

Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellows 2002 Fall Biographical Sketches



Emily Anderson (Fall 2002, DELS/WSTB) recently received her master's degree in environmental engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She previously earned a Bachelor's in the same subject at Northwestern University. After finishing her Mirzayan Fellowship, she began an associate engineer position with Montgomery Watson Harza in their Cleveland office, working on the initial design and construction of water and wastewater treatment plants. Emily eventually plans to obtain an advanced degree in urban and regional planning and development with an emphasis on international development. She is particularly concerned with water and sanitation needs in developing countries and international policy regarding these issues. Emily has dedicated more than a decade of her time to promoting debate and forensics activities. Recognizing that the skills used in debate will help shape those future leaders who will contribute to our nation's public policy, she has advocated the use of critical thinking skills, analytical education, philosophical inquiry, and political theory as both a debate competitor and a coach. (Updated 4/2001)



Francisca Boateng (Fall 2002, PGA/CHR) received her master's degree in law (LLM) from the Beasley School of Law at Temple University. She previously earned a bachelor's in law from University of Ghana, Legon. Francisca is a highly-motivated individual and is enthusiastic in working to ensure the advancement and empowerment of women in Africa. Francisca is a member of the Ghana Bar Association. Before attending Temple Law School, she worked as an attorney with Akuetteh Kudoadzi & Co., a law firm in Accra, Ghana. She also volunteered with the Ghana branch of the African Women Lawyers Association in their legal training programs. She strongly believes that effective advocacy is the surest way to influence policy at the governmental level. In this age of technological advancement, she believes this cannot be achieved unless there is a sound understanding of the inter-play between science and technology and law. In her spare time, Francisca enjoys playing racquetball and hanging out with friends.

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Ruxandra "Ruxy" Floroiu (Fall 2002, DELS/NDR) has been working towards her doctorate in environmental engineering at the University of Maryland, where she also earned her master's degree in the same subject. She previously received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania. She envisioned herself joining Romania's only environmental program as the best way to explore the technical and regulatory aspects of environmental protection. Her World Bank internship, the summer before her Mirzayan Fellowship, was a huge opportunity for her to get an insider's view of the challenges that people at work, outside the laboratory, face every day, as well as of the clients and types of environmental problems on which they are working in developing countries.



Seth Hauser (Fall 2002, DBASSE/CNSTAT) is a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Michigan. He previously earned master's degrees there in both sociology and statistics. His dissertation research focuses on trends in socioeconomic stratification and the advantage of Communist Party membership in the People's Republic of China since the introduction of economic reforms. After the fellowship, he was planning to continue working part-time with the Committee on National Statistics while finishing his dissertation.



Vikram Kaku (Fall 2002, DEPS/NMMB) has been earning his master's degree in mechanical engineering at Temple University. He previously earned a bachelor's degree in the same subject at the University of Mumbai, India. As a graduate student, he worked on a project related to oil spills funded by the EPA. Vikram had been hoping to pursue a PhD at a top university and then to become a leading researcher. He believed his Mirzayan Fellowship would broaden his knowledge in the field of biomaterials. He was keen to work in the field of theoretical and computational material science and develop better models for future materials.



Thomas Libert (Fall 2002, STEP & PGA/GUIRR) is a senior management analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He is a public policy professional with more than six years of experience in health and science policy. Previously he served as Senator Joe Lieberman's legislative assistant for health and social policy. On behalf of the Senator he initiated health care legislation, established the senator's position on new health care topics, served as his liaison with constituents, and provided health policy research to the senator about issues of significant public interest. Tom has extensive experience throughout the health care sector. He began his career after college working at Abbott Laboratories within its Diagnostic Division. Following graduate school he served as a pricing and reimbursement consultant at United BioSource Corporation where he advised health care industry clients on the payment and coverage policies of Medicare Parts B and D, Medicaid, and private insurers. He holds a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University, a master's degree in pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania, and a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and English from the University of Wisconsin. Outside of work, he is interested in early American history, hiking Colorado, and photography. He is an assiduous fan of the Wisconsin Badgers. (Updated 10/2011)

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Steve Meyer (Fall 2002, NAE/NAEPO) is currently a high school and middle school Technology and Engineering instructor in Brillion, Wisconsin. He teaches a variety of courses in engineering, design, and manufacturing. Steve previously earned a Bachelor's degree in Physics from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and received his master's degree in Technology Education at the University of Wisconsin Stout. Steve has a broad-based education in mathematics, the sciences, and technology and believes strongly in the need for technological literacy for everyone. In his career so far, he has been very involved in education initiatives at the local, state, and national levels such as a Wisconsin Technology Education Association District Representative, a CATTs author, curriculum writer for project Probase, intern at the

National Academy of Engineering, and has served on the board of directors for the International Technology Education Association. Along with teaching, Steve owns an educational consulting company called Technological Literacy Curriculum (TLC) Solutions in which he does school assessments, curriculum development, public speaking, product testing, and new teacher training.



Stacey Speer Rush (Fall 2002, PGA/CSTL) earned a master's degree from George Washington University. She previously earned a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from The University of Tennessee. She has a strong science and engineering background and hopes she can contribute her experiences and ideas while staying open-minded to others. She also hopes to contribute her positive attitude and willingness to work hard. In her spare time, Stacey plays soccer for a local coed league. She also enjoys camping and mountain biking.



Kenya Stokes (Fall 2002, NAS/Koshland Science Museum) earned her bachelor's degree in applied biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a PhD in physiology from North Carolina State University. Kenya is a scientist at a pharmaceutical company. In her spare time, Kenya enjoys photography and mentoring. (Updated 3/2010)



Jonathan Tucker (Fall 2002, PGA/COSEPUP) has been working towards a PhD in public policy at George Mason University. He previously earned a master's degree in science and technology studies from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Jonathan has a substantial background in policy research in the science and technology policy field. This includes his work as a PhD student. While at George Mason University, he did analyses and helped prepare reports on policy research for the National Science Foundation's Engineering Research Centers Program and the Virginia Center for Innovative Technology. He also has experience, having worked at the state and federal levels, both for public agencies and as a consultant.

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Christopher Yang is a research scientist working at the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis. He primarily works within the Sustainable Transportation Energy Pathways (STEPS) program and is a faculty member in the Transportation Technology and Policy graduate program. His research focuses on analysis of alternative fuels and advanced vehicles and their role in reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions, with an emphasis on hydrogen and electricity supply and infrastructure and energy system modeling to understand decarbonization strategies and the role of transportation in these energy futures. He works on a number of policy-relevant research projects for the state of California to understand the role of technology, resources and policy in meeting California targets for greenhouse gas reduction. He received his Ph.D. in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University in 2003 and his B.S. and M.S. from Stanford University in earth systems and civil and environmental engineering. (Updated 2/2016)