

Biographies of Students Attending Spring Preview

Francisco X. Abad is a Political Science and International Studies double major from East Texas Baptist University. He graduated in May 2012 after only three and a half years since he started college. Francisco has worked with Judge Richard Anderson as his legal and policy assistant since August 2012. He has earned various promotions since then and help optimize the administration of the office while learning how to be an honest and effective public servant. Francisco is will pursue his MPP to go back to his home country of Ecuador and serve as a public servant there. He is interested in international development, economic policy and institutions.

Sara Abarbanel, B.A. International Studies, University of Chicago, 2010. Sara started working at the Law School in 2011 as an Administrative Associate on the Faculty Support Team, doing administrative and research work with faculty. She also volunteers with the University of Chicago Bay Area Alumni Club as the Young Alumni Chair and with the Stanford Hillel on the Gesher Planning Board. She is interested in policy implementation, primarily at the local and state levels.

Mohamed Abbadi, B. Sc. in Architecture Engineering, University of Khartoum, Sudan 1998, Ms. in Computer Science, Bradley University, Peoria, IL, 2001. After graduation, he relocated to New York City where he spent seven years working for Goldman Sachs in the IT Department developing electronic trading systems. In 2008, he moved to Qatar to work for Barwa Real Estate (one of the biggest real estate developers in the region) as an IT Projects Director. Two years later, Mohamed moved to Qatar's Ministry of Business and Trade where he worked as a Program Manager heading the Ministry eGovernment Program for three years. Finally, he moved back to the US in late 2013 to pursue further studies in business administration and public policy focusing on socioeconomic impact of business projects.

Parul Aggarwal, MPP. Ms. Aggarwal's postgraduate experiences include research internships at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and the Asia Society. At the CFR, she worked on a book project about the evolution of international financial institutions; at the Asia Society, she wrote a report, later published, on cross-cultural understandings of global leadership. At the Ford School, she hopes to focus on the evolution and effectiveness of multilateral institutions devoted to promoting international legal norms.

Jennie Alfaro, B.A. Psychology, B.A. Spanish Language, Literature, and Cultures, University of Maryland, 2010. Since graduating from the University of Maryland, Jennie has been working at NORC at the University of Chicago where she is now a Senior Research Analyst in the Public Health Research Department. She is interested in poverty and social policy, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities.

Sharolyn Arnett, B.A. History, Michigan State University, 2004. After graduation, Sharolyn served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Gambia. Since 2007, she has been a program manager at the William Davidson Institute (WDI). She oversees the training programs located in emerging economies. She is interested in international development.

Isaiah Bailey is a native of Portsmouth VA. He received a B.A. in History from the University of Richmond, and is current a Masters student of University of Michigan's Center for the Study of Higher & Postsecondary Education. His primary academic interests are focused in education policy and higher education finance.

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Cassandra Baxter, B.A., Psychology and Women's Studies, Wheaton College. Cassandra worked for four years in the non-profit sector before joining Mathematica Policy Research (MPR). At MPR, she works on projects for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Social Security Administration, and the Office of Adolescent Health. She is interested in social policy, including family support and nutrition programs.

Matthew Blain, Political Science and Economics, Grand Valley State University. He has worked in various capacities campaigning for candidates, ballot initiatives, and issues. In addition, Matthew worked in marketing and web development. He is interested in city and urban policy as it applies to creating sustainable communities. He will be pursuing a dual degree with the Urban Planning program.

Jennifer Bohl, M.U.P. candidate, University of Michigan, 2016. B.A., Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2013. Jennifer has experience working with nonprofit organizations in Nashville, TN and Managua, Nicaragua. She is interested in international development and nonprofit management.

Katrina Braun (Katie) graduated from Georgetown University in 2012 with a BA in Government and Psychology. Since then, she has been working at an immigration law firm in Philadelphia, assisting companies, universities, and individuals applying for employment and family-based immigration benefits. She is planning to enter a joint JD/MPP program, and is interested in international human rights law.

Grady Bridges, B.S. Economics, University of Michigan, 2013. Following graduation from the University of Michigan, Grady worked in data acquisition and development for the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Currently he is working as a research data analyst for the University of Michigan Law School. He is interested in policy analysis, specifically environmental policy.

Cezanne Charles, B.A. Theatre, Ohio State University, 1997. Since 2008, Cezanne has worked as Director of Creative Industries at ArtServe Michigan, a statewide non-profit advocacy and public policy organization for the creative sector in Michigan. She previously served as the Executive Director of New Media Scotland (2004-2007), the nation's charitable art, science and technology development organization. She is interested in public policy at the intersection of technology, urbanism, and the creative economy.

Kibichii Chelilim, B.S. Mathematics/Economics, University of Michigan, 2013. Kibichii is a veteran of the United States Army Reserves, having deployed to Iraq as a nurse for Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn. During and after his undergraduate education at U-M, he worked with the University of Michigan's Depression Center and the Department of Veterans Affairs, doing mental health research and program development for veterans. He is interested in health and macroeconomics.

Ezra Cohn, B.A. Mathematics, Amherst College, 2010. Ezra taught English at an Indonesian high school for one year after graduation. Since 2012, Ezra has been a research assistant at MDRC, in New York City. He is interested in education policy, economic policy, and quantitative research methods.

Kamolika Das, B.A. Asian Studies, Vassar College, 2009. After graduating from Vassar, Kamolika taught English in Shenzhen, China. She then spent one year as an AmeriCorps VISTA leading development for a children's advocacy non-profit. For the last three years, she has worked at a management consulting

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company that specializes in cybersecurity policy for DHS. She is interested in social policy and social impact consulting.

Leann Down, B.A. Psychology, Michigan State University, 2008. Leann worked for five years in Bozeman, Montana as a mental health Youth Case Manager in a nonprofit organization. She returned to Michigan in 2013 and has been working in a local accounting and tax preparation office in the Port Huron area. Leann is interested in nonprofit and social service policies, and she will be pursuing a dual degree in conjunction with the School of Social Work.

Kate Duan, B.A. Economics, Political and Social Thought, University of Virginia, 2012. Since graduating from the University of Virginia, Kate has worked as an analyst at Compass Lexecon, an economic consulting firm in Washington DC. She is also a volunteer for UNDP China. She is interested in regulatory policies in business competition, financial reform and the civil society in China.

Tyler Duke, B.A. Middle East Studies and Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia, 2010. Upon graduation, Tyler worked on Afghanistan Policy for two years in the Office of the Secretary of Defense before deploying as a U.S. Army Civilian to Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he served as an intelligence advisor for 14 months. Tyler currently serves as the Research Assistant to GEN (R.) Stan McChrystal. He is interested in Security Policy and the Middle East.

Katie Eddins, B.A. Community Health and Spanish, Tufts University, 2009. After graduation, Katie served for two years as an AmeriCorps member at an anti-poverty nonprofit in the Bronx. Since 2011, she has worked as a victim services provider at the Manhattan District Attorney's office. She is interested in poverty reduction and issues related to gender-based violence.

Matt Ericson, Political Science, University of Michigan, 2013. Matt is currently a graduate student in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, and a graduate student instructor in the Department of Political Science. He has spent several years working with community organizations in Detroit, research institutions at the University, and intellectual property law firms in the Metro Detroit area. His goal at the Ford School is to bridge the gap between policy research done at universities and the actual policies that are implemented.

Grace Evans, B.S. Mathematics and B.S. Nonprofit Studies, Slippery Rock University, 2013. Grace is currently a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs at Coro Pittsburgh. Her interests are in Nonprofit Management and Social Policy.

Lindsay Garber, B.A. Government, Harvard University, 2011. Since graduating from Harvard, Lindsay has worked on several congressional campaigns throughout the Midwest focusing on policy, finance, and constituent outreach. Currently, she works at EchoDitto, a boutique digital strategy and web development firm, which engages primarily with progressive nonprofit organizations. She is interested in social policy, human rights, strategic communications and nonprofit management.

Elizabeth Garlow graduated from Kalamazoo College with a B.A. in Political Science, Spanish, and International Economics. Following graduation, Elizabeth spent time conducting research in Brazil, Argentina and Italy on small business cooperatives and corporate social responsibility. She then spent

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four years working in domestic microfinance with ACCION in Boston, where she led corporate partnerships and financial education. Elizabeth returned to her hometown of Detroit in 2012 to build a new non-profit organization, Michigan Corps, which mobilizes government and the private sector to support social entrepreneurship and impact investing throughout the state. Elizabeth's interests lay in the area of public-private partnerships, in particular new financing mechanisms, designed to lead social change in urban communities across the United States!

Zuleika Godinez, B.A. Public Policy Analysis and Sociology, Pomona College, 2009. Since 2011, Zuleika has worked as a Program Associate for the Youth program at the James Irvine Foundation where she engages in strategic grant making to increase the number of low-income youth in California who earn a postsecondary credential. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was on staff at Miller Law Group, an employment and labor relations law firm in San Francisco, where she assisted attorneys in all aspects of litigation and office support. Since 2010, she has served on the board of Next Generation Scholars, a comprehensive academics and wrap-around social service program working to create a clear pathway for low-income youth to gain access to top four-year colleges. She is interested in education policy and nonprofit management and development.

Michael Good, B.A. History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2009. Michael is in his fifth year of teaching high school in the Chicago Public Schools. He is a member of the Civics Educators Network and National Action Civics Cooperative. He is interested in state budgeting and education funding policy.

Margot Grant, BA International Relations, Bucknell University '08. For the past three and a half years, Margot has served as Communications Director for a member of the California State Assembly in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is pursuing an MPP to study education policy and non-profit management.

Pete Haviland-Eduah, BA, History and Africana Studies, Union College '10. After graduating from Union College in 2010, Pete joined the election campaign of US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand as an Opposition Tracker. After a successful election, Pete was brought on as a Staff Assistant and then served as Deputy Press Secretary for Senator Gillibrand in her Washington, D.C. office. In 2014, he was hired as an Associate on the Public Affairs team at SKDKnickerbocker where he works as a political and communications consultant for clients in both the public and private sector. He is most interested in bridging the gap that exists between underserved communities and entities in the public sector.

Brittany C. Henderson, B.A. Sociology, Cornell University, 2012. After graduating from Cornell, she worked as a research assistant at a non-profit social policy research organization. Her experiences at work and in her NYC community sparked her interest in the interaction between public policy and demographic trends.

Mitch Herz graduated from Grinnell College in 2005 with a degree in psychology. Following his college years, Mitch worked in educational settings for the next eight years, including college admission, teaching high school English, and mentoring low-income high school students in the Bay Area. He originally came to Michigan for the Master or Urban Planning degree, but decided to pursue a dual degree in Public Policy. He is most interested in exploring economic and education policy that helps break the cycle of poverty.

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Aliza Kazmi graduated from UC Berkeley in 2012 with a BA in Peace and Conflict Resolution and a minor in Gender and Women's Studies. Following graduation, Aliza left her native San Francisco Bay Area to serve as a corps member for the southern New Mexico Teach for America 2012 corps. During her term, she worked in a rural community as a secondary teacher of ninth grade social studies: a trying but rewarding experience. She is excited to join the incoming cohort at the Ford School and is especially interested in poverty and social inequalities in both urban and rural communities.

Andrew Kraemer received a B.A. in Theology in 2002 from Concordia University, Portland, Oregon. Since then, he has worked in a number of fields, primarily in substance abuse treatment, but including non-profit administration and several roles with the U.S. Census Department. Currently, he cooks and helps manage the kitchen at the Northside Grill in Ann Arbor, MI. He is planning to study social policy that affects poverty as part of a dual degree with a Master in Social Work.

Mark Kroening, B.E. Mechanical Engineering, University of Auckland, 2002. Out of college, Mark worked for an America's Cup team and pursued professional sailing. In 2005, he moved to Rhode Island to design carbon fiber sail boat rigging and contribute to the company growth and management. Last year, Mark took a sabbatical to explore the US, refocus and commit to public service. His interests include socioeconomics, research, leadership and public management.

Simone LaHood graduated from Elon University with a BA in Economics and minors in Asian and Leadership Studies. She worked on and led development initiatives in rural India and interned at Credit Suisse Investment Bank. She has been teaching middle school math as a Teach for America corp member in Charlotte, North Carolina and is interested in educational policy.

Demar F. Lewis IV, CSSBB received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN) in 2011, where he majored in International Business and minored in American Cultural Studies. After graduation, Demar began his career in Corporate America with General Electric before discerning his calling to public service and pursuing endeavors in the nonprofit and public sectors. Currently, he is completing a year of service with the Vincentian Volunteers of Cincinnati Program, an AmeriCorps affiliate, working in the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy. Within the realm of public policy, his scholarly areas of interest are Social & Urban Policy, Poverty & Inequality, and Community Development.

Jonathan Luke graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor's of Science in Kinesiology and a Diploma in Professional Communication. He is currently a Master's student in Higher Education at the University of Michigan and is interested in education policy and bringing evidence-based decision making to public policy.

David MacKenzie, B.A. Integrated Studies, Oakland University, 2010. Following graduation, David spent two years as a management analyst and grant administrator for a municipality in the Tampa Bay area. Since returning to Michigan, he has worked as a sales process consultant, designing new policies and protocols for a corporate training program. He is interested in economic development.

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Kyle Magida graduated from Harvard University in 2008 with a degree in History and Science. He then spent a year as an AmeriCorps*VISTA before working in online marketing and data analytics for ecommerce. He is interested in local economic development and science policy.

Rasheed Malik, B.S. Public Affairs, CUNY-Baruch College, 2013. Rasheed spent the last year working at the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance in New York City, an NGO devoted to protecting and revitalizing New York's harbor and waterfront. He is program manager of the NY-NJ Harbor Coalition, an advocacy campaign aimed at securing funding for urban waterways and estuaries damaged by Superstorm Sandy. He is interested in quantitative policy analysis and political communication.

Rebecca Mason, B.A. Psychology and Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, 2011. Since obtaining her undergraduate degree, Rebecca has worked at Mathematica Policy Research both in Washington, DC and Oakland, CA. Much of her work as a Survey Associate relates to her professional interests of early childhood education and nutrition policy research.

Leith McIndewar, B.S. Environmental Science, University of Florida, 2010. Leith served for two years in southern Malawi as a natural resource management volunteer with the Peace Corps. In 2013, he moved to St. Louis to work with the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health where he works on programs in Africa with concentration in Liberia. He is interested in international development and energy policy.

Lauren Moran, B.A. English Language and Literature, Kalamazoo College, 2011. Since graduating from Kalamazoo College, Lauren has worked at the Child Health Evaluation and Research Unit at the University of Michigan. As a research associate, she has worked on studies related to pediatric workforce distribution and trends in the US, and worked on a government-funded and legislated initiative to develop pediatric quality metrics. She is interested in the intersection of public health and social welfare policy.

Kyle Olsen, B.A. Political Science, Middlebury College, 2010. Since graduating, Kyle has taught high school Spanish through the Teach Kentucky program in Louisville and Belfry, KY, and middle school Spanish back home in Madison, WI. He is interested in Development and Education Policy, and is also hoping to attend UM Law School.

Zach Ormsby, B.A. Political Science and History, University of Washington, 2010. After graduating from the University of Washington, Zach moved to Detroit as a Corps Member of Teach For America. He taught 7th and 8th grade social studies for two years at University Prep Science and Math Academy, before transitioning into school administration for the past two years, serving as an Operations Manager in the University YES Academy district of Detroit. He is interested in public and non-profit management and urban renewal.

Cory Page graduated from the University of Michigan - Dearborn with a Bachelor's of English in 2013. In the year that followed, he spent his time working with various local non-profits and pursuing EMT certification. Although he had no interest in professional EMS work, he witnesses firsthand a flawed, inefficient system that is tasked with one of the most important roles of a modern society - public health. Enlightened by his experience, Cory now seeks a dual-degree program of Public Policy and Public Health Administration in order to become a force for healthcare reform.

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Daniel Pimlott, Cambridge University, History, 2003. Daneil worked for six years as a correspondent for the Financial Times in New York and London. Now he runs international aid projects in Syria and Afghanistan. He is interested in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public spending and conflict and international affairs.

Phillip Pless. BA, Psychology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2009. After graduation, Phillip has been working in the public sector for five years. From 2009-2010, he was an AmeriCorps VISTA member in Manchester, NH working on homelessness policy and planning for the City of Manchester, NH. Since 2010, he has worked at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, DC on the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) program. He is interested in urban policy with a specific interest on affordable housing, economic development, community development, and neighborhood revitalization.

Anna Purcell, B.A. International Relations, B.A. Spanish, University of California, Davis, 2009. Anna has worked in public education in various capacities since graduating from the University of California, Davis. She also spent a year teaching English in Galicia, Spain. Currently, she teaches Spanish at San Leandro High School in California. She is interested in education and social policy.

Meredith Reid, B.A. Anthropology, University of Texas, 2007. After graduating from the University of Texas, Meredith served for two years as an AmeriCorps volunteer with an early childhood literacy program. Since 2009, she has been a bilingual prekindergarten teacher in Austin, Texas. She is interested in education policy and program development that ensures academic success and social justice for all children.

Corwin (Corey) Rhyen, B.A. Economics, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012. Corey worked for the last two years as a Research Assistant for the Technology Policy Institute, a think tank based in Washington, DC, studying issues related to telecommunications and the internet. He is interested in science and technology policy, specifically related to basic research funding.

Ryan Rosso, B.A. Political Science, UC Berkeley, 2012. Since graduating from the University of California Berkeley, Ryan has worked for the Civil Justice Association of California, a California coalition group advocating for tort reform. He also volunteers for Political Data Inc. and the City of Sacramento's VITA program. He is interested in tax policy.

Larry J. Sanders, B.A. Political Science, Howard University, 2014. Although Larry is entering the Ford School directly after his undergraduate experience, he has interned in the offices of Senator Debbie Stabenow, former U.S. Representative Hansen Clarke, and with District of Columbia Public Schools. He is interested in urban education policy.

Arnav Shah, B.A. Political Science, George Washington University, 2011. Arnav has researched various health policy issues at the Urban Institute and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, DC for the past 3 years. He is interested in domestic health policy.

Andrew Shell, AB (History), University of Georgia, 2010. Andrew served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine from 2010-2012. In 2013, he began work at Whitman-Walker Health in DC, advocating for access

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to health care and working to implement the Affordable Care Act. He is interested in health policy, foreign policy, and global health promotion.

Greg Shirbroun graduated Magna Cum Laude from Luther College in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Sociology. Following graduation he moved to Chicago where he has worked for the Chicago Jobs Council (CJC), a policy advocacy organization focused on improving the workforce development system to address the needs of individuals with barriers to employment. At CJC, Greg has managed an online portal for workforce development data, conducted extensive research for advocacy and technical assistance efforts, and facilitated training for staff at non-profits across Chicago. With graduate study in Public Policy, he will focus on economic development methods, especially those promoted by model social enterprises.

Khush Singh, Global Studies, UCLA, 2010. Khush spent a year working with the US Department of State, then 2.5 years as Development Associate for a private research firm the USA for UNHCR-The UN Refugee Agency. She was also a refugee assistance mentor for newly settled Bhutanese refugees in the greater DC area. She is interested in international economic development, specifically cross sector relationships.

Erica Sivertson, BA Finance and International Business, University of Minnesota, 2009 and Master's, Business Administration, University of Michigan, 2015. Erica worked as a Director of Government Relations at a top lobbying firm, Quinn Gillespie & Associates, in Washington, D.C. and as a U.S. Senate aide to Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN) prior to business school. She is interested in the federal policymaking process and the intersection of business and policy.

Sonja Swanbeck received her BA in Neuroscience from Wellesley College in 2012. Since then, she has been working to uncover the genetic causes of T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at Columbia University. In addition to her work in cancer research, she also interned with Christine Quinn's mayoral campaign in New York City and Elizabeth Warren's senate campaign in Massachusetts. She plans to build on her background in the health sciences and passion for human rights by concentrating her studies in health and development policy.

Rachel Teitelbaum, B.A. Political Science, Williams College, 2011. Shortly after graduation, Rachel moved to Boston where she spent a year working for a non-profit that focused on fundraising and community organizing for environmental and social justice groups. For the last two years she has been working as a paralegal at a boutique litigation firm. She is interested in environmental policy.

Jeremiah Thompson graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in History in 2008. Since graduation, he has worked in Higher Education as well as K-12 Education. He is interested in the intersection of macro-policies and their relationship to education outcomes.

Ivy Tran, Biological Chemistry, University of Michigan, 2010. After graduating, Ivy continued researching on her honor's thesis for a publication, and then began working in the R&D department at a small biotech company. She is interested in Science & Technology in Public Policy.

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Nicole Vargas, B.A. Political Science Earlham College, 2013. Since graduating from Earlham College, Nicole has been working for Habitat for Humanity as a grant writer and Advocacy Ambassador. She is interested in social policy, with a focus on poverty alleviation.

Aaron Whitesides, BA, UC San Diego, Political Science, International Relations, 2008. Since moving to DC in 2011, Aaron has been working as a Senior Consultant within the Strategy division of Deloitte Consulting, LLP. He has previously worked for Booz Allen Hamilton and a University of California policy Institute. He is interested in public and private management.

Brad Wintersteen, B.A. Global Studies, Long Island University-Global, 2013. Brad conducted independent research for his bachelors thesis in Germany on xenophobia towards Turkish immigrants. Since then, he has lived in New York City where he runs an independent custom furniture company. He is interested in human rights, international development, and intergovernmental organizations.

Sabiha Zainulbhai, B.A., George Washington University, 2009. Sabiha is the health policy analyst at the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) in Washington, DC where she works on issues related to Medicare and Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. She is interested in social policy as it relates to health policy.