

## **PRINCETON REACHOUT56-81-06 FELLOWSHIPS**

May 2011

To our '56 classmates,  
on the occasion of our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion,  
and  
To our partners from '81 and '06 in  
Princeton ReachOut56-81-06:

Ten years ago, following our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion, Princeton ReachOut '56 inaugurated an annual award of public service Fellowships to graduating Princeton seniors.

Now, on the occasion of our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion, I've prepared this booklet to salute the Fellowship program and the 23 Princetonians who have become our Fellows over the past decade.

Our ReachOut public service entity, a vehicle for classmates and friends to take part in community service projects, has experienced a real renaissance during these years under the energetic and thoughtful leadership of Dan Gardiner '56 and Jack Fritts '56.

In our PROP program (Princeton ReachOut Pro-active), spearheaded by Jack, we've been engaged in a number of significant projects with an emphasis on education. You'll be able to read about this elsewhere. This booklet is dedicated to our PROF program – Princeton ReachOut Fellowship – which I helped initiate and have overseen since its launching in 2002.

I based the idea for this program on a highly successful model sponsored by my law firm. The Skadden Fellowships select 25 highly qualified law school graduates each year to practice two years of public interest law under grants provided by the firm. The big difference, of course, was that Skadden had a lot of money to finance their program, while ReachOut '56 had very little. So we launched a series of annual campaigns among our classmates to raise the funds needed to sponsor our Fellows. Through the generosity of over 130 alumni, we've managed to award at least two Fellowships each year for the past decade.

Our original concept was that each year we would sponsor two recent Princeton graduates to work for a year on a project of social significance for a non-profit organization of their choice. The initial \$25,000 award per Fellowship was increased to \$30,000 several years ago to remain competitive with other fellowships. The candidates have to perform their own research to find a public service organization in the United States that will agree to make a position available. The candidate and the organization then work together to devise an important project or function for the year of the award. We are particularly receptive to worthwhile projects sponsored by reputable

organizations that badly need the help but would otherwise be unable to afford the Fellow.

Three major developments affecting this program have occurred over this past decade.

- In February 2008, a partnership was created between members of the Classes of '56 and '81 under the name ReachOut56-81, to perpetuate and expand existing community service programs and develop new initiatives in the years ahead. One key element of this was that Jean Telljohann, the former class president of '81, became my co-head of the Fellowship program. Jean brings her intelligence, drive, and good judgment to the task and is playing an increasingly key role in our ongoing activities.
- This year, members of the Class of '06 joined forces with us in expanding the banner to ReachOut56-81-06, making our effort a truly inter-generational one spanning a full fifty years. Beginning next year, we will fully integrate members of '06 into the Fellowship selection process.
- Last year, through the generosity of a member of the Class of '56 and his family foundation, the 1956 ReachOut International Fellowship was created. Open to graduating Princeton seniors, its projects can be performed anywhere in the world and do not require affiliation with a sponsoring organization. We give special consideration to innovative and entrepreneurial endeavors, and there is a potential (actually realized during this second year) to extend a deserving project beyond its one year duration. The international aspect of this has sparked enormous interest on campus, and we've received over two dozen applications since the Fellowship was initiated. Both last year and this, the Fellowship has been awarded to a team of two seniors.

To maximize interest in PROF, we visit the campus each spring to talk to juniors and each fall to speak to seniors. We receive their applications in December, interview them in January, and determine and announce the awards soon thereafter. Over a dozen '56 classmates, as well as members of '81 and a number of the past Fellows, have participated in the screening and selection process, which has invariably proven to be a rewarding experience in itself; and the full ReachOut Board makes the final judgment on the awards.

The 23 Fellows now comprise a cadre of the finest young people you can imagine – bright, articulate, energetic, with a real passion for public service, and the creative talent to have embarked on truly impressive public interest projects.

A few years ago, President Shirley Tilghman wrote to congratulate us on our PROF initiative with these words: "You have chosen wonderful students who exemplify

the Princeton motto. The class has every reason to be proud of this project, which provides recognition and opportunity for students who have been committed to public service. I know a fair number of your fellows, and they are among the best we have."

We make an effort to keep in touch with our Fellows during their project year, offering such assistance and mentoring as seems appropriate. The Fellows, in turn, furnish us with detailed interim and final reports as to what they're accomplishing. A number of past Fellows have proven very helpful in motivating seniors to apply and assisting us in the selection process. We've arranged some dinners and other social functions to encourage interaction among the Fellows, spanning the years and their areas of interest – in effect, attempting to create an "Old Fellow" network that will be useful to them and constitute a real plus for us. And, as you'll see in the pages ahead, one of the goals we set for ourselves – helping to motivate each Fellow to pursue a lifetime of public interest activities – seems well on its way to being fulfilled.

This booklet is devoted to an in-depth look at our 23 Fellows – who they are, what they've accomplished, where they're presently situated, their plans for the future, and how they view the Fellowship experience. I've contacted each of them over the past few months to update his or her write-up, and all of them have joined in doing so. A lot of this is presented in their own words, and – in addition to all the good works they've done and are doing – you're bound to be impressed by how articulate they are. We've also included some of the verbatim comments of the grateful supervisors for whom they've worked and who think so highly of them. Perhaps the most meaningful portions are the unanimous sincere expressions of acclaim for the experience, coming from the Fellows themselves.

Here's an overview of our 23 Fellows. About two-thirds are female. They hail from all over the U.S. – the states with more than one Fellow are Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, California and New Jersey – and the long distance award goes to Mallika Ahluwalia from India. The most popular college majors – four each – were Woodrow Wilson School, Religion, and Sociology. Six of their projects were based in New York City, but others were performed in Texas, Colorado, North Carolina, Illinois, and Virginia – and Robin Williams' project took him all the way across the United States. And now, with the new international Fellowship, we can include Sierra Leone and (next year) the Nablus governate in the West Bank of the Palestinian territories. The most popular post-Fellowship paths are law, medicine, and graduate school, while a number of the Fellows have continued to undertake laudable public service activities. And we even have – thanks to Adrienne Simpson – our first Fellow-offspring!

This year (2011), to celebrate the fruition of our three-class partnership, we also made a special ReachOut56-81-06 Building Bridges Grant to Nushelle DeSilva '11. The grant, in the amount of \$11,200, will help Nushelle fulfill her mission of building bridges between small communities in her native Sri Lanka, to mitigate ethnic tensions that contributed to the long cruel war there. Since what we are doing by combining our three classes is, in effect, building bridges among alumni of disparate generations, it seemed quite appropriate for us to support her imaginative and sorely-needed project.

So I urge you to read on – I guarantee you'll find it an informative and heartwarming experience. These Fellowships are an excellent means by which our financial contributions and mentoring can serve a real purpose, through the efforts of talented and public-spirited Princeton graduates. Or, in other words, by dint of these outstanding young people, we oldsters are really doing some good.

Let's keep this wonderful program moving ahead in future years.

Jim Freund '56

Co-Head of PROF

Dan Gardiner '56

Jean Telljohann '81

Chair of ReachOut56-81-06

Co-Head of PROF

## AILI McCONNON ADAMSON '02



Aili McConnon Adamson, who hails from Ontario, compiled an excellent record at Princeton. She majored in English, had a departmental GPA of 3.87, and was co-winner of a department award for her senior thesis proposal. Her professors described her as "extremely bright and wonderfully articulate," also "strong, resilient and extraordinarily mature," and, to sum up, "one of the best of the best."

The tragic events of 9/11 occurred during the fall of Aili's senior year. For her ReachOut '56 Fellowship, she decided to select a project that dealt with the aftermath of the attack and also built on her Princeton academic experience. Aili joined The Legacy Project, with the goal of assembling from scratch a literary anthology of works which address the tragedies of September 11 and other 20<sup>th</sup> century experiences of war, ethnic conflict and genocide around the world.

In Aili's words, "I directed the Legacy Project's Educational Outreach program, helping create educational tools to encourage discussion in the high school and college classroom and among the general public about how individuals and cultures remember and memorialize large-scale man-made tragedies like September 11."

Aili created a print anthology, titled *Blooming Through the Ashes*, which was published by Rutgers University Press in 2008 and is sold internationally through Amazon.com. The anthology, designed for use in college and high school classrooms, contains such pieces as Toni Morrison's poem, "The Dead of September 11," which Ms. Morrison first read at a Princeton memorial service in September 2001. In addition, Aili prepared curriculum guides (piloted at the Beacon School in New York) to teach courses on the history of human rights violations, as recorded and distilled by novelists, poets, playwrights and essayists.

According to Aili, "The significance of the Literary Anthology is that it will enable students and viewers to gain an in-depth knowledge about the history of traumatic events around the globe, broaden awareness of the relationship between current events, history, and ethical values, highlight the vital place of the arts in remembering and reflecting the meaning and pain of tragedy, and motivate students and viewers to a greater appreciation and understanding of diverse political views and the consequences of hatred in violence."

Clifford Chanin, President of The Legacy Project, had this to say about our Fellow: "Aili's presence made possible a range of activities that we simply would not have been able to accomplish without her. This is not simply a matter of having another person on staff, but rather the particular presence of Aili, whose commitment, to Legacy inspired her work from the moment she arrived. ReachOut '56 found the perfect way of linking a young person's idealism and energy to the needs of a non-profit.

"With the completion of the literary anthology, Legacy realized a major organizational goal – one that would not have been possible without Aili. This speaks not only to the quality of her literary skills, but also the quality of the ReachOut '56 selection process, which sent us a young woman able to assume major professional responsibilities and excel in her work. It is this excellence that seems to me the hallmark of your program. Through Aili, ReachOut '56 has made a critical contribution to our organization. I am deeply grateful to you and your colleagues."

As has so often proved to be the case with our Fellows, Aili's Fellowship led to another fine opportunity for her. In her words, "As a result of my work during the ReachOut '56 Fellowship, I was selected to receive a Commonwealth Scholarship, a full scholarship awarded to 2% of global applicants and similar to the U.S. Marshall Scholarship, to continue looking at the intersection of writing, arts and human rights through a master's program at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. This is just one example of the ways this Fellowship has changed my life."

After her year at Cambridge, Aili returned to The Legacy Project to complete her work. "The ReachOut '56 Fellowship," says Aili, "allowed me to create, direct and carry out a substantive project, a truly unique professional experience straight out of college. My days included corresponding with Nobel Laureates such as Seamus Heaney to discuss poetry's power against intolerance; speaking with human rights activists to determine how to best shape materials for students; and spending days with tenth graders at The Beacon School to talk about why it is important to discuss and memorialize large-scale violence.

"The opportunity to create an educational project from the ground up and give back to the community was an incredible experience, and I am very grateful to ReachOut '56 for making this opportunity available. The ReachOut '56 Fellowship strengthened my conviction to continue forging a career combining my passion for non-profit organizations, education, writing, and human rights activism.

"It is exciting as one of the inaugural Reachout '56 Fellows to see the program continue to flourish, gain momentum and attract broad student interest as it has developed into the ReachOut '56-81-06 Fellowship. The combination of the new international fellowship and the core domestic fellowships lets Princeton students truly live out the university's motto: 'Princeton in the service of the nation and in the service of all nations.' "

Since her time as a ReachOut'56 fellow, Aili has continued to write about non-profits and human rights among other topics as a journalist. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *BusinessWeek Magazine*. She has also appeared on ABC, CNN and MSNBC. She is currently writing her second book, a biography of an Italian humanitarian with her brother Andres, Class of 2006, which Random House will publish in spring 2012.

## LINDSAY CAMPBELL '02



Lindsay Kathleen Campbell, originally from Shaker Heights, Ohio – now residing in Brooklyn, NY, was a Woodrow Wilson School major who earned a certificate in environmental studies. She had a GPA of 3.78, received a Presidential Award for Academic Excellence, and was a second team All-American fencer. One professor described her as "intelligent, mature, sensible, socially committed, good-humored, hard working and highly motivated" – "a clear A plus as the best performer among thirty students," and in the top five percent of all Princeton

students at her stage.

Like Aili, Lindsay chose a project spawned in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy – a project, as she told us then, that "presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to be part of the healing." Here is Lindsay's own description of what she did.

"My fellowship consisted of being project manager of the Living Memorials Project, which is a unique program of the USDA Forest Service that was created after September 11, 2001. The project gave grants to community groups and municipalities to create "living memorials" to September 11, which ranged from single trees to entire forests, focusing in the New York metro area, SW Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C./Arlington, VA and Boston because of the connection to the crash sites on that day. It also focused on providing technical assistance and doing broader social research on the phenomena of living memorials. My duties on the project were varied and enriching, from creating content and the organizational schema for the project website (visit it at [www.livingmemorialsproject.net](http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net)) to assisting grantees, to conducting numerous interviews and site visits, to writing publications. "

I recall speaking with Lindsay's supervisors during the course of Lindsay's Fellowship, and they were very enthusiastic about the quality of her work and its significance to the project. As evidence of the high regard in which Lindsay was held, after completing her first year on the project, she was invited to stay on with the Forest Service, working full time for the Northeastern Research Station in developing the social and site assessments of this project as well as doing nationwide research on living memorials. Together with a colleague, she continues to research, collaborate, and write jointly on this project and other issues of urban natural resource management. She and her colleague won the 2007 EDRA/Places Magazine Award for Research with their work on "9/11 Living Memorials in the National Landscape".

Lindsay says of her Forest Service work that "It has brought me in touch with many inspirational individuals and organizations, from family members of September 11 victims to volunteer gardeners helping to transform their blocks in Brooklyn. It has also affirmed to me the power and importance of open space and natural resources in even the most urbanized areas."

Lindsay has since gone to graduate school at MIT, where she completed a Masters in City Planning in 2006 with a concentration in Environmental Policy, focused on studying civil society and the environment, community based natural resource management, environmental justice, and sustainable development. "I am committed to continuing to explore issues at the nexus of the urban environment and community development."

After graduating, Lindsay returned to New York to help build the presence of the Forest Service through the New York City Urban Field Station (<http://nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc>) as a leader in research on urban environmental issues. In addition, the Forest Service selected Lindsay for the Scientist Recruitment Initiative, whereby the agency funds her doctoral studies while she continues as a federal researcher. She is currently pursuing her PhD in geography at Rutgers University. Her dissertation will examine the politics and practices of sustainability planning and natural resource management in New York City, during the time of PlaNYC2030, the city's long term sustainability plan.

(Finally, Lindsay's hands are full as she continues a passion that she pursued at Princeton – competitive fencing. Lindsay is on the US National Team for women's epee, currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation, and is aiming to make the 2012 Olympic Team in London.)

Lindsay credits the ReachOut '56 Fellowship for launching her into a meaningful career that she continues to pursue today. "I deeply thank the Class of 1956 for allowing me an entry point into a world of real life activism, public service, research, and scholarship. I truly believe that without this opportunity, I might never have considered working for the federal government. The traditional paths to government service are often unexciting to young, recent graduates. Instead, I was allowed to work on one of the most innovative new projects the Forest Service has conducted in years, and I was treated as an equal and a peer rather than as an intern. Giving recent graduates opportunities to develop their own projects and to pick the institutions with whom they feel they fit best gives them an incredible amount of freedom and empowerment.

"The continued contact with other fellows has also been inspiring and I enjoy seeing the group of fellows grow. (And I loved singing standards with Jim at his home during a cocktail party many years ago!) I hope to see the network continue to grow and support current and past fellows in new and exciting ways."

## DAN STOVER '03



Daniel Garvin Stover came to Princeton from Columbus, Ohio and compiled a terrific record – academically as a molecular biology major, sports-wise as coxswain of the varsity heavyweight crew, and perhaps most notably, in terms of the wide range of his public interest activities. Upon graduation, Dan received two university-wide awards – the Patricia Glickman '92 Award, Princeton's highest honor for community service and volunteerism, and the Art Lane '34 Citizen-Athlete Award for "selfless contribution to sport and society."

Dan served as chair of the Student Volunteer Council, Princeton's largest student volunteer organization with more than 700 weekly volunteers in 65 projects. The SVC Program Coordinator told us he had been "consistently impressed by the care and attention Dan has brought to the SVC board," and cited Dan's "vision and commitment to community building," as well as his "work ethic and sensitivity." And a professor described Dan as "an extremely accomplished student with superior intellectual abilities. . . . serious and hard working. . . [with] a very mature perspective" and "a great deal of common sense."

Dan undertook his Fellowship with Isles, Inc., a non-profit community development corporation in Trenton, serving in various capacities to address critical local needs such as housing, health, employment and hunger. In Dan's words, he "worked to forge a link between Princeton University and Trenton, striving to revitalize and renew Trenton to a vibrant urban center many of us know it has the potential to become."

We asked Dan how it had all worked out. "Isles proved an incredible environment for learning, specifically about issues related to post-industrial urban areas, poverty, and other social issues. It was a combination of work on the front lines – facing poverty, housing, gangs, and sub-standard health services head on – in concert with Isles encouragement of issues-based knowledge, such as attending workshops, press conferences and lunch seminars around the larger social issues. My education also broadened to include many life lessons: dealing with people who won't listen, navigating city and state bureaucracies, and bridging the gap between corporations and non-profits."

Dan described working at Isles as akin to working for five different non-profits – dealing with such substantive areas as Financial Self-Reliance (financial literacy issues and home buyers education), Real Estate Development (construction of new housing and redevelopment of vacant, existing units), Environmental (environmental

public health, community gardening and brownfields), Community Planning (organizing communities and regions to advocate for themselves), and the Career Center (YouthBuild, a job trades and education program for youth 16-24, and an AmeriCorps program).

In Dan's words, "The main goal of my time at Isles was to formalize a volunteer program. Working closely with Isles' VP for Special Projects, we increased the number of volunteer hours by more than 400%, a value of nearly \$100,000 in in-kind services. We developed a *Volunteer Handbook* that describes our volunteer program and provides a template for other non-profit organizations. In fact, Isles volunteer program has become a model for other non-profits and the Special Projects Department has made presentations on volunteerism for the United Way, Princeton Community Works, the Support Center for Non-Profit Management, and the Coalition for Peace Action. Over 90 representatives from local and regional non-profits have benefited from the presentations and our forms and protocols are now widely used."

A second goal of Dan's was to develop a program through which corporations would engage in team-building exercises by doing service in inner-city Trenton. Through a corporate partnership, Isles developed a local playground for area children. Listen to Dan tell about it.

"The park continues to be one of the most beautiful and peaceful spots in the neighborhood. Most warm weekdays, nursery school children laugh and play there during school hours. The most rewarding part of my day was often the high-pitched "thank-you's" I received from a line of day care children on their way into the park after I unlocked it. After school as the school-age children climb on the bars and slide down the slides, parents come out of their homes to watch their children while sitting on a shaded park bench. Before the redevelopment, children rarely used the park because it was constantly covered in trash, broken glass, and drug paraphernalia. Now, it is bringing neighbors together."

Here's what Elizabeth Johnson, Isle's Chief Operating Officer, had to say about Dan:

"Several years ago, Isles, Inc., had the distinct honor of being chosen by Daniel Garvin Stover to be the host agency for his ReachOut '56 internship. He joined Isles, and within weeks began to make a positive impact on Isles' volunteer program and several special projects, including an important fledgling partnership with a new corporate sponsor, Wyeth Corporation. He also coordinated a research project that required deft leadership and analytical skills. Without hesitation, and with unusual skill and initiative, Dan dove in, and Isles continues to reap the benefits of his tenure today."

"Dan served as Project Coordinator for a complex park and playground reconstruction, involving hundreds of hours of coordination, estimating, and problem solving in our first "training" venture for Wyeth's Global Leadership team. It was a tremendous success, and we continue to partner with Wyeth each year. In addition, Dan helped lay the groundwork for a new line of business that Isles is pursuing, a corporate

leadership training program that supports our efforts to develop projects in the city and link the city and suburbs. In short, Dan brought our volunteer work to a new level, building professionalism and a strong identity that continues to serve us well.”

“Very few college graduates could handle the level of responsibility that Dan assumed here at Isles. He was, and continues to be, one of the most admired and appreciated interns in our 25 year history. We’re continually looking for someone with Dan Stover's talents and commitment to bettering the world. We’ve found great people, but no replacement for Dan. Isles is grateful to ReachOut ‘56 for making possible, then supporting Dan Stover's year in Trenton.”

Since the Fellowship, Dan completed his MD degree at Vanderbilt University Medical School and is nearing completion of his residency in Internal Medicine also at Vanderbilt. He served both as President of his medical school class as well as Chair of the House Staff Council during his residency. He has been selected to serve as a Hugh J. Morgan Chief Resident in Internal Medicine, then will pursue a career in oncology.

Throughout his time at Vanderbilt, Dan notes, he has remained engaged in the community. “I connected with a local non-profit, the Oasis Center (<http://www.oasiscenter.org>), that works with youth in crisis. We initiated a weekly tutoring program, monthly mentoring dinners, and directed interested students into outreach to homeless youth and STD testing in the community. We received grants from the Alpha Omega Alpha (medical honorary) Society and Vanderbilt Community Giving Foundation totaling \$1800 to support new initiatives related to these projects, including health care for the teens at a medical student-run free clinic (Shade Tree Clinic; [www.shadetreeclinic.org](http://www.shadetreeclinic.org)) as well as a tutoring library.” For this work, Dan received the Vanderbilt Medical School Award of Distinction, given to the student who demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in service to the School of Medicine.

As a medical resident, Dan also led fundraisers for the Oasis Center and tsunami relief, collecting over \$5,000. Dan initiated a canned food drive initially just for medical students in 2004; within six years it had grown to involve the entire Vanderbilt University, collecting over 10,000 pounds of food for Nashville residents in need. Most recently, he is working to start a non-profit that connects Nashville musicians with hospitalized veterans. He hopes to continue to use his ReachOut ‘56 experiences to merge his career goals with his passion for community involvement.

Dan has only good words to say about the Fellowship. “I would like to continue to express my gratitude at the opportunity ReachOut ‘56 provided me. I grew tremendously while at Isles and now find myself in the midst of nearly every social cause at Vanderbilt because I have developed a passion for community involvement. My year at Isles was an incredible education on how to effect social change from both the micro-and macroscopic levels, skills that I have been able to continue to apply since my time as a Fellow. I trust that the other Fellows would second me in saying that the ReachOut ‘56 Fellowship was truly an experience that changed my life.”

## JESSICA MUNITZ '03



Jessica Munitz, a Religion major from Baltimore, MD, graduated summa cum laude from Princeton. Her academic references were uniformly first-class – "thoughtful and reflective beyond her years," and "unusually mature and bright," and "the embodiment of Princeton's motto 'in the nation's service.'"

While in college, she also became one of the leaders of an organization called Sustained Dialogue, in which small groups of students, faculty and administrators meet regularly to discuss race relations on campus. Sustained Dialogue received the Daily Princeton Award in 2001 for its contribution to student life, and the Vice President for Campus Life cited it as "having a deep impact at Princeton." The founder, Harold Saunders (past president of the Class of 1952), had developed this program out of his long international exposure. He now wanted to move it to additional campuses – developing a college network that, in his words,

"will clearly have a Princeton center of gravity" – but he had no funding to accomplish this. That's where the ReachOut '56 Fellowship stepped into the breach. Here's Jessica to tell the tale.

"During my year as a ReachOut '56 Fellow, I worked for the International Institute for Sustained Dialogue, in Washington, DC. As the Sustained Dialogue Campus Project coordinator, I collaborated with universities around the country, adapting the Sustained Dialogue model to relieve tensions surrounding diversity on their respective campuses.

'The year that I spent with IISD was the organization's first year in existence, and a very exciting time to be working on our project. I had the opportunity to witness the creation of a non-profit from the ground up, and I immediately began developing relationships with existing campus leaders and initiating contact with prospective Sustained Dialogue campuses. Working with our interns, I developed manuals for student leaders and quickly began traveling to campuses to train dialogue moderators. The capstone event of the year was our first annual Sustained Dialogue conference, held at Dickinson College and attended by over one hundred students, faculty members, and administrators from 14 campuses.

“Throughout the whole experience, I had the privilege of working under Dr. Harold Saunders '52, a man whose knowledge, experience, and intuition were a constant source of inspiration to me.”

We asked Hal Saunders what difference having a ReachOut '56 Fellow meant to his organization. Here's how he replied:

"A new institute—then with little funding—was able to capture the momentum of this student energy to build what is now becoming a well-established student movement with a national reach. I am proud and deeply grateful that the Class of '56 partnered with the Class of '52 to create this movement. As the student tagline says: "It's not just talk . . . It's a social movement."

After completing her fellowship, Jessica went to Philadelphia for the 2004-2005 academic year, where she completed a post-baccalaureate program in Classical Languages, studying Classical Greek, Latin, Modern Hebrew, Biblical Hebrew, and German. She received an M.A. in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University in 2006, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2010. Jessica has returned to Washington, D.C., where she is currently an associate at Latham & Watkins, LLP.

Here's what Jessica has to say about her Fellowship experience. "I can hardly believe that it has been more than nine full years since I submitted my application for the ReachOut '56 Fellowship. Since completing the fellowship and having had the opportunity to be a member of other university communities, I have an even deeper appreciation for the ReachOut '56 program. In my opinion, Princeton's alumni community is unequalled, and the ReachOut '56 Fellowship represents precisely what is so unique about the Princeton tradition. The time, energy, and generosity that the members and spouses of the class of '56 committed have simultaneously allowed Princeton graduates to begin careers in public service while creating and solidifying connections between so many classes. I feel honored and privileged to have had the opportunity to take part in the Reach Out '56 Fellowship program and I cherish the relationships that I developed as a Fellow. I hope that our classes will be able to contribute to future generations of Princetonians in the way that the Class of '56 did for us."

## KATIE GRIM KUTNEY '04



Katie Kutney (néé Grim) a New Jersey native, majored in Religion at Princeton. She also had a broad musical background, ranging from opera to being Performance Manager of the Princeton Katzenjammers *a cappella* singing group.

Prior to her Fellowship, Katie had served (through a Princeton Project '55 program) as a summer intern in a youth arts employment and training program in Newark called Studioworks, a project of the New Jersey affiliate of Communities In Schools National. Katie enjoyed the work, and Studioworks thought the world of Katie and needed her badly – but they didn't have the resources to hire her on a year-round basis. That's when ReachOut '56 rode to the rescue. Listen to Katie tell about it.

"Through the Class of '56 Fellowship, I was able to design my role as Project Manager of Studioworks, a program that employs and educates underserved youth in Newark, Montclair, and Orange through public art projects." Studioworks is a signature program of CISNJ, helping fulfill the organization's mission to help kids stay in school and prepare for success in life.

"During my year as a Fellow, I exercised a remarkably high level of autonomy for a recent graduate—I set my own schedule, brought my personal vision to the maintenance and evolution of the program, and implemented the Studioworks Vocal Performance Component." The Vocal Component flourished, with the Studioworks Singers performing at events such as CISNJ's annual benefit and Continental Airlines' Black History Month Showcase at Newark International Airport.

"My supervisors/mentors offered guidance whenever needed, yet also granted me ample freedom to direct my course throughout the Fellowship. As a result, I learned to write grants and earned my salary's worth in grant funding; cultivated and strengthened partnerships with area galleries, universities, and municipalities; and recruited young singers and vocal artists to participate in the program."

During the Fellowship, the founding director of Studioworks and Katie's direct supervisor commented that "Katie is a joy to work with. She accepts challenges nearly on a daily basis. Everyone she touches through her work loves her. . . . from the founders to the artists, from the parents to the kids. We feel so fortunate to have benefited from the ReachOut '56 Fellowship program. Please know how critical this program and Katie have been to the development of the Studioworks program. We have

many more mountains to climb, but we're on our way. We thank you for your very generous support."

Now seven years out from her Fellowship year, Katie feels even deeper appreciation for the opportunities ReachOut provided. "ReachOut '56 laid the foundation for my career in public service," Katie attests. "After two and a half years at CISNJ, I honed my grantwriting skills at the Community Service Society in New York, and then managed development and advocacy efforts for the New York Council for the Humanities. In both of these positions, I was able to use the communication and strategic management skills I learned on the ground at Studioworks." Now part of the Donor Relations team at the Rutgers University Foundation, Katie works to engage donors more closely with the life-changing impact their contributions have on Rutgers students and faculty.

This summer, Katie will be a co-mentor with Jim Gregoire '69 to three Princeton interns working at North Star Academy in Newark. She is excited to lend whatever support she can to students embarking on an experience in public service.

Regarding current applicants, Katie tells us she is more and more impressed each year with the quality and scope of the applications presented, both domestic and international. "I am so glad to be part of this burgeoning group of Princeton alumni dedicated to service work. My ReachOut Fellowship year was invaluable in shaping me as a professional and a human being, and it's a thrill to see the amazing projects made possible through the Fellowship year after year."

## ROBIN WILLIAMS '04



Robin '04, now a psychiatrist at NYU School of Medicine, in the atrium of Bellevue Hospital, NYC's flagship public hospital.

Arthur Robinson Williams IV, known to all as Robin, is a young man of multiple talents and prodigious energy, which he put to excellent use during his ReachOut '56 Fellowship – creating a body of work which continues to have real impact today.

Robin, a native of North Carolina, excelled at Princeton in the Woodrow Wilson School, demonstrating (in the words of

one faculty member) "an intense work ethic coupled with an astonishing self-discipline." He was also (in the view of his Visual Arts professor ) "our best and most accomplished photographer. . . .with an approach that is socially sensitive and at the same time visually brilliant," and "a prodigious gift as an image-maker." Another member of the faculty called Robin "absolutely the most sincere and 'public interest' dedicated human being I have encountered among Princeton students" –someone who "will be an amazing force – make that an irresistible and irrepressible force – for good in this world."

Robin combined all these talents in his Fellowship to create *Unacceptable Losses*, a photo-based education campaign documenting drugs and addiction nationwide. Here's Robin's description of what he did.

"I traveled the country for a year, visiting 25 states, photographing and interviewing hundreds of Americans affected by or involved with drugs and drug policy. *Unacceptable Losses* was designed to help support the efforts of Drug Policy Alliance, the nation's leading non-profit organization calling for more humane drug policies.

"The impetus behind *Unacceptable Losses* lies with my interest in medicine and public health and a dedication to underserved and marginalized communities. The foundation for its success, however, comes from four years at Princeton; learning from national experts and legendary photographers, volunteering through the Student Volunteers Council and the Princeton Justice Project, and tying my academic work to community interests through student initiatives. *Unacceptable Losses*, through exhibits, articles and the web ([www.Unacceptablelosses.org](http://www.Unacceptablelosses.org)), emphasizes the humane and economic advantages of a public health emphasis rather than a law enforcement emphasis when dealing with addiction.

"We have criminalized a disease. The causes of drug addiction are myriad and complex. Our response to this social ill must be equally dynamic and engaging. I

have found no evidence that incarcerating those with drug addictions in overcrowded prisons stripped of virtually any rehabilitative services has helped our nation's communities. However, there is overwhelming evidence that embracing those with addictive disorders as individuals and helping to support their efforts at drug cessation through accessible treatment programs, harm reduction based outreach efforts, and sustainable housing and job assistance has a far greater reach than a prison cell ever will."

Unacceptable Losses was featured at an American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Convention in Chicago as part of the national medical student art show. The full exhibit was shown at the Woodrow Wilson School's Bernstein Gallery.

The Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, Ethan Nadelman, whom Robin considers the most well-known advocate for drug policy reform in the nation, had this to say about our Fellow:

"Robin has successfully taken a difficult to photograph subject and produced dozens of compelling portraits. . . . It is easy -- and tempting -- to photograph the horrors of drug abuse, but far more challenging to document the war on drugs itself, and yet more difficult to document the alternative policies that the Drug Policy Alliance promotes. We expect negative imagery when it comes to drugs, and it's not surprising given that the sensational values of an abscess covered arm is far greater than that of a sterile methadone maintenance clinic, Robin eschews this sensationalistic and negative imagery and instead reveals the human dignity of those most affected by the war on drugs and those working hardest to end it. It is just this sort of project that will most help Americans to better understand the day-to-day consequences of the war on drugs for real people, and make them sympathetic to and supportive of more pragmatic and compassionate alternatives. By posting his work and documentation on an equally stunning website, Robin is able to make the emotion behind these issues more broadly accessible."

After his Fellowship year, Robin enrolled in medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, winning a prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. He has continued to work on social issues, including organizing city residents and students in support of citywide smoke-free legislation and improving the nutritional environment at the Children's Hospital, CHOP. Robin graduated from Penn Med in 2010 (having earned a Master in Bioethics at Penn in 2008) and is now a resident in the Department of Psychiatry at NYU.

When asked about his future, Robin replied: "The experience with my Reach Out '56 Fellowship played a significant role in guiding my decision to go into the field of psychiatry within medicine. The year I spent interviewing drug abusers and policymakers nationwide has informed my clinical practice and frames the work I do now on a daily basis."

The Reach Out '56 Fellowship, in Robin's words, "offered an incredible opportunity to build on work I had pursued in college, get to know Americans across the country, and prepare for a career in public service. . . . A Reach Out '56 fellowship is a

truly exceptional award as it allows recipients to assist non-profits in innovative ways while at the same time exploring personal intellectual and creative interests. I often think about how influential my fellowship was in setting a solid foundation for approaching medical school and working with patients. "

## REBECA GAMEZ '05



Rebeca Gamez, who was born in Mexico and describes herself as "a first generation Mexican immigrant in the United States," compiled a very good record at Princeton, particularly notable for what she managed to accomplish outside the classroom. As two former Fellows put it, she had "a great track record of community engagement" and "a proven history of implementing projects with social conscience." One of the projects she worked on, for instance, was designed to improve the life of food service and custodial workers at Princeton clubs.

Faculty and the administration rated Rebeca highly – offering such comments as "writes well and is very articulate," a "charming but modest person of real intelligence and compassion," a "self-starter," and a "leader who works extremely well with others."

Rebeca is passionate about U.S. immigration policies, especially those that target undocumented Latino day laborers. In pursuing her Fellowship, Rebeca got in touch with an organization in Jackson Heights, NY called New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE), a non-profit that uses advocacy and public education to collaborate with, serve and empower new immigrant communities of various cultures. Here, in Rebeca's own words, is what she did during her fellowship year.

"Through the Fellowship, I have been able to successfully organize and implement an ESL and workers' rights program for Latino day laborers in Jackson Heights, New York. There are now over 50 ESL students and over 100 day laborers participating in the workers' rights program.

"Jackson Heights, Queens, is an area heavily populated with Latino day laborers. An early morning walk, bus drive, or other commute usually provides a glimpse of one or two curb-side, open air markets filled with groups of men standing and waiting for prospective employers to arrive and select them for a day's labor. These day laborers often provide employers with valuable employees, willing to work long hours in often dangerous and dirty conditions. The workers are routinely abused and have little chance of gaining employment in the formal job market.

"While a lack of legal status may prevent immigrant workers from responding to workplace abuse and transition to the formal job market, poor English-speaking skills also play a significant role. Unfortunately, many immigrant workers are unable to learn English because they can't afford to and because the few free English classes offered in Jackson Heights fill up quickly. My ReachOut '56 project attempts to address these obstacles.

"The ESL and Workers' Rights Program provides free English classes, workers' rights workshops, and assistance in filing back wage claims against abusive employers. The ESL component draws on the participatory approach to ESL instruction. . . . My lesson plans are structured around learners' life experiences and pressing social issues. . . . At the end of my Fellowship, I hope to leave NICE with a blueprint for the program and the financial means to continue the program."

Here is what Rebeca's supervisor had to say about our Fellow: "Rebeca Gamez has had an extraordinarily positive impact on literally every aspect of the organization. Rebeca has professionalized our ESL program by implementing smaller class sizes, creating student teacher roles and developing and implementing a special teaching curriculum that is tailored to our mostly day laborer student population and designed to encourage independence and leadership. Rebeca has strengthened our Workers Rights initiative by providing hands-on back-wage claims assistance and creating bilingual and user-friendly templates to enable and facilitate the ability of workers to protect and enforce their labor rights.

"Rebeca has gone far beyond her official duties by taking the initiative to assist NICE with fundraising, board, staff and membership development, and the building of strategic relationships with community leaders, service providers and other community-based organizations. In sum, NICE may be a young organization with a small budget, but it has an unsurpassed wealth of resources in its staff, none more than Rebeca Gamez."

Rebeca told us that her experience as a ReachOut '56 Fellow has been "invaluable," expanding upon the subject in the following terms: "There is something very exciting about conceptualizing, organizing, and shaping a project that is not only all your own but that, more importantly, intends to address an important social issue and community need. It is even more exciting when your project comes to fruition and you begin to see tangible and concrete results. It is an experience that few people, let alone recent college graduates, may ever have.

"In addition to the thrill of organizing my own project, the Fellowship has also afforded me the opportunity to discover myself and my future career options. Through interacting with fellow colleagues and other individuals in the field, I have solidified my decision to attend law school in the near future. The ReachOut '56 Fellowship gives each Fellow the needed resources to take a year and reflect on how we can utilize our undergraduate experience at Princeton to make meaningful contributions in our respective fields of interest or communities."

Rebecca told us recently: "Since obtaining the ReachOut '56 Fellowship I have embarked on various professional journeys that have led me to the field of education. After finishing the Fellowship, I worked for the Neighborhood Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP), a resource and advocacy center for community groups in

New York City. Its mission is to promote community economic justice and to eliminate discriminatory economic practices that harm communities and perpetuate inequality and poverty. As the Community Education Coordinator, I oversaw NEDAP's community financial education and fair lending program. I trained thousands of New York City prospective homeowners on predatory mortgage lending practices. After NEDAP, I decided to learn more about the field of education - both formal and informal - and went off to Cambridge, Massachusetts to the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), where I received my Masters in Human Development and Psychology. My work with cognitive psychologist and educational theorist, Eleanor Duckworth, and other professors at HGSE, led me to realize that I wanted to be in the classroom and I applied to the Princeton University Teacher Preparation Program. I just finished my student teaching experience and look forward to teaching this fall at Foundation Academy Charter School in Trenton, New Jersey.”

## MALLIKA AHLUWALIA '05



Mallika Ahluwalia, who is from India, graduated *cum laude* from the Woodrow Wilson School with a Certificate in African Studies. She produced what one professor called "the best essay I have received from an undergraduate during my thirty years of teaching." In college, Mallika developed an interest in a quantitative, rigorous approach to policy analysis on social policy issues, like education, reflected in her senior thesis study of the education of orphans in sub-Saharan Africa.

For her Fellowship, Mallika moved to Chicago to work with Catalyst Chicago, a monthly newsmagazine dedicated to

analyzing and supporting school improvement efforts in Chicago's public schools. Its goal is to give decision-makers and stakeholders the information they need to transform the city schools. Let's listen to Mallika tell about her special function during her Fellowship year.

"My main project as a ReachOut Fellow at Catalyst Magazine was to supervise the creation of a 'Report Card – a data-driven publication that would document the progress in the Chicago public school system over the last ten years. I was given complete responsibility and independence in designing this document; my job, therefore, involved choosing the most appropriate topics and most relevant indicators to represent the changes, gathering and managing the data, and deciding the mode of presentation and accompanying analysis."

When the Report Card was published in February, the Publisher of Catalyst told Mallika she had done "a superb job. You asked the right questions, and found the answers. Bravo!" A senior executive in the Chicago public schools called it "fabulous. . . . a great job." And the Editor of Catalyst Chicago had this to say about her work:

"Mallika has been a terrific addition to the editorial staff of *Catalyst Chicago* magazine. Her expert knowledge and analyses of data made it possible for us to complete a three-part series analyzing Chicago Public Schools' \$5 billion budget, and to publish the inaugural edition of our District Report Card, a new product that will be updated annually. Pulling off these projects was no easy task. Mallika had to sift through mounds of statistics and negotiate conflicting interpretations of that data to produce compelling, statistical snapshots of teacher quality and mayoral control. Before she leaves in a few months, Mallika will create a template for future editions of the report

card, including expanded versions with our own survey research and school-by-school data.

"Mallika has been a terrific resource for other editorial staffers, helping them collect and analyze data for cover stories and other news reports. In a short time, she has become an integral part of our team. We will be sorry to see her leave when the Fellowship ends."

After, completing the fellowship, Mallika decided to focus on social policy in developing countries. She moved to Namibia for a year and a half to work with the United Nations World Food Program through the Princeton in Africa program. "I helped to run their programs on food assistance for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children, and Angolan refugees. My job included assessing the needs of these populations, improving program implementation and working closely with the government on their welfare policies."

Mallika is now wrapping up a three-year dual Masters at the Harvard Kennedy School (Master in Public Administration in International Development) and Harvard Business School (Master in Business Administration). Mallika says the joint degree was a good choice for her because: "My time in Namibia made me realize that many solutions to tough policy challenges will require cross-sectoral solutions". After her graduation this May, Mallika will join McKinsey & Co. in their Washington, DC office, where she will work on a combination of public sector and private sector work. In a few years, Mallika plans to move back to India to work on social policy, particularly ensuring opportunities for women and children.

Mallika recently reflected on her experience: "This Fellowship was a very valuable work experience because of the high degree of responsibility and independence I was given – a rare occurrence in one's first job. I really believe that getting that level of responsibility out of the door empowered me to look for that in later roles, and definitely helped me demonstrate my leadership ability to get into a top graduate school."

Mallika concludes on this note: "I'm thrilled that the Fellowship has now expanded to international opportunities too. Winning the Fellowship allowed me to combine my interests in education and data analysis in a manner that was both interesting and informative. I think the biggest advantage of Reach Out is precisely that instead of being limited by available jobs, it allows the applicant to design a project that exactly meets one's interests and future goals."

## DERRICK RAPHAEL '06



Derrick Raphael, a Sociology major, is from Fayetteville, North Carolina (the home of the Army's Fort Bragg). When he was a junior in the local high school there, an organization named Educational Talent School Program (ETS) at Fayetteville State University gave him strong support and encouragement in applying to Princeton, even paying for his application fee. Derrick wanted to "give back" to ETS by using his ReachOut '56 Fellowship to work for the organization after graduation – in his words, "to encourage all students to keep 'reaching for the stars!' embodying the ETS motto."

The mission of ETS, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is to identify and assist individuals from low income and disadvantage backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The three counties served by ETS (Cumberland, Robeson and Hoke) are relatively poor, the students have low SAT scores below the state average, and the individuals would be the first generation in their family to attend college. In Derrick's mind, "The work of the Educational Talent Search program is both necessary and timely. As the educational standards of the State seek to rise, the students served by ETS are most at risk of falling behind. The projects ETS carries out each day, and those I sought to initiate as a ReachOut '56 Fellow, will help to ensure a brighter future for the students supported by ETS."

Derrick's project contemplated adding three new programs to the ETS repertoire. One was to develop leadership chapters at schools in the area, with regular meetings of students to support each other, reinforce positive habits and engender pride in what they're achieving, with older students mentoring younger ones. One of Derrick's goals was to develop leadership chapters in elementary schools, which are not currently served by ETS, thus expanding their mission into a younger age group. As Derrick said at the time, "The transition from elementary to middle schools is huge, and the ability to reach students as early as the fourth grade is crucial, because children may already be on the path to dropout status by this point."

A second program would help students to find, apply for, and obtain placement in summer internship positions. "One of the major ways for young people to get ahead and develop their minds during summer is to stay active intellectually and physically during those months out of school." The third consisted of a series of after-school discussions at a number of schools, with the purpose of offering a broad array of information about the college placement process.

The institution where Derrick housed and completed his project was the Cumberland School System. According to Derrick,

“During my time with Cumberland County Schools we were able to get a Duke Business School Professor and Princeton alum, Otis Jennings, to come speak to the students during our Winter Ceremony. We were also able to get several students who were a part of my program called F-YEP (Fayetteville-Youth Education Program) to enroll in the MSEN (Math and Science Education Network) Pre-College Program at Fayetteville State University so students were able to continue their college preparation endeavors after the conclusion of the F-YEP Program. Partnerships were also created with Kaplan who provided SAT and college prep services to students in the program for free. The Cumberland County School School's Superintendent, Dr. Harrison, provided me an office, an official ID badge, and access to four schools directly and all of the schools as I needed to provide information regarding college prep advice.”

What particularly impressed us about Derrick was his passion for his cause and a strong sense of determination in taking on this challenge. In the words of a Princeton professor, Derrick is "one of the most exceptional students I have met in my time at Princeton. He is obviously smart, but what are really distinctive about Derrick are his motivation, drive and dedication. This is a student that will not take 'no' for an answer and who will do the work required to turn it into a 'yes' . . . I have never had such an enthusiastic student." The professor went on to say that Derrick is "a perfect candidate for taking on a leadership position in North Carolina. As you well know, there are few pedagogical missions as important as increasing minority representation in all levels of higher education. The ETS program sounds like a perfect vehicle for Derrick's talents and I am certain that he would do great work there. This is exactly the kind of project we as University and the Class of 1956 wish to promote."

Another professor ranked Derrick "among the top three percent of all students I have taught in the last decade," adding this: "Seldom have I met a more congenial and charming individual. He is caring, self-confident, helpful and simply delightful to know. He is the ideal Princeton student."

Derrick's counselor from high school, who has known him for over a decade, says, "Derrick is a visionary. He sees with clear eyes and projects with confidence his view of what makes life and living better for the young people of the day . . . . He leads by example and articulates his position with authority and conciseness . . . . Derrick has high moral character and integrity."

While pursuing his project, Derrick was named by the Fayetteville Observer newspaper as one of the top 20 most influential persons under 40 (Derrick being the youngest one selected) involved in positive endeavors in Fayetteville.

Contacted recently, Derrick added the following: Right now I am a second year law student at Duke University School of Law. I have recently been elected the President of the Black Graduate and Professional Students Association (BGPSA). I have

also been an active member of my local Kiwanis Club of Fayetteville, NC. I am honored by my recent selection as a trustee for ReachOut 56-81-06 as well as my election to be the Executive Vice-President. It is a way for me to give back to ReachOut which has given so much to me. I really love seeing the expansion of ReachOut and that the quality of the applicants keeps rising every year.”

## KRISTA BRUNE '06



As an undergraduate, Krista Brune majored in Spanish and Portuguese and was actively involved in the prison reform group of the Princeton Justice Project. In the words of the faculty and legal advisor to the Princeton Justice Project, "Krista is a dynamo of physical energy and enthusiasm, plus unending intellectual curiosity, and a deepening commitment to social justice. Best of all, she is so totally organized a person that she puts the rest of us to shame; she keeps a schedule of meetings and activities that suggests there are at least 2 of her out there at all times, plus a full time secretary." He went on to say, "In short, you cannot find a better person than Krista: calm, diplomatic, kind to a fault, considerate of others' feelings, and always aware that she has a mission or many goals for making this a better

world." Another faculty member told us that "Krista is, above all else, a supremely intelligent and intellectually curious person, who is passionate about her involvement in prison reform . . . a stunning example of what Princeton students are at their best . . ."

Her passion for the arts, education, and justice provided the inspiration for her ReachOut '56 project researching and documenting arts programming in correctional institutions throughout the U.S. During her fellowship year, she created a website and book about these organizations to serve as a resource for those active in, or interested in entering, this field. Her project was sponsored by Voices UnBroken, a Bronx-based nonprofit that provides inmates and other underserved populations with the resources for creative expression. According to the founder and Executive Director of Voices UnBroken, Victoria Sammartino, a central source of information on existing programs in prisons was essential, yet no one working in the field had the time to devote a year to the project. So when Krista approached the Executive Director about creating such a resource, she was warmly received – "just the person Voices UnBroken and the fields of prison arts and education have been waiting for."

Krista began her project by attending an arts-in-corrections conference at the University of Illinois in April 2006, where she established contacts with key people in the field. She spent the summer and fall doing bibliographic research, site visits to existing programs, collecting materials from these programs, and interviewing directors, volunteers, and inmates. The physical materials collected during this fieldwork form an archive in the Voices UnBroken resource library. During these months, she visited programs in California, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, Colorado, Illinois, and Washington, and interviewed artists, program directors and professors in Arizona, Kansas, Iowa, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Kentucky. She engaged in conversations with prisoners at New Folsom and San Quentin prisons in Northern California, attended a performance at a

women's facility near Seattle, saw "Henry VI" performed by inmates at Sing Sing, and watched juveniles in New Jersey discover the power of acting.

Krista first synthesized these experiences and observations in the article, "Creating Behind the Razor Wire: An Overview of Arts in Corrections in the U.S." ([http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archivefiles/2007/01/creating\\_behind.php](http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archivefiles/2007/01/creating_behind.php)). Published halfway through the fellowship year, this article served as a progress report on the project and also a concise summary of the field of arts in corrections. This research became more fully elaborated on the [www.prisonarts.info](http://www.prisonarts.info) website. While the website is no longer active, all of the information (and more) is available in a book format to either purchase or download for free (<http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/creating-behind-the-razor-wire/3361270>). These resources establish a history and cultural memory of prison arts programs and also analyze the essential elements of successful programs.

For artists, program directors, and professors, this book was a much needed and warmly received resource. Upon receiving the book, Leslie Neal, the director of ArtSpring Inc., wrote, "'Thank you! It is fabulous. How can I get more? We are developing an Arts in Corrections certificate program with University of Florida to train artists on working in corrections. I would love to make this a text for the program. It will be offered next June in collaboration with the UF Center for Arts in Healthcare - we are partnering with them in their Summer Intensive training for artists. Let me know how your book could be ordered, and thanks again for this wonderful contribution to the field."

Judith Tannenbaum, the author of *Disguised as a Poem: My Years Teaching Poetry at San Quentin* and *By Heart: Poetry, Prison and Two Lives*, describes the book: "Krista Brune's *Creating Behind the Razor Wire* is a hugely important resource. I met Krista soon after she began her research on prison arts programs nationally, and from that early moment to the book and website she created, I was constantly in awe of Krista's intelligence, skill, persistence, and thoroughness. Krista accomplished what so many of us in the field had never been able to accomplish: a resource guide to much of the work being done, one that included not only factual information about people and programs, but also explored some of the history and deep questions of this unusual work." Academics have also found this project useful. For instance, the article and the book were cited multiple times by Nina Billone Priuer in her 2010 dissertation *In the System: Art, Prison, and the Performance of Social Welfare*.

At the start of this project, Krista hoped that it would "lead to a comprehensive database and resource guide [that] strengthen[s] the network of organizations involved in prison work. It would also help to increase the resources of Voices UnBroken, allowing them to continue growing into a stronger non-profit organization with a more developed national network." Looking back at the project five years later, it has met and exceeded these goals. Voices UnBroken is now a more established nonprofit in the New York juvenile justice scene. The national arts in corrections networks have continued to strengthen, thanks to the October 2007 Arts in Criminal Justice conference organized by the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, the September 2008 Critical Resistance conference

that gave rise to the Prison Arts Coalition, and continued communication between artists, academics, and activists.

Krista told us: “It was such a privilege to be able to work on a project of my own creation and direction immediately upon graduation. Over the course of my fellowship year, I visited programs and talked with project directors, artist facilitators, professors, prisoners and other participants. These observations and conversations shaped by understanding of the nonprofit sector and the specific field of prison arts in such a profound way that would have been impossible as an employee of a single organization. I often return to the experiences of that year to guide my thinking as a scholar and an educator of language, literature and culture moving between the university and the prison.”

Starting in March 2007, Krista studied Brazilian music, politics and cultural history as a Fulbright scholar. During her academic year at Unicamp (Campinas SP), she reflected upon the ways in which her academic interests in Latin American culture could intersect with her growing commitment to social justice and prison reform. She reached the decision that an academic path would best allow for the combination of these interests. Currently, Krista is a third-year graduate student in Spanish and Portuguese at University of California, Berkeley. In addition to teaching Portuguese to Cal students, she maintains an involvement in prison education. Since fall 2009, she has volunteered as an instructor with the Prison University Project at San Quentin, one of the programs she researched during her fellowship year. She has taught courses in World Literature, Beginning Spanish, and Conversational Spanish, and also tutored students in writing and math. Her experiences in the classroom – both at Cal and San Quentin – inform her readings, research, and pedagogical perspective. She continues to believe that education and the arts are essential human experiences.

Krista concluded: “As one of '06 fellowship recipients, I am particularly excited about the the new ReachOut 56-81-06 alliance. This partnership will ensure the continued success of ReachOut's fellowship program and other existing projects. Our class brings energy, enthusiasm and innovative ideas to this intergenerational collaboration. We look forward to working with and learning from the classes of '56 and '81 as we give back to Princeton and the community beyond.”

## LILLIE ROMEISER '07



Lillie Romeiser, who is from the Chicago area, was a Religion major with an excellent record at Princeton. Her academics were strong, she was on the Princeton women's varsity basketball team, and she compiled a very impressive list of voluntary service activities.

Lillie is intelligent, articulate, self-disciplined, and, perhaps most important, extremely motivated and passionate about the work she was to do. She received enthusiastic reviews from her Religion professor ("an outstanding student . . . motivated, compassionate and mature"), her basketball coach ("extremely hard-working . . . great determination and a wonderful value system that both grounds and motivates her . . . a leader"), and a member of the Camp Hope Board ("she always knows what needs to be done, and she finds a way to do it . . . an inspiration to all who were around her").

Lillie's project was to work for an organization named Anchored in Hope, which sponsors a summer camp ("Camp Hope") in the Chicago area for children, teenagers and young adults challenged by developmental disabilities. At this camp, there's a "buddy" (a motivated college or high school student) for every disabled camper, tending to his or her needs on a 24-hour basis for the length of their stay. According to Lillie (who's been working with this and related groups in prior summers), not only is this a beneficial experience for the campers, but there is great value in it for the buddies, who become much more compassionate toward a group that is often the object of negative attitudes.

Lillie's duties were extensive, including fund-raising and grant-writing, bringing Camp Hope to the attention of the community, recruiting volunteers, scheduling the Camp's programs, organizing informational meetings for campers and their parents and training sessions for buddies. She was on-site for the weeks the Camp was in session, as a leader and overseer of Camp events and camper-buddy relations.

Here's what Lillie has to say about her experience. "The ReachOut '56 Fellowship allowed me to step into the organization at the perfect time, as the previous Camp Director was stepping down when I graduated from Princeton. In addition to the things listed above, I started some new initiatives for Camp Hope, including an annual Halloween party, which the campers love, and a day retreat for campers and buddies. I was appointed the Director of all camp operations for the summer of my ReachOut fellowship year, and I have continued in that role as the Camp Director since then. I also have continued to serve on the Camp Hope Board of Directors.

“My love for Camp Hope has only continued to grow since my fellowship year. Camp is a beautiful place – one where people are loved and supported for exactly who they are. It has become a family to me, and not only because my cousin Josh is one of our forty campers or because my mom also serves on the Board of Directors, but because everyone involved is bonded together by a love, compassion, and hope that extends so far beyond ourselves. Camp is founded on a Scriptural verse from the Book of Jeremiah, ‘For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ (29:11) The goal of Camp Hope is to bring to fruition these good intentions that God has for all people, particularly those who are often marginalized in our society due to the differing abilities. Our future is only hopeful when we as individuals and as a community reach out in love towards one another. That is what Camp Hope is all about.”

The Executive Director of Camp Hope said this: “A week spent at Camp, witnessing the love and friendship between the campers and their buddies, is perhaps a glimpse of a little bit of heaven here on earth.” A Camp Hope parent said: “[My daughter] shared the photos [of camp] with me today and I wish I could express her pride and joy in her activities, her friends and the wonderful sense of accomplishment she felt. Camp Hope is just a wonderful concept and the people who run it truly love our children. The photos are proof of the love and joy that is shared. I just want to thank you for establishing the camp, working so hard to make it work, and supporting our wonderful family member. Camp Hope is a blessing.”

Lillie says, “Following my full-time stint with Camp Hope, I returned to Princeton and received my teaching certificate in elementary education through Princeton’s Teacher Preparation Program. Since then, I have been working as the youth minister for high school students at my home church in Lake Forest, IL, while also coaching soccer, volunteering in the community, and continuing to direct Camp Hope on the side. Working in youth ministry has given me a platform to share my love for service and helping people with the teenagers I engage with each day. Many of the teens in my youth group serve as buddies at Camp Hope each summer, and this is one of the most gratifying of experiences for me – seeing their lives be touched the way mine has.

“Camp Hope has very much molded and shaped me into the person that I am today, and I wouldn’t have had the chance to get involved to the extent that I have were it not for the ReachOut ’56 Fellowship grant. Camp Hope and I are both eternally grateful for the incredible opportunity it gave me. It was one of the greatest blessings I have been given in my life, and thus I do my best each day to be that blessing to others in return.”

## CHARLES STAAB '07



Charles W. (“Chuck”) Staab III, from New Jersey, was a Music major who is also a highly regarded professional jazz drummer. He juggled his education and his profession during the four years of college. Chuck got very enthusiastic recommendations from two mentors who knew him and his talents very well: his thesis advisor (“one of the most talented students that I have encountered in my eighteen years of

teaching at Princeton”) and a Dean of the Chapel (“There are many gifted students at Princeton, and Chuck is among the finest. However, not all of them have been as consistently committed as he has to using his talents in service of others.”)

What Chuck did during the Fellowship – and what he had been doing at Princeton – was to work with disadvantaged young people using the medium of music. The sponsor was MIMA Music *Spin Jazz*, a non-profit started by a Princeton graduate, Christoph Geiseler, to provide free music lesson programs in underserved communities. The chair of the Princeton Music Department expressed his enthusiasm about the programs of the organization (“hugely successful as arts education and community support ventures”).

Chuck used (and tailored, when appropriate) a curriculum he had developed, both to teach and to help guide other undergraduate volunteers he recruits to teach music to grade school children from Philadelphia schools, for whom such instruction is otherwise unavailable. He was doing this in Trenton his senior year, about which the Dean said: “I have seen him in action and it really is a wonder to see how he orchestrates what might be chaos (20 kids with instruments) into a wonderful (if unorthodox) symphony of expression. It is a beautiful and powerful event to behold. One look at the faces of the children is all one needs to be convinced that important things are happening.”

With the help of the Reach Out Fellowship, Chuck was able to bring free, weekly after-school music lessons to children from underserved populations in Trenton and Philadelphia. In the year after his graduation from Princeton, as many as 40 young students per week took part in small group instruction and informal musical play. To reach this many children, Chuck recruited, trained, and offered MIMA Music teaching internships to college students from Princeton, The College of New Jersey, The University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University.

In Chuck’s words, “The New Jersey music classes took place at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Trenton, NJ in conjunction with a more

comprehensive after-school program called GET SET. The GET SET program in Trenton was incredibly well run and found great success meeting a comprehensive set of needs demonstrated by the youth population including free breakfasts before school and homework tutoring. The Philadelphia music classes took place in North West Philadelphia in conjunction with the KidZone program. This program was inspiring to observe because they operated from a more holistic environment, incorporating family and community members whenever possible.

“Both sections of after-school music lessons were very well received and universally regarded as positive by the participating students, MIMA Music college interns, and the staff of the respective after-school programs.”

Robert Baker, a teaching intern from Temple University, recently reached out to Chuck to inform him that he has decided to dedicate himself to inner city arts education because of his experiences working with youth in Philadelphia through the program Chuck began.

MIMA music is still active as both a student group at Princeton University and after school educational program in Trenton, NJ. Since his fellowship ended in 2008, Chuck has been working as drummer and musical director for Universal/Verve recording artist, Melody Gardot. Much of his time is spent on tour, playing concerts and music festivals all over the world. In the fall/winter of 2010-2011, Chuck returned to Princeton to work with the Princeton University Jazz Vocal Collective under the direction of Dr. Anthony Branker. He is currently working with Gardot on her forthcoming release in Los Angeles, California.

## ADRIENNE SIMPSON '08



Adrienne Simpson was a Sociology major from Philadelphia with a departmental GPA of 3.85 (cumulative 3.66). In addition to her fine scholastic record and numerous public service activities, she served as Musical Director and President of the Princeton U. Gospel Ensemble.

Here is what people in the Princeton University community had to say about Adrienne. "This young woman is bound to make valuable and significant contributions in the public service area." "Adrienne provides stellar leadership.... She has the ability to recognize problems and then bring thoughtful solutions to the table." "Adrienne has excellent work ethics...."

"She is well-organized, thorough, and a pleasure to work with...." "She is dedicated to making sure the voices of at-risk youth are heard and would bring great passion and experience to the [choir] work...." "If I had to rank Adrienne among those talented students with whom I've had the pleasure of working, she would clearly be in the top 5 %."

Adrienne devised an imaginative project, which she titled "Lift Every Voice," using music as a means of creating a college readiness program for at-risk youths (grades 6-8) in Philadelphia. It was sponsored by the Neighborhood (formerly Northwest) Interfaith Movement, a non-sectarian alliance of Christian, Jewish, Unitarian and Muslim congregations and faith institutions who collaborate on human welfare and social justice programs, that was looking to expand its programming to include mentorship of inner city youth.

Northwest Philadelphia was Adrienne's home turf, where she grew up and saw first-hand the realities of the streets, and she very much wanted to give back to her community. In her words at the time, "Many of the young people with whom I ate lunch and played during recess are currently either dead, in prison, or stuck in a cycle of poverty and devastation.... "As someone who grew up in Philadelphia and has seen [this] first hand, I know that children need a program like 'Lift Every Voice'.... They need to be able to see someone who grew up down the street from them but who also went to Princeton.... They need to know that they too can succeed in life and most importantly they need to know how to go about this."

The central feature of Adrienne's project was to form a choir that rehearses and puts on concerts. But at the same time, she would be trying to engage students with their schools and give them a stronger foundation to prepare for college. This would include making available SAT information, college tours, guidance on how to apply, and

(to inspire them) lectures by adults who made bad choices but later turned themselves around.

The Executive Director of NIM enthusiastically endorsed Adrienne's project. "Her desire to use music as a way to strengthen both skills and self-esteem of at-risk youth so that they are better prepared to pursue their studies beyond high school is unique and creative."

Things didn't turn out quite as Adrienne planned. Here is her own description of the experience.

"As you know my project proved very challenging and I ended up having to deal with several unforeseen obstacles, such as a sponsoring organization that had too much going on at the time to prioritize my project and give me the support I needed.

"Although the Lift Every Voice program did not turn out as originally imagined, it was a tremendous learning experience and several positives came out of my creation of the project. When I originally created the program, I expected to work with students in Northwest Philadelphia, the area from which I hailed. However, a lack of attendance (despite continuously expressed interest by local schools and community groups) caused me to rethink my direction in the middle of the year. Instead of just giving up on the program entirely, I revamped my vision and focused more on the academic side of the program. I also moved the program from a local church in Northwest Philadelphia to a different location in West Philadelphia. With the new location and a new sense of direction, I recruited some local student groups from schools like Chestnut Hill College and Temple to volunteer with one-on-one tutoring for the kids and chaperoning for a college tour.

"Though the program did not go as planned, I felt like I was still able to impact the lives of children. One Northwest Philadelphia middle school liked the idea of combining music with higher education so much that they later informed me that they were independently looking to strengthen their music programs and divert funding so that music education would not be lost despite budget cuts. Additionally, I was able to mentor a great group of children, some of whom are now applying to college. I still receive e-mails from them and visit them whenever I am in the area to give advice and check up on their progress. The lessons that I learned through the ups and downs of my Reach Out '56 fellowship were invaluable and I could not be more grateful for the opportunity that the fellowship provided me with.

"After completing my fellowship, I decided to take the skill set that I had learned in college and with my fellowship into the field of law and matriculated at Harvard Law School. While at Harvard, I have been an active member of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, the nation's oldest student-run legal services organization. As a student attorney at the Legal Aid Bureau I represent low-income clients in family court and also in some benefits cases. Though the type of public service that I engage in at Harvard is different in type than that which I enjoyed at Princeton and during my

fellowship, it follows the basic intent behind my Reach Out '56 fellowship—to empower under-served communities through service.

“I am proud to have been a Reach Out '56 fellow and am also excited to see all the new changes being implemented to the program. These changes will allow students with a more diverse array of interests to pursue their passion for public interest. Looking back on my experience, I think I am most grateful for the flexibility that the fellowship gave me in pursuing a public interest project that I was passionate about. I never felt like I was alone, but I was allowed to find my own way and figure out how to rebound when things did not go as planned. I am so grateful for the experience that Reach Out gave me and cannot wait to see a new generation of fellows engage in innovative public interest projects.”

Just to show we're up-to-date with our Fellows, here's a bulletin – on May 1, 2011, Adrienne and her husband became parents to a six pound, seven ounce baby girl named Amara Mae Gittins. As far as we know, this is the first offspring of one of our Fellows. Congratulations, Adrienne!

## ANNE ARMSTRONG '08



Anne Armstrong was a chemistry major from Connecticut with a 3.89 cumulative GPA, who won the Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence, graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and received the Sigma Xi Book Award from the Chemistry Department at graduation.

Anne's thesis advisor was "extremely impressed with [her] intelligence, perseverance, warmth and altruism." She has "a unique combination of intelligence, insight into other people's needs, and a powerful desire to help those who are less fortunate." Her advisor felt that, through her Fellowship, she will "have a significant impact on people's

lives" and "help make the world a better place."

Anne's project was to become Program Director for Camp Holiday Trails(CHT), a summer camp for children with special medical problems (such as HIV, cancer, diabetes, and asthma) in Charlottesville, Va. Anne had worked for CHT over several summers, and it had truly become her life's passion.

In addition to organizing and overseeing the current camp programs, Anne implemented new year-round programming to provide further support for the children during the rest of the year, and also focused on helping the families of the campers. The financial constraints on CHT were such that they had been unable to expand their offerings. With ReachOut '56 funding Anne as the Program Director, CHT was able to utilize the funds thus released to better serve the children and their families.

In addition to her stellar academic record, Anne was devoted to her cause. Anne says, "I was constantly challenged and inspired... I came to realize that there is a power in the human spirit that finds no greater example than a child confronting sickness..." I am heartened by [ReachOut '56's] commitment to supporting young graduates who simply wish to give of themselves to something they are passionate about...."

The Executive Director of CHT cited Anne's "follow-through on every project and activity" and her "remarkable ability" to address the issues she faced "with maturity and compassion," and concluded that "The support of the ReachOut '56 Fellowship is significant and meaningful in helping our Camp become a more sustainable, forward-thinking organization."

As for her life after the Fellowship, Anne told us: “I returned to Princeton to engage in research related to Alzheimer's disease with Prof. Michael Hecht (a continuation of my thesis). That work has resulted in two publications in peer-reviewed journals. I'm now a first year medical student at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City where I continue to remain engaged in the community. Following on my work as a ReachOut fellow at CHT, I am serving as co-director of a science and medicine enrichment camp for East Harlem middle school students.”

Here are Anne's additional reflections, “The opportunity, as a ReachOut fellow, to dedicate a full year to a cause that I cared about so deeply was truly a gift. Though I had worked at CHT for many summers, my role as Program Director presented new challenges. I came to recognize my strengths and accept my weaknesses, developed my own leadership style, and learned the collaboration and selflessness required to operate a small non-profit organization. I will carry what I learned as a ReachOut fellow with me as I move forward in my future as a physician.

“I have greatly appreciated the continued support of the ReachOut board and admire their dedication to constantly improve the fellowship program. The introduction of an international fellowship has clearly sparked an interest in service within the graduating class. I was fortunate to review some of the recent proposals, and I was incredibly impressed by the passion and creativity of both the domestic and international fellowships.”

## MARK BUETTNER '09



Mark, from Kingsburg, California, majored in Political Philosophy and did quite well at Princeton. He engaged in some interesting projects, most notably as a human rights intern in the West Bank, working on the social and political effects of the Israeli occupation and the Israeli/Palestinian boycotts.

Mark's project was to work for the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture. The Program provides medical and mental health care, as well as social and legal services to survivors of torture and war traumas in other countries, including helping them seek asylum in the U.S. This well-regarded Program, which has won numerous awards over the years, has helped people from 80 different countries, such as Tibet and many areas of Africa.

Part of Mark's task was to enhance existing programs, especially by teaching ESL and tutoring patients in basic computer skills. He developed a sustainable pool of long-term volunteers for such key duties as interpreting. He also initiated a new cultural adjustment program to provide aid to these torture victims in such basic needs as opening bank accounts, changing post office addresses, and navigating the city, as well as exposing them to museums, concerts and other NYC cultural offerings. Mark collected data on the outcome of providing these services to enable the organization to evaluate how well the program is working and to fine tune it for the future.

The Director of the Program is Allen S. Keller, M.D., who periodically teaches at Princeton (as a visiting lecturer) a course on Health and Human Rights. Like many non-profits today, the Program has been facing financial difficulties. According to Dr. Keller, Mark's project was "an important one, which greatly benefited our Program, and is one that we would not otherwise have been able to implement because of lack of funding."

Mark received high praise from the professor who advised his junior tutorial work. "Mark is smart and thoughtful and very engaged with questions of justice, both national and international....He writes beautifully, with unusual clarity and a certain elegance....Mark also struck me as very mature in his judgment and his engagements...."

The City Manager of Fresno, California, for whom Mark worked as a research director, said that "he proved himself to be an extraordinary young man....[He]

displayed outstanding organizational skills....I believe Mark has all the qualities and skills needed for an outstanding career in public service."

In Mark's words, "I believe strongly in this Program's objectives to address the complex needs of tortured survivors," and "[my] proposal would expand upon the already existing services of the Program and combat isolation and culture shock of recently arrived torture patients."

Mark contacted us recently and said: "Since the fellowship, I've been working at Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC). CRFC is a law-related education nonprofit organization in Chicago that aims to equip non-lawyers with knowledge and skills pertaining to the law, the legal process, and the legal system. In particular, I work with elementary and secondary schools to develop critical thinking skills, civic participation, and commitment to the rule of law among young people.

"The bulk of my work is in Chicago, but CRFC recently expanded one of our projects to Latin America. The project is designed to promote the teaching and learning of democratic principles among a new generation in Latin America. It was modeled after a similar program we successfully carried out in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Azerbaijan.

"My time with Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture (PSOT) under the ReachOut 56/81 fellowship prepared me for this role. As a fellow at PSOT, I found that one of the most valuable tools our program could provide our clients was access to the law. My new job lets me work toward this objective every day with the students we serve. I hope to one day get a law degree and work in refugee/asylum law. Without the ReachOut 56/81 fellowship, I may not have cultivated such an interest in this field. I am very grateful for the way RO56/81 has shaped my career trajectory."

## VANESSA RODRIGUEZ '09



Vanessa, from San Antonio, Texas, compiled a fine record at Princeton as a History major with a certificate in Latin American studies. She had an obvious passion for public interest law, which motivated her choices of internships while at school and led to her Fellowship project.

The city of San Antonio was consolidating all of its homeless shelters into Haven For Hope, a central "one-stop" homeless center, providing not only the necessities (food, shelter and clothing) but also a variety of supportive services. Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid ("TRLA") wanted to help the homeless in matters such as landlord-tenant issues, public benefits and bankruptcy, but had never had an employee to fulfill that position.

Vanessa's project was to set up a network of legal and other services that hopefully would be sustained by TRLA beyond the year of her fellowship. Vanessa, as a "born-and-bred Texan," wanted to serve that community and help the homeless project achieve its mission of having a lasting impact on South Texas.

For its part, TRLA, like so many non-profits, was facing tough financial times. The presence of a ReachOut 56/81 Fellow provided the staffing to start up this new project and (in TRLA's words) "will be essential to laying the ground work for our long-term commitment to expanded services to the homeless."

The Executive Director of the Tennessee Justice Center (for which Vanessa previously interned) described her as "an extraordinary person ... her intellectual gifts and qualities of character well qualify her to achieve any goals she sets for herself." And the Princeton professor who was her thesis advisor recommend her "most highly" and describes her as "smart, energetic, and highly motivated... independent-minded.... Vanessa is a great delight and will inject any milieu with her energy and thoughtfulness."

Vanessa believes that "assistance to the homeless should be more proactive than providing temporary solutions, such as food, clothing and shelter," and she formulated an ambitious agenda of services "to ensure that the homeless achieve long-term stability." Given her plans for a J.D. as well as an advanced degree in education, she hoped that "the Fellowship will be a stepping stone to a long and productive career in public interest law."

In response to our request for updates, Vanessa wrote: “The first is that I will be attending Columbia School of Law this fall. I still plan on practicing public interest law. I look forward to attending the fellowship selection interviews in 2012.

“The second update is in regards to Street Speak SA. We are proudly approaching our one year anniversary by looking back at what the Editorial Board has accomplished and looking forward to how we can improve. On any given night in San Antonio, approximately 3,580 men, women, and children are homeless. 25% of requests for emergency shelter could not be met. Street Speak SA serves as a vital link between social services and people experiencing homeless, whether they are able to find space in a shelter not. Slowly, but surely, we have built up a small cadre of volunteers, which has grown to include more homeless and formerly homeless contributors. Our hard work was recognized when the paper was recently nominated for a graphic design award. A social worker from Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid will take over my position as Managing Editor when I leave to attend law school in the fall. My sadness at leaving is mitigated by the knowledge that I am leaving the newspaper in capable, passionate hands. Until I pack my bags in August, though, I will serve on the Editorial Board. My latest task has been surveying more than San Antonio thirty non-profit homeless service providers as well as people experiencing homeless to explore how the newspaper can better serve the low-income communities targeted by our mission statement.

“I want to thank the ReachOut 56-81 (and now 06) for providing the financial backing that allowed me to work for Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid. Legal Aid funding is facing huge cuts at the national and federal level. In the midst of hiring freezes and possible lay-offs at many legal aid offices, I was able to open a Legal Aid satellite office *and* spread additional resource information through Street Speak SA. Neither project would have received the necessary manpower without the creation of my position.”

## JAMES BRYANT '10



James Sears Bryant of Enid, Oklahoma, was a history major with an impressive academic record. James wants to dedicate his life to working as a lawyer on behalf of Indian tribes in the United States, helping to solve the contemporary problems they face and to protect tribal sovereignty.

His numerous prior activities in exploring Indian issues and history – both on intellectual and activist levels – led him to the non-profit Native American Rights Fund (NARF), which he sees as the custodian of tribal sovereignty. The economic downturn has reduced the organization's federal funding, requiring programs to be cut back and a hiring freeze implemented. Most affected by this is their National Indian Law Library – an invaluable collection of treaties, statutes, tribal codes, judicial opinions and other documents, housed in NARF's office in Boulder, Colorado,

judicial opinions and other documents, housed in NARF's office in Boulder, Colorado, and constituting the only public library in the U.S. that provides free research and information services relating to Indian law. This central clearinghouse for Indian legal materials is in crisis – its budget severely cut and permanent staff reduced to a single individual. As a result, the Library has had to suspend a vital project – the digitization of its many documents, in order to secure and preserve what forms the essence of tribal sovereignty for hundreds of tribes, and to make these documents publicly available through web-based software.

James served as the supervisor of the circulation desk of Firestone Library, and felt that this experience in organizing large collections of documents and making available new texts would be of great use to him in his project. He said: "I feel deeply that a wide-scale, unprecedented project of universally digitizing tribal codes and constitutions would show dramatic and measurable impact on the welfare of Indian people and tribal organizations. I could do a great service to an organization that performs vital work to a population who brilliantly maintains its own sovereignty and tradition while moving forward with economic and societal development."

The value of James' project is attested to by NARF (he will be "a tremendous asset to our organization"). He received rave references from one of his Princeton professors ("James is smart, engaged and passionate about his interests in Native American legal issues.... This is a young man with a commitment to community

service who is really going places."); from his supervisor at the Pace Center ("...a student possessed of an incisive understanding of complex social issues, a mature sensitivity to community norms, and an earnest devotion to social change."); from his summer internship supervisor at the Tennessee Justice Center ("...a devoted worker who skillfully completed projects with dedication, compassion, and intelligence.... His traits of genuineness, generosity, empathy, and his strong moral compass were evident in his work here."); and a Lakota Indian colleague ("...with James' determination I see him as being a great help to Native Americans in the future.").

James recently brought us up to date on his activities.

"The Tribal Law Digitization and Access Project is now underway. When I started here at NARF we had about 75 tribal codes digitized. Since I began my ReachOut 56-81 project on August 2, our library has seen 22 more of the roughly 250 codes in our collection added to the ranks of the digitized! With each code, my presentation to tribes becomes more refined, my strategy and approach becomes more successful. These 22 are (and a few are rapidly becoming) available for free on our website's Tribal Law Gateway (<http://narf.org/nill/triballaw/index.htm>) as well as for a fee on Westlaw, which acts as a partner to my project, providing annotation for each tribal code and constitution as well as access to tribal materials for the tribes that sign on to our project. This means that twenty-two new tribes have given us permission to post their constitutions and codes online so that anyone, anywhere can access them for free on our website.

"So far, through the guidance of David Selden, Law-Librarian-in-Chief of the National Indian Law Library, and with the help of our team of volunteers and work-study students (especially Kenny Richards and Mark Chevront), I am working steadily towards a full collection of online digitized codes and constitutions for the National Indian Law Library. The essence of the project, as I discussed during my presentation for the fellowship, is receiving permission from each tribe to digitize their legal content and post it online (no less important is identifying who has the authority to give such permission for each individual tribe and convincing this person or group). I have adopted essentially two strategies for getting these 'permissions,' one for the short term and one longer term.

"The first strategy requires approaching a tribe directly in what a salesman might refer to as a 'cold call.' During my first weeks at NARF/NILL I combed our collection for the tribes which showed the most potential – ones that NARF had relationships with but for whatever reason had not signed on to our digitalization project. These seventy-three tribes have been my initial targets. I research the governmental structure and history of each tribe, contact the appropriate tribal agency, and present to them our vision for the project over the phone, email, or through the post office. I answer their questions and show them examples of our work. But unlike a salesman I do not try to get them to 'purchase' what NILL is selling but instead demonstrate to them what benefits the nearly 100 tribes have seen in allowing the National Indian Law Library to digitize their tribal legal materials in the past and discuss the partnership we are offering to them. I have not always been successful, but often I have been.

“The second strategy is to coordinate advocates for transparency and access to tribal law across the nation. This was an idea that came from a brainstorming session with David Selden and a tribal judge who was at our library doing research one day. The idea is to assemble a team of noteworthy individuals in the tribal, scholarly, and legal realms into a Tribal Law Access Support Committee. Tribal judges, executive leadership, NARF attorneys and staff as well as Executive Director John Echohawk, librarians, anthropologists, and others will formulate a statement making the case for why tribes benefit from signing on to my project. They could also advise me on how best to fulfill the goals of my fellowship and how most effectively to approach tribes and ask for permission to digitize their codes and constitutions. We are currently soliciting the committee members now from our target list and it is my sincere wish to get Kevin Gover, a prominent attorney in Indian law, former head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, current director of the Museum of the American Indian, and a Princeton alumnus of the class of 1978, involved in the committee. We plan on getting the committee up and running in about a month's time and I look forward to informing you on its progress in my next update.

“Another project that I completed which will be launched in the next few days was a comprehensive collection bringing together all known tribal provisions relating to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) as part of NARF's "Practical Guide to the Indian Child Welfare Act." The guide is available online at <http://www.narf.org/icwa/index.htm>. Once it is added to the guide, my collection will assist attorneys, judges, and social workers in adoption and child abuse cases by providing a simpler way to navigate tribal law relating to ICWA. Another project currently underway involves incorporating state law into the "Practical Guide to the Indian Child Welfare Act" from all 50 states. I also designed and maintain a page on our website explaining the origins, enactment, and impact of the recently adopted Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010. The page brings together resources for attorneys and the community to understand the new legislation and its scope. Here is the page: <http://www.narf.org/nill/resources/tloa.html>.

“In addition to the process of collecting and digitizing tribal codes and constitutions and other projects related to tribal law, I have been busy at NARF/NILL performing other important and edifying tasks. Since week one I have been the author and editor of our Supreme Court Bulletin, a weekly summary of Indian Law cases currently in the United States Supreme Court. The bulletin reaches over 1,000 subscribers, mostly tribal officials, students, and attorneys in Indian Law, and can be read online every week at <http://narf.org/nill/bulletins/sct/2010-2011update.htm>. I am also a ‘pinch hitter’ for the other weekly Indian Law Bulletins, filling in and updating our summaries of federal trial court, United States Court of Appeals, and State Supreme Court cases as well as legislative, regulatory, and other news and journal articles. <http://narf.org/nill/bulletins/ilb.htm>. I also service an average of 4 to 5 research requests each day, from attorneys, tribal officials, students, prisoners, and the public, on topics from A to Z, from the Abenaki Nation of Vermont to the Zuni Tribe of New Mexico. These are fun because each research request teaches me something new and something different about tribal law. Some of them are simple – for instance, *help me find statutes relating to cattle grazing within my tribe's code* – and others are more complex, such as one request which asked for assistance in developing tribal code procedures to prevent

the purchase of electoral votes on his reservation. David Selden has been an invaluable leader in my time here at NARF; I would be lost without his patience and guidance.

Regarding a performance evaluation so far, Mr. Selden reports: "James Bryant is a tremendous asset to the National Indian Law Library and is contributing greatly. He participates directly in providing essential core services relating to the library's mission. James is helping us provide high quality service despite a reduced library staff and steady increase in requests from the public."

Here is James again. "These first few months at the Native American Rights Fund have been full of learning and also action. Through your generous support I am able to fulfill my professional dreams here in Boulder and I thank you immensely for this tremendous opportunity. I will continue to work hard in line with our mission of the ReachOut 56-81 Fellowship. Feel free to contact me with any questions or if I can service the ReachOut program in any way, by presenting to prospective applicants or otherwise. My business and family will bring me to the New Jersey area from time to time in the next year. Incidentally, our class notes chair contacted me recently about NARF and our project is featured in 2010 Class Notes section of this month's PAW magazine. <http://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/membersonly/PRU/cpages/classnotes/classnotes.jsp?chapter=469>

"Thank you once again for this once in a lifetime opportunity. I look forward to keeping you up to speed with my progress here in Boulder."

## KATIE HSIH & FATU CONTEH '10



Katie Hsih



Fatu Conteh

Katie Hsih, who is from Los Altos, California, spent her last undergraduate summer in Sierra Leone working for the GAF/NOW organization based in the eastern diamond mining district of Kono. Fatu Conteh, of Houston, Texas, is a native of Sierra Leone, whose family was forced to flee the country in a fishing boat in 1999 to escape its civil war. They decided to pool their talents and resources for their ReachOut international project with what is now called the Wellbody Alliance in Sierra Leone.

Katie (with aid from Fatu) has been helping run and manage the current programs of GAF/NOW, founded and managed by Dr. Dan Kelly '03 and Dr. Bailor Barrie of Sierra Leone, one of the few physicians in Sierra Leone who has made the decision to stay and help the country recover from the war. The two most important projects are: the Kono Amputee Clinic, a primary healthcare clinic that offers free services to amputees and others who are war-wounded and inexpensive healthcare to the local community; and the HIV-TB Home-based Care Program, a recent initiative that trains community health workers in partnership with the Sierra Leonean government. Katie and Fatu say: "GAF/NOW is a pillar of inspiration for the country's progress into the future and uses the lens of healthcare to facilitate its transition from post-war to development. It has a striking need for help. Our management role will help prevent the organization from collapsing while propelling it forward in new and promising directions to create social change and improve healthcare in Sierra Leone."

Fatu (with help from Katie) has created a peer education program for teenage pregnancy by setting up a youth center, a safe space that fosters intimate relationships with the youths, particularly young girls. At this center, they have support group meetings, conference gatherings, social events, and education workshops to explore and address the issue of teenage pregnancy that is rampant in the local community and across the entire country. Fatu and Katie told us that "teenage pregnancy is one of the root causes of the astronomical maternal mortality rate in Sierra Leone, and it is an issue that is perpetuated by social norms. The activities we plan to implement will encourage the youths to make wise sexual decisions and contribute positively to the health and wellbeing of their community."

Katie (with help from Fatu) proposed to conduct an ethnographic research and analysis project to explore female genital mutilation (FGM), which is a wide-spread practice in Sierra Leone and other West and Central African countries. It is closely linked to marriageability, chastity, and family honor, and young girls who are not "circumcised" often experience social ostracism or inability to marry, which is very detrimental to the quality of life in a patriarchal society. The surgery often takes place in unsterile conditions, can lead to severe health complications, and is closely tied to maternal mortality. It is, however, a sensitive topic that must first be approached with immersion in the local environment and education about the complexities of the issue.

Fatu and Katie say: "Women have no power in Sierra Leone. They face discrimination under the law, in traditional practice, and in culturally acceptable social behavior. We will not only be a pivotal force in maintaining the GAF/NOW organization and sustaining its current projects, which alleviate healthcare disparity in the country, but we will also initiate the organization's first programs in a new direction to address women's rights."

Fatu did well at Princeton, serving as vice-president of her class, and in addition to engaging in various public service activities, was the founder and president of the Princeton Africa Development Institute. One summer she worked in an Ethiopian village helping residents install hand-dug wells.

She was highly recommended by one of her professors who also oversaw a conference that Fatu organized: "Her creativity, energy and maturity make her a pleasure to have as a student, and more importantly, as a colleague. She is highly self-motivated, dedicated, driven and passionate...." Her supervisor at the Pace Center said that Fatu "is the kind of graduating senior that the ReachOut 56-81 Fellowship Committee might have had in mind," and went on to note that she "has demonstrated her commitment for hard work and leadership and she has executed both of these qualities with excellence and a great sense of responsibility."

Katie Hsieh is a top student with a large roster of public service activities while at school. One of her teachers (for whom Katie later served as a research assistant) said that Katie "does a beautiful job integrating her operations research expertise and her clear interest in and deep commitment to global health issues. It was a joy to watch the gears turning in her impressive brain..."; and she concluded that "Katie is simply a spectacular young woman and will make any program that supports her proud." Another instructor who is also helping advise her thesis said that "Katie has the strongest inner drive of any undergraduate I have encountered as a teacher."

Dr. Barrie, with whom Katie spent last summer in Sierra Leone, said of her: "With Katie...as the programs manager, I will have time to focus on treating patients at the clinic. I have no hesitation that Katie will perform this role perfectly. We really need her out here..." This was echoed by Dr. Kelly ("we need her"), who praised her maturity, hard work, sensitivity, leadership and creativity.

Here are Katie's own words to describe her far-reaching project.

"My role within the organization has spanned across many areas of operation within a startup global health NGO such as this one. I have been referred to as managing director, communications director, administrative coordinator... this is because the organization is small, transparent, and fellows are given many opportunities for responsibility and contribution.

"I did take over a number of management roles on the ground in Sierra Leone, and was involved in projects that include: HIV/AIDS home-based care program, HIV survey validation study, HIV stigma scale survey, amputee chronic pain program, palm kernel farm and oil processing plant (micro-agriculture social entrepreneurship), -- ANC child health community health worker program. Fatu and I spent a large portion of our time in the fall implementing a pilot for the school-based reproductive health peer education program.

"I also spent a significant amount of time learning more about the executive side of the organization and what it takes to run a global health NGO in a developing environment such as Sierra Leone. I attended meetings with government ministries, funding agencies, existing and potential partners, and learned about the complexities and challenges associated with navigating in a developing environment. It is eye-opening to see all of the non-health factors that significantly affect healthcare delivery, such as corruption, politics, personal relationships, economic infrastructure, knowledge and education... the list goes on. The opportunity to learn and contribute along the entire pathway of healthcare delivery is invaluable and shapes my understanding of health policy, healthcare delivery, and global health as I continue my education in these fields.

"I intended to conduct ethnographic research on female genital mutilation during this year. While I was able to make headway on this project, it was not in the spotlight, as much of my fieldwork time was dedicated to the peer education program and supervising other projects on the ground. I did not want to tackle too many projects at once for fear of being unable to complete any of them with adequacy. Instead, I decided to focus my priorities on a few projects and researching others (such as female genital mutilation) when I was given the opportunity. I was still able to learn a great deal more on the subject (since the previous summer) and attend many events that led to interesting interviews. In addition, part of our peer education training involved focus groups and discussion groups that treaded into this realm of research.

"While a large part of my fellowship is spent on the field, another half is spent on the executive side of the organization. The infrastructure and systems of communication within Wellbody Alliance are overwhelmed by the rate at which the organization is expanding. Thus, I took on a role as communications director, relieving leaders of the organization (that are trying to manage, direct, and conduct research all at once) of those responsibilities. In addition, I reached out to those experienced in communications for larger service organizations and am trying to implement a new

model of communication catered to the operations of Wellbody Alliance. It is a work in progress, but also an incredible experience in understanding how to manage a startup NGO.

“I have also gained experience in grant-writing, project reports, and am helping put together the annual report for the organization. Working with Wellbody Alliance during my post-bac year has truly been comprehensive and revolutionary in a personal sense – every experience I have moving forward will be informed by what I have experienced during this fellowship.

“We trained a group of students at the local high school to be peer educators and peer advisers in their school and community. The training included topics such as puberty, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, contraception, family planning, reproduction, pregnancy, healthy relationships, solidarity, education and advocacy, and peer counseling. The program led to a one-week campaign which took place during school-wide assembly before class for five days. The program for the campaign was a collaborative effort between myself, Fatu, our sponsor organization, and the peer educators in our program. The campaign itself featured education through theatre (a continuous four-part skit that included main concepts from the training in an engaging way), guest speakers (a teenage mother within the community), and interactive discussion with the audience. This pilot was implemented alongside research, as we designed and administered surveys to assess knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors towards these topics. The surveys were conducted on a random sample of students within the school community prior to the campaign, immediately after the campaign, and will be conducted 3 months later to evaluate behavioral change. The program will be replicated in a handful of other schools over the following months.

“It is impossible not to worry about sustainability when operating in a developing country. NGO after NGO implements programs that last for no longer than a few months or years. When designing the program, Fatu and I have kept in mind how to structure it in ways that will encourage continuation after our departure, but it’s a constant concern that it will fall through the cracks. ReachOut has been unbelievably supportive throughout this process and in fact created a new continuation fellowship to bring a new post-bac fellow to Kono and continue and expand our work. I cannot express how appreciative I am of the support and encouragement from the entire committee during the fellowship.

“I have been moved by ReachOut’s support during this fellowship. The committee members give fellows freedom and independence, but also provide abundant support beyond the financial. I have been connected to other organizations in my field of work, received an inspiring book written by others traveling in the developing world, and met kindness when my camera was stolen abroad during the fellowship. During the winter, I came home to a holiday greeting package that made me feel truly welcome and part of the ReachOut community. This fellowship is not simply a means to pursue a project during the year after graduation; it is a comforting and generous community of

support and guidance in the arena of humanitarian service work, and I will appreciate this beyond the conclusion of this year.

“The opportunity to apply for a ReachOut fellowship that allows students to pursue service in the international community is invaluable. Understanding social, economic, and political issues in other countries shapes a mature understanding of global perspective and increases one’s capacity to contribute to their own country. While Sierra Leone is different from the United States in almost every way, understanding their culture and the issues that exist in their healthcare delivery system allows me to see our own healthcare delivery system in a different light, and approach issues from a different angle. International service experience certainly promotes the ability to “think outside the box.” In addition, it really motivates personal growth and reflection in an individual, which feeds into one’s work, regardless of what country or problem is being considered.

“As the world becomes increasingly globalized, it is imperative that Princeton students understand their fields from a global perspective in order to confront modern issues and propose innovative and effective ideas and problem-solving methods.

“I’m sure I speak on behalf of many members of the Princeton community in thanking the ReachOut committee for supporting international as well as domestic service opportunities.”

Here is what Fatu told us: “I embarked on my ReachOut fellowship with Wellbody Alliance (formerly the Global Action Foundation) in Kono, Sierra Leone to start a peer education program against teenage pregnancy. I had heard that a lot of young girls are getting pregnant and dropping out of school in Sierra Leone. As a Sierra Leonean woman, I wanted to help. However, I had left Sierra Leone when I was only thirteen; the civil war in Sierra Leone had forced me and my family to emigrate to the U.S, where I have been living for these past ten years. Therefore, coming, I had little idea of what to expect. All I was certain of was that I was about to embark on an experience that will transform me both professionally and personally.

“Through this project, I have not only gained the knowledge and leadership skills required to start and carry out a public health research, I have also gotten a clear perspective of public health in Sierra Leone, one that I am confident will inform many project decisions in my future career as a physician (and maybe a politician).

“Under my leadership, we were able to implement a project with two main components: assessing and keeping track of the scope of teenage pregnancy in Kono District through the Government Hospital’s antenatal records and personal surveys, and establishing school and community peer education programs, Peer Education Program TOK (PEPTOK) and Early Bele Awareness Group (EBAG) respectively, to improve the sexual health knowledge and attitudes of teenagers in the district.

“After eight months of hard work, I am happy to report that we have begun to see the scope of the problem at hand and have established very promising interventions. Last year 2010, the Antenatal Clinic at the Koidu Government Hospital recorded over 600 pregnant teenage girls, and from the personal surveys we have been administering to various pregnant teens, we are finding out that most of these girls are getting pregnant between the seventh and ninth grades.

“In addition, I have finished training forty peer educators (ten students in each school), that will work throughout the school year under the guidance of a head teacher to teach their classmates on topics and skills ranging from puberty, condoms and contraceptives, HIV/STIs, to communication in relationships with peers, partners, and parents. In the community, EBAG, which consists of three women and three men who have gotten pregnant/ impregnate, is conducting monthly radio discussions on teenage pregnancy and visiting various communities in Koidu (the capital city of Kono District) to tell their story and talk to parents, young men and women.

“Moreover, the opportunity I had to work and interact with Sierra Leoneans across the socioeconomic spectrum has enabled me to reconnect with my people and begin my reintegration into a country I love so dearly.

“From meeting with school administrators and various political leaders, to leading a team of men (in a country where women are still fighting for equal rights), to successfully choosing, training, and graduating the peer educators, I have come to realize just how much a woman with my current (and future) level of education means to a country like Sierra Leone. I will not forget how the Kono people welcomed me as their own “pikin” (child) and the young women as their own sister; nor will I forget the words of my PEPTOK students as they presented me with a going-away gift of traditional Sierra Leone cloth: “...this cloth is to remind you to never forget us and your country Mama Salone.”

“Most people that know of passion to help Sierra Leone usually asks me: Where do you plan to live in the future, Fatu, the United States, or Sierra Leone? For a girl that has literally spend half of her life in Sierra Leone and the other half in the United States, this is a very tough question to answer because I am a citizen of both countries and feel a part of both.

“After graduating from Princeton, I had two choices: to continue on to medical school, and afterwards, go on to establish a medical career and a life in the U.S. with no plans to return back to Sierra Leone, or to go back to contribute something and search for a reason to return to Sierra Leone after my medical training. Thanks to my ReachOut 56-81 Fellowship, I have found very important reasons for coming back and staying connected with Sierra Leone.

“I am very grateful to the Princeton ReachOut 55-81 Fellowship committee for believing in me and being such a strong support throughout this experience. I truly feel a part of the ReachOut family.”

## JOHN TORREY '11



John Torrey, from Hanover, New Hampshire, is a Religion major, with a certificate in Global Health Policy and a strong academic record. He has spent considerable time volunteering in Tanzania to help women living with HIV/AIDS.

John wants to carry forward the peer education program on teenage pregnancy started by Fatu Conteh and Katie Hsih (our current Fellows) for Global Action Foundation (GAF) in the Kono District of Sierra Leone – evaluating its outcomes, refining its methodology, and broadening its scope throughout the District. Fatu and Katie have broken the ground here, but

won't have enough time to evaluate its impact, which is essential for such a health intervention. John says he will "take the peer education program from wherever they leave it and evaluate, add to, and expand on the hard work they have put in."

GAF is scaling up its HIV/AIDS home-based care program, and John will also be involved in delivery essential administrative support to this program, as well as coupling it with the pregnancy education outreach.

Dr. Dan Kelley '03, the Executive Director of GAF, says "We envision this program achieving its goals of reducing teenage pregnancy rates and maternal mortality in one of the world's poorest countries. With the help of Princeton ReachOut 1956 International Fellowship, we are one step closer to developing a scalable model that has the potential for national roll out to secondary schools. I believe that with John Torrey, we would be able to reach this goal by the end of his international fellowship."

This summer, three of Princeton's programs will send up to 20 students to GAF in Sierra Leone as summer interns. Managing this is another administrative task borne by the ReachOut Fellows, and John's project will further GAF's budding relationship with the University. John says: "As a beacon and hope and empowerment in the lives of the world's most utterly vulnerable and desperate people, GAF is an organization well worth investing in."

The chair of Princeton's Center for African-American Studies calls John Torrey "a wonderful student with a remarkable combination of intelligence and public concern... truly an impressive young man." He goes on to say that John's work "reveals an earnestness that is rare in these times. Moreover he is truly dedicated to make a substantive difference in this world. And this desire springs from the most genuine of

concern for others.” Another of his teachers says this about him: “A deeply intelligent, hard-working and accomplished student, John has a sophisticated and compassionate moral sensibility and a strong commitment to social justice, equity and positive social change through public service. He is certain to make ground-breaking contributions to the fields of global health, international aid and development, and public policy in the course of his academic and professional career.”

John told us recently: “I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity that the ReachOut Fellowship will afford me. It is rare, coming out of an undergraduate education, to be able to spend a year deeply immersed in the on-the-ground realities of a global health operation while pursuing significant administrative responsibilities. From what I have learned speaking with other Princeton students about GAF and from my experiences in Tanzania, I know I will learn an enormous amount next year that will be of great value to me for the rest of my life.

“While I cannot know what local realities I will discover when I arrive in Koidu, from the moment I get there I will strive to determine the best ways I can work within them to help some of the town’s most vulnerable residents. I cannot think of an experience that will better prepare me for the career I intend to pursue in global development policy. This process of learning about local realities and working hard to make a difference within them is not something that everyone in global development has gone through and will lend me an invaluable perspective that will last with me my entire life.

“I feel immensely fortunate to have the opportunity to spend next year pursuing a project of my own design that will enable me to serve, to learn, and to grow as a person. It will help to mold me into more of a “citizen of the world” with a greatly enriched understanding of the kinds of harsh and complicated realities faced by so many of my fellow global citizens and of the potential I have to work in my life to alleviate them.

“It is fantastic that ReachOut has added the international fellowship, and I am proud to be among the second recipients of it. In today’s increasingly globalizing world, it is essential for universities like Princeton to be producing international public servants alongside domestic ones. I look forward to remaining connected to ReachOut after my fellowship is complete and to participating in the award’s continuous investment in the lives of publicly conscious Princeton graduates.”

## HANNA KATZ '11



Hanna Katz, from Woodbridge CT, is a Sociology major whose senior thesis is about the social engagement of youth who are repeatedly stopped by the police. Her academic record is stellar, and she has amassed various academic honors.

Her project is with the Youth Employment and Education Program (YEP) of the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center, which (in the settlement house tradition) has been performing services for low-income NYC individuals since 1964. YEP is a job-readiness training program for out-of-school and out-of-work youth between ages 17 and

24. They are mostly African-American or Hispanic, and come from the poorest neighborhoods of East Harlem and the Bronx with little educational attainment.

Hanna served as an intern at the Isaacs Center in 2009 and has returned to the Center regularly since then, meeting hundreds of young people who have benefited from the Center's services. One of the significant barriers to their progress in job and school placement is a criminal record – 70% of the participants having been involved in the criminal justice system. Hanna realized that she could be helpful to those with criminal records, reconnecting these youngsters back into society; and she approached YEP about her project. YEP's leaders are delighted that she will take on this special task.

The four components of Hanna's proposed program are;

- Developing a sustainable case management-program for these youths as they move through the legal process;
- Incorporating relevant issues of criminal justice into existing Isaacs Center programming;
- Connecting the Isaacs Center with the criminal justice system and the local community on a sustainable basis; and
- Strengthening the relationship between the Isaacs Center and the broader community.

Hanna says that "Together, these four spheres will form a multi-level support structure for some of the Isaacs Center's neediest clients and thus will constitute a meaningful addition to this wonderful organization." Because of recent cuts in public funding for non-profit organizations, Hanna says, the Isaacs Center would not be able to support Hanna's program without the financial assistance of the ReachOut56-81 Fellowship program. Hanna's conviction that "underprivileged individuals are trapped in

a cycle of criminal involvement and personal instability,” but that they have the potential to escape the cycle, has inspired her future plans of earning a dual degree in law and social work so as to provide underprivileged youth with comprehensive support.

Hanna has thought a great deal about this and brings intelligence and passion to the task ahead. The leadership of the Isaacs Center (knowing Hanna from her prior internship there) has “every confidence that Hanna will do an outstanding job in this position.” They see her as “insightful, passionate and dedicated,” as well as “a true team player.” They feel that her program, with Hanna guiding it, “will prove to be highly successful and positively benefit the lives of hundreds of disconnected young people.”

Hanna has received outstanding references. Her senior thesis adviser had this to say: “She is smart, organized and hard-working; but she also cares about the real world and wants her work to contribute to making that world a better place.” A manager of the Princeton Pace Center, who knows Hanna well, felt she was an “excellent candidate,” and spoke about her “many talents and skills” and “deep passion for social justice and fulfilling the ideals of an active and engaged participant of her community.” And the supervisor at her 2010 summer internship in a criminal justice program said she was their “number one pick,” who “met and exceeded our expectations,” and took initiatives beyond her years in a stressful work environment.

Here are some additional comments from Hanna. “During the summer of 2009, I interned with the Isaacs Center's YEP program through the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation's Oscar S. Straus II Fellows in Criminal Justice, a program coordinated by the Pace Center. During that summer, I was blown away by the dedication of the Isaacs Center staff and by the supportive services that the Center provided for these youth. However, I did notice that there were few structures in place at the Isaacs Center to serve the particular needs of young criminal defendants. I continued to volunteer at the Isaacs Center after that summer, and it became increasingly clear to me that criminal justice involvement was one of the central barriers that these youth faced as they sought educational and employment opportunities.

“Developing my ReachOut proposal was a gradual process, and I drew inspiration from staff at the Isaacs Center, coursework in the Sociology department, and a summer 2010 internship with the Osborne Association, a criminal justice-related non-profit organization in Brooklyn. My final project has four separate components: providing individual case-management for youth with ongoing criminal cases, incorporating relevant criminal-justice issues into the YEP curriculum, connecting the Isaacs Center with the existing network of criminal-justice organizations, and strengthening the relationship between the Isaacs Center and its surrounding community. I anticipate a busy year, but I cannot be more excited.

“My hope is that these four components will help to address both the individual-level struggles and the broader structural difficulties associated with criminal-justice involvement among youth. It is most important to me that I start a program that the

Isaacs Center can sustain beyond my fellowship year. Finally, I hope that my future career will involve providing these same sort of comprehensive legal services for underprivileged youth, and I am grateful to Princeton ReachOut<sup>56-81</sup> for allowing me to start this work right away.

“I was shocked when I learned that I was awarded the ReachOut fellowship. I feel incredibly honored and fortunate to be granted this opportunity to make a real difference for an incredible organization during my first year out of college. I knew going in that the ReachOut fellowship was a long shot, but I also knew that this opportunity was well worth taking that shot. I'm still in disbelief; I don't think the reality is going to sink in until I begin my project at the end of the summer. I am so grateful to friends, faculty, the Pace Center, and other members of the Princeton and Isaacs Center communities who supported and encouraged me through the application process.”

“During the summer of 2009, I interned with the Isaacs Center's YEP program through the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation's Oscar S. Straus II Fellows in Criminal Justice, a program coordinated by the Pace Center. During that summer, I was blown away by the dedication of the Isaacs Center staff and by the supportive services that the Center provided for these youth. However, I did notice that there were few structures in place at the Isaacs Center to serve the particular needs of young criminal defendants. I continued to volunteer at the Isaacs Center after that summer, and it became increasingly clear to me that criminal justice involvement was one of the central barriers that these youth faced as they sought educational and employment opportunities.

## KAREN CAMPION and CLARE HERCEG '11



Karen Campion

Karen Campion, from Silver Spring, MD, is a Sociology major with certificates in Near Eastern Studies and Arabic Language. She received the Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence in 2009. Clare Herceg, from Sugar Loaf, NY, is a Woodrow Wilson School major with certificates in Arabic Language and Culture and in Near Eastern Studies. Each of them has fashioned a fine academic record and strong background in service and international experience. They both speak Arabic and have confronted some of the most pressing issues in the Middle East issues, both in the region and at U.S. institutions.



Clare Herceg

Karen and Clare will carry out their joint project in the Nablus governate in the West Bank of the Palestinian territories, which is home to over 80,000 refugees. Many of those refugees reside in four main refugee camps, all of which are plagued by serious problems, such as overcrowded schools, high unemployment, poor water and sewage networks, etc. Over 40 percent of the population is under the age of 14, and the children are particularly vulnerable to the challenges posed by poverty and ongoing political instability.

Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO), an American NGO that works in disadvantaged areas of the Middle East, is one of the few international groups to serve these impoverished refugee

communities. In Nablus, TYO offers high-quality early childhood programs to enrich children's social, intellectual and physical development as creative and engaged citizens. Its core program is aimed at children 4-8, but the organization also provides programming to engage their parents and train college-age volunteers to assist in the work.

Karen and Clare's responsibilities will include:

- Teaching classes and developing a class curriculum
- Creating an outreach strategy to work with local and international partners to strengthen TYO's presence in the community and bring in new funding and support for its programs

- Supporting TYO's existing programs, including initiatives geared towards women's empowerment
- Performing a comprehensive needs assessment of the local communities and suggesting programs to better serve them
- If time permits, assisting TYO in implementing changes to existing programs and crafting new programs.

About this, Karen and Clare said:

“We will work with Tomorrow's Youth Organization to help them better serve the impoverished and refugee populations of Nablus, in the West Bank. TYO's primary focus is its after-school program for children from the four refugee camps around Nablus and some of the poorest neighborhoods within the city itself. These classes (which cover subjects like drama, computers, English, and music) are designed to help the kids work through the trauma they experience on a day-to-day basis from the ongoing violence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and chronic poverty inherent to the ongoing refugee problem. TYO also runs parenting classes for the childrens' parents, a volunteer program for students from the local university, and an entrepreneurship and business development program for women.

“We contacted many NGOs working with refugees in the Middle East, and found a number of organizations doing really indispensable work in the region. Nevertheless, it was clear that we could leave a significant and lasting impact by working with TYO in Nablus because TYO is a small organization with deep ties to the local community. We collaborated with TYO's director to design a project that responds to important needs at TYO while playing to our strengths and interests.

“While there, we will put together a comprehensive outreach strategy for TYO and conduct a needs assessment in the local community. In putting together the outreach strategy, we will work with local and international partners to strengthen TYO's presence in the community and bring in new funding and support for its programs. For the needs assessment, we will meet with members of the community to understand what TYO is doing well, how their programs can be improved, and what kinds of needs are currently going unmet. At the end of that process, we will propose and design new initiatives and program adjustments to make sure TYO is serving Nablus's children and their community in the most effective possible way. We will also teach classes directly and support some of TYO's ongoing programs.”

The Director of TYO's Nablus center wrote that TYO's challenging goal is to establish five centers modeled after the one in Nablus by 2013 – a goal that she considers more likely to be achieved with Karen and Clare's contributions to the organization. Karen and Clare's project would not be accomplished in the near future without them, and “they will leave a significant impact on TYO and the refugee community that will outlive their years with us.” TYO is fully committed to overseeing their work “and ensuring that they receive the support necessary to complete it.”

Karen and Clare are not only intelligent and well organized but also highly motivated and passionate in pursuing their project. As a student, Karen has been devoted to “the study of human rights and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict” and is writing her thesis on Israeli and Palestinian women’s political organizations. Clare says that “service has defined my life thus far and will continue to guide it,” and she hopes ultimately “to support and create national policies regarding the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in particular.”

While studying for the spring 2010 semester at the American University in Cairo, Clare also undertook service work as a volunteer English teacher. In the summer of 2009, she was an intern with Endeavor Jordan, an Amman-based nonprofit that focuses on entrepreneurship. This past summer, she held an internship performing local outreach in Goshen, N. Y. for the then-U.S. Rep. John Hall. Among her many activities at Princeton, she served as an officer in the Princeton Committee on Palestine, Orange Key campus guide organization, and the Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources and Education (SHARE) office at Princeton. She also has served as a volunteer teacher with a prisoner assistance program in Bordentown, N.J.

After Karen’s internship there this past summer, an official of the Middle East Institute highly recommended her for playing “an invaluable role,” and for having “distinguished herself as an extremely bright and motivated intern,” who was clearly committed to working in the Middle East and “is just the kind of American who can have an impact on the lives of young Palestinians.” Clare’s supervisor for her internship called her “a truly outstanding person,” who is “one of our most outstanding volunteers” and expressed the belief that Clare is “ideally suited for this Fellowship.” And the seminar leader of the course both Karen and Clare took on Modern Israel (from Princeton’s Program in Judaic Studies) said that both are “exceptional students – intelligent, hard working and incredibly motivated” and that they have “a sense of maturity and responsibility that is rare among undergraduates.”

Karen says: “Throughout the course of the fellowship, I look forward to directly addressing some of the serious problems that I have studied over the last four years. Moreover, I hope that the experience will help guide my future efforts--political, development-related, or otherwise--to make a positive contribution to American-Middle East relations and human security and peace throughout the region.”

In terms of the Fellowship, Clare says:

"I am deeply grateful to the ReachOut Fellowship donors for this phenomenal opportunity to leave a real, lasting impact through serving a population clearly in need. My recent experience in the region illustrated to me the significant challenges that these children face every day, and I look forward to directly addressing those issues. I can't express my gratitude to the Fellowship Committee enough for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“I was completely surprised and, of course, thrilled when I heard that we had been awarded this fellowship. It's pretty unbelievable that we've been able to design our dream project and that the ReachOut committee is giving us the resources to make it a reality. I'm deeply grateful for the committee's support for our project. My experiences in the West Bank have shown me just how important this work is, and I'm honored to be able to carry it out.

“The committee's decision to add an international fellowship provides an invaluable opportunity to Princeton students hoping to make a positive contribution to communities outside the United States. Many students have spent their time at Princeton studying those huge issues that affect people across international boundaries--including human rights, poverty, violent politics, public health, gender inequality, and the environment. Work in other countries is often crucial to addressing these important issues, and the ReachOut International Fellowship allows students to think critically and practically about how best to make a material difference.”

## ReachOut56-81-06 Building Bridges Grant

This year (2011), to celebrate the fruition of our three-class partnership, we also made a special ReachOut56-81-06 Building Bridges Grant to Nushelle DeSilva '11. The grant, in the amount of \$11,200, will help Nushelle fulfill her mission of building bridges between small communities in her native Sri Lanka, to mitigate ethnic tensions that contributed to the long cruel war there. Since what we are doing by combining our three classes is, in effect, building bridges among alumni of disparate generations, it seemed quite appropriate for us to support her imaginative and sorely-needed project.

### NUSHELLE DE SILVA '11



Nushelle, a senior with an Architecture major, is also working towards certificates in Urban Studies and Theatre. In addition to her volunteer services, she has been active in Theatre Intime, including playing the role of Ophelia in its production of *Hamlet*.

Here, in Nushelle's own words, is how she outlined her wonderful project to us.

"Last summer, I met a perfectly nice gentleman who happened to have given up three of his daughters to be suicide bombers. I worked to build a children's playground alongside boys barely older than myself, and yet while I had been taking classes at Princeton, they had been fighting a grisly war. I listened to an army officer's tale of how he had been shot by a sniper and would have died had he not been born with dextrocardia – his heart was on the right of his chest instead of his left. These people are all Sri Lankans, like me – and yet their lives are worlds away from mine.

"May 2009 saw the end of Sri Lanka's armed conflict, and in early 2010 I found a place in the reconstruction process. I discovered Citizens Initiative (CI) – a small Trust Fund working with Chiraddikulam, a remote village in the Northern Province, whose displaced inhabitants had just been rehabilitated. Citizens Initiative was raising funds to help the villagers regain former livelihoods, and conducted health camps as many villagers were severely in need of them. I successfully applied for the Class of 1978 Foundation Summer Grant to rebuild their community centre and create a playground. Over the summer, amongst other activities, I drew the architectural plans of both, and spent a few days in the village itself to build the playground and oversee work on the

community centre. The visit to Chiraddikulam radically changed how I saw myself and the people I thought I identified with. Since that visit, I knew I wanted to spend the year following graduation immersed in projects that would allow me to spend more time engaging with these people.

“Although I was born in Australia, I spent most of my childhood in Sri Lanka. I have lived through nearly all of her war years. This experience, and the fact that I endured racial prejudice myself as a child in Sydney, instilled in me a lifelong wish to take on a role as peacemaker. I believe wholeheartedly in the power of continued communication to foster a meaningful and lasting peace. While reconstruction projects are mushrooming over the island, I find myself concerned about how little is being done to ease the ethnic tensions that sparked the armed conflict to begin with. When I heard from Citizens Initiative a few months ago that they had begun working in Pallivasalpiddy, a village close to Chiraddikulam and whose inhabitants are largely Muslims<sup>1</sup> (ethnically Moors), I found my opportunity to fulfil this yearning.

“Here are two communities of people who feel they have been wronged, and who would all benefit from sustained dialogue. I find, from experience, that sports and the arts have a remarkable ability to break barriers<sup>2</sup>, and with that in mind I drafted a twofold plan: firstly, over the first few months, arts workshops (e.g. drawing, creative writing, dance and drama) to be conducted separately for the youth in Chiraddikulam and Pallivasalpiddy to foster self-expression, confidence and a willingness to communicate; secondly, when these are completed, sports days (cricket or volleyball matches) and arts workshops (theatre workshops culminating in a play, or writing workshops) in which the youth of one village will be sponsored to visit the other for a day and encouraged to create conversation. We hope to begin to “build bridges” between communities in this way, and to continue holding workshops of this kind for the villages that Citizens Initiative goes on to work with. I will spend my first few months at home recruiting equally enthusiastic peers to help create curricula and coordinate the workshops.

“These villages are quite far from Colombo (the capital and where I live), located in jungle regions in the north of the island where most of the armed conflict took place. Landmines are still being cleared from the area, and infrastructure is still being put in place, so at present no public transport is available to directly reach these villages. I hope that soon this will change, but it is almost two years since the war ended and I am afraid that if we wait for conditions to be just right to begin the healing process, we may not begin until much later.

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<sup>1</sup> “On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1994, Muslims in the north of the island were forcibly expelled from their villages by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the radical Tamil organisation that fought for an autonomous state and was defeated in 2009. The Muslims were given 24 hours to leave, could take only what they could carry and the equivalent to \$10 in cash. The villagers of Pallivasalpiddy have this date seared in their memories. “

<sup>2</sup> “In thirty years of war, cricket has proved to be the glue that can bind our fragmented nation together. Cricketers are Sri Lankans and equals on the field, and their various ethnicities become irrelevant.”

“At present, it costs approximately \$500 a visit – CI hires a van and loads it with supplies collected (seeds for planting, paints and hardware for construction, medical supplies for health camps) and makes a weekend trip. As this costs so much, CI makes fewer trips than they would like to strengthen their rapport with the villages they are paired with. They make a trip every two months or so, but ideally they would like to be going once a month or even more often is possible. My plan is that if we can raise funds to make more regular visits, I would be able to implement my workshops for the children on the same weekends that CI goes in to carry out their livelihood programmes. This way, emotional and economic rehabilitation would go hand in hand, as I believe real rehabilitation should.

“At Princeton, I chose to major in architecture partly because of the positive role design can have in reconstruction. I concluded that in order to be able to work in Sri Lanka as an architect and planner, I must first work with these communities on this small scale over a sustained period. This project will also challenge me to re-evaluate my own assumptions and biases, and to use my creativity to create and mediate conversations between groups of youth who may be unwilling speak out or to interact. I will also draw heavily on my experience in theatre and creative writing in creating these workshops. I will continue to work with CI as a volunteer for their infrastructural projects, and will use my architectural knowledge to draw structures as needed for construction in the villages we work with. To support myself during the year, I will be working part-time at an architectural firm.

“Citizens Initiative is in fact little more than a group of citizens who care, and all their funding thus far has come from friends and acquaintances. As our projects become more ambitious, however, I found that I can be a useful asset to them in reaching out on a more global scale to ask for assistance from others around the world who care too. I am writing to you for help because I know that being able to implement this “Building Bridges” project would be a transformative experience for all of us involved, and would begin to change the way people in Sri Lanka view the reconstruction process, but this could in no way be possible without funding of this nature.”

When we notified Nushelle of the grant, she told us, “I found language too hopelessly inadequate to express the rainbow of emotion I felt at that moment.” She went on to say: “I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am to you for showing me what true greatness of spirit and generosity of heart are. In undertaking this project, I only looked to be in the service of all nations. My hope is that one day I can become as much a citizen of the world as you are.”