

**RALPH J. BUNCHE INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS CENTER**



**CHARLES B. RANGEL INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS PROGRAM**

2018 RANGEL SUMMER FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES



Toward the goal of an excellent and diverse U.S. Foreign Service
representing the Uniquely rich range of talents and expertise of the
American people.



Erik Angamarca graduated magna cum laude from Fordham University with a major in International Political Economy and a minor in Chinese Language and Literature. He was born in Queens, New York but now resides in North Bergen, New Jersey. He grew up passionate about public service, which led him to become an intern for Congressman Rangel in 2010. During his internship he first became aware of the Foreign Service. The following year, he became a Rangel Scholar where he developed an interest in the public diplomacy track. During college, his passion grew as he completed public service projects to Kentucky and Ecuador, and studied Chinese in Beijing for four months. Upon return to the U.S., he gained first-hand experience as an intern for the State Department's Virtual Student Foreign Service for two years. Upon graduation in 2014, he served as an English teacher and cultural ambassador for two years in South Korea and one year in Taiwan as a Fulbright grantee. He now hopes to attend graduate school in international affairs, where he plans to develop the necessary skills in theory and practice for the Foreign Service.

Marta Aparicio moved to Providence, Rhode Island from Guatemala at the age of eleven. She double majored in sociology and government, and minored in Spanish at Georgetown University. Marta's curiosity about the role of global politics motivated her to study abroad for six months in 2013 in Madrid, Spain. She taught English to her host siblings and engaged in political and cultural discussions in Spanish with her host parents and classmates. Following her studies at Georgetown, Marta taught English at Miami Dade College to help students from Europe and Latin America. Now, Marta volunteers as a mentor for two unaccompanied minors and one refugee - teaches them English and helps them adapt to life in the United States. Additionally, in her role as a Case Manager for the Providence Housing Authority, she supports immigrants and refugees living in public housing by helping them navigate the resources available to achieve their educational and professional goals and fulfill their American Dreams. Marta will pursue a Master of International Affairs (MIA) at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). In her free time, Marta enjoys exercising (preferably through outdoor adventures or dancing), helping others, and meeting new people.





Natalia Arenas (2016) is a resident of South Carolina and attended Furman University where she studied Political Science and Chinese Studies. During her time at Furman, she participated in a study away program to Washington D.C. Her interest in U.S. foreign policy led her to intern for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Atlantic Council. After graduation, she was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant in Taiwan. She taught English to 500 elementary school students and volunteered with Education USA to advise Taiwanese students interested in applying to college in the United States. In graduate school at Johns Hopkins SAIS, she intends to focus on U.S. security policy, particularly in East Asia and the Pacific. In her free time she likes to practice taekwondo,

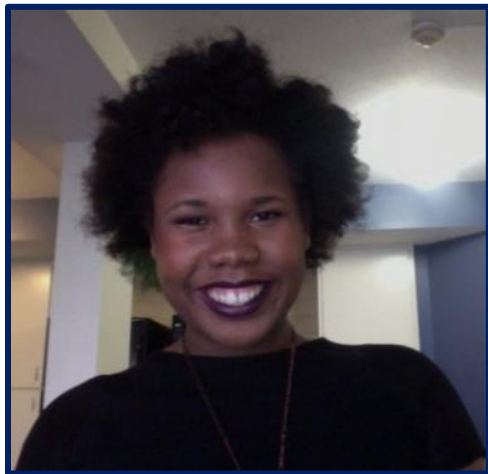
eat, photograph, and dance.

Carlo James Aragón, a native of New Mexico, received his BA in 2015 from the University of New Mexico in Political Science and Foreign Languages. He studied abroad in Oman, Chile, and Peru and interned at the U.S. Embassy in Argentina. He studied Arabic with the NSLI-Y, CLS, and Boren scholarships. After graduating, Carlo worked in education abroad and Arabic language education in Oman. Carlo speaks fluent Arabic and Spanish and will attend the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



Carlsky Belizaire (2016), from Valley Stream, New York, is a 2018 graduate of the M.S. in Foreign Service program at Georgetown University. While at Georgetown, Carlsky served as Vice President of Hoya Circles, the university's first multicultural graduate student organization. Prior to his master's degree, Carlsky graduated summa cum laude from the CUNY Macaulay Honors College at Queens College before serving as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Taiwan. Carlsky is proficient in Haitian Creole and Spanish.

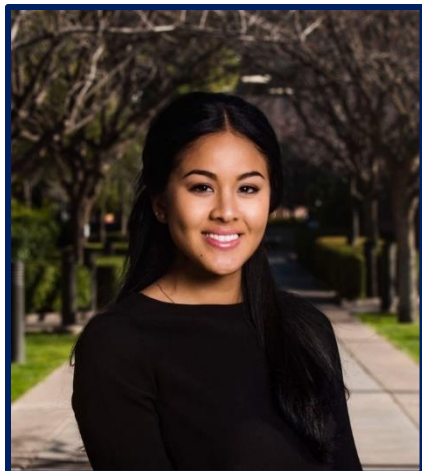
Aaron Bhatt (2017) was born in India and raised in New Jersey. Studying at the University of Maryland, College Park, he focused on Politics and Economics with a minor in Arabic. He studied abroad in Thailand for a semester and Morocco for a year. As an undergraduate, he interned with the US Census Bureau and the State Department. Upon graduating, he also worked for Chemonics International on a USAID-funded education project and private sector engagement project. One of his proudest moments is winning nationals with his Indian folk dance team his freshman year. Aaron will be attending Columbia University beginning in fall 2018.



Sarah Brokenborough is, currently, a Fulbright ETA in Laos. She is from Piscataway, New Jersey, and has completed her B.A in Comparative Women's Studies from Spelman College in 2016. She has participated, and/or facilitated, educational and cultural exchanges in South America (Peru, Brazil), Africa (South Africa), Europe (Germany, Spain), and Southeast Asia. She plans on pursuing a M.A. that will incorporate her background in anthropology and sociology and allow her to study policy, continue her Portuguese language studies, and create a specialization in Gender and/or Human Rights. She also loves to play field hockey, and is currently a midfielder for the Vientiane Field Hockey Club, the only team for international players in Laos.

Tikkara Cooper hails from the Southside of Chicago, IL. She graduated from Syracuse University with a B.A. in International Relations and Advertising. Her background in education has equipped her with years of experience in teaching and operations management. She has lived and worked in Istanbul, Turkey, as well as traveled to Jordan, Greece, and the Dominican Republic. Tikkara hopes to complete a Master of Computational Analysis and Public Policy at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy. She enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.





Paula Crawford is paid to represent the rural community. She comes from Kearny, Arizona, a copper mining town of approximately 2100 people. In 2012, Paula completed a Boren in Kosovo, researching Albanian women's inheritance rights. Once she graduated from Arizona State University in 2014 with a bachelor's in Political Science and business, she accepted a Fulbright ETA in Macedonia. Paula now works at Arizona State University as a coordinator for the Caesar E. Chavez Leadership Institute which focuses on college readiness, civic engagement, and building leadership skills for high school students. Paula is looking to pursue her graduate degree in an area of public policy which focuses on minority and gender equality. Paula enjoys spending time with her parents in her hometown and taking her pug-Pekinese puppy, Maru, to dog parks.

Toni Cross, Born and raised in Central Florida, is now a senior at Middlebury College in Vermont. Her major is International and Global Studies focused on Russia and Eastern Europe and her minor is Arabic. She plans to graduate in May 2018. She has extensive international experience starting from a young age when her family would travel every year to different countries including Greece, England, and France. She has also had the privilege to travel with school groups to Costa Rica and Peru. She received a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship from the State Department in 2012 to spend six weeks living with a Russian host family and learning Russian. In college, she studied abroad in Moscow for a semester, then in Rabat, Morocco for a semester. She received a Padma Desai Grant in 2017 to return to Russia over the summer to conduct research that will be used for her senior thesis work. In grad school, she hopes to study public policy and international relations. Her main interests include language learning and music. Her goal in life is to learn the six official languages of the UN; she already knows five (French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and English) and is hoping to start learning the sixth, Chinese, soon. She plays the violin, viola, piano, mandolin, and loves singing.



Kala Deterville, a first generation American from New York City, grew up understanding the importance of cultural difference, and her family celebrated this by hosting thirteen international students. In 2012, Kala was awarded Youth for Understanding's Japan America Friendship Scholarship to live abroad with a family in Osaka, Japan. The sensation of being embedded in a culture that is different from her own and the desire to enhance America's relationship abroad fueled her dream of joining the U.S. Foreign Service as a public diplomacy officer. Kala is a senior at Georgetown University, double majoring in Japanese and Government. She has had the opportunity to intern for Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (DNY-8) and the Executive Office of the President at the White House. She has also worked at the McCourt School of Public

Policy. Kala was awarded both a David L. Boren Scholarship and a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for her junior year abroad at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. Kala's hobbies include traveling. Since her

mother works for an airline, she has visited five of the seven continents. She hopes to visit South America, Antarctica, and space in her lifetime.

Tailor Dortona (2017) recently graduated from American University with a BA in Justice, Law, and Criminology. Tailor currently works at the U.S. Department of State for the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, Judith Heumann. Prior to this, Tailor studied abroad in China on a Gilman Scholarship, interning at the Chengdu Disabled Person Federation and conducting research on Chinese disability employment policy at the Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences. In past years Tailor has interned for 2gether- International Inc. and the U.S. Department of Education and has worked as an Equal Employment specialist at the U.S. Department of Navy's Office of Civilian and Human Resources. Tailor's original research has been published in journals of psychology and literature, and she has presented at three national conferences. Tailor is a proud and active member of both the disability and LGBTQ+ communities.



Cody Etlin is originally from the Los Angeles area, California. He is finishing his last year of undergraduate studies at the George Washington University, double-majoring in Geography and International Affairs, with concentrations in Latin America and International Economics, with a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He has worked at the Organization of American States, the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, and the Institute for International Economic Policy, an emerging markets consulting firm, and has engaged in research for his professors. His international experience ranges from having lived in Uruguay from the age of 10 until the age of 17, to volunteering as an English teacher for an NGO in a Rio de Janeiro favela at the age of 18. He intends to obtain a Master of Arts or Science in

International Affairs with a potential concentration in Latin America from a competitive international affairs institution, such as Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, or Columbia University, among others. He is interested in democratization and regional integration in the Western Hemisphere and his hobbies include running and staying up-to-date with current affairs in the Southern Cone of South America. Lastly, he strives to become a polyglot.

John W. Foster is a 2016 graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA where he majored in History and International Relations. Since graduation, John has served as the Program Support Specialist for the Foreign Service Institute's Ambassadorial Seminar. Currently, John is a Regional Coordinator for the Foreign Consequence Management Program in ISN's Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism. John will begin his graduate program at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, concentrating in International Security Studies and International Negotiation & Conflict Resolution. John enjoys a good history book and training for half and full marathons.



Lily Fryer is from Northern California and goes to school at UCLA, where she studies International Development and Geography/Environmental Studies. She has interned on Capitol Hill at the Congressional Management Foundation, NASA Ames Research Center, for the National Park Service at Lassen National Park, for California Public Interest Research Group as a sustainability intern and at the International Visitors Council of Los Angeles. She has studied abroad in Italy, Spain, and Nicaragua. She hopes to study international affairs on the east coast.

Sofia Gomez lived in Hanover, New Hampshire before leaving home to pursue an undergraduate degree in International Relations at Georgetown University. She is passionate about the Middle East and is working towards a certificate in Arab Studies while at Georgetown. She loves traveling and has had many overseas experiences, from studying abroad in France to teaching English in China. This past semester, she interned at the State Department in Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Office of Press and Public Diplomacy. She loved working on press statements and participating in International Visitor Leadership Programs. In her spare time, Sofia works with Georgetown's Hypothermia Outreach Team, giving supplies to persons experiencing homelessness on nights when temperatures drop below freezing. She enjoys volunteering in this capacity and has become a Team Leader who sometimes trains new participants. Sofia is looking forward to her next two years of graduate study and to joining the Foreign Service.





Chanel Grice, growing up as an Army child, does not have one particular home. She grew up in Germany and lived in multiple states in the US. Yet, her experience living in Okinawa, Japan during high school would influence her future career. After high school, Chanel attended George Mason University in Fairfax Virginia and double majored in Economics and Global Affairs. She continued to study Japanese and was awarded the Boren scholarship to study in Japan her junior year. Chanel's ambitions for her future expanded her senior year while taking courses in international development and participating in her internship at the US Department of the Treasury where she worked within the Office of Development Results and Accountability. In this role she worked closely with multilateral development banks and reviewed development projects. For graduate school Chanel hopes to continue her studies

in international development by attaining a Masters in economics and becoming an Economic Officer for the US Department of State. In her downtime, Chanel paints portraits of people that inspire her and loves to visit museums.

Jasmine Haddaway hails from Orlando, Florida. She is a student at the University of Florida majoring in international studies with a regional focus in Africa and minoring in women's studies. She is passionate about using gender equity and human rights advancement as a means to propel sustainable international development, utilizing education and capacity building to empower communities at the grassroots level. Her past experiences include interning at the White House and the office of US Senator Bill Nelson, working on program development with Projects for Haiti Global, and mobilizing volunteers with the American Red Cross. In addition, Jasmine has conducted research that measures the impact of global civil liberty initiatives with her work on female genital cutting with the Tanzania Development Trust and the Ebola outbreak with the Ebola 100 Project. Jasmine plans to pursue her passion for inclusive sustainable development through a Master of Public Policy degree and is eager to continue building relationships with communities to create social change.



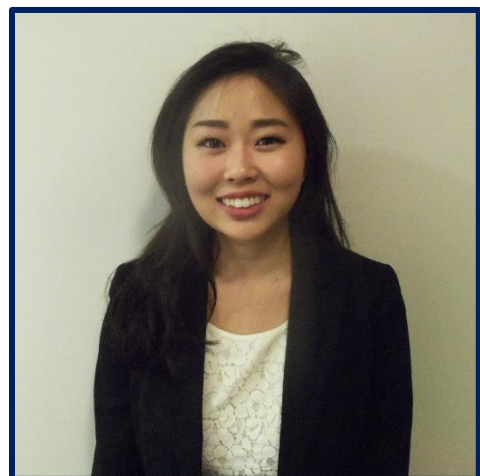
Taylor Hall-Debnam is a political science and comparative women's studies double major from Portland, Oregon. She completed undergraduate coursework at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. At Spelman, Taylor has served in various capacities on the Spelman Student Government Association. She also served as Young Democrats of America Vice President and is a 2017 White House HBCU All-Star. Taylor is a proud member of the service organization, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Ashalyn Hardy has five years of experience as a public servant in the non-profit and government services industry. She graduated with her B.A. in International Studies and minored in Economics. She has extensive experiences abroad studying in Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Thailand. Since graduating in 2016, Ashalyn works in the International Development and Exchange Sector with the NGO World Learning. She currently resides in Washington D.C. and looks forward to studying and Data Analytics in Graduate School.



Ashley Inman, a native of Naples, Florida, graduated from the University of Florida in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Studies and minors in International Relations and Arabic. She currently works for the Department of State's Office of Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism, and previously served in State's Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs and the Office of Iraq Affairs. Prior to working at the State Department, Ashley was a Youth Representative to the United Nations Environmental Programme, interned for Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL), and studied abroad in Fez, Morocco and Kandy, Sri Lanka. Ashley was an active student leader in her University, especially in Model United Nations, and currently volunteers with refugee resettlement programs in the DMV. She is proficient in Arabic and Spanish.

Caroline Kim is the proud daughter of Korean immigrants and a first-generation American. She is from Bakersfield, California. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, she studied Political Science, American Studies, and Creative Writing. She has served as a fellow for the Philadelphia City Council, an intern for the U.S. Congress, and as a field organizer in the 2016 general election.





Christopher Kooy a senior student of Political Science and Spanish at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is from Dixon, Illinois. He has traveled to Peru, Israel and the West Bank, and much of central and western Europe. During the summer of 2017, Christopher was a PPIA fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He hopes to attend a graduate school of international affairs on the East Coast and specialize in US- Latin America relations. Christopher enjoys playing soccer and fishing.

Amy (Sin Yan) Lau was born in Hong Kong before the turnover, and was raised in Boise, Idaho. She is currently at American University, majoring in International Relations and Economics. Her regional focus in IR is the Korean Peninsula. As such, she studied abroad in Seoul for eight months under the Boren Scholarship. She's had multiple internships, including the committee for Human Rights in North Korea, the Hudson Institute, Peace Corps, the East-West Center; she is currently interning at the U.S. Trade Representatives. Her hobbies include playing piano and ice- skating.



Maria Naranjo, born in Medellin, Colombia and raised in Clearwater, Florida, has grown accustomed to moving and immersing herself in new communities wherever she goes. She graduated from Florida State University with a dual degree in International Affairs and Political Science with concentrations in Human Rights, French, and Social Work. After graduating, she moved to Thailand where she taught English at an elementary school for a year and spent the second year living and teaching at a junior college in a refugee camp. Upon returning to the U.S., she served as an AmeriCorps VISTA establishing a new PeaceJam chapter in Miami. She plans to study international development or conflict mediation as it pertains to migration patterns. She is passionate about immigrant and refugee rights, youth empowerment and effective international development strategies.

She enjoys talking to strangers, cycling, and exploring the outdoors.

Chaniqua Nelson currently serves as office management specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. She graduated from Howard University in Washington DC obtaining both her B.A. and M.A. in Political Science. She is originally from Durham, North Carolina, and has worked at the Department of State for seven years in the administration bureau. She loves traveling, cooking, and hiking. She hopes to attend American University in the Fall, studying intercultural and international communication.



Ljubica Nikolic is a senior at Florida State University who is currently studying Albanian at the University of Tirana on a Boren Scholarship. She has worked on sustainable projects in Ghana and Peru, with a focus on female empowerment and education. During her time in Florida, she has held internships at the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives. Passionate about negotiation and mediation, she hopes to pursue a degree in International Conflict Resolution at American University. In her free time, she likes to attend yoga classes and learn songs in foreign languages.

Brittany Orange, originally from Orange County, Virginia, will graduate in 2018 from the University of Massachusetts Boston with a BA in Political Science and minor in Spanish. Prior to her undergraduate studies, Brittany completed two AmeriCorps service years, one of which was with the New American Integration Program, where she taught ESOL, led citizenship clinics, and interpreted during legal clinics. She has also interned with the Boston City Council. She has spent a total of 5 weeks in Cuba studying politics and Afro-Cuban culture. She intends to obtain a Masters in International Relations, with a concentration in Latin America. Brittany is fluent in Spanish.





Nadia Ramirez (2016). Born in Bogota, Colombia, she moved to the United States at the age of 10. She studied International Relations at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL where she minored in Economics and Asian Studies. She was a 2014- 2016 Fulbright ETA in South Korea where she was able to work extensively with North Korean defectors, which sparked her interest in the Foreign Service. After being selected as a Rangel Scholar, she attended graduate school at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs where she earned a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) and specialized in International Security Policy and Conflict Resolution. Nadia's

research interests include refugee issues, immigrant resettlement, economic sanctions and weapons of mass destruction. Following her internship in the U.S. Consulate General Amsterdam, Nadia decided to pursue a career in Public Diplomacy, finding it to be where she could utilize her strengths.

Nigel Robinson, a native of Boston, attended Bucknell University via The Posse Foundation, receiving a B.A. in international relations. Throughout his time at Bucknell, Nigel made concerted efforts to visit several countries within Latin America to conduct research and engage in service. These include visits to Argentina, Brazil, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. Prior to Rangel, Nigel worked extensively with youth in Greater Boston with organizations like The Steppingstone Foundation and Summer Search. This work was aimed at ensuring each and every student met benchmarks for admission into and success at competitive four-year colleges. Moving forward, Nigel intends to pursue studies in foreign affairs in order to promote positive change beyond his immediate community. Specifically, he hopes to one day leverage diplomacy to address global disparities, and to create opportunities between the U.S. and other countries. In his free time, Nigel enjoys spending it with family and friends, going Latin dancing, playing basketball, and watching superhero movies.





Krystin Rodriguez claims the town of Denton, Texas as her hometown, having grown up across the United States as an Air Force "military brat" in Alaska and Wyoming during her childhood. From 2014 to December 2017, she studied at the University of North Texas where she received a double major in International Studies (security and diplomacy track) and French language and was a member of her university's honors program. During her studies, she received the Benjamin A. Gilman scholarship to study abroad in Spring 2016 in Cannes, France--her first experience overseas. During this semester abroad, she visited seven European countries and discovered her interest in citizen diplomacy. As a member of her university's Model United Nations and Model Arab League, she enjoys casual discussion over current events and creating a role as an actor on different

real and hypothetical issues. She enjoys tea, trying new foods, photography, writing, and art when she is not looking for new languages or issues to study. Krystin interned in Congress for her local congressman Michael C. Burgess in Washington D.C. as part of her university's internship program and also interned at the Foreign Service Institute at the Department of State (SPAS/OR) for Summer 2017. She plans on interning with the Department of State at U.S. Embassy Morocco in Spring 2018 and to pursue a MA in International Affairs with a focus in Conflict Management and Negotiation and would like to enjoy the experience that graduate schools in more urban areas in Washington D.C. have to offer. French is her second language and she is trying to familiarize herself more with Turkish and Spanish languages among many others. Krystin enjoys talking to new people, traveling, and motivating others and herself with the amazing experiences that life brings to her.

Sheldon Ruby (2017) is from Clearville, a small town in south-central Pennsylvania. Sheldon became the first of his family to ever leave the United States and travel abroad when he accepted a Critical Language Scholarship to study in Indonesia. After Indonesia, Sheldon pursued his interest in International Relations and studied in the United Kingdom, China, India, and served as a Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia after graduating from Franklin and Marshall College (F&M). While attending F&M as a first-generation college student from rural Pennsylvania, Sheldon dedicated himself to establishing resources for Fellow first-generation college students. During his senior year, Sheldon co-founded The First-Generation Diplomats, Franklin and Marshall's first-generation student support group.





D'Juan Sampson, a native of Orlando, FL, graduated cum laude from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and International Affairs with a concentration in Public Administration. In the spring of 2014, D'Juan was afforded the opportunity to serve as a Management and Reform intern at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in New York, which solidified his decision to pursue a career in foreign affairs. Last year, D'Juan proudly served as a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. Emerging Leaders intern in the U.S. House of Representatives. With great honor, he currently serves as a staff assistant in the office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York. Within the last year, D'Juan participated in two

cultural exchange programs to Japan and South Korea, and studied abroad in London during college. D'Juan plays various percussion instruments and has a black belt in Shotokan karate.

Johanna Sanchez (2016) was born in Dominican Republic and moved to the Bronx, New York at the age of 9. She graduated from Hamilton College with a degree in world politics. Johanna served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay before returning to the U.S. to work as a recruiter for the Peace Corps. She has worked in the Dominican Republic on issues related to the Millennium Development Goals. She studied abroad in the Dominican Republic and Argentina, and is fluent in Spanish. Johanna plans to attend Columbia University's SIPA program to pursue a Master's of Development



Lydia Senatus, from Brooklyn, NY, will graduate from Stony Brook University with a BA in Economics and a double minor in International Studies and Business Management. She was a JFEW SUNY International Relations and Global Affairs Scholar, a Gilman Scholar, and has received awards for her contributions to her campus community. As a student leader, she has served in the Undergraduate Student Government, on numerous committees and councils, and as a Student Ambassador. Most recently, Lydia interned in the Economic and Social Section at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. She has studied abroad in China and has traveled extensively in East Asia, Western Europe, and the Caribbean. Lydia speaks French, and plans to study at Georgetown University.

Ammiel Williams is a Los Angeles native. He has completed my undergrad work at the Xavier University of Louisiana. Prior to being accepted as a Rangel fellow, He interned with AIPAC, The Borgen Project, and Environment California. In addition, he has volunteered on congressional and mayoral campaigns and has done volunteer work for Habitat for Humanity and Youth Rebuilding New Orleans. He has traveled to many places, including China, Israel, the U.K., and various parts of Western Europe. In the future, he hopes to attend graduate school on the East Coast to grow more accustomed to train rides to the capitol, winter with actual snow, and New York style pizza. In his spare time, he loves to stay active, playing many sports for recreation like basketball, football, or soccer. Also, he enjoys watching anime, Star Wars, and playing strategy based computer games.



Alvin Young, originally from Jamaica, moved to New York with his family at the age of 9. He received his bachelor's degree in History and International Studies from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City. While at Marymount, Alvin studied in Morocco as a National Security David L. Boren Scholar and is also a Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Scholar. After completing his undergraduate studies, Alvin has served in various national and international organizations including, the Yale Young African Scholars Program at Yale University, The Building Movement Project, Impact Network, and has completed internships at the United Nations and United States District Office of Congressman Charles B. Rangel. Alvin will attend the Josef Korbel School at the University of Denver for to pursue a Master's degree in International Security. In his free time, Alvin enjoys techno and house music and going to the gym.