SUMMER PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Student Profiles
2012
Arredondo, Jose

Jose recently completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio. While attending UTSA, he majored in Public Health and minored in Biology. While he was a student in the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, he was able to complete an internship at the New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. Before the summer was complete, Jose wrote his final paper on the prevalence of Tuberculosis in Hispanic populations.

Baker, Garry

Garry Baker is expected to be entering his senior year at the University of Virginia in the fall. He is currently double majoring in Global Public Health and Biology as well as minoring in Bioethics. While spending his summer with the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, Garry interned for NY Presbyterian Hospital and wrote a paper on the barriers to primary care. Since the program, Garry says that he is able to view healthcare more holistically and better understand health decisions.

Basilio, Carlo

Carlo Basilio has recently received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia. While attending the University of Virginia, he majored in Biology and minored in Environmental Science. While spending his summer with the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, Carlo was able to intern for Third Root Community Health Center. Also during that summer, he wrote a final paper on the effectiveness of acupuncture during pregnancy. Through his experience at SPHSP, Carlo has gained new interests and is taking a gap year before pursuing an MD/MPH.
**Berrios, Cassandra**

Cassandra Berrios is expected to be entering her senior year at Syracuse University in the fall. She is currently majoring in Public Health/Pre-Med and minoring in Gerontology. Because of her high interest in aging, Cassandra wrote her final research paper on diabetes amongst seniors in Fort Washington. Also during that time spent at SPHSP, Cassandra was able to intern for ARC XVI Fort Washington Senior Center. Since the program, Cassandra says that because of this experience she has learned how to handle difficult, high anxiety, situations.

**Blanks, Sara**

Sara Blanks is a recent graduate from the University of Michigan. While completing her studies, she majored in Women’s Studies and minored in Community Action and Social Change. While spending her summer with SPHSP, Sara chose to write her final paper on the benefits and barriers of school-based mental health services. Also during this summer, Sara received the opportunity to intern for NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene. Since that summer, Sara says that her motivation, as well as her confidence, has increased in pursuit of her goals. She is now pursuing an MPH degree at the University of Michigan.

**Bowman, Sloane**

Sloane Bowman is a recent graduate from Purdue University. While at Purdue, Sloane majored in Public Health and minored in Law and Society. During her time spent with SPHSP, Sloane interned for Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and shortly after, she wrote her final research paper on hormonal contraception and barrier methods. Through the SPHSP, Sloane says she has gained a more clear direction for her career path.
Camacho, Elvis

Elvis Camacho has recently received his degree in Neuroscience and Behavior from Columbia University. While spending his summer with the Summer Public Health Scholar’s Program, Elvis was given the opportunity to intern for Mailman School of Public Health. Towards the end of that summer, he also completed his final research paper on male accessibility to emergency contraception in three different neighborhoods in New York City. Elvis just started medical school at the College of Physicians & Surgeons at Columbia University.

Castillo, Esthefany

Esthefany Castillo is entering her senior year at Wesleyan University. She is currently majoring in Sociology and minoring in the Study of Education. While spending her summer with SPHSP, she interned for Mailman School of Public Health and wrote her final research paper on improving community health through technology. Currently, Esthefany is focusing on her upcoming senior year and the events to follow.

Davong, Nancy

Nancy Davong is a rising senior at Biola University. In May, 2014 she is expected to receive her degree in nursing. During her summer spent with the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, Nancy was able to intern for NY Presbyterian Hospital. She wrote her final research paper on the built environmental effects on physical activity, obesity and cardiovascular disease. In the past year, Nancy has met different academic challenges which have caused her to consider psychosocial and spiritual aspects of mental health.
**Edmonds, Megan**

Megan Edmonds is a rising senior at Spelman College. She is currently majoring in Psychology and minoring in Public Health. During her time with the SPHSP, Megan had the wonderful opportunity to intern for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the department of Health Promotion/ Disease Prevention. Also during that summer, she wrote her final research paper on racial disparity and breast cancer mortality. She says that the biggest change in her life has been the understanding of public health. She relates life situations to her understanding of the field.

**Edney, Robert**

Robert Edney is a History major at Amherst College. He is expected to enter his senior year this fall. While spending his summer with the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, he was able to intern for NY Metro Physicians for National Health Plan. In conclusion of his summer, he chose to write his final paper on the flaws of the United States private health insurance industry. Robert spent his semester following SPHSP studying in Spain.

**Gray, Thelesha**

Thelesha Gray has recently graduated from Bloomfield College as a Nursing major. During her summer with the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, she had the pleasure of interning for NY Presbyterian Hospital. Also during the summer, Thalesha completed her final research paper on the impact of low-income on the prevalence of cardiovascular disease among minority populations in the United States. Post SPHSP, Thalesha interned for the International Rescue Committee and is now working as a registered nurse at New York Presbyterian at Columbia University Medical Center in the Medicine Department.
Gutiérrez, Angelika

Angelika Gutiérrez graduated from The College of New Jersey in May, 2011 with a major in Sociology with a Specialization in Health and Environment and minored in Women and Gender Studies. During her tenure at SPHSP, she interned for Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and completed her final research paper on an analysis of current health information and data at CDC for eliminating health disparities in HIV and STD in adolescents and young adults. Recently, she has returned from Ecuador after spending a year of service there through WorldTeach. She is currently starting the graduate school application process for a Masters in Public Health.

Haag, Kendra

Kendra Haag is a rising senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is currently majoring in Biological Sciences and double minoring in Native American Studies and Anthropology. During her summer with SPHSP, Kendra had the experience of interning for Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health under the department of Sociomedical Sciences. Concluding that summer, she chose to write her final research paper on a chronic disease program in Indian country. Today, Kendra works with PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada) doing research about Native American youth and she is still deciding on a program for graduate school.

Haque, Ezazul

Ezazul Haque is a senior at CUNY York College. He is currently majoring in Environmental Health Science and minoring in Chemistry. While spending his summer with the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, Ezazul had the chance to intern for Community League of the Heights. He wrote his final research paper on an analysis of the rodent infestation in Washington Heights. During summer 2013 he interned with the NYC Department of Environmental Conservation mapping decommissioned drinking water wells for Queens residents, overlaid with environmental health risks. He is currently preparing to apply for graduate school.
Jackson, Ryan

Ryan Jackson graduated from the University of Michigan in May of 2012. While attending the university, he majored in Psychology and minored in Gender and Health. While spending his summer with the Summer Public Health Scholars Program, Ryan experienced interning for Office of State Senator Adriano Espaillat. At the end of that summer, he chose to write his final research paper on housing disparities and the effects on personal and environmental health. Ryan says that he has the desire to work in the field of public health in a large urban environment such as New York City. Currently, he is working for the National Alzheimer’s Association.

Johnson, Marcus

Marcus Johnson graduated from Tuskegee University in 2012 with a major in Biology and minor in Business Administration. During the summer he spent with SPHSP, Marcus had the opportunity to intern for NY Presbyterian Hospital. Concluding the program, he chose to write his final research paper on “Understanding Patient no-shows in the Medicaid program”. Today, he is a graduate student in the School of public health at Southern Illinois University and was a Teaching Assistant for SPHSP 2013.

Kinslow, Cameron

Cameron Kinslow graduated from Pitzer College in May, 2011. At the Claremont Colleges Cameron majored in Organizational Studies focusing in Health Care Systems and minored in Sociology. While participating in the 2012 Summer Public Health Scholars Program, he had the opportunity to intern with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control. Inspired by his experiences, he elected to write his final research paper on client centered care for Tuberculosis treatment among Haitian immigrants. After completing two years as a HealthCorps Coordinator at San Bernardino High he returned to New York City. In Fall 2013, Cameron began managing the Peer Health Exchange program in NYC public schools lacking comprehensive health education.
Lopez, Jaime

Jaime Lopez graduated from the University of California, San Diego in 2011 with degrees in Anthropology and Political Science. During his time at SPHSP, he interned at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Jaime wrote his final paper on pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), in regards to prevention of HIV transmission. Today, he is pursuing an MPH at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

Lopez-Rios, Javier

Javier Lopez-Rios graduated from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez with a major in Psychology. While spending his summer with the SPHSP, Javier had the experience of interning for the Young Men’s Health Initiative/ Young Men’s Clinic under the department of Population and Family Health. Javier chose to write a meta-analysis on access to healthcare for men who have sex with men for his final paper. Since then, Javier has moved from Puerto Rico to New York City and is working as an assistant research scientist at the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies while pursuing his MPH at Hunter College. He continues to praise the program for opening doors for him.

Magaña, Miriam

Miriam Magaña is a senior at Macalester College. She is currently majoring in Anthropology with a concentration in Community and Global Health. At SPHSP, she had the opportunity to intern for Inwood Community Services. Towards the end of the program, she chose to write her final paper on the outlet density effects of Underage Drinking. Since then, Miriam has gained several different experiences with public health. Immediately following the program, she was an intern at the Sonoma County Department of Health Services. Following that, she worked as an office assistant and web page designer for Alex Ivanoff, DDS. She currently is working part time as a health advocate at the Minnesota Internship Center High School.
Marshack, Emanuel

Emanuel Marshack is senior at Yale University with a major in East Asian studies. At SPHSP, he interned for Community League of the Heights and made a final presentation of a sustainable intervention for rodent infestation in Washington Heights. He recently completed his senior thesis.

Mesfin, Eden

Eden Mesfin is a senior at Stanford University with a major in Product Design and minor in Anthropology. As part of SPHSP, she interned with Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities at Columbia University Medical Center. Her final paper was on various aspects of diabetes management in the elderly. She recently started research at her university.

Montiel, Kevin

Kevin Montiel is a recent graduate from Columbia College with a major in Psychology and minor in Statistics. He interned with Center of Excellence in Minority Health and Health Disparities at Columbia University Medical Center while at SPHSP. His final paper was on self-efficacy and diabetes management. He says he has become interested in health psychology and biopsychosocial approach to illness and wellness, applying it to his own life as well.
Morrison, Justin

Justin Morrison graduated from Howard University in 2011 with a major in Philosophy and minor in English language. While at SPHSP he interned at Center for Disease Control and Prevention. His final paper was about understanding community coalitions. He is now studying law at Howard University.

Mulkey, Nyckiyah

Nyckiyah Mulkey is a senior at State University of New York at Old Westbury. Her major was in Societal Health. During her summer at SPHSP, she interned with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Her final paper was on the benefits and challenges of School-Based Health Center and its effects on adolescent health. She is currently gearing up for senior year.

Murrieta, Christina

Christina Murrieta graduated from Arizona State University in 2012 with a major in Business Communication and minor in Sociology. Her summer at SPHSP was spent interning at New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which culminated into a final paper on child obesity and fitness programs in New York City. She says the program was vital in improving her understanding of how public health affects her community.
Ndubuizu, Christopher

Christopher Ndubuizu graduated from UC Berkeley in 2012 with a major in American Studies. During his summer at SPHSP he was interning at Mailman School of Public Health, which culminated into a final paper on obesity among African-American women. He is currently busy applying to graduate school programs.

Nixon, Shannon

Shannon Nixon graduate from Salisbury University in 2012 with a major in Community Health and minor in Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution. While at SPHSP, she interned for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is currently moving to Atlanta for better job opportunities.

Odio, Edward

Edward Odio is a senior at Ithaca College with a major in Music Education and performance and minor in Biology. As part of SPHSP, he interned at New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and wrote a final paper about Asthma and the various Environmental intervention programs in East Harlem. He feels his awareness of public health problems has increased.
Olibrice, Berlyn

Berlyn Olibrice is a recent graduate from University of Massachusetts with a major in Public Health Science. During her summer at SPHSP she interned with ARC XVI Fort Washington Senior Center. Her final paper was about diabetes in Hispanic populations. After her summer at SHPSP, she had the opportunity to go abroad to Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Haiti, which added to her awareness about public health issues. She has become passionate about pursuing MPH as a career.

Ortega-Enriquez, Elisa

Elisa Ortega-Enriquez graduated from UC Berkeley in 2011 with a major in Social Welfare. While at SPHSP she interned with the East & Central Harlem District Public Health Office through the NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene. Her final paper was on the results of the post Integrated Pest Management phone surveys and assessment of an asthma intervention program. After the program she worked as an AmeriCorps Program Coordinator for Oakland Kicks Asthma Program at the American Lung Association in California. During the summer she interned with the Children's Hospital and Research Center, Oakland as a Research Associate conducting surveys around the social determinants of health. Currently she is a Community and Clinical Health Educator with La Clinica de La Raza in Oakland, CA teaching nutrition, social emotional health and sex ed. to middle school students. It is her goal to enroll within the next couple of years in a dual master degree program for public health and nursing specializing in adolescent health.

Pagan, Patricia

Patricia Pagan is studying at University of Puerto Rico with a major in Biology. She wants to become a physician and public health specialist. She interned with Harlem Health Promotion Center while at SPHSP and wrote her final paper on the topic of hypertension in Latinos in New York City. She is now more confident that she wants to make changes in the health/health system of our country.
Page, Erin

Erin Page is graduated from University of Delaware in 2012 with a major in Human Services and minor in Psychology. She is currently pursuing her MPH at CUNY Hunter College. While at SPHSP she interned with Mailman School of Public Health. As part of the final assignment she wrote a paper on mental health needs and assessment in South Africa.

Peralta, Maria

Maria Peralta is a graduate of Hamilton College with a major in Women’s Studies and minor in Hispanic Studies. She is currently doing a post baccalaureate program at Columbia University and intends to apply to medical school. While at SPHSP she interned with Planned Parenthood of NYC. Her final paper explored the nuances of access to emergency contraception among low income women.

Perez-Ramirez, Diana

Diana Perez-Ramirez graduated from Arizona State University in 2011 with a major in Nonprofit Leadership and Management. She is currently entering the workforce. Her internship at SPHSP was with Columbia University Medical Center. Her final paper was on culturally tailored child mediated health interventions, specifically targeting stroke prone Latinos.
Peter, Keioshiah

Keioshiah Peter is a senior at The University of New Mexico. Her major is in Sociology with a concentration in Human Services and Social Policy, minor in Native American Studies. She interned with the School of Nursing at Columbia University while at SPHSP. Her final paper was on Suicide Prevention amongst the LGBT Native community. She is now working as a research program assistant at Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health.

Plump, DeZell

DeZell Plump is a 2012 graduate of Alabama A&M University, where he majored in Biology with a concentration in Pre-Health. His internship, while at SPHSP, was with the College of Dental Medicine at Columbia University in the Social and Behavioral Science sector. His final paper detailed the oral health of elderly people in the Meals on Wheels program in New York City. Currently, DeZell is a high school science teacher in the urban, inner city Birmingham metropolitan area. He plans to pursue his Master's in Education next fall. Since the program, he feels his awareness and interest in public health has increased and plans to incorporate what he learned at SPHSP to the field of education.

Poinsette, Ephesian

Ephesian Poinsette is a senior at Morehouse College with a major in Biology on the pre-dental track. While at SPHSP, he interned with the College of Dental Medicine at Columbia University. His final paper was about Health Promotion and disease prevention in Oral Public Health. He now has a greater interest in public health than he did at the beginning of the program.
Ramawickrama, Sukhee

Sukhee Ramawickrama recently graduated from University of Michigan with a major in cognitive science and minor in community action and social change. She interned at Young Men's Health Initiative as part of SPHSP. Her final paper was about access to primary healthcare for returning citizens after incarceration. She is currently working as a health coordinator for a high school in Brooklyn through the nonprofit HealthCorps. She feels thankful for her SPHSP experience.

Randall, Christine

Christine Randall is a senior at Yale University, studying Anthropology. She interned at Mailman School of Public Health during her tenure at SPHSP. Her final paper was on hypertension management in East Harlem. She is currently studying in Scotland now as part of a study-abroad program.

Sarumi, Faruq

Faruq Sarumi is a senior at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign with a major in General Studies. As part of SPHSP he interned for NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene. He wrote a final paper on teenage pregnancy in New York City. He recently made a switch in his education route to nursing.
Sili, 'Amelia Lupepau'u Kafo'ou

Amelia Sili is a recent graduated from Mount St. Mary’s College with her BSN. As part of SPHSP, she was privileged to intern for ARC XVI Fort Washington and promoted participation of seniors in a diabetes prevention and management program called Together on Diabetes. Amelia was inspired to write her final paper on Diabetes in the Tongan Community, heavily affected by diabetes, obesity and various other health disparities. She is currently working at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles in the Cardiovascular Acute department as a Patient Care Services Aide and studying for her Nursing Licensure Examination. Amelia says that she appreciates this program because she better understands the different factors that can contribute to making communities suffer from high numbers of health disparities, especially her own. She plans to work closer with Pacific Islander community leaders in Southern California on health education within the community.

Small, Cerilene

Cerilene Small is studying as a senior at New York College of Nursing. At SPHSP, her internship was with NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene. Her final presentation detailed the statistics, factors, solutions and the Law about teenage pregnancy in New York City. She will be starting her Nursing Clinical sequence in her undergraduate program soon.

Tarver, Kevenshay

Kevenshay Tarver is a recent graduate from University of Alabama with a major in Communicative Disorders and minor in Human Development. She interned with Centers for Disease Control & Prevention with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry during her summer at SPHSP. Her final presentation detailed the correlation between asthma and environmental toxins in low income areas. Currently, Kevenshay is a Master of Public Health student at Morehouse School of Medicine.
Taylor, Julian

Julian Taylor is a senior at Howard University with a major in health education and minor in Biology. He interned with Hip Hop Public Health at Columbia University Medical Center as a part of at SPHSP. He presented a paper on Hip Hop and Health Education. Post SPHSP, he is a lot more confident of his career pursuits and feels there has been exponential growth in many areas in his life.

Trujillo, Tammy

Tammy Trujillo is a senior at Northern Arizona University with a major in Political Science and minor in Criminal Justice. While at SPHSP she interned with NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene at Columbia University Medical Center. Her final paper was on pregnancy prevention education in the Bronx. She is currently engaged in school, while improving her grades in fall 2012.

Velasquez, Andrew

Andrew Velasquez graduated from UCLA with a major in Spanish Community and Culture. While at SPHSP he interned with Mailman School of Public Health. His final presentation explored the nuances of access to emergency contraception among males. He just started his MPH at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health.
Villasenor, Jason

Jason Villasenor graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2012. He interned with NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene while at SPHSP. His final presentation described School based health centers as a solution to combating asthma in students. He is now working at the Illinois Department of Public Health as part of the AmeriCorps team.

Walters, Tieisha

Tieisha Walters graduated from the University at Albany in 2012 with a B.A. in Rhetoric and Communication and minor in Sociology. While at SPHSP, she interned with the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, where she focused on school based health. Her final paper explored the nuances of violence amongst inner city youths and its effect on health outcomes. After the SPHSP program, Tieisha volunteered for 12 weeks in Colombia, South America and is now working as a Care Coordinator for a nonprofit, focusing on assisting Medicaid patients. Tieisha plans to pursue a dual master in public health and social work.

Marshall, Dylan

Dylan Marshall graduated from Columbia University in 2013 with a Major in Biology and a concentration in Hispanic Studies. During the Summer Public Health Scholar’s Program, Dylan worked with the UNIDOS Inwood Coalition researching alcohol vendor density in the surrounding community and possible interventions to reduce teen drinking. He is currently a first year student at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.