

2014-2015 Luce Scholars



Jacob Bogart

Benjamin Chin

Joshua Cole



Matthew Cook

Joshua Freedman

Nicole Gunawansa

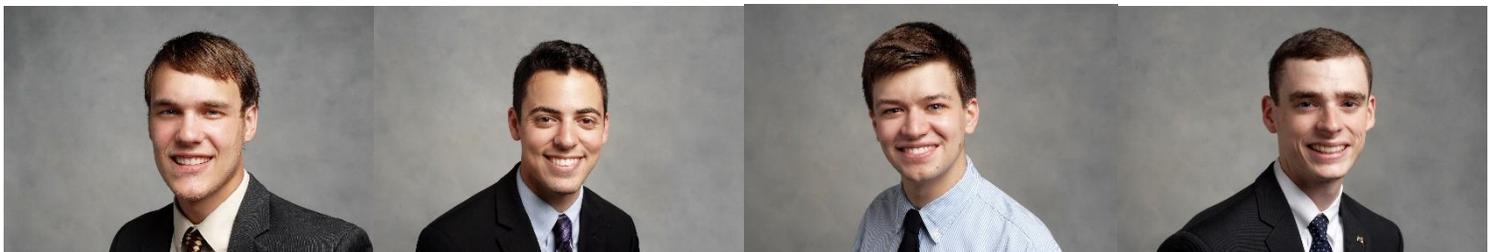
Joël Hage



Michelle Huang

Cindy Lung

Katherine McDaniel



Kyle Niezgoda

Andrew Peters

William Poff-Webster

Kevin Schell



Katherine Schuler

Audrey Stienon

Meaghan Tobin

2014-2015 LUCE SCHOLAR PLACEMENTS

Jacob (Jake) Bogart

(Tulane University)
National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
Bangkok, Thailand

Benjamin (Ben) Chin

(Rutgers University)
Thailand Institute of Justice
Bangkok, Thailand

Joshua (Josh) Cole

(Boston University)
Graduate School of Public Health
Seoul National University
Seoul, Korea

Matthew (Matt) Cook

(University of Notre Dame)
Ibuku Bamboo Architecture & Design
Bali, Indonesia

Joshua (Josh) Freedman

(Stanford University)
College of Humanities and Development Studies
China Agricultural University
Beijing, China

Nicole Gunawansa

(Washington & Lee University)
International Research Institute of Disaster Science
Tohoku University
Sendai, Japan

Joël Hage

(University of North Carolina)
Center for Community Development Studies
Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences
Kunming, China

Michelle Huang

(Cornell University)
Arbitration Council Foundation
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Cindy Lung

(Brown University)
National Academy for Educational Research
Taipei, Taiwan

Katherine McDaniel

(Yale University)
Buddhism for Development
Battambang, Cambodia

Kyle Niezgoda

(Emory University)
Earth Observatory Singapore
Singapore

Andrew Peters

(Northwestern University)
Department of Primary Education in
the Science of Art
Osaka University of Arts
Osaka, Japan

William (Will) Poff-Webster

(Harvard College)
Observer Research Foundation
New Delhi, India

Kevin Schell

(Rice University)
Department of Alternative Energy Development and
Efficiency (DEDE)
Ministry of Energy in Thailand
Bangkok, Thailand

Katherine (Katie) Schuler

(George Washington University)
Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences
Silliman University
Dumaguete, the Philippines

Audrey Stienon

(Hunter College)
Centre for Strategic and International Studies
Jakarta, Indonesia

Meaghan Tobin

(New York University)
National Center for Food Safety Education
and Research
National Taiwan University
Taipei, Taiwan

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2014-2015 Luce Scholars Bios

Jacob P. Bogart (Jake)

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: *Tulane University*
Degree: *B.A. in Globalization Studies and French
The Ohio State University (2014)*
Field of Professional Interest: *Human Rights and the United Nations*

Jacob Bogart will graduate summa cum laude, Phi Kappa Phi, and with honors research distinction with a B.A. in Globalization Studies and French, with a minor in Geography, from The Ohio State University in May 2014. He hopes to eventually pursue a degree in law, focusing on international human rights law, and work for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. While an undergraduate, Jacob was the president of Amnesty International at OSU, a delegate for his model United Nations team, a peer research mentor, a page at the Ohio State House, and resident advisor. His interest in human rights led him to spend a summer in Haiti, conducting independent research on how non-governmental organizations have affected tent camps after the 2010 earthquake. Jacob presented his research on NGOs at an international conference on sustainability in Hiroshima, Japan. While in Haiti, Jacob also worked for the Haitian American Caucus as a primary education intern, researching Haitian education policy and teaching English classes. During his junior year, he studied abroad in Geneva, Switzerland, where he worked for Human Rights Watch as an advocacy intern, attending the 21st session of the Human Rights Council. In addition to his internship, he had the fortune of working as a researcher for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on North Korea, co-authoring a report used as an annex in a United Nations resolution. Jacob spent last spring abroad in Paris where he lived with a host family, volunteered at a local non-profit, and studied French at the Sorbonne. After his year abroad, Jacob spent a summer at Princeton University as a Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute Fellow. This spring, Jacob will have the opportunity to represent the United States on multiple occasions. First, he is travelling with USA-Maghreb Youth Debates to Morocco to debate students in French on youth-related issues. After graduating, Jacob will leave for Munich, Germany, where, as a Head of State delegate, he will attend the G20 Youth Summit, authoring communiqués and interacting with youth from around the world. In his free time, Jacob loves to read, travel, rap at karaoke, and eat cheese.

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Benjamin J. Chin (Ben)

Age: 25
Nominating Institution: *Rutgers University*
Degree: *B.A. in Public health and Linguistics
Rutgers University (2014)*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Drug Policy/Addiction Treatment & Recovery*

Ben Chin, now 25 years old, has been in recovery from addiction since age 19. He is currently a senior at Rutgers University majoring in Public Health and Linguistics, and plans to pursue a law degree with his sights set on influencing public health policy both in the United States and abroad. At Rutgers, Ben has been a resident and active member of the Rutgers Recovery House as well as a leader of the Rutgers Mountainview Project, an organization supporting ex-offenders as they make the transition from incarceration to higher education. In addition, Ben has participated in a number of leadership development activities on campus, including the Rising Leaders Institute, the Leadership Quest Summer Program, and the Cap and Skull Senior Honors Society. Beyond Rutgers, Ben is a founding member of the non-profit organization Young People in Recovery (YPR), a grassroots organization that mobilizes young people to advocate for improved recovery support services. Ben has also completed an internship at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, an agency within the US Department of Health and Human Services, where he worked in the Office of Planning, Policy, and Innovation. In January 2013, Ben and a colleague from YPR established PTR Associates, a consulting firm dedicated to creating recovery-oriented solutions in order to address disparities in the delivery of prevention, treatment, and recovery services. In its first year, PTR Associates has worked with both the federal government and multiple state governments as well as such nationally recognized organizations as Hazelden, the Treatment Research Institute, and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. This past spring Ben was selected as the New Jersey recipient of the 2013 Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Ben wishes to thank his family as well as his mentors and friends at Rutgers for supporting him throughout his journey.

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Joshua A. Cole (Josh)

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Boston University
Degree: B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
and French Studies, Boston University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Global Health

Raised in a rich cultural environment in Atlanta, Georgia, Joshua Cole developed artistic and intellectual interests early on as a humanist and a scientist. At Boston University, Joshua pursued a dual degree in French studies and biochemistry and molecular biology. During summer 2013, he conducted research at the University of Pennsylvania where he characterized the effect of Flaxseeds on HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders and the modulation of cell receptors vital to HIV entry. His results showed a reduction in HIV entry and oxidative stress in the brain, which may influence therapies for HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders. Joshua also interned with Act-up Paris in 2012, which is the leading HIV/AIDS advocacy group in France that seeks to reduce the hardship of the AIDS pandemic. That same year, Joshua investigated malarial infection via Plasmodium falciparum at Tufts University where he identified four novel parasite ligands, which may contribute to the basis of a multi-unit vaccine. In October 2012, he presented his research at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) where the American Physiological Society honored him with an award for his presentation. In addition

to his research, Joshua also studied the mathematical modeling of HIV and influenza epidemics through the Outreach Conference created by the HSPH Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics. Through these experiences, Joshua has learned about the socio-cultural norms, local realities, and developmental factors that affect health around the world, which has inspired him to pursue a career in assessing traditional medical systems and addressing global issues of infectious diseases, malnutrition, and health disparity. He is committed to improving the health of populations through integrative practices and policies, such as the integration of traditional and allopathic medicine. As a humanist, Joshua has a natural inclination to learn languages. He enjoys speaking French, Spanish, and Portuguese and plans to learn Amharic and Arabic. He is a Gates Millennium Scholar as well as a Posse Scholar and mentor.

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Matthew D. Cook (Matt)

Age: 23
Nominating Institution: *University of Notre Dame*
Degree: *B.A. in Architecture, University of Notre Dame (2014)*
Field of Professional Interest: *Architecture and Urban Planning*

Matt is an architecture and Italian language student at the University of Notre Dame. After a childhood spent drawing in and around the fantastic buildings of his native Chicago, Matt chose to study architecture and urban design. While he loves the aesthetic puzzle of every design, it is really the human element of architecture that makes the profession so appealing for Matt. His studies have allowed him to travel extensively, and his enriching experiences both at home and abroad have greatly influenced his understanding of the role of tradition in architecture. From Rome (where he studied for a year) to China to the American South, Matt is most moved by traditional architecture and the story it tells about a people and their history. Most recently, Matt's travels led him to Havana, Cuba, where he and his studio produced an urban masterplan for an abandoned waterfront site. In addition to planning several new blocks containing civic buildings, public space, and affordable housing, Matt also designed a 750 seat concert hall, faced in local stone, on a site adjacent to a primary public plaza. Before graduating in May, Matt will complete his thesis design for a winery in Vernazza, a coastal village in northwest Italy that was hit by catastrophic landslides in 2011. The winery will provide a link between the town and its natural setting, reinvigorating the traditional viticultural economy of Vernazza while making the land safer for human habitation by increasing cultivation. Matt has also been a lifelong student of languages; he started learning French at age five and began his study of Italian when he started college. He now has the pleasure of helping others pursue mastery of a language in his role as a French and Italian tutor at Notre Dame's Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures. When he does (occasionally) leave his drafting desk, Matt can be found making music with his friends, either at the piano, which he has played since age five, or on the guitar his grandfather built. He also enjoys woodworking and is currently working on a wine cabinet to accompany his thesis design. Matt hopes that by looking to the past to generate design solutions for the future, his work will bring renewed awareness to the importance of tradition in architecture.

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Joshua B. Freedman (Josh)

Age: 24
Nominating Institution: Stanford University
Degree: B.A. in Public Policy, Stanford University (2011)
Field of Professional Interest: Public Policy and Journalism

Josh Freedman is a policy analyst in the Economic Growth Program at the New America Foundation, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington, DC. In this role, he researches and writes about economic and social policy in the United States. His writing has appeared in The Atlantic, Reuters, Quartz, CNN.com, and a variety of other print and online publications. Josh is also a contributing writer for Forbes magazine online, covering the political economics of higher education. He is interested in the philosophical foundations of public policy decisions and institutions, the intersection of the government and the economy, and the design of social insurance programs. Josh graduated with a B.A. in Public Policy (concentration: Ethics) from Stanford University in 2011, where he received the Ann C. Seminars award for Outstanding Senior in Public Policy and the Outstanding Senior Practicum award for a project on high school graduation standards in California. While in school, he interned at National Journal magazine, conducted research on political corruption connected to the nonprofit sector, and worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant in the Public Policy Program. He served as editor-in-chief of The Unofficial Stanford Blog, the independent student blog, and wrote, acted, and produced comedy as part of Stanford's sketch comedy troupe. When not thinking about the economy or philosophy, Josh enjoys making people laugh: He performs standup and improv comedy and is a frequent contributor to *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, an online humor magazine. His satirical essay, "It's Not You, It's Quantitative Cost-Benefit Analysis" was selected for inclusion in the forthcoming book, "The Best of *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*." Josh hails from the oft-maligned state of New Jersey.

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Nicole S. Gunawansa

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Washington & Lee University
Degree: B.S. in Neuroscience, Washington & Lee University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Public Health

Nicole Gunawansa grew up in a lively Sri Lankan household in Portsmouth, Virginia. After spending a significant amount of time volunteering at hospitals and homeless shelters in and around Portsmouth, Nicole developed a deep-seeded interest in medicine and the role that poverty plays in equal access to medical treatment. In May 2014 Nicole will graduate from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia with a B.S. in neuroscience and an added emphasis in Poverty and Human Capability Studies. As a Washington and Lee University Robert E. Lee Research Scholar, Nicole has spent four years participating in behavioral neurological research that focuses on the impact of obesity and gonadal hormones on spatial and episodic cognition. Her research was well received at the National Society of Neuroscience conference in November of 2013, and a paper on this topic is

slated for submission to the *Journal of Physiology and Behavior* in the spring of 2014. Nicole is a Bonner Scholar and AmeriCorps member and has dedicated over 900 hours to both domestic and international community service. She has worked with various organizations throughout the Lexington community, including the Rockbridge Area Health Center, the Leadership Team of W&L Campus Kitchens, and several local afterschool programs. She also spent time volunteering in Birmingham, Alabama, where she worked with programs such as Alabama A+ and Focus First to promote the welfare of Birmingham youth. In an attempt to further explore the relationship between medicine and poverty, Nicole became involved with the Rockbridge Community Health Needs Assessment via the MAPP Project (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership) in 2012. She also spent a semester abroad in Denmark studying the impact of the Scandinavian Healthcare Model on different sectors of European society. In the summer of 2013, Nicole was awarded both a Johnson Opportunity Grant and a Shepherd Consortium International Internship, enabling her to spend two months in Ghana teaching English at Ashaiman Apostolic Academy and volunteering at Kaneshie Polyclinic. Nicole's record of domestic and international service, in conjunction with her background in science, motivates her to pursue her dream of becoming a physician capable of catering to the underprivileged populations of the world.

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Joël J. Hage

Age: 23
Nominating Institution: University of North Carolina
Degree: B.A. in Global Studies, International Politics and Middle East Area Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: International Development and Urban Planning

Joël Hage is a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), where he majors in global studies and minors in the Arabic language. A Morehead-Cain Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Joël has conducted ethnographic research across the Mediterranean interned with a community development organization in South Africa and a global impact-investing firm in Washington, D.C. Committed to a community-based approach to international development, Joël has had opportunities to immerse himself in rural and urban communities in Guatemala, Lebanon, Italy, Mexico, and South Africa. In addition to co-authoring a textbook chapter comparing immigration policy in the U.S. and Europe, Joël has written an honors thesis focusing on public opinion surrounding electoral reform in multi-confessional Lebanon. Back at UNC, as a member of the executive board of the Campus Y—the university's center for social justice—Joël has worked closely with students and community organizations on issues ranging from immigration inequality, access to education, and youth empowerment. Also at UNC, Joël has organized workshops and orientations on global engagement, founded an organization to provide scholarships for South African children of color, and is currently teaching a seminar course on Lebanon. Joël hopes to assist marginalized communities both domestically and internationally through a career at the crossroads of urban planning and international development.

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Michelle Huang

Age: 21
Nominating Institution: Cornell University
Degree: B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations
Cornell University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: International Labor Law

Michelle Huang will graduate from Cornell University in May of 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial and Labor Relations and a minor in Law and Society. She began her undergraduate education at Wellesley College, where she discovered her interest in economics, law and policy. Outside of class, she found a mouthpiece for her interest at the college radio station, WZLY, where she was appointed News Director in her first year. Inspired by her experiences at a women's college, Michelle worked at the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, where she analyzed progress and drafted grants for programs supporting UN Security Council Resolutions on women and peace and security. After transferring to Cornell, these interests culminated in an interdisciplinary study of labor and employment law. Her junior year, she worked at the New York City Commission on Human Rights where she aided in the successful settlement of a multi-complainant race discrimination suit by conducting proof in pattern and practice statistical analysis. Her senior year, she worked at Proskauer Rose, where she helped develop and organize an online database for the firm's archival case reference material. She also assisted in a pro-bono case filling a U-Visa for a noncitizen crime victim. Academically, Michelle has been placed on the ILR School Dean's List every semester and expects to graduate with honors, pending completion of her thesis research on local adaptations to globalization in the New York City Garment District. Michelle's interest in the intersection of economics, law and policy has inspired her to pursue competition in both collegiate policy debate and British Parliamentary debate for the Cornell Forensics Society, where she currently serves as the Vice President of External Relations. Notably, she is the first member of the society to achieve competitive success in both policy and British Parliamentary debate. Beyond competition, Michelle also performs outreach at the Finger Lakes Residential Center, where she spends time teaching juvenile delinquents about debate and public speaking. In her free time, Michelle enjoys blogging about her amateur forays into cooking and maintaining her black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

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Cindy K.Y. Lung

Age: 24
Nominating Institution: Brown University
Degrees: B.A. in Education Studies and Sociology
Brown University (2012); M.A. in Urban
Education Policy, Brown University (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Education Research and Policy

Cindy Lung was born in San Francisco and raised in nearby San Lorenzo, California, where she attended public schools for her primary and secondary education. Raised by a hard-working immigrant mother who worked as a janitor, Cindy became the first in her family to graduate from high school. In 2008, she entered Brown University in Rhode Island and studied education psychology, policy, and history. At Brown, she received the Evelyn Jacobs Reisman and Karen T. Romer undergraduate research awards to conduct achievement tests and qualitative interviews with low-income Chinese immigrant children and their mothers to document their learning beliefs and how their beliefs influence their actual learning and achievement. In addition to her research, Cindy served as a teaching assistant for an introductory sociology course and a graduate-level research methodology course. Her interests in teaching led her to conduct TOEFL practice sessions with international high school students for three summers, teach English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at a community center, and lead an adult ESOL literacy program that provides free ESOL courses for adult immigrants in Providence, Rhode Island. After completing her Bachelor's in Education Studies and Sociology, Cindy pursued her Master's in Education Policy at Brown and interned at Rhode Island Kids Count where she was a contributing writer and data analyst for the organization's annual publication that examines sixty-eight indicators that affect the lives of children. Currently, Cindy serves as Fulbright Fellow in Prizren, Kosovo, where she assists with English instruction at a public elementary school and collects student-level data through focus groups and questionnaires to examine Kosovar youth perspectives of higher education and how government agencies, schools, and community-based agencies could help more Kosovar students enroll in and succeed in college.

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Katherine G. McDaniel

Age: 21
Nominating Institution: Yale University
Degree: B.S. in Molecular, Cellular and Development Biology
Yale College (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Global Health

Katherine McDaniel was born and raised in Bloomington, IN, the daughter of a biomedical engineer and a nurse-midwife. She grew up appreciating the power of both scientific innovations and patient-level efforts to improve human health, and hopes to incorporate both into a career as a physician focusing on global health. Katherine will graduate from Yale College in May with a B.S. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. Her research, conducted both at Yale and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, seeks to inhibit bacterial group behavior and thus guide development of therapeutics less likely to provoke resistance as compared to standard antibiotics. In addition to her scientific pursuits, she has developed a keen interest in the health of disadvantaged populations, starting with her work as an interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients at Yale's HAVEN Free Clinic. Her experience at HAVEN prompted her to join the Yale-Ecuador HIV Clinic Initiative (YEHCI), which allowed her to work in Ecuador for a summer doing global health research, HIV testing, and sexual health education. She later served as Outreach Director and Co-Executive Director of YEHCI, guiding its evolution into a new initiative - Student Partnerships for Global Health. Inspired by her experience in Ecuador and preparing other students for the same, she is now conducting survey- and interview-based research on how global health

research experiences impact students and their host communities. The initial findings are being used to shape Yale's pre-departure training for global health researchers and will inspire case studies about student global health ethics in *Global Health 101*, 3rd Edition. Katherine also works as a research assistant to Professor Richard Skolnik, the author of this textbook. In addition to providing academic insights, these experiences have fostered a delight in learning from other cultures. A Christian, she joined a Jewish, Hebrew and Israeli a cappella group her freshman year and has since embraced Jewish culture and become proficient in Hebrew. She has knit and shared patterns with knitters on five continents, played French horn with groups ranging from the Yale Concert Band to South African and Lithuanian street bands, and enjoyed Argentine tango lessons taught in Hebrew. As Katherine prepares for a medical career, she looks forward to continuing to learn from many places and people and uniting those perspectives for benefit of global health.

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Kyle W. Niezgoda

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Emory University
Degree: B.S. in Environmental Science / B.A. in Mathematics
Emory University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Climatology and Meteorology

Kyle hails from a small town just outside of Dover, Delaware. He is a recent graduate from Emory University in Atlanta, where he double majored in Environmental Science and Mathematics. During his time at Emory, he worked in a lab studying pollination ecology and honey bee declines. Kyle spent two summers doing ecological field research for his advisor at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory near Aspen, Colorado. At the RMBL, Kyle and his lab team experimentally removed a single pollinator species from a field site and then observed how the foraging behaviors of the remaining pollinator species changed. The lab team found that these changes in foraging behavior negatively effected the reproductive fitness of wildflowers pollinated by the bee species, reducing seed set by up to 30%. At Emory, he has carried out independent research studying the effects of El Niño/La Niña phenomena on the flowering phenology of plants from the RMBL and surrounding areas. He is currently involved in a research project trying to tease apart the details of new pollination network data that were gathered recently. While Kyle's main research focus in school has been of bees and pollination, his career interests lie in the climatological and atmospheric sciences, stemming from a childhood spent almost entirely outdoors where an appreciation for nature flourished. He hopes to one day use his research experience and mathematical knowledge to enter the complex field of climate modeling and prediction to address important questions facing our planet, such as pollution control and management. Kyle is an avid percussionist of 11 years and a life-long music enthusiast. He enjoys crabbing in the Chesapeake Bay and spends most of his holiday time at home fishing on a family owned pond. He spends the majority of his time outside and will jump at the opportunity to take a long backpacking trip, go camping, or just take a short day hike. He also enjoys skiing, but opportunities are limited due the lack of mountainous topography in Delaware and Atlanta.

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Andrew T. Peters

Age: 21
Nominating Institution: Northwestern University
Degree: B.A. in Linguistics, Carleton College (2013);
M.D., Feinberg School of Medicine,
Northwestern University (expected 2017)
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Neurolinguistics

Andrew Peters was born and raised in Rochester, Minnesota. A lifelong fascination with language, its content, and its structure drove his studies at nearby Carleton College, where he graduated summa cum laude in 2013 with a B.A. in linguistics, with distinction for his thesis project on mathematical models for Spanish phonology. He travelled to Kyoto for an all-too-brief trimester studying Japanese linguistics at Doshisha University in 2012. Andrew has a passion not just for linguistics but for language learning, having studied Latin, Spanish, and Japanese. He developed these pursuits alongside a long-held affinity for science and medicine, picking up hard-science classes at Carleton and immersing himself in HIV research for three summers at the Mayo Clinic. His work there and his experiences with Mayo physicians galvanized his desire for a medical career, and eventually his move to Chicago in fall 2013 to attend Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He is particularly interested in speech disorders, as they represent an area where medicine and linguistics critically overlap, which he currently studies as a member of Northwestern's Aphasia and Neurolinguistics Research Laboratory. He hopes to seriously pursue and maintain this research interest, but views working with patients as the purpose and focus of his future career. Working with infectious disease physicians and their need for global and public-health competency have also influenced his perspective on medicine. Outside of classes, Andrew has found teaching and tutoring fulfilling; he worked as a Writing Center tutor throughout his Carleton career and currently volunteers at an after-school science program for middle schoolers in Humboldt Park, Chicago. He has always been a musician, playing piano and horn, and performing in orchestras in his hometown and at Carleton. Music - along with reading, writing, the outdoors, and of course time with family and friends - is what keeps him mindful, open, and inspired.

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William F. Poff-Webster (Will)

Age: 23
Nominating Institution: Harvard College
Degree: A.B. in History, Harvard College (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Government Policy/Education and Urban Policy

Will Poff-Webster grew up in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts. He first encountered political activism at age 8 when he canvassed his neighbors with his mom to get their street repaved. As a junior in the Boston Public Schools, he started a community organizing effort with students across neighborhood and race lines to restore budget cuts to public education. He joined the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC), advocating for education reform in the Boston Teachers Union contract alongside business, community, faith, and parent groups. As an alumni staff member at BSAC he helped lead the campaign that made student feedback a component of teacher evaluations across Massachusetts. As a student at Harvard College graduating in 2014, Will majors in History with a smattering of

classes in Government, Spanish, Sociology, and International Relations. He is writing his senior thesis on the political impact of gang violence in the Roman Republic, exploring how urban class conflict interacted with political revolution in the first century BC that has relevance for unstable and developing countries today. Will's experience outside the classroom has been equally meaningful; this year, as President of the College Democrats of Massachusetts, he has advocated for greater youth input on issues like public transit, tuition affordability, housing, campus sexual assault policies, the minimum wage, and modernized voter registration. He moderated a youth forum with the Boston Mayoral candidates and brought more public college chapters into the College Democrats. During his summers, Will has taught environmental justice to at-risk teens at a Boston youth program, interned on education policy with Boston Mayor Tom Menino, campaigned for Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, and worked for Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake's Office of CitiStat on data analytics. He is passionate about the intersection of local government and data-driven policy analysis that can lead to better outcomes in everything from education to road maintenance to gang violence reduction. He believes data collection must be responsive to the experiences of constituents, and has combined data with his passion for education reform by co-founding the Boston Student Union, an organization of Boston Public Schools students and college mentors that surveys students on issues that matter to them and advocates for student-centered educational improvement and equity between schools. In his free time, Will teaches American Civics to 5th graders in South Boston, reads about science fiction and foreign policy, and performs in a Harvard improvisational comedy troupe.

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Kevin E. Schell

Age: 25
Nominating Institution: Rice University
Degree: B.S.M.E. in Mechanical Engineering,
Rice University (2011)
Field of Professional Interest: Energy & Utilities

Kevin Schell currently works within the Finance group of the Helmsley Charitable Trust as the foundation's Management Reporting Associate where he has worked on developing systems and metrics to help improve the Trust's ability to effectively support its programs. Kevin graduated from Rice University in 2011 with a degree in mechanical engineering. While at Rice, Kevin spent much of his time outside of the classroom in the pool with the men's water polo team, helping to coordinate committees at his residential college (Brown), and volunteering in Rice's admissions office. Kevin also looked for every opportunity to demonstrate his enthusiasm for his school and regularly painted up for the Owls' home football games. After graduating from Rice, Kevin joined McKinsey & Company's Houston Office as a business analyst where he primarily worked with energy and industrial clients. During his time at McKinsey, Kevin was involved with recruiting and training new classes of business analysts. In his free time, Kevin likes cooking, running, and listening to classic rock. He is also an avid fan of light British automobiles and mediocre professional sports teams. Kevin misses Texas BBQ and pecan pie, but has developed a love for bagel sandwiches since moving to New York.

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Katherine M. Schuler (Katie)

Age: 29
Nominating Institution: George Washington University
Degree: B.F.A. Fine Art, Corcoran College of Art and Design (2007)
Field of Professional Interest: Wildlife Conservation and Science Education through Art and Storytelling

Katie Schuler works at the intersection of art, entrepreneurship, community development and stewardship of the natural world. As a photographer and videographer, Katie has traveled to over fifteen countries across six continents documenting wildlife and their habitats. As an artist and producer, she has led outreach efforts to vulnerable communities and undereducated youth, both at home and abroad. Katie's clients rank among the most recognizable in environmental education including National Geographic, The Smithsonian Institute, Conservation International, Woods Hole Oceanographic and PBS. Katie is a graduate of the Corcoran College of Art and Design, and a recipient of the prestigious Koenig Trust Scholarship. Katie embraces a collaborative, holistic approach to solving problems of sustainability and environmental awareness, and believes that visual storytelling can be a transformative experience that changes hearts and minds for the better. Katie currently resides in Washington, DC and is a proud native of Palm Harbor, Florida.

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Audrey C. Stienon

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Hunter College
Degree: B.A. in Political Science and Economy, Hunter College (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: International Political Economy and Development

Audrey Stienon is a native New Yorker who grew up in a Belgian-American household. Her yearly visits to family in Europe sparked her fascination with understanding the world at large, and prompted her to study international relations in college. She has pursued study-abroad opportunities in diverse settings, including China, Crete, Argentina, Russia, Ecuador and Costa Rica. In 2014, Audrey will graduate from the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College with a double major in Political Science and Economics, and with a minor in Public Policy. She joined the Hunter College Model United Nations Team in 2011, and after her first semester, became the teacher's assistant of the requisite course for all team members, and Head Delegate of the team during all competitions. Having grown up with a younger sister who has Rett Syndrome, a severe developmental disorder, Audrey has long been involved in local awareness campaigns for Rett Syndrome and is interested in understanding the differences between individuals and groups in order to learn how best to respect them and accommodate their needs. More recently, she brought that experience to her academic work. In the summer of 2013, Audrey worked as an intern at the International Disability Alliance, a disability-rights advocacy organization at the UN, and recently completed a public policy capstone thesis analyzing the ways in which New York State long-term care policies could be used to promote social integration for people with disabilities. While much of her

work thus far has centered around the promotion of rights for people with disabilities, Audrey hopes to expand on the lessons she learned about the barriers facing this group, and pursue a career in which she can promote the integration into society of a range of traditionally marginalized groups around the world.

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Meaghan C. Tobin

Age: 25
Nominating Institution: *New York University*
Degrees: *B.S. in Food Studies, Nutrition and Public Health
New York University (2012); A.S. in Bakery and Pastry Arts
Johnson & Wales University (2010)*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Agriculture, Trade & Development*

Meaghan Tobin is a Fellow at Meridian Institute, where she supports mediation and consensus-building processes around complex social and political issues with national and global implications. Meaghan provides support for policy dialogues, negotiations, and strategy development projects focused on food and health, agricultural development, natural resource management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. At Meridian, Meaghan has helped to develop policy recommendations for local, state, and national policymakers to increase access to nutritious foods; assisted the U.S. government and ministries of foreign governments in evaluating results-based payment systems that reduce deforestation and environmental degradation in developing countries; and supported multi-stakeholder dialogues to inform the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process. Meaghan has also provided strategic support for projects targeting reduced emissions from oil consumption and production in North America, and contributed to the continued development of the Meridian Fellowship program. Meaghan graduated in 2012 from New York University, where she studied food studies, nutrition, and public health. She also took courses in economics and international politics, and her academic work focused on understanding the relationship between political and economic forces and the global food and agriculture system. During her time at NYU, Meaghan conducted research on open campus spaces to investigate the potential of developing innovative urban agriculture systems. She held a number of intern positions at regional agricultural development organizations, and served as President of Slow Food NYU. Prior to attending NYU, Meaghan graduated summa cum laude in 2010 with a degree in Baking & Pastry Arts from Johnson & Wales University. As part of her studies, Meaghan spent several months living in Ireland and working as a pastry chef at a resort hotel. She has also been an artisan bread baker and worked on farms in Massachusetts and New York's Hudson Valley. Meaghan grew up in New England and is an accomplished figure skater. She has an abiding love for languages and linguistic anthropology, and has studied Spanish, French, Arabic, Irish, and Mandarin Chinese.



2014-2015 LUCE SCHOLAR PLACEMENTS

JACOB P. BOGART

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Tulane University
Degree: B.A. in Globalization Studies and French
The Ohio State University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Human Rights and the United Nations
Placement: **National Human Rights Commission of Thailand**
Bangkok, Thailand

Jacob will be placed at the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT). Established by the 1997 Constitution, the NHRCT started functioning in July 2001 as an independent organization with a specific mandate to promote and protect the rights set out in the Thai Constitution and in accordance with the country's international human rights obligations. Within the years 2009-2015, the NHRCT focuses on five prioritized issues (Human rights in the administration of justice; Community rights and access to natural resources of local communities with sustainability; Human rights of vulnerable groups; Human rights and business; and Human rights and tolerance in differences) and one specific area (Human rights in the southern border provinces).

BENJAMIN J. CHIN (BEN)

Age: 25
Nominating Institution: Rutgers University
Degree: B.A. in Public health and Linguistics
Rutgers University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: International Drug Policy/Addiction Treatment & Recovery
Placement: **Thailand Institute of Justice**
Bangkok, Thailand

Established by the Royal Thai Government in 2011 and affiliated with the Ministry of Justice, the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) aims to promote excellence in research and capacity building in crime and justice. Building on Thailand's engagement in the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the UN Crime Congresses, TIJ serves as a bridge that translates global ideas into local practice, including in enhancing domestic justice reform and the rule-based community within the ASEAN region. TIJ also gears its work towards important crosscutting issues on the UN agenda such as the rule of law, development, human rights, peace and security. Through knowledge management and outreach, TIJ aspires to be not only an agent of change in the Thai "community of justice", but also a partner of the United Nations Programme Network Institutes (PNI) in Southeast Asia.

JOSHUA A. COLE (JOSH)

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Boston University
Degree: B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and French Studies
Boston University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Global Health
Placement: Graduate School of Public Health
Seoul National University
Seoul, Korea

Josh will be placed at the Institute of Health and Environment of the Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) at Seoul National University, a leading academic institution in Korea. In training current and future public health professionals, GSPH is committed to advancing public health research to address health inequalities in Korea's diversifying society. Within the GSPH are several research units under the Institute of Health and Environment, including the Center for Genome Epidemiology, Center for Economic Evaluation, and Center for Global Health Research. The director of the Institute, Professor, Byong Hee Cho, who has just been named the new Dean of GSPH, will serve as Josh's overall mentor during his Luce year.

MATTHEW D. COOK (MATT)

Age: 23
Nominating Institution: University of Notre Dame
Degree: B.A. in Architecture, University of Notre Dame (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Architecture and Urban Planning
Placement: Ibuku Bamboo Architecture & Design
Bali, Indonesia

Matt Cook will be placed with Ibuku in Bali, an innovative firm that specializes in design and building with bamboo. At Ibuku, "The materials we use, the people we work with, and the land we build on all inform our design process. The traditional skills of Balinese craftsmen, combined with our design ideas and modern engineering enable us to create original bamboo structures that meet the needs of a diverse clientele." The team of talented Indonesian designers and architects have built forty new bamboo structures in Bali, many of the buildings now make up the Green Village, a community of homes neighboring the Green School. Ibuku continues to expand the potential of building exceptional bamboo structures.

JOSHUA B. FREEDMAN (JOSH)

Age: 24
Nominating Institution: Stanford University
Degree: B.A. in Public Policy, Stanford University (2011)
Field of Professional Interest: Public Policy and Journalism
Placement: College of Humanities and Development Studies
China Agricultural University
Beijing, China

China Agricultural University (CAU) is one of the top ranked key national universities in China. As the oldest agricultural higher education institution in China, CAU's history dates to October 1905. The College of Humanities and Development Studies (COHD) was founded in 2002, which grew out of the College of Social Sciences and the College of Rural Development, and seeks to meld development experiences from related international agencies and adapt them to the major issues facing rural China. The COHD has established a comprehensive system of education, research, training and consultancy, with broad international exchanges and long-term international cooperation. Josh's mentor, Dr. Xiaoyun Li, is dean of COHD and previously a senior research officer with China's State Council and the Central Party Committee in the areas of agricultural and rural development policy.

NICOLE S. GUNAWANSA

Age: 21
Nominating Institution: Washington & Lee University
Degree: B.S. in Neuroscience, Washington & Lee University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Public Health
Placement: [International Research Institute of Disaster Science](#)
[Tohoku University School of Medicine](#)
[Sendai, Japan](#)

Founded in 1907, Tohoku University in Sendai in the Tohoku Region is a national university, the third oldest Imperial University in Japan and a member of the National Seven Universities. Following the catastrophic disaster of Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, Tohoku University established the International Research Institute of Disaster Science (IRIDeS). Together with collaborating organizations from many countries and with broad areas of specializations, the IRIDeS conducts world-leading research on natural disaster science and disaster mitigation, learning from and building upon past lessons in disaster management from Japan and around the world.

JOËL J. HAGE

Age: 23
Nominating Institution: University of North Carolina
Degree: B.A. in Global Studies, International Politics and Middle East Area Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: International Development and Urban Planning
Placement: [Center for Community Development Studies](#)
[Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences](#)
[Kunming, China](#)

Joël will be placed with the Center for Community Development Studies (CCDS) at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, in Kunming, the capital and largest city in Yunnan Province in Southwest China. Established in 1999, CCDS bridges the community and government, and has achieved great success on studies of natural resource management, safety of community living and democracy building in rural areas. The Center is also a

consultant for international organizations including the World Bank, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and UN Development Program. Joël's mentor is the Center's director, Dr. Zheng Baohua, whose work focuses on community development, especially its connection to social forestry, natural resource management, land tenure, sustainable development, indigenous knowledge utilization and gender issues.

MICHELLE HUANG

Age: 21
Nominating Institution: Cornell University
Degree: B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations
Cornell University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: International Labor Law
Placement: Arbitration Council Foundation
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Within the Arbitration Council Foundation, Michelle will support the work of the training and communications team. The Arbitration Council Foundation is a registered not-for-profit foundation established in 2004 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia with the assistance of the International Labor Organization (ILO), and in consultation with the Cambodian Ministry of Labor, employer associations, and union federations. The Foundation's purpose is to support the labor dispute resolution work of the Arbitration Council, an independent quasi-judicial tribunal responsible for resolving collective labor disputes in Cambodia through mediation and arbitration.

CINDY K.Y. LUNG

Age: 24
Nominating Institution: Brown University
Degrees: B.A. in Education Studies and Sociology, Brown University (2012); M.A. in Urban Education Policy, Brown University (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Education Research and Policy
Placement: National Academy for Educational Research
New Taipei City, Taiwan

Cindy will be placed with the National Academy for Educational Research (NAER). Officially established in March 2011, NAER is located in Sanxia District, New Taipei City. NAER serves primarily as a research institute at the national level, responsible for long-term, integrated and systematic research, offering the results as a reference for the government to develop related policies. NAER also works as a think-tank in setting up various platforms for effective communications and collaborations. NAER has made various achievements in testing, assessment and curriculum development and enjoyed accomplished results in building up the student's database and certifying teacher's qualification. Educational leadership training and professional development is one of the NAER offerings for school leaders, teachers, and local administrators.

KATHERINE G. MCDANIEL

Age: 21
Nominating Institution: Yale University
Degree: B.S. in Molecular, Cellular and Development Biology
Yale College (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Global Health
Placement: **Buddhism for Development
Battambang, Cambodia**

In her placement with Buddhism for Development, Katherine will work to support and evaluate community health initiatives including home based care, malaria management and prevention, access to primary health care, maternity and infant health, and HIV/AIDS. Buddhism for Development was established by Buddhist monks in 1990 in the camps along the Cambodia-Thai border. Buddhism for Development currently works in seven provinces in the north and west of Cambodia, from its headquarters in Battambang, the capital city of Battambang province, on the grounds of Wat Anlongvil temple.

KYLE W. NIEZGODA

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Emory University
Degree: B.S. in Environmental Science / B.A. in Mathematics
Emory University (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Climatology and Meteorology
Placement: **Earth Observatory Singapore
Singapore**

Kyle will be placed with the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. The EOS conducts fundamental research on earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis & climate change in and around Southeast Asia. Working towards safer and more sustainable societies, the EOS aspires to make earth science relevant to the improvement and the quality of people's lives, and connects with individuals and institutions that prepare and build resilience in Southeast Asian communities through a better understanding of advances in Earth science. The director of the EOS, Professor Kerry Sieh, is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences and holds the AXA-Nanyang Chair in National Hazards at NTU.

ANDREW T. PETERS

Age: 21
Nominating Institution: Northwestern University
Degree: B.A. in Linguistics, Carlton College (2013); M.D.
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
(expected 2017)
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Neurolinguistics
Placement: **Department of Primary Education in the Science of Art
Osaka University of Arts
Osaka, Japan**

Andrew will be placed with the Osaka University of Arts, a private arts university located in Kanan in the Osaka Prefecture. At the Osaka University of Arts, Andrew will work in the Department of Primary Education in the Science of Art, directly supporting the research of acclaimed specialist Dr. Yumiko Tanaka Welty on areas of speech-language pathology, a field that deeply excites Andrew.

WILLIAM F. POFF-WEBSTER (WILL)

Age: 23
Nominating Institution: Harvard College
Degree: A.B. in History, Harvard College (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: Government Policy/Education and Urban Policy
Placement: *Observer Research Foundation*
New Delhi, India

The Observer Research Foundation (ORF) is a leading private, not-for-profit, think-tank headquartered in New Delhi that seeks to influence public policy formulation. ORF was established in September 1990 during the troubled period of India's transition from a protected economy to one actively engaged with the international economic order, with the support of many of India's leading intellectuals, academics, public figures, social activists, business leaders and institutions of higher learning. ORF programming includes the work of various centers, including the Centre for International Relations, the Institute of Security Studies, the Centre for Resources Management, the Centre for Economy and Development, and the Centre for Politics and Governance. ORF also has chapters in Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

KEVIN E. SCHELL

Age: 25
Nominating Institution: Rice University
Degree: B.S.M.E. in Mechanical Engineering, Rice University (2011)
Field of Professional Interest: Energy & Utilities
Placement: *Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency, Ministry of Energy*
Bangkok, Thailand

The Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE) was established under the National Energy Authority Act to promote sustainable development of alternative energy and energy efficiency in Thailand. Formerly known as the National Energy Authority, the DEDE is charged with promoting sustainable energy consumption and production in each suitable areas and developing commercial clean energy technology for exporting and domestic use. It is also responsible for energy conservation regulation, energy sources provision, integrated energy uses and energy technology dissemination.

KATHERINE M. SCHULER (KATIE)

Age: 29
Nominating Institution: George Washington University
Degree: B.F.A. Fine Art, Corcoran College of Art and Design (2007)
Field of Professional Interest: Wildlife Conservation and Science Education through Art and Storytelling
Placement: **Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences
Silliman University
Dumaguete, the Philippines**

At Silliman University's Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences, Katie will work to develop the Institute's marine interpretive center and building outreach activities with local schools. Silliman University is a private research university in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, the Philippines. Founded by Presbyterian missionaries in 1901, Silliman is the oldest American-established university in the Philippines and the first American university in Asia. The Institute of Environmental & Marine Sciences at Silliman University provides pioneering research in community-based biodiversity conservation, coastal resource management, and marine protected areas.

AUDREY C. STIENON

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Hunter College
Degree: B.A. in Political Science and Economy, Hunter College (2014)
Field of Professional Interest: International Political Economy and Development
Placement: **Centre for Strategic and International Studies
Jakarta, Indonesia**

At the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Audrey will work to support the research and programming of the Economics Department. Established in 1971, CSIS is an independent, non-profit organization focusing on policy-oriented studies on domestic and international issues. The mission of CSIS is to contribute to improved policy making through policy-oriented research, dialogue, and public debate, based on the belief that long-term planning and vision for Indonesia and the region must be based on an in-depth understanding of economic, political and social issues including regional and international developments. The Economics Department's policy-oriented studies support the development of a sustainable economy in Indonesia - characterized by rapid, shared, participatory and environmentally friendly growth, the development of an open and competitive economic system, and the promotion of social justice, equity and equality for the society.

MEAGHAN C. TOBIN

Age: 25
Nominating Institution: New York University
Degrees: B.S. in Food Studies, Nutrition and Public Health
New York University (2012); A.S. in Bakery and Pastry
Arts, Johnson & Wales University (2010)
Field of Professional Interest: International Agriculture, Trade & Development
Placement: **National Center for Food Safety Education and
Research, National Taiwan University
Taipei, Taiwan**

The National Center for Food Safety Education and Research (NCFSER) was established in August 2012, a collaboration between the Food and Drug Administration of Taiwan and the College of Bioresources and Agriculture at the National Taiwan University. With a mission to promote food safety across the food industry, NCFSER seeks to build a risk analysis model for food safety, enhancing food safety, and promoting food safety knowledge. Meaghan will support the research and programs of the NCFSER as well as its partners, the Institute of Food Science and Technology and the Taiwan Association for Food Protection.

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