

# EHPP Newsletter

Ethics, History, and Public Policy Major  
Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

## Heinz Master's Programs

The School of Public Policy and Management at Heinz College offers a variety of programs in public interest fields. Neha Mittal (EHPP '12) and Mikaela Rakos (EHPP '12) are both pursuing master's degrees at Heinz. Neha is in the Accelerated Master's Program, which allowed her to start her graduate studies while she was an undergraduate. With this program, students can complete a bachelor's degree in EHPP and a master's degree with two or three additional semesters of study. Mikaela chose to begin her master's degree at Heinz after completing her undergraduate degree in EHPP. They both provided their perspectives on these programs.

Neha Mittal: "As I started to take more public policy classes for my EHPP major, I found myself especially interested in innovative solutions for international development. I had gained skills in researching, writing, and strategy formation in my various EHPP courses and my capstone project. After talking to some professors and peers, I decided to study Public Policy and Management in the 5 years Accelerated Master's

Program at Heinz College. The transition between undergraduate work and graduate was a smooth one because of how relevant my undergraduate material was. I had gained project management and project development skills from participating in the EHPP Case Competition, I was able to look at situations from various perspectives from my philosophy classes, and my history courses prepared me for lots of researching, writing, and synthesizing. Overall, EHPP gave me a taste of lots of different potential professions while constantly helping me to build essential skills for the workplace. The small class size allowed me to connect with my peers and professors in a way that has been lasting and beneficial."

Mikaela Rakos: "Most students coming from Carnegie Mellon undergrad choose to do accelerated master's programs at Heinz. However, I chose to complete 4 years of undergraduate, in the major of Ethics, History and Public Policy with a minor in Business Administration,  
(continued on next page)



*Neha Mittal, left, EHPP '12 and Mikaela Rakos, right, EHPP '12*

For general information on Heinz Master's programs, please see:

<http://www.heinz.cmu.edu/school-of-public-policy-management/index.aspx>



Heinz Master's Programs, Continued

and proceed to the full 2 year master's program in Health Care Policy and Management. Once I graduate from Heinz in 2014, I will have two degrees with extremely long names. I like to think of this as telling, that I pursued degrees in very interdisciplinary fields. As EHPPers, it is clear that the curriculum involves numerous disciplines. I decided to pursue the Health Care Policy and Management program because of its similar nature, where it is a culminating experience of multiple fields. I will come out understanding policy both domestic and international, business management and organizations, economics and finance, information systems and technology, and most specifically health. So far, the transition from undergraduate to graduate school at Carnegie Mellon has been smooth. It is a new level of learning, with an underlying feeling of home. I can see new challenges but feel the familiarity of CMU, bringing comfort and security. While I miss roaming the main CMU campus, and especially Baker Hall, it is both nice and convenient to have my classes all in one building. It provides me with a sense of new among the old. In addition, the curriculum is flexible and I can tailor my graduate experience to focus on areas that most interest me. What I want to emphasize most is that my experiences at Heinz have been more than positive, from the classes to the career services to the student activities. Though it has only been about a month since I've ventured into the realm of graduate studies at CMU, I can honestly say I felt comfortable from week one. I would certainly recommend the program to anyone looking to advance his or her knowledge in business management, policy, health and health care."

*EHPP is on Facebook! Please "like" the page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ethics-History-and-Public-Policy-Major-Carnegie-Mellon-University/133337654822>*

## Art/EHPP Student, Adelaide Agyemang, Spends Summer in Ghana

Agbogbloshie is the largest slum in Accra—the capital city of Ghana—and although it is a relatively unknown community, it is currently the site of an environmental crisis with global ramifications. Once an unsullied wetland, the environment rapidly began to deteriorate in the 90s with the shipment of used electronics to developing nations. Initially, the shipment was intended to introduce technology in these countries, but it was soon exploited as an inexpensive way to shirk the responsibilities of recycling. Now the river is choked with garbage and Agbogbloshie has become a major e-waste destination—a “digital dumping ground” where industrialized nations (primarily the US, Great Britain, and Japan) illegally deposit millions of tons of e-waste yearly. Local scavengers ravage through the electronic waste, searching for bits of copper and metals to trade, feeding a toxic economy that profoundly impacts both the health of the residents and of the environment. Fumes from burning plastic make breathing laborious and even painful after long exposure while showers of charred ash fall on nearly everything. The town is derisively called Sodom and Gomorrah by outsiders because of its high crime rates and prostitution rings.

The summer abroad program I participated in offered a service learning course, and an important component of the class was giving students the opportunity to spend the summer serving at either an elementary school, an orphanage, or at a nongovernmental organization called Self-Help Initiative Support Services (SISS). I was interested in working at SISS because of my experiences in the EHPP major, and this interest solidified after an introductory presentation at their headquarters. SISS’s core mission is to empower individuals living in difficult communities by providing them with the tools and expertise to become self-supportive. The organization accomplishes this by improving the literacy of its students and educating them in trades including catering, tailoring, and cultural crafts. Additionally, they closely aid their batch of graduates in applying these skills to positively alter their lives after their education period ends. On our first day as volunteers, we visited parts of Agbogbloshie influenced by SISS’s presence. We walked to a local primary school that educated over 80 children in facilities that were significantly improving as a result of support from the NGO, as well as several small businesses opened by SISS graduates. Later, we would assist computer literacy classes, deliver lectures about cultural misconceptions between Ghana and America, and spend time with students being taught traditional recipes and crafts. I found SISS’s devotion to the community palpable and an inspiring example of the great good that committed organizations can accomplish within bleak landscapes.



*Bikes in Agbogbloshie, the largest slum in Accra, Ghana*



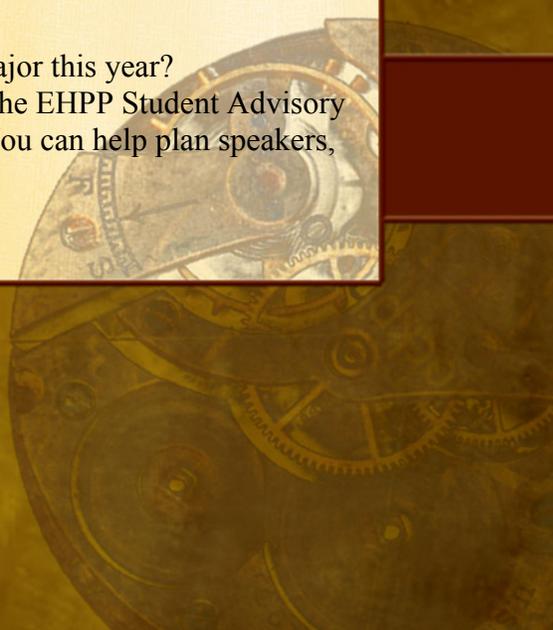
*Garbage in Agbogbloshie*



*To learn more about S.I.S.S and the e-waste crisis in Agbogbloshie, visit:*

<http://www.sissghana.org/index.html>

[http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/ghana804/video/video\\_index.html](http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/ghana804/video/video_index.html)



Interested in getting involved in the major this year?  
Please contact Tracy London about joining the EHPH Student Advisory  
Committee (SAC) at [tlondon@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:tlondon@andrew.cmu.edu). You can help plan speakers,  
social events, and more!

#### Dietrich College Career Mentoring Program

In the Dietrich College Career Mentoring Program, Dietrich College alumni, graduate students, juniors, and seniors become mentors to Dietrich College freshmen and sophomores. All potential mentors and mentees begin the application process by scheduling an interview online. An interview committee asks both mentors and mentees questions about their career experiences and goals to match them effectively. As part of the mentoring program, each pair will receive weekly discussion tips to help foster conversation, as well as career resources for their common field. Each conversation is only 30 minutes a week and helps an aspiring young professional understand his or her career options. This is our third session of the Dietrich College Career Mentoring Program and we believe it is a valuable way to gain professional mentoring experience while mentors are still early in their careers. By participating in this program, Carnegie Mellon students and young alumni have the opportunity to empower current undergraduate students who are interested in their career experiences.

For more information, please  
contact:

Stephanie Stern  
Career Peer Mentor

[sastern@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:sastern@andrew.cmu.edu)