

Ryan Rifkin

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Objective:

I am very interested in working in the field of public health. I have spent much of my time focusing on health disparities faced by those of African descent, immigrants, and issues faced by those living with HIV. This past summer I worked with an organization researching the needs of African LGBT refugees, submitting my work both as a recommendation on future policies requested by the UN High Commission on Refugees as well as to two journals on international refugee law. Much of my work has focused on global health issues or meeting immediate needs of clients. I am eager to find an internship where I can research and influence local public health systems. After studying abroad in French speaking Senegal next semester, I will be eager to continue practicing my Spanish. I would in particular like to intern with an organization that works hand in hand with community stakeholders to increase sustainability, and enable me to further learn from local community needs.

Education:

Tufts University

Bachelor of Arts, expected graduation May 2012

Double Major in Community Health and Sociology, concentrating in Globalization, Immigration, and Transnationalism

GPA in major: 3.31

Current GPA: 3.22

I am a Synaptic Scholar at the Institute for Global Leadership, seeking to research immigrant and LGBT health disparities for my scholarship. I hope to culminate my experiences in a senior thesis at Tufts.

United World College of the American West

International Baccalaureate received, Graduated: May 2008

Awarded a full Davis Scholarship to attend

UWC is a British based international school seeking to create sustainable peace through international education and a commitment to social service.

Languages:

I am a native English speaker who is proficient in French with strong Spanish skills.

Relevant selected work experiences:

Policlinique Médicale Universitaire

Winter '05–Summer '06

- Worked in office with translations for HIV/AIDS testing site in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- Responsibilities and skills included:
 - Interviewing patients for information on current health and habits.
 - Developing French skills and interest in humanitarian immigration and immigration issues.
 - Advertising services offered as well as campaigning for awareness on immigrant health needs and equality.

Immigration Exploration Trips on the Mexican American border

Fall '06- Spring '08

- Organized service trips to the Mexican-American border to:
 - Educate people about border and migrant issues.
 - Provide medical relief in conjunction with the American Red Cross.
 - Bring clothing/food materials and human resources to those who failed crossing and lost all possessions in prison or in the desert.
- Worked hands on with immigration issues and learned about the penal system on the border.
- Headed fundraising and advertising efforts.
- Planned and organized several trips with a student group.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Project

Fall '06- Spring '08

- Implemented the first health education program in a middle school in Las Vegas, New Mexico
- Wrote the first curriculum for this school.
- Participated in school board negotiations to implement the curriculum.
- Became certified as an HIV educator by the Dept. of Public Health in New Mexico.

Peer Health Exchange

Fall '08-Present

- I teach STI and Decision Making classes to Boston 9th graders whose schools have cut health education from their budgets and would otherwise receive none.
- I am the leader of the STI education group, and am thus additionally in charge of interviewing potential teachers, managing the scheduling, evaluating teaching skills and conducting our weekly meetings.

Organization for Refuge and Asylum Migration (ORAM International)

Summer '10

- Researched safe haven NGO's in Africa for LGBT people seeking asylum. My research was given to the University of Indiana to publish as an online resource.
- Created profiles on the conditions for LGBT people in African countries for ORAM's reference.
- Co-publishing a paper with the director of ORAM (to be submitted in September) on the UN's proposed use of penile plethysmography and vaginal photoplethysmography to determine sexual orientation of LGBT refugees seeking asylum status.

Other relevant experiences:

July 2008

- Traveled to Malawi and stayed with a host family while helping build a school in a village.
- Learned about other health issues faced by local African non-migrants.
- Became further invested in working with African issues, on top of my previously established HIV/AIDS and immigration interests.

Spring 2010

- I will be studying abroad at the University of Dakar in Senegal. I will be living in a home stay and taking courses in public health and local public health infrastructure in addition to French, Wolof (the local language) and a course on the history of Islam in West Africa.