

GILMAN ALUMNI RECEIVE COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS FOR CAREERS IN DIPLOMACY

Nineteen Gilman Alumni are among the winners of three highly competitive, federally-funded fellowships for graduate study and careers in diplomacy.

Two alumni received the Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship, eight alumni received the Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship and nine alumni received the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship. Each of these fellowships prepares scholars for diplomatic careers with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Foreign Services.

The Gilman Alumni receiving each fellowship are as follows:

- Donald M. Payne Fellowship
 - Cecilia Turner, South Africa & Zimbabwe, 2019
 - Na-Yeon Park, China, 2015
- Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship
 - Mary Bohn, South Korea, 2018
 - Bella-Graciela Chavez, Spain-Virtual, 2020
 - Maya Cotton, Thailand, 2017
 - Ariel Daniels, Morocco, 2018
 - Breea Gould, Germany, 2016
 - Christopher Hernandez-Turcios, Jordan, 2017
 - Abdulkadir Sharif, South Africa & Namibia, 2019
 - Betty Thai, China, 2019
- Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship
 - Landon Fortenberry, China, 2016
 - Bezakulu Gebru, Morocco, 2013
 - Fana Haileselassie, South Africa, 2019
 - Taylor Hinch, Ireland, 2018
 - Tatum James, Spain, 2019
 - Tammy Nguyen, Russia, 2019
 - Cierra Powell, Ecuador, 2017
 - Jane Viviano, Jordan, 2016
 - Rachel Wong, South Korea, 2017

The USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program seeks to attract outstanding individuals who are interested in pursuing careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Payne Fellowship, which provides up to \$96,000 in benefits over two years for graduate school, internships, and professional development activities, is a unique pathway to the USAID Foreign Service.

The U.S. Department of State's Pickering Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to promote positive change in the world. Fellows have the opportunity to work as Foreign Service Officers under applicable law and State Department policy, serving in Washington, D.C. and at a U.S. embassy, consulate, or diplomatic mission around the globe. Fellows also agree to a minimum five-year service commitment in the Department of State's Foreign Service. The five-year service commitment begins upon entry into the Foreign Service.

The Rangel Graduate Fellowship is a program that aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State in which they can help formulate, represent and implement U.S. foreign policy. The Rangel Program selects outstanding Rangel Fellows annually in a highly competitive nationwide process and supports them through two years of graduate study, internships, mentoring and professional development activities.

The fellowship winners said their Gilman experience greatly impacted their interest in foreign service careers and their decision to apply for additional opportunities.

“I was able to study abroad and partake in experiential learning in South Africa that ignited my passion for human rights and development. Without the Gilman Scholarship, I would not have had this experience and probably would not have discovered my true passions or career goals,” said Cecilia Turner, a Payne Fellowship recipient.

“My experience as a Gilman Scholar in South Africa and Namibia...opened my eyes to a career in diplomacy where I can use my diverse background and experiences to shape foreign policy that works to create sustainable partnerships,” said Pickering recipient Abdulkadir Sharif.

Tatum James, a Rangel recipient, cited a specific moment in her journey as a Gilman scholar which inspired her to pursue in a career in the Foreign Service. “If it were not for becoming a Gilman Scholar and attending that Regional Career Summit [in Lisbon, Portugal], I am not sure I would have even known about these opportunities, let alone felt the encouragement and support to apply for such prestigious programs,” she said.

Fellowship winners expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity to enter a life of service.

“I am eager to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and community development efforts wherever I am called to serve,” Rangel recipient Taylor Hinch said.

“I look forward to exploring countries I have never imagined visiting, adapting to varied roles and learning about unfamiliar cultures and languages,” Pickering recipient Maya Cotton added.

Other fellowship winners echoed this sentiment by reiterating their pride in representing not only the Gilman program but also the United States on a global scale, like Rangel recipient Jane

Viviano. “I am excited to represent my country and continue working and connecting with American and foreign communities more broadly as a Foreign Service Officer,” she said.

Some of the fellowship winners articulated specific goals they had in mind to accomplish during their time of service. “I am excited to have a role in shaping the world for the better, using transnational level policy to advocate for underserved communities worldwide,” Pickering recipient Betty Thai said.

Rangel recipient Tammy Nguyen hopes to use this opportunity to inspire other students to apply for opportunities such as these. “I hope to encourage and support others in underrepresented communities to consider the Foreign Service as a rewarding and sometimes non-traditional career,” she said.

Learn more and apply at paynefellows.org, pickeringfellowship.org and rangelprogram.org.