

Spring 2025 Newsletter

A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAM:

This year, we continue to celebrate new milestones and accomplishments within our growing global community.

Our juniors are embracing the world this spring, with 30 students studying abroad in China, Spain, Taiwan, Portugal, Japan, South Korea and more. Meanwhile, our seniors are deep in the final stages of their academic journey, working diligently on their thesis and capstone projects.

This spring, we continued our career trek programming, traveling to Washington D.C., creating unforgettable personal and professional experiences with our students and alumni. This year's Global Immersion Course will take students to Paris, where they will explore Europe's business landscape through site visits, panels, and cultural exchanges.

These experiences would not be possible without the hard work of the Huntsman Advisory Board, Huntsman Alumni Council, other alumni volunteers, and the Huntsman Student Advisory Board. Thank you for finding new ways to support our community and enhance the connections between current students and alumni.

We hope you enjoy reading about our students' accomplishments in and outside of the classroom, as well as the many ways our alumni continue to stay involved enriching our community. After all, it is the people in our program that make the Huntsman Program so special and impactful.

Enjoy your read and keep in touch!

The Huntsman Program Team

Dr. Kelly Cleary, Director
Dr. Osman Balkan, Associate Director
Sarvelia Peralta-Duran, Associate Director
Ella Strauss, Associate Director
Dr. Harbir Singh, Wharton Faculty Director
Dr. Rudy Sil, SAS Faculty Director

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CLIMATE: HUNTSMAN PERSPECTIVES

The energy landscape is evolving at a pace unlike anything we have seen before, and the Huntsman community, past and present, is actively shaping its direction. Climate concerns are growing more urgent, and geopolitical factors are transforming how nations produce and consume energy. As these challenges grow more complex, the work of current Huntsman students and alumni in the climate and energy space is becoming increasingly relevant.



Brendan Chapko

Brendan Chapko (Huntsman '25, Spanish) has pursued his passion for climate, through an additional major in Earth & Environmental Science and a minor in Geology.

"When I arrived to Huntsman, I quickly found myself gravitating towards climate from both ends of the curriculum. On the business side, I see green energy and renewable technologies as the biggest opportunities in the market. From an international policy perspective, the climate crisis is the single greatest challenge our generation faces, and it will require global cooperation. Two years ago, I discovered that to truly understand

climate change, you must learn climate science. I joined the Earth and Environmental Science department, where I currently do research on the economic impact of natural disasters. Because of my time in Huntsman, I am passionate about connecting the scientific, political, and business voices who will need to work together to make real environmental progress. As a next step, I am excited to be attending Columbia University next year, where I will pursue a Masters in Environmental Science and Policy."

Anjali Dhupam

Anjali Dhupam (Huntsman '27, Spanish), who is a 2025 Kleinman Center for Energy Policy Fellow and 2024 Turner ESG Fellow, discusses energy policy and national security's relationship:

"Being a Kleinman Center for Energy Policy Fellow has genuinely been such an eye-opening experience. Listening to Dr. Paul Stainier talk about how climate change is reshaping labor markets made me realize just how deeply energy decisions ripple through communities, livelihoods, and entire economies and hearing Dr. Benjamin Schmitt's talk on



underwater infrastructure threats gave me a whole new perspective on how energy security and national security are intertwined. I have loved every moment of my experiences through the Kleinman Fellowship. It has made me think about energy in ways I never expected. I've always been interested in how infrastructure and policy shape the world around us, and have had the opportunity to explore this area through Huntsman, but being here has given me a much more clearer perspective on how exactly those forces intersect."

CLIMATE: HUNTSMAN PERSPECTIVES



Adi Lankipalle

Fellow Turner ESG member **Adi Lankipalle** (Huntsman '27, Hindi), studying Finance & Management, is equally excited:

"I've really enjoyed getting to learn more about the often overlooked ESG space. I personally have always had an interest in using business to foster positive change, though the execution of that idea had been hazy before TESG. Through the program, I have received a unique perspective on how profit and social good can be balanced and even synergized.

Turner has ensured my holistic development across these impact frameworks, including guest speakers, passion project work, networking sessions, and even career development. I can confidently say that the knowledge from the Turner ESG Fellows program will be valuable to me far beyond the program timeframe."

Faruk Ecirli

Faruk Ecirli (Huntsman '27, Russian) is a 2024 Turner ESG Fellow concentrating in Finance & Business Analytics exploring the intersection of politics and business in ESG.

"As someone deeply interested in the political and business dimensions of ESG, the program has been an incredibly enriching experience. It's been fascinating to explore how these two aspects intersect, guided by insights from Wharton professors like Witold Henisz, Mae McDonnell, and Brian Berkey. The program also provided invaluable opportunities to



engage with industry professionals and impact investors from entities like Glenmede Wealth Management and the Campbell Foundation. I'm excited to continue delving into this space throughout my time at Penn, building on what I've learned and deepening my understanding of ESG's transformative potential."



ALUMNI: Derek Wong

Derek Wong (Huntsman '03, Mandarin), Vice President for Government Relations & Public Affairs at Excelerate Energy, has witnessed firsthand how policy choices, technology shifts, and the rapidly evolving energy transition steer one's career path.

"I got to know Excelerate because of my work at the State Department. My last assignment was to Argentina, where I was working at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, and specifically covering the energy and infrastructure portfolio. Part of my work was to follow policy developments in the energy space, but also work with US companies already operating in Argentina and then potential companies or investors who are looking to enter the market. Excelerate has been in Argentina since 2008 helping

provide liquefied natural gas (LNG) to bring energy stability and security to the country. So I would say starting in 2018, when I was thinking about making a transition from public sector back to the private sector, it was logical to have discussions with some of the companies in the industry where I was already working."

CLIMATE: HUNTSMAN PERSPECTIVES

After serving as a Foreign Service Officer with the State Department (including postings in Mexico, Argentina, and Hong Kong), he joined Excelerate to continue working at the intersection of public and private interests:

"Energy mix, what goes into the matrix for power generation for each country, is always going to be particular to national circumstances. So, thinking about what resources are available in domestic production, what can be easily imported or exported based on geography and then technological innovation. Also, looking at the emissions profile, one of the goals of the Biden administration was to bring to light how much the energy industry, as well as manufacturing an industry which relies on energy, contributes to carbon emissions and to try to bring that down. So there's a little bit of tension between abundant energy production and making sure that what is being produced is doing so in the most environmentally sustainable way."

Wong emphasized the critical role LNG, which Excelerate focuses on, can play in a global energy transition, particularly for developing economies still reliant on higher-emission fuels, as well as more advanced markets where LNG can help balance renewable intermittency:

"We specialize in liquefied natural gas and we recognize that LNG can be used in different ways. In countries in South Asia, for example, we work in Bangladesh and Pakistan, and all of the natural gas that we are helping those two countries import is essentially displacing coal-fired power generation. So that is fuel switching – decarbonization in its truest sense. And then in countries like Brazil or countries of the EU that are a little bit further along in energy transition, it plays more of a balancing role. It's allowing for further deployment of renewables, whether we're talking about wind, solar, or hydro in the absence of utility scale battery storage, where you have intermittency of renewables. You know, it's not always sunny, it's not always windy, and it's not always going to rain. Being able to have a reliable backstop that can be almost immediately dispatched when needed is helping those countries further green their energy matrix."

On his biggest takeaways from working in the energy industry, he emphasized how deeply energy is entwined with geopolitics, citing Europe's scramble to reduce dependence on Russian gas after the invasion of Ukraine and explaining that future roles in this sector may well revolve around technologies and companies not yet on the radar:

"First, you can't separate energy and foreign policy and geopolitics. That's become so clear over the last five, ten years. The fact that producer countries can use energy as a political tool or a political weapon, like in the case of Russia and natural gas, shows that there is a very close tie between energy security and national security. I think Europe kind of learned it the hard way after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, where so many countries were solely dependent on Russia for natural gas through pipelines, and they had to quickly find solutions to diversify their supply sources and perhaps speed up part of the energy transition to get more renewables online faster. That surprised me because I, especially when I was an undergrad, thought about energy as more of like a technical input. It's necessary to fuel industry. It's necessary to make sure we have the comforts of home heating or be able to utilize technology and data centers. But as I've advanced in my career, I've seen much more of the interplay between geopolitics and energy. Second, the way which technology influences production, transport, and consumption of energy means that Huntsman students are probably preparing themselves for careers in industries and companies that may not exist today. And I take my own company as an example. Excelerate was founded in 2003. That's the year I graduated from Penn. And Excelerate did not commercialize the FSRU (floating storage and regasification unit), the vessels that we deploy, until after. The first FSRU wasn't commercialized until 2005. So basically, my part of the industry and my company didn't exist when I was studying here. The pace of technological innovation means that there's a lot of things that you're preparing yourself for right now that don't even exist today and could be a career path."

Reflecting on how the public and private sectors can work together more effectively, and why many choose public service despite its challenges, Derek highlighted the deeper motivations behind government work:

"As we see the new administration in Washington make pretty drastic changes, it's important to know that a lot of people who choose public service aren't doing it for the glory or for the compensation but because they want to be part of a mission-driven organization. Public servants or bureaucrats are also patriotic and make sacrifices to serve their country and I think there's something very admirable in that. The lessons of the Huntsman Program are that you can balance public and private sector partnerships, use the immense amount of knowledge and experience that you gain in the classroom, and work with other classmates to take it to the real world. The real world needs problem solvers in all types of organizations."

POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Every year, Huntsman alums around the globe pursue post-graduate fellowships through the Rhodes Scholarship, Fulbright Scholarship, Thouron Scholarship, Schwarzman Scholarship, Congress Bundestag Youth Fellowship, and more. We spoke with three Huntsman graduates who took on these incredible opportunities: Becca Bean (Fulbright, Mexico), Atul Joshi (Fulbright, Mexico), and Joyce Meng (Rhodes, Oxford) to understand their motivations to apply and how Huntsman helped them get there.







Atul Joshi

Joyce Meng

Becca Bean

Atul Joshi (Huntsman '03, Spanish) is CEO of Raga Partners and serves on the Huntsman Program Advisory Board. He concentrated in Finance & Management in Wharton and South Asia Studies & Spanish in the College.

Joyce Meng (Huntsman '08, Spanish) is the Founder of FACT Capital and CEO & Co-Founder of the non-profit Givology. She concentrated in Finance in Wharton with minors in Mathematics & Spanish.

Becca Bean (Huntsman '21, Spanish) is the Deputy Chief of Staff at MGT. She concentrated in Management & Social Impact in Wharton with minors in Spanish & Urban Studies.

One reason these alumni found immense value in their fellowships was the opportunity to immerse themselves in another country's professional ecosystem but also in its everyday life.

Becca Bean: "I worked for Endeavor, a global entrepreneurship organization...they have a unique network of really amazing startups in emerging economies. In Mexico, they are innovating and contributing to its economy. I loved being a part of that ecosystem in Mexico and that Fulbright gave me that chance."

For Atul, who also applied to the Binational Business Program in Mexico, Fulbright was a natural next step to explore international business:

Atul Joshi: "My senior year, I received the Fulbright scholarship to study in Mexico through the Binational Business Program... The program itself involves taking nighttime business classes at a university in Mexico City and then spending the day doing an internship. I was there for about a year. During the first half, I worked at a bank and helped underwrite loans to corporate borrowers, including Mexico-based conglomerates and subsidiaries of multinational corporations. In the second half, I went to the opposite end of the spectrum. Working at Endeavor, which helps entrepreneurs access capital and support to build their businesses across the world, I got to interact with Mexico-based startup founders and help them access capital and know-how in order to scale."

POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Meanwhile, Joyce, who received the Rhodes Scholarship, echoed the same desire to see new perspectives and learning environments:

Joyce Meng: "Oxford was an incredible experience. I valued how different the system was from the US. It was more self-study, essays, tutorials, and one-on-ones with professors. You had to write and do original research. I loved the traditions, the Harry Potter-style environment with different colleges."

Atul notes that one key Huntsman connection brought the opportunity to his attention:

Atul Joshi: "My motivations were driven by lifelong interests in travel, history and language, with the added bonus of getting to know people from different walks of life. Those interests were definitely nourished while I was at Penn and Huntsman ... As a Junior, in a serendipitous moment, I was on a bus ride for a Huntsman Student Advisory Board-sponsored ski trip to the Poconos, sitting next to Maribeth Gainard, a Huntsman Senior (and now fellow board member) who had recently been granted a Fulbright scholarship. That was really the conversation that lit the spark for me to look into applying in more detail, luckily with enough lead time to do so. I took advantage of the newly created CURF."

CURF, or the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at Penn, is the primary resource for students seeking guidance and support in applying for fellowships, research opportunities, and other academic grants. CURF helps students navigate the entire application process from start to finish, from brainstorming ideas to refining final submissions. Huntsman students can engage with CURF through one-on-one advising sessions, workshops, and access to a wide range of fellowships and funding opportunities. Whether you are interested in research, international study, or public service, CURF is a fantastic resource with the expertise to help you secure the right opportunity.

For Joyce, pursuing Rhodes after undergrad was fueled by the desire to put learning into action:

Joyce Meng: "I feel like as an undergraduate, you learn the canon, but in graduate school, you develop the canon. Instead of just ingesting research, you do research. I did a lot of research at Penn... I wanted to do more, so I applied to the Rhodes scholarship. It also had an incredible alumni network and there was flexibility in going to different programs."

On their professional experiences, they each discussed the unique projects they focused on which were all rooted in their passions for international business and global impact.

Atul Joshi: "Unlike many other Fulbright scholarships that tend to be quite open-ended in terms of their field of study and the research involved, this one was inspired by a mission to build more ties between the U.S. and Mexico from a commerce standpoint."

Becca Bean: "My team exists at Endeavor to understand what's happening in the entrepreneurial ecosystem: the landscape, different trends, and what insights entrepreneurs need to know... I really liked my role because I applied the consulting skillset I had developed pre-Fulbright and then had the opportunity to own engagements from start to finish. I got to think about what Endeavor should say about, for example, AI in Mexico and Latin America. Everybody's talking about this, so what can we say that's unique? How can we add value?"

And at Oxford, Joyce's research took a more quantitative approach:

Joyce Meng: "My first master's degree was Economics for Development, all about the economics of market failure. It applies to what I do today, since many of my investments are in emerging markets. Studying those econometric models was really helpful. My main thesis was an evaluation of the impact of

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aspirations on outcome attainment. It's a tough econometric problem because it's easy to measure hard inputs like income, but not aspirations. I got to challenge the research and contribute in a real way, more than in undergrad. The second degree I did was Financial Economics. It was a lot of quantitative work. I've always loved math, and having a quantitative background is always helpful."

Each alum was able to sharpen both their professional and interpersonal abilities and, on the skills that are most applicable to their current work, they discuss:

Becca Bean: "It's very important to be adaptable. So, walking into a new situation, assessing it, and understanding what's going on and then understanding how you need to react to it. It's important to not sweat small stuff or something not going how you thought it would... Getting comfortable being uncomfortable—I think that really helped."

Atul Joshi: "Number one, communication: find a way to connect with people of different backgrounds and language proficiencies, which forced me to up my game in Spanish (including Mexican slang) and nonverbal communications. Number two, building relationships by asking lots of questions and finding shared interests. Number three, empathy and awareness just by virtue of living somewhere else and experiencing a different culture."

Joyce Meng: "If I break it down academically first, there were two things. One, having that math intensity is always helpful. Two, Oxford's system of essays and tutorials teaches you to learn how to learn. Third, the network was incredible. I'm on the board of the American Association of Rhodes Scholars, and you meet amazing people across different fields. Everyone helps each other."

To any Huntsman student wondering if they should apply, our alumni say go for it:

Becca Bean: "Sit back and think about what you want to get out of it and make that as cohesive and concrete as possible. Then, start putting pen to paper about that. That's the best way to really work on the application for this. Refining those stories takes a lot of time and care, but it's super worth it."

Atul Joshi: "I would say to practice 'disciplined curiosity,' and to indulge in your interests and your passions. Take advantage of the research and other opportunities that are funded through different sources: they can really shape your character, your interests, and your purpose."

Joyce Meng: "I really think it's life-changing. You should apply. The main thing is to know who you are and have depth in a few areas rather than doing many things superficially...there's a big emphasis on "fighting the world's fight." That can mean many things (nonprofits, research, corporations) but find where you can truly contribute. Life is short, and it's worth spending time on meaningful impact."

How To Get Involved

The experiences shared here show how impactful a fellowship can be. More than anything, they demonstrate how Huntsman prepared them to go beyond just earning two degrees and truly engage with the world. From creating Al-focused reports in Mexico to immersing themselves in Oxford's centuries-old traditions, their experiences speak to just how far opportunities beyond Huntsman can take you. If you are a student interested in post-graduate fellowships, make sure to visit <u>curf.upenn.edu</u> for more information!

WORK OF DR. BALKAN, DR. SIL, & DR. SINGH





At the International Studies Association Conference in Chicago in March, a few familiar faces from the Huntsman Program were front and center. Dr. Rudy Sil, SAS Faculty Director, and Dr. Osman Balkan, Associate Director, both had a big presence at the event. Here is a quick look at what they (and Dr. Harbir Singh, Wharton Faculty Director) have been up to!

Dr. Balkan received two major book awards for *Dying Abroad: The Political Afterlives of Migration in Europe*: the ENMISA Distinguished Book Award, which recognizes the best book published over the past two years in the study of the international politics of ethnicity, nationalism, or migration as well as the Yale H. Ferguson Award, which recognizes the book that most advances the vibrancy of International Studies as a pluralist discipline.

Dr. Sil, was also heavily involved at the conference, participating in four roundtables on topics ranging from regional dimensions of foreign policy analysis to the future prospects of area studies in the social sciences. He chaired the latter panel which featured extensive discussions of his forthcoming co-edited book, *Advancing Comparative Area Studies: Analytical Heterogeneity and Organizational Challenges*, due out in July 2025 from Oxford University Press.

Dr. Singh, alongside colleagues Michael Useem and Jusuke J.J. Ikegami, also made an impact with the release of their book, *Resolute Japan: The Leaders Forging a Corporate Resurgence*. This book examines the comeback of Japan's corporations, focusing on the leadership strategies that were pivotal in driving their success. The authors explore the leadership models that shaped this resurgence, providing insights for both business leaders and those interested in international relations.

As alumni, it is exciting to see our faculty members leading these important conversations that resonate globally. If you haven't already, take a moment to check out their latest work!

STUDENT AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS



Ayaan Jeraj (Huntsman '28, French) received the King Charles III Coronation Medal and is from Canada.



Inaya Zaman (Huntsman '25, French) received the 2025 President's Engagement Prize and is a 2024 - 2025 Perry World House Fellow from Washington D.C.

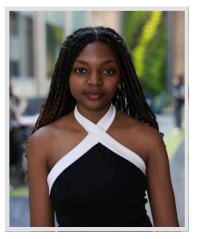


Amelie Zhang (Huntsman '27, French) is a 2024-2025 Perry World House Fellow and is from New York.

Stavros Niarchos Foundation Paideia Fellows



Lidia Iasmina Tuluș (Huntsman '28, French) is a SNF Paideia Fellow who is originally from Romania.



Queren Kubwarugira (Huntsman '28, French) is a SNF Paideia Fellow who is originally from Burundi.



Socrates Okong'o (Huntsman '28, French) is a SNF Paideia Fellow who is originally from Kenya.

Beginning in sophomore year, the SNF Paideia Fellowship provides select Penn students the opportunity to more fully integrate wellness, service, citizenship, and dialogue through a structured combination of academic courses, co-curricular events, and hands-on experiences. It is tailored to help students connect general education and major requirements to public engagement and community building through meaningful dialogue across difference.

CAREER TREK TO WASHINGTON D.C.





Viktoriya Jones (Huntsman '25, French) discusses her experience in D.C.:

"The career trek to D.C. was an incredible opportunity to gain insight into the practical applications of the Huntsman Program's core pillars – the intersection of policy, business, and global affairs.

We started off the day at the U.S. Capitol, where we met with Penn alumnus John Lee to learn about his career path at the House Committee on the Judiciary. It was incredible to see firsthand how legal, policy, and administrative work come together to support the legislative process.

Next, at the U.S. Department of State, we met members of the Communications team as well as Penn alumna Michele Kelemen, a Diplomatic Correspondent at NPR. We had the opportunity to watch the Department of State's Press Briefing, learning about the extensive preparation that takes place to ensure that the Press Secretary is ready to present and respond to the journalist questions. Especially with the recent administration transition, we gained insight into how the press and communications teams have had to adjust their messaging and internal processes to reflect shifting priorities.

Then, we were off to the World Bank, graciously hosted by Huntsman alumnae Cathy Lynch and Sunita Varada. We heard from them about the different projects they have worked on at the World Bank, as well as the broader responsibilities of the organization, including supporting countries by providing technical assistance, policy advice, and financial loans. This visit to the World Bank helped me to gain a clearer picture of how Huntsman's interdisciplinary foundation can be used to support development efforts and help address complex global challenges in lower-income countries.

For our last stop of the day, we headed over to the Penn Biden Center for a Huntsman Alumni and Student Mixer. One of the most incredible aspects of the Huntsman Program is its strong and supportive community, and this event was a powerful reminder of that. Speaking with alumni highlighted the wide range of careers that Huntsman students pursue, as our global education equips us with the skills and perspectives to succeed in whichever path that we may choose.

The D.C. career trek reaffirmed the value of the Huntsman Program's globally focused and interdisciplinary approach. I found it incredibly inspiring to see how Huntsman alumni have all succeeded in such diverse and meaningful career paths. As we sat on the bus, heading back to Philadelphia after a very long day, I felt a renewed sense of purpose wash over me, and I was met with a clearer vision of how I hope to apply the values and education that Huntsman has provided me in my own future endeavors. Most of all, I was overcome with a deep appreciation for the global community of changemakers that I am incredibly fortunate to be a part of."

STUDENTS ABROAD



Cosette Burrese

Cosette Burrese (Huntsman '26, Korean):

"I currently am studying abroad at Yonsei University! Having been to Korea before, I really wanted to push myself to experience what it's actually like to be a Korean student — so I joined competitive clubs like the debate team and the official journalism club here allowing me to get a taste of real student life and integrate well on campus. Outside of class, I've been spending weekends exploring more local parts of Korea, really getting to utilize my language skills and exploring places not as many tourists tend to go."

Alexander Kuplicki

Alex Kuplicki (Huntsman '27, Mandarin):

"My semester abroad at National Taiwan university has really been a life-changing experience for me. I've been able to truly understand global issues from completely different perspective by taking political science classes with Taiwanese students that I would have never gotten if I had just stayed in the U.S. I am taking all but one of my classes in Chinese, with courses like



China in Modern Times, Asian Regionalism, and Political Economy of the People's Republic of China. So far my class on Traditional Chinese Law has been the most interesting. I've also had some time to explore a few different parts of the island. I stayed in Taichung for three days and took a trip to the famous Sun-moon lake and indigenous people region in Nantou County. In our introduction, we talked about the impacts of different legal systems on modern Taiwanese and Chinese law as well as the global interactions of other legal systems. I've enjoyed my time here so much and I am looking forward to wrapping up the semester abroad as I will be spending the rest of summer in Vietnam!"

GET INVOLVED & STAY CONNECTED

Huntsman alumni contribute to the program's growth, success, and legacy in so many ways. Students and alumni often say that 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 <u>Alumni Ambassador Program</u>
- 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.

Support the Huntsman Community



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