

Summer 2020 (options drastically reduced via COVID)

Launch Summer 2020

Summer options were restricted for Summer 2020 because of COVID-19. However, Robertson Scholars still did amazing things during that time. Two forms of funding were possible: (1) All Scholars received a stipend of \$1500 regardless of proposed activity; and (2) Scholars were invited to submit proposals and budgets for additional funds. Both types of projects are outlined here. At the end of the summer, all Scholars reflected on their leadership growth during the Summer and described how the four Program values were manifest in their activities.

The following projects were supported by the stipend provided to all Scholars.

Scholar and Coach	Launch Summer activities
Leland Ben	<p>I worked in a position at a life sciences start up.</p> <p>The projects that I worked on directly impact coronavirus research. The start up has built a powerful diagnostics instrument that, in collaboration with our research partners, will facilitate research on the biological mechanisms of the coronavirus. As I now hold a management-level position within this company, I have a leadership role that goes beyond that of an intern.</p>
AG Chancellor IV	<p>I spent the first half of my summer studying for the LSAT which I took in July. I also served on the Duke Student Advisory Board formed by the administration to help develop and now monitor reopening plans. I served on the Student Expectations Committee that worked on developing the Duke Compact Agreement for the semester as a representative for the Advisory Board. Additionally, I worked with Student Conduct on setting COVID policies as well as serving on a couple of hearing panels.</p>
Lawton Ives	<p>I lived in Boulder, CO while interning (virtually) with McKinsey & Company's Denver office. At the end of the summer, I also took a two week road trip through Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and South Dakota to reconnect with friends from high school, UNC, and my Robertson summers and reflect before heading back to school.</p>
Ben Keegan	<p>I was home in Liverpool for the entirety of the summer, but I was working part time as a frontend software engineer for a healthcare AI start up from Durham called Cydoc. The start up is pre-deployment, so it was really great to see the inside workings of a business at this stage. Exploration Summer I worked at a start up that was in a high growth phase, and this summer the product had not been sent out to production, i.e. there were no customers yet. In this sense, it was exciting to be a part of a project where ideas are still being thrown around and there was plenty of scope to contribute to the shaping of the product.</p>
Zoe King	<p>Worked with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, worked on my thesis, and studied for the GRE</p>
Warner Lamar	<p>I was an API Integration Engineer Intern for SAS Institute.</p>
Nate Miller	<p>Worked as a consulting intern at Night Sourcing Group.</p>
Mikey Muller	<p>I was living at my home in Portland, interning virtually for Amazon as a Professional Services Cloud Computing Consultant.</p>
Mary Ashley Murrah	<p>Internship with Prophet Consulting</p>
Michelle Nandi	<p>Intern with Investment Bank.</p>

Rahi Patel	Interned at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in the Transportation Planning Division (same activity as last summer).
Matt Smith	I spent a lot of time with my family and friends from home during May and June, but productivity wise I worked a remote internship for a REIT based out of San Francisco (Bell Partners) in the month of July up until school started in early August.
Allayne Thomas	I studied for the LSAT, volunteered with Church World Service, joined an organizing group on campus, worked on my thesis and participated in book clubs.
Joseph Touma	<p>I spent a month working with an organization called AllSides. To give some context, a little over a year ago, Bridge the Divide (my organization) was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Facebook. As both my co-founder and myself were in college and not able to commit to Bridge the Divide as much time as we once were, we partnered with an organization with a similar mission called AllSides to start a platform called Mismatch. Basically, the idea was to build an online platform that pairs students in classrooms in politically different parts of the country (for example, rural Alabama and Los Angeles) to take part in guided respectful conversations. This was a success, primarily thanks to AllSides and some of their partners like Living Room Conversations. Fast forward to today, Mismatch has now morphed into AllSides Connect, the same platform but now one that can be used by organizations, businesses, schools, churches, etc. I helped them with multiple tasks, most specifically related to website design and investor materials (like a pitch deck).</p> <p>For the majority of my summer (8 weeks), I interned with BCG's Washington, DC office. During the virtual internship, I worked on two cases in the TMT (technology, media, telecom) space.</p>
Adam Ushpol	I completed a remote internship with the Steele Institute for Health Innovation, Geisinger Health. Specifically, I worked on an initiative called the Chronic Disease Management Command Center - an innovative Med-tech solution, aiming to transform the home into a healthcare delivery environment. I also completed three summer classes.

These projects were supported through a proposal and budget process to request additional funds

Scholar and Coach	Launch Summer projects
Liza Becker Coach: Megan Hutchko, Harris Solomon	<p>Launching into a Healthcare Career: Deepening Structural Competency and Solidifying Scientific Knowledge</p> <p>My launch summer consisted of two main activities: 1) studying and sitting for the MCAT and 2) working a remote internship for the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP). I studied for the MCAT independently, mainly using Kaplan and AAMC materials, for a total of between 300 and 400 hours over the course of twelve weeks. This activity allowed me to take the next step in my preparation for a career in medicine, following the completion of my pre-med courses and before starting applications to medical school. Second, I worked on two teams within CCWP addressing different advocacy needs of people that are incarcerated in women's prisons in California. I worked on CCWP's "Drop LWOP" team (a campaign to end the cruel sentence of life without the possibility of parole in California) as well as on the "Writing Warriors" team (which involved maintaining written correspondences with people incarcerated in women's prisons in California). I see these two activities as contributing to my future career plans to become a physician that practices within jails and prisons. My launch summer activities allowed me to progress towards readiness for medical school and towards having a greater understanding of the structural and interpersonal factors affecting the health of incarcerated people.</p>
Claire Bradshaw Coach: Persis Bhadha*	During Summer 2020, I was working for CareerWise, a statewide youth apprenticeship program in Colorado, specifically on developing a starting an alumni network for their national programming. In addition, I was also working with a professor to develop course curriculum for the peer-led class that I am teaching with Honors Carolina called "Future of Work(ers): from Automation to COVID-19."

<p>Patrick Clinch Coach: Fitz Brundage</p>	<p>Thesis work: This summer I am starting work on my Senior Honors Thesis for History. It represents the culmination of three years of historical exploration, and an opportunity for me to try my hand at intense graduate-level research. The working title of this thesis is “Vote Barnum: the political career of P.T. Barnum and the intersections of popular entertainment and race in the postbellum North.” It is an exploration of the famed showman P.T. Barnum, who late in life served as a Republican in the Connecticut legislature and as mayor of Bedford, Connecticut. My thesis surrounds the idea that Barnum’s vocal support for the 13th and 14th Amendments, taken with his consistent exploitation of Afro-Americans and Africans throughout his career as a showman, represents a unique example of the dissonance between the stated Republican goal of abolition and the racial myths that pervaded the American consciousness in the period 1865-1891. I intend to prove that the formalization of otherness through the commodification of persons of color in entertainment allowed Northern whites to remain ambivalent to the success of Reconstruction, and allowed for the implicit social acceptance of southern racial violence and the legal codification of post-slavery persecution. This thesis work will require hours of intense research and reading, as well as constant communication with professors and archives around the country.</p> <p>FAIRolina: Fellow Robertson Annie Evans and I began work on a project called FAIRolina this past semester. The original project was designed as a weekly protest series aimed at gerrymandering and other undemocratic practices in contemporary politics. These protests were interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and we have since moved our activities online. Our goal for the summer is to build a user-friendly website and initiate a movement among students at UNC to demand democratic reform in North Carolina and in our nation. We hope to use this summer to transition FAIRolina from a decentralized weekly protest series to a more structured, recognized student organization on campus. We believe with a degree of focus and effort throughout the summer, we can build FAIRolina into a useful tool for UNC students to get involved with our democracy.</p> <p>The UNCLE:The UNC Late Edition or UNCLE is a campus humor magazine I started last year. I am still the head writer and managing editor of the magazine for this coming school year. One of my goals for the summer is to expand the reach of the magazine and increase the frequency of articles. There was an interruption due to coronavirus this past semester of several of my plans for expansion, and I intend to get those back on track. Some of the goals I have are the creation of a print issue for the magazine, which has been exclusively online up until this point, the improvement of our on-campus online reach and network, and an expansion of our staff to include more writers and editors.</p> <p>Prep for Post-Graduate Scholarships: I intend to apply for several postgraduate scholarships including the Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell. I will be working with Kay throughout the summer on refining my personal statements, recommendation strategies and applications for UNC endorsement. This will involve a comprehensive effort to collect and frame my activities in college up until this point in order to make myself into a viable candidate. I will be writing personal essays and updating my resumes and CVs for use this August. I will also use this work moving forward as I apply to other graduate programs.</p>
<p>Adam Enggasser Coach: Alan Bell, Jay Thomas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health and Reconnect Process Internship at Chapel Hill Bible Church (CHBC): This is a short-term, COVID-19-specific internship created after being in touch with some members of the CHBC Reconnect Team helping guide the church back to corporate worship. Starting immediately, I will be in a support role for the Reconnect Team, helping support their decision-making process and ensure a smooth transition back to corporate worship. My role will also include producing some materials for the congregation about CHBC’s plan to resume corporate worship, fielding questions from church members, and reaching out to members to gauge feelings about resuming a typical Sunday morning. This internship requires me to be in Chapel Hill, NC to attend Reconnect Team meetings, coordinate with church employees, and physically develop and implement a plan for a safe transition back. As a current public health senior planning to attend medical school after graduation, this is an ideal opportunity for me to gain real-world public health experience in a pseudo-consulting role, while at the same time contributing what I have learned in class to my home church. There is a need for this position – as expressed by our lead pastor – that I will be

	<p>able to fill. This is literally the perfect time to capitalize on my public health education and this is the best way I could think of to get involved – although the COVID-19 situation is challenging, it would be silly to not take advantage of this unique time to advance my experience with public health. Hours will be variable and will include weekends and nights as necessary, but will equal at least 20h/week. This position is unpaid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCAT Studying: As a senior pre-med student, this summer is an ideal time to prepare for the MCAT, the medical college admissions test. Additionally, COVID-19 has eliminated the possibility of travel (as previously planned for this summer). To capitalize on both the need to prepare for the MCAT and the necessity of remaining in one place (Chapel Hill, NC), I have designed MCAT studying to be a significant portion of my summer. To prepare, designated review courses through The Princeton Review and Kaplan are shown to be extremely beneficial at organizing studying efforts and maximizing the return on investment, being the cornerstone for my studying this summer. I will study for 20hr/week, starting immediately. Depending on how summer studying goes, I may take the MCAT in September, December, or sometime next year. • Bible Study: In addition to developing myself professionally and academically through this internship and MCAT prep, I also want to continue developing my character and spiritual maturity. Although not something that will go on my resume, character is an essential part of any medical school applicant, future doctor, and community member. I have seen substantial growth in my personal character (and would love to talk more about this!) since beginning serious Bible study freshman year of college and plan to continue this summer. I plan on doing this through free online courses on BiblicalTraining.com and some resources I already have, but have reached a point in my study where additional study materials and resources are necessary. For the relatively small cost, this will be a massive return on investment. I plan to study the Bible for ~5hr/week.
<p>Annie Evans Coach: Luc Bovens</p>	<p>I would like to spend my launch summer engaged in a number of activities which will prepare me to apply to law school in the fall. Though my original plans for this summer needed to be changed due to the coronavirus crisis, I believe the following grouping of activities will help me to develop and demonstrate my unique skill set and passion to admissions counselors, as well as future employers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, I would like to work on my Honors Thesis in Philosophy with Dr. Luc Bovens. I plan on writing my thesis on Voting Rights in the State of North Carolina from both a political and a philosophical background. This project will require me to read extensively in the legal domain as well as conduct interviews with many experts in the area. I want to get a bulk of this reading and information gathering complete before the semester starts. Given the compacted fall schedule, law school applications, and other responsibilities, completing a lot of this work early is critical for success in this endeavor. A reading list and a list of likely interviews is attached to this document for a more detailed account of what this project will look like this summer, as well as a plan for deliverables. I plan on spending 10-15 hours per week on this project between reading, meeting with my thesis advisor, and interviewing relevant individuals • Secondly, I will be working with a political science research team at UNC as a coding assistant part-time. The team consists of a Political Science Professor and two PhD candidates, working on their dissertations. Though this work will start remotely, I hope to begin in-person work with them as soon as that is allowed. I will be working with this group part-time, roughly 10-15 hours a week. • I plan on strengthening FAIRolina, a weekly voting rights protest, with Patrick Clinch, a fellow Robertson scholar. We started this group this past spring and want to expand programming and work with other organizations to collaborate for more equitable voting in the state. This is an important time in the discussion regarding voting rights, including mail-in voting, gerrymandering, voter-id laws, among other issues. We will be meeting regularly, building out an online presence. Our goals for in-person gatherings are less viable now, though we hope to be back in the pit soon. We plan to spend at least 10-15 hours per week on this. More information and deliverables regarding this project are also included at the end of this document.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finally, I intend on taking an LSAT prep course, held at UNC Law School. The LSAT is a crucial element in any law school application, and I have regularly been studying 10 hours a week since the end of the semester. In order to achieve the scores necessary to receive an offer of admission at any of the law schools I would like to attend, I must attain top scores on this exam. I have generally thrived in traditional learning formats, as can be seen by my academic performance over the last three years at Carolina. I believe that preparing for the exam through this course, that is more advanced, well-researched, and structured than a basic self-study routine, will produce the best outcomes for me on the LSAT. This class will start on June 21st and run through the date of the test, administered on August 29th. The course meets for 8 hours a week and will likely require an additional 10 hours of studying outside of class time, for an approximate total of 18 hours.
<p>Meghana Iragavarapu Coach: Chris Paul*</p>	<p>As a rising senior, it is incredibly important to me that I complete a meaningful Robertson Launch Summer to serve as one of the final, summarizing activities of my time as a Robertson Scholar. The independence and responsibility I learned from Community Summer, along with the soft skills of finding comfort in unfamiliar environments from Exploration Summer have prepared me for personal success during Launch Summer. For this launch summer, I have designed a four-part, balanced, project that aligns with my Program II major of “The Intersection of Food Availability, Nutrition, and Health Outcomes” and supplements the experiences I have had addressing diabetes in Fiji, and food insecurity and health inequities in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Greensboro, and Durham.</p> <p>I want to complete a Robertson Summer because I have carefully designed projects and commitments that align with the objective of “Launching” to prepare for my future career as a health professional. The four components of my summer are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with my TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) chapter and Dr. Howard Eisenson at the Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham to move our curriculum to modified remote instruction. Researching with Robertson alumnus Christopher Paul at North Carolina Central University on the NIH HOPE Project to address the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and related health and economic struggles for populations in the North Carolina counties Cabarrus, Rowan, and Anson. Applying for post-graduate scholarships including the Fulbright, Marshall, Mitchell, and Emerson National Hunger Fellows Program with support from Kay Frances Brody and Robertson staff. Studying for the Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT) with intention to apply for admission in Fall 2022.
<p>Merrit Jones Coach: Savannah Wooten*</p>	<p>I’ll be spending the summer working fulltime for Student Voice overseeing 3 primary projects for the organization and building organizational capacity through continued development work. In my role as President I oversee partnerships, development and programs.</p> <p><u>These Projects include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Voice Strategies Move School Forward Intergenerational Dialogue Series Continued rapid response communications advocacy etc.
<p>Mary Laci Motley Coach: Jim Kitchen</p>	<p>For my Launch Summer I spent three months working on my company, EAST2SEATS. EAST2SEATS is a staffing business that connects local NPOs to fundraising events by staffing concessions and offering food delivery at sports stadiums. Summer 2020 was full of uncertainty because of COVID-19. Despite the operational season being eclipsed by a pandemic, I spent my Launch summer refining company operations in preparation for the Fall 2020 football season. I enrolled in an information sciences class focused on design and analysis of information systems. In this course I designed a platform for handling staffing logistics and data storage. Funding from several entrepreneurial awards enabled me to develop my company’s staffing portal,</p>

	<p>EATS2SEATS HomeBase. Thanks to the wonderful support of the Robertson program, I lived in Chapel Hill for the majority of the summer, and although the months were full of uncertainty, I found opportunity by shifting my mindset from fear to focused. Some of the best innovation emerges out of crisis. What I learned is that there are problems to solve and people to help no matter the altered state of the world. Through curiosity, positivity, and adaptability, I embraced change and evolved.</p>
<p>Brandon Wacaser Coach: Colin Ward *</p>	<p>The Cleveland Clinic International Operations Internship Program aims to provide students interested in international healthcare operations with the opportunity to gain practical experience and invaluable exposure to international business development, international finance operations, global human resources, and global patient services. I will be engaged with other business students through real life healthcare exposure, where I hope to enrich my knowledge of international healthcare in a professional setting. I will be exposed to a plethora of experiences in a dynamic workplace (at the actual hospital in Cleveland, OH), where my work will consist of working and meeting with individuals from countries around the world. To my knowledge, I will be helping spearhead a student research coalition to help with tasks related to the Cleveland Clinic's newest project: a state-of-the-art hospital located in the heart of London.</p>

*Robertson Alumni Coaches