

Summer 2012



Mark Bissegger completed a B.A. in Economics from McGill University. During his time at McGill, Mark was involved with the Ampersand Conference as the Director of Finance and has also worked with McGill Not-For-Profit Consulting and McGill Athletics. Mark's academic interests revolve around macroeconomics, while outside of the classroom he enjoys cycling, running, and travel. Following his internship with the IHSP, Mark worked at the United States Commercial Service.

Natalie Chan completed her undergraduate degree in Honours Economics with a minor in Urban Systems. Following her passion for international development and social change, she became an active member of Engineers Without Borders Canada and served as the co-president of the McGill student chapter during her final year at McGill. She enjoyed working on the Diabetes Intervention Micro-Simulation Project with the Healthier Societies Initiative Team, and worked as a research assistant following her internship.

Vanessa Conzon pursued a bachelor's degree in Honours Economics, with minors in both mathematics and philosophy. Vanessa is specifically interested in moral philosophy, and its relation to public policy and social welfare. Outside of school, Vanessa was the founder and

president of NetRoots, a not-for-profit student group that teaches charities to develop social media strategies. Vanessa is hoping to complete graduate studies in public policy, economics, or law. Vanessa worked with the Healthier Societies Initiative modeling team.

Janina Grabs completed her undergraduate studies at McGill this spring with a BA Honours in Political Science and Double Minor in Economics and Russian. Her Honours thesis analysed the current concept of food security in the Russian Federation and its consequences for Russia's involvement in global food trade. She is interested in the reform of global food systems in order to achieve greater environmental sustainability and social equity, the worldwide pursuit of food security, and the influence of national food policies on public health. Following her internship, she pursued an Erasmus Masters in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Policy Analysis at the Universities of Bonn, Germany, and Uppsala, Sweden, where she hopes to gain expertise in solving current policy dilemmas in the food and agricultural sectors of both developed and developing countries. Janina worked with the Healthier Societies Initiative modeling team.

Elliot Holzman studied with the department of Canadian Studies. His research for the summer focused on immigrant doctors in Canada between the 1970s and 1990s; their collective struggle to gain employment in their medical fields is an ongoing phenomenon that has led many to give up and pursue other jobs, such as taxi driving. Elliot has been involved in many other Canadian endeavors, working as a Student Guide at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France for a summer and served as President of the Canadian Studies Students' Association in the 2012-13 school year.

Joaquín Kritz Lara finished his BA in Economics and International Development Studies (IDS) at McGill University. He worked with Professor Barrington-Leigh on the distributional impact of Quebec's cap-and-trade system on households, industry and the labour market. Having interned in the UN International Labour Organization (ILO), Joaquín has developed a passion for labour economics, which adds to his previous interest on climate change and market failure. As such, he is particularly interested in the relationship between climate policy and employment, which he hopes to assess in future courses.

Jasmine Lam graduated with a Joint Honours B.A. degree in Political Science and International Development Studies. Her academic background has allowed her to combine her passions in the field of development and the role of public policy in advancing standards of living of underserved populations. In particular, she is most interested in the health and social aspects. On campus, she was co-President of Borderless World Volunteers. Outside of McGill, she worked for the Dr. Hawa Abdi Foundation, which provides free healthcare to internally displaced persons in Somalia. Jasmine believes her experience at the IHSP will contribute immensely to her future career aspirations in public policy. Jasmine's internship focused on Canadian Health Policy with the Healthier Societies Initiative.

Emma Ronsley graduated with a B.A. in Honours International Development, concentrating in Environment and Agricultural Resources, with a minor in Anthropology. She is particularly interested in environmental and social determinants of health, especially in Aboriginal populations. Emma's background in Anthropology has also helped shape her interest in cross-cultural understandings of health and well-being. On campus, Emma was an executive member of the

Ashraya Initiative for Children, a student-run organization that supports a community health and education outreach program in Pune, India. Emma's internship focused on Canadian Health Policy with the Healthier Societies Initiative.

Joanna Shnall received her BA in International Development with a minor in Canadian Politics. Following her internship, she started a Masters in social work at the University of Toronto. Joanna's academic interests lie in public policy and social justice in Canada and abroad. She has supplemented these academic interests by pursuing studentships at the Kunin-Lunenfeld Applied and Evaluative Research Unit at Baycrest Hospital, exploring the intersections of Canadian health care policy for the elderly and issues of accessibility and equitability. Joanna's internship focused on Canadian Health Policy with the Healthier Societies Initiative.

Mélanie Ann Smithman completed her BA degree in Honours International Development with a minor in Politics, Law, and Society. She is particularly interested in the distal determinants, both social and environmental, of the health of populations. Mélanie Ann had the opportunity to develop her interest in the impacts of the environment on populations by participating in a project which focused on the effects of climate change on Cree and Inuit communities in Nunavik. In 2010, she spent the summer in rural Peru working with a community development organization. Last summer, she interned with Equitas, the International Centre for Human Rights Education, during the International Human Rights Training Program. Following her internship, Mélanie Ann will be pursuing a Master's of Public Health at l'Université de Montréal. Mélanie Ann worked with the Healthier Societies Initiative modeling team.

Akanksha Srivastava graduated with a Dean's medal as a dentist from Pd. Dr. D.Y. Patil University, Mumbai, India. During this period she developed a keen desire to understand how health care policies could affect the inequalities that exist in oral health care. She came to McGill to pursue her Masters of Science in the Oral Health and Society Research division of Faculty of Dentistry. Akanksha is interested in further examining the rising costs and privatization of oral health care and its impact on elderly oral health. Her academic interests also include economic evaluation of oral health care programs and technology assessment in health care. Her current research involves assessing public preferences for an implant treatment for edentate elders using a willingness-to-pay survey. Akanksha worked with the Healthier Societies Initiative modeling team.

Angela Zheng, a B.A. student in Honours Economics with minors in Mathematics and Biology during her internship, is interested in environmental and social policy as well as climate change and energy economics. After completing her undergraduate degree, she plans on pursuing a graduate degree in economics. Her internship focused on cross-national comparisons of life satisfaction.