

**TRINITY COLLEGE
2011 HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER FELLOWS**

Each year the Human Rights Program selects several Trinity students to serve as Human Rights Summer Fellows. These students work for twelve weeks as interns at major human rights organizations, alongside law and graduate students, and they receive a \$3500 stipend. The internships offer students a unique opportunity to translate what they have learned in their Trinity courses to hands-on professional experiences, often proving transformative. Students return to campus with a more sophisticated understanding of human rights issues and the world of advocacy.

Seven Trinity students served as Human Rights Fellows in 2011, interning at the following organizations: Amnesty International (Washington DC), International Rescue Committee (New York City), Lawyers without Borders (Hartford), Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict (New York City), and Witness (Brooklyn, NY). These fellowships are made possible by the generous support of Peter Blum, a Trinity alumnus and member of the Board of Trustees.

The annual fellowship competition is open to all Trinity students, except graduating seniors. Students are selected by a Human Rights faculty committee on the basis of an application, including an essay, transcript, and letter of recommendation. Electronic applications are posted on the Human Rights Program website and made widely available at the end of the fall semester. Please direct any questions to the Human Rights Program director.

For the first time this year, the Human Rights Program has also offered summer internship grants of \$500 each. These grants are intended to help defray the costs of internships that students have found on their own or with the Program's assistance. This year five Trinity students received these grants:

Brianna Gross '13	True Colors: Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services (Hartford)
Jahn Jaramillo '12	Yabonga: Children, HIV & AIDS in South Africa (Cape Town, S. Africa)
Jonathan Pike '12	CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (Hartford)
Pornpat Pootinath '14	NY State Youth Leadership Council (immigrant youth rights) (NYC)
Christina Williams '13	Amnesty International (Atlanta, GA)

2011 SUMMER FELLOWS:

Bibi Alli '13.

International Rescue Committee, NYC

As a junior who has spent most of her life in New York, Bibi found that working with refugees at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) made her view the city in an entirely new way. "Working with the IRC in New York really made me see where I live through a new lens, experiencing it from the perspective of a newly arrived refugee." At the IRC, Bibi was a case management intern, conducting fieldwork and acting as an advocate for refugee families in the process of resettlement. Overall, she describes the experience of working with this international non-profit as exceptionally rewarding and eye-opening.

Andrea Chunga-Celis '12.

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, NYC

The Trinity senior's Spanish-language skills were a great asset this summer at Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict in New York City. Among her duties, Andrea was assigned to work on the country report for Colombia, allowing her to put both of her majors to use: Human Rights and Hispanic studies. Andrea says it was a "unique opportunity as an undergraduate to see firsthand how a top nongovernmental international organization works inside out." Following children's rights issues at the United Nations and hosting visitors from around the world were also rewarding, as was seeing "NGO networking at its core and the importance of multiple players working together to create change."

Molly Cohen '12.

Amnesty International, Washington, D.C.

Spending the summer working in the nation's capitol at Amnesty International was both inspiring and rewarding for this Trinity senior. As an American Studies major, she welcomed learning about human rights violations around the world. According to Molly, it was a valuable experience both for "determining my line of work and in terms of my own personal growth." The internship engaged her in numerous events and activities, including helping to organize Amnesty's presence at a U2 concert promoting maternal health, attending film festivals, participating in a march, and recruiting teachers for human rights education. Molly says she felt she was "really contributing to the organization and the struggle for human rights."

Anna Gordon '12.

International Rescue Committee, NYC

The Human Rights major and Chinese language minor describes her summer working for the domestic department of the International Rescue Committee's New York office as one of "immersion." Anna says she learned a great deal about the process of immigrating to and settling in the United States, both about the entitlements and restrictions in place. The experience of working at the IRC offered her unparalleled "immersion in the world of humanitarian work, refugee and immigration issues, and even New York City." Assisting families one-on-one in navigating the process of resettlement has given the Trinity senior a first-hand understanding of these complex human rights issues.

Sarah Hagman '12.

Amnesty International, Washington, D.C.

The International Studies major and French minor, was as an intern at Amnesty International in Washington, D.C. Working with the director of the Country and Thematic Specialist Program, she was also able to visit embassies, attend congressional hearings, and speak with staffers on Capitol Hill. "One of the best parts of this internship," Sarah says, "has been putting all of my Trinity knowledge to great use and acquiring new advocacy skills." The experience also offered her an "inside look," as she heads into her final year of college. "I am grateful for having worked alongside some incredibly experienced professionals, whose stories and advice will prove invaluable."

Kathleen McKenna '13.

Lawyers without Borders, Hartford, CT

The Trinity junior, who is a History major and Human Rights minor, had a productive summer at Hartford-based Lawyers without Borders. Among the highlights was a trip to Kenya for a trial advocacy training program, where she interacted with lawyers and judges from around the world. It was all part of a “challenging and inspiring” summer. “The experience has allowed me to apply what I have been learning at Trinity in a real life setting.” Working with a talented group of volunteer attorneys showed her “how significant even the smallest of events or programs can be.” For instance, Kathleen even helped design a board game around human rights issues of birth registration, inheritance, and succession.

Vince Novelli '13.

Witness, New York

As an intern at Witness, an organization that uses video technology to document human rights abuses around the world, the double major in Public Policy and Law and Human Rights had an “enlightening” experience. Working mostly on the development side of the organization, he was able to learn new skills, acquire a deeper understanding of the complexities non-profits face in raising funds, and have the opportunity to work alongside incredible people. It is an experience that will serve him well as he completes his studies and considers a career in law.