

Exploration Summer 2019

Proposed Projects

Mentors marked * are Robertson alumni

Scholar and Mentor	Title and Abstract
Liza Becker Rachel Jones	<p>Exploring the Psychological and Emotional Experience of Pregnancy in Public and Private Life I will be traveling to Nairobi, Kenya to work and conduct research with Jacaranda Health, a maternal health nonprofit organization. My research will involve conducting story circles, which are similar to focus groups, but are less formal and more focused on sharing stories rather than answering targeted questions. Additionally, my project involved giving pregnant women disposable cameras to visually capture their unique experience of pregnancy. My hope is that my research will illuminate the joys and stresses of pregnancy in public life, the home, and in medical settings, while also empowering and providing social support for pregnant women via shared verbal and visual storytelling.</p>
Leland Ben Jamie Band*	<p>Soviet Shock Therapy: From New York to Moscow I will be working for the first half of my summer at a New York City based asset management firm. There, I will be working directly under the firm's healthcare portfolio manager. I will be responsible for all idea generation and pitches for potential investments in healthcare related public equities. After this position, I will travel to the Russian Federation where I will be working as a consultant for Macro-Advisory Ltd, the leading business and political advisory firm in Eurasia. I will be working on an independent project under the supervision of the firm's director of healthcare research.</p>
Clare Bradshaw Douglas MacKay	<p>Sustainability Through Reciprocity This summer I will learn about how public and private entities formulate inclusive business models that generate economic opportunity in low-income geographic areas. This process will involve experiential learning through my role as a Research and Consulting Assistant for Reciprocity, an economic development consultancy, in Cape Town, South Africa.</p>
A.G. Chancellor Mbaya Lo	<p>An Exploration of Race and Public Policy This summer I will be exploring the political race relations in South Africa since the fall of apartheid and drawing comparison with the race relations in America post Jim Crow.</p>
Patrick Clinch Mary Boatwright	<p>Freedom to Laugh: Democracy and Satire Past and Present This summer project will be a combination of professional experience, intellectual investigation and personal exploration of through the lens my interests in democratic political systems, comedy and ancient history. The first phase of the summer will be an internship for House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer in Washington D.C. and the second half will be a trek through Italy and Greece where I will visit archeological and cultural sites. These pursuits are intended to allow me to investigate democracy currently and historically, with a focus on how satire functions to alter democratic systems from within. Throughout the summer I will create a satirical publication about my experience.</p>
Adam Enggasser Madison Perry & Erin Marcinowski	<p>The White, Western Healthcare Provider: What Is Their International Role? For a pre-med student, there are many different career paths to choose from. One of those paths with a huge impact is international medicine, often performed through medical missions organizations. However, there are many different roles that white, western healthcare providers can occupy, many that have been criticized as being culturally insensitive or as a short-term fix to an in-depth problem. This summer, I will gain international medical experience in the mission field and attempt to answer the question of what role a white, western healthcare provider should occupy.</p>
Annie Evans Luc Bovens	<p>A Way Forward in the Fight Against Gerrymandering As communities of interest learn more and more about gerrymandering, many are energized to fight against it. However, there are lots of ways to go about that battle. This summer, I hope to understand the paths forward to create better districting methods throughout country. In order to do this, I will be working in Richmond, VA for a non-profit focusing on community engagement for a constitutional amendment and Common Cause, working on their national initiatives against</p>

	gerrymandering. I plan to culminate this work with an article that I hope to have published in the Carolina Political Review.
Katherine Gan Bibi Gnagno	Exploring Leadership in Politics and Empowering Young Girls I will be working on the Kamala Harris campaign in New Hampshire as an organizer for the entire summer and continuing that work in my gap year next year. I will be running Women Who Debate, a free debate camp for young girls, with Naraya Price and Clare Bradshaw from Aug 12-16.
Meghana Iragavarapu Franca Alphin	Nutrition Education in Fiji and Argentina Malnutrition is a double-edged sword. On one end, obesity presents an immediate cause of concern for island communities because of a lack of public education and the abundance of cheap, imported high carbohydrate and fat filled foods causing non-communicable diseases like diabetes and heart disease. On the other end, poor diet also causes stunted growth, especially in younger populations. While in Fiji, I will be working with a local qualified practitioner to conduct health promotion and free health assessments in resorts, schools, villages, and corporate centers to raise awareness of nutrition and the positive benefits of physical activities in NCD prevention. In Buenos Aires, I will be working on raising the awareness in impoverished communities, specifically to mothers, children, and pregnant women, about the importance of a balanced diet and the risks of stunted development for children who are malnourished.
Lawton Ives Robert Orr	Public Lands Exploration Summer I will spend the bulk of the summer interning in the Superintendent's Office of Yellowstone National Park. Over the past 10 years, visitation in the park has grown 40% while staff and funding have remained flat. I will be monitoring and analyzing pilot projects related to new strategies for managing visitors in specific places and assisting in research related to a larger planning process. At the end of the summer, I will be doing a documentary photography project about how public land is managed in Alaska and the decision to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling.
Merrit Jones Channing Anderson	Yoga as a tool for Student Leaders and Teachers This project is an exploration of the connection between yogic principles and my work in schools. Over the last four years I have spent hundreds of hours in both classrooms and on my yoga mat. I have always felt that schools would be better equipped if they could use yogic principles such as setting intentions, re-centering after internal and external conflict or simply finding balance. Through a 200 hour Yoga Teacher Training (YTT) program I will build upon existing knowledge and experiences to discover if yoga will improve my leadership in student voice and subsequently as a classroom teacher.
Ben Keegan Jacob Robinson*	Software Engineering for a Growing Tech Start Up in Silicon Valley I am working for a growing tech start up in Silicon Valley called Eightfold with multiple goals in mind: to develop my skills as a software engineer; to explore the culture of innovation and leadership that drives growing tech start ups in the tech start up capital of the world; to engage with and learn from people who are trying to change the world and help improve the lives of real people through technology..
Zoe King Emily Shanahan	Reproductive Health of Incarcerated Women The opioid crisis is a public health emergency and is particularly impactful on pregnant incarcerated women. Medication assisted treatment (MAT) is the standard of care for opioid withdrawal. MAT is not widely available for pregnant incarcerated women, which results in health risks for mother and child. This project will look at this implementation gap from the perspective of jail administrators and clinicians. The project will be conducted through semi-structured interviews, followed by qualitative data analysis, and resulting in a final academic paper.
Warner Lamar Corey Root	Homelessness in the European Union I will be researching and presenting findings on homelessness in Ireland as compared to other countries in the European Union in Dublin, Ireland for Eoin O'Sullivan one of the EU's lead researchers on homelessness, based out of Trinity College and Focus Ireland, a NGO serving Ireland's homeless population.
Serena Lim-Strutt James Stephenson	Landmine tourism and village development I will be spending 12 weeks in Cambodia working with the CMAC peace museum which is dedicated to raising funds for landmine demining. My main job here will be working to increase tourism (and thus donations) through analyzing the effects of different types of advertisements and museum

	<p>tours. Another aspect of my summer, also in the same location, will include researching the effects of landmines on Cambodian villages and the most impactful ways to increase economic growth and quality of life. For example, figuring out the most important locations to demine to maximize the number of jobs in each village.</p>
<p>Nate Miller Devin Solanki*</p>	<p>What could Capitol Hill learn from Indonesian Shoes In working in a structured internship with Colorado Senator Michael Bennet, I will gain first-hand experience in how policy is shaped in the nations capital. Senator Bennet works very closely with conservation policy, which is the committee I have requested to work on. After this, I will travel to Bali to work for Indosole. This is a shoe company that is completely vegans and emphasizes using waste to create apparel. Across both experiences, I will create a chart with different transferable skills for management consulting and keep a daily log of every time I use one of these at one of the internships.</p>
<p>Mary Laci Motley Jim Kitchen</p>	<p>The Golden Standard of Sustainability for the Golden Arches (also eats2seats LLC expansion with Fanfood) This project explores select differences between McDonald’s operations in the UK and US examining specifically: The UK market, which constitutes 7% of McDonald’s global profits, provides a contained region for the implementation of corporate responsibility and sustainability efforts defined by the McDonald’s Corporation. I will assess how these values manifest in local franchises across the UK. Three aspects I will focus on are the use of locally sourced hormone free meats, paper straws and the support of the 10 pound minimum wage.</p>
<p>Michael Muller Sumeet Patwardhan*</p>	<p>Exploring software development in the biomedical industry and music education I will spend my exploration summer interning at a biomedical company near Boston, Massachusetts. I will work as a member of the company’s software development team, and will explore what it’s like to program in a small, biotech environment. I want to see how applicable and transferable the skills and principles taught in my computer science classes at university are in the context of a biomedical company. I will also spend some time outside of internship volunteering at a local music education program in Boston and exploring the impact that music teachers have on the local youth.</p>
<p>Mary Ashley Murrah Abigail Gay*</p>	<p>Consulting and Cathedrals My summer will be split into two segments: a consulting internship with Oliver Wyman and then an independent research project focussed on visualizations of the Trinity in cathedral art in Europe. I will be exploring my compatibility with a career in consulting and then embarking on research that will hopefully help me better understand my spirituality as well as art's role in evoking emotion and understanding within an individual when they encounter religion.</p>
<p>Michelle Nandi Deborah Stroman</p>	<p>Finance & Collegiate Sports In the age of newer and more complex financial products, how do investment banks actually create and sell these products. How has the rise of college sports in South Africa impacted the path to professional sports in the country.</p>
<p>Rahi Patel Travis Crayton*</p>	<p>Urban Explorations My summer consists of an internship in transportation planning at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA and a more arts-based photographic documentary exploration of Tokyo, Japan.</p>
<p>Naraya Price Candis Smith</p>	<p>ACLU Racial Justice Program Intern; Exploring the Resources of Urban European Organizations to Provide for Refugee and Migrant Communities I will spend the first part of my summer interning at the ACLU with their Racial Justice Program. In this internship I will. . .</p>
<p>Kyle Ryan B.J. Rudell</p>	<p>Exploring Coding and Campaigns This summer I will spend one month working on an environment campaign in Maine, and two months working with a tech non-profit in Belgrade, Serbia. In working on the environment campaign, I will be primarily positioned as a field manager and aiding in higher level aspects of the campaign, including training and planning. While working with the tech non-profit, I will be aiding in developing tools that will be used by refugee aid groups across Europe. This will involve learning new computer programming languages and applying the skills quickly and effectively.</p>
<p>Jake Sheridan</p>	<p>Telling Stories</p>

Bill Adair	This summer, I will be telling stories in different ways to see what resonates with me and experiment with what strengths & weaknesses certain mediums and methods have.
Matthew Smith Don Greiner	Openspace Ventures I will be living in Singapore for ten weeks this summer interning for a venture capital firm. The company's name is Openspace Ventures and they generally make investments in early stage technology companies based in Southeast Asia. While there I will wear many hats, but the largest portion of my responsibilities will lie in working personally with one of the two founders. I will sit in and participate on all of the live deals they work through this summer as well as complete a summer long research project for the firm. I will be testing a hypothesis on what creates effective leadership by studying the founder of this firm.
Allayne Thomas William Tobin	Refugee Resettlement: Policy and Practice in the context of Ireland I want to investigate how the Ireland government is responding to the refugee crisis, what the experiences of refugees entering Ireland are, and how policy and practices in Ireland could relate to the situation in the United States in terms of community-building and resource distribution.
Joseph Touma Georg Vanberg	Exploring Nationalist Movements in Europe A summer exploring active independence movements in Europe, focused on the opinions of young people and organizers toward the questions of independence or remaining. The summer will be spent in Scotland and Catalonia, two regions where questions of independence have been prominent as of late. I will explore possible motivations behind support of such movements, including cultural and economic. The summer will culminate in a series of videos detailing my experience in exploring this topic.
Adam Ushpol David Bond	Real Mountains and Invisible Mountains In a 2018 Harvard Business Review Article, Vijay Govindarajan and Ravi Ramamurti suggest that the 21st century physician cannot merely be a doctor, but must be a doctorpreneur. The doctorpreneur is medically excellent, of course, embodies a compassion that drives them to think about issues like access to health care and failures of health care systems, and has business sense, because they acknowledge that health care's biggest shortcomings require highly productive and sustainable solutions. My exploration summer – focusing on health care's triple aim (affordability, quality, and accessibility) at City of Hope and learning servant leadership from Kilimanjaro's Sherpas - aims to move me in the direction of doctorpreneurs.
Brandon Wacaser Carlos Andrade	Summer in Kunming China During my Summer in Kunming, China, I will be learning about the history of traditional Chinese medicine and its philosophical foundation in Daoism. I will study the pharmacopoeia of TCM herbal medicine and learn other methods of healing such as acupuncture and cupping. The program allows for travel to a variety of other locations in China, such as the Daoist mountain Weibaoshan, the ancient city of Dali, the town Shaxi on the ancient Tea and Horse Caravan Route, Lijiang World Heritage site, and Zhongdian Tibetan area.
Sierra Winters Ashlee Ramsey	Spiritual and Religious Embodiment in Yogic and Monastic Communities By taking part in the Mindful Cooking retreat at Plum Village Monastery in France, earning my 500-hour yoga teacher certification through a nine-week program in Dharamshala, India, and potentially exploring more monasteries of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition in northern India, I will learn about religion and spirituality through engaging in associated rituals and practices. Specifically, I will collect information on how spirituality manifests in food choices in various religious contexts, analyze motives and reasons for the Westernization of yoga, and explore how communities form as a result of both practiced connection to other people and practiced connection to one's self.
Antonia Young Tierney Maray*	A Spanish Summer in South America After a semester of learning about the legacy of colonialism and capitalism on indigenous justice in the context of rural Latin America, I have developed a passion for this subject and this region. I am using this summer as an opportunity to follow this new found passion and curiosity of mine by participating in an immersive Spanish language program in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I realize that being able to read, write and communicate in the official language of much of Latin America will be an important aspect of gaining a deeper understanding of the culture, the history and the people's diverse narratives.