

2016 Summer Funded Internships

During Summer 2016, the Helene and Grant Wilson Center for Social Entrepreneurship funded 13 internships at nonprofits and social enterprises:

Sheela Aryal, MSc

Information Systems, 2016

Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems

Host Organization: [The National Lighthouse Museum](#)

Job Title: Database Intern

Sheela is an international graduate student, completing a master's degree in Information Systems. She has an MBA from her native Nepal and extensive work experience in database management and data analysis. As a Staten Island resident, Sheela was interested in the internship position at the National Lighthouse Museum. Sheela was interested in working for a U.S. nonprofit organization and saw the position as a way to extend her "tech skills."

The National Lighthouse Museum was seeking an intern to help create a national database of light keepers—designed to be an open-source, collaborative database that brings together amateur historians with lighthouse societies and museums—and create biographic entries for keepers employed by the United States Lighthouse Society. Sheela worked closely with her supervisor, the museum curator, to sift through, transcribe, and compile information from various sources, such as the light keeper register, U.S. census records, photographs, newspapers, and secondary sources to build detailed profiles for notable keepers. While there was a data entry and administrative piece to her internship, Sheela played an integral role in the database's overall design once she understood the purpose and required functionality. The internship gave her an opportunity to learn about the United States Lighthouse Society, and by the end of her internship, Sheela's supervisor had her guide site tours for museum visitors. Sheela also proactively sought other projects and opportunities that matched her skill set. She worked with the CFO to upgrade the accounting and bookkeeping systems, which required her to learn QuickBooks. She enjoyed this project as she was able to use and update her MBA training as well as apply her systems skills.

Marayah Ayoub-Schreifeldt, BA

Psychology, 2018

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [International Rescue Committee](#)

Job Title: New Roots Program Intern (2016)

Marayah is a multi-lingual rising junior majoring in Psychology, and minoring in Peace and Justice Studies, with extensive public service experience both locally and internationally. Her experiences have made her "passionate about issues of development, social integration and trauma" and the IRCs work with refugees drew her to apply for the internship. During her time at Pace, she took a "Humans and Food" class, which gave her informative insight on issues such food desserts and the role food plays in different cultures worldwide. This class further reinforced her interest in working

with displaced or under-served populations. Her long-term goal is to work in the field of humanitarian action, in particular with people with psychological trauma.

Marayah's internship involved active participation in several of New Roots refugee programs – including cooking and nutrition activities with new arrivals, assisting in farm site training, maintenance and food production activities; instructing in the Youth Summer Academy, as well as office work at the midtown resettlement office helping with program development, reporting and monitoring. Her wide range of responsibilities were well-managed by a task list and weekly check-ins with her manager Katherine. Marayah's interests and experiences to-date have always been in direct services, and she has always had strong reservations about working for a large organization, fearing that bureaucracy would impede impact. The New Roots program gave her a different perspective – and the whole range of services and program all made sense to her. After this experience, she wants to be better versed in nonprofit management and administration. She plans to take a class through the nonprofit studies minor in the Fall semester.

Host Organization: [Hour Children](#)

Job Title: After School and Summer Camp Intern (2017)

Marayah worked as a summer camp intern for the Hour Children's Summer Camp program; she was assigned a group of seven children in the 9-11 year age range. Her day started with managing drop-offs each morning from 8:30-10am, then engaging the children in indoor games and activities or just overseeing free play until lunch time. Most afternoons, Marayah led a field trip – to the zoo, park, pool, baseball game, or something similar. While it was hard work, that kept her on her toes, Marayah enjoyed interacting with the children, and sharing these city experiences with them. Her biggest challenge was clarity and consistency; finding the balance between enforcing the protocols and rules, and being forgiving, allowing the kids to be kids.

Eileen Lee-Fung, MPA

Public Administration, 2016

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [Services Now for Adult Persons \(SNAP\)](#)

Job Title: Innovative Senior Center Program Intern

Eileen is a graduate international student studying for her Master's in Public Administration. Her commitment to public service, specifically towards senior citizens is evident in her extensive volunteer activities including volunteering every week for God's Love We Deliver; an organization that prepares and delivers meals for the aged and ill. Through New York Cares, she has taught computer skills to senior citizens at the Sunnyside Community Services in Queens. In her native Venezuela, she took a class in geroscience, to better understand aging and age related diseases. It inspired her to start her own nonprofit dedicated to abating age-related issues in the senior community. Applying for a summer internship at SNAP was a natural progression and gave her a chance to see a U.S. nonprofit at work.

Day-to-day, Eileen worked closely with SNAP-Queens Center Director Nina Bhola, assisting in all matters related to all programs at the center. She helped manage logistics and activities for the day to day programming, and came up with innovative ideas for other activities such as the Senior Olympics, during the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. She was tasked with improving community outreach

– helping with public announcements. Eileen also saw an opportunity to sign SNAP up for Amazon Smile, whereby Amazon donates a portion of all purchases to nonprofits as recognized by its customers. Eileen also worked on developing a grant proposal, and during the second year of her MPA hopes to take a grant-writing class and a class in financial resource management of a nonprofit.

Jan Schoepp Gerhard, MSc

Computer Science, 2017

Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems

Host Organization: [TADA! Youth Theatre](#)

Job Title: Marketing and Development Intern

Jan is a first year international first student studying for his Master's in Computer Science. While his academic focus has always been and continues to be computer science, Jan is also been conscious of developing as a person. He spent his junior year abroad in Hong Kong, and deliberately chose to leave his native Norway to come to the United States for his graduate degree, to allow him to better understand and immerse in different cultures. He realizes that this internship is not related to his academic training, but likes being challenged. As it turns out, he put his computer skills to good use at TADA!, initiating and implementing several efficiencies. As Jan commented "it felt good to contribute and see the immediate value of my work."

While TADA! had specific tasks planned for the intern, they also wanted to be responsive to the interns skill set and interests. TADA! Jan helped TADA!'s marketing director with their outreach and donations. He helped better streamline the process, ensuring more targeted emails to the relevant TADA! communities – e.g. parents, donors, general supporters. He ensured the administration had regular reports and status updates on outreach. He also worked with the development team researching articles about youth theatre, and gathering information on interested editors and writers. This was an ongoing project throughout his 8 weeks. As Jan became more familiar with TADA! he took initiative and suggested enhancements and automation of existing processes.

Jessika Graterol-Alfonzo, MPA

Public Administration, 2016

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [Clinton Global Initiative \(CGI\)](#)

Job Title: Program Intern

Jessika is a graduate international student studying for her Master's in Public Administration; with a focus on healthcare. She has held several on-campus jobs, gaining valuable experiential learning. This past year, she worked as student research assistant to Dr. Lijun He, one of four Wilson Funded Faculty Fellows. Post-graduation, Jessika aspires to work in public health, working towards finding scalable solutions to preventive global health issues. She was particularly interested in the Clinton Global Initiative internship for its reputation and its unique approach to creating impact. A thoughtful application and a strong reference from her research supervisor, Dr. He secured her CGI internship. CGI also hired an undergraduate student from Pace as part of their paid summer internship program.

The CGI program team curates the content for CGI's flagship event, the Annual Meeting; held in New York every September. The program intern supported the program team in developing sessions and generating content for the Annual Meeting, including issues addressed and speakers selected for plenary sessions, keynote speeches, special sessions and breakouts. This was a critical support role that greatly impacted the quality of the program. The CGI internship program is well-rounded and organized. Interns are assigned to "fellows" who specialize in a broad range of agenda items for the CGI September meetings. Based on Jessika's strong interest in health, she worked closely with the "health fellow" but also with two other fellows. Jessika benefited by deep diving into a broad range of social issues, outside of her main interest in public health.

Brittany Marti, BA

Psychology, 2017

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [Sanctuary for Families](#)

Job Title: Program Evaluation and Client Data Intern

Brittany is a rising senior majoring in Psychology. Throughout her high school and college years she has engaged in community service and volunteered at nonprofits, enabling her to build strong people and communication skills. As her academic resume expanded, Brittany sought more skilled volunteer positions allowing her to put her analytical skills to use. Her junior year research project expanded her knowledge in research, data collection, and data analysis. These diverse and substantive experiences led to a funded summer internship at Sanctuary for Families' internship.

Brittany had several evolving tasks and projects in relation to program evaluation throughout her internship. Initially, she worked on pre-service data analysis and helped re-design the in-take survey based on past feedback. Brittany's work built on earlier survey work SFF had done for specific programs. Diana, Brittany's supervisor, recognized Brittany's strong skill set – and launched the survey across a broader audience, across multiple programs and service areas. Brittany's research work in psychology was key, allowing her to successfully optimize and conduct the surveys. She worked on distributing the survey and gathering post-service data through phone surveys with clients.. With oversight and guidance from her supervisor, Brittany prepared for the phone interviews, recognizing the sensitive nature of her assignment. Finally, she evaluated the post-service survey data.

Shiralee Peer, MSc

Information Systems, 2016

Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems

Host Organization: [Re:Gender](#)

Job Title: Program Intern

Shiralee is an international graduate student from India studying Information Systems who will graduate in December 2016. Shiralee "specializes" in Database Management and Analysis, and has extensive experience in this field. While at Pace she worked in Human Resources and also as a Graduate Assistant in SDACA. In this role, she planned and organized various campus activities and events for student development including the Pace Leadership Conference, Pace Cultural Fest, Pace

Spirit Ambassador, Denny's Super Night, etc., all designed for students to have an improved campus experience.

Shiralee was hired to help with the transition of their donor software from Donor Perfect. However, other projects took priority and Shiralee has been working on research for re:gender's Economic Justice Project centered around Immigration, Housing and Gender. Shiralee has spent the past month doing extensive research for the public service campaign that re:gender will be launching and has been connecting with other organizations working in the space to leverage the messaging. The last few weeks of Shiralee's internship will be focused on optimizing re:gender's donor database software.

Nihal Al Qawasmi, BA

Communication Studies, 2017

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [America Needs You \(ANY\)](#)

Job Title: Program Intern

Nihal is a rising senior at Pace's Pleasantville campus double majoring in Communication Arts and Journalism and Political Science. Despite a heavy course load, Nihal finds time for community involvement; she recently co-lead a weekly freshman seminar that introduced students to college and career basics. She is also active in Pace's African America, Latino, Asian, and Native American (AALANA) program and serving as a mentor for freshman of different backgrounds, with the goal of ensuring these students have a safe space on campus and a sense of belonging. Additionally, she has broad marketing and event management experiences. These experiences made her an ideal candidate for ANY. Nihal was attracted to ANY as she related to the mission as a first generation college student herself.

Nihal's role as a program intern involved preparing and managing all the logistics leading up to the launch of ANY's summer fellowship program. These tasks ranged from registering fellows, regularly communicating program logistics to managing details such as name badges and biographies. She enjoyed being an integral part of ANY's programs. In addition to doing a lot of day to day operational tasks for the summer fellowship program, Nihal put her communications and marketing experience to work. She managed ANY's twitter, Instagram and Pinterest accounts; coming up with creative campaigns (and giveaways). Her experience managing her own website and doing social media for several campaigns and conferences was vital to her success at ANY. She quickly adopted the "voice" of ANY in her messaging.

Alexander Rea, BA

Communication Studies, 2017

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [9/11 Tribute Center](#)

Job Title: Media Intern

Alex is a rising Dyson senior majoring in Communications Studies, with a minor in Arts and Entertainment Management. Prior to this internship, Alex interned at Atlantic Records and Photo Finish Records where he gained extensive experience in social media platforms. During his junior year, he spent a semester abroad at University of Westminster in England. Alex is a highly engaged

student, with a dynamic personality. In his cover letter to the Tribute Center, he writes “I would love to intern for the 9/11 Tribute Center because I believe it is an integral and important part of our city’s history. [...] The 9/11 Tribute Center does so much to honor and educate the community on our past [...] to take the skills that I have acquired during my time here in New York and put them towards something such as this would surely be a valuable and rewarding experience.” It is this mindfulness and enthusiasm that led to his hiring. While his semester abroad gave him some cross-cultural exposure, he will be looking for a class in intercultural communication or something similar to round out his academic portfolio for his senior year.

The 9/11 Tribute Center was seeking a summer intern to work with the Media Staff of their Education Department. This department is responsible for all aspects of programming, including exhibits, walking tours, school programs, public programs, and social media. Prior to the intern’s arrival, Tribute Center staff supervisors spent time identifying and planning out projects for all the interns, leading to substantive work for Alex from day one. Alex was able to choose some of his projects based on his interests and skills, and was assigned other tasks on a need/urgency basis. His primary jobs were managing the social media platforms including expanding the network of partner organizations to follow and cross market, keeping the Tribute Center blog updated, taking photographs at events and press conferences, and in general managing the outreach and messaging for the Tribute Center. Alex credits several of his internship projects where he was team leader, as well as many of his communications classes –pop culture, introduction to mass media, introduction to propaganda, and his study abroad experience, as keys to his summer internship success.

Kaela Rippon, BA

Psychology, 2017

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [Latino U College Access](#)

Job Title: Program Intern

Kaela is a rising senior at Pace’s Pleasantville campus, majoring in Psychology. She has had several jobs, including as a retail customer service rep, and working with youth as a child care provider and camp counsellor. While looking for summer opportunities, Kaela was attracted to Latino U’s mission and intimate culture. She saw it as a chance to build on her passion for working with youth and young adults. She was also curious about what working at a nonprofit organization. While her goal is to explore forensic psychology post-graduation, her summer internship has helped inform her about the social impact sector, and she is proud of her contributions towards Latino U’s mission. If her schedule allows, she plans to volunteer at Latino U during her senior year. Kaela’s role as a program intern involved managing all the logistics of Latino U’s College Access programs. These tasks ranged from doing targeted and consistent outreach, marketing through social media, updating marketing materials and collecting/updating relevant metrics for the programs. She helped develop a resource guide and participated in several College Coaching workshops. Kaela also helped with operational logistics such as processing donor checks, writing thank you letter, helping with Board Meeting preparation and other tasks as assigned. As a full-time intern at a small, but active and growing nonprofit, Kaela was able to participate in all aspects of running a nonprofit – from program management to operational and organizational management, gaining a first-hand insider’s look into a young, vibrant nonprofit.

Rachel Salcedo, BA

Women's & Gender Studies/Peace & Justice Studies, 2017

Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

Host Organization: [PAX NY](#)

Job Title: Public Affairs Intern

Rachel is a rising senior with majors in Women's and Gender Studies, Peace and Justice Studies and a minor in History. She is a life-long volunteer with a passion for helping people and ensuring justice. She is increasingly interested in expanding her knowledge and experiences with a more global lens. Rachel was encouraged by her professors to consider the PAX internship, which she quickly realized fit her passions to a tee. As she expressed in her cover letter "PAX is a nongovernmental peace organization, which is the kind of organization I would ideally like to work with in the future."

PAX NY is a one person office; making the environment unusual for an intern. Rachel commented during our site visit, that within her first few days at PAX she had to throw out all the "norms" of what a successful internship experience looked like. Rachel's primary internship responsibilities were to monitor the activities of the United Nations, with regards to PAX's program countries, meet with members of the NGO community, and advocate for peace. Her Model United Nations experiences were a great educational foundation for this internship opportunity. Her experiences in Model United Nations familiarized her with the United Nations system, and the internship gave her practical insights.

Arilla Sengupta, BBA

Finance, 2018

Lubin School of Business

Host Organization: [Hour Children](#)

Job Title: After School and Summer Camp Intern

Arilla is a rising junior majoring in Finance. When applying for a Wilson Funded Summer Internship, she was drawn to Hour Children's mission, and as a local Queens resident, she wanted to give back to her own community. Arilla's past jobs have been "customer facing", giving her experience dealing with people and speaking with authority. She also recognizes that a public speaking class she took last semester was extremely valuable for this internship. Her summer experience at Hour Children has helped her better understand the organizational differences between the nonprofit and corporate sector. While working in a direct services organization is tricky and at times emotionally challenging, Arilla walked away with a first-hand understanding of the context of the women and the families Hour Children works with; something she could only appreciate by being fully-immersed.

Arilla worked as a summer camp intern for the Hour Children Summer Camp program; she was assigned a group of seven children in the 7-8 year age range. Her day started with managing drop-offs each morning from 8:30-10am, then engaging the children in indoor games and activities or just overseeing free play until lunch time. Most afternoons, Arilla led a field trip – to the zoo, park, pool, or something similar. While it was hard work, that kept her on her toes, Arilla enjoyed interacting with the children, and sharing these experiences with them. Her biggest challenge was

communication; finding the balance between enforcing the protocols and being forgiving, for example, when a child made a cheeky comment or was insubordinate, how to balance discipline vs compassion. She leaned on her supervisor's guidance in situations where she felt unsure.