

Launch Summer 2019

Proposed Projects

Vicki Stocking 11/5/19

Mentors marked * are Robertson alumni

Scholar and Mentor	Title and Abstract
<p>Sydney Adams Elmer Orellana</p>	<p>Broadening the Scope: Views of Education Through and Around Me As stated in my first draft, this project seeks to broaden my understanding of education on an international scale through travel to and interaction with education in Europe ahead of my time as a Teach For America Accelerate Fellow. The activities and goals of this project would serve to enhance my understanding of educational practices outside of my general courses of study and experiences while also allowing me to prepare for my own educational endeavors beyond the undergraduate level, as I study for and take the GRE in order to submit my scores to graduate fellowships and scholarships ahead of the 2019-2020 school year.</p>
<p>Peter Andringa Steven King</p>	<p>Exploring innovation inside legacy news at The Wall Street Journal Most of my summer (June - August) will be an internship on the Visuals team at the Wall Street Journal in New York City. I'm increasingly convinced that my career interest is helping large media (particularly news) companies cultivate the culture and organizational behaviors for innovation, so I hope that my time at the WSJ will provide another view of how one of the nation's most prominent newspapers thinks about the future.</p>
<p>Cameron Beach Brooke Davies*</p>	<p>Reporting the South: Launching into Journalism This summer, I'm throwing myself into journalism by working with the Asheville Citizen-Times, Asheville's preeminent local paper. Though I wavered between pursuing a law-related opportunity or a journalism-related one, I've decided that I can do both: while I work for the Citizen-Times and learn the inner workings of a real newsroom, I can also study for the LSAT. My summer at the Citizen-Times will set me up for future employment in journalism; careers at big publications often require lots of bylines, and this summer, I'll have the opportunity to publish many stories while refining my writing.</p>
<p>Trenton Bricken Adim Moreb</p>	<p>Computational Biology Research This summer I will pursue research in computational biology in the Debora Marks lab (https://marks.hms.harvard.edu) at Harvard Medical School. I will be working on a DARPA project using deep learning (neural network based machine learning) to redesign tardigrade proteins so that they work in humans and are able to halt bleeding and tissue necrosis in traumatic injuries (more on the project here: https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2019/01/could-an-extremophile-hold-the-secret-to-treatment-of-devastating-injuries/). This research will give me an incredibly valuable opportunity develop more skills in machine learning and synthetic biology, potentially produce a publication, and help my applications to graduate school to get a PhD in computational biology.</p>
<p>Stephen Buys Sarah Leck</p>	<p>Need new title and abstract From Vicki: Stephen worked for the John Bel Edwards campaign for governor of Louisiana and stayed for the fall.</p>
<p>Annie Dempsey Alexandra Hehlen*</p>	<p>Launching into Marketing and Nonprofit Work In order to launch myself into a successful career in marketing that will eventually lead to working with nonprofit clients, I will be interning at Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta at on their TNT Brand Marketing team. Additionally, I will be pursuing a research opportunity to learn more about Special Olympics International in August for two weeks. Since I am passionate about working with the community of people with disabilities, learning about how to be involved on a wider scale after graduation is incredibly important to me.</p>

<p>Nonnie Egbuna Colleen Scott</p>	<p>Spice: Internship with a primarily black and female-owned production company This summer, I will be interning with The Spice Group, a boutique production company that was founded by a black woman and is primarily run and operated by black individuals. The company does everything from music videos to documentaries and feature films, and I will be assisting on set, sitting in on meetings, doing administrative tasks, and filling in wherever else they may need me. With Atlanta making its mark as 'black Hollywood,' I hope to use this summer to hone my production skills and build connections with people in the industry.</p>
<p>Rose Farah William Wright-Swadel</p>	<p>Learning about Impact Investing & Microeconomics At Social Finance, I will learn about impact investing and the unique Social Impact Bond model. I will also deepen my understanding of economics through an evening summer course in microeconomics.</p>
<p>Gentry Fitch Rachel Belin</p>	<p>Synthesizing Diverse Experience into Direction and Clarity The Harvard GSD Design Discovery Program is a 6-week crash course in urban, architectural, and landscape design meant to engage participants in a rigorous MArch/MUP-learning and studio environment with full access to faculty, resources, and opportunities. Throughout the past two years, I have immersed myself in researching theory and strategy for more resilient and sustainable cities, and this program will introduce me to the process of actually building better cities. My goal is to develop a personal portfolio, tangible design skills, network, and gain a practical grasp on whether urban planning ought to be my first career.</p>
<p>Beza Gebremariam Elisabeth Stratton*</p>	<p>Internship at the State Department This summer I will be doing a 10 week internship program with the State Department. I will be interning at the Office of West African Affairs in Washington, DC. Outside of my internship I will be taking driving lessons as I have never had the opportunity to learn before. I also will be taking GRE prep courses so I can be fully prepared for the exam at the beginning of August.</p>
<p>Andrea Gonzales Sarah Potter*</p>	<p>Reconnecting with Art and Pursuing Extracurricular Intellectual Interests While at Carolina, my academic and professional career has already been laid out for me. It's been a blessing to have many difficult choices made for me, but I've also struggled to make a very focused major cater to my many interests. I had lost sight of learning just for the enjoyment of it. Now, I understand that to succeed during my senior year of college and beyond, I must prioritize not just my career, but also my intellectual and creative growth. My Launch Summer is geared towards preparing me in both ways.</p>
<p>Matthew Kaplan Rebecca Waters</p>	<p>Education for Transformation: Advocacy in the U.S. and Beyond During my past two Robertson-funded summers, I have explored issues of education equity and justice. My experience teaching 7th grade writing at Breakthrough Collaborative illuminated the challenges of providing quality instruction to a classroom of mixed-level students. My experience as an Accelerate Fellow with Teach for America opened my eyes to how pervasive and pernicious the educational opportunity gap is in the United States. For my final summer, I have two primary objectives: (1) to step outside the confines of the classroom to explore the role that policy and advocacy play in creating change, and (2) to learn more about education systems in other countries and examine best practices and obstacles in education delivery.</p>
<p>Emily Kian Kurt Ribisl</p>	<p>Growing Phyta I will be devoting this summer to growing Phyta, the seaweed cultivation startup that I have co-founded alongside Robertson scholars Eliza Harrison and Lucy Best. I have applied to spend three weeks in May interning for the Creative Collective, a marketing agency in the Sunshine Coast. This internship would provide me with skills and experiences in marketing and business that I can then apply towards Phyta. I will spend the remainder of my summer either working on the business/marketing aspects of Phyta in Chapel Hill, N.C., or working on our seaweed farm in Beaufort, N.C.</p>

<p>Georgia Lala Kathy Errington</p>	<p>Reconnecting with New Zealand Policy This summer I will be working to help start the Helen Clark Foundation in New Zealand, a policy think tank founded by New Zealand's former prime minister, focused on sustainable development and women's rights. Here, my research will focus on how social security systems in New Zealand can be reformed to increase equality, with of focus on financial assistance provisions for the unemployed able-body population. I will then be taking the knowledge I learn in this internship to Stanford for the Hoover Institute's Summer Boot Camp, to test my skills and my ability to write effective policy.</p>
<p>Ralph Lawton Duncan Thomas</p>	<p>Population Health Biomarkers, Biological Stress & Smoking Cessation in Indonesia Building out from the field laboratory I setup last summer, I plan to first) build capacity for new biomarkers measurement relevant to biological stress, inflammation, lung health, and smoking use. Second) I plan to pilot two randomized controlled trials in the field. The first will be a study we've been working on regarding a stress reduction intervention in elderly populations, tying them into schools. The second will be a randomized controlled trial on Electronic Cigarette use in Indonesia, since the smoking burden there is massive and no tools to quit have been effective in the Indonesian context.</p>
<p>Rasheca Logendran Dirk Philippen</p>	<p>Understanding the Delivery of Healthcare: Nonprofits, Startup & Global Ventures This summer I will be looking at various ways of healthcare services delivery through three specific lenses. First, I will spend the first month of my summer in North Carolina working to further develop the nonprofit I help to lead, Durham Volunteer Doulas, in anticipation of our MOU with the Durham County Public Health Department. I also will work to launch data collect for my thesis. Then, I will spend a month in DC working with Pilleve, a health-tech startup to understand how health technologies are influencing the healthcare industry. Finally, I will be in Kenya evaluating food policies and interventions.</p>
<p>Divya Mahesh Braveen Ragunathan*</p>	<p>Preparing for a Career in Medicine The purpose of my Launch Summer is to prepare for medical school and a career in medicine. Firstly, I will be studying for the MCAT, which is an essential component of medical school applications. In order to study effectively, I will be taking a preparation course and studying independently. For the second part of the summer, I will be pursuing an internship to learn more about the public health/health delivery aspect of healthcare. I will be working with underserved populations, which has been a continued interest of mine and a common thread through my first two summers.</p>
<p>Dikenna Ogbo Julian Borrey*</p>	<p>Leadership through creativity and Integration I'm designing my summer to help me grow as a leader in two ways. The creative leader: As a choreographer and actor, I paint pictures, invoke emotions in an audience, and most importantly, tell stories through dance or acting. As the "integrating" leader: I learned in Cape Town that I enjoy integrating different pieces of a project to form one complete product. I plan to achieve these two forms of leadership growth through a paid internship at Microsoft, an acting program, and running two different summer camps to teach Nigerian and Cameroonian secondary school students' poetry and entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>Brooke Porter Milton Blackmon</p>	<p>Confidently Stepping Forward: Honors Thesis and Test Prep In addition to completing an 8-week internship, I hope to advance my academic and professional pursuits during this summer by attending conferences, visiting an innovative educational project, and completing a GRE test prep course. For the first month of summer, I plan to attend conferences related to critical pedagogy and teaching practices in order to better inform my data collection and writing process for my thesis. Additionally, I plan to participate in a study group that investigates the conceptual underpinnings and practices of the Reggio Emilia schools. During the months of June, July and August, I plan to study for the GRE in preparation to take this test next fall.</p>

<p>Evan Rodgers Jackson Skeen*</p>	<p>Another Robertson Summer As I continue to look to my senior year and beyond, I've decided to pursue two fields: sports business and law. After graduation, I plan on working in the sports business industry before attending law school. To prepare for this, I'll be interning at the NFL and using my time to study for the LSAT, so I'll be prepared to search for a job and prepare for law school during my senior year.</p>
<p>Brock Schoenwald Larry Chavis</p>	<p>Launching into Business and Non-Profit Work Ten weeks of my summer will be spent in New York City interning with IBM in the Market Development & Insights Department, where I will learn skills consulting internally on a single product line that will help launch me into my career. Since Special Olympics has become a passion of mine in college, I will be researching Special Olympics internationally in Australia during the 2 weeks after this to look at how SO is growing, sustained, and what I can do to continue to make an impact post grad at a level higher than just the local one.</p>
<p>Priya Sridhar Valerie Sloane</p>	<p>Taking Off and Taking Care: Launching into Public Service and Ministry 2018 was packed with new intellectual, relational, and spiritual endeavors. From coursework and fieldwork in prison ministry to rigorous peer-reviewed research in prison healthcare, I was so blessed to scratch the surface of a field I began to feel a calling to towards the end of high school. That being said, I would like to utilize this summer to mentally and physically re-calibrate, and "launch" in perhaps a more atypical way. For my summer, I aspire to dive deep into 4 themes: 1) Post-Grad Planning, 2) Research, 3) Vocational Ministry & Public Service</p>
<p>Rebecca Sullenger Joanne Kurtzberg</p>	<p>A Comparison between Australian and American Pain Management Systems I will work as an intern at the National Academy of Medicine with the Action Collaborative on Countering the US Opioid Epidemic. I will investigate protocols for measuring and treating pain and study how the structure of the American healthcare system has played a role in the Opioid Epidemic. Under the guidance of my long-time mentor, Dr. Kurtzberg, I will go to Melbourne and Sydney in Australia to see how the Australian healthcare system handles pain management. These two experiences will allow me to make an informed comparison of the U.S. and Australian healthcare systems with a focus on pain management.</p>
<p>Aakash Thumaty Michael Machlin</p>	<p>Product Launch I want to spend this summer building on what I learned about the technology industry, product management and the role it plays in the grand scheme of a product. I learned, through my experience last summer, that a lot of the aspects of product management vary greatly and depend on a number of factors ranging from the company, team, product, legacy etc. and I realized that optimizing for a specific ideal work environment is nearly impossible. I want to shift my priorities to simply develop the skills necessary to build great things and in doing so understand what nuances in each company work best in their specific environments. And most importantly, I understand the thesis of Christian Claytenson's Innovator's Dilemma but I want to understand what makes the small companies succeed, on a micro level, not just what makes the big ones fail.</p>
<p>Thomas Wanty John Caccavale</p>	<p>Building a business in New York I will be working as a Business Development Intern for a startup called Next Gen. Working in the business to business side, my role is to attract new potential companies to become partners with Next Gen. At the same time, the goal of the company is to move from a talent incubator into essentially a media company, and so they are changing a lot of their business models and framework. I'll be working for them at a time where a lot of these transitions are happening, so I will also get a say in the direction of the company and how best to achieve their goals.</p>
<p>Hanna Watson Erin Rose & Allison Hurst</p>	<p>How Deep: Diving into Vocational Ministry Over the course of this summer, I will seek out opportunities to build the foundations of a locally based and internationally reaching Christian ministry with Biblically based poetry at its core. I will engage in activities to develop my ministry in Israel, Virginia, Florida, Georgia. I have specifically chosen cities in these latter states because of my interest in serving urban Southern</p>

	communities. The purpose of my summer is to provide me with an experiential image of day to day life in my intended vocation and to create resources and connections that will facilitate my launch into the field after graduation.
Michael Zhang Samuel Kelly*	Navigating the Intersection of Music and Technology I will start my launch summer with a 3-week certificate program at HarvestWorks in NYC. HarvestWorks is a non-profit that helps artists create new works using evolving technologies. I will be doing the Max/MSP/Jitter program, consisting of 20 hours of one-on-one training with experts in residence. This training can be spread over several weeks and will amass in a personal installation that gets displayed at HarvestWorks.