



SUMMER VENTURES

Reports from IPED Students' Summer Internships

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Fordham University's Graduate Program in International Political Economy and Development trains graduate students in the advanced interdisciplinary analysis of global economic relations and international development issues. Graduates frequently pursue professional careers in international finance and banking, international economic policy, and international relief and development.

Summer Ventures is a student-run newsletter of the Fordham IPED program. It shares the experiences of IPED students who underwent internships with organizations in business, government, and the non-profit sector.

Editorial Board

Hannah Fort
Editor-in-Chief

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Senior Editor

Donna Odra
Managing Editor

**Djina Stamatovic, Sarah Garwood,
James Duke, Mariam Tabatadze**
Contributors

Dr. Henry Schwalbenberg
IPED Program Director

Tel. +1 718 817 4064

Email: ipedjournal@fordham.edu
iped@fordham.edu



Djina Stamatovic Takes on Wall Street with Tigress



Djina Stamatovic (second from left) with Tigress Financial Partners CEO Cynthia Di Bartolo and Governor Andrew Cuomo in Manhattan

This summer I had the opportunity to intern with Tigress Financial Partners, an investment bank and broker dealer on Wall Street.

At Tigress I refined my finance, modeling, and research skills through sophisticated analytical tasks. These included curating and conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis on companies seeking capital in a private placement transaction, conducting company forecasting, and applying financial modeling techniques. I was mostly involved in transactions involving companies in the food and beverage, technology, and biopharmaceutical industries.

I acted as the primary day-to-day analytical support for the banking team. This involved conducting financial statement analysis, model development, valuation analysis, and industry research. I assisted the team with the preparation of various presentations and documents, managed transactions, and interfaced directly in presentation, negotiation, capital raising, and closing. I had the opportunity to collaborate with senior management and apply strategic thinking to solve a broad

range of challenges facing clients.

My finance and political science background allowed me to apply calculations and understand their interpretation and underlying meaning from different perspectives. I learned how to handle ambiguity and worked either collaboratively within a team environment or independently. This experience has confirmed my belief in the importance of critical thinking and strong communication skills. I was lucky to have been surrounded by great team members and attend interesting events with them.

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Sarah Garwood Builds Communication with Refugees in South Africa

This summer I worked as the intern advocacy and communications officer at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) South Africa in Johannesburg. JRS is an international organization working to accompany, serve, and advocate for refugees and asylum seekers in over 50 countries around the world. South Africa is home to hundreds of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers from across Africa, largely the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Zimbabwe. JRS South Africa programming is focused mainly on home-based healthcare, education support, and pastoral care.

In my role, I oversaw the communications team of three people. I was responsible for developing and implementing a strategic communications strategy for the country office. This involved rebuilding JRS' online platforms, namely the JRS regional website, Facebook, and Twitter pages through more consistent branding and current content development. I had the opportunity to document and photograph events, interview refugees and asylum seekers for their testimonies, and lead workshops to build the capacity of the staff.

Working with the refugees and asylum seekers on a daily basis was a valuable



Sarah Garwood (far right) with her coworkers from JRS South Africa at a community health workshop

experience. From interviewing Congolese survivors of sexual and gender-based violence to celebrating the graduation of 221 women and men from the JRS Skills Centers, each interaction with our clients showed me the depth and breadth of their experiences and gumption. Each person who flees their home has a unique story and personality. It is vital that people get to know the experiences and needs of this vulnerable population in order to reduce xenophobia and build a more compassionate society. It was my job at JRS to

express the realities and experiences of our clients in order to build partnerships, understanding, and global support.

One impactful program that I had the opportunity to assist with was the JRS Elderly Program, entitled, "Old Age Is a Time of Grace." It included weekly gatherings and workshops for about 15 elderly women and one man. There was a real sense of joy when they got together and shared their time and gifts with one another. One thing that especially struck me was the power of a simple talent show. Each person got to share something that they knew how to do—whether dancing, singing, knitting, or baking. Just the act of performing or explaining a recipe meant a lot to each of the participants and really highlighted their individual power and dignity. The work of JRS, across this and other program areas, is important and evident on a person-by-person basis.

Working at an international country office for a nongovernmental organization had its challenges and inefficiencies, as would be expected. Resources are scarce, and the work requires a lot of creativity. I am grateful for the experience of having worked with JRS. I was able to learn and contribute much in a short period of time. I appreciate the support and teamwork of all my coworkers and hope that the resources and skills I shared can be useful to them moving forward.



Women dancing at the World Refugee Day celebrations

James Duke Analyzes Economic Indicators in D.C.

As a Public Service Fellow in the IPED program, I spent my summer interning in the Center for Economics of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). GAO is a part of the legislative branch of the U.S. government and audits federal agencies at the directive of the U.S. Congress and under the purview of the U.S. Comptroller General.

During the summer, I was able to apply my economic training from IPED to three different projects: (1) an investigation of the changing role of cooperatives in U.S. dairy markets, (2) an analysis of changes in the economic assumptions of social security projections, and (3) an assessment of the risk outlook in U.S. corporate debt markets.

The summer internship at GAO was useful, because I applied and developed my IPED training to pressing economic issues. In addition, the experience will help further my goal of working in the U.S. federal government. GAO's student trainee program, of which I was a participant, is unique among federal government



Over the summer, **James Duke** interned with GAO.

internships. Student trainees at GAO are treated and compensated like regular employees and are often eligible for noncompetitive hiring upon graduation.

In combination with a fall internship at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations

and my continued economic training in the IPED program, the summer internship at the U.S. GAO provides me with concrete professional experience that I can leverage in pursuing a career in the U.S. federal government.

Mariam Tabatadze Supports Civil Servants in Georgia

For my internship, I went back to my home country, where I interned at the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) project, "Supporting Public Administration Reform in Georgia."

Prior to joining IPED, I worked on the service delivery improvement component of this reform, and this internship gave me an opportunity to go back and collaborate with old and new colleagues on a topic I care deeply about. In addition, I had a chance to learn about other components of this reform, including the activities aimed at improving policy planning and the quality of civil servants. The internship gave me an opportunity to reverse roles, from my previous experience as a public servant to my current role in an international donor organization.

Throughout my internship, I worked on many interesting assignments, from providing input for the evaluation of funding proposals that come through the project, to helping with writing the annual



Mariam Tabatadze at a public service delivery workshop organized by UNDP Georgia

report for the UK government, a donor for the UNDP's "Supporting Public Administration Reform." With the help of

my superiors, I grew as a professional and had an opportunity to learn about how the UN system works in Georgia.

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Mariam Tabatadze (far right) with the UNDP Georgia team and Sophia, the world's most advanced humanoid robot

Mariam Tabatadze

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In addition, I helped the UNDP Georgia team co-organize a panel on public service delivery and the role of technological innovations for the Open Government Partnership Summit 2018. This global summit brought together 2,000 attendees from 70 countries. It was inspiring to see so many professionals dedicated to advancing open governance principles (transparency, accountability, and shared knowledge) through collaboration between the public, civil society, and private sectors. Sophia, the world's most advanced humanoid robot with artificial intelligence (AI), was the special guest of our panel discussion. She spoke about the ability of AI and new technologies to transform public services for the better.

The internship enriched my summer

research. One of the goals of my summer break was to learn more about behavioral insights and how the concept of “nudging” human behavior for better outcomes can be used in public service and policy design. UNDP gave me an opportunity to attend a hands-on workshop conducted by the Behavioral Insights Team (BIT), a global leader in this field.

IPED Summer Internships

During the three-semester IPED program, all students are encouraged to seek internships or language immersion study programs during the summer between their second and third semesters. To aid with expenses for these trips, several different competitive scholarships are awarded. Visit iped.fordham.edu and ipednews.blog.fordham.edu to

IPED Student Assignments Summer 2018

- Amr Ali**, *French Language Studies (France)*
- Kyle Bawot**, *Portuguese Language Studies (Brazil)*
- Benjamin Boltz**, *Hogar San Francisco de Asis (Peru)*
- Kelly Cannon**, *UNDP (New York)*
- Patrick Connolly**, *Finacity (Stamford)*
- Tegshzaya Demid**, *NGO Committee on Human Settlements at the United Nations (New York)*
- James Duke**, *U.S. Government Accountability Office (Washington, D.C.)*
- Gregory Fischer**, *French Language Studies (France) and Maryknoll Mission (Brazil)*
- Sarah Garwood**, *Jesuit Refugee Service (South Africa)*
- Brian Harper**, *Americas Society and Council of the Americas (New York)*
- Donovan Hotz**, *Portuguese Language Studies (Brazil)*
- Enrico Antonio La Viña**, *Institute for Policy Studies (Washington, D.C.)*
- Tait Militana**, *USDA Economic Research Service (Washington, DC)*
- Clare Pressimone**, *CRS Student Ambassador Leadership Training, Salesian Missions (New York)*
- Mohammed Rahman**, *UNDP (Uganda) and Emerging Markets (South Africa)*
- Mahlatse Ramoroka**, *Center for Economic and Social Rights (New York) and Academic Conference for the International Journal of Arts and Sciences (Boston)*
- Eleanor Reserva**, *French Language Studies (France) and UNICEF (Senegal)*
- Diaeddin Sharaf**, *International Rescue Committee (New York)*
- Djina Stamatovic**, *Tigress Holdings LLC (New York)*
- Stephanie Swinehart**, *Borlaug Summer Institute (Indiana) and UNDP Equator Initiative (New York)*
- Mariam Tabatadze**, *UNDP (Georgia)*
- Ean Tierney**, *Research Project (Micronesia)*



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Fordham University Dealy—E517
441 East Fordham Road
Bronx, NY 10458, USA