

# 2015-2016 Luce Scholars



Jakelin Bonilla

Nickolas Clarke

Jenny Cooper



Lauren Dubowski

Varsha Govindaraju

Charlotte Lee

Samuel Lewis



Aubrey Menard

Christian Oldham

Paul Shortell



Laura Shunk

Amarynth Sichel

Alessondra Speidel

O'Mara Taylor



Brandon Tensley

Nicolas Thorpe

Diana Won

Lanier Zimmer

# 2015-2016 Luce Scholar Placements

## **Jakelin (Jaki) Bonilla**

(University of North Carolina)  
International Organization for Migration  
**Mae Sot, THAILAND**

## **Nickolas (Nick) Clarke**

(Furman University)  
Yunnan Province Research Center of Biogas  
Engineering and Technology  
Yunnan Normal University  
**Kunming, CHINA**

## **Jenny Cooper**

(University of Michigan)  
Opower  
**SINGAPORE**

## **Lauren Dubowski**

(Bryn Mawr College)  
Papermoon Puppet Theater  
**Yogyakarta, INDONESIA**

## **Varsha Govindaraju**

(University of Washington)  
Cambodian Women's Crisis Center  
**Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA**

## **Charlotte Lee**

(Duke University)  
Rak Dek (Life Skills Development Foundation)  
**Chiang Mai, THAILAND**

## **Samuel (Sam) Lewis**

(Williams College)  
Lao Friends Hospital for Children  
**Luang Prabang, LAOS**

## **Aubrey Menard**

(Mount Holyoke College)  
Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry  
**Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA**

## **Christian Oldham**

(Willamette University)  
Studio of Kosen Ohtsubo  
**Tokorozawa, JAPAN**

## **Paul Shortell**

(Swarthmore College)  
Natural Resource Governance Institute  
**Yangon, MYANMAR**

## **Laura Shunk**

(Claremont McKenna College)  
Beijing Farmers' Market  
**Beijing, CHINA**

## **Amarynth Sichel**

(Barnard College)  
Seoul Metropolitan Government  
**Seoul, KOREA**

## **Alessondra (Allie) Speidel**

(Duke University)  
Institute of Advanced Biomedical  
Engineering and Science  
Tokyo Women's Medical University  
**Tokyo, JAPAN**

## **O'Mara Taylor**

(Vassar College)  
Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia  
(Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association)  
**Yogyakarta, INDONESIA**

## **Brandon Tensley**

(Furman University)  
The Irrawaddy  
**Chiang Mai, THAILAND**

## **Nicolas (Nick) Thorpe**

(Rice University)  
PanNature  
**Hanoi, VIETNAM**

## **Diana Won**

(Rutgers University)  
Merry Year Social Company  
**Seoul, KOREA**

## **Lanier Zimmer**

(Claremont McKenna College)  
The American University of Myanmar  
**Yangon, MYANMAR**



## 2015-2016 LUCE SCHOLAR PLACEMENTS

### **Jakelin Bonilla (Jaki)**

International Organization for Migration  
Mae Sot, **THAILAND**

Jaki Bonilla will be placed with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Thailand, where she will work with IOM's Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants program, from the organization's sub-office in Mae Sot in Western Thailand. Mae Sot hosts a substantial population of Burmese migrants and refugees along the Thai-Burmese border. Working with displaced people and other vulnerable migrants, Jaki and her colleagues will also gather and analyze information and data on their situation, new policies concerning their rights and obligations, and social services available especially in the areas of health, education and protection. Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental partners. It has a strong presence in Thailand, which has been a Member State of IOM since 1986.

### **Nickolas K. Clarke (Nick)**

Yunnan Province Research Center of Biogas Engineering and Technology  
Yunnan Normal University  
Kunming, **CHINA**

Nick Clarke will be placed with the Yunnan Province Research Center of Biogas Engineering and Technology, at Yunnan Normal University in Kunming, China, where he will work on clean tech initiatives and public/private partnerships that address environmental and sustainability challenges. One of the Center's biogas projects, also known as anaerobic digestion, would convert organic waste and organic material, such as food waste from colleges and cafeterias in the university area, into methane gas that could be used as fuel for public buses or to generate electricity. The project would involve a public/private partnership that brings together the Kunming municipal government, several research institutes and the private sector.

### **Jenny A. Cooper**

Opower  
**SINGAPORE**

For her Luce year, Jenny Cooper will work at Opower in Singapore, where she will have the opportunity to assess energy policy and regulatory environments across the Asia-Pacific region. Opower provides cloud-based software to the utility industry and their customers. By providing the tools, information and incentives consumers need to make smarter decisions about their energy use, Opower's services enable utilities to involve their customers in

programs that support energy efficiency goals and smart grid and lower the cost of service. Opower's technology platform analyzes more than 300 billion meter reads to deliver its services, and has created enough energy savings through behavior change to power all the homes in a city of 1 million people for a year. The World Economic Forum named Opower a Technology Pioneer for 2011.

### **Lauren E. Dubowski**

Papermoon Puppet Theater  
Yogyakarta, **INDONESIA**

Lauren Dubowski will be an artist in residence at the Papermoon Puppet Theater in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. *Wayang kulit* (Indonesian shadow puppetry) was designated by UNESCO as a “Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.” Papermoon Puppet Theater showcases a new type of puppetry that often reveals intimate moments of Indonesia's recent past or portrays problems children and adults face in their everyday life. Using whimsical puppets, its multimedia performances often explore deep and controversial themes such as the imprisonment and mass killings of 1965. The company was founded by Maria “Ria” Tri Sulistyani, a children’s book illustrator and writer and former theater actress, and her husband Iwan Effendi, one of the most highly acclaimed contemporary Indonesian artists of his generation.

### **Varsha L. Govindaraju**

Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center  
Phnom Penh, **CAMBODIA**

Varsha Govindaraju will work at the Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center (CWCC), where she will support the Join Us for Social Transformation (JUST) initiative, targeting vulnerable youth and women in Cambodia. A local NGO founded in 1997 by a group of women who witnessed the suffering of women and children from the consequence of war and from various forms of violence against women, CWCC plays an important role in promoting women’s rights and providing women with refuge and support in centers throughout Cambodia. Since its founding, the work of CWCC has expanded from social assistance to legal protection, economic empowerment through skills training and small business loans, community organizing for prevention of gender-based violence and advocacy work at national and international level.

### **Charlotte M. Lee**

Rak Dek (Life Skills Development Foundation)  
Chiang Mai, **THAILAND**

Charlotte Lee will be hosted at the Headquarters of Rak Dek (Life Skills Development Foundation) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. She will also work out of Rak Dek’s field offices in Pai and Pang Mapha in Mae Hong Son Province. Rak Dek (“to protect children” in Thai) was founded in 1998 as part of Save the Children USA’s transition strategy when closing down

its operational presence in Thailand. With project activities focusing on early child development, quality education, life skills curricula, HIV/AIDS stigma reduction and children's participation, Rak Dek works primarily for children of many ethnicities in remote areas of upper northern Thailand, who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, and under-served.

### **Samuel W. Lewis (Sam)**

Lao Friends Hospital for Children  
Luang Prabang, **LAOS**

During his Luce year, Sam Lewis will work at the Lao Friends Hospital for Children (LFHC) in Luang Prabang, Laos. Replicating the successful model of Treatment + Education + Prevention at the Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap, the LFHC is the first full-service pediatric hospital in northern Laos and is located on the grounds of the Luang Prabang Provincial Hospital. It is also a medical training and community outreach center, with lecture rooms and library to teach pediatric medicine to the future leaders of the hospital, kitchen and laundry for families visiting the hospital, and a vegetable garden to teach families how to prepare nutritious meals.

### **Aubrey Menard**

Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Ulaanbaatar, **MONGOLIA**

Aubrey Menard will be placed with the Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where she will work with the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination. Originally founded in 1960, the MNCCI has established itself as the leading non-governmental institution devoted to the development of trade and investment in Mongolia. It has 19 subsidiary branches throughout Mongolia countryside and actively cooperates with more than 40 international chambers of commerce and trade promotion organizations. MNCCI also houses the Mongolian National Arbitration Center. Aubrey is interested in extractive industry governance, and the MNCCI counts among its 4,000 members all the companies engaged in the mining and extractive sectors.

### **Christian A. Oldham**

Studio of Kosen Ohtsubo  
Tokorozawa, **JAPAN**

For his Luce year, Christian Alborz Oldham will have the opportunity to study with Kosen Ohtsubo, Honorary Master of *Ryusei-ha* and Special Advisor to the Government of Japan for Cultural Exchange, at his studio in Tokorozawa, Japan. Founded in Tokyo in 1886, the *Ryusei-ha* school of *ikebana* (art of flower arrangement) has always had a bend towards more expressionist and avant-garde forms, seeking to rediscover the essential vitality of plants and express it in arrangement. Ohtsubo's work, exhibited internationally, takes on an aesthetically defiant yet conceptually charged approach to *ikebana*, often raising questions of ecology and the relationship between humans and plants.

### **Paul E. Shortell**

Natural Resource Governance Institute  
Yangon, **MYANMAR**

Paul Shortell will be placed with the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)'s Myanmar office in Yangon. The NRGI works with innovative agents of change within government ministries, civil society, the media, legislatures, the private sector, and international institutions to promote accountable and effective governance in the extractive industries. NRGI Myanmar engages with the Burmese Parliament on natural resources governance issues, provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Mines on helping to draft rules and regulations, and conducts independent research. It has supported efforts of organizations such as the Myanmar-China Pipeline Watch Commission, and provided funding to five local NGOs that work primarily in the gas, mining and oil sectors, including the Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability (MATA), Spectrum (Sustainable Development Knowledge Network); TANKS (Transparency and Accountability Network for Kachin State). NRGI has also supported trainings for environmental journalists in Myanmar, working in partnership with the Yangon Journalist School.

### **Laura E. Shunk**

Beijing Farmers' Market  
Beijing, **CHINA**

Laura Shunk will work with the Beijing Farmers' Market in Beijing, China, which supports locally and sustainably produced food and products and educational exchange between farmers and consumers. The first and the largest market of this kind in China, the Beijing Farmers' Market works with over 40 organic, local, artisanal producers in the city and more than 100 across China. Co-founded and led by Chang Tianle, a former journalist-turned social entrepreneur, the Beijing Farmers' Market is at the forefront of a grassroots movement to foster sustainable consumption and cooperative sustainable agriculture in China.

### **Amarynth N. Sichel**

Seoul Metropolitan Government  
Seoul, **KOREA**

Amarynth Sichel will be placed at the Seoul Metropolitan Government in Seoul, Korea. The Mayor of Seoul, Park Won-soon, had been a social justice and human rights activist for three decades before his election in 2011. He inspired the 2012-2013 class of Luce Scholars at a meeting in the City Hall during their wrap-up meeting. Amarynth will be working in the International Exchange Division of the International Cooperation Bureau. Among the Division's program areas are Sister Cities, international organizations, and multicultural family support. The City Hall is also expanding its cooperative and exchange-based initiatives and maintains a close network with major cities around the world to promote inter-city friendships and joint city development in fields including the humanities, culture, economy, and urban administration.

### **Alessandra T. Speidel (Allie)**

Institute of Advanced Biomedical Engineering and Science  
Tokyo Women's Medical University  
Tokyo, **JAPAN**

Allie Speidel will be placed with the Institute of Advanced Biomedical Engineering and Science at Tokyo Women's Medical University, in Tokyo, Japan. The Tokyo Women's Medical University / Waseda University Joint Institution for Advanced Biomedical Sciences (TWIns), established in March of 2008, is a center for the advancement of biomedical science research based on a fusion of medicine, science, and engineering. Allie recently received her Ph.D. in cardiac tissue engineering from Imperial College London, at the age of 25. At TWIns, she will work on cell sheet technology with Dr. Tatsuya Shimizu and Dr. Jun Kobayashi.

### **O'Mara S. Taylor**

Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia  
(PKBI, Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association)  
Yogyakarta, **INDONESIA**

O'Mara Taylor's host institution is Perkumpulan Keluarga Berencana Indonesia (PKBI, Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association) in Yogyakarta, where she will work on issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights. PKBI offers an integrated suite of essential services, including counseling, contraceptives, HIV, safe abortions, gynecology, obstetrics, and program on sexual and gender-based violence. In Yogyakarta, PKBI operates five branch offices and two clinics (with three more clinics in development), and works with a wide and diverse network of community partners.

### **Brandon A. Tensley**

The *Irrawaddy*  
Chiang Mai, **THAILAND**

For his Luce year, Brandon Tensely will work at The *Irrawaddy*, a news magazine and online news website based in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The *Irrawaddy* was founded in 1993 by a group of Burmese journalists living in exile in Thailand, with a mission to cover the news in Burma/Myanmar and Southeast Asia accurately and impartially. It is a leading source of reliable news, information, and analysis on Burma/Myanmar and the Southeast Asian region. From its inception, The *Irrawaddy* has been an independent news media group, unaffiliated with any political party, organization or government. Neither an advocacy group nor an NGO campaigning for particular causes, the *Irrawaddy* believes that media must be free and independent, and strives to preserve press freedom.

### **Nicolas Thorpe**

PanNature  
Hanoi, **VIETNAM**

Nick Thorpe will work at People and Nature Reconciliation (PanNature) in Hanoi, Vietnam. PanNature is a Vietnamese not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and conserving diversity of life and improving human well-being in Vietnam by seeking, promoting and implementing feasible, nature-friendly solutions to important environmental problems and sustainable development issues. Established by a diverse group of dedicated Vietnamese environmental professionals, PanNature thinks creatively about solving the most salient environmental issues facing Vietnam, seeking to preserve Vietnam's natural heritage and promote sustainable development nationwide.

### **Diana D.Y. Won**

Merry Year Social Company  
Seoul, **KOREA**

Diana Won will be in Seoul, Korea working for the Merry Year Social Company (MYSC), a social innovation supporting organization that provides consulting services, incubating programs and impact investing to social enterprises and innovation projects. MYSC works closely with a range of institutional partners, including the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Ewha Women's University, with international projects in countries including Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia and Uganda. At MYSC, Diana will have the opportunity to work closely with President and CEO Jeong-Tae Kim, a 2015 Asia Foundation Development Fellow.

### **Lanier M. Zimmer**

The American University of Myanmar  
Yangon, **MYANMAR**

Lanier Zimmer will be hosted by the newly established American University of Myanmar, Myanmar's first private non-profit university modeled on the American style of higher education with a liberal arts core and a governance structure headed by an independent board of trustees. Working directly with Rector Craig E. Klafter, Lanier will serve as Director ad interim of Admissions and Financial Assistance, tasked with establishing the Office of Admissions and the Office of Financial Assistance, setting policies and procedures, and managing them in their first year of operation. The American University of Myanmar aims to be internationally recognized as Myanmar's comprehensive research university known for the rigor of its academic programs grounded in the liberal arts, its respectful and open debate of well-reasoned ideas, its contributions to the improvement of the human condition and the advancement of Myanmar, and its knowledgeable, industrious, creative and ethically-minded students.





## 2015 – 2016 Luce Scholars

### BIOS

#### **Sista Jakelin Bonilla (Jaki)**

*Age:* 24  
*Nominating Institution:* University of North Carolina  
*Degree:* B.A. in International Politics; Latin American Area Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2012  
*Field of Professional Interest:* Immigration Advocacy

Originally from Los Angeles, Sista Jakelin “Jaki” Bonilla grew up in Siler City, North Carolina. She graduated from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2012 with a major in Global Studies and a minor in Entrepreneurship. Jakelin is an immigration activist. She founded Linking Immigrants to New Communities, which helps ease the transition of recent immigrants through student interaction and awareness-raising in the community, and served on the UNC Emerging Communities Taskforce that established the Carolina Latina/o Collaborative, dedicated to developing a greater awareness of Latina/o issues, cultures and identities. Jakelin conducted ethnographic research and volunteered in Central and South America, served as co-chair of the Great Decisions Program, mentored in the Scholars Latino Initiative, and worked as a Senior Intern in the Bonners Leaders Program at the Campus Y, the oldest and largest student service and social justice organization on UNC campus. She currently serves as the director of the Campus Y’s Global Gap Year Fellowship. In Asia, Jakelin wishes to pursue opportunities to work with women leaders exploring justice in an intellectual and entrepreneurial environment.

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#### **Nickolas K. Clarke (Nick)**

*Age:* 26  
*Nominating Institution:* Furman University  
*Degree:* B.A. in Environmental Studies, Westminster College, 2012;  
*Field of Professional Interest:* Sustainable Development

Nick Clarke graduated from Westminster College in Salt Lake City in 2012, with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a minor in French. After graduation he was awarded the Sustainable Technology Fellowship at Oberlin College where we worked with Dr. John Petersen, Dr. David Orr, and others on research around resource literacy, use, and conservation using data from a network of hundreds of real-time sensors throughout the Oberlin community. Since leaving Oberlin, he has continued his work in sustainable technology as a computer engineer for Lucid Design Group, a real-time energy and resource monitoring company. He hopes to continue his work in sustainable technology to help transform the ideals of sustainability into an established pillar of business practice and a

cornerstone of individuals' lives. Nick's interest in sustainability has been fostered by a fascination with globalization. As a francophone, he has had the privilege to live and work in Paris, France and Montreal, Canada. In addition, he has worked as a volunteer in Haiti and Zambia. These experiences, and others, have impressed a deeply felt responsibility for global citizenship that directs his career and personal life today. Beyond his interests in sustainability and globalization, Nick is an avid backcountry skier, cyclist and mountaineer, born from a youth spent roaming the Wasatch Mountains and deserts of Utah.

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## Jenny A. Cooper

Age: 29  
Nominating Institution: *University of Michigan*  
Degrees: *M.B.A. & M.S. in Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan, (expected) 2015; B.A. in Geography, University of California, Berkeley, 2008*  
Field of Professional Interest: *Climate Change Policy and Planning*

Jenny Cooper is a graduate student at the University of Michigan's Erb Institute, a partnership between the School of Natural Resources & Environment and the Stephen M. Ross School of Business. Jenny's graduate work focuses on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the intersecting roles of the private and public sectors, and in May 2015, she is expecting to graduate with dual degrees: an M.S. in Natural Resources and Environment, and an MBA. Jenny is interested in urban climate policy and planning, and in working collaboratively with people across disciplines to find pragmatic strategies to drive greenhouse gas emissions reductions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. For her capstone project, she worked with a five-student team to conduct Detroit's first-ever greenhouse gas emissions inventory—an accounting of all GHG emissions resulting from activities within the City of Detroit. The resulting report was published through the University of Michigan Center for Sustainable Systems. Jenny is currently the manager of a peer coaching program for 30 students, and spent the past two summers working in environmental consulting, and urban climate and energy policy. She has been the recipient of numerous awards at University of Michigan, including the Dean's Scholarship and the Dow *Sustainability* Fellowship. Prior to graduate school, Jenny worked at the Washington, DC office of the Environmental Defense Fund, a large U.S.-based environmental advocacy organization. During her three-year tenure at EDF, Jenny represented the organization at the United Nations climate negotiations, and worked closely with NGOs in the U.S. and abroad to develop policy to address greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation and maritime shipping. Jenny graduated in 2008 with a B.A. (High Distinction) in Geography and a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, where she was the co-founder of the Berkeley Project, the University's largest community service event, and an active member of Cal Habitat for Humanity. In her free time Jenny enjoys rock climbing, cooking, and traveling by bicycle.

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## Lauren E. Dubowski

Age: 29  
Nominating Institution: Bryn Mawr College  
Degrees: D.F.A. in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism, Yale School of Drama, (expected) 2017; M.F.A. in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism, Yale School of Drama, 2014; B.A./M.A. in French, Bryn Mawr College, 2008  
Field of Professional Interest: Theatre

Lauren Dubowski is a theater artist, producer, and teacher committed to fostering international cultural exchange and understanding through the arts. She is pursuing a D.F.A. in the Department of Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism at Yale School of Drama, where she currently holds a teaching fellowship and earned her M.F.A. in 2014. She was co-artistic director of the Yale Cabaret for its 2013-2014 season and an artistic associate for its 2012-2013 season, and she has collaborated on shows there as a creative producer, deviser, director, dramaturg, and/or performer since 2011. As a dramaturg, she has worked at Yale Repertory Theatre, Yale School of Drama, and with the Lucid Body Company/Impact Theatre in New York. Lauren is a founding member of the international theater collective Guilty by Association and participated in Yale School of Drama's summer program in theater for social change with the Baba Watoto Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in 2012. She worked with Headlong Dance Theater in Philadelphia for three years to help found and launch the Headlong Performance Institute, an interdisciplinary training program in performance creation, and she consults for Local Leaders/Global Lens, an international applied-theater and entrepreneurship program based in Los Angeles. Her writings on art and culture have appeared on *Culturebot.org* and in the *Krakow Post* and *Words Without Borders*, and she was web managing editor of *Theater* magazine from 2012 to 2013. She has also worked as a grant and development writer for theater companies and institutions in New Haven, New York, and Philadelphia. Lauren received her B.A./M.A. in French from Bryn Mawr College and studied theater at Swarthmore College. She has been a Kosciuszko Foundation fellow at Jagiellonian University, Kraków, and a Foreign Language and Area Studies fellow at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in Poland. Lauren grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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## Varsha L. Govindaraju

Age: 18  
Nominating Institution: University of Washington  
Degree: B.A. in Anthropology and Law, Societies, and Justice, University of Washington, (expected) 2015  
Field of Professional Interest: Public Interest Legal Advocacy and Teaching

In June 2015, Varsha Govindaraju is expecting to receive her B.A. in Anthropology and Law, Societies and Justice (LSJ) with minors in Human Rights and Diversity from the University of Washington in Seattle. Growing up with immigrant Indian parents in Federal Way, a low-income neighborhood in Washington, Varsha is passionate about social justice and activism,

and wishes to pursue a career as a public interest lawyer and a law professor. Varsha had a head start through the Robinson Center, an early entrance program at the University of Washington that allows students to start college early. Throughout her undergraduate career, she has actively engaged in community education and activism through various university and community projects. As assistant director for the Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Activists (SARVA), she worked with the campus community to create educational programs and to build a safer campus through bystander intervention and community support. In addition, she helped program large-scale events such as 5k runs and open-mic events for survivors to raise awareness of sexual assault and relationship violence. She also worked for Columbia Legal Services, a local public-interest firm serving low-income communities through legal education and legal support. Currently, Varsha serves as the Director of Diversity Efforts of the UW student government and manages SARVA along with eight other diversity commissions on campus, working to educate and advocate for equity and equal rights. Varsha believes in the power of education to disrupt cycles of inequality and strives to be a part of a world working towards global understanding and radical activism.

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### **Charlotte M. Lee**

Age: 22  
Nominating Institution: Duke University  
Degree: B.A. in Public Policy, Duke University, (expected) 2015  
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Global Health

In May 2015, Charlotte Lee will graduate with highest distinction from Duke University with a B.A. in Public Policy and minors in Global Health and Chemistry. She plans to pursue a Masters in Public Health and an M.D., with residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology. She aspires to work on maternal and child health issues at the World Health Organization. Charlotte initially developed a passion for global health as an undergraduate, working at the Women's Institute for Secondary Education and Research (WISER) in rural Kenya, where approximately one in three were living with HIV/AIDS. At WISER, she trained local research assistants for a study on the relationship between nutrition and cognitive ability and taught sex education in schools. She was a research associate and fieldworker for an epidemiological study in the Peruvian Amazon, where she also taught dental hygiene classes in Spanish to mothers and children in remote river communities. She was the Hepatitis B Policy Intern in New York City at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, which mainly serves low-income Asian immigrants and Asian Americans. While there, she coordinated and marketed the first-ever NYC Hepatitis B Awareness Week with NYC City Council and co-authored a successful CDC grant proposal to expand hepatitis B screening and to train general practitioners in the testing and treatment of hepatitis B. She loves to travel and studied abroad in Istanbul, Turkey, where she learned about Middle Eastern history, culture, religion, and politics. She enjoys volunteering with Duke Hospice, developing relationships with patients at the end of their lives and supporting their families. She is also a volunteer ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor for Latino community members through Duke GANO (Gente Aprendiendo para Nuevas Oportunidades). She is presently working as a research assistant at the Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Research, where she contributes to international global health research by working to

improve monitoring and evaluation strategies related to the wellbeing of orphans. She completed her senior honors thesis on the relationship between distrust of the government and vaccine refusal by performing quantitative statistical analyses on survey data from over 1,200 American parents. She is collaborating with researchers from Johns Hopkins and Emory to submit her paper for publication in the internationally acclaimed journal, *Vaccine*.

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### **Samuel W. Lewis (Sam)**

*Age:* 22  
*Nominating Institution:* Williams College  
*Degree:* B.A. in Biology, Williams College, (expected) 2015  
*Field of Professional Interest:* Medicine and Global Health

Sam Lewis grew up in a small town just outside of Albany, New York. He has been interested in health and medicine from a young age, and has conducted biomedical and cellular biology research at Albany Medical College, the University of Pennsylvania, Williams College, and the University of Washington, where he was a 2013 Amgen Scholar in the Center for Lung Biology. Inspired by the power of science, Sam aspires to a future when the benefits of modern medicine are shared equally across the globe, and all people have access to the healthcare needed to lead healthy lives. In pursuing his interest in global health and development, Sam has taken courses and acted as a graduate-level teaching assistant at the Center for Development Economics at Williams College, studied abroad at Université Paris Diderot in Paris, and worked as a research assistant for Innovations for Poverty Action in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. In Burkina Faso, Sam assisted in the design and implementation of a two-year randomized controlled trial studying the benefits of an agricultural inventory credit system, an experience that cemented his passion to reduce inequality and improve health globally. Sam has also explored poverty and the challenges facing marginalized communities within the United States, volunteering with the Washington D.C. homeless community and interning at an immigrant and refugee health clinic in Portland, Maine. Most recently, Sam investigated traditional belief systems, health issues, and environmental injustice in Navajo Nation as a Gaudino Fellow. Sam will graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Williams College in June 2015 with a B.A. in Biology. He is the recipient of a Dr. Herchel Smith Fellowship for study at the University of Cambridge, where he will pursue graduate studies in public health. Ultimately, Sam hopes to work at the intersection of global health research and policy, improving health care quality and access in low- and middle-income countries by implementing evidence-based policy. In addition to his interest in health, Sam helps lead efforts to increase institutional commitment to sustainability through his work with the Williams Environmental Council and the Williams Divestment Initiative. Growing up with road trips to the National Parks, Sam loves to spend time outdoors biking and hiking, and appreciates a good meal and movie.

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## **Aubrey Menard**

Age: 28  
Nominating Institution: Mount Holyoke College  
Degrees: M.Phil. in Politics, University of Oxford, 2014;  
B.A. in Government, Smith College, 2008  
Field of Professional Interest: Politics

Aubrey Menard recently finished her M.Phil. degree at the University of Oxford with a concentration in Politics. Her thesis focused on extractive sector governance in Eurasia. She first became interested in the politics surrounding oil, gas, and mining while on a trip to Azerbaijan with a delegation of young professionals in national security. As the group toured oil fields and schools, hospitals, and various other community resources sponsored by British Petroleum, she began to wonder what impact such a high level of foreign direct investment had in a developing country. In graduate school, Aubrey explored these questions with a focus on the politics of former Soviet states and their political and economic transitions. In pursuit of her research, she spent the summer of 2013 as a U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholar in the Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia. Aubrey also spent several years working in U.S. domestic politics. She was the Associate Director of Development at the Truman National Security Project, a D.C.-based non-profit that brings young progressive leaders in politics, policy and the military together to articulate a strong national security policy. She led a team of three employees to raise the organization's annual operating budget of \$4 million. Prior to her work at the Truman Project, Aubrey worked on several political campaigns in New York, Virginia, and Michigan, and learned how to organize communities, work with volunteers, empower unlikely activists, coordinate with allied organizations, and gain buy-in from community leaders. Aubrey spent many years working as a volunteer and employee of the Polus Center for Social and Economic Development, helping rehabilitate survivors of landmine accidents in Central America by providing them with prosthetics, wheelchairs, sustainable employment opportunities, and reintegration services. She was awarded the Ruth D. Tuttle Prize for International Relations and Peace Studies for these efforts. Aubrey was awarded the Kennedy Prize for Promotion of Democratic Values and the University of Indiana's Everett Helm Visiting Research Fellowship. She presented her research at the 2014 Tamkang World Forum in Taiwan. She is a member of *Pi Sigma Alpha* National Political Science Honor Society, was a Replenishing Democracy Institute Fellow with the Ford Foundation, and is a 2008 graduate of Smith College. She lives in Washington, DC where she is a political consultant, yoga teacher, and music blogger.

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## **Christian A. Oldham**

Age: 22  
Nominating Institution: Willamette University  
Degrees: M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship, Atkinson Graduate School of Management, Willamette University, (expected) 2015;  
B.A. in Art History, Willamette University, 2014  
Field of Professional Interest: Art

Christian Alborz Oldham was born to his Iranian mother and lowan father in Woodland Hills, California during the Rodney King riots. In May 2015, Christian will complete a joint degree – a B.A. in Art History and an M.B.A. with an entrepreneurship focus – from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. A multidisciplinary artist, Christian incorporates temporary and permanent sculpture and installation, writing, publishing, video, still images and music in his artistic practice. Video and still image works have included commissions for popular groups Oneohtrix Point Never, Dirty Projectors, and Death Grips. In 2013 Christian received a Carson Grant to exhibit in Willamette University Hatfield Library's Private Collection Room. He has served as creative consultant to Yale Union, a contemporary art center in Portland, Oregon since its founding in 2008. His work has been featured in art and technology publications including *Rhizome*, *Wired*, and *Massage*. He has also produced a series of covers for de Appel's arts and culture journal, *F.R. David*, and continues to serve as web designer for Aaron Flint Jamison's *Veneer* magazine. Christian has practiced Japanese language and ikebana for three years, beginning studies with America's only Ryusei-ha instructor and exhibiting work at Portland's Japanese Garden. Most recently, Christian has engaged German designer Bernhard Willhelm in a collaborative effort to fashion humorous wearable technology.

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## Paul E. Shortell

Age: 23  
Nominating Institution: Swarthmore College  
Degree: B.A. in Political Science, Swarthmore College, 2013  
Field of Professional Interest: Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development

Paul Shortell is an analyst of environmental and energy issues. Paul currently evaluates overseas political and commercial risks for U.S. clients at TD International LLC, a strategic advisory firm based in Washington, D.C. He previously engaged with a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors at the Inter-American Dialogue, a leading center for policy analysis and exchange on Latin American affairs. While at the Dialogue, he authored major reports assessing prospects for natural gas use in Central America's electricity matrix and reviewing the challenges associated with Mexico's landmark energy reform. His work has been featured in publications including the *Financial Times*, *World Politics Review*, *Latin Business Chronicle* and *Forbes*. His engagement with natural resource issues is motivated by a desire to shape more effective environmental policies and to improve development outcomes. Growing up in Atlanta during a period of severe drought, Paul developed a keen interest in water resources and worked with local NGOs to alleviate pollution in urban waterways. He went on to receive fellowships to research hydropower development and energy geopolitics in South America. At the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, he produced diplomatic cables on in-country environmental issues and participated in a major nuclear energy conference. He has also engaged in research and advocacy with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Generación Política Sur, Georgia Conservancy and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. Paul graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Swarthmore College in 2013 with an honors degree in political science. A fluent speaker of Spanish, he has studied and worked abroad in Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica. Paul is an avid swimmer, classical musician and granola enthusiast.

## Laura E. Shunk

Age: 29  
Nominating Institution: Claremont McKenna College  
Degree: B.A. in International Relations, Claremont McKenna College, 2007  
Field of Professional Interest: International Sustainable Food System

Laura Shunk is a writer and editor who covers the national restaurant and bar industry as well as the local scenes in New York City and, occasionally, Denver, Colorado. Save for a yearlong foray into strategy consulting, she's been in the food and beverage industry for her entire career. She has managed national training programs for Chipotle Mexican Grill, sold boutique fine wine, and worked in the front of the house of restaurants. She has also provided media, marketing and branding advisory services for a variety of hospitality industry clients including fine dining establishments, wine and spirits brands, restaurant-related technology startups, and a restaurant-oriented law practice, both as an independent consultant and as a senior account executive with New York-based public relations firm Baltz & Company. For the past two years, she has been the editor of the *Village Voice* food section, where she has directed coverage and managed a team of 20 freelancers to carry out the section's goals. Passionate about all aspects of the food community, Laura studied global food politics at Claremont McKenna College, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She sits on the board of directors for the New York City Coalition Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization that advocates on behalf of impoverished communities and food banks in New York City.

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## Amarynth N. Sichel

Age: 25  
Nominating Institution: Barnard College  
Degree: B.A. in History, Barnard College, 2011  
Field of Professional Interest: Policy and International Relations, Gender Equality

Amarynth Sichel is manager of government relations and public policy at ML Strategies, a Boston-based government relations consulting group, where she specializes in analyzing local and international political environments as they impact business opportunities for clients ranging from large corporations to small nonprofits. Prior to joining ML Strategies, she was an analyst for the consulting group's law firm affiliate, Mintz Levin. As an analyst, she worked on a wide range of matters, including documenting political conditions in Guatemala to substantiate a client's claim for asylum, drafting affidavits for victims of domestic violence, and closing merger & acquisition transactions. During her time at ML Strategies and Mintz Levin, Amarynth sought professional opportunities to work for women's empowerment. For the past two years, she has worked with a pro bono client dedicated to ending teen dating violence, effectively lobbying the Massachusetts Legislature to pass a budget amendment that funds healthy dating education programs in public schools. While at Mintz Levin, she coordinated the firm's signature pro bono initiative, the Domestic Violence Project, working with firm attorneys, women's shelters, and legal aid organizations to provide victims of domestic abuse with free legal representation. Since moving to Boston in 2011, Amarynth has volunteered with Discovering Justice, an organization that provides



supplemental educational opportunities for students in low-income schools. She also volunteers as a tutor and mentor, helping eighth graders from underperforming Boston Public Schools improve their writing skills and apply to high school. Amarynth graduated from Barnard College in 2011 with a B.A. in History, and a concentration in Rights, Citizenship and the Law. While at Barnard, she was President and Donations Manager of FeelGood, a student-run food business that raised money and awareness to help end poverty and world hunger. She also served as a Speaking Fellow at Barnard, leading interactive public speaking workshops teaching students to become effective communicators, negotiators, and public speakers. In her senior year of college, she was selected to help develop content for and teach the lab component of the college accredited course, "Rhetorical Choices: Theory and Practice of Public Speaking," the required training course for all Speaking Fellows. A running enthusiast, Amarynth delights in exploring both her home city of Boston and new places on foot. She also enjoys cooking and designing recipes that emphasize locally sourced ingredients.

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### **Alessandra T. Speidel (Allie)**

Age: 25  
Nominating Institution: *Duke University*  
Degrees: *Ph.D. in Cardiac Tissue Engineering, Imperial College London, (expected) 2015; B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering, Duke University, 2011*  
Field of Professional Interest: *Biomedical Engineering, Medicine*

Alessandra Speidel is interested in the intersections of research, engineering, commercialization and policy in a medical context. She will complete her Ph.D. studies on heart regeneration at Imperial College London in June 2015. Her Ph.D. project, funded by the Marshall Scholarship and Rosetrees Trust, explores strategies for imaging, understanding and improving heart tissue regeneration after heart injury. Alessandra graduated with Distinction in Biomedical Engineering and a Howard G. Clark Award for excellence in research from Duke University, obtaining a B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in Chemistry in 2011. As a Pratt Fellow at Duke, she published her research on the optimization of drug delivery methods, focusing on how cells respond to their surface environments. Through her immersive Collegiate Athletic Premedical Experience (CAPE) internship shadowing various surgical, clinical, and laboratory medicine professionals at the Duke University Medical Center, she fostered and developed her interest in medicine. Outside of her academic work, she was a Baldwin Scholar, freelance SAT tutor and college application consultant, Duke University peer tutor, Imperial College student union steward and bar staff member, Ph.D. Department committee member, Biomedical Young Entrepreneurs Scheme's best healthcare business plan winner, and member of the Duke Varsity Swim Team. Before continuing on to medical school, Alessandra is interested in broadening her perspectives on medical policy and exploring the considerations taken by organizations that regulate clinical trials. She also enjoys exploring different cultural and personal horizons through travel.

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## **O'Mara S. Taylor**

Age: 25  
Nominating Institution: *Vassar College*  
Degree: *B.A. in Environmental Studies, Vassar College, 2012*  
Field of Professional Interest: *Public Health*

O'Mara Taylor is an advocate for community development and public health. She currently works in fundraising and programming at Primeros Pasos, a rural clinic in Guatemala, which provides medical and dental services with a focus on nutrition and women's health. During a gap year before college, O'Mara volunteered at organizations in Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina. Through her work teaching sex education in the slums outside Buenos Aires and as a women's health volunteer at a small clinic in the mountains of Peru, O'Mara began to appreciate the complexities of development efforts and became interested in community health issues. She went on to graduate with honors from Vassar College, with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a focus in Public Health. During her sophomore summer, O'Mara worked at an inner-city health clinic in her hometown of Boston as a Summer Fellow with Health Leads, an organization dedicated to breaking the link between poverty and bad health. In college, she also sang a cappella and led the Vassar Women's Rugby team to the Sweet 16 round of Nationals as co-captain, going on to break multiple school records and become a Division II All-American Player for the 2011-2012 season. Before moving to Guatemala, O'Mara spent two years working for the Environmental Solutions branch of FTI Consulting on large-scale pollution cleanup projects. During this time, she also volunteered with Do One Thing, an HIV and Hepatitis C mobile testing organization that works in at-risk communities in West and Southwest Philadelphia, doing neighborhood education and testing outreach. O'Mara plans to continue pursuing a career promoting women's health education and access to contraception through community-led health initiatives. When not at the clinic or assisting with workshops in the field, she can be found hiking nearby mountains, playing guitar, and finding ways to add avocado to every single meal.

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## **Brandon A. Tensley**

Age: 24  
Nominating Institution: *Furman University*  
Degrees: *M. Phil in European Politics and Society, University of Oxford, (expected) 2015; B.A. in German Studies and Political Science, Furman University, 2012*  
Field of Professional Interest: *Human Rights and Social Inequality*

Brandon Tensley is from a lively black community in the oft-maligned state of South Carolina. At the moment, however, he is an M.Phil. candidate in Politics (European Politics and Society) at the University of Oxford, where his core interests lie at the intersection of minority politics (including LGBTQ rights) and nationalism in Europe. Outside of class Brandon is co-editor of EUspeak and Politics in Spires, two of the university's online international affairs publications. His work has appeared in *Time* and *The Week*. Last year Brandon was one of six Oxford graduate students who were selected to represent Oxford at The Europaeum, a series of discussions at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, on

some of the challenges confronting Europe today. Before graduate school he was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany, where he taught a range of bilingual classes to middle and high schoolers in the urban Ruhr area and researched modern Germany's particular brand of multiculturalism and treatment of ethnic and religious minorities. And prior to his Fulbright year, Brandon was an American Fellow of Humanity in Action (HIA), and spent a summer in Denmark and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He credits HIA with solidifying his passion for grappling with issues of human rights and social inequality. Brandon received his B.A. in German Studies and Political Science from Furman University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and graduated summa cum laude in 2012. Brandon founded Men of Distinction, a local mentoring program for at-risk middle school males, in his junior year and stayed actively involved through college. He also enjoyed leading the university's Model United Nations team to various competitions throughout the U.S. Brandon believes that context influences advocacy, and that exposures to other cultures will benefit his work in human rights policy. In his free time he enjoys trying to learn Briticisms, debating friends and strangers alike about cultural representations of feminism in pop music, and doing gymnastics – as a child he longed to be an Olympic gymnast.

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## Nicolas Thorpe

Age: 22  
Nominating Institution: Rice University  
Degree: B.A. in Political Science; Environmental Policy,  
Rice University, (expected) 2015  
Field of Professional Interest: Government; Environment and Energy Policy

With family ties to Venezuela, Nick Thorpe grew up in the Bay Area of California and San Antonio, Texas. In May 2015, Nick will graduate from Rice University with a double major in Political Science and Environmental Policy. As an undergraduate, Nick has focused on understanding domestic and international energy, environment, and policy issues and on finding workable solutions in the private and public sectors. For two summers, Nick interned in Washington, D.C., first for a non-partisan policy think tank, then for the U.S. Trade Representative in the Environment and Natural Resources Office, where he participated in the inner-workings of the federal government and learned about the utilization of trade policy to enforce environmental provisions. Through these experiences, he became fascinated by the relationship between local and central governments on environment and energy issues, and how they work together to meet international commitments. Nick spent a semester in Santiago, Chile, exploring Chile's politics, economics and culture and conducting an independent study project on local environmental policy. He also had the opportunity to travel to Istanbul, Turkey for a policy research seminar; to Guatemala for an international service trip; and to Everglades National Park in Florida for an Alterative Spring Break. At Rice, Nick has served as a student government representative, academic fellow, and orientation week advisor at his residential college, Lovett College. He has volunteered as the lunch hosting committee chair, executive board member and tour guide for the Student Admission Council, where he provides prospective students with a look into student life, academics and the college environment. With the ultimate goal of positively impacting people's lives while protecting our environment in the process, Nick plans to pursue a career

as a public servant and expert on local environmental and energy policy. Nick also enjoys watching comedic TV shows and movies, cooking Venezuelan food, playing tennis, and exploring craft beer.

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## Diana D.Y. Won

Age: 26  
Nominating Institution: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Degrees: M.P.P. in Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, (expected) 2015; B.A. in Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, 2011  
Field of Professional Interest: International Development

Diana Won is a graduate student in international policy and development at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. As the daughter of Korean immigrants, she is drawn to international affairs, her curiosity shaped by her desire to understand why people, like her parents, leave their homelands, whether by choice or by force. At Ford, Diana serves as co-chair of the International Policy Students Association and graduate student representative to the Ford School Alumni Board. She also works as an associate at the Enterprise for a Sustainable World and the Base of the Pyramid (BoP) Global Network, researching and strengthening global strategy to promote sustainable, inclusive business practices. She works to integrate knowledge across the global network which currently operates in 18 countries, and also to coordinate the annual BoP Global Summit. Diana is a consultant for the William Davidson Institute, investigating a key public-private partnership agreement between USAID and a large corporation. She also works as an intern at the USAID Global Development Lab, researching data innovations that help inform more effective development programming. This past summer Diana served as a political section intern at the U.S. Embassy in Lima, fortifying contacts in the LGBT community to support a long-term equal rights campaign and analyzing human rights and equality issues for indigenous communities. Diana graduated from Rutgers University in 2011, studying Planning and Public Policy with minors in Spanish and Women's and Gender Studies. She researched community economic development domestically, contributing to *Promoting Sustainable Local and Community Economic Development*, written by Roland V. Anglin, and worked in Newark, New Jersey at the nonprofit and municipal levels. Her passion for travel was sparked through study abroad in Argentina and continued through her Fulbright grant in Bucaramanga, Colombia, where she helped build mutual understanding in and out of the classroom through contributions to *Paréntesis* on gender issues in Latin America and volunteer work at a USAID/Mercy Corps project to integrate landmine survivors into mainstream society. After returning from Colombia and prior to graduate school, Diana worked at Sheldon Lobel, P.C. as a paralegal, to better understand the intersection of business, law, and policy in zoning and urban development. Diana hopes to work at the intersection of policy and business to promote inclusive development.

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## Lanier M. Zimmer

Age: 27  
Nominating Institution: Claremont McKenna College  
Degrees: M.S. in Organizational Change, Northwestern University (expected) 2017; B.A. in Psychology, Claremont McKenna College, 2009  
Field of Professional Interest: Education and Nonprofit Sector

Lanier Zimmer is Assistant Director of Recruitment and Placement for the Golden Apple Foundation, a non-profit that gives awards to excellent teachers and prepares future teachers through a college scholarship program. In her first year, Lanier initiated and led three major reform projects. She streamlined the application process by moving the application online and created an online job board, which resulted in 100% placement for graduating students. Most recently, recognizing that the preferred method of communication for high school students is texting, she initiated the successful use of a texting platform to communicate with them. In January, Lanier started a master's program at Northwestern University in Organizational Change, which focuses on leadership and organizational development, to further her goal of leading an education non-profit. Earlier, Lanier worked for three years in admissions for the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign. She recruited and provided outreach to first generation, low income and underrepresented students from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and led an expanded early outreach program for underserved 9th and 10th graders. Working in CPS, she witnessed the dramatic inadequacy of education for students in poor neighborhoods and the dire need for improvement. During her time in admissions, the University enrolled a record number of students from CPS. Lanier first worked with teenagers after college, when she obtained certification to teach English as foreign language through Cambridge University. She taught in a Basque public high school near San Sebastian. After the school year, Lanier was invited to lead the first ever summer English program and enjoyed creating a curriculum, introducing students to Reese's Peanut Butter cups and sharing 4th of July traditions. In college, Lanier was the captain of Claremont McKenna College's water polo team, perfected the skill of walking backwards as a tour guide and kept 20 freshmen alive as the leader of a wilderness orientation trip. She spent a semester abroad in Quito, Ecuador, where she lived with a family, took classes in Spanish, and interned at a daycare for children whose parents worked as scavengers in Quito's city dump. Living immersed in another culture, speaking another language and gaining an addiction to *ahi* (hot sauce) constituted one of Lanier's most valuable life events. Lanier served as Co-President of the CMC Chicago Alumni Chapter and recently joined the board of her high school alumni association. Her latest personal accomplishment was completing her first (and last) Chicago Marathon.

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