



NEWSLETTER FALL 2019

A Note From the Director...

The Maddy Institute's Legislative Intern Program continues Sen. Maddy's vision of providing college students from the Valley with the opportunity to learn, firsthand, how the political and legislative process works.

We also want our legislative interns to learn "the Maddy Way" – developing the increasingly rare and valued ability to find bi-partisan, common sense solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation, State, and Valley. In short, we want to restore civility in politics.

Your generous support makes this opportunity possible for our Valley students since it is the basis for the scholarships we provide to students to help defray their costs. The *Sacramento Bee* has noted that the Maddy Institute Legislative Intern Scholarship program is one of the few paid legislative intern programs at the State Capitol and in legislative offices around the State.



In the following pages, we again provide you with a small sample of what our past and current Maddy interns are doing to make our region, state and nation a better place. As you read about their accomplishments, you should take pride in knowing that your support has given them the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to make a positive impact.

Thank you for "paying it forward" by helping create the next generation of Valley political, civic and business leaders.

With Appreciation,

Mark Keppler

Kenneth L. Maddy Professor of Public Affairs

Where Are They Now?



Thomas Baza
Experienced Assurance Associate for BDO USA, LLP

Thomas interned in the Modesto office of Assemblymember Heath Flora in the Spring of 2017 and in the Washington D.C. office of Congressman Jim Costa in the Summer of 2017.

“The Maddy Internship was a time in my life that I will never forget. The difficult decisions our leaders make – specifically what goes into

their decision-making process to come up with bipartisan legislature solutions – is what I found most interesting. I found legislators trying to balance the goals of moving our country forward while trying to represent their constituents’ desires. Those two ideals do not always align. And while it was undoubtedly difficult for lawmakers, it was fascinating to observe as an intern. Through both the legislative and congressional internships, I gained a deeper respect for legislators, generally, and Sen. Kenneth L. Maddy, in particular. Making effective bipartisan legislation takes great effort and determination, which not everyone is willing to do. Albeit, when achieved, our entire society benefits.”

After the internship Thomas majored in Accounting with a minor in Philosophy at California State University, Stanislaus.

Ryan Ditchfield
Doctoral candidate (Psychology-Law) at Iowa State

Ryan interned in Fresno office of Assemblymember Jim Patterson in the summer of 2015 and graduated with a bachelor’s degree on Political Science & Criminology in 2016.



“My education at Fresno State nurtured my passion for science and policy. However, the Maddy Institute gave me perspective into the real-world effects of policy. As a scientist, it can sometimes be easy to forget that our research should ultimately be aimed at improving people’s lives. This is why the Maddy Institute internship was one of the most valuable experiences I had at Fresno State. It has remained one of my best formative experiences.

Maddy Associates

President’s Circle



Governor’s Circle



E. & J. Gallo Winery



INN & RESTAURANT

Senator’s Circle



As a Maddy Intern, I was able to engage directly with policy-makers and the general public by working in a legislator's local Fresno office. My internship showed me how policy impacts people in their daily lives, why science-based policy is vital to our communities, and gave me insight into the unique challenges associated with translating science into policy. These perspectives have informed my own approach to science and have kept me grounded and focused on serving my community. My experiences as a Maddy Institute intern undoubtedly continue to have a powerful impact on my career."

Ryan's research is closely focused on policy as he works on scientific reform of police interrogations, eyewitness identification procedures, jury and judge decision-making, and forensic evidence.



Nataliia Kasianenko

Assistant Professor- Department of Political Science at California State University, Fresno

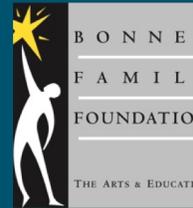
Dr. Kasianenko interned in three different offices as a Maddy intern. In the Fall of 2010 in the Fresno office of Congressman George Radanovich, in the Spring of 2011 in the Fresno office of State Sen. Tom Berryhill and, finally, in the Sacramento office of Assemblymember David Valadao during the Summer of 2012.

"I am grateful to the Maddy Institute for the internship opportunities that helped me learn beyond the classroom, gain valuable experience, and expand my professional network. The Maddy Institute is making a tremendous investment into the future of the Valley"

Dr. Kasianenko received her Master degree in International Relations from California State University, Fresno and then her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research focuses on Comparative Politics and International Relations, with an emphasis on nationalism, identity politics, and human rights in the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Her research primarily revolves around top-down and bottom-up elements of nationalism. Specifically, she explores how political elites may intentionally intensify nationalism to gain legitimacy or advance to power, while also focusing on how and why the notions of national identity change on the individual level.

Senator's Circle



Assembly member's Circle

Mr. Henry Barkett

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Gazarian

Mr. & Mrs. James and Coke
Hallowell

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Mr. Phillip Maroot

Mr. Donald Peracchi

Fall 2019

Laura Tsutsui

Reporter and Producer at Valley Public Radio

Laura interned in the Capitol office of Senate Pro Tempore Kevin de León in the summer of 2016. She also interned in Congressman Sam Farr's Washington, D.C. office in the fall of 2016, as a Panetta Scholar.

Laura majored in Mass Communication and Journalism, with an emphasis in multimedia, as a Smittcamp Family Honors Scholar at California State University, Fresno.



"Interning at the state and federal level gave me five-thousand-foot views of how ideas become policies. I appreciated the opportunity to live and work in new places, and watch 'how the sausage gets made.' It's not always pretty, but I learned so much. As a reporter, I now know how to work with legislative staff and elected officials to convey their efforts and inform the public."

A Fresno native, Laura is a reporter and producer at Valley Public Radio, the NPR affiliate station for the San Joaquin Valley. She writes about politics and policies in Fresno's local government and throughout the Central Valley. Her internships solidified her fascination with politics and California's role in the nation.

Assembly member's Circle

Ms. Jo-Ann Slinkard



Thank you to our Maddy Associates

***Introducing our San Joaquin Valley Maddy Legislative Interns
Fall 2019***



Anastacia Cooper – *Office of Assemblymember Devon Mathis* – is a senior at California State University, Fresno pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science. A Central Valley native, she developed a strong interest in politics in intermediate school and in recent years has focused her studies primarily on international relations.

In addition, she sits on multiple event planning and fundraising committees at her church and is an associate board member at a Fresno-based educational non-profit, the American Principles Institute.

Following graduation, Anastacia plans to earn a master’s degree in International Relations and hopes to work in Eastern Europe, establishing more democratic institutions in post- Communist states.

Mangal Dhaliwal – *Office of U.S. Congressman T.J. Cox, Selma office* – is a first-generation Sikh Punjabi American born and raised in Fresno County to immigrant parents who are farmers. Mangal is currently a Philosophy-pre-law Major at California State University, Fresno. After graduation, she plans to obtain both a law degree and a Master’s in Public Policy and Mental Health.

She hopes to use her academic training to improve education, health, and economic conditions, working for a local government in the Central Valley.



Gurleen Kaur Mander – *Office of California State Senator Melissa Hurtado, Fresno office* – is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s in Political Science at California State University, Fresno. Gurleen is also minoring in Philosophy, as well as seeking a legal studies certificate.

Gurleen is involved in the Jakara Movement (Fresno State Chapter), Sikh Students Association and is President for the League of Women Voters (Fresno State Unit). Outside of school, Gurleen’s hobbies include playing soccer for the Fresno State Women’s Soccer Club and cooking. Her community involvement includes being a member of the Sanger Police Explorers Program and a Punjabi school teacher at Sikh Center of the Pacific Coast.

Gurleen will be the first member in her family to graduate from college. She then plans to attend law school and, after graduation, return to the Valley to practice law.

Olivia Mannon – *Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein* – is a senior at California State University, Fresno pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science. Hailing from Birmingham, Alabama, she was recruited to Fresno State as a member on the Varsity Women’s Lacrosse team. She has become vice president of the Fresno State Classic’s Club, a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society.

Since arriving in Fresno, Olivia has made the Valley her second home. Olivia’s love for the community and interest in public policy encouraged her to become involved in public service opportunities. Olivia has an interest in learning about law and government going back to Classical times, so that she can understand the process and actions needed to empower the vulnerable and those who lack a full voice. She hopes to leverage her skills and beliefs to serve others.

Upon graduation in May 2020, Olivia plans to pursue a master’s in public policy and eventually a law degree. This combination of both law and public policy is the heart of where her career aspirations lie, as an attorney with a policy background.



Fidel Moreno-Meza – *Office of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris* – is majoring in Criminology, with an emphasis in Law Enforcement at California State University, Fresno. He is involved in Arnold Air Society, Silver Wings and serves on the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) as the Senator of Athletics and Recreation. He also serves as the Chair of the Legal Committee and as the Senate secretary for ASI.

Fidel has had several leadership positions in the past that include being the Volunteer Coordinator for Vintage Days, as well as a Campus Involvement Ambassador. Apart from his time in school, Fidel enjoys teaching group fitness and being involved in the community.

Fidel plans obtain a law degree and, upon graduation, hopes to work as a Deputy District Attorney in Tulare or Fresno counties.

Emily Neill – *Office of Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula* – is currently a double major pursuing degrees in both Political Science and Economics at California State University, Fresno. In Spring 2019, she successfully completed an internship at an accounting firm, Sensiba San Filippo in Fresno. Emily has served as Chief Financial Officer and is currently serving as Vice President of her sorority Kappa Alpha Theta.

Upon graduation in May 2020, she plans on pursuing her master’s degree in Global Business and International Affairs. She is interested in a career in foreign relations and diplomacy in Washington D.C. with the federal government or a think tank.



If you are interested in becoming a Maddy Associate please contact Mark Keppler at mkeppler@csufresno.edu

www.maddyinstitute.org