

Profiles of 2006 University of Michigan GHRT Global Health Travel Fellowship Recipients

The UM-GHRT Graduate Global Health Travel Fellowships provide a travel stipend to University of Michigan students who are enrolled in graduate and professional programs throughout the University and in specified undergraduate programs and who wish to participate in internationally-based global health internships, clinical rotations or research for a minimum of two months as part of their degree programs.



**Tanyaporn Wansom, Medical School
Clinical Rotation Fellowship**

Project Site: Switzerland

“Effective programming to address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic: an internship in the center for global-policy making, Geneva.”

Tanyaporn was accepted as a fellow by Duke University’s Sanford Institute of Public Policy Global Scholars program.

Blog Excerpt: I started my internship at the World Health Organization Wednesday, two days ago now. I am interning in the Department of Technical Cooperation on Essential Drugs and Traditional Medicines and my supervisor is a lawyer by training from Malaysia. I’m going to help assemble a patent database on essential drugs and do research/ write a policy paper/briefing on Thailand and Brazil (and intellectual property issues and patent law impact people’s access to medicines).



Sean Armstrong, Masters Student, Health Behavior Health Education



Project Site: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

“The National Center for Health Development-Health Promotion Department.”

Sean is assessing health system and community capacity for health promotion in Renchinlhumbe soum (county-level) of Huvsgul aimag (state-level) in Mongolia. Photo #1: a picture of the mobile "ger" hospital they set up in the summer to provide services the nomadic rural population. Photo #2: teaching calisthenics on the Mongolian steppe.



Shuen Chai, Masters Student, Epidemiology

Project Site: Jining, China

“Quality of Life in Tuberculosis Patients in Shandong Province, in collaboration with an epidemiologist at Jining Medical College”

Blog Excerpt: ...We have halted surveying patients for the time being because it's wheat-harvesting and rice-planting time. Local people of the villages surrounding Jining will be busy harvesting and planting all day, so it's not likely that many will be going to the clinics to get their treatments. Perhaps this is bad for the success of the treatment, but it seems that here, you have to do what you have to do - so getting food on the table comes first. I've finished translating the questionnaire and hopefully, when we can start surveying again, I will be able to do some myself.



Ben Hayes, Masters Student, Health Behavior Health Education

Project Site: Ghana

“Community Health Empowerment and Promotion, in affiliation with the University of Ghana”

Blog Excerpt: The AIDS Support Association (TASA) is the group that I'm spending most of my time with. A really interesting group created to support people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. TASA's membership is from Tema and Ashaiman two cities side-by-side that receive a lot of traffic from being a port area, transportation hub, and industrial center of the Greater Accra Area. The president of TASA wants me to use my writing skills to help get them some funding. This is what I'm trying to do for them. I've put together some material, including a color brochure and a budget, and we've identified some potential donors that TASA can approach.



Molly Moran, Masters Student, Health Behavior Health Education

Project Site: Burkina Faso

“Research Analysis: Effects of HIV/AIDS programming on Maternal health Care Utilization in Nouna District, Burkina Faso”

I will be gathering hospital utilization records and taking from them all data relating to maternal health care and looking at how utilization of maternal health services has changed since the implementation of the HIV program Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission into the maternal health unit of the Nouna District.



Amanda Simanek, Masters Student, Epidemiology/International Health

Project Site: Slovakia

“Detection and Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) Cases in the Roma Population of Slovakia”

My aim is to provide an evaluation of the past and current surveillance efforts centered at detecting cases in the Roma population, make recommendations for enhancing the current surveillance system and to assess treatment completion rates in this population.



Ana Vaz, Masters Student, Epidemiology

Project Site: Brazil

“Role of CYP1B1 in PAH-DNA Adduct Formation and Breast Cancer Risk.”

This is an ongoing research project between the University of Michigan and the Clinica de Mastologia in Porto Alegre, Brazil studying the relationship between environmental factors and breast cancer risk in Brazil.

Sara Cooley, Anthropology, Predissertation Fellowship

Project Site: Ecuador

“Making Medicine in the Ecuadorian Highlands”

Sara will use anthropology to probe the articulation between Western medical biology and local systems of medical knowledge and practice and how “developers” synthesize these two worlds as visible through reproductive health programs in highland Ecuador.

Blog Excerpt: For those who I haven't made listen to the details of my project, I'll be working with Centro Médico de Orientación y Planificación Familiar (CEMOPLAF), Ecuador's leading reproductive health provider. They have a strong presence in the indigenous communities in central highlands (where I am) and run an “integrated” program with the US-based environmental NGO World Neighbors, which focuses on combining agricultural development projects with reproductive health services (family planning, community health, food security, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource management).

Subhojit Dey, Epidemiology, Predissertation Fellowship

Project Site: India

“Epidemiological Determinants of High Breast Cancer Incidence in Urban versus Rural India.”

Subhojit's dissertation research involves analyzing environmental, lifestyle, reproductive, and hormonal risk factors in a dataset collected by International Agency for Research in Cancer from a multicenter case-control study done in 5 centers in India and 1 center in Pakistan.

Menan Hungwe Jangu, Natural Resources and the Environment, Predissertation Fellowship

Project Site: Tanzania

“Traditional Healing in Tanzania: Toward a practice of integrated medical, social, and environmental justice.”

Menan's research proposal is to acquire first-hand information through focus group interviews and meetings with a group of 40 traditional healers about their perspective on the environmental

and economic changes in their communities, their roles in the provision of health and medical services, and their strategies to protect and conserve plants having medicinal values.



Zoe McLaren, Economics, Predissertation Fellowship

Project Site: Botswana

“Policy Interventions to Address HIV/AIDS Epidemic: A Holistic Approach”

Zoe’s research project is on the interaction between socio-economic factors and HIV/AIDS in Botswana.

Blog Excerpt: Rolang (the professor I am working with here) got me started on a new research project before I even had time to unpack. I’m working with two professors and another graduate student to assess HIV prevalence rates among 15-19 year olds and come up with some policy prescriptions specifically for that age group. I will be traveling with a field research team later in June.

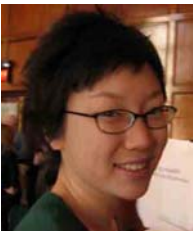


Joel Selway, Political Science, Predissertation Fellowship

Project Site: Thailand

“Political Representation and Health Policy in Thailand”

Joel’s research will analyze the political roots of Thailand’s record in health policy, including universal insurance, widespread facilities, properly trained physicians, and adequate medicinal supplies.



Eunice Yu, Undergraduate Student, Honors Fellowship

Project Site: Johannesburg, South Africa

“Evaluating Efficacy of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers for HIV/AIDS in 3 provinces of South Africa”

Blog Excerpt: The Development Bank of Southern Africa is a huge compound! It is a place of brilliant people- something of an elite knowledge workforce. In fact one of their mandates is to train more people, and they just finished a brand new Training Center for that purpose. Nolwazi is

my supervisor, another brilliant and wonderfully kind woman. We work in a new unit called Applied Development Research Unit (ADRU)- perfect for me. We sat down this morning and talked about my projects- among other things, VCT, social marketing, and a research study about how HIV/AIDS is impacting local governments.

David Duong, Undergraduate Student, Honors Fellowship

Project Site: Vietnam

David founded a non-governmental organization at the University of Michigan, called Crossing Borders <http://crossingborderonline.org/vn06/?cat=2&paged=2>. His project is to implement a pilot nutrition program for disadvantaged children in Viet Nam.

Blog Excerpt: We originally requested only 150 children for the nutrition study. We have the 150 children. However, other parents from around the area and neighboring areas have heard about the nutrition supplementation that we are doing, and they too are sending their children. Our number is at 300 children right now, and growing.