

GILMAN ALUMNI RECEIVE COMPETITIVE FELLOWSHIPS FOR CAREERS IN DIPLOMACY

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

Ten alumni received the Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship, and five 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:

- **Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship**
 - Irla Atanda, South Africa, 2017
 - Tima Dasouki, Virtual-Turkey, 2020
 - Kali Dykstra, Senegal, 2019
 - Christopher Murphy, China, 2014
 - Josh Pope, Virtual-Taiwan, 2021
 - Michael Portillo, Virtual-Taiwan, 2020
 - Arthur Rodriguez, Spain, 2019
 - Maya Rosales, Spain, 2020
 - Katherine Torres, Australia, Argentina, 2019
 - Vladyslav Wallace, France, 2018
- **Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship**
 - Craig Joiner, Japan, 2018-2019
 - Mayeen Mohammedi, Namibia, 2012-2013
 - Maia Moore, China, 2016
 - Ramatu Muhammed, Jordan, 2021
 - Joy Woods, Japan, 2018

The U.S. Department of State's Pickering Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to promote positive change in the world. Pickering 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, as evidenced through the quotes below

“My experience as a Gilman Scholar gave me the invaluable opportunity to sharpen my Turkish skills with an institution abroad which I believe set me apart as a candidate for the Pickering Fellowship. Because of this opportunity, I was able to engage with foreign interlocutors and serve as a citizen diplomat to Turkish faculty and international students studying in the same program-- an important skill for the Foreign Service,” said Pickering recipient Tima Dasouki.

“The Gilman program helped fund my time abroad in Tokyo where I volunteered in planning a large scale multi-cultural event and led a talk on diversity in the US. I believe these international service experiences helped strengthen my candidacy for the Rangel Fellowship,” expressed Rangel recipient Craig Joiner.

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

“I look forward to being able to serve my country and represent the values and diversity of the United States. I am excited to learn more languages and see more of the world through a career that is challenging, dynamic, and rewarding. I hope to promote peace and prosperity, especially in the Indo-Pacific, through global cooperation,” said Pickering recipient Josh Pope.

“I look forward to serving my country, traveling across the world and promoting American ideals that underpin democracy for all people regardless of gender, creed, ethnicity, race and socio-economic class,” commented Rangel recipient Joy Woods.

Other fellowship winners commented on the critical role that diversity and multiculturalism plays in the Gilman program and in representing the United States on a global scale, such as Pickering recipient Irla Atanda. “I am greatly looking forward to joining the Foreign Service, especially given the fact that I will get to bring my diverse perspective to the field. As an Afro-Latina, I have always enjoyed explaining my ‘American experience,’ because I do not fit into the dominant narratives that often define people’s perceptions of Americanness. U.S. foreign policy is at its best when it is truly representative of all the unique racial, ethnic, religious, socioeconomic backgrounds that make up America,” she remarked.

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