

# HUNTSMAN PROGRAM

*Fall 2023 Newsletter*

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY

*Celebrating 25 years of the Huntsman Program*



### A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM

Greetings from the Huntsman Program!

Over the course of the year, we've been celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Huntsman Program and it has been such a pleasure and privilege to connect with so many of our alumni at regional events hosted across the world. As we've marked this milestone, we have been reminded time and again that it is our global community of scholars and alumni who have gone on to make a positive impact and become leaders in their workplaces, their communities, and well beyond who are at the heart of what makes this program so special and impactful.

On campus it's been another exciting fall semester as the Class of 2027 settled into life in KC3. While many juniors and sophomores are wrapping up or preparing for their semesters abroad, seniors are working on their group projects for the Huntsman Capstone class, part of Wharton's four-year Leadership Journey, and finalizing their topics for their senior research in the spring. The Huntsman Program Office continues to be a lively hub of activity for the community, and students are enjoying the refresh of the space for studying and spending time with friends.

And we continue to work closely with the Huntsman Advisory Board, Huntsman Alumni Council (HAC) and the Huntsman Student Advisory Board (HSAB) to enhance and find new ways to support students and strengthen connections between students and alumni.

We hope you enjoy reading about our students and their accomplishments in and outside of the classroom, as well as the many ways our alumni stay involved to support the program and enrich our global Huntsman community.

Stay well, keep in touch, and warm wishes!  
The Huntsman Program Team

Dr. Kelly Cleary, Director  
Dr. Osman Balkan, Associate Director  
Sarvelia Peralta-Duran, Associate Director  
Ella Strauss, Communications & Programming Coordinator

Dr. Harbir Singh, Wharton Faculty Director  
Dr. Rudy Sil, SAS Faculty Director



**Huntsman Program**  
Wharton · Arts & Sciences  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



Class of '23 graduation



Class of '27

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# 25TH ANNIVERSARY

## *Celebrating 25 years of the Huntsman Program*



As our 25th Anniversary year comes to a close, we reflect on an amazing year connecting with alumni all over the world. We gathered in: New York City, Miami, Singapore, San Francisco/Bay Area, London, and Los Angeles.

Our celebrations concluded on November 4th, 2023 with a full day of activities from a student and alumni networking lunch to a cocktail reception with remarks from President Liz Magill, Dean Erika James, and Dean Steven Fluharty.



## NEW YORK CITY



## SINGAPORE

With Help From Anthony Tse '01



### **Special Thank You to Huntsman Alumni Council (HAC) and Huntsman Advisory Board**

We wanted to take a moment to thank our Huntsman Alumni Council and the Huntsman Advisory Board for all their support this year especially around the 25th anniversary celebration!



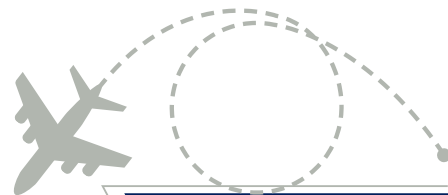


## PHILADELPHIA AT PENN HOMECOMING



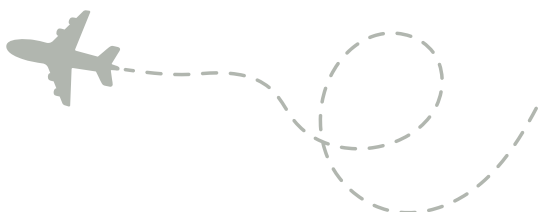
## SAN FRANCISCO

Hosted By Jeff Reisenberg '00



## LOS ANGELES

Hosted By Fernando Szew '98 and Jordan Barillas '14





## MIAMI

Hosted By Desiree Dubon '00



## LONDON



## GLOBAL IMMERSION COURSE: LONDON

In May 2023, Huntsman students traveled to London to participate in the second iteration of the Global Immersion Program. Led by Dr. Osman Balkan, the Global Immersion Program is an experiential, field-based learning course that takes place in different global cities around the world and offers an unparalleled opportunity to learn about contemporary issues in international business and politics through firsthand engagement with policymakers, business leaders, and community organizations.

During their time in London, Huntsman students gained insight into city politics and the business environment through conversations with prominent political figures and industry leaders as well as panel discussions on topics such as the British startup ecosystem and careers in tech and data science. Huntsman alumni panelists included Elisabeth Dong C'08 W'08 and Zein Zubi C'18 W'18.

The group made several site visits, including a visit to Google HQ, hosted by Daniel Cruz Rosso 'C18 'W18 and to London City Hall. They also connected with community and non-profit organizations, such as Latin Elephant, which led a walking tour of the Elephant & Castle neighborhood focused on the politics of urban renewal and development, and the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton, where students learned about the histories of people of African and Caribbean descent and the politics of immigration in the UK. Throughout their travels, students conducted a visual ethnography of London, writing up their findings, reflections, and analyses of various aspects of the city, its history and role in the world, and its vibrant, multicultural fabric.



**STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ABOUT THE NEXT GLOBAL IMMERSION COURSE, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN DUBAI AND ABU DHABI IN MAY 2024.**



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: SUMMER EXPERIENCES

## **Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Frederick Douglas Global Fellow by Florence Onyiuke '26**



**FLORENCE '26**

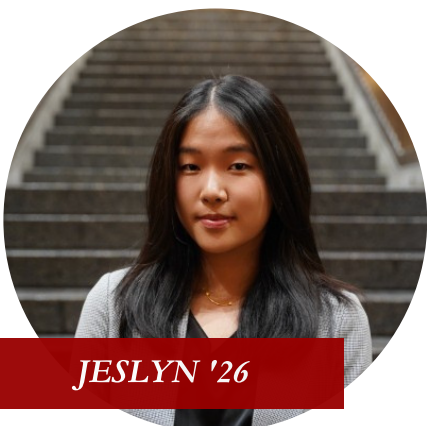
Where does individual responsibility fall into national decision making? This overarching question guided my 1-month journey from Washington D.C. to South Africa to Ireland this summer as a Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Frederick Douglas Global Fellow. Going into the fellowship I expected to make new connections, see new places, and engage in comparative research on International Development and Human Rights Policy. What I did not anticipate was becoming close friends with Mpho Tutu (daughter of the late Desmond Tutu), engaging in Think Tanks with members of the U.S. Embassy in South Africa, and exploring Ireland's Great Hunger Crisis with Sabina Higgins, the wife of the President of Ireland.

In every way, the fellowship stretched me to my intellectual limits, allowing me to intimately understand the ripple effect International Policy has on every aspect of individual life. While in Ireland, I had the unique opportunity to address a crowd of 100 Belfast locals at the "Frederick Douglass in Belfast Panel" at the Rosemary Church. The panel, which included the Lord Mayor and Dr. Christine Kinealy of Quinnipiac University, focused on Douglass' time in Belfast and the relevance his work has to today's challenges. While there, I discussed the concept of "becoming" and the ways in which Douglass reinvented himself and his worldview to achieve the change that he did. I hope to embody his spirit of self-transformation in my extracurricular and academic engagements here at Penn in order that change may become something to embrace rather than shy away from. By the end of what I am calling my "summer world tour" I had found an answer to my big question. The individual aspect of national decision lies in the responsibility we each have to our neighbor.



This means working for their betterment whether on the national policy stage or in a rural township far removed from government agenda. I am so grateful to have had this opportunity, and I can't wait to see how my experiences will continue shaping me in the years to come.

## **Summer in Beijing - Wealth Management Intern by Jeslyn Li '26**



**JESLYN '26**

This summer, I was able to spend two months in Beijing—my dad's hometown, but also a somewhat unfamiliar place that I've only heard about and never had the opportunity to explore. I was especially excited because this was my first time visiting China in six years and I was able to experience what it's like to live and work in China, a very different environment from North America. For my internship, I worked in one of CITIC Securities' Wealth Management branches in Beijing. As a Wealth Management Intern, I was able to attend department meetings, where we discussed market trends that will impact our clients' investment behavior and decisions, learned about the newest financial instruments on the market, and mock-pitched these offerings to each other just like a Client Advisor would do with their respective clients.



Another exciting aspect of my work was being able to commute around Beijing to attend conferences and panels where, for example, portfolio managers at well-known private equity firms highlighted their unique investment style as well as their hopes and fears for the market. Outside of work, I was able to try new foods at beautifully furnished restaurants, appreciate traditional Chinese artworks at nearby museums and exhibits, visit world-renowned attractions like the Great Wall, and so much more. I was constantly learning new things, whether that be navigating the complicated Beijing subway system or familiarizing myself with the rules and regulations of the Beijing Stock Exchange. As I return to Penn, I'm excited to share my summer experience with my peers in Huntsman. I'm also eager to hear about everyone's summer experiences from around the world. While I miss my time in China, I look forward to using the new perspectives I gained in Beijing to tackle whatever comes my way this school year. I am very thankful to have had such a supportive mentor and coworkers, and I definitely hope to visit them again during my future trips to Beijing!



**ROODARNLEY '26**

**From Language Barrier to Lifelong Bonds: My Unexpected Internship Journey in Buenos Aires by Roodarnley Pierre-Louis '26**

Coming into the internship in Buenos Aires, one of my most prominent concerns would be how I would navigate the workplace environment given that my Spanish wasn't the best. I was met with one of the biggest surprises of my summer stay in Buenos Aires. The workplace I was in was incredibly hospitable and nice. From the first day my coworkers and supervisors were sharing cups of hot steaming mate with me while asking me dozens of questions about my life and interests. I found quickly that my coworkers had an unfettered curiosity with not only me as a person, but also all my interests and hobbies- similar to my curiosity for Argentina.

Over the course of our lunch breaks in the first week- some of which went on longer than we intended- I genuinely got to bond with my coworkers on a deeper level as we became more than just work colleagues. As my language improved so did my relationship with my coworkers. One of the highlights of the internship experience that really speaks highly of the company I worked for was our company soccer matches. While I was initially nervous at playing football (soccer was not a word to be used lightly in South America) with a group of talented Argentinians (the world champions at the sport nonetheless!) I found that they just wanted to have fun on the field and didn't care if I was as great as Messi or horrible at the sport. By the end of the internship I had learned more than just the hard skills that the company had imparted upon me. I also learned about the type of workplace that I would thrive in and would like to work for in the future. One where the work environment is incredibly vibrant and my coworkers were super amiable. One where there is a focus on challenging your skills and peer mentorship. Lastly, a company where every once in a while we can put down the work and enjoy a nice friendly game of football!



**JOSHUA '25**

**从北卡来到中国 by Joshua Frazier '25**

None of my family in North Carolina speaks Chinese. Neither do any of them even speak a second language apart from English. Four years ago I picked up Tuttle Basic Chinese from Barnes and Noble. I never thought venturing down this rabbit hole of character strokes, vocal intonation, and idiomatic nuances would place me in the modern metropolis of Shenzhen — the hometown of my high school friend Shitong — or face to face with Mao Zedong's glass casket in the heart of Beijing.



Since arriving at Penn and joining Huntsman as a Mandarin target, I've had a world of opportunities. Literally. In January of this year I found myself at a fireside chat between Wharton students and the UAE State Minister of Foreign Trade in Dubai. A week later, I was exploring Jerusalem and the site of Jesus' crucifixion in Israel. Not to mention last summer I explored Barcelona and Spanish through another language study program. These experiences were awe-inspiring. But something was missing — the China that drew me to Huntsman.

Chinese is the language I've poured blood, sweat, and tears into for four years. Over 8,000 miles away, the Middle Kingdom seemed of another dimension. My desire to study Chinese was homegrown, though, in Raleigh after I befriended international students throughout high school. Fears of our "foremost adversary" continue to purvey America as wildfire, prompted by quarantine lockdowns, economic turmoil, and Sino-American political tension. However, it was time to peep behind the Bamboo Curtain for myself.

In the summer of 2023 the Huntsman Program enabled me to follow the unrealized potential of Joshua in China. While working in New York, this summer I intensely studied Chinese. I signed up for Hanbridge Mandarin school, initially intent on physically studying in Shenzhen. Spending part of the summer in China would provide me with substantial immersion in language first and culture once arriving in the heart of the Red Dragon.

Somehow resembling a 360-degree loop, my Huntsman language study and venture to China finalized what I had written in my application to Penn. In Raleigh, Liu Shitong and Geng Taolun were my two closest Chinese international student friends. As the driving force behind my Mandarin deep dive in high school, I even mentioned their names and our friendships in my Huntsman essay. Serving as more than local guides, reconnecting with Shitong and Taolun while conversing with their families in Mandarin only encapsulated my journey to China during August.



**STAMPED INTO MY MIND ARE THREE IMAGES OF CHINA:**

- 1.Shenzhen Talent Park (深圳人才公园，深圳)**
- 2. Birthplace of Sun Yat-sen (中山，广东) & Opening Up and Reform Policy (蛇口，深圳)**
- 3. Flowers at the Mausoleum of Mao Zedong (毛主席紀念堂，天安门广场，北京)**



The historical proximity of China's operating as a purely rural, agrarian society to now is nothing short of a miracle. Along with such, I saw firsthand how many Chinese citizens exalt family values, a diligent work ethic, and pure merit. From this trip, I realized traditional "American values" and "Chinese values" are nothing short of the opposite of being juxtaposed. The similarities of our cultural values are grossly understated by those wishing to divide our nations in pursuit of profit. Such a state of ignorance demands to be changed.



Looking ahead to next fall, I plan to do an exchange program in China. There I'll study Mandarin with locals and learn the nuances of Chinese business alongside the next generation of economic and policy leaders in China. Bridging the gap between cultures and ideologies has always been a strength of mine, like many students in the Huntsman Program. Only through understanding the Chinese people, their culture, heritage, and economic system can one understand the superpower of China. Most importantly, Americans must realize the Chinese people and their government fundamentally are separate entities. China is a multifaceted nation full of respectable individuals, with a unique history and promising future.



Though my skills are rusty, I plan to return to China next fall to prepare for our generation's next 乒乓外交. If not Ping Pong, then I'll settle with 茅台外交.



ADAM '26

**M-Gas Reflection by Adam Kollek '26**

I had a transformative summer internship experience in Nairobi, Kenya, working for M-gas, an energy company with a strong focus on providing cleaner energy solutions to the residents of slums. I was as an analyst in the Last Mile team, primarily responsible for facilitating the delivery of gas cylinders to these underserved communities, and back to the depots. My responsibilities involved overseeing the logistics operations of M-gas in Nairobi's slum areas. I helped to manage a team of 27 Logistics Assistants distributed across various depots within the city. At 5 am twice a week, I drove to different depots to conduct safety audits.

On a daily basis, I was responsible for meticulously tracking over 300,000 assets to ensure they were in their correct locations, as well as making sure that over 500 vehicles were in the correct locations. During my time with M-gas, the team and I successfully eliminated unaccounted-for assets. The motivation for this opportunity was pretty clear-cut. I felt that it fit very well into my studies of international business, and I was captivated by the idea of working in an emerging market. Working in a younger company that was growing so quickly would give me the opportunity to accomplish something, and take on real responsibility.

As well as this, the mission of the company was very admirable, and I wanted to be a part of helping these communities in Nairobi. It was an experience that pushed me out of my comfort zone and I was very proud to pursue it.

Several important lessons and experiences from my internship at M-gas will undoubtedly influence my studies and future endeavors:

I became more confident as a leader and speaker, especially when I had to show up at a depot that I had never been to before, and guide safety meetings. When negotiating vehicle allocations with depot managers, I learned how to efficiently negotiate and distribute resources. These skills will be invaluable in my future studies and career, especially if I pursue a business-related or operations-focused field.



In a fast-paced environment with daily challenges, I became adept at thinking on my feet and finding innovative solutions to logistical issues. This adaptability and problem-solving mindset will serve me well in any field, allowing me to tackle complex problems with confidence.



My role demanded meticulous attention to detail to ensure all assets were accurately tracked and located, whether they were gas cylinders, motorcycles or Tuktuks. This level of precision will carry over into my academic pursuits, helping me excel (using excel) in research, data analysis, and project management. When analysing fuel reports and KPIs of different depots, I had to pay special attention to edge cases and anomalies to make sure there was no malpractice involved.

Finally, witnessing the positive impact of M-gas's work on the lives of slum residents instilled a deeper sense of empathy and social responsibility in me. On the weekends, I volunteered to deliver food to a school in one of Nairobi's most dangerous slums, Eastleigh. This experience reinforced my commitment to contributing to solutions that address pressing global challenges, such as energy access and poverty alleviation.

Overall, my summer internship at M-gas was an enriching and eye-opening experience that not only deepened my understanding of energy access and logistics but also provided me with valuable skills and perspectives that I plan to carry forward into my studies and future career endeavors in Huntsman and beyond.

I am very grateful to the Huntsman Summer Fund for this experience. I gained so much hands-on knowledge and experience within the energy industry in Kenya for a company with a strong focus on providing cleaner energy solutions to residents.

## *SUPPORT SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE INGE HERMAN MEMORIAL FUND*



When the Huntsman community of alumni, students and friends of Inge Herman learned of her passing, one alumna stepped forward to establish a matching gift to provide funding for summer language study, unpaid internships, and research as a way to honor the memory of the former Director of the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business. To learn more and to contribute to the Inge Herman Memorial Fund. Please scan the QR code

# CLASS OF 1998

As this is the 25th year of our program, we wanted to highlight our Class of 1998, the original graduating class of the Huntsman Program! The program has changed and evolved over the past 25 years, but its class community still remains strong!



THE ORIGINAL CLASS PICTURE  
OF THE CLASS OF 1998



MOST OF THE CLASS OF 1998 AT THEIR  
25TH CLASS REUNION THIS PAST MAY



## ALUMNI BLOG

*You can read more about these alumni and others on our blog here.*



## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



**SHUBHA HOVELAND**

**TARGET  
LANGUAGE:**  
SPANISH  
**CURRENTLY:**  
MANAGING  
DIRECTOR OF  
PORTFOLIO  
MANAGEMENT  
OF AMERICAS  
AT BARCLAYS

**TARGET  
LANGUAGE:**  
SPANISH  
**CURRENTLY:**  
CEO, FOX  
ENTERTAINMENT  
GLOBAL



**FERNANDO SZEW**



# HUNTSMAN ALUMNI NETWORK



## HIRE A HUNTSMAN STUDENT OR ALUM

One of the best features of the new [Alumni Platform](#) is the ability to post job/internship opportunities to fellow alumni and current students! If you have an opportunity that you would like to send to the Huntsman Community, you can easily post directly in the network! If you have questions or concerns about this process, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Program for guidance (Kelly Cleary: [cclearyk@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:cclearyk@wharton.upenn.edu); Ella Strauss : [strella@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:strella@wharton.upenn.edu)). Students are always so grateful for any opportunities shared by alums!

Post job and internship opportunities here!

# GET INVOLVED AND STAY CONNECTED

## Engaging Our Community to Support the Next 25 Years of the Huntsman Program and Beyond

Huntsman alumni contribute to the program's growth, success and legacy in so many ways, and students and alumni often say one of the best aspects of being a part of the Huntsman Program is having access to and being a part of our committed, successful, and diverse alumni network. As we reflect on the past 25 years, we want to thank our alumni and encourage them to continue to:

- Mentor students
- Hire students and alumni for full-time roles and internships
- Participate in the Alumni Ambassador Program
- Support the program to provide opportunities for student summer funding and scholarships and to enhance curricular innovations including the new first-year seminar, the senior capstone research project, and the Global Immersion course.

**Huntsman Program alumni contribute to our growth, success and legacy.  
Consider a gift to support the Huntsman Program today.**

## Support the Huntsman Program



**Next time you are on  
campus come visit  
our refreshed space**



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**@huntsmanprogram**