

Launch Summer 2016

Proposed projects

Vicki Stocking

*Robertson alum

Scholar and Coach	Title of Project (location)
Chinyere Amanze Ashley Davis	Foundation Strategy Group (San Francisco) I will be an SEO Career intern working for the Foundation Strategy Group(FSG). This requires me to attend a training session from 05/21/16-06/01/16. I will be working at FSG from June 6 th -August 12th in San Francisco, California. The Foundation Strategy Group specializes in sharpening the spending of non-profits and foundations to make greater social impact. I will be assigned to one of their current teams to assist in developing a social impact plan for a client. The goal as an SEO Career Intern is to secure a full time employment offer from FSG by the end of my summer.
Hunter Baehren Bob Cook-Deegan	Launching a Career in Politics (Toledo, Columbus Ohio) My summer will involve two components. First, I am working as a campaign field organizer for former Gov. Ted Strickland's campaign for the U.S. Senate. Second, I am writing my senior thesis.
Sebastian Baquerizo John Caccavale	Real Estate Summer Analyst / Volunteer to help relief victims of Earthquake in Ecuador (Ecuador; New York City) I believe Real Estate and Civil Engineering are two deeply connected industries. Through this summer, I plan to further my understanding between these two industries, and how I will be able to use this knowledge in the future to build low cost homes in Latin America. Specifically, I will be working for the Blackstone Group in their real estate division in NYC. I plan to use this part of my summer to strengthen my financial understanding of real estate, develop relationships in the industry, as well as understand better the actual cost of building, buying, selling and financing a structure. Due to the recent earthquakes in Ecuador, my country is currently in a state of emergency. As an engineering student, I plan to travel there and volunteer for the first part of my summer. Many homes, bridges and buildings collapsed due to both the strength of the earthquake but also due to these structures' bad engineering designs. I am hoping this part of my summer will allow me to help my country, but will also strengthen my passion to build homes and remind me why construction is so important in the developing world.
Brent Comstock Ted Zoller	Comstock Launch Summer 2016: Moving the Needle Forward (Nebraska; South Carolina; Estonia; Denmark) My Launch Summer goal is simple: to use this summer as an opportunity to move myself forward personally and professionally. I have a series of unique opportunities this summer that all relate to my passion for startups, entrepreneurship, and building people-centered organizations. Through the various segments, as mentioned below, I will have an opportunity to travel abroad on an educational program and for startup related activities, meet with incredible mentors and learn from hand-on mentorship, and really spend time reflecting on the "what's next" question that will carry me into the final installment of my college career. This is just the beginning!
Brooke Davies Kristien DeNeve	Putting Together the Pieces (Rome; Thailand) This summer I will finally be giving attention to both parts of myself in an attempt to find a harmony in their collaboration. At the end of the summer, I hope to find a way to use the creative, artistic-driven side of myself to amplify the effectiveness with which I study conflict and its resolution.
Mark Dawson Michael Bernert*	Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Education (Mauritius; Camden NJ) This summer, I'll be exploring the intersection of technology entrepreneurship and education. I'll begin the summer by building software as a technical intern for 8 weeks at African Leadership University (affiliated with African Leadership Academy). ALU started 2 years ago and is a rapidly growing hub of innovation in Africa and higher education across the globe. For last 6 weeks of my summer, I will be working with Robertson alumna Becky Agostino at Democracy Prep Freedom High School in Camden, New Jersey to help the school expand operations to accommodate 30% more students next year.

<p>Rachel Freedman Alexander J. Hartemink</p>	<p>Artificial Intelligence PhD Preparation (Scandinavia; Western Europe) I will use my Launch Summer to refine my postgraduate plans. Based on my experiences studying computer science, psychology, and philosophy at Duke and Oxford, I have decided to pursue a PhD in artificial intelligence. I will gather information on graduate opportunities in this field and outline senior year milestones to ensure that I am a competitive applicant. I will also explore a few areas of Europe where I may pursue a graduate degree or a future research career, and prepare for my senior year coursework and honors thesis.</p>
<p>Abby Gay Andrew Sugrue*</p>	<p>M&A/Wine (Chapel Hill; Temecula, CA) For the first 8 weeks of the summer, I interned as an analyst at Jacobs Capital, a boutique M&A investment bank in Chapel Hill. The firm specializes in exclusively sell-side transactions. After the internship, I will spend 6 weeks traveling down the PCH to conduct research on acquisitions in the California wine industry for a senior thesis and for EATS101. I divided my time between Napa, Sonoma, Russian River, Dry Creek, St. Helena, Santa Barbara, and Temecula. The final two weeks of the summer I worked at PEAK6 Investments in Chicago as part of their Business Strategy program. There were 20 interns that were divided into groups of 4 to analyze a Private Equity investment opportunity.</p>
<p>Virginia Hamilton Janie Page</p>	<p>From Hill to Hill: Chapel Hill and Mt. Kilimanjaro (Chapel Hill; Tanzania; Uganda) I will be in Chapel Hill for the majority of the summer completing the first semester of nursing school and working as a Nurse Aide. I will have three weeks between the end of summer school and the start of fall classes, during which I plan to travel to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro and Uganda to shadow at a pediatric hospital.</p>
<p>Kassra Homaifar Ron Cygnarowicz</p>	<p>Monopoly of One (Chapel Hill) My Launch summer will provide a holistic opportunity to improve my company, LineLeader, and improve my ability to provide lasting growth to companies in different spaces. I aspire to be a full-in entrepreneur and believe that in order to become indispensable for any organization, I must focus on becoming great at something (a monopoly of one) rather than mediocre at many things. For this reason, I plan to continue learning, doing, and proving undeniable proficiency in entrepreneurial marketing & business development.</p>
<p>Shafali Jalota Louise Toppin</p>	<p>Singing Mozart and Puccini in Italy and Canada (Chapel Hill; Maiori, Italy; Halifax, Nova Scotia) For the beginning of my Launch summer, I will be in Chapel Hill working with the UNC Honor System as the Chair of the Honor Court. In this role, I will oversee cases and work on programming for the following year. I will also take voice lessons and learn music during this time. In July, I will travel to Italy to sing the role of Susanna in Mozart's <i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> at the Amalfi Coast Summer Music Festival. Following this, I will travel to Halifax, Canada to sing the role of Suor Genovieffa in Puccini's <i>Suor Angelica</i> with the Halifax Summer Opera Festival.</p>
<p>Frank Jiang Susan Katzenstein</p>	<p>Internship in Social Impact (San Francisco) Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) is a global nonprofit organization that works with its network of large, for-profit corporations to make their practices more just and sustainable. In particular, it focuses on integrating sustainability into business strategy and operations. As an intern, I will be working with their Human Rights advisory services practice, so I'll gain experience in both "business and human rights" (BHR) and consulting, the two primary career paths I'm interested in. With a background in both the skills and theory of the job, I'm optimistic this experience will be informative, productive, and meaningful.</p>
<p>Nicholas Johnston Babs Wise</p>	<p>Internship with the Institute for Security and Development Policy (Stockholm) I will be working in the transnational threats department of the Institute for Security and Development Studies, with a core focus on the writing of policy recommendations to relevant EU and local departments to address issues which affect the region. My core project will be a policy memo on the illegal trade of tobacco products between Poland and Sweden but I will also pursue other projects related to my areas of studies, particularly my honors thesis, which focuses on ISIS' recruitment process in the West and means of mitigating its effectiveness. I will also be holding down a rocket extra-work schedule to complete a variety of auxiliary ends.</p>
<p>Kasper Kubica Mark Laabs*</p>	<p>Seize the Summer (Germany; Durham) Since David and I began working on Carpe in the twilight of our community summer, this quickly-growing startup has been shaping our futures to a degree we couldn't have imagined. This summer, Carpe will be celebrating one year of sales, and David and I will spend our summers growing the</p>

	company to its next level - learning management, planning, financial, marketing, customer service, design, and creative skills.
Monique LaBorde Anita Rao, Katie Bishop	Launch Summer: Southern Audio Portfolio (Cape Town; Chapel Hill; Hillsborough) Jobs in radio, podcasting, and audio production require applications to submit a portfolio of their audio pieces. I want to use to my launch summer to gain experience in radio and audio storytelling, as well as develop my own portfolio. I need field experience and studio production experience. In May, I will travel to a place intimately connected to the US South, South Africa, to record field interviews for an audio documentary piece that I have a vision for. In June, July, and August, I will work as an intern two local audio storytelling organizations—She+Her Radio, a feminist live radio show and podcast in Hillsborough, NC, and The Monti, a live storytelling performance and podcast in Chapel Hill .
Jaclyn Lee Jim Heffner	Becoming a Local Reporter (Raleigh) My launch summer will focus on working to perfect my craft as a reporter and to get a better sense of local news. I will be working the assignment desk where I will be making follow up calls on breaking news stories and assisting with scripts and rundowns. I will also be shadowing reporters every chance I get and putting together my own stories.
Tierney Maray Benjamin Jones	A Woman In The World For Women In The World (Peru; Bolivia; Chile; Argentina) This summer I am building upon previous travel writing experience and developing a portfolio of articles for potential publication based on a month of travel through South America. I specifically will write about the experience of being a young woman travelling alone through this area's most appealing destinations. After the completion of my travel writing focus, I will continue my journalistic launch with an internship with the International Federation for Journalists. I will also take the necessary courses and establishment work to launch my own workshops to promote women's confidence in high-schools. These workshops are the planned progression from my Exploration Summer and an implementation of the lessons learned from that research, which is good preparation for my honors thesis in the fall. I will be launching the workshop at St Clare's College Waverley, my Alma Mater.
Charlotte McKay Amy Unell and Pedro Lasch	StArt 2.0: the preliminary sketch of an arts focused career (New York City) My final summer as a Robertson Scholar will synthesize the previous work undertaken during Community and Explore Summer with my academic study in order to prepare for graduate study in art history and a career devoted to improving the inclusivity and collaboration of museums. In order to prepare for my senior year and beyond, I will divide my summer into two categories: a formal internship at NEW INC, and time set aside to begin to map graduate study opportunities.
Anna Mukamal Thomas Pfau	French, Spanish, and English Literature: Launching into Academia (Aix-en-Provence; Paris; Madrid; London) After studying French in Aix-en-Provence, France, I will attend the T. S. Eliot International Summer School in London, where I will develop a bibliography, and conduct independent research at the British Library for my English Department Thesis. I will devote the remainder of the summer to post-grad preparation: preparing for the GRE and Literature in English Subject Test and drafting English PhD program applications. I expect to enter senior year well prepared to work on my Thesis, guided by my Launch coach and thesis advisor Thomas Pfau. I have designed this summer to launch into becoming a professor and academic.
Jacob Olliffe Jim Ayala	Electrifying the Rural Philippines with Solar (Manila) I will travel to Manila, the Philippines to work for Stiftung Solar Energy Foundation/Hybrid Social Solutions. As part of this role, I will travel to the company's rural hubs and assist in the sale of subsidized solar energy lamps, which will bring affordable lighting to villagers who currently use dirty, dangerous candles to light their homes. I will also coauthor a standard operating procedures manual which will allow the organization to reliably reproduce its business model throughout the country.
Oluwasanmi Oyenuga Anthony Olawo,* Vivian Ojo	-Part I: Software Development in Developing Economies (Johannesburg) -Part II: Systems Engineering Internship Bayer Engineering (Pittsburgh) Over the first part of my summer I will be culturally immersing myself in a city (Johannesburg) with an emerging technology landscapes. This will allow me develop my software development skills and give me a more in-depth understanding into what makes these type of industries tick. While serving as an Alumni in Residence fellow at my alma matter, the African Leadership Academy, I hope to expand on my independent study project paper, Software Development in Developing Economies, through interactions with software developers in Johannesburg, South Africa. I hope to produce a series of podcast episodes which will comprise of sit down interviews aimed at answering some of the questions I have come

	<p>across in my independent study project. I will be working on my emergency medical services mobile application in tandem with this project as a synthesis of some of the concepts from my study project.</p> <p>For the second part of my summer I will be working as a Systems Engineering intern with Bayer. This will allow me translate classroom concepts to real world experiences and help me determine if I want to fully invest in an engineering career.</p>
<p>Sumeet Patwardhan Kiran Bhardwaj</p>	<p>Research Visit in Philosophy, Professional Conference in Philosophy, Philosophy Summer Institute, Personal Poetry Writing Project, and Post-Graduate Preparation (Canberra, Melbourne, Australia; Boulder, CO)</p> <p>For 5 weeks during the summer, I will go to the Australian National University in Canberra. While there, I will be working on my writing sample for graduate school, a high-quality philosophy paper of approximately 15-20 pages in length. For the last week of my stay, I will relocate to Melbourne, because the Australasian Association of Philosophy is having their 2016 Conference from July 2-7. I will also attend the Colorado Summer Seminar in Philosophy (3 weeks). Over the summer, I also plan to write page poetry, but my exact schedule or plan for writing poetry will depend on how busy I am in Australia and in Colorado. Finally, I plan to finish a draft of my personal statement for applications to graduate school in philosophy, work on applications for the Rhodes, the Marshall, the Gates Cambridge, and the Ertegun post-graduate scholarships, and study for and take the GRE.</p>
<p>Arjun Raghavan Yue Wu</p>	<p>Condensed Matter Physics Research with Prof. Alex Zettl and group (Berkeley, CA)</p> <p>I plan to work in the lab of Prof. Alex Zettl, a world-renowned experimental condensed matter physicist. The research shall be conducted at UC-Berkeley, and will allow me to broaden and deepen my understanding of both the fundamentals and the cutting-edge techniques in the fields of condensed matter physics and materials science. I hope to participate in the authoring of a small publication and take part in a conference presentation. This experience should help me take the next step toward achieving my goal of joining a top graduate physics program in the near future.</p>
<p>Christina Schmidt Eric Green</p>	<p>Reducing unmet need for contraception through mobile phone technologies in Kenya (Kenya)</p> <p>Expanding on my interest in maternal health technologies, I will be returning to Kenya this summer to work on the evaluation of a service called mPango, a screening and referral tool that connects women to family planning services via mobile phones. With seed funding from <i>Merck for Mothers</i>, our goal is to develop and test a mobile service that provides education about contraceptive options based on users' personal preferences, and enable women to access their chosen contraceptive method at a conveniently located provider. By creating a network of accessible providers, our aim is to decrease the unmet need for contraception, and expand the family planning market.</p>
<p>David Spratte Mark Laabs* and Austin Stanion*</p>	<p>Seize the Summer (Durham)</p> <p>Kasper and I will be working together to grow Carpe to a national level of brand awareness, developing entrepreneurial skills and talents that will mold us into better leaders, innovators, and problem solvers. Our mentors and investors are helping to mold us into great business managers. I'm going to be working on developing hard skills that will help me in my current and future entrepreneurial pursuits. Growing Carpe is not a job for one person. Now that the company has grown, Kasper and I have specific focuses on different parts of the company that cannot be done alone. Our advisors are beginning to take even more of a back seat, so more and more, Kasper and I are running the company completely on our own.</p>
<p>Sofia Stafford Gavin Yamey</p>	<p>Exploring Global Health from Innovation to Implementation (Washington DC)</p> <p>My launch summer will add to my narrative that I have developed throughout my time at Duke. I will spend 10-12 weeks interning for The Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact (CII) in the Global Health Bureau of USAID. Specifically, I will work for the <i>Saving Lives at Birth</i> Team helping to plan and run a large conference convening maternal health innovators from around the world. I will potentially spend one week in Peru at the Girl Up WISCI camp as a counselor, but more details to follow if that opportunity works out.</p>
<p>Andrew Tan-Delli Cicchi Kat Zhang*</p>	<p>Art, Culture and Independent Press in East Asia (Taichung, Taiwan)</p> <p>I will be working with White Fungus, an internationally acclaimed arts magazine located in Taichung, Taiwan. As their operations are small and independent, I will be helping them throughout all areas of the business, from graphic design and content reading to event planning and distribution. This summer</p>

	marks a crucial time in their organization, as White Fungus will be releasing their 15 th annual issue and also attempting to distribute as an international publication. In addition to coordinating this launch, I will also help assemble a subsidiary magazine, The Subconscious Restaurant, and distribute it locally in Taipei.
Griffin Unger Katherine Turk	<p>Love Born Young: Pursuing (and Documenting) Passion, from Nepal to New York (Nepal; New York City; Alaska)</p> <p>This Summer I'll be working as a documentary filmmaker on two projects—one with a team in Nepal, and one independently in New York City. In Nepal, I'll be documenting three undergraduate researchers' 200km trek along the Annapurna Circuit, while they study topics ranging from the environmental impact of the 2015 Nepali Earthquake on tourism in Nepal, to the philosophical implications of Nepali Buddhists advocating for individuals' rights, despite Buddhism's emphasis on shifting attention away from the individual. In New York, I'll be interviewing/filming/photographing college students about their experiences in love, as an extension of a short film I directed and produced this year. The film won the Duke Undergraduate Film Jury Award, and was selected to be screened at the Duke Independent Film Festival. With the (potential) support of the Center for Documentary Studies' HWL Fellowship, I'll expand the film's scope and practice my skills as a documentarian/creator.</p> <p>While in New York, I'll also work as an editorial intern with CollegeHumor, a daily publishing comedy website.</p>
Nate Wagner Richard Langston	<p>Honors Thesis Research on Modern German Literature (Bremen, Berlin)</p> <p>My launch summer will be spent deepening my understanding of modern German literature, culture, and politics through research so as to better prepare myself to 1) write an Honors Thesis in the UNC German Department and 2) to apply for Ph.D programs in German during the Fall 2016 semester. Through a study of the language, culture, and literature of Germany through graduate school and beyond, I ultimately wish to further German-American relations and the pursuit of knowledge across cultural and linguistic boundaries.</p>
Elizabeth Wilson Peter Ubel	<p>Deloitte NYC 2016 (New York City)</p> <p>This summer I want to further explore my interests in financial inclusion and the financial services market by working as a Strategy & Operations consultant in Deloitte's NYC office. I hope to use my experiences in this client-facing field to develop a final proposal for my Senior Capstone Project for my personalized major entitled, "Consumer Markets and Behavioral Decision Theory." During my senior year, I will be conducting research under the supervision of my advisor and launch coach, Peter Ubel, and I hope to use my experiences this summer as inspiration for the type of consumer behavior that I want to address in my research. Additionally, I will conquer a new physical challenge this summer by climbing Cadillac Mountain in Maine at the end of my summer.</p>
Maimuna Yussuf Ayado Ewinyu	<p>Internship with The Center for Health Market Innovations (Washington DC)</p> <p>During my launch summer I will be interning with the Center for Health Market Innovations in Washington DC. This internship is an opportunity for me to have an experiential experience with policy in real life situations. It is also an opportunity for me to expose myself to a range of issues in global health and I hope to have a better understanding of market-based innovations in health for the poor in the developing world.</p>