

## HAMILTON NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

# 2021 FELLOW TESTIMONIALS



**KARAM OUBARI**  
**Duke University '22**

Thanks to the Alexander Hamilton Society's support, this summer, I was able to accept a fantastic opportunity as a Research and Evaluation Intern at the Peace Corps Office of Strategic Information, Research, and Planning (OSIRP). As part of the Peace Corps Director's office, OSIRP provides strategic planning, performance measurement, evaluation, and cutting-edge research to the agency. For me, this meant I was able to delve in-depth into my passion for international development and understand what this means at an organizational level. As part of a tight-knit team, I worked to apply various data-driven methods with the ultimate intention of improving the Peace Corps' programs in grassroots development and public diplomacy.

Over the course of the summer, my responsibilities ranged from operational tasks, program evaluations, and a summer-long project. By far the most fulfilling part of my internship, this project consisted of creating a machine learning model that ultimately aimed to inform the agency on Volunteer resignations, an issue that can negatively impact host communities and reduce the Peace Corps' international credibility. Outside of my internship, the Hamilton National Fellowship opened my mind to new knowledge on foreign policy issues through the two courses with Professor Kenneth Pollack and Professor Colin Dueck. Attending their lectures and hearing their perspectives on their areas of expertise in war and politics, and grand strategy, respectively, was an incredibly informative experience.

Additionally, the memo-writing coursework allowed me to work closely with an impressive team of Fellows to learn about an ongoing foreign policy issue and apply it in the form of a hypothetical recommendation memorandum to the United States Secretary of State.

Overall, without the Alexander Hamilton Society's generous financial support, I would not have been able to accept my unpaid internship and have had such an enriching experience this summer. I am also so grateful for the work that Valerian, Eamonn, and Robert put into organizing this fellowship. It has been a privilege to be part of the Hamilton National Fellowship's 2021 cohort, and I hope to continue to engage with AHS through my role as an officer at the Duke University chapter.



## **SAM ABODO**

**Carnegie Mellon University '23**

This summer's fellowship was an experience to remember because it was my first time discussing pressing foreign policy and national security issues with young professionals my age. At my university, the international relations program is small, and the cohort is more likely to show interest in domestic affairs than global, hence the Fellowship provided a much-needed fresher environment. Also disappointing is the lack of a diverse curriculum. Classes at my school would not dive into naval warfare theory or Clausewitz's fog of war with the passion Dr. Pollack did. (These drawbacks are however not the fault of the school but its newness.)

While naval warfare theory is interesting on its own, Dr. Dueck's seminar offered the historical background necessary to fit the nuances into the bigger picture. For instance, in our discussion of naval warfare to block adversarial communications and trade routes, Dueck went over the American Revolution and the various ways Washington's grand strategy used naval warfare instead of engaging in lopsided battles. Similarly, talks on the fog of war Pollack delved into the theory of fog of war, but I enjoyed Dueck's complimentary discussions of Cold War uncertainties regarding the Soviet's military capabilities.

Beyond the national security knowledge, the Fellowship led to interesting conversations with my friends (some of them Fellows too) outside the four hours a week. After speaking with some co-workers, I thought it would be a good idea to turn my group's Tigray War policy memo into a short op-ed. After some back and forth it was finally published in Defense Post, giving the four of us another line on our resume. The Alexander Hamilton Society fellowship was an amazing opportunity to sharpen my historical understanding of national security. Now that I go into my career, I will be recommending my peers to not just apply to the fellowship but to start AHS chapters and consider the society's other wonderful programs.



**ANDREW TOBIN**  
**Georgetown University '22**

Thanks to the Alexander Hamilton Society's generosity in providing financial support, I was able to intern with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) this summer. The AHS Fellowship enhanced my summer experience both professionally and academically and enabled me to connect with like-minded peers to think through some of our nation's most pressing security challenges. Though I wish my internship had been in person, with FDD I worked dual roles as an intern with the Center on Military and Political Power (CMPP) and the Long War Journal. For CMPP, I had the pleasure of conducting research with the Center's Senior Director, Bradley Bowman, on the latest developments in national security around the world. I focused particularly on the impact of drones on warfare, the relationship between Taiwan and the United States in the face of Chinese aggression, and the impact of civilian policy on defense. In addition to my work with Mr. Bowman, I had the great pleasure of contributing to the Long War Journal, investigating various developments in jihadism across the Middle East and Africa. I spent most of my time with the Long War Journal working with Bill Roggio, examining the rapidly deteriorating security environment in Afghanistan. This open-source research prepared me very well for my desired career in government, as I had to sift through seemingly endless information about the Taliban's offensives in order to discern the most accurate designations for each of the country's districts. Even in the virtual setting, my time with FDD was truly incredible and positioned me very well for the next stages of my career. I have gained numerous mentors and close friends during this experience, as community building was a focal point of this internship program.

As a part of the Hamilton National Fellowship, I had the privilege of attending Dr. Kenneth Pollack's War and Politics and Dr. Colin Dueck's American Grand Strategy seminars. These programs enabled me to learn from experts in the field of international relations and expand my horizons. I particularly enjoyed our discussions with Dr. Pollack about how Clausewitzian ideas can be seen in the military history of the United States and other prominent international actors. I am also very thankful to the Alexander Hamilton Society for the opportunity to work with my peers on a policy brief that addressed a key national security concern. Given my background studying Afghanistan, I enjoyed being able to dive into the subject of the American withdrawal and hear the variety of perspectives on how the United States can mitigate the effects of the present instability. Overall, I am extremely grateful for the remarkable opportunities provided by the Alexander Hamilton Society through this fellowship program. AHS granted me the ability to develop professionally and connect with my peers while engaging in the most complex issues in today's foreign policy environment. Without the Hamilton National Fellowship, I could not have had this incredibly enriching summer experience that has already helped propel me to the next stage of my career.



## **SASHA STONE**

**Johns Hopkins SAIS '22**

Thanks to the Alexander Hamilton Society's financial support, I have had the incredible opportunity to serve as a Graduate Intern at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá in the economic section. During my internship, I have drafted cables reporting on the increase in illegal logging in the Amazon, completed macroeconomic analyses on US imports to and exports from Colombia, and participated in high level meetings with the Ambassador to Colombia, the Economic Counselor, and Colombian government officials. This summer was a particularly interesting time to be working in the economic section in Colombia, given the economic instability due to COVID, the recent protests surrounding tax reform, and the outgoing government's newly proposed tax bill. Although my internship was virtual, I was grateful to be involved in shaping US economic policy toward Colombia during such a pivotal moment.

My internship was complemented by the wonderful programming provided through the Hamilton National Fellowship. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to hear from experienced practitioners and scholars, and thoroughly enjoyed Professor Dueck's deep dive on American Grand Strategy and Professor Pollack's course on War and Politics. The discussions and points raised by the other fellows truly made me question previously held assumptions on American grand strategy and the intersection between politics and war, and I walked away with a more thorough understanding of US foreign policy. Finally, I particularly enjoyed applying the concepts learned in our courses to a group policy memo. Our group was assigned to draft a policy memo addressing Russian cyberattacks on the US, our allies and Ukraine. We worked diligently to research the issue and come up with proposed solutions, which we presented to the full cohort of fellows at the end of our fellowship. This experience was extremely helpful in preparing for a career in public service with the federal government, in which policy memos and briefings are a regular occurrence, and the policy memo exercise also helped to form lasting connections and friendships with the other fellows in my group. I am so grateful to the Alexander Hamilton Society for the opportunities provided through the Hamilton National Fellowship. I will be building on the incredible experiences, hard skills, and meaningful connections gained this summer during my final year of graduate school and beyond.



## **TRACE HELD**

### **Indiana University '23**

If you want to study foreign policy from leading authorities in their fields, become an AHS Summer Fellow.

Over the course of the summer, I interned for Senator Todd Young (IN) where I interacted with US foreign policy making in the highest halls -- literally the Halls of Congress. I engaged in debates with individuals across all spheres of policy: from foreign service officers to current military intelligence officers, to academics. My experience I imbued me with a holistic, approachable, perceptive on foreign policy I wouldn't have achieved in the classroom.

The Alexander Hamilton Society's Summer Fellows Program reinforced my knowledge from university by backing it with expert insight not found elsewhere. The AHS professors demonstrated to me the importance of understanding that foreign policy strategy is easier criticized than formulated. Identifying ends, available means, popular and international support, as well as the action-reaction cycle to all operations are issues leaders must face every day. My summer as an AHS Fellows allowed me to interact with foreign policy leaders (both present and future) on a fundamental level I never imagined.



**PAIGE PROCTOR**  
**Harvard University '23**

The Alexander Hamilton Society National Fellowship was a cornerstone of my summer experience. I was fortunate to be offered an in-person position in Washington, DC as a summer legal intern at Cooper & Kirk, PLLC. At Cooper & Kirk, I performed research on a wide array of constitutional topics and composed memos in a collaborative work environment. Gaining on-the-ground experience in the legal field has increased my confidence in pursuing a career in law after graduating. Members of the firm have become mentors and I greatly appreciate their generous advice and encouragement. My work assignments were rewarding and interesting, and I am grateful for the financial assistance of AHS that helped make my wonderful summer experience possible.

While my internship had a predominant focus on domestic matters, AHS's fellowship afforded me the valuable opportunity to expand the scope of my summer experiences. I found both fellowship seminars engaging, thought-provoking, and critically relevant to understanding the forces shaping our ever-changing world and America's position within it. Dr. Pollack's recollections of his personal experiences were highlights of his course. His engagement with the HNF program provided a one-of-a-kind experience learning from a highly credentialed figure. Dr. Dueck's wealth of knowledge fostered a historically rich exploration of the heritage and future of American grand strategy. Both evening seminars complemented my internship and were valuable components of my academic exploration over the past few months. I leave this fellowship with a heightened appreciation for the complexity and nuance inherent in national security and foreign policy work. I further appreciated the opportunity to connect with outstanding students from across the nation and build lasting relationships with other fellows through the memo-writing component of the fellowship.

The depth of AHS' resources and their enthusiasm to assist students was clear throughout the program, and I conclude my time as a fellow grateful for the academic development and career empowerment this opportunity provided me and my peers. I look forward to strongly recommending this fellowship to other students in my AHS chapter. Thank you for the fantastic summer, it has truly been a privilege to partake in this program.



## **TY ROSSOW**

### **Baylor University '23**

As a Hamilton National Fellow, I received generous support to complete an internship with the U.S. Department of State. Working within the Intellectual Property Enforcement (IPE) office, I was able to expand my knowledge of IP issues and learn firsthand about how diplomatic work can protect American businesses. I particularly enjoyed researching technology competition and how the United States can adapt to the ever-changing technological landscape. Given my interest in economics and international affairs, the internship helped deepen my interest and knowledge regarding economic statecraft and its crucial role in promoting U.S. interests. I was also thankful to connect with individuals across State and the broader federal government. Despite the virtual setting, State and especially IPE emphasized community building with informal socials, panels, and meetings.

The HNF courses were fascinating and helped strengthen my knowledge of international politics. In Dr. Ken Pollack's course, War and Politics, I enjoyed fruitful discussions on the role of political leaders in conflicts, civil-military relations, and the organizational culture of armed forces. In Dr. Colin Dueck's course, American Grand Strategy, I appreciated the opportunity to discuss insightful case studies, dating from the Founding Fathers to the present. Beyond the courses, the memo project was informative and practical. It helped me connect with a great team of Fellows, built my knowledge on Russian cyberattacks towards allies, and promoted hands-on memo writing practice that directly translated to my work at State. Finally, attending the Student Leadership Conference through the HNF was an outstanding experience that allowed me to connect with other Fellows and AHS chapter officers in addition to learning from distinguished practitioners on critical challenges the United States faces.

Altogether, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities provided by the Alexander Hamilton Society through the Hamilton National Fellowship. Not only did it help me learn and grow as a Department of State intern, but the HNF also enabled tremendous possibilities for education, networking, and professional development. I look forward to working with AHS this year at Baylor and beyond.



**LAUREN JARVIS**  
**Baylor University '22**

This summer I had the opportunity to intern for the United Nations Information Center. It is easy to see the UN as an unapproachably complex organ of international negotiation and law, but working in the office truly humanized the UN and deepened my appreciation for its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UNIC in DC is the primary UN body responsible for connecting the US government with the UN through maintaining relationships with US officials, sharing information with US counterparts, and hosting UN officials visiting Washington DC. I attended US Congressional and thinktank hearings and collected information on US foreign affairs strategy to update the UN. I also had the special privilege of organizing a seminar series with all UN-DC interns to hear from senior UN officials from organizations including UNDP, UNHCR, and WHO.

I am deeply grateful for the support that the Alexander Hamilton Society provided throughout my internship. Because of the Hamilton National Fellowship, I was able to connect with a group of ambitious and intelligent students who care deeply about foreign policy issues. The seminar programming also beautifully complimented the hearings and thinktank events I was attending for my job and provided a more philosophical context for the policy issues I was working with daily.

One of the highlights of the fellowship was the group policy memo culminating in a research presentation and group verbal examination. My group was asked to write policy recommendations for dealing with the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia. Throughout the summer, my work at the UNIC had begun narrowing my policy interests, and the policy exercise not only provided valuable practice in technical foreign affairs writing but also confirmed my concentrations in democratization, refugees, and international development. AHS was a unifying thread throughout my summer, and I am grateful for the experience. Looking toward the future, I feel more equipped to enter the foreign affairs realm with the support of the AHS team.





## **SOPHIA LANSELL**

**University of Wisconsin - Madison '23**

I am immensely grateful to the Alexander Hamilton Society for providing funding for my internship at the American Enterprise Institute this summer. At AEI, I had the pleasure to serve as a Public Economic Intern in support of scholar Dr. Stan Veuger. I had the opportunity to learn a new programming software while conducting econometric tests in support of a joint project to study historic economic development in the Netherlands Dr. Veuger is involved in. In my AEI experience I learned a great deal and met many interesting people despite its virtual nature.

This is also true for my experience as an AHS National Fellow, where through weekly lectures about war, politics, and grand strategy I became immersed in topics I found interest in but knew little about. Dr. Pollack and Dr. Dueck excel in their respective fields and had loads of information to impart on the other fellows and me, ranging from war theory to comical stories from their professional experiences. During the Policy Memo exercise, I had the pleasure of working with several other fellows on U.S. strategy in the Xinjiang region. Through multiple Zoom meetings and time spent bouncing ideas off one another to find workable short and long-term solutions, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of how ideas from all levels of government rise to those making the decisions.

Additionally, listening to and reading the other fellows' Policy Memos provided me a greater understanding of the foreign policy events challenging the nation.

By combining my passion for econometric research in my internship and foreign policy in the AHS fellowship this summer, I believe I am much more well-rounded and ready to pursue career opportunities relating to these two subjects. I am especially thankful for the lectures provided by Dr. Pollack and Dr. Dueck, as they covered topics that greatly interested me but would have failed to fit into my university schedule. Thank you to the AHS leadership who made this all happen!



**ESTEBAN ESPINOZA**  
**Arizona State University '22**

This summer I interned at the American Foreign Policy Council, a well-established foreign policy think tank on Capitol Hill, where I got to work on projects, literature reviews, and write policy memos. My projects and work were related to issues and topics regarding China and the Indo-Pacific region. The Alexander Hamilton Society's Hamilton National Fellowship, this summer, supported my internship experience in terms of memo policy writing. The memo policy template, the process of developing a memo policy, as well as the art of effectively communicating your policy in two pages maximum. Writing a memo policy is an art and skill that requires one to be concise but informative, communicating to your specific audience, and not trying to "fluff" your memo with unnecessary words, adjectives, and vernacular. The seminar series also helped support my understanding of the role of political goals and theory of war applied to the state competition, strategic goals, historical influence, and so on. Because of this program, I've also had the opportunity to view what it is like working on policy advising and making which also helped me meet other individuals who are interested in those same fields. I would personally say, it has narrowed my career choices which will guide me toward a desired career in the realm of foreign policy, defense, and national security.

As the summer ends, I am appreciative of the opportunity to be part of this summer program and feel confident in my ability to apply my knowledge, skills, and effort toward a career in public service.



## **CHANNING LEE**

### **Georgetown University '23**

Since the COVID-19 situation had been improving by the end of the 2020-2021 school year, I was clinging on to the hope that I would be able to intern in person this summer. After all, I had secured my dream internship, summer housing in D.C., and generous financial support from the Alexander Hamilton Society. What could go wrong? When the U.S. Department of State announced that all our summer internships would be virtual, however, I was crushed. Would this be yet another summer isolated from my peers? Thankfully, AHS was here to not only aid in financing my summer, but also provide me with a wonderful community of like-minded peers, some of whom were also living in D.C. for the summer. After my full days of attending meetings, conducting research, and more for my internship at State, I hopped onto Zoom meetings with HNF fellows to discuss war, politics, and American grand strategy. It became such a wonderful routine--though, I will admit, an exhausting one at times--and I loved engaging with fellows from all over the country, even if through the screen.

At the State Department, I was working in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation's Office of Export Control and Cooperation (ISN/ECC). My team facilitated the export control and border security program by distributing foreign assistance to partner countries around the world. My internship was such an incredible experience because, in addition to learning more about the Department's work and culture through my day-to-day tasks, I also received the incredible opportunity to speak with dozens of civil servants and foreign service officers about their careers. These brilliant women and men have inspired me further to pursue a career in public service. As if first-hand exposure to our government's foreign policymaking was not enough, my summer involvement with AHS was invaluable to enriching my internship experience. I enjoyed the rich HNF seminars led by Kenneth Pollack and Colin Dueck; each had its own flare.

Writing our policy memorandum also offered me the opportunity to learn another skill--not to mention the in-depth knowledge I gained about the terrible crisis occurring in Ethiopia. After my group's concluding presentation, we published our research in an op-ed for The Defense Post! Attending the Student Leadership Seminar at the end of July was the cherry on top of it all--at the four-day conference, I not only absorbed insight from a slew of high-level speakers, but also made amazing new friends.

Despite the ongoing precarious situation, I am indebted to the Alexander Hamilton Society for an incredible summer, and I am so grateful to be part of such an outstanding organization. I look forward to working further with AHS in the future.



**ZASKIA TORRES**  
**New York University '24**

I am beyond honored and grateful to have participated in the 2021 Hamilton National Fellowship (HNF). Not only did this fellowship supplement my internship work and personal academic research but allowed me to connect and engage with well-rounded and driven individuals from across the country. Over the summer, the seminars “War and Politics” and “American Grand Strategy” provided me with invaluable knowledge on United States history, foreign policy, and national security.

Atop of the informative seminars, I worked alongside four fellows to draft and finalize a policy memorandum on the political stability of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of United States troops. This project was both rewarding and academically stimulating to research and provide solutions with recommendations addressed to the US Department of State on US-Afghan relations, the country's security, and international relations.

My work at The Counterterrorism Group which consisted of writing intelligence reports analyzing terrorist activity and political dynamics within the Middle East and Central Asia region with a special focus on analyzing current threats in Afghanistan and Syria collaborating on a multi-team database that organizes and catalogs regional and cyber terrorist activity and completing weekly shifts in a role as the “Worldwide Analysis of Terrorism, Crime, and Hazards” to monitor and report data into the Daily Terrorism Activity Report, superbly complemented the policy memorandum exercise. I was able to bring my perspective and background on counterterrorism, national security, and intelligence to my team, all the while enhancing my own critical thinking, geopolitics, and time management skills.

Even though COVID-19 drastically impacted my summer plans to intern in person, the HNF provided me with a grant to carry out my virtual internship smoothly. I am grateful for all the opportunities offered by the HNF and excited to stay involved in AHS throughout the rest of my undergrad.



**EVAN WRIGHT**  
**Indiana University '22**

The Hamilton National Fellowship (HNF) gave me the tools and resources I needed to excel in my internship at Johns Hopkins SAIS. The workshop on memo writing was directly applicable to my work as a research assistant. I was able to use the formatting and memo structure I learned in the workshop to make my reports more concise and persuasive.

The seminars on war and politics with Dr. Kenneth Pollack and American grand strategy with Dr. Colin Dueck also gave my work on the geopolitical significance of maritime sea lines of communication an important context. Dr. Pollack's expert knowledge of "On War" by Carl Von Clausewitz and his prior experience in the U.S. intelligence community made him an informative instructor and a great mentor. Dr. Dueck's understanding of the domestic variables that influence American grand strategy was also very helpful for my work studying the development of US. Taiwan policy over the last decade.

The HNF stipend also played a crucial role in subsidizing my living expenses in Washington D.C. Because of AHS' assistance, I was able to go to meetings with Japanese diplomats at a Michelin Star restaurant, Dean Kent Calder at Johns Hopkins SAIS, and peers from the Alexander Hamilton Society at various venues.

The HNF is truly a one-of-a-kind program in its ability to provide by educational and financial support to students interested in careers in foreign policy and defense. It allowed me to focus on succeeding at my job rather than worrying over finances and supplemented my work through its seminars series. Because I was able to live in Washington D.C. for my internship with the HNF's help, I have been invited by Johns Hopkins SAIS to return in the spring. The fellowship had a direct impact on my career, and I highly recommend it for any student interested in making a career in international affairs in Washington D.C.



**SKYLAR POLLOCK**  
**Carnegie Mellon University '23**

HNF was instrumental for my education and deepening my understanding of the complex international relations environment. As an aspiring law student, I was able to culminate traditional research, communicative skills, and writing skills necessary to write a policy memo. This summer, I was able to gain hands-on experience in the hub of public policy, decision making, as well as valuable exposure to countless career possibilities – starting with law school, perhaps, before leading to a meaningful position in the political arena. The courses taught by Dr. Pollack and Dr. Dueck were extremely informative and allowed me to engage with like-minded college students who deeply care about the state of the world.

HNF also allowed me to pursue an unpaid internship that I found deeply intriguing. Serving as a research assistant, interns gain insight into the fascinating realm of lobbying by working closely with senior associates and partaking in substantive work – particularly in national defense policy and equipment procurement. After my time with the McKeon Group and the HNF, I am confident I will graduate college prepared to navigate the complexities of federal elections, defense strategy, U.S. grand strategy, and international relations to ultimately decide how I can best contribute to addressing society's most pressing issues.



## **ROY EAKIN**

**Texas A&M University '22**

The summer of 2021 has proved to be beneficial to my professional development, interests, and future plans. The Alexander Hamilton Society afforded me several opportunities to expand my professional horizons. During the summer, I was fortunate to engage with topics that are both timely and central to my academic interests. I am thankful for the support of the Alexander Hamilton Society and my experience as a Hamilton National Fellow. My summer internship revolved around my primary academic interest: China. During the summer, I worked as a research intern for the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation's China Studies department. The bulk of my internship revolved around conducting research for Xinjiang-related projects. Through the internship, I was able to engage with Mandarin-language sources, collaborate with professional researchers, and expand my knowledge of one of the largest human rights issues of the present day. The research experience I gained through my internship supports my future goals of working on China-related research projects.

The Hamilton National Fellowship both supported my summer opportunities and provided valuable professional experiences. For the memo portion of the fellowship, I was fortunate to be placed in a group focusing on the topic of Xinjiang. This portion of the fellowship complimented my internship projects. The fellowship also provided the opportunity to connect with new colleagues. These experiences ultimately provided greater awareness of the great individuals affiliated with AHS and chances to expand my knowledge of relevant topics. The seminar portion of the fellowship was also an enriching experience. Through the two seminars with Kenneth Pollack and Colin Dueck, I was able to expand my knowledge of topics like grand strategy and the connection between war and politics. I found Dr. Pollack's passion for the topic to be one of the best parts of the fellowship. The grand strategy seminar also strengthened my understanding of the history of American grand strategy. Each seminar possessed unique advantages that made each session enjoyable.

It has been an incredible privilege to be a Hamilton National Fellow. This opportunity has helped advance skills that will be valuable to my future career prospects. Beyond the fellowship, my experience as an Alexander Hamilton Society chapter officer has also proved to be incredibly valuable to my professional development. I am thankful for the opportunity and look forward to supporting the Alexander Hamilton Society's mission in the upcoming school year.



**KYLE ROBERTSON**  
**Carnegie Mellon University '23**

This summer I was lucky enough to receive an internship in the Middle East Studies department at the American Enterprise Institute. I was very excited for my internship, and I have loved the work that I have done. Unfortunately, I would describe my overall internship experience at AEI as underwhelming. I say this because I have been virtual all summer. Working virtually at home in California has taken away the experience of working in D.C. and has limited my ability to form meaningful relationships with other interns, something that is hard to do over Zoom.

This is where AHS stepped in. Our fellowship cohort was a small group, making it easier to form a connection over Zoom. I was able to build on this connection while attending the Student Leadership Conference last weekend because many of the fellows were able to participate at the conference. It was there that I was able to build meaningful relationships with people like Channing, who is from the same area as me in California, and Ty, who was in my memo group. Although it was just a weekend, AHS was able to support my goals for the summer by offering the chance to finally meet the people in-person that I had met over Zoom. I am grateful for that opportunity.

I was also grateful for the opportunity to attend classes with brilliant individuals such as Dr. Kenneth Pollack and Dr. Colin Dueck. The ten classes we had over the summer were special opportunities to engage with people whom I would not have the opportunity to interact with under normal circumstances. The two hours could be exhausting after a long day at work, but they were worth every minute in my opinion. What I learned during that time helped me realize my goal of learning something new, something I was striving for this summer.