2015 Legacy Fund Fellows

Aliya Bean ’16
PFLAG National, Washington, DC

As the Legislative and Policy Intern, I will have the opportunity to explore and delve into a range of policy and research projects dealing with LGBTQ issues. I will therefore not only gain important knowledge regarding LGBTQ policy but also learn the basic skills of what it takes to work as a policy professional in a non-profit setting. My duties will include researching and writing policy reports, assisting in the planning of lobbying and policy-focused events, analyzing state and federal policy campaigns, and attending a variety of hearings, briefings, and events on the Hill and throughout Washington, DC.

Luke Bredensteiner ’17
Omaha Farmers Market, Omaha, NE

During this internship I will be responsible for conducting an economic impact study of the Omaha Farmers Market. I will need to analyze how the Farmer’s Market benefits the Omaha metro area, as well as the surrounding towns and counties. I will also be examining how the Farmers Market impacts local businesses. Finally, I will also be working on a way to bring more local food to low income areas. Accomplishing all of this will involve me interviewing market vendors and visitors, local businesses, local health organizations and local food shelters.

Joy Brenner-Letich ’16
Schools for Chiapas, Chiapas, Mexico

I will be a teaching assistant under the supervision of lead teachers. Some tasks in supporting children might be reading, cooking, tidying, playing, and singing with them. I will work with curriculum experts within SfC to create a curriculum specifically for Stanley Elementary school fifth graders about contemporary Mayan cultures and their struggle for human rights. For two weeks, I will work in Massachusetts, so that I have reliable internet and can speak directly with Ms. Julia Norman to specify it to her needs, and my supervisor will regularly send me feedback about the curriculum.

Honoré Cole ’17
One World Now!, Seattle, WA

I will participate in a variety of tasks including public education, grassroots legislative organizing, fundraising, event organizing, material development, coalition building and outreach via social networking websites. I will also help maintain AFJ’s student and activist contact lists and social media networks, draft advocacy and organizing materials, assist in the coordination, advertising, and staffing of outreach events, including AFJ’s annual summer intern event, attend coalition meetings, Congressional hearings, issue briefings and conference calls, and provide support to Outreach staff in the form of administrative and research tasks as needed.

Daniela Dimitrova ’16
The Rose Art Museum, Waltham, MA

I will be virtually modeling an exhibit of Louise Nevelson’s work from 1967, which will be recreated at the Rose next spring by Jennifer Bedford. She and I will be gathering additional archival material, which will aid me in reconstructing the original show through 3-D Modeling. After replicating the space and consulting the owners of the works, we intend to 3-D print certain sculptures. This project will continue as an Independent Study with Professor Timothy Hickey, who will be working with me to discover different ways in which my work can live both on the internet and in the galleries. I am excited that people with visual disabilities and those who cannot afford the time or money to visit museums will be able to share in the museum-going experience through my work.
Marissa Ditkowsky ’16
Alliance for Justice, Washington, DC

I will help maintain AFJ’s student and activist contact lists and social media networks; draft advocacy and organizing materials; assist in the coordination, advertising, and staffing of outreach events, including AFJ’s annual summer intern event; attend coalition meetings, Congressional hearings, issue briefings and conference calls; and provide support to Outreach staff in the form of administrative and research tasks as needed.

Julia Doucett ’16
Supportive Living Incorporated, Lexington, MA

For the research component of my internship I will conduct a literature review on physical fitness for people chronic brain injury, and fitness programming for this population. I will also collect and code data for a study on direct care staff at rehabilitative programs. For the fitness training part of my internship I will administer an exercise and wellness program for individuals with brain injury that includes therapeutic exercise and gait training. I will work under the supervision of fitness professionals to design personalized fitness goals of each individual, and record health outcomes.

Risa Dunbar ’17 (Dec)
Project Harmony Israel, Jerusalem, Israel

My internship lasts from June 18th until August 24th. While there I will be working 35 hours a week alone (or with three other art specialists) overseeing approximately 20-40 young people ages 6-15. The work will be unpaid and focused on art and peace curriculum development and follow-through based in the goal of bringing Israeli and Palestinian youth together to forge their own relationships. I’ll help to ensure this by encouraging them to learn about one another’s realities by looking at one another’s art pieces as personal narratives. I will also encourage this by creating a space in which these young people can experience the act of creating their own art in coexistence.

Rebecca Epstein ’18
United for a Fair Economy, Boston, MA

I will work closely with UFE's Associate Director of Development to assist the team with a variety of tasks to meet organizational priorities, including assisting with foundation research to identify potential funding sources for UFE programs and with direct mail and membership appeals to all individual donors, including major donors. I will also be involved in the preparation of informational materials (e.g. brochures, information/fact sheets, direct mail materials, prospective donor information packages, etc.) and implementation of donor events. I may also participate in calling sessions and database upkeep for donor engagement and fundraising.

Emma Farber ’16
Root Cause’s Social Innovation Forum, Boston, MA

I will be responsible for the following duties: read and evaluate applications of 100+ local nonprofits; research social issues and perform market scans of nonprofits working on these issues; create and distribute evaluation materials to SIF expert evaluators; coordinate the logistics of Social Innovation Forum meetings and events such as information sessions for applicants, evaluation meetings, and interviews; manage the production of materials for events; and track the Social Innovation Forum’s expenses, donations, and received payments. I will also have the opportunity to write and edit grants, email newsletters, and web content.
Rebecca Groner ’17
National Consumers League, Washington, DC

I will assist NCL program staff with ongoing projects and research. Specifically, I will perform research on complex issue areas and deal directly with federal agencies and in some cases Congressional staff. I will also attend Senate and House committee hearings, national conferences and public interest coalition meetings. I may be called upon to write brief reports for NCL staff to provide background information on various issues.

Zari Havercome ’16
Empowering Through Education Camp, Hinche, Haiti

As a counselor I am responsible for creating public-health curriculums and proposing it to Boston Public School ESL teachers for review to strengthen the program. I’ll assist teachers in designing and implementing innovative units of studies for Haitian students living in Boston. In Haiti, I’ll meet twice weekly with Gary Gilbert, Sr. Advisor, about progress/concerns. Participation at camp staff debriefings, trainings, and bonding are required. I’ll assess the challenges/successes of ETE Camp 2014 to strengthen the structure and development for the future. My responsibility continues with spreading the world of the camp upon my return to America.

Daniel Jacobson ’16
New England Innocence Project, Boston, MA

As intake intern, I serve as a representative of NEIP, not only providing first contact with inmates, but consistently providing a resource for applicants to utilize on a daily basis. My main responsibility is to correspond with applicants who request assistance from NEIP, while serving as a liaison between inmates and legal staff throughout the entirety of the case review process. I open and respond to all incoming mail, and make calls to attorneys, police departments, and the families of applicants. In addition, I ensure fluidity of operations by maintaining databases, organizing case files, and coordinate office events.

Ariana Keigan ’18
NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts, Boston, MA

As a Political Organizing Intern, I will be assisting with NARAL PCM’s legislative and organizing efforts. NARAL PCM has endorsed five bills for this current legislative session, and I will be working to mobilize constituent support for these bills. I will be coordinating coalition efforts among elected officials and voters who support these bills. In addition to this legislative work, I will be building NARAL’s membership throughout the state. Through this legislative and organizing work, I will be broadening my communication skills to include discussion of polarizing political issues.

Si Chan Kim ’16
Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Boston, MA

At the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, I will be a Public Education and Outreach intern. My duties and responsibilities will include identifying organizations or individuals that are likely to experience discrimination, scheduling presentations with those organizations or individuals, and delivering the presentations. Afterwards, I will start a discourse with the attendees, and answer, to the best of my knowledge, any questions they have regarding the presentation and their rights as they relate to protection against discrimination.
Paulina Kuzmin ’17
Hospital General Pablo Arturo Suarez, Quito, Ecuador

Primarily, my job is to give support to the nurses and perform various tasks that come up daily and weekly. I am expected to consistently organize the hospital rooms and help make the beds so that they are ready to go when necessary. I will also be in charge of bathing babies, and giving them attention when needed. As well, I will be getting medicine from the pharmacy and accompany the patients to different places in hospital to be tested. As time goes on and I have demonstrated my ability as an intern, other projects will be given that are more patient-engaging.

Diana Langberg ’17
Community Day Center of Waltham, Waltham, MA

This summer I will work to further the implementation and publication of the health survey. Specifically, I will be responsible for summarizing and analyzing the data from the survey. This process will include taking complicated information and presenting it in an easily digestible form. Next, I will design and implement a plan to spread this information to relevant organizations and academic journals. In addition, I will continue being case management trained. This training will enable me to better assess and then help this population on a case by case basis. The situations surrounding unemployment, unaffordable housing, healthcare, social security, and other economic or social factors are difficult to navigate. This training will help me better service those who come to the Community Day Center for help.

Tamar Lyssy ’16
Interfaith Worker Justice, Location TBD

I will provide general support to our workers’ rights campaigns, helping mobilize religious leaders and faith-based activists for timely actions to help janitors, hotel workers, farm workers, and security guards. This work will take the form of making phone calls, crafting emails or literature, engaging in one on one meetings with community and religious leaders, meeting with local union representatives, organizing events and attending meetings as a member of Interfaith Worker Justice.

Lauren Nadeau ’17
Rhode Island Foundation, Providence, RI

I will be researching and analyzing information in several different areas. There are numerous private foundations and public charities (local, regional and national), which fund several causes, initiatives and organizations. These causes, initiatives and organizations will serve as areas for me to explore for possible relationships and/or funding partnerships with the Rhode Island Foundation. In addition, I would also be researching some of the Foundation’s signature initiatives such as educational success, economic security, healthy living and inspiring philanthropy. Most of this research would involve reviewing public information found in financial and other documents, such as I-90’s on websites.

Ngobitak Ndiwane ’16
AIDS Action Committee, Boston, MA

I will be working as an intern in the Housing Search and Advocacy program as a Housing Search Associate. I will work directly with people living with HIV/AIDS to help them meet their housing needs and find safe, affordable housing. It will be my responsibility to research affordable housing options available to AAC’s clients. I will provide direct service to clients by leading housing search groups, and I will also work individually with clients who may have low literacy or speak English as a second language to help educate them on the housing options that they have available to them.
Karen Seymour ’17  
New Orleans Video Access Center, New Orleans, LA

As New Orleans is becoming the “New Hollywood” of the South, I started searching for local agencies in the area that have the resources to hone my filmmaking skills while providing me with access to an energizing community filled with community groups and independent filmmakers. NOVAC has a history of recruiting interns with an interest in video production and community work. Because of my interest in digital storytelling, I contacted the executive director of NOVAC, Darcy McKinnon, and expressed my interest in working with NOVAC over the summer. After she discussed my application with her staff, we worked together to match my summer goals with the opportunities NOVAC had to offer.

Aditi Shah ’17  
Legal Outreach Inc., Long Island City, NY

After a four-week training program, I will begin teaching about 28 students in one of six New York City law schools. I will collaborate with Summer Law Institute coordinators to develop lessons plans, teach study skills, give writing lessons, and grade student work. I will also prepare students for the mock trial competition that will occur towards the end of the program. I will also invite lawyers to serve as guest speakers and chaperone students on field trips to law firms. Additionally, I will perform administrative duties such as maintaining databases and compiling legal articles for students.

Max Shpilman ’16  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Lynn, MA

Having already been an intern at Mass Coalition, a summer internship would allow me to increase the size and scope of my current projects. Presently I am recruiting youth-supporting organizations to promote the Coalition’s FY’16 Youth Budget Campaign that aims to provide funding for legislation that supports homeless youth. Should I continue to intern at the Coalition, I would be able to sustain contact with these organizations to ensure that they are continuing to reach out to legislators to voice their support for policies such as House Bill 4517, “An Act promoting housing and support services to unaccompanied homeless youths.”

Jessica Star ’17  
AVODAH, New York, NY

I will provide support to the AVODAH National Alumni Program and the New York 1-year program under the direct supervision of the Director of Alumni and Community Engagement in coordination with the NY Program Director. The work will include specific project assignments as well as overall day to day assistance to both programs as needed. You will be working directly with both AVODAH staff and current Corps members as they finish up their year of service and transition onto the next phase of their lives; as well as coordinating with the incoming group of Corps members as they get ready to begin their year of service.

David Stiefel ’16  
VocaliD, Inc., Belmont, MA

An integral part of VocaliD’s operation, and what will be most of my duties this summer, is evaluating the audio quality and usability of the voice donors’ recordings, and applying processes to them such as filtering out background noise. This can be achieved in a myriad of audio interfaces with which I am familiar, such as Sound Forge, Spear, Logic, and Adobe Audition. In addition to this, I will be working with the software developers at VocaliD to produce algorithms to do this automatically, streamlining the process. A more efficient approach to signal processing will be beneficial for the entire cause. My work will directly impact those who, for whatever reason, are unable to communicate verbally.
Leah Susman ’18  
Kids 4 Peace, Jerusalem, Israel

I decided to work in Jerusalem over the summer, where tensions relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are highest. In the conflict resolution community, Kids 4 Peace is a household name. Mobilizing Jerusalem youth by encouraging coexistence combines my enthusiasm for peace building with my interest in education. The organization was such a natural fit that when I had my interview I was hired on the spot. A position with Kids 4 Peace excites me because I will be able to contribute to the construction of integrative community programs.

Elizabeth Villano ’16  
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Chicago, IL

I will be co-chairing the Committee on Policy and System Integration, a statewide collaboration of advocacy groups and pediatric experts who work together to improve trauma access and care through sharing knowledge and ideas. I will organize and facilitate meetings, and present findings to PROTECT staff and statewide members. Additionally, I will be facilitating several ad hoc work groups to evaluate the best approach of incorporating trauma-informed practices in high risk areas such as education and juvenile justice. I also will conduct independent research which will be used for policy briefs, presentations, and articles, and present my findings.

Shane Weitzman ’16  
The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Bangalore, India

My duties will be to identify and interview older beneficiaries who have graduated, are attending university or in careers and who come from families who solely relied on the mid-day meal for daily food. These beneficiaries are important informants for TAPF because they demonstrate the impact of the program in allowing students from very poor backgrounds to stay in school. I will create case studies of these beneficiaries that will be used in grant reports, newsletters, donor correspondence, social media and other tools that enhance the program’s visibility and help demonstrate its impact to donors and other stakeholders.