

2018 Heinz Fellowship Committee Report

April 9, 2018

On April 9, 2018, we met for lunch in the Fellows' Lounge of the new Paula Murray College. The committee members attending were Jon Baker, Susie Berenson, Jay Coleman and Marie Wilkinson (daughter of our John Wilkinson) of '86, and Al Durfee, Rob Hanke, Peter Knudsen, and Tom Yamin of '60. Three of the four of last year's awardees attended the lunch and reviewed their summer experiences. In addition, Andi Peng, a prior awardee, also attended and talked about her current experience in the White House Office on cyber security. A brief summary of the experiences of the three of last year's awardees follows:

Ethan Gacek interned at the Office of Security and Human Rights of the U.S. State Department. Even though the many of the management positions at the State Department have not been filled, Ethan described working well with the career employees. Ethan's career objective of work in the Foreign Service was reinforced by his summer experience.

Elizabeth Karron's summer was spent at the State of Rhode Island's Governor's Office to work health policy. She would like continue in the health policy field after graduation.

Julia Hammer-Light had a rewarding summer at the New York City Housing Authority to study the factors that impact the success of formerly homeless individuals and families. Julia too would like to continue working in the public Housing field.

After lunch, we interviewed seven applicants and ended up funding all seven in accordance with there needs. We were fortunate to have available \$24,700 that enabled us to fund more applicants than we have in the past since some of the applicants were partially funded by other grants. The following awards were made:

Teresa Chen was awarded \$250 to intern at the State Department of East Asian and Pacific affairs. Teresa's focus is on improving the US/China relationship.

Leila Chang's award was for \$4,000 to work at the US Embassy in Seoul, South Korea. Her work will center around the development and execution of policy towards North and South Korea.

Valentina Guerraro will receive \$3,000 for work at the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Valentina's coming summer will follow her work last summer at the Civil Rights Center of the US Department of Labor.

Stephanie Levine was awarded \$1,942 and will be interning at the US Department of Justice. Stephanie's work will involve providing international law enforcement agencies with evidence for criminal investigations.

Varsha Midha's award was for \$5,000, and she will be working in constituent services for a member of the US House of Representatives or the US Senate. In addition, she expects to attend staff briefings and provide research.

Steven Tian will receive \$5,200 to be the only intern at the US State Department for the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs. During his interview, Steven expressed passionate interest in the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Odette Wang was awarded \$5,000 to intern at the New York Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages. Odette is interested in helping immigrant and refugee students.

Once again, the Committee was impressed with the quality of the applicants and the importance of their Fellowships, both to test career interest while having a major impact toward benefiting mankind. It should be noted that in my seven years as Chairman and now first year as Co-Chair of the Heinz Fellowship Committee, every committee member has attended every one of our lunches and interviewing sessions, which is a testament to the important and rewarding day that we spend each year interviewing some of Yale's best students. Consistent with the objectives of the Fellowship, we have found that the applicants have a sincere interest in careers in government service.

Peter Knudsen '60
Co-Chairman with Susie Berenson '86