and Development class to help further the goals of the Let Girls Learn initiative, and to provide a gender-conscious lens from which to process the experience. Her career goal involves working for an international, education-based NGO.

In her spare time, Kayla enjoys cooking, making bad puns, exploring with her trusty hammock, and drinking copious amounts of tea.

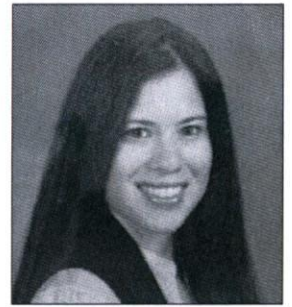
GINNA HERNANDEZ

Date of Birth: June 7, 1989

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I am a first year student in the Master of Public and International Affairs program majoring in International Political Economy. I was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I went to school in American University where I graduated in the fall of 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a concentration in International Politics. I studied abroad in Rabat, Morocco in the Mohammed V University as part of my language and area studies specialization. After graduating, I joined the Peace Corps where I served as an English Teacher in the Philippines. My secondary projects included doing outreach and facilitating HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness summer camps for young sex workers. I also started and coached a high school girls' volleyball team as part of the school's initiative to develop a sports program for girls.

After returning from the Philippines, I started working with the U.S. General Services as a Realty Specialist reviewing and identifying workplace solutions for federal agencies. My hobbies included kayaking, biking and running marathons. However, after a knee injury due to practicing Muy Thai I had to stop all physical activities. An interesting fact about me is that I have had dengue, chikunguya and most recently (right before orientation) zika.



Jiayi Zhang

2016 Fall Graduate Student

Master degree in Public Administration

Major in Policy Research and Analysis

E-mail: jane_zjy@yeah.net

Jiayi Zhang comes from Shanghai, China, where she earned the bachelor degree and majored in journalism. With great interest, she practiced writing news commentary in the four-year undergraduate degree studying topics including the Fudan University Poisoning Case, Chinese education system and the Chinese losing one-child family. She has extensive experience in interviewing and editing contents. In June 2015, she represented and worked together with Xinmin Evening News, where she used to work as an intern, on a news program entitled "Summer Hotlines Shanghai", reported the key residents' concerns and their difficulties to each district heads of Shanghai.

Jiayi has deeply involved in operating online official account for several organizations and brands. She believes that the fast spreading and wide influence feature of the online social account will become a new media power in the future. During the internship in Edelman consulting institute, she learned skills about following up with the society buzz topic and quick response to the public relationship crisis. She used to operate the social account and campaign for the clients including: San Pellegrino, BOSCH, Clariant and Bayer.

Jiayi is also an environmental protector. She keeps a close connection with the Roots & Shoots, which is established by Jane Goodall for placing power and resources for creating practical solution to big challenges of the environment problems. She works not only as a volunteer but also a core member of think tank of the R&S. She organized various volunteer activities and was responsible for the edition of internal publications. In April 2015, she went to Inner Mongolia sandy land for 2 weeks to support "Million Tree Project" in that region. She joined the research about local environmental issues and organized activities to promote environment protection methods and principles to local people and organization.

Jiayi is now pursuing a master degree in Public Administration in University of Pittsburgh to expand her academic knowledge and skills in better interpreting and understanding international and local affairs. To serve for a consulting institution and participate in the research, writing and publications about local communities' concerns, she wish to become a policy analyst in the future in the field about global communities' affairs.



Shai Washington

MPIA- Security and Intelligence Studies

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Shai Washington was born in Kansas City, Missouri and moved to Lenexa, Kansas when she was seven years old. In May of 2016 Shai graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and International Studies from Kansas State University. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public and International Affairs (with a major in Security and Intelligence Studies) at the University of Pittsburgh. Her interest in international affairs was sparked when she spent her summer after graduating high school studying Arabic in Morocco. During that time Shai had positive experiences interacting with US State Department officials, and discovered that she enjoyed learning about other cultures. She realized that she wanted to become a Foreign Service Officer, and spent her undergraduate career taking classes and participating in activities that would help prepare her for the Foreign Service. She participated in numerous campus organizations and attended a policy program at Princeton University to develop her leadership and communication skills. Shai was selected as an Undergraduate Pickering Fellow during her junior year, and will continue on into the Foreign Service after graduation. She plans to use her time at GSPIA to learn as much as she can from her professors and her classmates so that she can represent the US in a positive and effective manner. In her free time, Shai likes to discover new music and try out different restaurants.



My name is Liao Ying. Actually, you can call me Emma as well. I come from Chengdu, China, which is the hometown of Panda. At the Panda Basement in Chengdu, you could be a panda nanny if you volunteer.

I started my undergraduate school since 2011, with a major in accounting. During my undergraduate school life, I attended an on-campus association called Weibo Association. The association was co-managed by Sine Chengdu Division Company and the Communist Youth League in Chengdu, China. As an association president as well as a campus presentative, I managed the login information and account application for Weibo, China' s the most popular and the largest social application. I organized campus charity activities, like clothes donations, and participated in the Green Plant Adoption Program for Chengdu universities from 2012 to 2014.

Now I am a MPA student with a major in Policy Research and Analysis. Actually, according to the change of major, I am not sure about that what my goals are. While, taking courses at GSPIA, at least for me, is a conductive approach to find a proper answer.

As for my own, I love tattoo and yoga. I began to practice yoga as well as swing yoga one year ago.

Here is my email: yil165@pitt.edu

Mallory Womble



Mallory Womble is second-year graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of International and Public Affairs, where she is a Master of International Development candidate majoring in Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in international program and project management for organizations that address education and gender equity issues.

Mallory received a Graduate Certificate in International Affairs from American University's School of International Service in 2013. She is a proud alumna of Wofford College and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Government with a World Politics Concentration in 2011. Throughout her academic career, Mallory interned at the U.S Department of State's Office of Southern African Affairs, the World Affairs Council in DC, and the Putney Labour Party (UK).

Mallory was part of the 2015 class of Public Allies Pittsburgh, an AmeriCorps program, completing over 1700 hours of service. Through Public Allies, she served as the Teen Coordinator for the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh, managing their STEM Impact and TechGYRLS programs.

A passionate proponent of female mentorship, Mallory has served as the Alumna Advisor for the Carnegie Mellon University chapter of Delta Delta Delta since 2014 and is currently the Vice President of Programming for the Pittsburgh South Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Tri Delta.

She is also heavily involved in community development efforts in Millvale, PA, serving on the Board of Directors for the Millvale Community Library and acting as the Chair of their Marketing Committee. She also serves on the Millvale EcoDistrict Leadership Team, and recently represented Millvale in the Neighborhood Allies Inaugural Community Leadership Forum, a collaborative initiative that brought together local leaders from six target communities in the Pittsburgh area to ignite grassroots community development. In August 2016, the Forum awarded nearly \$32k to 20 resident-led projects through the inaugural *Love My Neighbor!* grant.

Currently, Mallory works as the Assistant to the Co-Directors for Conflict Kitchen, a community-based art project that seeks to educate the Pittsburgh community about the art, culture, and food of nations with which the United States is currently in conflict. She will also begin a research and policy internship with the Millvale Borough in September 2016, where she will be researching property blight, conducting a community needs assessment, and addressing other policy issues currently affecting the Borough.

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Kara Gronborg, MPIA SIS

Email—klg107@pitt.edu

I recently graduate from Saint Francis University with a double major in Political Science and International Studies, and minors in history, religious studies, and social justice and peacemaking.

While at Saint Francis I interned at Senator Robert P. Casey's (PA-D) Pittsburgh office and Congressman Keith Rothfus (PA-R) Johnstown office. Through these internships I gained extensive knowledge of government agencies, especially the DVA, SS, SS-D, DOE, IRS, DOD, and Immigration. During my time at these offices, I have been able to help many Americans and immigrants become more familiar with government practices and

policies that affect their everyday lives, as well as help them to solve the problem that they are running into with that particular agency.

In the next year I hope to also pursue a Master in Business Administration degree. After finishing school I hope to be working for the Department of Defense, Defense Intelligence Agency working to find more humane ways to interact with combatants on the battle field while reducing the number of civilian deaths and keeping the cost of conflict down. I am also very interested in Veterans affairs and hope to one day help to reform the current Military and VA stigmas and policies towards mental health problems that soldiers face, particularly with PTSD in returning soldiers.

I am a very outdoorsy person, I love to kayak, hike, and camp. Winter is my favorite season because I learned how to ski when I was two years old and it has been my favorite hobby since then, if I could ski every day I would. I love to read; I basically have my own library at home. My favorite genre is historical fiction between the 16th-19th centuries.

Personal Bio of Huiru Kang (English name : Ruth)

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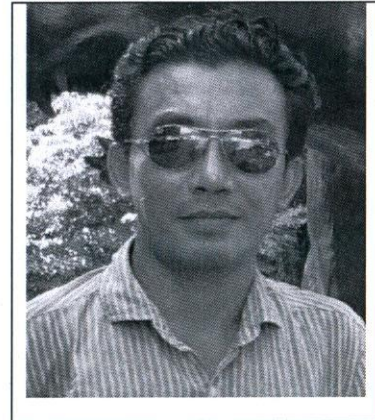
Ruth Kang is a freelance translator and a mom of a six-year-old boy. She has been in financial information service industry for about 10 years and has won no award but neck arthritis and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Her undergraduate major was English, but she has been recommended to take extra classes to learn how to write well in English. Her career goal after graduation from MPA program is to be a specialist in sustainable agriculture, as the possible field work would not keep her glued to the computer screen. In her spare time, she enjoys jogging in Schenley Park, and shopping at Chinese supermarkets just for Chinese flavor snacks. You can reach her at kanghuiru@yahoo.com or on Twitter at [@aloe_aloe](https://twitter.com/aloe_aloe).

Kyi Tha Tun

MPIA(First Year)

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When Kyi Tha Tun started university education in Yangon in 1996 at the Yangon Institute of Technology, the country, Myanmar, was still under a military dictatorship. Early on after joining university, he became interested in democracy and human rights and got involved in underground student activities.

With a group of colleagues he was arrested in 1998 and sentenced to 24 years for organizing a peaceful demonstration, calling for the release of political prisoners and recognizing the 1990 election results. Just after release from prison, he worked as a program coordinator with a local NGO, Educational Initiatives, giving basic training on political science to political party members.

A former political prisoner from 1998 to 2012, Kyi Tha Tun will pursue a master's degree in international political economy at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with the support of a Fulbright Scholarship. He achieved a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Yangon, Myanmar. His career goal is to become a prominent policy adviser in his country, giving policy recommendations to government leaders and political parties. Having spent 14 years in prison for a pro-democracy movement, he is determined to continue his education in the US. In his opinion, the University of Pittsburgh is the best place to study international political economy because it is one of the ten founding members of the ASPIA and ranked 16 top U.S. master's programs for international relations by Foreign Policy Magazine in 2015. There are two parallel transitions happening in his country: political transition and economic transition. Living under a brutal military dictatorship and in a closed society, many politicians are obsessed only with political issues. They assume that if they can change the old regime, it will be automatically on the road to democracy. What they do not understand is that members of former regime have striped significant economic assets and are using current transition period to concentrate in their hands even more economic powers and advantages. As in other hybrid (electoral authoritarian) countries such as Russia, Ukraine and Cambodia, these old guards will use their richness to win future elections, this time, with legitimacy. So he needs to open the politicians' eyes to this unseen danger of political ignorance.

With the degree in international political economy, he thinks he can work as a economic analyst and policy maker for his political party(his friends will form a political party in 2017).He can also continue further studies in economics, political science, or a variety of other fields. At the courses, he will learn more about how the world works and about the impact of international trade, the effect government policies have on the economy and employment, both good and bad. Moreover, the courses should not tell him what to think, rather it should give him tools about how to think more clearly and realize the assumptions he may be making.



Ryan Stannard

Master of International Development

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Born in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1985, Ryan Stannard completed high school in Lafayette, CA at the Bentley Upper School. He then went on to graduate from the University of California, Irvine with a BA in Sociology and minors in both Political Science and Business Management in 2007.

During his time at Irvine, Ryan studied abroad twice. The first experience took him to London, UK in 2005 through an exchange program through the University of California. Before graduating in 2007, he completed his final undergraduate semester at Meiji Gakuin University (明治学院大学) in Yokohama, Japan.

Following graduation Ryan, in 2008, returned to Japan to work as an English teacher. He worked for two years at a private language academy in Chiba Prefecture before moving to the Tokyo capital area in 2010. There he worked as a foreign language instructor in multiple primary schools in the Shinagawa district, and taught business English classes for major companies as well.

In 2014, Ryan moved to Thailand to be a Peace Corps Volunteer. There he worked as a Teacher Collaboration and Community Service volunteer in the community of Ban Na Doem, Surat Thani in the southern region of Thailand. At Ban Nong Ya Plong School he was responsible for working with his counterparts to develop new strategies for student centered learning in the classroom. Additionally, Ryan was able to teach mid-level or lower skilled students the values of self-worth, personal responsibility, and the ability to take pride in their own achievements. As a secondary project, Ryan focused on road safety amongst his students and helped implement new 'helmet rules' for students who rode on motorcycles to school. He completed his Peace Corps service on 16 March 2016.

After his Peace Corps service Ryan traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Northern Europe before moving to Taiwan ROC to study Mandarin at National Chung Hsing University (中興大學) in Taichung.

In August 2016 Ryan returned to the United States in order to enroll at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) where he is a first year Master of International Development candidate.

In his free time, Ryan enjoys traveling abroad, reading about foreign policy and political affairs, long journeys via planes trains and automobiles, and staying close to his parents and sister in California.

Chaim Strassman
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Following graduation from High School, Chaim spent two years in Israel studying in Yeshivat Netiv Aryeh at the Western Wall. Having the chance to take a gap year before starting college was very formative for Chaim. It was an opportunity to truly be independent and mature into an adult; having the chance to learn the Bible and Talmud in depth were particularly impactful. Chaim subsequently attended Yeshiva University (YU) where he was challenged daily with dual Judaic and Secular curriculums. Chaim graduated with a BA in Psychology in 2013 and an award for Excellence in Talmud Study. After graduating college Chaim began pursuing Rabbinic Ordination through YU. More importantly, Chaim was also blessed to marry the most gorgeous girl in the world, Lindsey Horvitz. Chaim completed his final year of ordination at Yeshiva Universities Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 2015.

In the both the summer of 2014 and 2015, Chaim directed an outreach program for teenagers in Israel. Over 100 teenagers have gone to Israel with Chaim and had the opportunity to explore their Judaism and connect to the Holy Land. He plans to direct the trip again next year. In 2015 Chaim also served as the Rabbinic Fellow for the Orthodox Unions Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (OUJLIC) in partnership with the Queens College Hillel. Chaim is now pursuing an MPA so he can continue his work in Jewish Outreach while being prepared for the business end of working with nonprofit organizations. Having worked with nonprofit organizations in the past, and with his current plans to continue working with them, Chaim is clearly dedicated to this career path.





Joel D. Garceau III

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Joel Douglas Garceau III is a current first year graduate student at University of Pittsburgh studying for his Master's in International Development majoring in Nongovernmental Organizations and Civil Society. His future career plans focus around increasing access to quality education and educational resources and practical job training in the developing world.

Born in California in 1988, Joel Garceau completed high school in Folsom where he was captain of the varsity swim team. He attended university at University of California Santa Barbara where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations and a minor in Global Peace and Security.

Following graduation from UCSB, Joel Garceau traveled to Sichuan, China in 2010 to serve as a US Peace Corps Volunteer. While in China, he taught English at the Sichuan College of Architectural Technology in Deyang, Sichuan. He served as a college teacher from 2010 until 2012. During his time at SCAT, Joel Garceau was awarded the 2011 "Best Foreign Teacher" award for Sichuan Province because of his work on increasing student centered teaching approaches and help in developing his students' creativity and critical thinking skills. Additionally, Joel Garceau helped with the creation of an English Resource Center where students could further their studies individually.

After Close of Service and returning to America, Joel Garceau re-applied to serve with the US Peace Corps eventually being assigned to work as a Teaching Collaboration and Community Service volunteer in the Kingdom of Thailand. He served in Tha Mai, Chanthaburi from 2013 to 2015. During his time in Tha Mai, he co-taught at Anuban Ban Nong Khla School and helped run the Primary English Education Room for the Tha Mai school district. He worked as an English teacher in addition to serving as a teacher trainer. He designed and taught training seminars for district teachers and school administrators focusing on student centered teaching techniques and materials creation. Additionally, he helped create a comprehensive English curriculum and materials for the use in the Tha Mai Area 1 school district.

Following his Peace Corps service Joel Garceau taught privately for an additional year and a half in Thailand and Taiwan before returning to America in 2016 to pursue his Master's degree at University of Pittsburgh as a Coverdell Fellow.

Joel Garceau enjoys running, cooking, and swimming in his free time and is currently training for a his third marathon and first triathlon.

Elliot Louisos

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Elliot Louisos is a native of Buffalo, NY and an avid Buffalo Bills and Sabres Fan. In his free time, he enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, board games and reading a variety of Christian apologetic material.

In Buffalo, Elliot attended Canisius College. He received a BA in Political Science, International Relations and History and graduated summa cum laude. While at Canisius, Elliot participated in a variety of clubs including the History Club, Model UN and EuroSim. With EuroSim, an intercollegiate simulation of the European Union held in Europe and the US in alternating years, he traveled to Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands to participate in conferences on a variety of EU related security and economic topics. He was also selected as a delegate to participate at the U.S. Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) in Annapolis, Maryland. NAFAC invited students from all over the world and renowned speakers like Kurt Campbell to discuss the conference theme: "Sustainability and Sovereignty - Global Security in a Resource-Strained World." Elliot participated in round table discussions on China's Territorial Disputes in the East and South China Seas.

Through internship experiences in Buffalo working for U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and for CUBRC, a leading Research, Development, Testing and Systems Integration company, Elliot became exposed to the intelligence and analysis world. In particular, he enjoyed conducting open-source research on China's military rise and territorial disputes in the South China Sea. He has written extensively on China's resource scarcity and territorial disputes, and wrote his senior honors thesis on *China's National Interests in the South China Sea* that examined historical Chinese interests in the South China Sea.

Elliot is now attending the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). There he plans on receiving his Master's in Public and International Affairs majoring in Security and Intelligence Studies. With his degree, experiences and connections at GSPIA, Elliot hopes to pursue a career in the U.S. intelligence community working as an analyst. He also hopes to participate in the policy making process later in his career.





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Katie Schwalen is a first year MPIA student with a major in Security and Intelligence Studies. She hails from a small town in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Currituck County. She attended Currituck County High School from 2008-2012, where she was a stand-out soccer player and track athlete. Her senior year she was recruited to play soccer at Randolph-Macon College, a small liberal arts college in Ashland, Virginia just north of the state capital Richmond. At R-MC, Katie was able to continue to play soccer on the varsity team and pursue her interests in global politics by becoming an international studies major.

She seized the opportunity to study abroad during her junior year and left for St. Petersburg, Russia for four months during the spring of 2015. While in Russia, Katie was able to explore different course offerings in Soviet history, Russian politics and culture and work towards honing her Russian language skills. Her experience allowed her to further solidify her aspirations to work in foreign politics with a particular focus on Russian-US relations and foreign policy.

When she returned from Russia, Katie left two weeks later for New York City to complete an internship with a non-profit organization called Scholars at Risk. SAR works to promote by helping endangered scholars worldwide by getting them safely out of conflict areas and placing them in teaching or research positions at universities within the SAR network so they can continue their work in a safe environment. Katie was a protection services intern, which required her to review scholar applications and work directly with scholars to help them complete and strengthen their applications for official review by her and the rest of the protection team at SAR. She was also able to represent SAR at the United Nations Human Rights Council Elections that summer.

Katie is determined to make the most of her time here in GSPIA by joining a working group through the Ridgway Center to improve her research skills, completing a certificate in Russian Studies, taking part in the Summer Language Institute for Russian to help improve her proficiency in the language. She chose the University of Pittsburgh because it offered so many options for students to make the most of their time in graduate school.

After graduating with her MPIA, Katie hopes to pursue a career in the intelligence community as an analyst with specialization in Russian affairs or with the State Department to advise on foreign policy.