

Exploration Summer 2017

Proposed projects

5/25/17

Name and Mentor (* Robertson alum)	Title	Location(s)	Abstract
Sreya Atluri Valarie Zeithaml, Kenan-Flagler Business School	Exploring the Role of Businesses in Society: Finance and Non-Profits	Northern VA/Washington D.C., Charlotte, NC; India	My goal and objective for my summer is to further explore the business world, specifically investment banking, world, as well as delve into the relationships between business, non-profits, and government policies. The role of businesses in society has assumed a new paradigm beyond simply providing goods and services. There's an increased cognizance of the necessity to adopt a sustainable management framework that positively impacts developmental needs of local markets while symbiotically enhancing performance, and I hope to explore the intersection of these fields through my time in investment banking as well as my work with non-profits and sustainable international development.
Catalina Berenblum Winn Seay*, Duke Medicine	Nutritional vs Pharmaceutical Therapies for IBD Patients in Western Europe vs the US	London, England, Paris, France and Berlin, Germany	I will be investigating the factors that influence whether IBD patients are given nutritional or pharmaceutical therapies as the first line of defense against their diseases. I will be conducting primarily qualitative research, including interviews, with medical professionals and educators in this endeavor. This is part of a larger research project extending a number of years.
Lucy Best Joseph Tucker, UNC School of Medicine	Exploring Strategies for Green Urban Planning from Guangzhou to Hamburg	Guangzhou, China; Hamburg, Germany; Copenhagen, Denmark	My Exploration Summer is designed to provide a crash-course in qualitative research, urban planning, and environmental advocacy. I spend eight weeks in Guangzhou, China, working on the Healthy Cities Contest, a research project that is part of a WHO initiative. After researching the developing environmental advocacy in China, I will travel to Hamburg and Copenhagen to study how the most successful of the Healthy Cities programs have achieved their goals. Through these experiences, I hope to gain research skills, knowledge about local environmental movements, and a practical grasp on Chinese language.
Chaya Bhat Eric Green, Duke Global Health Institute	Exploring Digital Innovations in Global Mental Health	Eldoret, Kenya & Dhading/Kathmandu Nepal	Working with the Global Mental Health Bass Connections Team, I will be working in Eldoret to train lay counselors with the team's Reach Pocket Counselor Application. Our main focus is to solve supervision problems and increase fidelity. In Nepal, I will be working with Medic Mobile to create a digital workflow for FHVC's to track patients needing a mental health diagnosis using an SMS based system. Finally, I will be hiking Everest Base Camp with Harry Elworthy.
Andrew Brennen Andrew Barnhill, mentor	Public Relations Internship	Washington DC	I plan to use my summer to explore my interest in the Public Relations and Government Affairs industries. I am in the process of securing an un-paid internship towards that end.
Jermaine Bryant Jennifer Gates-Foster. UNC	Exploration of the Ancient World	Omrit (outside Tel Aviv) Israel, Greece (based out of Athens), Italy (based out of Rome)	I intend to go on an archaeological dig in Israel, and then travel to Athens and Rome to visit the major sites near two of the most important cultural sites of the ancient world. I am a Classics major and am looking at possibly going to grad school. In the university setting, I am very much exposed to literary culture, and I have studied Archaeology in a classroom setting, but nothing will allow me to see for myself whether I prefer the literary or archaeological side of Classics like

			getting into the field, learning skills, and getting hands on experience with artifacts and working on ancient sites. I want to learn, and I want to improve my resumé with some Classics-related fieldwork. As for the second part of the summer, I want to see the most important sites of the ancient world. I have studied and read about places such as the Acropolis of Athens, ancient Mycenae, Pylos, Pompeii, Herculaneum, and countless others, but being able to go there and seeing them up close would be an extremely eye-opening experience, and allow me to have a more complete understanding of these places and their culture.
Forest Cummings-Taylor Henry Pickford, Duke Germanic Languages and Literature	Art, the Artist, and the Aesthetic Experience	London; Paris	People look to art for comfort. In their free time, people watch TV shows, read novels, listen to records, attend concerts. In their free time, people color, write in journals (literature). What about art makes it such a satisfying recourse? Where would we be without it, why do we need it? I propose a project that involves reading past works in aesthetics, writing essays in the aesthetic tradition, and witnessing great art. I plan to carefully evaluate the reactions I have in witnessing art, guarding against over-inspiration. This project deals with art's social and personal relevance, and is a chance for me to provide my solutions to art's common problems and to share the role art's played in my own life.
Amit Dodani Mohsin-Mohi-Udin, Ashoka Youth Venture	Storytelling in Action	China (Beijing and Hong Kong), Argentina, Spain	I will be spending my summer traveling to foreign areas to interview young changemakers (individuals under 21 working on social ventures) to hear their stories. My travels will be focused on places entirely unfamiliar to me in the past (Spain, Argentina, and China) and I will stay with the local community and explore in the most authentic way possible. I will be transcribing my journey on numerous mediums, from photo to video to blogging, to share these incredible stories with the world.
George Elliott Tim Field, Daylesford	Creating a More Sustainable, Healthy, and Accessible Food System	Dayleford, Gloucestershire, UK; Stanford, CA, USA	I will explore how the current global food production system can be made more sustainable, healthy, and accessible through business and entrepreneurship. Working with Daylesford (a pioneering UK food business) will transform my focus on the food industry from a largely academic interest into a practical, solutions-orientated one. Participating in a competitive program at Stanford's Graduate School of Business will accelerate both my professional development and my understanding of how for-profit business can be combined with positive social impact in the food sector.
Harry Elworthy Tom Prebble*	Economic Development in Different Settings	New Zealand; Nepal; Vietnam	I want to spend this summer exploring different facets of economic development in Asia and the Pacific. I want to spend time at the policy-making end of development, developing an understanding of how economic policy is formed and applied. I also want to build an understanding of the communities and people that policy work such as this is supposed to help. I hope to build specific knowledge on the politics and development goals of my home country of New Zealand, as well as a broader understanding of both Nepal's and Vietnam's economies and communities. I hope to spend part of my summer working in a formal capacity for an organization I am passionate about, with people my age

			and with similar passions to me. I also want to spend part of my summer on my own, exploring new cultures and pursuing self-driven discovery.
Scott Emmons Kris Hauser, Duke University	Inside and Outside the Classroom	New York City; Bangalore, India	This is a project of physical, intellectual, and cultural exploration. Physically, it will explore places ranging from New York City, United States of America to Bangalore, India. Intellectually, it will explore a subfield of computer science. Culturally, it will explore life in the Big Apple and life in modern India. Its result will be one of gained experiences, learned ideas, and broadened perspectives.
Henry Feng Lisa Farrugia, Junior Medical Officer	Human Health for the Future	Sydney, Australia; Guangzhou, China; Tokyo, Japan	I look to apply research skills gained to practical applications in two separate settings. The first consists of an independently implemented initiative for alternative HIV testing. The project focuses on encouraging at-risk populations to be tested. These alternative methods are based on pre-existing research into the psychology of reciprocity and generosity, and we hope to increase rates of testing in a country that is facing a boom in prevalence. The second application is using VR technology to assist the development of space-flight protocol, particularly regarding human health outcomes. I hope these become useful avenues of exploration into my academic interests.
Hannah Godefa Alaa Murabit, UN	Exploring migration in post-conflict settings	Ethiopia 2. Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya 3. India	To raise awareness of issues related to the status of women and girls affected by conflict and displacement throughout Africa. This will be accomplished through three projects I will be undertaking this summer, culminating in an exhibition of this work at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Wilson Guo Braveen Ragunathan*	Summer in Nepal and China	Guangzhou, Beijing, Kathmandu	I will be working at a public health internship in China this summer. In China, I will be working with a crowdsourcing project in both Beijing and Guangzhou to help raise awareness on hepatitis B and C and encourage the general public to get tested to know their status. In Nepal, I will be attending a 10 days meditation retreat in Kathmandu to focus on using mindfulness in day to day decision makings.
Eliza Harrison Carol Conragan, mentor	A M(algae)ical Adventure .	Norway; Netherlands: Sweden; Denmark; Spain	In the purest spirit of an exploration summer, I will embark on a self-guided research project focused on the opportunities and challenges associated with an integrated practice of algae cultivation and aquaculture. As a compliment to my work with the Duke Marine Labs and Greenwave, visiting world-renowned facilities and working as a research intern on various initiatives in Europe will measurably enhance my understanding of algae's use for food, fuel, fertilizer, animal feed, and pharmaceutical products. Notwithstanding its educational value, A M(algae)ical Adventure will offer an extraordinary preview into a serious academic study and professional practice. . .
Ian Jaffe Lindsay Saunders, Duke	Public Health in Kenya and Cultural Exploration in Greece and Italy	Kenya; Greece; Italy; Morocco	During exploration summer I will be splitting my time between working with a small nonprofit, Soteni, in Kenya on HIV/AIDS prevention, community development, and water sanitation. During my time, I will be traveling to the villages that Soteni works in and helping build the capacity of the local villages, while giving HIV presentations and collecting and analyzing data. After finishing in Kenya, I will be traveling to Greece and Italy with fellow Robertson Jermaine,

			to explore ancient and modern sites around both countries, with a specific eye (in my case) towards sites with histories relating to medicine and medical ethics.
Kalif Jeremiah Renee Prillaman, Duke Program in Education	Music in LA	Los Angeles, CA	At UCLA I will be taking a course titled, The Art of Music Production. Outside of the classroom I will be spending my time working on my own music, journaling daily in order to keep track of methods I am using, as well as their effectiveness. This summer will be the last time in my collegiate career as a signed musician when I can focus entirely on my music for an extended period of time. Therefore, this is my last opportunity to make a big leap forward in this field.
Erica Johnson Paul Cuadros, UNC Journalism	Exploration Summer	Vietnam; Thailand; India; Japan; Malaysia; Greece	My main goal for this summer is to maintain a blog throughout travel and being at home, perhaps less intensive at home. I plan on posting 3 times per week, outside of my meditation retreat week because I won't have internet then. Additionally, I hope to compose two short stories and dabble in podcasts. During a journalism class in China, I met NPR's Shanghai correspondent and felt inspired. In regard to the short stories, I finally have the time to take my time on stories, which is what I want to do. In college, it can be hard to meticulously review each sentence of a story, but while abroad, I will have that opportunity. I intend to seize it. Throughout my summer, I hope to explore Buddhism, music, food and culture. . .
Matthew Kaplan Sarah Russell, Duke Global Advising	An Exploration of Education, Mindfulness, and Social Innovation	Los Angeles, California, Rio Grande Valley, Texas, East coast city (TBD), Osaka, Kyoto, and Tokyo (Japan), Beijing and Shanghai (China)	This summer, I am excited to explore three personal passions: education, mindfulness, and social innovation. My plans for this summer were inspired by my Bass Connections research project on the relationship between yoga and mindfulness on the social and emotional wellbeing of middle schoolers. My summer experience has two main components: a 7-week experience with Teach for America as an Accelerate Fellow, and a 17 day backpacking trip in Japan and China. In Japan, I will have the opportunity to deepen my yoga and meditation practice, and in China I will explore the country's bustling entrepreneurial scene.
Mia King Colleen Scott, Duke University	Two Paths Diverged: Corporate Culture and Cultural Canons	New York City; Paris, France	True to the summer's purpose of exploration, I plan on having a summer which delves deeply into my two primary areas of interest. My first is corporate America, and my second is diversity & inclusion as it relates to representation. My academic career thus far has failed to find ways to marry the two topics together. By spending time with both interests, I will see how I might position myself to eventually launch a career in any area of overlap, and whether I want to prioritize one area over the other. Though somewhat limited by the length of my internship, I hope to explore both topics of interest.
Brennan Lewis Rebecca Kreitzer, UNC Public Policy	Global Identity: LGBTQ Community Through Activism in Peru and the US South	Peru; Asheville, NC	I will begin this summer by joining a 40-day trip to Peru through Operation Groundswell. We will be traveling from Lima to Iquitos via canoe in the Amazon River, practicing language skills and exploring local communities along the way, particularly an LGBTQ youth group in the Amazon. I will spend the second half of the summer in Asheville, NC, interning for the Campaign for Southern Equality. I hope to use this opportunity to learn more about regional policy impacts on

			LGBTQ people and spending time documenting the experiences of southern LGBTQ youth.
Noah Mancuso Jane Thraikill, UNC	Global Health and Leadership	Chapel Hill; Germany; Czech Republic	. . . After two months, I will refocus my exploration to Germany and the Czech Republic as an international ambassador with One World One Rope and the World Jump Rope Federation. I will be working with other ambassadors to run jump rope workshops, conduct trainings, and perform.
Rachael Murtagh Julian Borrey*	Photo Documentary of Australia's East Coast	Australia East Coast (Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns)	I will be travelling up the East Coast of Australia, from Sydney to Cairns, documenting the unique wildlife and landscapes I encounter and sharing these findings on a photo blog. I will teach myself to code the website. I will use various modes of transport to find different wildlife and landscapes and to document them from different perspectives. For instance I will hike, bike, bus, sail, skydive, dive etc. (also allowing me to re-build my physical stamina). Many of my modes of transport will be environmentally friendly, particularly when I'm in national parks. I will learn about Australia's historical culture by visiting Aboriginal lands and learning about the spiritual significance of these lands from the Eastern Kuku Yulanji people.
Duncan Parsons Daniel Lim*	Vietnam, Finance, and the Economics of Developing Nations	Vietnam	I will work with local Vietnamese businesses and entrepreneurs to more fully understand the challenges and solutions associated with the developing economy. I hope that my work at IDC will contribute to the growing Vietnamese economy and standard of living but also teach me skills that I can apply in future to leverage economics to improve the standard of living of more people in more countries in more significant ways. Though it's impossible to predict the tangible contributions I will make in the future, I intend to spend my time and opportunity developing skills that I can use to help work with people that want to improve their lives through economic growth.
Raymond Pryor Emilie Dye, Duke Innovation & Entrepreneurship	Wide, Birds-Eye View of the Social Sector in the U.S.	Durham, NC	I want to explore my professional interests in social sector work as a HPJ Fellow at Frontline Solutions, a social impact consulting firm that serves leaders and organizations in the fields of racial, gender, and social justice across the country. Through this fellowship, my aspiration to gain broad exposure to the social sector landscape and learn about the various platforms for social change. I'll also get the full experience of living and working in the city Durham beyond more than just my campus experience that has not included very much time in the city.
Vishnu Ramanchandran Torin Monahan, UNC	Exploring the Other Side: Understanding the Smart Technology Innovators	Helsinki, Finland; Oslo, Norway; Barcelona, Spain; Copenhagen, Denmark; Berlin, Germany	I will be working with a small team from Harvard Law's Berkman Klein Center for four to six weeks. We will be modelling sustainable smart infrastructure investment to ensure rural communities are not left behind. Then, I will be in Copenhagen and other EU cities for two weeks interviewing various smart transportation innovators. I hope to create an investigative journalism report on how to apply EU policies to the US. Finally, I will intern at a smart transportation startup in downtown Helsinki for six weeks. They have the bold vision to provide "mobility as a service," rendering car ownership a vestige of the past. There, I will be working with the technical team,

			helping program their mobile application. Ultimately, I hope to immerse myself in this “maker culture” and understand the different narratives in that space.
Elina Rodriguez Eduardo Douglas, UNC Art Department	Exploring Art: Inspiration, Production, Engagement	Barcelona, Spain; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mexico City, Mexico	I want to immerse myself in art this summer—to see how it shapes communities, impacts systems of inequality, and engages me. I will begin my summer on June 1 in Barcelona, Spain exploring museums and participating in a plein-air watercolor workshop for a week. My goal is to invest time in my own creativity and the production of my own art as I question what inspires me and what I seek to create when given the space and time. I will then be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the next six weeks working at the Mural Arts project, an organization dedicated to fostering the creation of public art driven by the principle that art ignites change. I will be working for their Restorative Justice program and helping to organize the creation of murals by convicted persons and connecting those artists to the community and victims of crimes. This will allow me to see up close the ways that our criminal justice system can be reformed to more accurately reflect that people who commit crimes are not criminals, but people who have not been given the right resources. Lastly, I will be exploring Mexico City for two weeks in the beginning of August to better understand the Mexican Muralist movement and the way that modern art is directly connected to resistance, the public’s needs and community vision.
Kyra Rubin Zach Galin	Conflict Resolution: From Israel-Palestine to the Balkans	Tel Aviv; Bosnia Herzegovina; Croatia; Kosovo; Austria	This combination of experiences will combine to allow me to investigate conflict management and resolution through the realm of academics as well as experiential learning. As I will spend the first two to three weeks interviewing political officials and other up-and-coming political organizers, I will gain a better knowledge for the best ways for Americans to move forward in the fight for a two state solution; in the Balkan region in Europe, I will be able to research what ways international organizations did play a role in conflict resolution. From here, I will be able to see the ways in which their approaches came up short, and how we can capitalize on other leadership styles, such as more prototypically feminine leadership styles, to bring about positive social change in conflict stricken regions.
Rohan Sheth Sarah Russell, Duke Global Advising	Exploring interests and passions—Meditation, Consulting, and Education	Pecatonia, Illinois; London, UK; Bangalore, India	This project will provide me with an opportunity to explore some of my professional interests while also delving deeper into my existent passions. I will be spending the first 10 days of my summer at a silent meditation retreat in rural Illinois. After, I will be working for Oliver Wyman in their financial services division for 8 weeks. Finally, I will be teaching at a K-12 boarding school for 5 weeks in India designed for students coming from the slums of Bangalore.
Visrut Sudhakar Steven King, UNC Journalism	Exploring Western Europe through Robotics and Culture	Paderborn, Germany; Chapel Hill, NC; New York, New York	The purpose of the exploration summer project is to take advantage of a research grant to spend a summer in the university town of Paderborn, Germany. While much of the summer will be focused on my research experience in the Distributed Systems lab, I will also be traveling to neighboring cities to understand and participate in cultural events and learn about the Tamil diaspora in Europe. I hope to have my travels and experiences documented in a publicly accessible format, most likely as a website or blog.

<p>Myla Swallow</p> <p>Kathy Amato, Duke Innovation and Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Exploring Perceptions of Moral Obligations</p>	<p>Vietnam, India, Europe, UK</p>	<p>Who do we have a moral obligation to help? How far do these obligations extend? These questions, and others, are what I will focus on particularly in relation to the different answers people in the West have compared with people in the East. Gaining a greater understanding of how we approach these questions can have huge ramifications in terms of how we approach the solutions for helping those in abject poverty.</p>
<p>Kat Tan</p> <p>Emelyn Erickson*</p>	<p>Storytelling and Storylistening</p>	<p>Chapel Hill; New Haven, CT; Shanghai, China</p>	<p>The first chapter of my summer will be spent in my lovely second home, Chapel Hill. There, I'll be taking a class in behavioral neuroscience, continuing my story circle partnership with Carolina Meadows retirement community, and exploring a new research project with Dr. Kurt Gray of the UNC Mind Perception and Morality lab. The second chapter will be at the Yale Writers' Conference where I will learn how to write a story well according to established professional writers. The third chapter will be at the Shanghai Summer School where I will be trained in the basics of traditional Chinese medicine and get acquainted with the local culture. These three parts will be sewn together by a writing project (novel, short story collection, or poetry chapbook) that will serve as equal parts recollection and reflection of all I experience in the summer.</p>
<p>Daya Uppal</p> <p>Benjamin Meier, UNC Public Policy</p>	<p>India Through A New Lens</p>	<p>New Delhi, India; London, UK</p>	<p>I will be developing an independent, public-health related project during my internship with Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, which is an independent think-tank. I will also be exploring gender disparities – in the context of both, the developed and developing world – and how these disparities manifest themselves in the roles women adopt post-adolescence as a result of their political and social environments.</p>
<p>Trey Walk</p> <p>Sarah Russell, Duke Global Advising</p>	<p>The Freedom Struggle Continues: Civil Rights and Political Organizing in the American South and South Africa</p>	<p>Columbia, SC; Atlanta; Cape Town</p>	<p>I will be exploring political engagement in several contexts. First, I will be in my home state of South Carolina working with a couple of organizations; half of my work will be grassroots organizing and political education workshops, the other half will be working on a "State of the Youth" policy report for SC. I will then go to South Africa to explore Cape Town and meet with community leaders about race, class, and political access in post-Apartheid society. Finally, I will be in Atlanta with Humanity in Action as a John Lewis Fellow, working with students and adult leaders to explore action-models to respond to unjust policies.</p>
<p>Elle Winfield</p> <p>Robin Kirk, Duke Human Rights</p>	<p>The origins and evolutions of state enforced terrorism</p>	<p>France, Italy, Lebanon, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal, England, Germany</p>	<p>The summer research will seek to understand the dynamic of state enforced terrorism, exploring the three dynamic continents of the Middle East, Europe and Asia, and focusing on over two hundred years of historical oppression. The topic, which will form the foundations of a thesis paper, hopes to begin answering the ultimate question; does every State need terrorism to ensure its survival? If so, what and whose, human rights are we willing to sacrifice in the name of safety?</p>