



JUNIOR SUMMER INSTITUTE *2017*



STUDENT *biographies*



HARLEIGH BEAN

College: Washington and Lee University

Major(s): International Politics, Romance Languages with a Spanish emphasis

Minor: Latin American and Caribbean studies

Hometown: Upper Marlboro, Maryland

As a Division III athlete, Harleigh splits her time between the Washington and Lee Women's Lacrosse team, her academic endeavors and various extracurriculars including the Peer Counseling program, the Alumni Association, Kathekon and University Ambassadors. Dedicated to building her foreign language repertoire, Harleigh has studied abroad in Seville, Spain, and Paris, France, and has attended the fully immersive summer experience through School of French at Middlebury College.



JENNIFER BELTRÁN

College: Swarthmore College

Major(s): Economics and Spanish

Hometown: Ontario, California

Jennifer is most interested in international development and economic policy regarding Latin American countries. She has also conducted research on domestic urban poverty. Her involvements at Swarthmore College include serving as co-president for the Latino club, being a member of the track and field team and serving as treasurer for the QuestBridge chapter.



HALEEMA BHAROOCHA

College: Seattle University

Major(s): Sociology

Hometown: Santa Clara, California

Haleema graduated from Middle College with her general education certificate and associate degrees in sociology and psychology with high honors. She currently serves as the Pre Law Students' Association president, at-large representative in student government and event coordinator for the Muslim Student Association. She has facilitated many events to start a critical dialogue about the political system. In addition, Haleema does independent research on legal matters which she hopes to publish in the near future. In her free time, Haleema does Olympic weight lifting, photography and hiking.

Haleema plans to enroll in joint degree program in public policy and law. She aspires to work in criminal law and public policy. She has worked alongside Superior Court Judge Lucero and at the nationally recognized civil rights firm, Council on American-Islamic Relations. Her goal is to tackle the issue of inequity within the criminal justice system and investigate discrepancies in policies that disproportionately impact minority groups. Her passion pushes her to thrive in her field and further evolve the legal community with the long-term vision of transformative change within the legal realm.



ADWOA BOATENG

College: University of Maryland, College Park

Major(s): Economics/Government and Politics

Hometown: Columbia, Maryland

Growing up in Accra, Ghana, exposed Adwoa to the challenges of developing countries, ignited her passion for education and poverty, and shaped her career aspirations in economic development and public policy. Adwoa was a research intern at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. She was an economic and regional affairs intern at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of African Affairs last summer and an acquisitions intern at the Federal Trade Commission during her sophomore year. Her campus involvements include serving as vice president of community service in her professional business organization and serving as the chair of the advisory board within her college.



ESTEEM BRUMFIELD

College: University of California, Berkeley

Major(s): Rhetoric, Political Science

Hometown: Berkeley, California

Esteem was extraordinarily active at his city college where he served as student trustee on the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees and co-founded a pilot mentorship project promoting professional, personal and academic development for student leaders. He also traveled to India and co-created a pilot program teaching public speaking and critical thinking in a refugee boarding school.

He gained valuable experiences in city government as an intern for the mayor of Berkeley, California, and developed a passion for public policy. His career goals concern criminal justice reform, and he intends to pursue a Master of Science in criminology and a Juris Doctorate degree.



ILDEFONSO CELIS

College: Arizona State University

Major(s): Political Science and Business (Public Service and Public Policy)

Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

Ildefonso Celis, a Mexican-American from Phoenix is a student at Arizona State University, double majoring in political science and business with a concentration in public service and public policy. Ildefonso is a mentor for the Be A Leader Foundation, helping low-income high school students pursue higher education. In addition, Ildefonso has participated in state legislative races and has a passion for improving his community at the state level. He also considers himself the king of Connect Four.



LILY FRYER

College: University of California, Los Angeles

Major(s): International Development Studies and Geography/Environmental Studies

Hometown: Red Bluff, California

Lily has interned with the National Park Service, NASA Ames Research Center, California Public Interest Research Group and the Congressional Management Research Foundation on Capitol Hill. She has also worked as an instructor for an American Culture and Conversation class for international students and studied abroad in Nicaragua and Spain. She hopes to work as a foreign service officer for the State Department in the future.



ETHAN GUERRA

College: Louisiana State University

Major(s): International Studies, Political Science and Spanish

Hometown: Reserve, Louisiana

Ethan has completed his first year serving as a research and policy intern in the office of Governor John Bel Edwards. Under the supervision of the director of the Office of Community Programs, Ethan assisted mainly in areas of social policy and community outreach, such as the redevelopment of the Louisiana Latino Commission and researching criminal justice reform measures to take in response to the death of Alton Sterling. Before his internship, Ethan worked with statewide nonprofit organizations, where he managed the grassroots legislative action network for Equality Louisiana and managed social media for Louisiana Progress. His activities at Louisiana State University (LSU) include serving on the leadership of Spectrum (a campus LGBTQ group) and serving as assistant director of student diversity in the LSU Student Government.



CHINELO IBEKWE

College: University of Mississippi

Major(s): Chemical Engineering

Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria

Chinelo has worked as an intern with Mars, Incorporated, Medtronic Company and Goldman Sachs. She recently spent her winter break shadowing a neonatologist at Johns Hopkins Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Her long-term goal is to positively impact the health care sector in her home country, Nigeria. She wants to be a health policymaker. Chinelo's leadership roles on campus include vice president of the African Caribbean Student Association, Engineering ambassador, Engineers Without Borders treasurer and Honors College ambassador. Her volunteer work includes Habitat for Humanity, More Than a Meal, Leapfrog and Society of St. Vincent De Paul.



JOY IKEKHUA

College: Spelman College

Major(s): International Development

Hometown: Tampa, Florida

Joy Ikekhua is from Nigeria and studying international development at Spelman College. She is interested in promoting sustainable development for the African continent and exploring alternative forms of governance that empower oppressed communities. Her interest in development has led her to research the connection between development and political regimes last summer at the University of Virginia, and intern in the Global Education Department at RESULTS: The Power to End Poverty in D.C. last fall. On campus, she serves as the Community Outreach chair for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, a social justice associate, the head of the Giving Table for the Student Philanthropy Council and a member of the Toni Cade Bambara Scholar-Activist Collective. Eventually, Joy plans to run Africa's foremost development consulting agency and cultivate the next generation of young African leaders. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, exploring and listening to alternative music.



ISIAH PETER IÑIGUEZ

College: Brown University

Major(s): Public Policy and Education Studies

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

Isiah Peter Iñiguez, a first-generation Mexican-American, grew up in Los Angeles. The first in his family to attend college, he decided to move across the country to attend Brown University, where he is studying public policy and education studies. During his time at Brown, Isiah site-directed at Let's Get Ready, an educational nonprofit organization. He also conducted research around discipline policies that disproportionately affect students of color at the University of Pennsylvania. Passionate about his work, Isiah decided to take a semester off to further understand the disparities that exist in education. He interned on Capitol Hill through the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, followed by an internship at the Rhode Island Department of Education. In school, Isiah serves on multiple executive boards, was appointed to the Undergraduate Council of Students Financial Aid Advisory Board and serves as a mentor to other first-generation college students. With an interest in education and immigration policy, Isiah hopes to attend law school and run for public office in the future.



HELENA KERR

College: Seattle Pacific University

Major(s): Economics and Political Science

Hometown: Redmond, Washington

Helena has served as a research assistant for a project on Chinese aid policy at Seattle Pacific University, where she analyzed the impact of Chinese aid in Southeast Asia and Africa, including Chinese aid's implications on international human rights. Additionally, she has worked as an advancement research assistant and student employment assistant on campus. Helena's research interests include foreign investment and trade compliance in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. She plans to study political economics in graduate school, and contribute to her field as a development economist. Helena is a member at Slade Gorton International Policy Center's Global Leader Program, and an executive council member at American Enterprise Institute.



DAVID KIRICHENKO

College: University of Washington

Major(s): Economics and Political Science

Hometown: Seattle, Washington

As a first-generation student with an Eastern European background, David is passionate about giving back to his community and promoting global engagement. He has volunteered abroad with nonprofit organizations in Mexico and Spain. He has also volunteered as a multilingual translator for a local nonprofit. David's family was impacted by the current war in Ukraine, and he has been involved with efforts to send humanitarian aid to Ukraine. David aspires to be a leader who serves his community both locally and globally.



CHRISTOPHER KOOY

College: The University of Illinois at Chicago

Major(s): Political Science, Spanish

Hometown: Dixon, Illinois

During his first two years at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chris served as an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Daley Courthouse in Chicago and as a volunteer tax return preparer with the Center for Economic Progress. He currently interns with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Chicago regional office. Chris has also taught English at schools and an addiction help center in Callao, Peru and Lima, Peru. Passionate about studying languages and diplomacy, Chris dreams of one day serving as U.S. Ambassador to Peru.



ZAWADIA LEFANG

College: Occidental College

Major(s): Economics

Hometown: Sugarland, Texas

Zawadia worked at Occidental College's Intercultural Community Center as a programming assistant for over a year, and contributed as an undergraduate research assistant during the summer of 2016. Her activities on campus include serving on the Diversity and Equity Board, being an executive member for the Black Student Alliance and the African Student Association and working at the Green Bean coffee shop.



SARAH LIN

College: Rutgers University

Major(s): (Urban) Planning and Public Policy

Hometown: Marlboro, New Jersey

As a junior, Sarah's on-campus involvement includes assistant directing a House Committee at Rutgers Model Congress, conducting research at the Center on Violence Against Women and Children as a Gardner Fellow in Leadership and Social Policy, working as a Scarlet Ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and serving on the leadership teams of Rutgers International Justice Mission, RUnited campus ministry and Chinese Christian Fellowship. Off-campus, she serves on International Justice Mission's National Student Leadership Team, interns on the Legislative Committee of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking and works as a policy intern for the New York Asian Women's Center. Sarah has also previously interned at the U.S. Department of Education and taught her own accredited course on public policy to first-year students at Rutgers University.



OLIVIA LUCAS

College: Mount Holyoke College
Major(s): International Relations
Minor: French
Hometown: Oakland, California

Olivia has served as an intern in Sen. Elizabeth Warren's Springfield, Massachusetts, regional office and as a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation intern in Rep. Barbara Lee's office. At Mount Holyoke College, she leads a Christian campus ministry and is a board member of the Association of Pan African Unity. She also works in the Mount Holyoke College Admissions Office as a Diversity Outreach Fellow. Olivia's career aspiration is to run for political office and apply her knowledge of public policy to positively impact underrepresented and minority communities.



CLARA MEDINA MAYA

College: University of California, Merced
Major(s): Political Science and Sociology
Hometown: Merced, California

Clara has spent the last year serving as the Legislative Director for her campus. In this capacity, she has sat as a board member for the University of California Student Association and focused on rebuilding the presence of UC Merced's Lobby Corps locally and statewide. Community is central to her work. Prior to this year, her advocacy was primarily focused on undocumented communities, and during this past year, she continued doing so as the representative for her campus on the statewide UC Undocumented Student Coalition.



DILLON McNAMARA

College: The College of New Jersey
Major(s): Political Science
Hometown: Marlton, New Jersey

Dillon is a third-year undergraduate student interested in urban economic policy, specifically as it relates to affordable housing and infrastructure. During his sophomore year, he interned with the Trenton Prevention Policy Board, where he worked on youth employment and local hiring initiatives in Trenton, New Jersey. He has also worked as a policy intern for New Jersey gubernatorial candidate Phil Murphy, focusing on higher education reform and the foreclosure crisis. In 2016, he received first place in a school-wide policy case competition by offering a solution to the problem of racial segregation in public schools through integrated public housing. After completing his undergraduate degree, Dillon hopes to continue his work in revitalizing the city of Trenton, New Jersey.



AUREO MESQUITA

College: University of California, Berkeley

Major(s): Economics

Hometown: Goiania, Brazil

Aureo is passionate about access to higher education in immigrant communities. Aureo has mentored undocumented high school students and has been an advocate for undocumented students on campus through his role as co-chair of Rising Immigrant Scholars Through Education (R.I.S.E.). As a member of the Council of Brazilian Citizens in San Francisco, he has worked with the Brazilian community to provide information and legal resources in Portuguese, online and through community workshops. Aureo also loves playing soccer and playing guitar.



ISRAEL MUNOZ

College: Fordham University

Major(s): Mathematics-Economics

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Israel first became involved with policy on the ground level as an activist in Chicago's South Side. Since moving to New York City for college, Israel has undertaken a multidimensional approach to learning about policy, which has allowed him to do research abroad and with think tanks, work at financial institutions and volunteer at various nonprofit organizations. In his spare time, Israel enjoys biking and traveling.



NANCY NGUYEN

College: San Diego State University

Major(s): Sociology

Hometown: Pittsburg, California

Nancy is a research assistant for the Access to Opportunity Program, where she investigates how policies by the public, nonprofit and private sectors can better support low-income minority families. She also represents 29,000 undergraduates in investigating and making recommendations for campus policy, and serves as president for Gates to Success, an organization supporting first-generation low-income college students. In the community, Nancy serves as a legislative intern for assembly member Shirley Weber's office, researching and vetting legislative reports. Due to her contributions to the Center on Policy Initiatives, she received a Certificate of Recognition from a local assembly member. Recently, she was awarded the Provost's Outstanding Award for her presentation on how low-income K-12 urban schools address students' emotional and social needs. With these cumulative experiences, she hopes to enter economic research and development to provide informed guidance to federal agencies on policy initiatives. In her spare time, Nancy likes to hike, run and lift weights. She is also an avid hip-hop fan, reader and writer.



MAYA REX

College: University of Southern Mississippi

Major(s): Philosophy (Pre-law)

Minor: Psychology

Hometown: Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Maya is currently a junior at the University of Southern Mississippi. She spent last summer as a law intern, shadowing a local lawyer and judge while aiding with Guardian ad Litem cases. She currently serves as the recruitment adviser for the Southern Miss Honors College Ambassadors where she aims to diversify the demographics of incoming classes. Her other activities at the University of Southern Mississippi include serving as a resident assistant, Southern Mississippi Activities Council member and tour guide. Maya recently co-founded an organization, Queens Uplifted, dedicated to exploring black womanhood at its various intersections. She is heavily involved in Prof. Elena Stepanova's social and cognitive behavior lab where she has contributed to various social psychology studies. Her most recent research project is grant-funded and deals with explicit and implicit racial biases in elementary school children.



THOMAS RIETZ

College: DePaul University

Major(s): Economics and Political Science

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Tom has worked for several organizations in Chicago, including the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the 43rd Ward Alderman Office. He has also gained experience as a data intern for KJD Strategies, a political fundraising firm. His volunteer work includes volunteering for RefugeeOne, a nonprofit for refugee services, and The Kennedy Forum, a nonprofit dedicated to ending the stigma surrounding mental health.



CICLADY RODRIGUEZ

College: University of California at Berkeley

Major(s): Media Studies

Hometown: Fairfield, California

Ciclady is a media studies major who has worked for channel26TV and the University of California at Berkeley's online news, CalTV. Last spring, she interned in Madrid for a Spanish nonprofit whose goal is promoting international cooperation for development in Guatemala. While in Madrid, her interest in public policy grew. Currently, Ciclady serves as a student representative in the Student Advisory Committee to the Interim Vice Chancellor.



KYONNE ROWE

College: Cornell University

Major(s): Industrial and Labor Relations

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Kyonne has devoted his time and talents to improving K-12 opportunities for minority students, most recently as part of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. On campus, he serves as a resident adviser and chair for Cornell University's minority male initiatives.



SHYHEIM SNEAD

College: American University

Major(s): Political Science and Education

Hometown: Bridgeport, Connecticut

Shyheim's upbringing sparked an irrepressible spirit to improve urban neighborhoods, support the most underperforming schools, and disrupt the impacts of intergenerational poverty. Shyheim serves as the student trustee on the American University Board of Trustees, worked as an associate with District of Columbia Public Schools and interned in the Executive Office of the Washington, D.C. mayor. Shyheim aims to address external factors that influence student achievement in the classroom.



CARLOS TALAMANTE

College: New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Major(s): Petroleum Engineering

Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Carlos Talamante is a junior at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT), majoring in petroleum engineering and minoring in chemical engineering. On campus, Carlos is the chairman of the Student Activities Board, where he coordinates university-wide events. Carlos was also recently elected as president of the Student Government Association. He hopes to use this position to fight for the many issues that matter to the students of NMT. Carlos is highly passionate about improving life on campus for all students and actively works with the university's administration on strengthening mental health services and creating a more inclusive environment for all students.

Carlos has held a variety of positions in different organizations and holds a firm belief in giving back to the community. These organizations include the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, where he served as a legislative intern for a member of the U.S. Congress, and Latino Connection, where he serves as an advisory board member. Furthermore, he is an officer in a variety of organizations around campus, including the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, NMT Speaks and the New Mexico Fencing Association. In addition, Carlos has served in a variety of volunteering organizations including the Each One Teach One Mentoring Program, the Aurora Community Connection and Queen of Peace Catholic Church.



ERNIE TAO

College: University of Washington
Major(s): Biochemistry and Political Science
Hometown: Vancouver, Washington

Upon beginning his undergraduate studies, Ernie worked as an emergency medical technician (EMT) in the city of Seattle and later moved on to work as a firefighter/ EMT in Skyway, Seattle. These experiences catalyzed his passion for public health and in particular, his interest in the social determinants of health as a major contributor to disparities in health outcomes. His coursework in political science and experiences with various research projects have allowed him to pursue quantitative studies in subjects such as food access, food insecurity and food policy analysis. Upon graduation, Ernie hopes to develop evidence-based health policy to promote individual and community health as a public health administrator.



NIRVANA THAKUR

College: Susquehanna University
Major(s): International Studies - Diplomacy
Minor: Women's Studies, Honors Program
Hometown: Bronx, New York

During the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, Nirvana worked as a communications intern for Saathi, a nonprofit organization that focuses on gender equality and domestic abuse. At Saathi, she offered psychological first aid to children and women affected by the earthquake, published newsletters for donors and worked in women friendly spaces created by UN Women. Her activities at Susquehanna University include serving as a worker/research intern at the Women's Resource Center on campus, as vice president of the Asian Cultural Association, as captain for Susquehanna University's Belly Dance Circle and as a member of WomenSpeak.



SYDNEY WARREN

College: Pitzer College
Major(s): International Political Economy
Hometown: Denver, Colorado

Sydney has worked for several organizations in Denver, including U.S. Rep. Michael Bennet's office, Open Door Ministries Preschool and Denver Sister Cities. Currently, she is serving as a residential adviser and works as a research assistant in the fellowships office at Pitzer College. Her volunteer work includes working with homelessness in downtown Pomona, CA.



AMMIEL WILLIAMS

College: Xavier University of Louisiana

Major(s): Political Science

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

At Xavier University of Louisiana, Ammiel is a two-sport student athlete, running cross-country and track and field. Outside of sports, he is an active volunteer in his campus' church and has leadership positions in several campus organizations, including College Democrats, History Club and Public Policy Club. Ammiel has been an intern for several organizations, including The Borgen Project, Environment California and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He also has the experience of mobilizing college students to vote on local, state and national campaigns. His volunteer work includes commitments to Xavier University's outreach program with local children and Habitat for Humanity.



FEIFEI ZENG

College: Mississippi State University

Major(s): International Business

Hometown: Treviso, Italy

As a first-generation immigrant from Italy by way of China, Feifei is an international business student at Mississippi State University (MSU). In the summer of 2015, she studied abroad in Turin, Italy, through Cornell University, where she concentrated on modern European politics and population controversies. Feifei was selected as one of 12 U.S. delegates to attend the Initiating Mutual Understanding through Student Exchange conference in Beijing. To further her understanding in global cooperation, Feifei served as a delegate to the Harvard Project for Asia and International Relations Conference in February 2016. That same spring, she worked at International Paper as the global sourcing intern. At MSU, Feifei serves as a College of Business ambassador, a member of the Bobby and Judy Shackouls Honors College, a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and a mentor for the Women Empowered Leadership Conference. Looking forward, she sees herself building an ethical, politically responsible international relations division for a Fortune 500 company, and directing the global vision for a nonprofit organization such as the United Nations.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY