

FUNDING FOR PRE-PROFESSIONAL SUMMER EXPERIENCES 2017
STUDENTS' SUMMARIES

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Class of '66 Internship Fund

Cassandra Brown, 2017

Africana Studies

Beyond Organic Design – Queens, NY

Beyond Organic Design is a sustainability education nonprofit that brings gardening, permaculture, and STEM learning programs to public schools and communities. During the summer, they run a 7-week camp for 3rd to 5th graders at a school in Queens. As a teacher's assistant, she learned how to develop and implement curriculum using nature as a way to enhance children's observational, relational, and systems-level thinking skills. Cassandra also developed classroom management skills, conflict resolution skills, and planning and coordination skills.

Pang Fei Chiang, 2019

Studio Art and Environmental Studies

Zenith Richards Studio – New York, NY

He helped set up studio for photoshoots, assist the photographer on set, clean and organize studio equipment, scan film negatives, and learn how to use digital editing software. The experience taught him a lot about commercial photography, something that he would not have the opportunity to learn in college. Pang also learned to identify studio equipment and lighting necessary to produce a creative editorial shot, and got first-hand experience and understanding of what goes on behind a commercial photography assignment.

Jesus Martinez, 2019

Economics and Math

Notre Dame University--Mendoza College of Business – South Bend, Indiana

It is widely known, with their words and actions, that charismatic leaders are thought to influence others around them and challenge the status quo. For Chief Executive Officers, CEOs, this characteristic becomes essential when strategizing the growth and success of their company. But how can other factors such as political leanings, religious beliefs, marital status, and geographical location impact their strategies to move forward with their businesses? This summer, Jesus worked as a Research Intern with a professor of business administration, Mike Mannor, to analyze how various traits in CEOs influence their management and best practice strategies. His main work revolved around producing short biographical profiles of their lives, mapping out the trajectories and life experiences that led them to their position. In a team, Jesus took the biographical profiles and turned them into quantitative data to find trends and

correlations between a CEO's personality and the success--and failures--of the company for which they work. The team submitted their research for publication at the end of this summer.

Zachary Moo Young, 2017

Psychology

Cincinnati Lakers – Cincinnati, OH

Zachary is interested in working in basketball, so he explored this by shadowing coaches and helping them with their teams, attending coaching clinics including the Coaching U Live clinic in Orlando, and also the TPG Pro Scout School in conjunction with the NBA Las Vegas Summer League.

Kiela Nelson, 2018

Africana Studies and Theatre

The Dakar Institute – Dakar, Senegal

Kiela describes this as an amazing opportunity to study abroad in Dakar, Senegal for 6 weeks. From the end of June until the beginning of August she took two classes at the Dakar Institute of African Studies: Intermediate French and Islam and Society in Africa. Monday through Wednesday from 8AM until noon she went to the West African Research Center in Dakar where the Dakar Institute holds its classes. Thursday was the day for activities and workshops. Some of the workshops included graffiti, painting, and Senegalese dance and drum, which took place on the beach. Friday and Saturday were the days for field trips, some of which included the house of Senghor, the first President of Senegal. Goree island, Saint-Louis, which is the capital of Senegal, and the recording studio of two famous Hip Hop artists from Senegal, who are together named Daara J Family. Her favorite parts of the trip were being able to record music with musicians from Senegal, dancing and drumming with extremely talented artists, going to various beaches, and learning the history of Senegal from readings and discussions in the classroom as well as from all of the trips in which they went. She plans to make an income being a traveling performing artist and entrepreneur after graduation, so the connections she made in her time abroad are the beginning of an international career!

Javier Otor, 2018

Violin Performance

Asociación Nacional de Conciertos and Universidad de Panama – Panama City, Panama

Javier and two other colleagues from Oberlin College (Kimberly Bill and Jacob Efthimiou) put together a chamber music intensive where they coached four string quartets and taught the members of the quartets private lessons. In addition, with the help of the national cultural association for the arts of Panama, they were able to go to Agua Dulce, a small town near the capital where they had the opportunity to teach group lessons to impoverished students for free.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Class of '67 Internship Fund

Sammie Jo Concilio, 2019

Comparative American Studies and Visual Art
Representing NYC – New York, NY

She captured media (photos, videos, and interviews) of Representing NYC's daily musical programs and maintaining their social media. Sammie Jo worked closely with Zulu P, a hip-hop group of developmentally disabled adults, she booked shows for them and developed their social media presence. She also facilitated a collaboration between musical groups represented by RNYC with local clothing line AINT WET. In addition, Sammie Jo performed booking and promoted a concert in August of Representing NYC musicians. As someone who hopes to work in the music industry one day but still maintain a strong sense of community engagement, this internship was an amazing experience. She learned that it is possible to work in a mainstream corporate industry but stay grounded in nonprofit work. She got to explore various aspects of her interests by designing flyers and promotional materials, being involved with business deals, and working with the disabled on a daily basis.

Courtney Kozdron, 2020

Neuroscience
Health South Rehabilitation Hospital – Sewickley, PA

Courtney rotated through the daily inpatient therapy sessions (physical, occupational and speech) and also attended in-services, transported patients to and from the nursing unit, prepared schedules and filed documents. She also became recertified in CPR. Courtney is on a pre-med track and is very interested in pursuing orthopedic surgery. This internship provided her with a greater understanding of all that is involved in the recovery processes following surgical procedures, along with treatments for those who have suffered from strokes, traumatic brain injuries or other debilitating illnesses. Transporting patients between the therapy and nursing units provided her additional experience with patient safety and confidentiality practices, and gave her a great deal of one-on-one interaction with the patients and with the clinical staff.

Creativity & Leadership Internship Stipend

Daniel Marku, 2019

Biochemistry
Room 17 Recording Studio – Brooklyn, NY

His daily work consisted of setting up and breaking down studio gear (such as microphones, amplifiers, and the recording console), servicing guitars and other equipment, and generally assisting house and guest engineers to make sure recording sessions run smoothly. In addition, he was involved in some special projects, including organizing concerts in the space and

updating the studio's web presence. Over the course of the experience, the owner and in-house engineer/producer, was really helpful, showing Daniel the tricks he uses and helping him become comfortable using some of the more advanced gear. Daniel is now able to set up and run the entire rig without instruction, and even managed a session as an assistant to an outside producer on his own. By the end of the summer, he was able to run his own recording sessions in the space as a producer, and finished a session that he produced himself.

Casey Redcay, 2019

Creative Writing

BenBella Books – Dallas, TX

Casey worked as a publishing intern at BenBella Books, an independent publisher founded by Glenn Yeffeth (OC '83). She had the opportunity to work with BenBella's excellent editorial team, learning from their expertise and developing her own skills as an editor. She also worked closely with BenBella's marketing team, learning the practices that have led to their success (with 14 New York Times Bestsellers), and making her own contributions with various research projects. The experience had an enormous impact on Casey's career goals, and she now feels that publishing would be a great career option for her. Oberlin's Creative Writing department sparked a passion in her for writing and helping other's writing achieve its full potential--this internship has helped her channel those passions in a new way. She is excited to bring new skills back to Oberlin to continue her work with student publications.

Sean Sheely, 2019

Math and Physics

Sperry Product Innovation – Bedford, MA

Sean worked closely with all of the engineers at the company helping them with small tasks, R&D, and even production. Every day was a bit different, but he did his best to act as a sponge and soak everything up! The experience was eye opening in several ways. First, he needs the environmental part of engineering in order to have his full interest. Second, he really should take an engineering course before graduating to Grad school is definitely something Sean wants to do. Engineering seems to indeed be the path for Sean!

Godlove Rubin Family Public Interest Internship Fund

Samir Husain, 2018

History

Stimson Center – Washington, D.C.

Samir managed social media accounts and promoted various publications from the Stimson Center's South Asia Program, creating infographics and brochures, as well as doing research on nuclear missile technology in South Asia. Aside from this, he was asked to analyze information from social media and plan out ways to better reach target audiences.

Elie Small, 2019

Politics and Economics

Office of Congressman Jack Bergman – Washington, D.C.

In addition to different intern duties, Elie attended briefings on natural resources, veterans' affairs, and economic policy and wrote summary memos for staff. He also drafted a one minute speech for the Congressman on Flag Day, authored constituent correspondence, and prepared staff with memos for legislative meetings. Additionally, Elie wrote a report for staff on the implications of rescheduling marijuana in terms of medical research accessibility as well as small business tax code navigation.

Harvey Gittler Internship Fund in Civil Liberties

Siena Marcell, 2019

History

The Federalist Society – Washington, D.C.

Siena served as a research assistant and mainly worked on reading and interpreting Supreme Court cases. She submitted reports on these as well as performed background research on possible speakers for events and teleforums. Working for the Federalist Society confirmed her desire to go to law school. She wants to study Constitutional law and hope to one day clerk for the Supreme Court. After that, Siena would like to become a professor of Legal History.

International Summer Fellows 2016

Thanisa Durongkaveroj, 2018

Visual Arts and Piano Performance

Ban Phot Community School - Phetchabun, Phitsanulok, Songkhla, Bangkok – Thailand

Throughout the month of June, she led a group of three Oberlin students and one Thai student to film their engagement with different educational institutions in Thailand to exchange languages, art, and music. The trip was a significant learning experience for all individuals involved. Thanisa learned to manage a multicultural team as well as ensuring safety and comfort. Her colleagues from Oberlin were extensively immersed to a whole new community and adjusted well to it despite the language barrier. Her Thai colleague got to know the U.S. better through friendship with their colleagues from the U.S. without having visited the country. They developed friendship and a strong professional network which will be everlasting

Jingyi Li, 2018

East Asian Studies and Cinema Studies

Vice Mexico Media – Mexico City, Mexico

Jingyi worked in the Production Department of VICE MEXICO MEDIA. Normally her work consisted of editing trailers, assisting production by preparing enough forms and sorting

information, and sometimes she also worked as a cinematography in a documentary shooting set or going out with a news reporter to take pictures for the VICE news articles. Inside the office, Jingyi normally worked closely with one of the producers and received approval from him for her editing. When she went out to take pictures, and worked closely with a professional photography and learned a lot from him.

Olufolajimi Odekunle, 2018

African Studies and Cinema Studies
The Dakar Institute – Dakar, Senegal

He received his first project for the film school when he was told to write a short film, as a way to share his cinema experience with peers at the institute. The most enlightening experience was his decision to begin learning French instead of Wolof, and the philosophical discussions that have happened in the course of that class. The teacher was a very interesting person with a lot of life experience.

Danielle Pruitt, 2019

Africana Studies and Jazz Performance
The Dakar Institute – Dakar, Senegal

During her time at the Institute she took classes three days a week. The first class was an introductory Wolof class which is one of the official languages of Dakar. She also took Islam and Society in Africa where they explored the ways in which Islam made its way into various regions in Africa and how it has evolved since coming to the continent as well as the ways it has shaped culture in some places like Senegal. She also went to various workshops that included dancing and drumming classes and was also able to partake in a workshop with a well-known hip hop group in Senegal, Daara J Family, and later she along with two other Obies, Kiela Nelson and Olufolajimi Odekunle; they were able to go to a studio and work with them on some songs. In addition, she was a part of a group that created a video that showed snippets of their time in Senegal. On weekends, she went on trips to other cities in Senegal such as St. Louis (the original capital of Senegal), Petite Cote as well as important places and landmarks in Dakar such as Goree Island.

Tian Yoon Teh, 2018

Independent Major in Interdisciplinary Composition (Dance and Music)
Body Mind Wellness Space Station, Malaysia – Cheras, KL, Malaysia; Yukai, Tainan, Taiwan

Through this experience she gained clarity on who looks for wellness services, what are they looking for and how do providers position their services to provide their wellness product sustainably. Tian was able to observe a thriving wellness industry in Taiwan. This brings exposure that helped her gain clarity on where her skills can be offered for exchange and whom are the audiences. She also visited Germany to observe how services adapt to cater to a local audience.

Susan Phillips Social Justice Interns

Akheel Appadoo, 2019

Economics and Environmental Studies
LaVwa - Mahebourg, Mauritius

One of Akheel's major tasks this summer was to help LaVwa in its organizational planning. With his experience from past service sites, both in Mauritius and Oberlin, he was able to guide and better coordinate the work of LaVwa's volunteers. They succeeded in drafting different schedules for various aspects of the work done in the center. Besides, he worked on enhancing the relationship with the local community in an attempt to make more community members active in the day to day running of the project. This turned out to be successful as they managed to convince three community members to be actively involved in the project. Besides this, Akheel started the process of finding grants and funding for the project, as it was the only way to make the project a sustainable one.

Bilkapa Baniya, 2019

Economics and Mathematics
Maya Universe Academy – Nepal

Bilkapa was a teacher and volunteer coordinator. Through this experience Bilkapa was able to strengthen his goals of pursuing a career to improve education in Nepal. The mission of the Academy is to encourage social responsibility and creative-mindedness while educating and inspiring students and their families to achieve greater independence and transform their lives.

Benjamin Biffis, 2017

Politics
Hayward Hall of Justice-Alameda County Self-Help Center – Hayward, CA

Benjamin worked alongside staff members to assist 100-140 self-represented litigants daily who are seeking to navigate the Justice System on their own, providing litigants with the appropriate documents, assisting them in filing the applicable documents correctly, and helping them get the necessary forms filed and served appropriately. Areas of focus include Family Law matters (e.g. divorce, child support, child custody and visitation, emergency restraining orders and other emergency orders, and domestic violence restraining orders), and several Civil Law matters (unlawful detainers, small claims, civil harassment restraining orders, and civil name changes). The experience strengthened his resolve and provided further confirmation that a career in law is the right direction to follow.

Caela Brodigan, 2017

Comparative American Studies
People Helping People in the Border Lands – Arivaca, AZ

People Helping People (PHP) works to end border militarization by providing a community social justice hub and resource center. It has become a model, instructing other towns along the border on best practices to provide humanitarian aid, community support, and organize against checkpoints. Working with PHP, Caela provide humanitarian aid in the desert, perform medical examines and offer medical care for people crossing, and support residents who are giving life-saving aid. Caela was part of PHP's effort to help establish an immigration shelter in Sasabe, Mexico. Additionally, she monitored the checkpoint to collect data on racial profiling, help PHP build border coalitions, and work with organizers in the larger Tucson area.

Mavis Corrigan, 2017

Comparative American Studies

Strategic Actions for a Just Economy – Los Angeles, CA

Mavis was a research intern with Strategic Actions for a Just Economy supporting research efforts. Some of the projects that she worked on have been in conjunction with the NOlympics coalition, which opposes hosting the Olympic games in Los Angeles in 2024, understanding the Olympics as exacerbating displacement and heightening criminalization, particularly in poor communities. She also supported campaign efforts for city government to incorporate the community-drafted People's Plan as a part of the South and Southeast LA Community Plans, that determine land-use and zoning in the area for the next few decades. Mavis got to explore her role in organizing efforts related to economic justice and anti-poverty work, particularly as related to housing.

Brianne Cotter, 2020

Undecided

Breakthrough New York – New York, NY

Breakthrough New York is an organization that offers educational and professional support to low income middle school students, following those students through college. After weeks of training from teachers and professionals, she worked with rising 8th graders as a Physics teacher (and teaching a cooking elective!). Each day Brianne planned lessons, taught three class periods, served as an advisor, and led the students in a variety of activities. This fellowship is unique in that she was surrounded by fellow college aged, motivated students who are interested in education. Breakthrough intentionally uses a student-teaching-students model and the organization provides significant training from full time teachers. Her Instructional Coach helped Brianne throughout the lesson planning and training process, providing support for her own teaching and even sharing his experience working in the various school systems of New York.

Lujza Demuthova, 2018

Sociology

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Slovakia – Bratislava, Slovakia

As a Social Impact Intern, Lujza primarily focused on the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) program expansion to marginal regions outside of the capital. She attended meetings and presentations where Lujza worked with students, teachers, and directors on how to best implement DofE at their school, in their particular circumstances. Apart from that she also supported the national office in event organizing, research, and developing tools for long-term learning. In the future, she would like to work in the NGO sector. As a volunteer Lujza gained a lot of experience in a wide array of organizations, despite not having any organizational experience. This particular internship has provided her with an insight into the world of the third sector in Slovakia and helped her discover more reasons for why she should eventually return to live and work there.

Kameron Dunbar, 2019

Politics

U.S. House of Representative (MI-14) Rep. Brenda Lawrence – Detroit, MI

In his typical day-to-day work, Kameron was the first person someone spoke to when they tap into their federal government via a Congressional Representative. When he was not helping constituents get in contact with a specific issue area staffer, Kameron recorded expressions of concerns, connecting them with resources, and supporting in the office in whatever ways were necessary. The best part of his job is that he was working for his own district, which allowed Kameron to connect with his community in very sustainable and intentional ways.

Cody Edgerly, 2018

Politics

Alliance for Global Justice – Tucson, AZ

Cody spent a lot of time setting up all the logistics for a delegation to Colombia for the purpose of international monitoring of the peace accords. The other part of his job was to keep up with events as they unfolded in Colombia in order to publish articles on the subject. This work involved interviewing people working on the ground in Colombia, and maintaining contact with our sister organizations there. Through this work, he got one of his pieces published in Telesur. <https://www.telesurtv.net/english/opinion/International-Demonstrations-Demand-Release-of-Colombian-Political-Prisoners-20170714-0013.html>.

Zurisaday Gutierrez-Avila, 2018

Psychology and Sociology

Alliance for Children's Rights – Los Angeles, CA

A typical day for Zurisaday involved heading to her desk where she performs intake or works on cases. Intake is a four-hour activity where she made calls to potential clients or took live calls. As a bilingual speaker, she conducted the calls that are in Spanish first before she continued to English. The calls may be attorney referrals or people who have expressed interest in the services. During intake, there is a screening process, where she took down information from callers and wrote down the issues they may be facing. Afterward, she consulted the supervising

attorney, who then provided instructions. At times, the Alliance for Children's Rights cannot assist. Instead, they provide referrals and or advice. When there is a potential for assistance, they continue another questionnaire. Another aspect about intake is preparing the case summary and related materials and sending it to the intake manager, who processes that information to send to the appropriate program. When she was not on intake, she worked on her cases. The cases were related to healthcare She also worked on getting a foster child's Medi-Cal turned on or getting reimbursement for a youth who was denied payment upon getting surgery. Because cases vary, she found herself conducting an investigation or corresponding with the Department of Children and Family Services Los Angeles.

Ritesh Isuri, 2020

Undecided

Joie De Vivre Universelle – Quatre-Bornes, Mauritius

He helped an NGO whose main concern was to give access to education to children with mental impairments. As part of the internship, he assisted in the centre with the children but most importantly helped the President improve the NGO. When he got there, there was only one person who was taking care of all the administrative work and it was a real mess! He helped to rearrange all their folders, update their computer system so that it was in a workable condition. He also helped devise ways to fundraise for the NGO, including a flag day, a Music concert, a raffle sale and a new way to fundraise in the history of the island; a mobile lottery system. Ritesh also wrote different grants and dealt with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Development and University of Mauritius to foster more children and get additional help.

Elizabeth Johnson, 2018

Politics

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights – Washington, D.C.

At the Lawyers' Committee Elizabeth worked under the Education Opportunities Project (EOP). The EOP created the Parental Readiness and Empowerment Program (PREP) which ensures parents learn how to advocate for their children. She assisted attorneys by developing curricula for parent and youth workshops; she also did presentations in high schools around college access and the college application process. She assisted with their new Bullying Toolkit for parents by researching programs that prevent bullying. Elizabeth attended briefings, as well as had the opportunity to connect with various professionals in the civil rights field through regular brown bag meetings. She also worked on editing legal guides that PREP has created on the topics of English Learners/Bullying/School Discipline. She created her own project within their team, and created infographics and visual guides for parents and children on their rights regarding the former topics by state.

Tess Joosse, 2018

Anthropology and Biology
Sierra Club – Chicago, IL

As an intern and student organizer with the Sierra Club's Illinois chapter, Tess did lots of different things to engage with people around issues of clean energy and conservation every day. One project she worked on planning a clean energy town hall in Aurora, Illinois, for lawmakers and leaders to discuss the benefits of the Future Energy Jobs Act and other clean energy programs in the state with members of the community. The event was an educational space to discuss the benefits of energy efficiency, community solar, and green jobs training programs in Illinois. In creating this town hall Tess worked with staff at the Illinois chapter, volunteer organizers in Aurora and the Fox Valley, and leaders and members of partner organizations. Being able to work with so many passionate and knowledgeable individuals who care deeply about climate change was one of the highlights of her summer!

Rebecca Kalish, 2018

Environmental Studies and Viola Performance
PCI Media Impact – New York, NY

Becky worked under the environment program manager and assisted with all of the current environmental projects going on. She also worked on a project pertaining to illegal wildlife trafficking and spreading the message that this should not be done. Furthermore, she worked on a new project being created pertaining to ozone depletion and why the ozone layer must be protected. Becky edited a report on air quality in Uttar Pradesh, India. It was fascinating for her to apply her knowledge from courses she has taken in her environmental studies major to the work she was doing there. She interacted a lot with other interns and program managers in different topics as well (public health, social justice), which expanded her knowledge significantly.

Charles Kwanin, 2020

Undecided
Maya Universe Academy – Tanahun, Nepal

Charles served as a Math and Computer Studies Teacher. As the only free private school in Nepal, Maya depends mostly on volunteers like Charles for teachers. From Sunday to Friday, he taught students in grades 5-7 math, and also students in grades 5-7 computer studies. After school, he played with the students and helped them with their homework. He always loved to teach. His time in Maya has solidified his passion for education, and has stoked an interest in working with children. Even though they are in rural Nepal, Charles met volunteers from several different countries. He sees himself working in the Education field for a long time.

Eleanor Lindberg, 2018

History

The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR) – Oakland, CA

Eleanor was an intern for NNIRR's Just Borders project, and as part of this she worked on developing their advocacy toolkit so that immigrant rights groups nationally have resources to strengthen their position against border militarization and in favor of human rights at the U.S.-Mexico border. In addition, she monitored daily news related to immigration and the border, and also worked with the other interns there to create a database of all the immigration-related legislation that have been put forward in the current Congress and monitor legislative developments. She met with the executive director of NNIRR regularly, and learned so much from those conversations about the Director's work in the realm of national and international human rights advocacy.

Rowan Maher, 2018

Environmental Studies

The Bus Project – Portland, OR

In this internship, Rowan conducted research on a variety of topics such as precedence for getting postage-paid ballots, ballots that are accessible in multiple languages, as well as looking into SMS platforms that their organization could use to reach out to young and minority voters with information and updates. She also learned about grant writing and fundraising and participated in donor research and contact. Her boss was incredibly helpful in guiding Rowan through these processes and helping her reach out to partners in their network to share knowledge and best practices.

Kiana Mickles, 2019

History

Black Women's Blueprint

This summer she was a contributor and editor for Mama Black, a blog owned by Black Women's Blueprint. Kiana wrote primarily about current events concerning Black women while discussing the intersections of race, gender, and class. In addition to this work, she led poetry workshops for black girls between the ages of 14 and 16, where they targeted various social justice issues through the reading and reciting of Black feminist poetry. This internship provided Kiana with valuable experience as a writer and activist, as well as a number of connections within the non-profit world. The work she did with Black Women's Blueprint gave her confidence to pursue similar positions with non-profit organizations in the future.

Julia Peterson, 2019

Creative Writing and Psychology
Division on Addiction – Medford, MA

Some of what Julia did is help to test and make quick-use guidelines for a new tool that will help screen DUI offenders for mental illness. She began writing her first article for the Division's Addiction Science Newsletter about current research being done on substance use disorders, reviewed the literature on pharmacological treatments gambling disorder, and worked on a presentation for Draft Kings employees about responsible gaming. Julia also had the opportunity to attend lectures about addiction given to psychiatry residents, and she started taking Continuing Medical Education classes about addiction offered by Harvard, which she could access while working there. She wants to become a psychologist and study addiction, and this summer's experience confirmed that this is absolutely where she should be. She learned a great deal, and is excited that the projects she worked on will have an impact on the lives of so many people.

Julia Ranney, 2018

Politics
Food First – Oakland, CA

Julia was the development and communications Intern which meant that she did various projects associated with fundraising, spreading awareness on social media, and conducting various audits related to donor relations. This experience helped her to see how a small non-profit working on projects related to food and development functions. Julia is super interested in food justice, and this allowed her to see the ins and outs of Food First, and to also learn about the various roles and requirements needed to keep a non-profit afloat. This helped strengthen her networking, research, and data collection skills.

Naomi Roswell, 2018

Environmental Studies
Corporate Accountability International – Boston, MA

Since Trump was elected president, masses of Americans have realized the inappropriate link between government and corporations. People are beginning to feel the encroachment of our democracy, and are eager to take action, but we also hear that people don't know how to. This summer, Naomi gave people across the country the tools to organize in their own communities -- with the specific angle of protecting the human right to water. Trump's infrastructure agenda opens the door even wider for private corporations to run our public goods -- such as our water systems -- for profit. Over webinars, training calls, and one-on-one Skype calls, she taught people specific organizing skills such as how to secure media attention for actions, how to lead a delegation to a member of Congress, with an eye towards opposing water privatization.

Rachel Swack, 2018

Politics

New York Committee for Occupational Safety & Health – New York, NY

Rachel worked on the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) Healthy Nail Salon's project, which aims to improve the conditions of workers in New York's nail salons. Nail salon workers suffer from cancer and reproductive defects due to prolonged exposure to chemicals, many are either unpaid or underpaid, and they often are required to work an unbelievable and illegal number of hours. NYCOSH seeks to improve these conditions, in part, by helping workers gain licenses so that they have more legal protections. However, one of the main barriers to certification is a lack of literacy among workers. She worked on a report that will explain the current injustices and make recommendations that will lay out what the State of New York, as well as other organizations, can do to accommodate and empower these workers.

Kyla Vangelder, 2018

Comparative American Studies

Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center – New York, NY

Kyla served as intern to the outreach coordinator where she ran the syringe exchange, restocked and prepared supplies for outreach, and went on and led outreach to surrounding community to provide clean needles, safer injection supplies, and general support services. The experience was incredibly fulfilling and helped Kyla solidify her career plan of working in public health.

Cecilia Wallace, 2019

Engineering and Politics

Policy Matters Ohio – Cleveland, OH

Policy Matters Ohio (PMO) worked hard this past summer to understand how the proposed state and federal budgets will affect Ohio families. As an intern, this means an excitingly broad set of assignments: she created a dataset on how many would lose healthcare if the Ohio House freezes Medicaid; defended public transportation as a civil rights issue in the face of its defunding; and created graphics to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that Trump's budget would eliminate. There was also a focus at PMO on how government chooses to lay the tax burden. She worked on a project to track county/city spending on tax subsidies that are designed to entice businesses into job creation. These subsidies can become huge expenses for local government and their effectiveness is disputed, but despite this no one was required to report them until 2016. It was interesting to dive into the weeds of "Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports" and the strange auditing world to track down how much Ohio communities pay businesses to operate here. The Policy Matters Ohio office was a great place to work throughout every task assigned. Everyone was dedicated to bettering the lives of working families in Ohio, and do it by bringing integrity and kindness to analysis.

Toetie Zwart, 2017

Politics

DESGUA – Xela, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Xela, Guatemala is the second largest city in the country and is known for its many indigenous neighboring communities and its plethora of Spanish Language Schools. Toetie worked on various projects to help develop programming for returned or deported migrants. She also completed a mini research project about one of DESGUA's past projects, Cooking for the Guatemalan Dream. This program aims at helping potential migrants find ways to stay in Guatemala through meaningful and dignified work. Toetie conducted interviews to see how former students reflect on their time and how the cooking classes have helped them not have to migrate elsewhere. The internship also allowed her to meet many people, both locals and foreigners, and hear their personal stories of how they have come to be part of DESGUA. She describes it as one of her most special summers!