**YANA – DWIGHT HALL SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

***Teaser:*** That first internship can be crucial in launching an undergraduate on the social impact career path—but too many Yale students still feel they literally can’t afford to pursue one. Over the last two years, nearly 140 Yale students have been unable to accept a summer internship with a nonprofit because of lack of funding. To help open the door, YANA has partnered with Dwight Hall to create the YANA-Dwight Hall Summer Fellowships. This funded summer fellowship program aims to assist Yale students of limited financial means pursue a summer internship in the social impact sector by easing some of their financial burdens, introducing them to the YANA alumni network, and providing mentoring, training and other assistance.

***Full Content:***

That first internship can be crucial in launching an undergraduate on the social impact career path—but too many Yale students still feel they literally can’t afford to pursue one. Over the last two years, nearly 140 Yale students have been unable to accept a summer internship with a nonprofit because of lack of funding. Funding constraints continue despite significant efforts by the University, Yale Clubs, alumni, and others. YANA has joined the effort to allow students of limited financial means to have access to all of the opportunities available to students without these financial limitations.

The YANA-Dwight Hall Summer Fellowship Program

YANA and Dwight Hall have agreed to collaborate on creating funded summer fellowships to help Yale students of limited financial means pursue a summer internship in the social impact sector by easing some of their financial burdens, introducing them to the YANA alumni network, and providing mentoring, training and other assistance. The **YANA-Dwight Hall Summer Fellowship** will reduce the barriers for financially constrained Yale students to pursue careers in the common good. Often, summer internships in these fields are unpaid, limited to only a few locations in the country, or lack the experienced mentorship needed to make a student’s passion a viable career track. Even with the existing internships and fellowships offered through Yale, many Yale undergraduate students are still in need of funds to support their summer living and travel expenses, particularly if they also must make money to assist with their Yale financial aid. All successful applicants must receive financial aid from the University to fund some or all of their cost of attendance and have a demonstrated commitment to the social impact sector.

YANA and Dwight Hall have agree to collaborate in this effort to (i) provide additional means of financial and mentoring support for Yale undergrad students in summer public service internships, (ii) establish YANA as the leading Yale alumni organization for nonprofit and social impact work and connections of which students can begin to take advantage, (iii) capitalize on Dwight Hall’s infrastructure and experience in crafting and supporting summer internships in the social impact sector, and (iv) leverage YANA’s chapter structure to mobilize committed Yale alumni in locations where Yale students may be spending summer internships and create opportunities for internships beyond New Haven. YANA is primarily responsible for funding, placements outside of New Haven, selection of awardees, and mentoring of interns. Dwight Hall is primarily responsible for placements in and around New Haven, advertising and recruitment, and administration of funding. Dwight Hall will include interns in its existing Enrichment Programming for Cohort of Interns (e.g., speaker series, peer review, etc.) and the two organizations will work together on additional training and support for the interns.

Summer 2017: Our First Year

In the spring, YANA committed to fund a small-scale program with two interns for the 2017 summer. The program is expected to expand in 2018. The first Fellowships were awarded to two highly qualified recipients:

**Daniel Hamidi DC’18**: Daniel interned for the Orleans Public Defenders, a nonprofit law office in New Orleans that provides legal representation to indigent clients in Louisiana. Daniel has been active with several nonprofit and government organizations including the Esperanza Immigrant Rights Project, the UC Irvine legal clinic, OutRight Action International (formerly the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission), the office of a New Haven Alder and the Yale College Democrats.

**Marwan Jalani BR’20**: Marwan split his summer between the Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Service (IRIS) in New Haven and a nonprofit based in Palo Alto, CA, raising awareness of immigration issues in schools and places of worship and assisting with integration of new refugees. In the past year, he has been involved with A Leg Even, the Yale Refugee Project, and DOX-BOX (a nonprofit that raises funds for Arab filmmakers).

How You Can Help

Beyond continuing to financially support YANA, there are several ways you can join in the Fellowship program:

1. Sponsor an intern through a contribution targeted to the Fellowship program.
2. Identify local nonprofits potentially interested in hosting a summer intern
3. Assist interns hosted by a local nonprofit with logistics including housing
4. Arrange for a local summer mentor
5. Contribute to YANA’s fundraising efforts by identifying other alumni with the potential to financial support the program
6. Host an event during the summer featuring the local intern(s) and related speakers. Such an event could be part of fundraising efforts.

The Fellowship Program and the YANA Nonprofit Network

Beyond the obvious advantages for current Yale students, YANA sees the Fellowship program as a means to expand its offering to alumni in the nonprofit community and their affiliated nonprofit organizations. We believe the opportunity to work with talented, trained, and funded Yale students for 8-10 weeks at no cost should be of great interest to our affiliated nonprofits, and an inducement for others to join the YANA family.