

Environmental Fellows Cohorts 2016 – 2018



2018 Fellows



Sahar Arbab

Foundation Partner: The Overbrook Foundation

Host Organization: Grist

Sahar will complete her master's degree in environmental studies at Western Washington University this spring. At Western, she has focused her studies and research on environmental justice, environmental education, and youth-led action. Previously, Sahar was the High School Program Coordinator at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical gardens in Pittsburgh, PA where she oversaw an environmental challenge for K-12 public and private schools and a high school internship program. Sahar's work is motivated by the desire to create a more just and inclusive environmental movement.



Chris Askew-Merwin

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: Natural Resources Defense Council

Chris is a dual -degree MS/ MPP student at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. He also received his BS from the University of Michigan in the Program in the Environment. Chris studies environmental policy with a focus on environmental justice and climate change adaptation. He hopes to someday help frontline communities in their efforts to plan and prepare for climate change.



Amber Carter

Foundation Partner: William Penn Foundation

Host Organization: Watershed Protection Grant Center

My name is Amber and I'm a master's student at Villanova University, currently working on finishing up my degree in environmental science! I'm interested in the environmental non-profit sector as well as land and watershed conservation. I love exploring the outdoors and adventuring to new places, particularly in and around my city of Philadelphia.



Lorena Cortes

Foundation Partner: The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Host Organization: Clean Wisconsin

I am currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Conservation Ecology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. I am originally from Puerto Rico, where I obtained a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science at the University of Puerto Rico. I am very passionate about the environment and am interested in topics such as wildlife management, endangered species conservation, environmental awareness, and community and biodiversity resilience towards natural disasters.



Gloria Desanker

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: The Nature Conservancy

I got my B.S. in Environmental Science at University of Virginia and am getting my M.S. in forestry at Michigan State University. I enjoy using remotely sensed data and GIS systems, and plan to pursue a career with an NGO or non-profit. My research focuses on terrestrial vegetation phenology in East Africa. In my free time, I enjoy photography, volleyball, eating new foods and traveling!

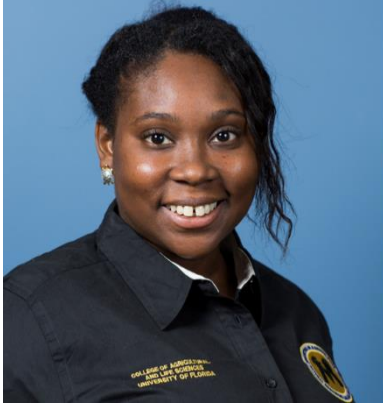


Jon Espitia

Foundation Sponsor: The Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Ceres

Jon is pursuing an MEM /MBA dual degree from Duke and UNC Chapel Hill. Jon loves engaging with people and has worked as an anthropologist in Peru and has experience cooking in NYC farm-to-table restaurants. He is passionate about creating sustainable, climate change resilient food systems and supply chains, and wants to pursue a career in corporate sustainability.



Rashidah Farid

Foundation Sponsor: Island Foundation

Host Organization: New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Rashidah is a PhD Candidate at University of Florida and is pursuing her degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation with a concentration in quantitative analyses. Her dissertation focuses on population demography and dynamics of Gunnison's prairie dogs. She completed her Bachelor Science at Tuskegee University and Masters of Science at Alabama A&M University, in Animal Science and Plant and Soil Science, respectively. Her master's thesis focused on genetic connectivity of amphibian populations in a fragmented landscape. In her spare time, Rashidah is president of Natural Resources Diversity Initiative (NRDI) in Gainesville, Florida.



Antionette Fowlkes

Foundation Sponsor: McKnight Foundation

Host Organization: Pillsbury United Communities

A native of Birmingham, AL, Antionette is an ambitious servant leader, problem solver and organizer. She obtained her bachelors degree in environmental science and environmental health from Alabama A&M University. She is currently pursuing her master's degree at Iowa State University in Community and Regional Planning. After graduating in December she plans to attend law school to receive her JD to assist communities in the fight against environmental inequality, social justice and environmental justice. She is a driven, energetic and compassionate person who desires to see all people living in healthy and vibrant communities.



Genorah Givens

Foundation Sponsor: Singing Field Foundation

Host Organization: Clean Water Action

Genora was born and raised in Oakland, CA and is passionate about all things water. Genora is graduating from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies with a Master of Environmental Management in May 2018. She is focused on flood risk and storm-water management in the urban context and is most interested in developing ways to incorporate understandings of social vulnerability and inequity into analysis of geographic risk and watershed management and planning.



Derell Griffin

Foundation Sponsor: Wege Foundation

Host Organization: West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Derell is a current second year student in the Landscape Architecture program at the University of Michigan. He received BS in Horticulture from Michigan State University. As a native of Detroit, he is interested in green development of highly urban areas, not only in the U.S. but also in developing countries. Water management issues, whether it's storm water or the quality of a stream is of high importance to him as well and he believes everyone should have access to environments that promotes one's mental and physical wellbeing.



Helen Gutierrez

Foundation Sponsor: The JPB Foundation

Host Organization: UPROSE

Helen graduated from University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability with an MS in Environmental Justice with an emphasis on climate change and vulnerability on April 28. With a background in environmental health, her primary interests are in climate change and food security, and how that impacts community development. Helen is excited to be in New York City for the first time this summer, working at UPROSE on climate justice.



Teal Harrison

Foundation Sponsor: Erb Family Foundation

Host Organization: Erb Family Foundation

Teal Harrison is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan and has a M.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB). She graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in Behavioral Biology. Teal is interested in investigating food security and environmental justice issues that affect coastal communities, especially native coastal communities and non-native coastal communities of color. She hopes to collaborate with coastal farmers and fishermen on these issues and apply her training in EEB to developing socially and environmentally just outcomes. Outside of research, Teal enjoys dance, yoga, documentaries, and sunny days.



Kareem Heshmat

Foundation Sponsor: The JPB Foundation

Host Organization: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

I am a Masters candidate in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University in Houston. I discovered my passion for sustainability while volunteering but it wasn't until 2017 that I would transition careers from financial services to urban planning. My focus is environmental justice and the siting of toxic hazards in low -wealth and minority communities. This semester, I visited Portland, OR over spring break to study bicycle infrastructure and the benefits of alternative transportation. I look forward to working with my 2018 Environmental Fellows cohort this summer and learning from their *experiences*.



Stephanie Hung

Foundation Sponsor: 11th Hour Project/Schmidt Marine Technology Partners

Host Organization: Physicians, Scientists and Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE Healthy Energy)

Stephanie Hung is an M.S. candidate in Environmental Health Sciences at University of Massachusetts Amherst. She grew up outside Washington, D.C. and Taipei, Taiwan. Her research focuses on water disinfection byproducts and DNA sequencing. She is interested in using science as a tool to empower individuals most impacted by environmental injustices. Stephanie has worked as a counselor at a



Kayla Hunter

Foundation Sponsor: The JPB Foundation

Host Organization: The JPB Foundation

My name is Kayla Hunter, a New Jersey resident and dual Masters student in the Urban & Regional Planning and Public Health at the University of Michigan. I completed a B.A. in Environmental Studies with a Public Health minor at Spelman College. My interests are grounded in environmental justice, building sustainable communities that reduce minority health disparities.



Quenton King

Foundation Sponsor: Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Host Organization: Appalachian Voices

Quenton is completing his first year at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, where he is an MPH candidate in Sociomedical Sciences with a certificate in History, Ethics, and Law. Born and raised in West Virginia, Quenton graduated from West Virginia University with a BA in Criminology, Spanish, and Latin American Studies. He is excited to gain experience in environmental justice and grassroots advocacy as an Environmental Fellow at Appalachian Voices this summer.



Victoria Loong

Foundation Sponsor: Solidago Foundation

Host Organization: Solidago Foundation

Hailing from Oak Park, IL, Victoria is a 2014 graduate of Purdue University. After working for two years as founding director of the Asian American Cultural Center at Purdue, she began her master's program in University of Michigan where she is now pursuing her interests in environmental policy.



Claire Luce

Foundation Sponsor: Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Host Organization: Virginia Conservation Network

Claire is a doctoral student in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University. She graduated with her MSW from the University of Illinois and with her BA in environmental science from Franklin University Switzerland. Her research interests include environmental justice and the intersection of the effects of climate change, trauma, migration, and mental health.



Amonté Martin

Foundation Sponsor: Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Host Organization: Appalachian Voices

I, Amonté Martin, am a first-year doctoral student in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. I desire to continue to develop as a researcher and learn more about the relationship between research and policy, specifically, environmental equity issues as they relate to urban and rural food deserts, food access, justice and policy.



Sarah Naiman

Foundation Sponsor: The Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Clean Water Fund

I am a Ph.D. student in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. My research aims to understand various barriers to Latinx engagement in environmental projects and organizations. Generally, I'm interested in how to include marginalized voices and concerns into mainstream environmental projects. In my spare time I love to play board games, hike, and play volleyball.



April Richards

Foundation Sponsor: Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Host Organization: Virginia Conservation Network

April is a MS student in Environmental Justice and Conservation Ecology at the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS). She earned her Bachelors at Cornell College where she began to explore interdisciplinary approaches to environmental studies with an emphasis on social justice. She is interested in exploring environmental justice in fisheries and aquatic ecosystems.



Sally Ross

Foundation Sponsor: Mertz Gilmore Foundation

Host Organization: Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Sally Ross resides from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and is currently a graduate student at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville studying Forestry with a concentration in urban forestry. Her research focuses on quantifying urban tree benefits and using vegetation to remediate soils with the purpose improving the urban environmental experience. Sally enjoys writing, mentoring, and meeting new people. Sally plans to use this fellowship experience to learn more about climate and energy policy, advocacy, and community organizing.



Julie Skarha

Foundation Sponsor: The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Host Organization: Natural Resources Defense Council,
Chicago Office

Julie is a graduate student in the Department of Epidemiology at Brown University. She received an undergraduate degree in environmental sciences and statistics. At Brown, she focuses on environmental health by researching petroleum-derived toxic chemicals and their related health outcomes. She is interested in how oppressive systems such as racism, sexism, and classism increase people's vulnerabilities to these chemicals.



Tabaris Smith

Foundation Sponsor: The Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Transportation for Massachusetts

Tabaris D. Smith resides from Orangeburg, SC and is currently a graduate student at Alabama A&M University studying Urban and Regional Planning with concentration in Housing and Community Development. Tabaris enjoys reading, helping organize communities, watching documentaries, mentoring, sports, and listening to music/podcasts. Tabaris plans to use this fellowship experience to aid in his understanding of the socioeconomic effects of low-income communities.



Tiffany Taulton

Foundation Sponsor: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: Environmental Defense Fund

I am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management, with a concentration in Environmental Policy, at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College. I am particularly interested in Environmental Justice issues and helping vulnerable communities become more climate resilient. As a former Navy brat and traveling English teacher, I've been to over 20 countries. I enjoy working with people from diverse backgrounds and speak varying levels of Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese and Brazilian Portuguese.



Christopher Torres

Foundation Sponsor: The Pisces Foundation

Host Organization: The Pisces Foundation

Chris is a doctoral student in the Public Policy and Administration program at Boise State University. With a background in philosophy and environmental humanities from UC Berkeley and University of Oregon, he studies how concepts of and mechanisms for equity and social justice can be better designed into and implemented through environmental policy.



Rebecca Villegas

Foundation Sponsor: The Charles Stewart

Mott Foundation

Host Organization: Alliance for the Great Lakes

Rebeca Villegas is a Master of Science and Master of Urban and Regional Planning student at the University of Michigan. She is also pursuing a certificate in science, technology, and public policy and currently serves as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Graduate Student Staff Assistant. With her degrees and experience, Rebeca looks forward to pushing climate change resiliency planning and policies that recognizes intersectionalities and safeguards vulnerable people and communities on a local and regional scale.



Fantasia Williams

Foundation Sponsor: The JPB Foundation

Host Organization: National Audubon Society

Fantasia Williams is a graduate of Howard University where she studied Economics and Sociology. Currently, she attends the University of Michigan where she is pursuing an M.S. in Environmental Justice and an M.P.H. in Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology from the School of Environment and Sustainability and School of Public Health, respectively. At Michigan, Fantasia is exploring ways minorities can minimize environmental health disparities and environmental injustices in the midst of climate change.



Shanna Williamson

Foundation Sponsor: The Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance

Shanna Williamson is currently completing her M.S. in Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Her graduate research has focused on assessing the impacts of land use and climate change on watersheds in rural North Carolina. She is originally from the Bronx, NY and received her B.A. in the Geosciences from Skidmore College. She is really excited to combine her research skills with urban initiative projects at the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance this summer.



Brett Zeuner

Foundation Sponsor: The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Host Organization: Environmental Grantmakers Association

Brett is an MS student in the Environmental Justice track at University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability. His master's project focuses on distributive justice, using GIS to measure inequitable distributions of cumulative risk. He is also researching the use of conflict minerals in green technology. This Summer, Brett looks forward to working with the Environmental Grantmakers Association to better understand how social sustainability is conceptualized in environmental philanthropy.

2017 Fellow Bios



Kemet Azubuike

Foundation Partner: The 11th Hour Project
Host Organization: Vote Solar, Washington DC

Kemet Azubuike resides from Dayton, Ohio and is currently a graduate student at Howard University studying sociology with concentrations in environmental, urban, and economic sociology. Kemet enjoys reading, helping organize communities, watching documentaries, mentoring, meeting new people, and playing a good game of basketball. Kemet plans to use this fellowship experience to aid in his understanding of the socioeconomic effects of renewable energies on low-income communities.



Ashley Bell

Foundation Partner: Island Foundation
Host Organization: New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, New Market, NH

My name is Ashley Bell and I am a PhD Student at Tulane University through the school of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. I am originally from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and completed both my Bachelor and Master degrees at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. The original life was to be a veterinarian, however after completing a study abroad program in South Africa, I realized that my degree could be better used working towards improving public health via environmental health. My passion within environmental health is environmental justice. The merging of social and environmental issues is right up my alley because I wholeheartedly believe that quality of health should not be geographically or status dependent. In my spare time I like to listen to music, read a book (that's not school related), play with Mylo (my mini dachshund), or sleep.



Cheryl Bennett

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust
Host Organization: The Nature Conservancy, New York, NY

Cheryl Bennett is enrolled in the Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management at the Milano School where she is positing sustainable food systems as a driver of environmental conservation. Agriculture is the largest interface humans have with the environment yet the current industrial agriculture model is based on a linear economy which views waste management and social costs as externalities and not part of production costs. And that is a problem.



Lauren Beriont

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: Pisces Foundation, San Francisco, CA

Originally from the shores of New Jersey, and with a background in environmental science, I am currently pursuing a Masters in Macro Social Work at the University of Michigan to better work at the intersection of equity and the environment. I am interested in helping fundamentally re-imagine the way people can work together in mutually beneficial ways for community well-being for all.



Sindhu Bharadwaj

Foundation Partner: Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth, Boston, MA

Sindhu is an MS student in Environmental Justice and Policy at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment (SNRE). She received a BA from New York University in Politics and Cultural Studies. At SNRE, Sindhu focuses on developing policy frameworks and recommendations to address issues at the intersection of environment and social inequality in urban contexts. Her professional background is in communications.

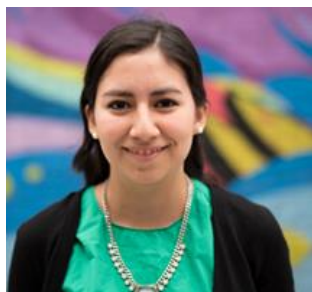


Tianna Bruno

Foundation Partner: The 11th Hour Project

Host Organization: Center on Race, Poverty, and Environment, Oakland, CA

I am a PhD student in Geography at the University of California - Davis from Houston, Texas. My research interests include environmental justice and critical race studies. Particularly, I hope to examine state-society relations and how the state engages in activities regarding the uneven distribution of environmental burdens and benefits in the urban setting with the use of mixed-methods. Other than my research, I really like doing conservation work with youth.



Mayra Cruz

Foundation Partner: Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Boston, MA

Mayra is graduating from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health with an MPH in Environmental Health Sciences and a Certificate in Climate and Health during orientation (May-16-17)!! She is originally from Houston, Texas, but has been living in the East Coast for the past ten years. She is an avid TV/Netflix watcher. Some favorite shows include Game of Thrones and Parks and Recreation. She is excited to be in Boston this summer for her fellowship.



Alexis Cureton

Foundation Partner: The 11th Hour Project

Host Organization: Northwest SEED, Seattle, Washington

My name is Alexis Omar Cureton. Currently, I am a Graduate student receiving my MPA from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs with a concentration in Energy and Policy Analysis. I received my undergraduate degree from Clark Atlanta University in Sociology. I seek to gain a better understanding of the intersectionality of energy access as it pertains to energy equity being used as a tool to achieve sustainable economic development for minority communities. My favorite quote is "We need more light about each other. Light creates understanding, understanding creates love, love creates patience, and patience creates unity." -Malcolm X



Karina Herrera

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: William Penn Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

My name is Karina Herrera. I graduated from Harvard University in 2013 with a degree in Environmental Science and Engineering. Following graduation, I served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA in my hometown, Fresno, CA. There I worked at Fresno State on increasing the number of underrepresented minorities receiving STEM degrees and at the nonprofit HandsOn on addressing low early education literacy rates through increased classroom volunteers. I am currently a first-year graduate student at the Bren School for Environmental Science & Management, UC Santa Barbara, specializing in water resources management.



Kassandra Hishida

Foundation Partner: Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Toxics Action Center, Boston, MA

I grew up in Fresno, CA and earned my BS in Environmental Science at Fresno State. Despite being situated in a city greatly impacted by air pollution, pesticide drift, and food insecurity, few of my science classes discussed the issues facing our own community members. I applied to graduate programs in order to better understand the connections between these social and environmental issues. I am currently studying food justice, environmental justice, and environmental education in the Environmental Studies Master's Program at the University of Oregon. My ultimate goal is to return to Fresno and support environmental justice work in my hometown.



Mary Jones

Foundation Partner

Host Organization: Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, Ann Arbor, MI

Mary will be wrapping up her degree in Environmental Justice from the University of Michigan in spring of 2017. She is passionate about the dynamic intersection between the environment and social justice and is committed to community building through authentic partnership and collaboration. In her spare time she devours books and knits up a storm with her cat, Jellyby.



Ragini Kathail

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: Natural Resources Defense Council

Ragini Kathail is an experienced environmental health professional with an MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and a BA from Pomona College. She has spent a cumulative total of two and a half years working in India on issues around water, sanitation, and agriculture. She has additional experience in digital fundraising, email marketing, and supporter recruitment for non-profits. She currently lives in New York.



Priscila Papias

Foundation Partner: Barr Foundation

Host Organization: Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance, Boston, MA

My name is Priscila Papias, and I am originally from South East Los Angeles, California. I am completing my MS degree at the University of Michigan, where my focus is conservation ecology. I have a background in environmental history from the UC Berkeley, and am interested in community development, bilingual environmental education, and urban sustainability.



ValaRae Partee

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: EarthJustice

My name is ValaRae Partee and I am originally from Atlanta, Georgia. I'm pursuing my PhD in Environmental Engineering at Vanderbilt University where I study climate change impacts on domestic fresh water reserves, vulnerable water and transportation infrastructure, and farming agriculture. I am really excited to be working for Earthjustice this summer and to meet the new cohort of environmental fellows! Some of my other interests include painting, working out, traveling, cooking, and various crafts.



Carolina Prado

Foundation Partner: The 11th Hour Project

Host Organization: Solutions Project, Oakland, CA

Carolina Prado is a PhD candidate in environmental and women's studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research examines hazardous waste sites, air pollution and environmental stewardship of rivers in the Tijuana-San Diego region. She has been an active environmental justice advocate in the border region and participates in a food justice collective in Oakland. As a future action-oriented professor, Carolina envisions transforming the cross-border environment to be more healthy and just for communities on both sides of the border.



Frances Roberts-Gregory

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: Environmental Grantmakers Association, New York, NY

Frances Roberts-Gregory is a PhD Candidate in Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation research will explore climate justice and barriers and opportunities for women of color to participate in US climate adaptation policy-making. Frances is also a Ford Fellow, NSF GRFP Fellow, Gates Millennium Scholar, SOARS and MS PHD alum and Spelman graduate. Her other interests include feminist political ecology, environmental justice, dance and vegetarianism.



Victoria Ruddle

Foundation Partner: The 11th Hour Project

Host Organization: Ocean Research Conservation Association, Fort Pierce, FL

Victoria Ruddle is currently an MS student in Marine Biology at the College of Charleston, South Carolina. Originally from upstate New York, she has a BS in Biology from St. Lawrence University. Though her graduate research has focused on the population status of endangered sturgeon in South Carolina, she has developed an interest in marine policy and the intersection of research and conservation. She looks forward to combining her research skills with outreach and science communication at the Ocean Research Conservation Association.



Malavika Sahai

Foundation Partner: Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Host Organization: National Wildlife Federation, Ann Arbor, MI

Malavika Sahai is an Environmental Justice and Environmental Policy & Planning student at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and the Environment. Her research interests are at the intersection of race, gender, and environmental hazards and she has experience in work on environmental communications, labor rights organizing, and food pantry organizing. She is excited to be a fellow at the National Wildlife Federation working on urban regional initiative projects this summer.



Marie Schaefer

Foundation Partner: Wege Foundation
Host Organization: Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department, Grand Rapids, MI

Marie Schaefer is a PhD student in Community Sustainability at Michigan State University. She received her MA in Applied Anthropology from Northern Arizona University and is an Anishinaabekwe (Odawa) from Michigan. Marie has had the honor of working with Tribes across the United States. Her work focuses on indigenous knowledges revitalization especially manoomin (wild rice) revitalization as well as creating collaborations that braid indigenous knowledges and scientific knowledge using community-based participatory approaches in order to create sustainable futures for indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.



Soli Shin

Foundation Partner: New York Community Trust
Host Organization: Environmental Defense Fund

Soli Shin is a first year, Masters in Environmental Management student at Duke's Nicholas School. She is interested in a career tackling energy problems. She believes that the answer to climate change lies within an interdisciplinary model that incorporates quantitative methods and analysis through language, visuals, and data.



Rachel Smith

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Rachel recently completed her M.S. in Forestry from The University of Montana, where her research focused on developing geospatial tools to assist tribal land managers in meeting their conservation goals. Rachel is an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. She is interested in learning how non-profits can support tribal communities to build capacity, and develop movements, focused on the protection and conservation of land, water, air, community health and cultural identity. She enjoys exploring hot springs, hiking with her family, and traveling.

2016 Fellow Bios



Keyyana Blount

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: William Penn Foundation, Philadelphia, PA

For the William Penn Foundation, Keyyana works with the Watershed Protection team to articulate the connections between grant-supported activities and outcomes using their "theory of change" cumulative impact framework. She is a doctoral student at the University of Oregon studying carbon dynamics in estuarine wetlands within the context of wetland restoration.



Janae Davis

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: National Wildlife Federation, Ann Arbor, MI

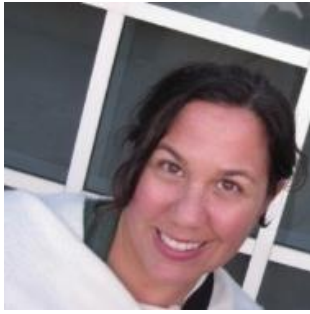
Janae assists the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Great Lakes Regional Office and the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition (HOW) in kicking off their diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts. Janae helps the NWF team clarify and work towards DEI goals related to institutional culture. She also provided feedback on the development of a project to launch the HOW Coalition's DEI efforts and led an assessment of leaders and organizations serving frontline communities. Janae is a doctoral student In Geography at Clark University.



Vanessa De Anda

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: Pisces Foundation, San Francisco, CA

Vanessa assists the water, environmental education, and climate, and energy programs on various projects, ranging from synthesizing reports for Program Officers to attending webinars with leading environmental experts. She is a second year graduate student completing an MESM at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at UC Santa Barbara with a specialization in Water Resources Management.



Carla Dhillon

Foundation Partner: CS Mott Foundation

Host Organization: Vision for a Sustainable Environmental Future, Ann Arbor, MI

Carla helps develop and execute programs to diversify the environmental field as part of SNRE's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives. She focuses primarily on the Environmental Fellows Program, which seeks to diversify and develop environmental leaders and decision-makers in environmental philanthropy. Carla is a fourth year doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment.



Elena Huisman

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: National Environmental Education Foundation, Washington D.C.

Elena's primary projects this summer include researching and curating stories, strategies, and best practices in environmental education and lifelong learning to build on NEEF's 2015 Environmental Literacy Report. Additionally, she is designing and implementing an evaluation strategy for NEEF's National Public Lands Day in order to examine the reach and impact of the event, both in terms of services provided to public lands and volunteer experience. Elena is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment's Master's program.



Gabriel Jones

Foundation Partner: CS Mott Foundation

Host Organization: Vision for a Sustainable Environmental Future, Ann Arbor, MI

Gabe works with the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, an eight-week residential program at SNRE, that exposes undergraduates to careers and research opportunities in the environmental field. In addition to providing guidance on navigating through their research placements and around campus resources, he works with the students on leading diversity seminars and preparing poster presentations. Gabriel is also helping to plan the Ann Arbor Diversity Forum. Gabe is a third-year dual-degree Master's student in Natural Resources & Environment and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan.



Joanna Lehrman

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: Wege Foundation, Grand Rapids, MI

Joanna Lehrman works on strategies for effective engagement with communities impacted by the restoration of the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids. She prepares recommendations for how to fund inclusive engagement strategies around river restoration. She also works with the foundation to develop organizational Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies based on best practices, community, and board input. Joanna is a recent graduate from University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment with a Master's in Landscape Architecture.



Erik Martinez

Foundation Partner: Island Foundation

Host Organization: Trustees of Reservations, Marion, MA

Erik is working to support the organization's goal to protect special places located throughout the state of Massachusetts. With the Trustees, he has been able to help develop policies that will help guide Trustees employees on issues dealing with invasive species and land use concerns, as well as assisting with field surveys of sensitive and rare species found on their properties. Erik is a second year Master's student at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at UC Santa Barbara.



Caroline Muraida

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organizations: Natural Resources Defense Council, New York, NY and WE ACT for Environmental Justice, New York, NY

At the NRDC, Caroline is authoring a policy brief for the planned creation of an equity-centered, municipally-managed electric vehicle car share program in the City of New York. In addition, she contributes to research efforts on the scope of contaminants in public water systems across the United States. With WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Caroline works with organizers conducting an urban heat island effects study as part of the larger Northern Manhattan Climate Action Plan. Caroline is a second year Master's student at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.



Kiara Ott

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: Environmental Grantmakers Association, New York, NY

At the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA), Kiara helps plan distance learning tours to Cuba and Southern Africa. She also assists in communication strategies among all members of the Environmental Fellows Program, and works on developing the EGA website's resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Kiara recently graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Master's in Environmental Health.



Christianah Oyengua

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: New York City Mayor's Office of Sustainability, New York, NY

As the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Analyst, Christianah acquires, organizes, manages and analyzes citywide GHG emissions data, and contributes to drafting the GHG Inventory report for the City of New York. She is a doctoral candidate at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) School of the Environment studying Environmental Science, Policy and Risk Management.



Urooj Raja

Foundation Partner: 11th Hour

Host Organization: The Solutions Project, Washington, D.C.

For The Solutions Project, Urooj is developing a policy tracking infrastructure to help staff make better organizational decisions, and working to enhance an existing story-telling tool. The story-telling tool is a national map that breaks down how states in the U.S. can take a path to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. Her work focuses on user accessibility, simplicity, and to help define how the map will be used. Urooj is a doctoral student in environmental sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder.



Adrien Salazar

Foundation Partner: 11th Hour

Host Organization: Sustainable Economies Law Center, Oakland, CA

Adrien is the Community Energy and Seed Democracy Intern at the Sustainable Economies Law Center. He is supporting the organization's seed democracy campaign, outreaching to farmer networks, designing a project to assess the seed saving, sharing, and seed production needs of farmers of color and immigrant farmers in California. He is also working with the organization's community energy program researching community-owned renewable projects and community engagement best practices to include in a legal guide to community-owned renewable energy. Adrien just graduated with his MEM degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.



Whitney Smith

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Washington, D.C.

Whitney is working on creating a community fact sheet on the Clean Power Plan in an effort to make this regulation more understandable and digestible to support community advocacy efforts. She will also under-take a GIS mapping project on methane exposure. Whitney just completed her Master's degree in Environmental Justice at University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources & Environment.



Nancy Toure

Foundation Partner: 11th Hour

Host Organization: Earthjustice, San Francisco, CA

Nancy assists the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion at Earthjustice operationalize the successful execution of organization-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) goals. As part of Earthjustice's Brown Bag Presentation series she provided training to clerks and interns on the history of race and gender in the environmental movement. Nancy attends Northeastern University for graduate school where she concentrates on race and ethnic relations and environmental sociology.



Teona Williams

Foundation Partner & Host Organization: C.S. Mott Foundation, Flint, MI

Teona is conducting research on African Americans' attitudes towards urban parks in Flint, Michigan. The project will generate a report that will be used to help local organizations improve their outreach efforts with often-marginalized groups in Flint. Teona is entering her second year as a Master's degree student in Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan.



Michelle Yeh

Foundation Partner: The New York Community Trust

Host Organization: Environmental Defense Fund, New York, NY

As a Natural Resource Intern at the Environmental Defense Fund this summer, Michelle specializes in ecosystem restoration projects, including the Mississippi River Delta Restoration project. She was involved in analyzing National Marine Fisheries Service documentation about the alleged impacts of sediment diversions on fishery and marine mammal habitats. Michelle is also engaged in devising a restoration program for Jamaica Bay, aiding the EDF Climate Corps program with organizing New York-based fellow events, and researching sustainability efforts of the largest real estate companies in New York. Michelle is a second year graduate student at Columbia University studying Sustainability Management.