



2017-2018 Luce Scholars



Varun Aery



Sakaria Auelua-Toomey



Daniel Block



Christina Ciento



Monique Claiborne



Jillian Correia



Joshua Feinzig



Benjamin Fleischacker



Cyrus Ghaznavi



Martha Isaacs



Cassidy McDonald



Neil Noronha



Corey Ruder



Elena Swartz



Kadiata Sy



Bryan Vadheim



Sophia Wallach

2017-2018 Luce Scholar Placements

Varun K. Aery

varun.k.aery@gmail.com

Future Forum

Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

Sakaria L. Auelue-Toomey

sakaria4@hawaii.edu

Ewha Women's University

Seoul, KOREA

Daniel J. Block

dgatinsblock@gmail.com

The Caravan

New Delhi, INDIA

Christina A. Cilento

christinacilento.cc@gmail.com

Village Focus International

Vientiane, LAOS

Monique K. Claiborne

mdotclaiborne@gmail.com

Asian Boss (A Media Star-up)

Seoul, KOREA

Jillian L. Correia

jillianlcorreia@gmail.com

The Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)

Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

Tokyo, JAPAN

Joshua M. Feinzig

joshfeinzig@gmail.com

National Taiwan University, School of Law

Taipei, TAIWAN

Benjamin M. Fleischacker

bfleisch19@gmail.com

Central Conservancy of Music

Beijing, CHINA

Cyrus M. Ghaznavi

cghaznavi@gmail.com

Center for Global Health Policy

The University of Tokyo

Tokyo, JAPAN

Martha B. Isaacs

isaacsmartha@gmail.com

Centre for Liveable Cities

SINGAPORE

Cassidy S. McDonald

cassidymcdonald@gmail.com

School of Journalism and Communication

Nanjing University

Nanjing, CHINA

Neil J. Noronha

njn2014@gmail.com

Carnegie India

New Delhi, INDIA

Corey K. Ruder

coreyruder@gmail.com

Center for Ecological Research (CER)

Kyoto University

Kyoto, JAPAN

Elena M. Swartz

elena.swartz@gmail.com

Democracy Resource Center - Nepal

Kathmandu, NEPAL

Kadiata M. Sy

sykadiata@gmail.com

Breakthrough Trust

New Delhi, INDIA

Bryan E. Vadheim

bvadheim@gmail.com

PanNature

Hanoi, VIETNAM

Sophia E. Wallach

wallach.sophia@gmail.com

Singapore International Mediation

Institute (SMI)

National University of Singapore

SINGAPORE



2017-2018 LUCE SCHOLARS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Nominating Institution</i>	<i>Field of Professional Interest</i>
Varun K. Aery	27	University of Michigan	International Human Rights Law
Sakaria L. Auelua-Toomey	26	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
Daniel J. Block	23	Swarthmore College	Political Science; Journalism
Christina A. Cilento	21	Northwestern University	Environmental Policy and Law
Monique K. Claiborne	22	Princeton University	Arts and Entertainment
Jillian L. Correia	23	Wake Forest University	Economic Development Policy
Joshua M. Feinzig	23	Yale University	Law and Government
Benjamin M. Fleischacker	23	Yale University	History; Musicology; Anthropology
Cyrus M. Ghaznavi	22	Rice University	Medicine; Global Health
Martha B. Isaacs	21	University of North Carolina	Transportation Planning
Cassidy S. McDonald	21	University of Notre Dame	Journalism
Neil J. Noronha	24	Georgetown University	International Affairs
Corey K. Ruder	22	George Washington University	Aquatic Biogeochemistry
Elena M. Swartz	28	University of Washington	Humanitarian Aid and Emergency Management
Kadiata M. Sy	27	Emory University	Law and Social Justice
Bryan E. Vadheim	27	College of William and Mary	Natural Resource Management
Sophia E. Wallach	24	Vassar College	Alternative Dispute Resolution



2017-2018 LUCE SCHOLARS

Bios

Varun K. Aery

Age: 27
Degrees: L.L.M., University of Michigan Law School, 2017;
J.D., University of California, Davis, 2016; B.A. in Political
Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2011
Nominating Institution: University of Michigan
Field of Professional Interest: International Human Rights Law
Placement: Future Forum, *Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA*

Varun Aery is an American lawyer and legal scholar specializing in international human rights law. Growing up in a rural farming town in Northern California sparked Varun's interest in understanding how socioeconomic conditions affect access to important public resources. Starting at a local junior college, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. While a student, Varun interned for Congresswoman Barbara Lee, whose commitment to addressing the needs of lower income populations and to eliminating HIV/AIDS inspired him to pursue a career in public service. During the UC Berkeley Washington Program, Varun interned for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. After graduation, he became a paralegal with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, and later interned with the U.S. Department of State while studying for his J.D. at the University of California, Davis. He received an additional Master of Law (LL.M.) in international law from the University of Michigan, and published five articles in peer-reviewed journals. He also worked as the Senior Research Assistant to the United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, and served on committees for the American Bar Association and World Affairs Council. During his Luce year, Varun served as the Deputy Research Director for Future Forum in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, an evidence-based think tank founded in 2015 to develop creative and principled solutions to a wide range of policy issues at local, national, and international levels. He was responsible for writing a substantive report on Cambodian judicial reform for Members of Parliament that assesses how Cambodia can promote the rule of law in 20 years. Additionally, Varun helped manage Future Forum's Young Fellows program. On a personal note, he is a classically trained kathak dancer.

Sakaria L. Auelua-Toomey (Sai)

Age: 25
Degree: B.A. in Psychology and Communicology, University of
Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2016; A.A. in Liberal Arts, Honolulu
Community College, 2013
Nominating Institution: University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Field of Professional Interest: Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
Placement: Ewha Women's University, *Seoul, KOREA*

Sakaria “Sai” Auelua-Toomey is a recent graduate in Psychology and Communicology at the University of Hawai’i Mānoa. Born in Honolulu, Hawai’i of Samoan and Irish parents, Sai had an early exposure to the diversity of intercultural communication, which stimulated his subsequent research interests in how different cultures maintain effective communication with one another and how socio-cultural factors affect perception. As an undergraduate research assistant in the Intergroup Social Perceptions Lab, he explored the malleability of identity through its influence by culture, motivation, and situational cues, and how that identity affects intergroup cognition and communication. Sai also worked in the Minority Health International Research Training Program, with a biomedical research team at the Thai Red Cross Anonymous Clinic in Bangkok, Thailand, where he focused on the impact of stigmatization on HIV infection rates in transgender women. For his senior honors thesis, Sai collaborated with Interactive Autism Network at the Kennedy Krieger Institute to investigate individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, which led to his first publication in the *Mānoa Horizons* undergraduate journal. This was followed by an internship in the Center for Study of Language and Information at Stanford University. Sai plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology and leverage his research to understand social categorization and facilitate effective intercultural communication. As a Samoan, he promotes greater representation of Pacific Islanders in academia and has plans to create programs that support this goal while serving as a role model for Pacific Islanders. Sai currently serves in the United States Air Force, providing him a unique experience with a better understanding of the military’s perception of risk and how international challenges are handled. He also volunteers as the unit’s physical training leader and unit education advisor. Sai served as a seminar leader at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, where he facilitates an environment for discussion and collaboration based on inclusion, transparency and mutual respect. As a Luce Scholar, Sai conducted research at Ewha Woman’s University on the role South Korean media plays on its international relationships, identifying specific factors that influence South Korean media success. Sai also served as a guest lecturer. In February 2018, Sai worked as a liaison officer at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games, where he coordinated and assisted with interviewing the participating athletes.

Daniel J. Block

Age: 22
Degree: *B.A. in Political Science; History, Swarthmore College, 2016*
Nominating Institution: *Swarthmore College*
Field of Professional Interest: *Political Science; Journalism*
Placement: *The Caravan, New Delhi, INDIA*

Daniel Block is a 2016 graduate of Swarthmore College, where he majored in political science and history. One of eight students to receive their degrees with highest honors, Daniel was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and was the recipient of the school's Ivy Award. A native of Armonk, New York, Daniel has a longstanding interest in politics and policy. He has interned and volunteered for several elected officials, including U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. Daniel also has a passion for journalism. He served as Editor-in-Chief of Swarthmore’s print and online student newspaper, where he managed a staff of fifty

students and won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and Associated Collegiate Press. He worked as an editorial intern at *The American Prospect* and as a staff writer for *The Philadelphia Inquirer* during the summers of 2015 and 2016, respectively. While working for *The Prospect*, Daniel wrote for the website, conducted research, and managed the magazine's Twitter presence. As an intern at *The Inquirer*, he published over twenty articles on topics ranging from Donald Trump rallies to school taxes. At Swarthmore, Daniel worked as a research assistant to several professors, studying political development, the ethics of war, and how globalization has shaped insurgencies. He also conducted independent research into the history of U.S. state constitutions, resulting in an essay that received Swarthmore's 2015 Judith Polgar Ruchkin Prize, given to the best paper on politics or public policy. Daniel later presented his findings at the Northeastern Political Science Association's 2015 conference. During his Luce year, Daniel worked for *The Caravan*, India's first and only publication devoted to narrative journalism. Daniel was involved in both editorial and reporting projects, and he helped write the magazine's first formal style guide. He recently published a long-form cover story for *The Caravan* on the Sikh diaspora—specifically Canadian political leader Jagmeet Singh and the community's relationship with Punjab. He also wrote an article for *Foreign Policy* about India's healthcare system and the medical tourism industry. Daniel aspires to merge his interest in academia and journalism, attuned to both scholarly research and the broader world. He plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in comparative politics and writing about his findings as a freelance journalist.

Christina A. Cilento

Age: 21
Degree: B.S. in Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University, 2017
Nominating Institution: Northwestern University
Field of Professional Interest: Environmental Policy and Law
Placement: Village Focus International, **Vientiane, LAOS**

Christina Cilento is a recent graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, where she studied environmental policy and sustainability. Originally from Allentown, PA, she is particularly interested in climate change and energy systems and how these intersect with global social injustices. During her Luce year, Christina worked at Village Focus International in Vientiane, Laos, where she advocated for villages' rights in the face of threats to their land, labor, and food security from unsustainable agricultural and forestry development projects. At Northwestern, Christina served as president of the Associated Student Government and a core organizer of Northwestern's fossil fuel divestment campaign, through which she gained experience lobbying her administration and crafting policies that benefit the student body. Christina served as the Student Advisory Board representative for the Environmental Policy and Culture program at Northwestern and was a founder and editor of the school's first environmental publication, *In Our Nature*. In 2015, she was selected as one of ten students from the U.S. to travel to the UN's COP21 climate change conference in Paris, where she met with delegates from countries at the front lines of climate disasters, thus propelling her interest in global environmental justice and challenging her to critique Western approaches to tackling the climate problem. Christina hopes to pursue a career in environmental

advocacy, using law and policy to bring about social change. In her spare time, Christina enjoys biking and perfecting her cooking, crocheting and knitting skills, all of which are, admittedly, limited.

Monique K. Claiborne

Age: 22
Degree: *B.A. in Philosophy, Princeton University, 2017*
Nominating Institution: *Princeton University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Arts and Entertainment*
Placement: *Asian Boss (A Media Star-up), Seoul, KOREA*

Monique Claiborne graduated from Princeton University in May 2017 with a B.A. in Philosophy and a Certificate in American Studies. Growing up in her hometown Opelousas, Louisiana, Monique developed a deep appreciation for local culture and the arts. During her sophomore year at Princeton, she discovered her love for philosophy, which has enabled her to further explore the intersection of culture, value and aesthetics. Her independent research as a junior explored the moral consequences of aestheticizing "evil" in popular films, and her senior thesis explored the relationship between beauty and utility in technology and society. As a member of the Campus Iconography Committee, Monique collaborated with the Executive Vice President of the University and select professors, students and administrators to draft proposals aimed at diversifying Princeton's iconography to better reflect the university community. Her primary creative outlets during her time at Princeton were dancing and choreographing for Disiac Dance Company, as well as photography and filmmaking for Princeton Faith and Action. She also enjoyed leading campus tours, coaching a youth basketball team and helping undergraduates and graduate students with written work as a fellow in the Princeton Writing Center. During her Luce year in Korea, Monique worked for Asian Boss, a media start-up that aspires to empower the global youth to cultivate curiosity and critical thinking, as well as challenge cultural stereotypes. Asian Boss does this by bringing the most authentic perspectives on the latest news and cultural trends from all over Asia to a primarily Western audience via reporting street interviews. Monique's role included generating future content from the research phase to production, supervising volunteers based in other countries, as well as helping Asian Boss to establish a scalable infrastructure that will enable them to eventually mobilize reporters in every Asian country.

Jillian L. Correia

Age: 24
Degree: *B.S. in Mathematical Economics, Wake Forest University, 2017*
Nominating Institution: *Wake Forest University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Economic Development*
Placement: *The Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)
Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO),
Tokyo, JAPAN*

Jillian Correia is a 2017-2018 Luce Scholar based in Tokyo, Japan with a background in mathematical economics and a passion for addressing agriculture, natural resource, and energy resilience as well as broader economic challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region. Her placement has been with the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) at Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Tokyo. Jillian first developed a passion for addressing natural resource management and agricultural sustainability while working for a Native American non-profit, the Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute, on the Kha'Po Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico. There, Jillian facilitated The Pueblo Food Experience, a diet-improvement initiative where tribal members eat foods solely indigenous to their region and culture, equipping Pueblo peoples with the resources and inspiration to regain their health and traditional permaculture practices. As an independent researcher, Jillian's work examines political, socioeconomic, and institutional factors that influence food intake and human wellbeing. She first set out to uncover the complexities of the multinational food system in UK primary schools, where her extensive field work and ethnographic research revealed the intricacies of children's eating practices. She presented her research at the 9th Annual International Conference on Sociology in Athens, Greece, and the findings, published in a peer-reviewed journal, served as inspiration for schools and policy makers looking to improve lunch practices through grassroots change. Jillian's subsequent research looked comparatively at food systems in the UK and Switzerland, and analyzed Multinational Time Use Survey Data to quantify time spent eating as a determinant of Body Mass Index (BMI). At Wake Forest University, Jillian guest lectured for Freshman Year Seminars and other courses on cognitive development, ethnographic research methods, international food culture and policy, and independent research processes and proposals. She was President's Aide for the Office of the President, serving as liaison between the President of Wake Forest and the student body. Jillian is Associate Editor and referee for *Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, a peer-reviewed scholarly journal where she promotes food systems as a serious field of inquiry by offering theoretical and editorial guidance. Jillian plans to pursue a career where she may continue leading efforts to address the serious political and economic challenges facing global food security. In her free time, she enjoys vegetable gardening, creating sculptures and Raku pottery, and volunteering for Second Harvest Japan, Tokyo's first food bank.

Joshua M. Feinzig (Josh)

Age: 23
Degree: M. Phil. in Criminology, University of Cambridge, 2017;
B.A. in Ethics, Politics and Economics,
Yale University, 2016
Nominating Institution: Yale University
Field of Professional Interest: Law and Government
Placement: National Taiwan University, School of Law, **Taipei, TAIWAN**

For his Luce year, Josh Feinzig was a visiting researcher at the College of Law at National Taiwan University, where he worked with Professor Wen-Chen Chang on East Asian constitutionalism, international human rights, and administrative law research. Josh was also working with the Ministry of Interior, Taiwan's executive agency responsible for the administration of domestic affairs, where he advised Minister Jiunn-rong Yeh on a variety of

policy areas, including participatory governance and democratic consolidation, immigrant detention and imprisonment reform, new transitional justice measures, and compliance with international human rights covenants. At the request of the Ministry, Josh also conducted a review of Taiwan's immigration detention centers and associated detention laws. Originally from South Florida, Josh studied Ethics, Politics & Economics at Yale University, where he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded the University's Roosevelt L. Thompson Prize for his commitment to public service. He was then a Gates Cambridge Scholar at the University of Cambridge, from which he received a master's degree for his sociological research within British prisons. Interested in international human rights law and rule of law reform, Josh has worked on a variety of public interest projects. He served on the New Haven Peace Commission and is currently a board advisor to Project Youth Court, an organization he co-founded that takes trained high-school volunteers into federal courtrooms to serve as the lawyers and jurors in juvenile misdemeanor offense cases that have been diverted out of traditional juvenile justice systems. Josh previously worked as a macroeconomics intern at the White House Council of Economic Advisors, and, as a Yale Law School Liman Public Interest Fellow, worked as an investigator for the New Orleans Public Defenders and on municipal court reform in the St. Louis area.

Benjamin M. Fleischacker (Benji)

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in History, Yale University, 2017
Nominating Institution: Yale University
Field of Professional Interest: History; Musicology; Anthropology
Placement: Central Conservancy of Music, **Beijing, CHINA**

Since arriving in China, Benji has translated for the Danish delegation of the Music Confucius Institute and performed in a master class for the cellists Morten Zeuthen and David Finckel; studied *matouqin* (a bowed Mongolian instrument with a horse-head scroll); attended three concerts and performed at a fourth in one night; performed a concert in the rural town of Ping Le after climbing a waterfall and almost falling to his death; performed electric cello for over 1,000 high school students at a video-game release gala; and eaten countless hawthorn candy canes. At the Central Conservatory of Music in China, Benji collaborated with Dai Bo, an acclaimed composer and Ph.D. candidate there. Outside of CCOM, he taught music theory, composition, and cello at the Leapp Music School, studied cello with Zhu Yi Bing, and performed throughout Beijing. His written and reading Chinese vocabulary now includes over 2,000 characters.

Benji graduated from Yale in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in History with Distinction. His senior thesis on Costa Rican music education won the Max Bildner Award for Latin American History. That thesis was based on two months of interviews, participant observation, and archival work in Costa Rica. At Yale, Benji was awarded the Paul Fry Award for contributing to the artistic life of Ezra Stiles and Yale College. He was the principal cellist of the Yale Symphony Orchestra for its 2015-2016 season, an avid chamber musician, and the business manager and a member of the all-cello rock band Low Strung, for which he arranged covers of popular music from Beyonce and Adele to Queen and Aretha Franklin. He spearheaded

and recorded the group's most recent CD, slated to be published in 2018, which includes seven of his original arrangements. In March 2017, he commissioned and premiered a suite of seven pieces written by seven composers at Yale College and the Yale School of Music for two cellos based on the Bach cello suites. In 2015, he performed the Dvorak Cello Concerto with the Saybrook College Orchestra after winning their concerto competition. Before college, Benji spent a year teaching cello at a local music school in Costa Rica, where he developed both a love of teaching and a recognition of the many musical traditions that children bring to the classroom. He hopes to combine his experiences in Latin America and in China to bring a global perspective to the challenge classical music poses to local traditions, and the opportunities communities have to expand their culture through music education and performance.

Cyrus M. Ghaznavi

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Biological Sciences; Policy Studies, Rice University, 2017
Nominating Institution: Rice University
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine; Global Health
Placement: Center for Global Health Policy, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, JAPAN

Raised in a Dallas home by an Indian mother and an Iranian father, Cyrus Ghaznavi was imbued with the spirit of multiculturalism, which gave him an international outlook in his education, especially with respect to global health. Cyrus graduated from Rice University in May 2017 with a B.A. in Biological Sciences and Policy Studies. While an undergraduate, he researched rotavirus infection of human intestinal cells to understand how reactive oxygen species incur robust interferon responses. His affinity for virology has earned him the nickname, "Cyrus the Virus," which was especially appropriate for a class he taught at Rice entitled, "WWIII: Intro to Biowarfare." Drawing on his experience as a researcher and global health enthusiast, Cyrus co-founded the Rice University chapter of END7, an international campaign devoted to raising awareness of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and funds for their elimination in disadvantaged nations across the globe. Since its founding, he has traveled to Washington, D.C. annually to lobby for increased funding for the USAID NTD budget by speaking to congressional representatives. Recognizing the importance of policy in the advancement of science, he interned in D.C. at the Federation of American Scientists, where he researched legal trends in biotechnological patent law after a string of paradigm-shifting Supreme Court cases. A visiting researcher at the Department of Global Health Policy at Tokyo University during his Luce year, Cyrus focused on infectious disease modeling using computer programming and mathematical techniques to quantify disease-spread. Though his background is in wet-lab biological research, Cyrus was able to shift gears and studied up on data analytics and policy-oriented health research. Upon his return to the U.S., Cyrus will attend medical school, focusing on infectious diseases, and hopes to build a career at the World Health Organization. In his free time, Cyrus enjoys trying new restaurants, listening to audiobooks, writing poetry, and attempting to make Japanese puns.

Martha B. Isaacs

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Geography of Human Activity, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, (expected) 2017
Nominating Institution: University of North Carolina
Field of Professional Interest: Transportation Planning
Placement: Centre for Liveable Cities, **SINGAPORE**

Martha graduated with honors and highest distinction in May 2017, with a bachelor's degree in the Geography of Human Activity and minors in Philosophy and City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). On a full merit scholarship, she spent her undergraduate studies analyzing the ways in which transportation accessibility affects urban citizens' mobility, from the unequal distribution of light rail routes in her hometown, Baltimore, to the lack of walkability observed in her neighborhood in Chapel Hill. Particularly interested in participatory planning to increase social capital in neighborhoods, especially through accessible transportation, she has worked for the New York City Anti-Violence Project and The Glass-House Community Design in London. In the fall of 2015, she spent a semester abroad comparing city planning practices in New York, Buenos Aires, Dakar, and Hanoi. She received research funding to study resilience in Durban, South Africa, and co-authored an article for the UNC urban planning blog, "Angles," about the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities initiative as implemented in Durban. Experienced in data analysis from her time as a consultant at Nelson\Nygaard, a transportation planning firm in San Francisco, she strives to apply her knowledge of public policy and transit coverage to increase transportation options for disabled, elderly, and low-income communities. Back at UNC, she volunteered as a family mentor for the Refugee Community Partnership and visited incarcerated youth with Criminal Justice Awareness and Action. Martha wrote an honors thesis focusing on barriers to cycling for the Burmese refugee community in Chapel Hill, and presented her work at a session at the Association of American Geographers conference in April 2017. She taught a seminar course on how the built environment affects place-based identity and concepts of home, incorporating her interests in photography, filmmaking, and music into experiential learning methods in urban planning. Building on this topic, she participated in the UNC TEDx student speaker competition, and was chosen to speak in the UNC TEDx conference about the privatization of residential neighborhoods in the U.S. In Singapore, Martha works for the Ministry of National Development's Centre for Liveable Cities, a think tank that strives to communicate Singapore's urban planning strategies to other cities as well as continually promote an equitable, sustainable, and efficient urban landscape within Singapore. Martha's main projects have focused on Singapore's quest to become more car-lite, creating redesigns for Singapore's street network and changing street typologies to promote cycling and walking. Other research topics include pedestrianisation feasibility studies and optimizing land use in the face of autonomous bus services. The Centre for Liveable Cities publishes a bi-annual publication, 'Urban Solutions,' to which Martha has contributed visual communication and photographic work. In Singapore, Martha enjoys running mid-to-long distance races, playing basketball and badminton with her coworkers, exploring Singapore's islands and green spaces, and attending Singapore's many film festivals with her film club. In response to a commonly heard description of Singapore as 'sterile,' she has also created an instagram account called 'not sterile Singapore' to document the richness of Singapore's diverse culture.

Cassidy S. McDonald

Age: 21
Degree: B.B.A. in Marketing, University of Notre Dame, 2017
Nominating Institution: University of Notre Dame
Field of Professional Interest: Journalism
Placement: Nanjing University, School of Journalism and Communication, Nanjing, CHINA

During her Luce year in China, Cassidy worked under the direction of Professor Zhuang Yongzhi, chair of the Department of Broadcasting, Film and Television at Nanjing University's School of Journalism and Communication, which began as the Film and Broadcasting Special Program in 1936, the first of its kind in China. Cassidy's placement was divided into two parts. During the fall, living in Nanjing, she worked with Professor Zhuang on freelance reporting, and became a contributor to *The Nanjinger* magazine, writing a five-part series about a group of foreigners who saved Chinese lives during the 1937 Nanjing Massacre. She appeared on Nanjing's evening news to discuss her reporting and her work was profiled in the *Yangtze Evening Post*, *China Daily* and other Chinese news outlets. In December, she moved to Beijing, where she worked for Tencent Video, China's leading online streaming platform, and freelanced for domestic and international news outlets. Cassidy graduated in May 2017 from the University of Notre Dame with a business degree in marketing and a minor in Journalism, Ethics, and Democracy. Ultimately, she plans to work as a reporter, telling the stories of marginalized voices as they interact with powerful policies and systems. In fall 2016, she traveled alongside columnist Nicholas Kristof to report on American poverty for the *New York Times*; she wrote about alternatives to incarceration, drug problems in Native American communities, and a billionaire who is quietly donating his fortune to Oklahoma's social programs. At a summer internship with CBS News in New York City, she worked in the shooter-producer unit and spent many of her days "in the field," booking interviews, shooting video, and solving last-minute problems. At an earlier internship with the 60 Minutes in Washington D.C., she researched a variety of topics including Russian military capabilities, gun death statistics, and Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. She was its first intern to travel out of town for two shoots, coordinating interviews at FBI Headquarters and in Chicago, and independently producing a shoot in West Virginia. She began her career in Madison, Wisconsin as an intern at the local NBC affiliate, WMTV NBC15, and at Wisconsin's second-largest newspaper, the *Wisconsin State Journal*. At the *State Journal*, she reported on gang violence, higher education, and city government, and wrote seven page-A1 articles in her first month on the job. At Notre Dame, she is editor-in-chief of the student newsmagazine, *Scholastic*, and manages a team of 24 (in addition to about 30 regular contributors) to produce a monthly glossy magazine. Recent issues have focused on the school's sexual assault disciplinary procedures, campus-wide reactions to Donald Trump's victory, and homelessness near campus. She also worked for Notre Dame's sports broadcasting division, Fighting Irish Media, where she co-hosted an online, sports-highlight show and produced live softball broadcasts. She anchors during Notre Dame's 24-hour webcast, "Notre Dame Day," and is emcee of the school's "Advisory Council" dinners, hosting dinner events for about 250 of the school's top decision-makers. She first discovered her passion for journalism at age 17, when she got a job making videos at her local police department. This semester, she'll raise money to fund a Liberian primary school class by (slowly) training for her first marathon. (She's trying to convince her donors to contribute per minute, rather than per mile.)

Neil J. Noronha

Age: 24
Degree: *M.A. in Security Studies, 2016; B.S. in Foreign Service, 2014, Georgetown University*
Nominating Institution: *Georgetown University*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Affairs*
Placement: *Carnegie India, New Delhi, INDIA*

For his Luce year, Neil Noronha worked with Carnegie India, the sixth international center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, under the direction of Carnegie India's founding director Dr. C. Raja Mohan. Opened in April 2016 in New Delhi, Carnegie India is staffed and led by local experts and places special emphasis on developing a cadre of young, up-and-coming Indian scholars. Neil conducted research on different transnational security threats facing India, from natural disasters to money laundering. A Carnegie publication authored by Neil, currently titled "The Case for Securitizing India's Disaster Preparedness and Resilience," is forthcoming later in 2018. A rising national security professional, Neil worked for two years in the Obama Administration. From December 2015 to January 2017, Neil was the Special Assistant to the Senior Director for Response Policy on the National Security Council (NSC) staff at the White House. He oversaw the presidential approval process for declaring severe domestic incidents as major disasters or emergencies under the Robert T. Stafford Act. Additionally, he served as a duty officer within the Response Policy Directorate, working with the White House Situation Room to inform senior NSC staff and White House principals, including the President, about severe domestic incidents, their impact on local populations, and the U.S. government response. Before joining the NSC staff, Neil was at the Department of Defense as one of the youngest political appointees hired under the Obama Administration. Under the Defense Fellows Program, Neil served as the Special Assistant to Michael Lumpkin, the former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict, where he was Mr. Lumpkin's principal speechwriter and handled special projects related to counterterrorism, humanitarian affairs, and counternarcotics. Additionally, Neil was an Action Officer within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, where he managed issues related to defense cover and human intelligence activities. Neil has a B.S. in Foreign Service and an M.A. in Security Studies, both from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and interned at various Federal agencies and departments, a think tank, and a financial services company. He is passionate about tackling transnational issues, such as terrorism, organized crime, climate change, and natural disasters, through economic policy and instruments. Neil is an avid basketball and football fan, consistently rooting for the Baltimore Ravens and Georgetown Hoyas.

Corey K. Ruder

Age: 23
Degree: *Ph.D. in Environment and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University Vancouver, (expected) 2020; B.A. in Environmental Studies, St. Olaf College, 2016*
Nominating Institution: *George Washington University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Aquatic Biogeochemistry*
Placement: *Center for Ecological Research (CER), Kyoto University, Kyoto, JAPAN*

Corey Ruder is a Ph.D. student working at the intersection of ecosystem health and climate change research. She has completed the first year of her degree program at Washington State University Vancouver, where she is studying how internal waves affect nitrogen cycling in reservoirs. As a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, Corey not only loves research, but also cares about science communication and advocating for greater representation of women and minorities in STEM-related fields. She is a recent summa cum laude graduate of St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. As an undergraduate, Corey was selected as a Beckman Scholar and spent a year and a half developing a reliable indicator of agricultural runoff in lakes. She continued working for an additional year on a follow-up project linking this runoff to increased production of the powerful greenhouse gas nitrous oxide (N₂O). In addition to her extensive research on lakes, Corey has conducted a series of ecological research projects in Australia, analyzed the spread of radioactive material across a farm near Fukushima, and studied feedback loops of permafrost thaw as a research assistant in Siberia. She has presented the results of her research at several conferences, including a poster at the American Geophysical Union 2016 Fall Meeting. She is also the founder of the Ole Thrift Shop LLC, a student-run business aimed at decreasing campus waste, and enjoys SCUBA diving, recreational boxing, and playing with dogs in her spare time. During her year in Japan as a Luce Scholar, Corey worked in a stable isotope laboratory at the Center for Ecological Research at Kyoto University. Her focus is on using stable isotopes to determine the nitrogen cycling processes occurring in Osaka Bay, but she has also dabbled in aikido, traveled around Japan with her research advisor to conduct experiments with his collaborators, and taken every opportunity to soak in an onsen.

Elena M. Swartz

Age: 28
Degree: *M.P.A. in International Development, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington, 2017; B.A. in Growth and Structure of Cities, Bryn Mawr College, 2012*
Nominating Institution: *University of Washington*
Field of Professional Interest: *Human Rights and Emergency Management*
Placement:

Elena Swartz has experienced the power of organizations working together to help communities in crisis all over the world, most recently in Kathmandu, as a Luce Scholar. Elena is driven to find creative solutions to complex management and research problems due to humanitarian conflict and natural disaster. She is particularly interested in the role of arts and culture in protecting and promoting human dignity during crisis. As a two-term AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Member, Elena helped communities recover from Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy, in addition to community economic development projects. She earned a BA with honors in Growth and Structure of Cities from Bryn Mawr College, where she was named a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and received funding to conduct a two-year independent research project on the socioeconomic role of heritage sites in South Africa. In 2016, Elena interned with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland where she helped introduce

system improvements to the Human Rights Council and researched human rights field operations. She received an M.P.A. in International Development from the University of Washington in 2017. In Nepal, Elena worked with the Democracy Resource Center-Nepal (DRCN), a Nepali non-governmental organization. DRCN strives to promote Nepal's developing democracy through field and theory-based research on the status of the implementation of Nepal's constitutional obligations. As a visiting researcher at DRCN, Elena analyzed data from field-based election observers during Nepal's 2017 local and parliamentary/provincial elections, and contributed to DRCN's management strategies for the organization's newly created national field offices. Outside of work, Elena spent a lot of time trying to adapt to the pace of her surroundings, from taking Nepali folkdance classes to wandering around Kathmandu's many heritage sites. Her experiences tended to lead to intense Googling sessions and endless questions for everyone around her.

Kadiata M. Sy (Kadi)

Age: 27
Degree: *M.A. in Islamic Law, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, 2017; M.Litt., University of St. Andrews, Scotland, 2016; B.A. in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies, Emory University, 2015; A.A. in Philosophy and Political Science, Perimeter College, Georgia State University, 2012*
Nominating Institution: *Emory University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Law, Gender and Social Justice*
Placement: *Breakthrough Trust, **New Delhi, INDIA***

Kadiata Sy arrived in Atlanta, GA as a refugee from Mauritania at the age of twelve. Resettling in a new environment without any knowledge of English and enrolling in a school for the first time of her young life, Kadi learned first-hand the empowering potential of education. Her experiences have motivated her to be a leader in her community and to continue to pursue higher education. Beginning at community college, Kadi was elected the Student Government President of her campus and active with several humanitarian organizations in the greater Atlanta area, including interning for the International Rescue Committee and mentoring refugee youth with the Refugee Family Services. Her passion for social change and leadership experiences working with non-profit organizations led to her induction into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society. Kadi was also awarded the national Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which sponsored her studies at Emory University. While at Emory, she founded the Middle Eastern Studies Association and worked with Emory Peer Tutoring as an Arabic tutor and mentor to provide campus-wide programming on Middle East-related issues. She graduated with a B.A. in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies in 2015 as one of four Emory seniors to be selected as a Robert T. Jones Scholar. This enabled her to complete a Master of Letters in Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. She received her M.A. in Islamic Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, where she was elected Student Representative and served as a liaison between the administration and student body. At SOAS, Kadi specialized

in the harmonization of Islamic Law and the Human Rights discourse. Her Master's dissertation focused on the appointment of female judges in Shari'a courts in Muslim-majority countries and aimed to further her research on women's agency within the Islamic legal framework. During her Luce Year, Kadi worked with Breakthrough Trust, a women's rights organization that became internationally recognized and supported by the United Nations for their work on violence against women and for their programs intervening in cases of early marriage and fostering adolescent empowerment programs with a gender awareness perspective. At Breakthrough, Kadi researched gender bias sex selection in the state of Haryana, produced a document retracing Breakthrough's early marriage program in Bihar and Jharkhand, and assisted in formulating a digital strategy for the organization stressing the critical role media plays in mobilizing for against violence against women and girls in all forms. Kadi aspires to work in the field of human rights in Islamic law as both an activist and an academic, focusing on gender issues while pursuing doctoral studies.

Bryan E. Vadheim

Age: 26
Degree: *M.Sc. in Climate Change Science and Policy, University of Bristol, 2015; M.Sc. in Economics, London School of Economics, 2014; B.S. in Chemical Engineering and in Economics, Montana State University, 2013*
Nominating Institution: *College of William and Mary*
Field of Professional Interest: *Natural Resource Management*
Placement: *PanNature, Hanoi, VIETNAM*

Bryan Vadheim is an economist interested in natural resource management at the intersection of science and policy. A Montana native, Bryan has long been passionate about natural resources, and graduated with honors and degrees in both Chemical Engineering and Economics from Montana State University. During his undergraduate career he conducted a variety of research on natural resource topics, resulting in academic publications on low-cost water sanitation using concentrated ultraviolet light and conflict mineral policy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as a patent in disinfection technology. Alongside his research activities, he also helped coordinate water and sanitation projects in rural Kenya with Engineers Without Borders, including on-the-ground implementation and stakeholder engagement. A 2013 Marshall Scholarship recipient, Bryan earned graduate degrees in Economics (with merit) from the London School of Economics and in Climate Change Science and Policy (with distinction) from the University of Bristol. As a researcher at the Grantham Research Institute in London during his studies, Bryan worked on spatially disaggregated econometric models of forestry in Indonesia and infrastructure in Ethiopia. Since 2015, Bryan has worked as an economist on natural resource policy issues at Vivid Economics, a small consultancy in London, and at PanNature, a Vietnamese NGO. He has particular experience in using satellite imagery to inform public policy on forestry, water, and electricity management. He is a co-author of a number of peer-reviewed articles and high profile reports, including the World Bank's State and Trends in Carbon Pricing 2016 report, and has led the development of a number of projects utilizing remote sensing technology for economic analysis. He has worked extensively with developing country governments and NGOs, with on-the-ground experience in Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Vietnam and Myanmar. ***

Sophia E. Wallach

Age: 24
Degree: *B.A. in International Studies, Vassar College, 2015*
Nominating Institution: *Vassar College*
Field of Professional Interest: *Alternative Dispute Resolution*
Placement: *Singapore International Mediation Institute (SMI)*
SINGAPORE

A native of Poughkeepsie, New York, Sophia Wallach graduated from Vassar College in May 2015, with a degree in International Studies (Political Science and Economics) and a minor in French. During college, she interned at the Family District Court and Public Defender's Office, where she witnessed the continuous backlog of cases and zero-sum approach to resolving conflict. Frustrated, Sophia looked for alternative forms of dispute resolution, eventually turning to the nationally recognized Dutchess Mediation Center. Sophia is the youngest accredited third-party mediator at the Center and practices in New York State. After graduation, Sophia moved to Washington, DC, to intern at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Africa Program, focusing on the policy aspects of peacebuilding, conflict management, and U.S.-Africa trade relations. She then joined the Federal Trade Commission as an Honors Paralegal in the Bureau of Competition. Early on, Sophia distinguished herself as lead paralegal on a major international consent merger and a successful hospital litigation. Based on her accomplishments, she was selected from her program to serve as the Bureau Director's paralegal. This gave her insight into the larger strategic negotiations and international aspects of nearly every case. That year, Sophia also received funding to attend the 2016 International Transformative Mediation Conference. For her Luce year, Sophia worked with Singapore International Mediation Institute (SMI) at the National University of Singapore. These experiences deepened her appreciation for the law and strengthened her conviction that mediation should be used to improve it. She plans to pursue a law degree, starting in the fall 2018. In her spare time, Sophia spends her copious amount of energy playing violin in a community orchestra, running half-marathons, and indulging her taste for French cheese.
