



JUNIOR
SUMMER
INSTITUTE
2019



STUDENT *biographies*



MARIA VICTORIA ALONSO

College: University of Texas, San Antonio

Major: Politics and Law

Hometown: Bayamon, Puerto Rico

Maria Victoria Alonso was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. She currently attends the Honors College at The University of Texas at San Antonio. She studies politics and law. Her brother Andy, who has autism, ignited her initiative to find justice and become an advocate on behalf of others. She has a passion to serve others. She successfully advocated for the first gated and supervised skateboard park in San Antonio in 2017; participated in human trafficking awareness initiatives; worked at the office of Councilman Greg Brockhouse (TX-06) to assist constituents; and interned at the United States Supreme Court and Texas State Capitol. Her plan is to be a civil and human rights attorney. At UTSA, her favorite involvements are UTSA Ambassadors and Chi Alpha Christian Ministry. Some of Maria-Victoria's interests include gardening with her mother, horseback riding, and finishing the Texas City Hall project with her brother.



MARTHA AMAYA

College: University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Major: French, Criminal Justice, Political Science

Hometown: Las Vegas, Nevada

Martha Amaya is an undergraduate student at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, triple majoring in French, Political Science, and Criminal Justice. A member of the Honors College, she is a Department of State Gilman Scholar, National Merit Scholar, and serves as the Vice President of the National Residence Hall. During her time at UNLV, she has served as a researcher for the Tourism Science and Crowd Safety lab, which includes translating literature reviews written in French and Spanish into English for use in doctoral programs, as well as having served as Research Assistant to former Senator and Governor of Nevada Richard Bryan. As a Star Fellow, she will be traveling to Washington, D.C., for the fall 2019 semester as one of eight college women in the United States to intern with congressional women leaders. Currently, she works as a Facility Manager for UNLV's Student Union and Event Services building, maintaining all facility functions and supervising student staff members. After graduation, she intends to continue her work on a global scale, with her goal being to work as a Foreign Service Officer for the Department of State. While studying in France, she taught French to refugees and also volunteered as a Spanish tutor. In her spare time, she is an aspiring actress, and has performed at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. She can also eat an entire medium pizza in one sitting!



ANDREA CALDERÓN

College: St. Edwards University

Major: Environmental Science and Policy

Hometown: Houston, Texas

This past semester Andrea moved to Washington, DC to work for Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). She worked for Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza of Austin, Texas over the span of two years gaining experience in local governments. As a McNair Scholar, Andrea researched the impact of consumer awareness of the environmental and social harms of unethical sourcing on consumer purchasing behavior. Since completing her research, she has presented it at the International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development in Colombo, Sri Lanka and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Georgia, Atlanta, among other locations. She has a passion for helping advance diversity and inclusion as well as fostering cross-cultural relationships. This has motivated her to study abroad in Costa Rica, Australia, and South Africa throughout her undergraduate career. Upon graduating this upcoming December 2019, she plans to take the year off to work and then return to school to pursue a joint MBA/MPP degree.



JEEMIN CHA

College: Baruch College – CUNY

Major: Public Affairs

Hometown: Queens, NY

Jeemin is a native New Yorker who has strong ties to the immigrant community. An immigrant himself, Jeemin interned at the MinKwon Center for Community Action and Her Justice—nonprofits serving vulnerable immigrant communities in NYC. Most recently, he was an intern at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Jeemin hopes to become an immigration activist and wants to be a voice for the voiceless.



ANGELA M. CHIN

College: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Major: Public Policy and Global Studies

Hometown: Mitchellville, MD

Growing up in an African-American and Jamaican-Chinese household, Angela is fascinated by identity politics and how diplomacy can decrease conflict and economic-inequity. During her first year at University of North Carolina, Angela co-founded a women's empowerment group called Project uGrade that helps young women in the D.C. area to achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals. After spending 7-weeks studying climate change in the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, a summer in D.C. with the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs enrichment program, and a semester learning about Geopolitics of the Middle East in Amman, Jordan, Angela is committed to finding policy solutions to global problems.

After obtaining a master's degree, Angela is interested in crafting U.S. foreign policy to increase international security, economic prosperity, and women's empowerment. Her activities at University of North Carolina include serving as an executive leader for Black Students Abroad, on the Student Attorney General staff, as the social action chair for the Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and as a student ambassador for the Office of Distinguished Scholarships.

DANIEL DRANE

College: George Mason University
Major: Government & International Politics
Hometown: Des Moines, IA



Daniel's passion for research, advocacy, and teaching has guided him through seven years of competition in Speech and Debate and three years of coaching high school students in this activity. After working with the Bipartisan Policy Center's National Security and Economic Policy Projects, Daniel later became a Research Intern with the Counties Futures Lab at the National Association of Counties. Daniel plans to pursue a policy-adjacent career after getting a graduate degree in Public Policy.

ALEJANDRA ESCOBAR SERRANO

College: University of Nebraska at Omaha
Major: Political Science and Business Economics
Hometown: Omaha, Nebraska



Alejandra Escobar is a first-generation student and an immigrant from El Salvador. She worked as a community organizer where she advocated for immigrant rights, led campaigns to increase voter turnout and to pass a ballot measure to expand Medicaid in Nebraska. Last spring, Alejandra served as an intern for Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-AZ) on Capitol Hill. She also volunteers her time to mentor high school students and help them with their college applications.

ANGELA FRIMPONG

College: Grinnell College
Major: Sociology
Hometown: Bronx, NY and Accra, Ghana



Angela Frimpong is a Sociology major with a Global Development Student concentration.

As a child of a Makola Market woman from Accra, Ghana, Angela spent a lot of time in the market and saw how low-skilled workers from underdeveloped parts of Ghana were abused and paid less than they deserved. Her experience in the market is the foundation of her passion to create opportunities and provide resources for relevant training and skill development in low-income areas, so those individuals can earn more.

At Grinnell, Angela serves on the Peace and Conflict Studies committee and the Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights

committee. She also informally mentors international students from African countries. During the past two summers, Angela completed a Davis Projects for Peace and two internships with Bread for the World in Washington, DC and Challenging Heights in Winneba, Ghana.

DANIEL GALLEGO

College: University of Miami

Major: Economics, Political Science, Mathematics

Hometown: Davie, Florida



Daniel is a first-generation American and college student with a passion for learning and public service. At the University of Miami, Daniel has participated in research by interning at the European Union Center of Excellence, assisting a professor with her personal research, and becoming the lead research assistant at the Early Head Start Lab. In addition, Daniel was part of the debate team for three semesters and an academic mentor for student athletes. Daniel's areas of interests include international relations and development economics. He aspires to work for an international organization that assists developing countries such as the World Bank.

VANESSA GIRAMATA

College: Washington State University

Major: Agricultural Economics

Hometown: Kigali, Rwanda



Vanessa is an international student from Rwanda, currently pursuing Agricultural Economics. Vanessa is a very curious person, and she enjoys helping others. On campus, she serves as an ambassador for College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences and for the Honors college, she is a student mentor, and she has founded the French Club. She also gives back to her school through tutoring and serving as a teacher assistant. She was recognized as an emerging leader in her sophomore year, and this year, she has been recognized as the Outstanding junior in her college. In the future, Vanessa wants to work on resource allocations and budgeting for the agriculture sector of her home country. She also wants to advocate for better policies to develop the education system and to promote women's empowerment in Africa. For fun, Vanessa enjoys cooking, and she likes singing.

BIKASH GUPTA

College: Soka University

Major: Economics and Political Science (Social and Behavioral Science)

Hometown: Siraha, Nepal



Bikash has worked for the Ministry of Women in Kathmandu, Nepal. Based on his data driven research, he submitted policy recommendations to the Ministry detailing various modes to increase access to finance for women micro-entrepreneurs. He has also worked for The Carter Center's Democracy Program, where he researched elections and human rights situations in several countries. During his second year at Soka, he founded a club called SEED (Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development) focusing on policymaking and research.



TESSY JACQUES

University of South Florida
Major: International Studies
Hometown: Port-au-Prince, Haiti

During her first two years of undergraduate studies, Tessy worked with various non-governmental organizations in Haiti, including La Planete des Petites and Lamorte Foundation. Last year, she completed the Funds for American Studies Program in Washington, DC. As such, she interned for Key Lime International, a consultancy firm specialized in USAID programming.

On campus, she served as senator for the Student Government Union, as student chair of the philanthropy committee and part of the appropriations committee. She also served leadership positions in various student organizations, including the Caribbean Student Association, Slam Poetry Club and Gamma Upsilon Sorority. Her latest academic endeavor is the completion of academic research on the conceptualization of nation development at the University of Exeter's Honors Program in the UK during spring 2019.



NADIRA KHAN

College: Arizona State University
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

Nadira is studying Political Science with a minor in Global Studies and certificate in Business Data Analytics at Arizona State University. She grew up in Phoenix, and her desire to become a public servant blossomed locally in the Valley of the Sun. Nadira has interned on multiple levels of the public sector within Arizona and has been able to learn more about legislative proceedings and local government through her time with both the Arizona State Legislature and the City of Phoenix. She has worked on voter registration at the grassroots level; constituent and legislative issues at the municipal level in the City of Phoenix; and at the state level for the Arizona Senate. Nadira is passionate about promoting civic engagement and bridging the divide between citizens and the government that serves them, with a specific focus on bridging the divide for marginalized communities. Nadira hopes to one day pursue a career in local government, fostering the connection between government and all citizens.



NAYAB KHAN

College: Wellesley College
Major: History
Hometown: Elmont, New York

Nayab studies history, religion, and economics at Wellesley College. At Wellesley, she is a Schwarz Scholar in History, captains the Mock Trial team, sits on the Honor Code Council, and leads the college public speaking program. She has interned at organizations such as Orbis International, Human Rights First, the Robert F. Kennedy Center, and MIT's Political Science department. Her intellectual interests lie at the nexus of Islamic eschatology, the law, and rationality, topics she intends to explore in her senior thesis. In her spare time, she enjoys watching basketball, acquainting herself with Islamic mystics like Bulleh Shah, and trying different kinds of coffee.



JENNA KNUEPPEL

College: Brown University

Major: Public Policy and Behavioral Decision Sciences

Hometown: Milwaukee, WI

Jenna Knueppel is a member of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Mole Lake and Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. As an urban Indigenous woman and the first in her family to attend college, she is dedicated to learn and influence the conditions and systems that affect her communities as well as other underrepresented peoples. Most recently, Jenna spent a semester in Washington D.C. as an intern in the office of Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). On campus, Jenna is a programmer for the Native American Heritage Series at the Brown Center for Students of Color. She was also previously the co-coordinator of Natives at Brown, the digital media manager of the Undocumented, First-Generation, Low-Income Student Center, and President of her QuestBridge chapter. She spent her past summer as an intern at the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission, where she engaged in the educational, economic, and cultural development of the Greenwood District. She also attended Harvard's Public Policy and Leadership Conference (PPLC) in 2018. After graduation, she plans to pursue a masters in Public Affairs to further her passion for education, tribal, and economic development policy. Jenna enjoys all things coffee, music, and urban arts related.



JOCELYN LOMBERA

College: UC Berkeley

Major: Sociology

Hometown: Redwood City, CA

Jocelyn has participated as a Youth Advisory Board member for the Sequoia Teen Wellness Center and Health Connected. She was president of the We for She Club at her community college. Jocelyn has worked as research assistant with a focus on studying the effects school police have on students. Lastly, she has served on the Education Committee at the ACLU Club at her college.



PHUONG LY

College: Lafayette College

Major: International Affairs

Hometown: Hanoi, Vietnam

Phuong is a junior majoring in International Affairs with a concentration in Global Health and Europe at Lafayette College. She is also minoring in German. Phuong is interested in the study of how social, political and economic conditions affect health outcomes as well as the efficacy of global health policy. Phuong's volunteer work includes helping local primary students in Easton with their homework and visiting the resident of the homeless shelter in downtown Easton. She is a member of the Model United Nations club and the International Affairs club.



SEMAJ MARTIN-REDD

College: Mississippi State University

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Brandon, MS

Semaj Martin-Redd is a rising Political Science senior from Brandon, Mississippi. A first-generation student, Martin-Redd serves as Chairman of Mississippi State College Republicans and has worked on the campaigns of four federal candidates. Martin-Redd also serves as College Republicans' Regional Chair for the Mississippi's 3rd Congressional district. He has served as Council President in the Mississippi Model U.N. and will serve as Head Council President for the Organization. Martin-Redd also serves as Co-Director for the Community and Governmental committee on Student Association at Mississippi State University. Additionally, Martin-Redd serves as a Resident Advisor, a role in which he prides himself in cultivating and challenging students to become inclusive and transformative leaders on and off-campus.



GARETH MINSON

College: Washington and Lee University

Major: Political Philosophy

Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona

Gareth has worked in several non-profit functions from compiling news on education reform to membership development. He interned for Senator Warner (D-VA) in Washington, DC. At school, Gareth leads community service efforts for Rotaract and coordinates his university's involvement in seven local schools in Rockbridge County, Virginia.



SHADI NASAB

College: American University

Major: International Studies

Hometown: Denver, CO and Orange County, CA

Shadi has interned at a variety of political organizations and firms in DC –Cassidy & Associates, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Penn, Schoen and Berland, and Voice of America. She is in the Honors program at American University and her on-campus activities include being a tour guide for AU Ambassadors, a project coordinator for AU's student-run speaker's bureau (the Kennedy Political Union), and a member of Delta Gamma. She is a co-founder of the hybrid political action committee, the Youth Progressive Action Catalyst and also engages with DC's high school speech and debate community. She has previously been involved with the Peace and Violence Research Lab, AU's Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and the AU College Democrats. Shadi hopes to apply her knowledge of public policy and the role of identity to positively impact civil rights and diplomacy.



CHRISTIAN NAVARRO-KING

College: Morehouse College

Major: International Studies

Hometown: Brick Township, New Jersey

In the Atlanta Metropolitan Area, Christian has worked for AMB Sports & Entertainment Group as a Event Day Host, Wells Fargo as a Commercial Banking Intern (Middle Market), and Morehouse Student Services Department as an Intern for the Dean of the College. His activities at Morehouse include serving as a presidential ambassador, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a pre-alumni association secretary, and work-study student for Morehouse's career services and financial aid department.



WILLIAM PACE

College: University of Virginia

Major: Foreign Affairs

Hometown: North Chesterfield, VA

William works as a Research Assistant with Opinion Research Business International, focusing on areas in Asia and Africa that experience violent extremism. On campus, he recently served as Co-Chair of the Office of African-American Affairs Peer Advisor Program, on which he has been a student mentor for two years. He is also a member of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship and the Black Male Initiative.



ISIAH PARFAIT

College: Florida State University

Major: Spanish and International Affairs

Hometown: Tampa, FL.

Isiah Parfait is a senior at Florida State University, studying Spanish and International Affairs. He has specialized in social justice theory, entrepreneurship, and public welfare. Parfait enjoys learning languages and has studied abroad in Spain and Costa Rica. In Valencia, Spain, he immersed himself in their entrepreneurial ecosystem, folkloric and gastro-economic tourism, as well as public programming. Later, he conducted research in Orlando, Florida, where he studied the accessibility and retention of entrepreneurship ecosystems in America. Isiah plans to start his own business, as well as, advocate for entrepreneurship and creatives in order to meet the needs of our globalized and mechanized future. Isiah, or Izzy, Isaias o Isi (en español), uses he/him pronouns, though he identifies as gender nonconforming. "I am a "he", my gendered nature is varied and intentional... one that transcends gender roles. That doesn't make me more or less of a man. Jokingly, I sometimes feel like the Faceless man from GOT, maybe Arya Starke? Following bell hook's readings, Parfait believes the most sustainable form of pedagogy is that of the public space and popular culture. He believes empathy is insuring knowledge, experience, resourcefulness, and curiosity are valued foremost in a community. Understanding the perspectives that make people more inclined to make decisions is the most valuable information when addressing productivity and progress. Isiah Parfait is proud of all of

his experiences because they have shown him how dynamic life is. Isiah Parfait is a first generation American and college student, left-handed leader, and Sagittarius. His favorite performers are Mariah Carey, Dionne Warwick, Whitney Houston, and Nicki Minaj. This summer, Isiah Parfait intends to devote his time to resting; learning his surroundings; as well as, being openly available to the lessons of PPIA and its community, with a curious and mature scrutiny, of course.



KAILYN PRICE

College: North Carolina A&T State University

Major: Biology

Hometown: Huntersville, North Carolina

Kailyn has worked intently on resources and advocacy for prevention of gender-based violence and care of survivors through service on NC A&T's Coordinated Community Response Team, Chancellor's Committee for Sexual Assault, and an internship with Duke University Hospital Emergency Services Department as a Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute Scholar. Her activities on campus include working in the Student Health Center as a Peer Facilitator, and actively engaging in the Honors Program as a Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy Scholar. She has also served as president of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and pioneered the resurgence of her university's competitive Speech and Debate Team after decades of inactivity. Kailyn seeks to combine her passion for communication and literature with healthcare and history through public service.



LUNA RUIZ

College: University of Arizona

Major: Political Science and Psychology

Hometown: Tucson, AZ

Keenly interested in emerging security threats, Luna has held various positions as a research assistant and undergraduate research fellow at the University of Arizona (UA). As research assistant, she collaborated with numerous professors on database construction projects ranging from formation of rebel groups, anatomy of resistance campaigns, to organized crime in Latin America. In summer 2018, Luna was selected as one of ten students to participate in the Research Experience for Undergraduates program funded by the National Science Foundation where her independent research project focused on terrorist network structures and the recruitment of foreign terrorists fighters. At UA, Luna is an active member in the UA Honors College, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Arizona Model United Nations organization, and Arizona Ambassadors where she gives weekly UA tours to prospective students and families.



MARWAN SAFAR

College: Yale University

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Damascus, Syria

Marwan Safar Jalani is a rising senior in Yale College, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science Intensive Track. Marwan is an undergraduate scholar in the Orville H. Schell Center for International Human Rights in the Yale Law School. He was born and raised in Damascus, Syria. His strong interest in refugee rights in the U.S. led him to work at Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) as an education intern after his first-year in college. The summer after, Marwan developed interest in domestic civil rights through his internship in the Family Defense Practice in the Bronx Defenders where he was a parent advocate intern as an undergraduate fellow with the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law in the Yale Law School. Outside of class, Marwan is the former president of the Yale Refugee Project and the former program selections manager of the United World College Syria, a program that admits aspiring Syrian high school students to full scholarships in the United World Colleges. Academically, Marwan is interested in comparative social policy and government, especially in post-conflict countries. His research pertains to methods of international arbitration of decision-making processes in post-conflict inter-ethnic cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is interested in pursuing a double-degree in public policy and law and a career in impact litigation.



ABDULKADIR SHARIF

College: Augsburg University

Major: Political Science and International Relations

Hometown: Minneapolis, MN

As a first generation college student, Abdulkadir challenges himself to work beyond his abilities to invest in his education. Rooted in his identity as a Somali-American, Abdulkadir has participated in multiple leadership opportunities that have allowed him to reclaim his narrative. At Augsburg University, he has been involved with the pan-African student union, student government and residence life. He is also a Bonner Community Scholar where he tutors and supports recent refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia navigate the education system in Minneapolis. Additionally, Abdulkadir was awarded a David L. Boren Scholarship to study in Tanzania where he focused on collaboration, innovation, and effectiveness across the fields of development and conflict resolution in East Africa. As part of Boren he participated in the summer African Flagship Languages Initiative at the University of Florida's Center for African Studies. He's also a recipient of the Benjamin J. Gilman International Scholarship to South Africa and Namibia studying the challenges posed by underdevelopment, globalization, extreme inequality, and the legacies of apartheid. While in Namibia, Abdulkadir interned with the Namibia Institute for Democracy as a research assistant focusing on anti-corruption mechanisms in the country. He's committed to the advancement and development of the African continent, its people, and the diaspora. Abdulkadir looks forward to a summer of learning and growth at Princeton University!



SARA TSAI

College: University of California, Berkeley

Major: Business Administration & Interdisciplinary Studies

Hometown: Fremont, CA

Sara is the Student Coalition Chair and Community Programs Coordinator for the Basic Needs Center at UC Berkeley, where she spearheads initiatives to alleviate the stigma surrounding food and housing insecurity through outreach, educational workshops, and community partnerships. She also serves as President of the food justice consulting group FEED Berkeley, a Net Impact Food Fellow, Berkeley Student Ambassador for the Blum Network, and Co-founder of the Student Kitchen Coalition, which she represented at the 2018 Clinton Global Initiative University. She has interned with the California Research Bureau through the Cal-in-Sacramento Fellowship and with the Hayward Courthouse Self-Help Clinic through the JusticeCorps program. A 3-time Cal Alumni Leadership Scholar, Sara has also led a national award-winning campaign on hunger & homelessness, helped acquire over \$10,000 for a food recovery program, and was named a 2019 Harry S. Truman Scholarship Finalist.



MARGARITA VASQUEZ MARTINEZ

College: Trinity Washington University

Major: International Affairs

Hometown: Oaxaca, Mexico and Rocky Point, North Carolina

Margarita Vasquez Martinez was born in a small indigenous community in the state of Oaxaca, México and raised in Rocky Point, North Carolina. She has always had a passion for public service, serving as a translator in her local community and assisting with the Mexican adult education program established at her local church. Currently, Margarita is a rising senior at Trinity Washington University, where she is majoring in International Affairs with a minor in Language and Cultural Studies. On campus, she is involved with Campus Ministry and Students Affairs as a Peer Advisor. In the fall of 2018, Margarita revived the Trinity chapter of the Model United Nations club, where she serves as President. In the spring of 2019, she led the club to participate in the Washington Model Organization of American States, where she was the head delegate of the Trinity Delegation. In the future, Margarita plans to pursue a law degree, specializing in international law and focusing on human rights violations. She also plans to pursue her passion of working for internally displaced people.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY