

2018-2019

Union College Students Selected For National Fellowships & Scholarships



For more information about applying for
National Fellowships & Scholarships, please contact:

Lynn Evans
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Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Student Award

Location: Timor-Leste

ETAs in Timor-Leste are assigned to a university or vocational training school setting in Dili or Gleno. Approximately 30 hours per week will be spent in the classroom assisting English teachers and conducting English language activities. An additional 5-10 hours will be devoted to participating in or leading school-related activities, clubs, teams, etc.

Antonia “Toni” Batha ’17

Los Alamos, New Mexico

Major

Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies

Minor

English

Extracurricular Activities

Identity Dialogues (co-chair), Women’s Union (president), Committee on Consent Education and Awareness (co-founder), Senior Admissions Intern, College Tour Guide, Pre-Orientation Leadership Mentor, Kenney Community Center after school tutor, tutor at Girls Inc., Scholar’s Steering Committee (public relations chair)

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[Cambodia Term](#) (Spring 2016)

[Argentina Mini-Term](#) (Winter Break 2014)

Internships & Employment

Peace Corps English Teacher, Ongangwa, Namibia (Fall 2017-Summer 2019)
Generation Teach Teaching Fellowship, Denver, CO (Summer 2016)

Awards

Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honor Society), Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society), Iota Iota Iota (Women’s Studies Honor Society), Dean’s List, Tour Guide of the Year (2014-2015)



Fulbright Abstract/Summary of Proposal

My time as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Namibia made me determined to continue to integrate into new cultures and communities as well as continue teaching English to non-native speakers. From my Peace Corps service, I have two years of experience teaching English as a second language. However, I am excited to teach in a new culture and to learn from my Timorese community. Teaching in Timor-Leste would push me out of my comfort zone and allow me to experience a completely new culture.

Fulbright Host Country Engagement

I will engage with my community by creating personal relationships with my colleagues and students. These relationships will help me at school as well as personally. I have experience creating and running after-school programs, so I will either support existing after-school programs or create new after-school programs. I have experience with English activities and public health activities and would be excited to continue these types of activities for my students and in my community.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.

After completing my Fulbright Fellowship, I will continue teaching English as a second language abroad, specifically in Asia. After teaching abroad, I plan to move back to the United States to teach English or English as a second language. Once I return to the United States, I would like to earn a Master’s degree in education and improve my teaching. I am also interested in working at education nonprofits both in the United States and abroad.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Student Award

Location: Spain

ETAs in Spain are assigned to assist permanent teaching staff at elementary, middle, secondary, or post-secondary schools. All ETAs are also expected to undertake independent projects, especially those involving community service, after school hours.

Gillian Singer '19

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Major

Spanish and Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies

Extracurricular Activities

Union College Women’s Union (president), Title IX Ambassador, Girls on the Run, Union Tour Guide, Union College Student Ambassador, Senior Admissions Intern, Orientation Advisor, Freelance English/Spanish Translator

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[Spain Term](#) (Fall 2017)

Internships & Research Fellowships

- Columbia University Global Mental Health Program Research Internship, New York, NY (Summer and Fall 2018)
- [Union College Summer Research Fellowship](#) with Dr. Yasmine Van Wilt, Schenectady, NY (Summer 2018)
- Federación de Asociaciones de Mujeres Gitanas, Sevilla, Spain (FAKALI, Fall 2017)
- Union College Summer Research Fellowship with Dr. Erika Nelson-Mukherje, Schenectady, NY (Summer 2017)
- Everyday Miracles, Minneapolis, MN (Summer 2016)



Awards

President’s Commission on the Status of Women Community Service Award 2017, Most Impactful Leader in a Social Action Club at Union College 2017, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, Iota Iota Iota Gender Studies and Women’s Studies National Honor Society, Dean’s List

Fulbright Abstract/Summary of Proposal

Who I am and what I am passionate about orbits around the idea of community. By being embraced into the lives of the students I taught and tutored while studying abroad in Spain, I learned how their communities were structured, how they relate to one another, and how gender-based issues manifest themselves and affect their community dynamics. I want to return to Spain in order to engage with more students and become part of their community.

Fulbright Host Country Engagement

I would like to specifically create programming for young students focusing on empowerment and confidence development. In order to ensure that the program incorporates the wants and needs of the local community, I would encourage older students from my placement school or from the local community to serve as program mentors. Although I will look to the community’s needs in development, I would also like to incorporate public health lessons.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.

Upon returning to the U.S. I intend to continue working toward being a global citizen. Apart from Spanish language and culture, my passions include women’s rights and maternal health—thus I intend to obtain a Master’s Degree in Public Health with a concentration in Sex, Sexuality, and Reproductive Health. Combining my experiences teaching in English and Spanish and a Master’s in Public Health, I aspire to work in NGOs and nonprofits supporting global communities with maternal health disparities.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Student Award

Location: Taiwan

ETAs in Taiwan are placed full-time in one or more elementary schools or junior high schools, usually assisting local English teachers. A few may teach independently. They are in-school 35 hours per week teaching, consulting with teachers on American cultural issues and assisting in the editing or writing of educational materials for English teaching. Also, all ETAs are required to have service projects during the grant period. This service work is in the assigned host community - making connections person-to-person and genuinely contributing to communities for the better.

Victoria Grandel '19

Lynn, Massachusetts

Major

Chinese and Political Science

Extracurricular Activities

Language Center Chinese Mentor, Language Center Senior Consultant, Yleana Leadership Academy (college prep mentor), URBAN Magazine (co-editor-in chief), Theme House Manager, Black Student Union, Women's Union

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[China Term](#) (Fall 2017)

[Community Service Mini-Term](#) (Winter Break 2016)

Internships

- Dartmouth College's Rassias Center Teaching Assistant, Beijing, China (Summer 2018)
- FTI Consulting Global Risk Management Intern, Shanghai, China (Fall 2017)
- Corporate Accountability International Development Intern, Boston, Massachusetts (Summer 2017-Summer 2018)
- Congressional Intern for Congressman Paul D. Tonko, Washington, DC (Spring 2017)



Awards

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, Posse Foundation Full-Tuition Leadership Scholarship, Forest Foundation Summer Internship Award

Fulbright Abstract/Summary of Proposal

Taiwan is a country full of rich culture, history, and beauty. Going to Taiwan, would be an amazing opportunity to immerse myself and learn from the country's culture, people, art, history, and wonderful landmarks. The Fulbright ETA in Taiwan would be a great opportunity to implement my teaching philosophy and learn from the Taiwanese education system in order to provide students with an effective learning environment that they're excited to engage with.

Fulbright Host Country Engagement

I plan to engage with communities in Taiwan through service. My former experiences volunteering as a mentor, home builder, and community engagement through creative platforms have taught me that service is a great way to connect with a community. By volunteering in local community centers and leading a creative English class outside of the classroom I hope to learn from and exchange experiences with the community.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.

I hope to utilize my experiences in the global education community to inform my career goals. In analyzing different learning methods and connecting with students from around the world, I aim to create a non-profit organization geared towards bridging the global education inequality gap.

**Note: Victoria has turned down the Fulbright Award to do in internship in Washington D.C.*

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Student Award

Location: Malaysia

The English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Programs place Fulbrighters in classrooms abroad to provide assistance to the local English teachers. ETA’s help teach English language while serving as cultural ambassadors for the U.S. The age and academic level of the students varies by country, ranging from kindergarten to university level. Applicants for ETA Programs can apply to only one country.

Irving Cortes-Martinez ’19

Medford, Oregon

Major

Political Science and Latin American & Caribbean Studies Double Major

Minor

Africana Studies

Extracurricular Activities

Latin American Student Organization (President), Spanish Club (Secretary and Treasurer), Union College Model United Nations (TA), National Model United Nations (NYC Participant), Washington D.C. Model Organization of American States (Participant), Regional NY6 African Union (Participant), African Student Association (Member), AOP Political Science Tutor, French Club (Member)

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[Brazil Term](#) (Fall 2017)

[Washington D.C. Term](#) (Spring 2018)

[Argentina Mini-Term](#) (Winter Break 2016)

[Senegal Mini-Term](#) (Summer Break 2017)

Internships

- Society for International Development, Washington D.C.
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Albany, NY

Awards

Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, Charles M. Tidmarch Prize, AOP Most Outstanding Student Award, Union College Deans List, National Model United Nations Outstanding Position Paper Award

Fulbright Abstract/Summary of Proposal

Taking care of my sisters as a teenager sparked an interest in working with youth through various organizations and projects. In addition, because of my experience of learning English as an immigrant child, I will bring to the program a perspective from a person who has gone through the process of learning a new language. Teaching English in Malaysia will allow me to further develop my experience with multiculturalism.

Fulbright Host Country Engagement

I will engage with the host country community by using my skills learned through the Future Farmers of America in order to build a community garden. This community garden will serve as a community bonding exercise open to anyone in the community to use.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.

After completing the Fulbright Fellowship, I seek to enroll in graduate school focusing on foreign affairs, then pursuing a career working for NGOs in the international development sector.

Career Goals

I seek to enter into the international development sector working for an NGO or enter the Foreign Service as a Foreign Service Officer.

About Irving

Irving is a Mexican political science student who has a strong interest in issues of economic and social development in developing countries. Throughout his four years at Union, Irving became involved in various multicultural organizations including LASO, ASA, and ADC, in addition to traveling abroad, which made him passionate about multiculturalism. His fellowship in Malaysia will further allow him to interact with diverse people and cultures.



Fulbright Student Research Award

Location: Germany

Germany boasts an excellent higher education system as well as a vital research ecosystem and infrastructure that offers an ideal environment for international student and researchers. Fulbright Germany's study and research program facilitates access to research and studies for two academic semesters at a German university or relevant non-university institutions, such as research labs or archives. During the 10-month grant period (usually starting in mid-September) grantees can broaden their professional, scientific, and artistic skills.

Jennifer Nutter '19

Georgetown, Massachusetts

Major

Biomedical Engineering

Extracurricular Activities

[Varsity Swim Team](#) (Captain), Engineers for a Sustainable World, Engineering Mentoring Program, Biomedical Engineering Society, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Term Abroad

[Czech Republic Term](#) (Fall 2017)

Internships & Employment

- [Biomedical Engineering Summer Clinical Immersion Program](#), Union College & Albany Medical College (Summer 2018)
- [Stanley Black & Decker Internship](#), Towson, MD (Summer 2017)

Awards

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society (vice president), Scholars Program, Liberty League All-Academic Team, Dean's List

Fulbright Project Title

The Influence of Sensory Pathways on the Biomechanics of the Lower Leg

Fulbright Abstract/Summary of Proposal

The proposed project involves studying the complex sensory pathways that contribute to muscle movement in the lower leg. Computational models will be used to quantify the kinematics of the lower limb for different motions. The goal is to develop a solution for improving custom prosthetics by creating a system that can respond to individual muscle sensations. The project will take place at the Lauflabor Locomotion Laboratory at the University of Darmstadt.

Fulbright Host Country Engagement

At the University of Darmstadt, I will be assisting in teaching an English biomedical engineering course to undergraduate students. Outside of the university, I will be reaching out to a local pool called Bezirksbad Bessungen to teach swim lessons or coach youth swimmers. I am currently taking German language classes so that I can communicate better with my colleagues and community members.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.

After completing a Fulbright Fellowship, I will attend medical school and work in the field of orthopedics or sports medicine. I will continue to pursue research throughout my career to understand how specific biological features can influence human motion.



Fulbright Student Research Award

Location: South Africa

Fulbright grants for South Africa start between August and March. Applicants are encouraged to schedule their research to allow for a late January arrival in order to attend a group orientation at the U.S. Embassy.

Mollie Pope '19

Barbourville, Kentucky

Major

Geology

Minor

Nanotechnology

Extracurricular Activities

Geology Club (president), Union College Historic Tour Guide, Tour Guide Program
Coordinator, Wold House Council, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority (public relations vice President), Prichard Committee Student Voice Team - Kentucky Education Reform Policy

Term/Mini Term Abroad

Panama (Winter Break 2017 Geology Field Research)
Dominica (Summer 2016 Geology Field Research)

Internships & Research

- [Provenance of sandstone conglomerate clasts of the Orca Group in Prince William Sound, Alaska](#), Union College (Summer 2018-Spring 2019)
- Keck Geology Consortium, NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates in REU, Alaska (Summer 2018)
- American Museum of Natural History, NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates, NYC (Summer 2017)
- The provenance of detrital zircons from Dominica in Lesser Antilles, Union College (Summer 2016-Spring 2017)
- Determining the age and origin of the Tunk Lake Pluton in Maine, Union College (Winter 2015-Spring 2015)
- Reconstructing African climatology through deep sea marine sediment, Western Kentucky University (Fall 2013-Spring 2015)

Awards

National Science Foundation SUCCESS Scholar, Goldman Scholar, Union Scholars Program, Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, Dean's List

Fulbright Project Title

Oxygen Isotope Variation in Saldanha Quartz Porphyry

Fulbright Abstract/Summary of Proposal

The Saldanha Volcanic Complex was recently classified as an ignimbrite deposit, meaning it was deposited as a high energy, dense volcanic ash flow. However, this classification is surrounded by skepticism, for the age of deposition for Saldanha coincides with a global period of glaciation. Through studying the variation of oxygen isotopes within the quartz, we can classify the crustal involvement during magmatic origin. This will indicate the type of volcanism that occurred to create Saldanha.

Fulbright Host Country Engagement

South Africa is a country with large gaps in socioeconomic status, which means the mere zip code someone is born into can set a precedent for their opportunities in life. While in South Africa I hope to help students realize their full academic potential through assistance with college application and by helping students at the University of Cape Town avoid academic tripwires that often cause students to give up on their education.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.

Upon return to the U.S. I plan to attend graduate school to receive my PhD in igneous petrology. The completion of a PhD program will allow me to pursue my career goals of doing research in igneous petrology at an academic institution.



Thomas J. Watson Fellowship

The program was established in 1968 by the children of Thomas J. Watson, Sr., the founder of IBM, and his wife, Jeanette K. Watson, to honor their parents' longstanding interest in education and world affairs. This year's fellows receive a \$30,000 stipend to cover a year of independent study and travel outside the U.S. This year's class of Watson Fellows come from 18 states and 6 countries and exhibit a broad range of academic specialty, socio-economic background, and life experience. The 51st Class of Watson Fellows will traverse 76 countries exploring topics ranging from artificial intelligence to music subcultures; from food insecurity to island innovation; from neonatal to end-of-life care.

Emmanuela “Ella” Oppong ’19

Bronx, New York

Major

Biomedical Engineering

Extracurricular Activities

Witkoppen Health and Welfare Center (Volunteer/Intern), Ellis Hospital (Volunteer), Egyam Health Clinic (Volunteer), “Stitching Talent” (Founding Member & Executive Director), Omicron Delta Kappa, National Leadership Society (Philanthropy Chair), Becoming a Renaissance Girl (Founding Member & Organizer), Union College: Community Service- Mini Term (Volunteer), Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center (Volunteer), African Dance Club (Founding Member, Treasurer), Community Health Ambassador Service (Volunteer), Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir (Vice President), Society of Women Engineers (President), African Students Association (President & Vice President), Kenney Community Center (Volunteer), Engineering Ambassador Program (Public Relations Person & Member)

Term Abroad

[Ghana Mini-Term](#) (Summer 2018)

Internships & Employment

- Science & Technology Entry Program (STEP) Mentor (Summer 2016-2018)
- Educating Girls for Engineering (EDGE) Counselor (Summer 2016-2017)
- [Union College Biology Department Research Assistant](#) (July 2016-May 2019)

Awards

Truman Scholar, Seward Fellow, Certificate of Outstanding Academics, Klemm Fellow, Gallagher Koster Health Career Scholar, Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, Kathryn Wasserman Davis Projects for Peace Grant Recipient, Omicron Delta Kappa

Watson Project Title

Social Entrepreneurship: Empowering Local Minds, Finding Healthcare Solutions
Kenya, Uganda, Eswatini, Liberia, Hong Kong, China, India

Watson Abstract/Summary of Proposal

Through my project, I will travel to seven countries to explore organizations and projects with different cultural contexts that seek to empower locals to participate in healthcare outreach and research. On-the-ground observations, hands-on involvement, and interactions with workers and local community members, will allow me to learn about these unique initiatives, their similarities and differences, successes and challenges. In addition, I will explore the local environments to learn about cultures and customs and their impact of these initiatives.

About Ella

Ella is a Ghanaian-American bioengineering student, Truman Scholar and Seward Fellow who sees Africa brimming with talent. Based on her experiences building the “Stitching Talent” vocational school at an orphanage in Ghana with a \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant, her independent study at a health NGO (Witkoppen Center) focused on patients with HIV/AIDS in South Africa as a Gilman Scholar, and her medical internship at a hospital in Tanzania with the Klemm Fellow International Internship Program, Ella believes the innovative minds in Africa can tackle Africa's health issues. She plans to earn an MD/MPH and become an international physician, joining initiatives focused on developing tools and models to eradicate many of the diseases facing Sub-Saharan Africa.



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Samantha Miller '19

Rancho Santa Fe, California

Major

Visual Arts

Minor

Mechanical Engineering

Extracurricular Activities

The Idol, Union College (Layout & Arts Editor), Harvard Graduate School of Design Career Discovery, the Dutch Oven, Union College (Layout Editor), [Track and Field](#), [Cross Country](#), New School of Architecture and Design, Summer Design Program

Term Abroad

[Vietnam Term](#) (Fall 2017)

Internships & Employment

- Bose, Design Intern (Summer 2018)
- Gioi Publishing House, Design Intern in Hanoi, VN (Fall 2017)

Awards

Union College Scholars Program, Saratoga Arts 120 Intercollegiate Regional Show, Eugene I. Yudis Writing Prize, Wessel Ten Broeck Van Orden Writing Prize

Watson Project Title

Poignant Nostalgia: Investigating Architecture through Abandoned Spaces
Japan, China, Malaysia, Bulgaria, United Kingdom

Watson Abstract/Summary of Proposal

For my Watson project I propose a study of the relationship between architecture and humans. Through the scope of abandoned sites, I seek to investigate the nuances of emotional attachments developed toward forgotten and ruined structures. My project aims to portray the reflective dynamic connecting communities to their architecture, revealing the value of ruined architecture in understanding the past for future development.

About Samantha

Samantha ended up at Union because it was one of the few schools that not only academically offered the two things she loves, art and the satisfaction that comes with problem solving in STEM, but also encouraged interdisciplinary work. This encouragement eventually led her to major in studio art and minor in mechanical engineering with a goal of becoming an architect. She has independently pursued her interest in architectural design while at Union through research projects, such as her Sophomore Scholars Project in which she redesign Schenectady's Amtrak Station to create a building reflective of the unique architectural history of the city while encouraging revitalization, and academic programs, such as Harvard Graduate School of Design's Career Discovery summer program with a focus on architecture. While on a term abroad in Vietnam, she wrote a paper on the highly innovative design atmosphere developing in Vietnamese architecture. The abstract for her paper, "The Current State of Architecture in Vietnam", has recently been accepted to be included in the 21st International Congress of Aesthetics 2019 Proceedings book.



Goldwater Scholarship

By providing scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering, the Goldwater Foundation is helping ensure that the U.S. is producing the number of highly-qualified professionals the Nation needs in these critical fields. Over its 30-year history, Goldwater Scholarships have been awarded to thousands of undergraduates, many of whom have gone on to win other prestigious awards like the National Science Foundation's Graduate Fellowship, Rhodes Scholarship, Churchill Scholarship and the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship that support our Scholars' graduate school work. Today, Goldwater alumni can be found conducting research that is helping defend the Nation, finding cures for catastrophic diseases and teaching future generations of scientists, mathematicians and engineers.

Cameron Bechtold '20

Middleburgh, New York

Major

Environmental Science

Extracurricular Activities

Campus Kitchens, Environmental Club, Student Government (vice president of the class of 2020), Wold House Council (first-year rep, co-chair)

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[Australia Term](#) (Fall 2018)

[Washington D.C. Term](#) (Winter 2019)

[Community Service Mini-Term](#) (Winter Break 2016)

Research

- Geomorphologic Control of Habitat Access and Diet of Mummichog, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole and Plum Island Sound, Mass (Summer 2018)
- [Investigating Urban Stream Syndrome](#), Union College, Schenectady, NY (Summer-Fall 2017)
- Homing in Juvenile Eastern Red-Spotted Newts, Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station, Rensselaerville, NY (Summer 2016)

Research Mentors

Justin Lesser, James Nelson, Linda Deegan, Anouk Verheyden-Gillikin, Dawn O'Neal

Awards

NSF REU, Potter Fellow Research Fellowship, Waldron Scholarship, Union College Summer Research Fellowship, Klemm Fellowship, Dean's List

Career Goal

Ph.D. in Urban Ecology. Conduct research on ecological responses in cities and teach in a collegiate setting.



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Jillian Guthrie '21

Templeton, Massachusetts

Major

Physics and Mathematics

Minor

Spanish

Extracurricular Activities

Society of Physics Students (vice president, president), Physics Help Center Tutor, Wold House (co-chair), Union College Tour Guide, Narragansett Historical Society (Volunteer curator)

Research

- [Optimizing a Undergraduate Laboratory to Measure Fundamental Constants Experimentally](#), Union College, Schenectady, NY (Winter 2019)
- [Computationally Modeling RNA with Statistical Mechanics](#), Union College, Schenectady, NY (Spring-Summer 2018)
- Extraction and Organization of Data by Fabry-Perot interferometers from the Madrigal Database, Computation Physics Inc. New England, North Chelmsford, MA (Spring-Fall 2016)

Research Mentors

Scott Labrake, Jeffery Wagner, Nelia Mann, Robert Kerr, Sudha Kapali

Awards

DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering Germany, NASA Summer Research Space Grant, Union College Scholars Program, Dean's List

Career Goal

I plan to receive a Ph. D in Computational Physics. I plan to then become a professor and research at a university while mentoring young scientists inside the classroom and out.



Goldwater Scholarship

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Charlotte Mineo '21

Canandaigua, New York

Major

Biochemistry

Extracurricular Activities

Chemistry Club (Treasurer), C.O.C.O.A. House, Concoridiensis, Competes in Triathlons

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[Community Service Mini-Term](#) (Winter Break 2017)

Research

- [Using site-directed mutagenesis to modify the calcium binding site of metacaspases, proteases involved in programmed cell death in fungi](#), Union College, Schenectady, NY (Summer 2018-Summer 2019)
- Characterizing the plant pathogen *Phytophthora capsici*, Cornell Agritech, Geneva, NY (Winter Break 2018)
- Generating a mutant version of malate dehydrogenase, Union College, Schenectady, NY (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
- Evaluating leaf tissues for the presence of plum-pox virus, Cornell Agritech, Geneva, NY (Summer 2017)



Research Mentors

Kristin Fox, Greg Vogel, Christine Smart, Rosemary Cox

Awards

Beckman Scholarship, Most Outstanding Chemistry Student, Union College Scholars Program, Thompson Guild Scholarship, NMSQT Letter of Commendation

Career Goal

I will pursue a PhD in Biochemistry. I plan to teach as a college professor and research plant biochemistry to better understand host-pathogen interactions at the molecular level.

Critical Language Scholarship

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a fully funded summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. It is a program of the U.S. Department of State and part of a U.S. government effort to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages.

For nine weeks, Devneet and about 20 other American students from institutions across the United States will participate in intensive Punjabi courses in Chandigarh at the American Institute of Indian Studies, a consortium of 71 American universities with South Asia Studies Centers. Designed to cover the equivalent of one academic year of university-level Punjabi study, students in the CLS study program receive a minimum of 20 hours per week of formal classroom instruction that focuses on intensive reading, writing, speaking and listening practice. Devneet and fellow CLS program participants will also live with local Punjabi-speaking host families and meet regularly with local peers to learn more about the Punjabi language and develop their personal networks. The group will engage in cultural excursions, lectures and other enrichment activities designed to support and enhance language learning and exposure to the host culture.

Devneet Singh '21

Duluth, Georgia

Major

Biology and Sociology ID

Extracurricular Activities

Leadership in Medicine Student Advisory Council (Vice President), Honor Council
Bhangra Union, Beuth House Council

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[National Health Systems](#) (Summer 2018)
[Klemm Fellowship](#) for Midwifery in Moshi, Tanzania (Winter 2019)

Internships & Employment

- Medical Scribe at Ellis Hospital
- Medical Assistant at Eastside Urgent Care

Awards

Union College Dean's List, Klemm Fellowship Award

Abstract/Summary of Proposal

My entire life I have been raised in the Punjabi culture, which formed my tastes in food, religion, fashion, and family values. While I have been surrounded by the language through family and media, I have not had the opportunity to study Punjabi in any official capacity. Learning Punjabi will help fully connect me to my culture, as it is important to my life as well as the future Punjabi generations in the United States.

Host Country Engagement

While I am in India, the CLS program gives me the opportunity to pursue a cultural class from activities such as cooking, dance, embroidery, or singing. In addition, I will be learning about daily life in Punjab from my host family as well as my language partner. With my CLS Punjabi group, we will also visit temples and villages nearby.

Career Goal

I am in the Leadership in Medicine program at Union, so I am pursuing an MBA in Healthcare Administration and will matriculate to Albany Medical College for my MD. I hope to practice medicine in the South, while doing outreach work in underdeveloped regions in India, especially in Punjab. I plan to use Punjabi to strengthen my relationships with my family and Punjabi community in the US, as well as joining the North American Sikh Medical and Dental Association and using my knowledge of the Punjabi language to practice more culturally sensitive care.

Language/Placement

Punjabi in Chandigarh, India



Critical Language Scholarship

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a fully funded summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. It is a program of the U.S. Department of State and part of a U.S. government effort to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages.

For eight weeks, Jay and about 20 other American students from institutions across the United States will participate in intensive Chinese courses at Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an, China. Designed to cover the equivalent of one academic year of university-level Chinese study, students in the CLS study program receive a minimum of 20 hours per week of formal classroom instruction that focuses on intensive reading, writing, speaking and listening practice. Jay and fellow CLS program participants will also live with local Chinese-speaking college students and meet regularly with local peers to learn more about the Chinese language and develop their personal networks. The group will engage in cultural excursions, lectures and other enrichment activities designed to support and enhance language learning and exposure to the host culture.

James “Jay” Segee-Wright '20

Duluth, Minnesota

Major

Chinese and Philosophy

Extracurricular Activities

Concordensis (Editor-in-Chief Emeritus), Ephemeris (Editor), Union College Activist Network (Communications Chair), Writing Center (Peer Tutor), Pre-Law Society, The Garnet Society (TGS), Chess Club, Chinese Table, Philosophy Club, Creative Writing Organization, Environmental Club

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[China Term](#) (Fall 2018)

Internships & Employment

- HROne Legal Intern, Shanghai, China (Fall 2018)
- Dartmouth College Assistant Teacher, Beijing, China (Summer 2018)

Awards

CET Shanghai 2018 Award of Student Excellence, Presidential Scholarship, Franklin F. Fero Scholarship, Dean’s List, Grandma’s Marathon Finisher

Career Goal

J.D. in International Law. Focus on U.S.-China relations with a special interest in the roles of journalism and technological innovation in countering climate change and humanitarian crises.

Language/Placement

Chinese in Xi'an, China



Davis Projects for Peace

Location: Fiji

In the its thirteenth year, the Projects for Peace program is an invitation to undergraduates at the American colleges and universities in the Davis United World College Scholars Program to design grassroots projects that they will implement during the summer of 2019. The projects judged to be the most promising and feasible will be funded at \$10,000 each. The objective is to encourage and support today's motivated youth to create and try out their own ideas for building peace.

Sruti Bandlamuri '21

Tucson, Arizona

Major

Sociology/Biology ID

Extracurricular Activities

FeelGood (Founder & President), Active Minds (President & Outreach Chair), AUM (President), Thrive Global Campus Editor-At-Large from Union College, Active Minds National Student Advisory Committee (Member), Union College Organization of Peer Educators (Member), The Outpatient Project (Founder & Director)

Term/Mini Term Abroad

[India Mini-Term](#) (Summer 2018)

[Fiji Mini-Term](#) (Winter Break 2018)

Fiji Mini-Term (Summer 2019)

[Australia Term](#) (Fall 2019)

[Washington D.C.](#) (Winter 2020)



Internships/Research

- Carin Eldridge, Sruti Bandlamuri, Jennifer Andrews, Maureen Galindo, Dianna Contreras, Timothy Flood, and Sydney Rice. Post-Folate Spina Bifida Lesion Level Change. Birth Defects Research. (2015-2017)

Research Mentors: Dr. Jennifer Andrews and Dr. Melissa Halpern at the University of Arizona

Awards

Learn Something Teach Something Grant Awardee, Klemm Fellow, Presidential Green Grant Awardee, Kathryn Wasserman Davis Projects for Peace Grant Awardee, Dean's List, Sorum Film Festival 2018 Award for Mental Health Awareness, Future Stars: 10 People Inspiring Tucson's Tomorrow

Davis Projects for Peace Project Title

Peace of Life

Project Abstract/Summary of Proposal

According to the World Health Organization, chronic diseases contributed up to 74% of all deaths in Fiji during 2002. Research shows a mere 15% of Fijians are eating adequate amounts of fruits and vegetables, which contributes to the high prevalence of hypertension in indigenous Fijians (who comprise over half of the population), high prevalence of diabetes in Indo-Fijians (who comprise about 40% of the population), and high rate of obesity in both groups. Through the Klemm Fellow International Internship Program, I volunteered for three weeks in November and December of 2018 with Fiji Projects Abroad, going to villagers' houses and community centers to implement community-based nutritional intervention programs. This summer, in partnership with Fiji Projects Abroad coordinator Meiva Vuniwai and Projects Abroad volunteers, I would like to conduct intensive community-based health interventions in ten new sites for long-term intervention. All of them will be located on the interior of Western Viti Levu, on the main island. These sites have remained inaccessible due to insufficient funds for the volunteers' transportation. However, local connections between Fiji Projects Abroad with village heads and ministry officials ensures that the sites will accept our assistance. We will empower both Indo-Fijian women and indigenous Fijian women in villages. Our goal is to tackle the main health problems that are common in Fiji: weight problems, diabetes, and hypertension, all of which have a higher prevalence in women than men.

Career Goal:

Physician, activist, writer

DAAD RISE Germany

Location: Technische Universität Berlin

RISE Germany offers summer research internships in Germany for undergraduate students from North America, Great Britain and Ireland. In their internships, students are carefully matched with doctoral students- whom they assist and who serve as their mentors. Interns receive a monthly stipend to cover every day costs. Approximately 300 scholarships are available each year.

Jillian Guthrie '21

Templeton, Massachusetts

Major

Physics and Mathematics

Minor

Spanish

Extracurricular Activities

Society of Physics Students (vice president, president), Physics Help Center Tutor, Wold House (co-chair), Union College Tour Guide, Narragansett Historical Society (Volunteer curator)

Research

- [Optimizing a Undergraduate Laboratory to Measure Fundamental Constants Experimentally](#), Union College, Schenectady, NY (Winter 2019)
- [Computationally Modeling RNA with Statistical Mechanics](#), Union College, Schenectady, NY (Spring-Summer 2018)
- Extraction and Organization of Data by Fabry-Perot interferometers from the Madrigal Database, Computation Physics Inc. New England, North Chelmsford, MA (Spring-Fall 2016)

Research Mentors

Scott Labrake, Jeffery Wagner, Nelia Mann, Robert Kerr, Sudha Kapali

Awards

DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering Germany, NASA Summer Research Space Grant, Union College Scholars Program, Dean's List

Career Goal

I plan to receive a Ph. D in Computational Physics. I plan to then become a professor and research at a university while mentoring young scientists inside the classroom and out.



DAAD RISE Germany

Location: Philipps-Universität Marburg

RISE Germany offers summer research internships in Germany for undergraduate students from North America, Great Britain and Ireland. In their internships, students are carefully matched with doctoral students- whom they assist and who serve as their mentors. Interns receive a monthly stipend to cover every day costs. Approximately 300 scholarships are available each year.

Hayden Paneth '20

Brooklyn, New York

Major

Chemistry

Minor

German Studies

Extracurricular Activities

Alpha Delta Lambda Sorority, Chemistry and BioChem Club, Environmental Club

Terms/Mini-Terms Abroad

[Germany Term](#) (Spring 2019)

Internships & Employment

GenHERation Intern (May 2018 – July 2018)

Research

- Union College Chemistry Department Research (Sept 2018 – March 2019)
- Vale Park Ecology Research with Professor Harris (June 2016 – June 2017)

Research Mentors

Professor Carol, Ms. N. Denhardt, Professor Robertson, Professor Fox, Professor McManus-Spencer

Awards

DAAD RISE Research Award, William W. Thomas Endowed Term Abroad Fund, Footsteps Scholarship Award, Calvin G. Schmidt Endowed Scholarship

Abstract/Summary of Proposal

My passion for chemistry only increases as I continue my educational journey. Growing up Hasidic, sheltered from the world without exposure to science, TV, and a proper secular education makes me uniquely passionate about science. All throughout high school, I aspired to explore chemical synthesis. However, due to my cultural upbringing I could not actualize my dreams until I got to college. Working on different layered hybrid halogenidometalate compounds and attempt to grow sizable single crystals will provide me with the opportunity to increase my chemistry skills.

Host Country Engagement

Marburg, Germany

Plans Upon Return To U.S.:

Upon returning to the U.S., I plan to continue working on my thesis project and finish my senior year. The laboratory and research skills I obtained during my time in Germany are invaluable with regards to my upcoming thesis work.

Career Goal

Once I graduate Union College, I aspire to obtain employment with a chemical company that uses chemistry to solve problems all over the world, one solution at a time.

About Hayden

Hayden is a first a first-generation college student in the Academic Opportunity Program at Union College. She is extremely grateful to be a part of the Union College Community. Growing up she attended a school that did not teach math, science, writing or literature adequately; because it followed the guidelines of a strict Hasidic community. She is passionate about education and wrote about it in *Generation Now: Millennials Call for Social Change*; a book published by Union Students under the guidance of Professor C. Henseler.



Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows Program

Location: Mount Vernon, VA

The Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows Program is a highly selective all-inclusive six week summer institute for rising college juniors offering unparalleled learning and networking opportunities at the home of America’s first president just outside our nation’s capital. Housing, transportation, meals and a \$3000 stipend are provided to fellows.

Utilizing specific examples from George Washington’s military and political career, fellows explore George Washington’s approach to the components of implementing a successful strategy. Fellows will study how George Washington led the first executive branch of government and explore the intricacies of leading groups as they execute carefully developed strategic visions. The program offers a dynamic and stimulating leadership curriculum that encourages students to examine their personal strengths, identify areas for growth, and ultimately take action as a leader. A highlight of the Leadership Fellows experience is learning how to take a personal passion and turn it into a blueprint for action in the form of a Capstone Project. Working with an assigned mentor, Leadership Fellows will be spending some of their time at Mount Vernon working on their individual capstones, culminating in a final presentation at the conclusion of the program.

Tawreak “Ty” Gamble-Eddington ’21

Springfield, Massachusetts

Major

Political Science & History

Minor

Spanish & Political Economy

Extracurricular Activities

Union Pride (Vice President), the LGBTQ+ Committee (Member), the Diversity Liaison Committee (Member), the Black Student Union (former community service chair), Model UN (Teachers Assistant).

Term/Mini Term Abroad

- [Holocaust Mini-Term in Poland](#) (Summer 2018)
- [Klemm Fellowship](#) in Argentina (Winter 2018)
- [Spain Term](#) (Fall 2019)

Internships & Research

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Programming Program (Mentor)
- Residential Life (Residential Advisor)
- Argentinian Human Rights (Intern)
- Congressman Tonko’s office (Intern)
- My Brother’s Keeper (Founding mentor)
- Human rights abuses in democracies and Belgian socio-political cleavages

Awards

Mount Vernon Leadership Fellow (2019), Klemm Fellow (2018), Seward Interdisciplinary Fellow (2018), Gilman Scholar (2018), Ron Brown Scholar (2017), Union College Dean’s list (2018 & 2019)

Project Abstract/Summary of Proposal

My project will work with communities in my hometown of Springfield, MA and in Schenectady, NY to help develop initiatives that increase minority participation in the social sciences through mentorship. With the skills I have learned from working with marginalized youth, I will develop programs that work within pre-existing mentorship structures; teaching about the possibilities and economic feasibility of pursuing social science degrees and careers.

About Tawreak

Tawreak is a native of Springfield Massachusetts whom seeks to explore the various intersections of race and political/historical systems. Since a young age Tawreak has been involved in the political system and noticed the lack of not only opportunity for marginalized communities, but the inability of said communities to be involved in the important discourse; whether as a result of historical injustices or ongoing political injustices. Through his fellowship in Argentina and his capstone project at Mount Vernon, Tawreak aims to give a political and social voice to this historically voiceless in the world.



Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals (CBYX) Fellowship

Location: Germany

The CBYX program is sponsored in the U.S. by the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Each year the CBYX fellowship provides 75 American and 75 German young professionals the opportunity to spend one year in each other’s countries, studying, interning, and living with hosts on a cultural immersion program.

Samantha Kruzshak ’19

Newtown, Connecticut

Major

Biology

Minor

German Studies

Extracurricular Activities

Concordensis (Editor in Chief), University Innovation Fellow

Term/Mini Term Abroad

[Germany Term](#) (Spring 2018)

Internships, Research & Employment

- Neural Stem Cell Institute (Research Intern), Rensselaer, NY
- Evolutionary Genetics Research Team (Research Student), Union College, Schenectady, NY
- National Geographic (Science and Exploration Operating Programs Intern), Washington D.C
- ReDI School (Intern), Berlin, Germany
- Klinedinst PC (Marketing Intern), San Diego, CA
- Pulse LLC (Senior editor of young adult fiction), Virtual



Awards

Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society, Most Impactful Leader in Publications and Media; Delta Phi Alpha National German Language Honor Society

Project Abstract/Summary of Proposal

I will be going abroad to acquire a proficiency in German Language. I will be immersing myself in German culture as a United States representative of the biological science field, and therefore will be taking German courses in biology in order to learn specific vocabulary for my field. I will also participate in an internship, most likely a research rotation, to engage with the hard sciences in Germany on a vocational level.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.

When I return to the U.S., I plan to finish prerequisite classes and continue research before applying to veterinary school.

Career Goal

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

About Samantha:

Samantha is very passionate about the biological sciences, and contributing to research with a strong impact on clinical breakthroughs. As a STEM superpower of Europe, Germany is the perfect place for her to pursue her interests on an international level. Samantha aims to establish a proficiency in her field between both the United States and Germany, while immersing herself in another culture and gaining valuable language skills. She is extremely thankful for this opportunity, and for all of the mentors involved in helping her to reach this achievement.

“Being abroad in Germany was one of the most life-changing experiences of my life, because everyone there was a mentor: my professors, the friends I made, even random people I could ask for directions on the street.”

Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF)

The teaching assistant program in France (TAPIF) offers young educators the opportunity to work in France for 7 months, teaching English to French students of all ages. The program's goal is to strengthen foreign language instruction in French schools by establishing a native speaker presence, while also providing young educators around the world with initial international teaching experience and first-hand knowledge of French language and culture. Assistants teach 12 hours per week in up to 3 schools. Classes are conducted in English.

Matthew Carrigan '19

Wellesley, Massachusetts

Major

Political Science and French & Francophone Studies

Extracurricular Activities

Club Hockey Team

Term/Mini Term Abroad

[France Term](#) (Fall 2017)

[South Africa Mini-Term](#) (Winter Break 2018)

Awards

Pi Sigma Alpha, Pi Delta Phi, Aime Simon French Term Abroad Prize,
Union College Dean's List

Teaching Placement

Caen, France



Brianna Cummings '19

Hyde Park, New York

Major

Biochemistry and French & Francophone Studies

Extracurricular Activities

Chemistry and Biochemistry Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Gamma Phi Beta,
Wold Minerva Council

Term/Mini Term Abroad

[France Term](#) (Fall 2016)

Awards

W. Howard Wright Scholarship, Kurt W. Hillig (1975) Biochemistry Prize, Phi Beta
Kapa, Sigma Xi (Scientific Research Society), Pi Delta Phi (French Honor Society),
Surdna Summer Research Fellowship, Union College Deans List

Host Country Engagement:

I will be teaching English to students in the Académie de Lille at the secondary level for 7 months. This will require me to fully immerse myself within the town that my school is located. This program will require me to develop strong relationships with my students as well as the other faculty and assistants at my assigned school.

Plans Upon Return To U.S.:

Gain clinical experience before applying to medical school

Teaching Placement

Lille, France



Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF)

The teaching assistant program in France (TAPIF) offers young educators the opportunity to work in France for 7 months, teaching English to French students of all ages. The program’s goal is to strengthen foreign language instruction in French schools by establishing a native speaker presence, while also providing young educators around the world with initial international teaching experience and first-hand knowledge of French language and culture. Assistants teach 12 hours per week in up to 3 schools. Classes are conducted in English.

Anna Curtis '19

Syracuse, New York

Major

Sociology

Minor

English & French

Extracurricular Activities

Girls on the Run (Coach), Boys and Girls Club (Volunteer), Gamma Phi Beta Sorority (Member and Ritual Assistant) Sociology Newsletter (Editor and Contributor), Notetaker

Term/Mini Term Abroad

[Ireland Term](#) (Fall 2017)

Awards

Union College Dean's List, Union College Presidential Scholarship

Teaching Placement

Versailles, France



Daniel Toland '19

Allentown, Pennsylvania

Major

Psychology/Music

Minor

French

Extracurricular Activities

Japanese Taiko Drumming and World Music Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, Pep Band, Alpha Delta Phi, Volunteer at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Recreation Therapy Department

Term/Mini Term Abroad

[France Term](#) (Fall 2017)

Awards

Union College Deans List, Interdepartmental Honors, Summer Research Fellowship, Student-Faculty Liaison for the recruitment of a new music professor in 2019, Charles Alexander Richmond Prize in Music

Internships & Employment

- Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital – Intern – Schenectady, New York (January 2019-present)
- Union College – Writing Center Consultant – Schenectady, New York (September 2018-present)
- Union College – Summer Research Fellow – Schenectady, New York (Summer 2018)

Teaching Placement

Toulouse, France



Gilman Scholarship

Gilman scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program costs. The program aims to diversify the students who study and intern abroad and the counties and regions where they go. Students receiving a Federal Pell Grant from two-and-four-year institutions who will be studying abroad or participating in an international internship for academic credit are eligible to apply. Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages and economies – making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector.

Aseel Algomai '20

Hometown: Bronx, New York

Major: Political Science/Philosophy

Gilman Term Abroad: Greece



Gianna Morton '21

Hometown: Greenbelt, Maryland

Major: Physics

Gilman Term Abroad: Australia



Marina Angelopoulos '21

Hometown: Niskayuna, New York

Major: Political Science & Chinese

Gilman Term Abroad: China



Ademilola "Lola" Oyetuga '20

Hometown: Tacoma, Washington

Major: Neuroscience

Gilman Term Abroad: Cambodia



Bonelyn De Los Santos '21

Hometown: Bronx, New York

Major: Psychology

Gilman Term Abroad: France



Melisa Rodrigues De Pina '21

Hometown: Dorchester, Massachusetts

Major: Sociology

Gilman Term Abroad: Brazil



Valentina Garcia '21

Hometown: Lowell, Massachusetts

Major: Psychology

Gilman Term Abroad: Brazil



Jocelyn Santos '21

Hometown: Worcester, Massachusetts

Major: Anthropology

Gilman Term Abroad: Vietnam



Victoria Machuca '22

Hometown: Bealeton, Virginia

Major: Political Science

Gilman Term Abroad: Brazil



Christina Vu '21

Hometown: Albany, New York

Major: Mathematics

Gilman Term Abroad: China



Freeman ASIA Scholarship

Location: China (Fall)

The Freeman-ASIA program is designed to support U.S.-based undergraduates with demonstrated financial need who are planning to study abroad in East or Southeast Asia. The program's goal is to increase the number of U.S. citizens and permanent residents with first-hand exposure to and understanding of Asia and its peoples and cultures. Award recipients are required to share their experiences with their home campuses or communities to encourage study abroad by others and fulfill the program's goal of increasing understanding of Asia in the United States.



Marina Angelopoulos '21

Niskayuna, New York

Major: *Political Science and Chinese*

PPIA Public Service Weekend

Location: Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, SUNY Albany

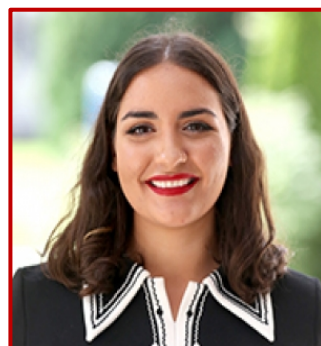
PPIA's mission and overall focus are to increase the participation and inclusion of traditionally underrepresented groups at the highest level of public sector leadership. NASPAA, the membership association of graduate programs in public administration, public policy, and public affairs, supports these goals and shares PPIA's vision in creating a new generation of diverse students to enter graduate programs and pursue careers in public service. PPIA is thrilled to continue hosting Public Service Weekends in 2019 to introduce more students to the broad range of opportunities available in the field of public service.



Harjot "Shaun" Uppal '20

Riverside, California

Major: *Chemistry/Gender Studies*



Angelica DeDona '19

Glen Head, New York

Major: *English and Political Science*