



# The Maddy Institute

California State University, Fresno

## Scholar Intern Program

### *Alumni Update*

#### *A note from the Director...*

Since 2001, the Maddy Institute has provided over 400 legislative intern scholarships to university students from the San Joaquin Valley to develop the next generation of bipartisan problems solvers, in the mold of the late Senator Ken Maddy.

Our legislative interns have worked in 19 federal and state legislative offices, both Democrat and Republican, learning firsthand about the political process. They have worked in local legislative offices throughout the Valley with the support of the *Maddy Associates*, at the State Capitol in Sacramento through the *Bob Beverly Scholarship Program* and in Washington, D.C. through the *Jim Costa Scholarship Program*.

Our 400+ alumni now work in a variety of businesses, political offices, and non-profit organizations improving the lives of those who live and work in our great Valley and state.

Given your on-going support, we thought you would be interested in a small sampling of what our interns have learned and are doing to help build a better Valley, State and Nation.

We hope you take pride in knowing that your generosity is making their success possible.

With Appreciation,

Executive Director – The Maddy Institute



## Jenna Mersereau

*Then: 2013 Beverly Sacramento Legislative Intern with State Assemblymember Adam Gray*

*Now: Graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor's in Political Science, CSU Fresno*

*Future: UCLA School of Law (Fall 2014)*

*"I have always appreciated the importance of government. Community service is an area of major emphasis in my life, and what better way is there to do that than by affecting public policy? Working at the State Capitol last summer gave*

*me a "front row seat" to see how government impacts the everyday lives of people of California and the San Joaquin Valley.*

*My internship was fantastic! I was asked to write articles for Assemblymember Adam Gray's website all about his community. To do my research, I travelled to the district (Merced and Stanislaus County) a few days a week meeting historians, mayors, and city managers. I bet I have been to every museum in his district!"*

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Jenna graduated *summa cum laude* from California State University, Fresno as a Smittcamp Family Honors College Scholar. She maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA and will be part of the first College of Social Science Honors Program graduating class. Her senior thesis, "[A Solution to the Drought?](#)" was about water law and policy in California. Given her many accomplishments, she has been awarded the *2014 Department of Political Science Outstanding Graduate*.

After her Beverly Sacramento Internship, she was accepted to the nation's top law schools, including Boalt Hall at UC Berkeley and Cornell University. She accepted a Dean's Merit Scholarship to attend UCLA Law School, the same law school where Senator Ken Maddy received his law degree.

## Ian Wieland

*Then: 2005 Beverly Sacramento Legislative Intern  
with State Assemblymember Juan Arambula*

*2006 Central Valley Maddy Internship with U.S.  
Congressman Jim Costa*

*“As a life-long resident of the Central Valley, my Maddy Institute internships gave me a chance to see how a career in public service can be a rewarding one, especially when you are helping the people back home. The internships provided to me by the Maddy Institute in Sacramento and in Fresno exposed me to a wide range of issues that allowed me to gain more knowledge of the complex challenges that we face. It also allowed me to make lasting friendships and connections that have helped me throughout my career.”*



Ian Wieland was a member of the Smittcamp Honors College and received his B.A. with a dual major in Political Science and History, *magna cum laude*, from California State University, Fresno, and his J.D. from the San Joaquin College of Law.

Prior to practicing law, Wieland worked for Congressman Jim Costa and as a member consultant serving two Speakers of the California State Assembly—giving him a unique understanding of the legislative process, strategic planning, outreach, political campaigns and analysis. He also worked as the Program Coordinator for the Maddy Institute while in law school.

Wieland is currently a shareholder in the Fresno based law firm of Sagaser, Watkins & Wieland PC where he represents businesses in all aspects of labor relations and employment law matters, as well as business litigation matters including unfair competition, trade secrets, and breaches of contract.

Ian and his wife, Allie, who is also an attorney, reside in Fresno.

## Gage Marchini

*Now: 2014 Costa Washington,  
D.C. Intern with U.S.  
Congressman David Valadao*

*Future: Bachelor's in  
Economics and Agricultural  
Business, CSU Fresno*

*"I have lived my entire life in the Central Valley and I have always known that I wanted to find a way to serve the Valley. My family has a deep background in agriculture, farming in Tranquility and Mendota. As a result, I plan to go to law school to practice agriculture and water law.*



*This summer, in Washington D.C., I hope to see the inner workings of our legislative system. This knowledge will help me better understand how to work to protect the thriving agriculture area that I call home."*

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Since Gage applied to the Maddy Institute Legislative Scholar Intern Program, he has won two Attorney Awards as a part of the Fresno State Mock Trial Team. He was also selected as one of the Opening Attorneys on Fresno State's first National-Qualifying team. In order to qualify, a team must earn a record in the opening round of Nationals that puts them in the top 48 teams in the entire nation. Among the teams that competed this year were Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, UCLA, and CSU Fresno. This year's final competition was held in Orlando, Florida.



## Jeff Montgomery

*Now: 2014 Costa Washington  
D.C. Intern with U.S.  
Congressman Jeff Denham*

*Future: Master's in Public  
Administration/Public Policy,  
CSU Stanislaus*

*"Through my internship with  
the Maddy Institute, I hope to  
get a better understanding of  
how legislators work together.*

*Are members getting to know  
each other personally? Which*

*members of our Congressional delegation are the ones that other members trust to take leadership roles to get things done? Do these relationships affect how members bargain with each other to pass legislation?*

*I also want to see how members and committees work with government agencies. Is that relationship solely based on politics and scoring points, or are members genuinely looking to work with agencies to craft policy?*

*I am hopeful that my internship in government will answer these questions and many more."*

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Jeff is on track to graduate *cum laude* from California State University, Stanislaus with a Bachelor's in Political Science. After graduation, he plans to obtain his Master's in Public Administration/Public Policy.

## Uzoamaka Aniezue

*Now: 2014 Beverly Sacramento  
Legislative Intern with State  
Assemblymember Henry T. Perea*

*Future: Completing her Bachelor's in  
Political Science at UC Merced*

*“During my internship, I hope to learn how the government functions—not just theoretically, but in “real life.” This is a unique opportunity to observe the political process—from writing a bill to having it be brought to the floor, to the bill being voted on. I am curious to know how the process really works—including what happens during the closed-door negotiations and how compromises are struck.*

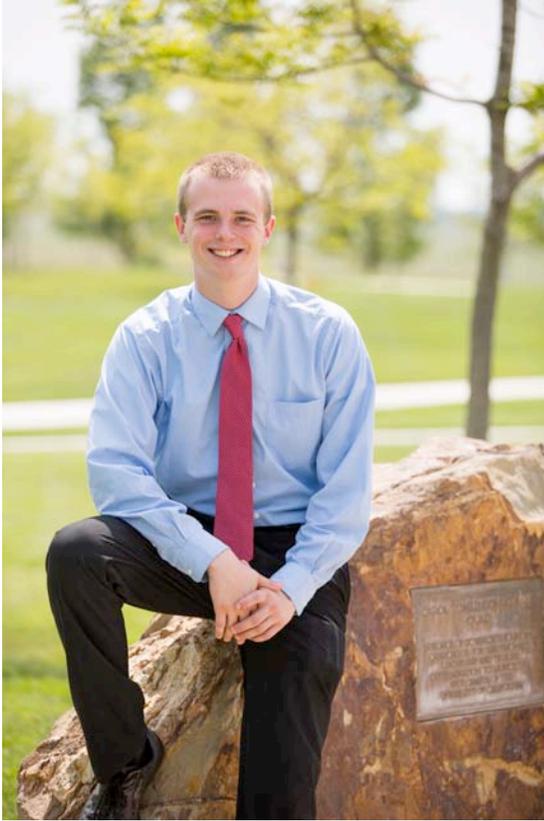
*Being able to learn about the process and work alongside people who do this type of work is the chance of a lifetime. That’s why being a part of this program means so much to me.”*



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From an early age, Uzoamaka was taught the importance of government from her parents, first-generation Nigerian immigrants. She has served as an Afrikan Black Coalition (ABC) Representative for the UC Merced Black Student Union, an organization dedicated to enhancing political awareness, social tolerance, and academic success, while connecting students with their local community.

Uzoamaka is on course to graduate *cum laude* from UC Merced with a B.S. in Political Science and a minor in Sociology.



## Jaron Brandon

*Now: 2014 Beverly Sacramento Legislative Intern with State Senator Andy Vidak*

*Future: Completing his Bachelor's in Political Science, at UC Merced*

*"The Maddy Institute was one of the first programs I became involved in at UC Merced, and it profoundly changed my collegiate experience. The local connections, office skills, and financial assistance allowed me to run for my first campus-wide elected office, prepared me to work with the community, and helped me to become Associated Student President this past year.*

*As I start thinking about graduation, I believe that my Beverly Sacramento Legislative internship will provide me a glimpse into what could become a life-long career in public service. Few other opportunities like this exist and I want to thank all of those that have contributed to providing this incredible opportunity."*

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Jaron is a member of the *Sigma Chi International Fraternity*, Lambda Delta Chapter at UC Merced. He has taken many leadership roles. In the Greek community, Jaron served for one term as the *Fraternity & Sorority Council President*, and on campus, Jaron served two terms as *Associated Student Senator* and one term as *Associated Student President* of UC Merced. He is proudly the founder of an activist group at his university called *Bobcats United* and won the Multicultural Student Council Recognition Award for 2014.

## Robyn Rowley

*Now: 2014 Central Valley Maddy Internship with U.S. Congressman Jeff Denham*

*Future: Master's in Public Administration/  
Public Policy*

*"When I graduate in the fall, I plan to seek a position in public service, possibly the non-profit sector. I hope to use my Maddy Institute legislative intern experience as a springboard to begin a career that allows me to do work that will be meaningful."*



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Robyn will graduate *magna cum laude* in the fall with a B.A. in English Literature and Linguistics from California State University, Bakersfield. She is a member of *Alpha Chi* (National Academic Honor Society) and *Sigma Tau Delta* (International English Honor Society), where she serves as the chapter officer.

Last year, she presented a paper she wrote, "Deconstructing Gender Binaries in Manuel Puig's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*" at the 2013 Gender Matters Symposium at CSU Bakersfield.

This spring, Robyn received an *Academic Excellence Grant* from the CSU Bakersfield President's Fund to attend a national leadership conference in Washington, D.C.



## Michael Lomio

*Now: 2014 Central Valley Maddy Internship  
with US Congressman Jim Costa*

*Future: Completing his Bachelor's in  
Economics & Political Science at UC Merced*

*"Through this internship at Congressman Jim Costa's office I hope to improve my writing skills, assist concerned constituents, understand the inner workings of government agencies, and when I can, learn from individuals who have devoted their lives to*

*public service.*

*Most importantly, I hope to make lasting professional connections with people undergraduates rarely get the chance to meet, much less work for—it is not every day that a college student like myself is found writing letters for the Congressman or answering a phone call from the district director. I am so thankful to the Maddy Institute and opportunities it is affording me."*

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During his freshman year at UC Merced, Michael joined the Young Democrats. He quickly joined the campaign to elect Adam Gray to the California State Assembly, helping with signature collection and voter registration. This experience sparked an interest in politics and he hopes to inspire others to become active participants in the political process as well.

## Matthew Brown

*Now: 2014 Central Valley Maddy Internship with State Senator Andy Vidak*

*Future: Bachelor's in Political Science & Minor in English Literature, CSU Bakersfield*

*"My main goal for my internship with the Maddy Institute is to better understand how a political office is run, as well as how that office interacts with different governmental agencies and offices to make government function properly.*

*I believe this internship will greatly enhance my learning experience by connecting theory with practice. My hope is that this internship will prepare me for a future career in both law and politics."*



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Matt is currently a member of the *Hawk Honors Program* at California State University, Bakersfield and a member of *Pi Sigma Alpha* (Political Science Association Honors Society). During his time at CSU Bakersfield, he has traveled to Washington D.C. to be a part of the *Washington Center's Presidential Inauguration Seminar*, an eleven-day seminar that piqued his interest in government.

Since being accepted for the Maddy Legislative internship, Matt was accepted into the *Panetta Institute Congressional Internship Program* for the Fall of 2014.

Matt's goals, upon graduation, are to continue his studies in law school and focus on constitutional law. Upon completion of law school, he wants to advocate for churches and religious groups in court. Matt also hopes to, one day, run for public office to help make a difference in his community.