

The LankaCorps Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for young leaders of Sri Lankan heritage to professionally engage in social, cultural, and economic development activities in Sri Lanka. The program aims to foster the involvement and understanding of young members of the expatriate Sri Lankan community who have limited in-depth experience with the country of their heritage. Each year, The Asia Foundation selects an outstanding group of LankaCorps Fellows to live and work for six months in Sri Lanka, granting them the unique chance to “explore their roots while giving back.”

Introducing the 2019 Class of LankaCorps Fellows



Alain Paul (Jacksonville, Florida, U.S.A.) recently completed his Bachelor's degree in Marketing with a minor in Arts Management, and a specialization in Music Business, from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business in Bloomington, Indiana. Throughout his undergraduate studies, Alain explored his passion for business and music. He has tutored local children in classical piano and music production and worked as an audio engineer and an A/V technician at local music venues. During the summer of 2018, Alain had the opportunity to work in Sydney, Australia as a marketing intern in the music industry, where he gained a unique perspective on international marketing

by attending events for music publishers held by Apple Music to create marketing materials for Australian musicians. Alain's career objective is to work as a marketer at a major label by day and gig as a musician at night. He hopes to someday help fund Sri Lankan charities that provide clean water for children from his career success.



Aneesa Rupasingha (Rockville, Maryland, U.S.A.) recently graduated from Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a Bachelor's degree in Food Science. Aneesa has a strong interest in food product development and food sustainability. She has worked at the Ford Engineering Pilot Plant at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador to develop a new line of ready-to-drink teas for the university. She also has experience working on cheese production at the Food Processing and Development Laboratory at Cornell as well as at the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research in Washington D.C. Aneesa recently completed a consulting project for a US-based

food company in which she helped develop a chickpea-based pizza crust. She hopes to continue a career in product development while also exploring the crossroads of food science and social justice through work in food security and sustainability.



Daniella Kern (Leiden, Netherlands) recently completed her Bachelor of International and European Law at The Hague University, with a specialization in Public International Law and Human Rights. During her studies she did research on the influence non-governmental organizations have on setting international human rights standards. She wrote her Bachelor's thesis on the environmental consequences of bottom trawling in Palk Strait and the obligations that concerning States have in combatting such environmental issues. She has worked previously as a Research Assistant at The Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies in Colombo. Daniella's career objective is to pursue a Master's degree in the Law of the Sea combined with Environmental Law. Being of Burgher heritage, she would love to connect with the Burgher community in Sri Lanka and explore the country's rich culture.



Kiyomi De Zoysa (Santa Barbara, California, USA) graduated from University of California Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies with a specialization in South and East Asia. She comes from a multi-cultural background being born and raised in Japan and speaks English, Sinhalese, Japanese, and Spanish fluently. As a student she acted as a campaign leader in the fossil fuel divestment and anti-fracking campaigns pushing towards reinvestment in renewable energy. Since graduation, Kiyomi has worked with disadvantaged populations in California as a mental health counselor and an advocate for sexual assault survivors. While living in Mexico, Kiyomi served as an intern at a human rights nonprofit organization working for the socio-economic empowerment of displaced indigenous women. As a member of the board of directors of a bi-national nonprofit for housing cooperative development and education, she is a leader in the movement against anti-gentrification and housing justice. Her passion lies in building community resilience through promoting localized economies, social permaculture and regenerative agriculture. Kiyomi would like to promote the socio-economic empowerment of female entrepreneurs for refugee and post-conflict populations by acting as a facilitator for micro-financing, worker cooperative development, and the implementation of environmentally responsible business models.



Nimasha Fernando (Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.) recently completed her Masters of Public Health with a concentration in Global Health at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine. She earned her Biology B.S., Interdisciplinary Studies: Intercultural Health B.A., and Anthropology minor while attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Nimasha's previous experience has involved qualitative research investigating the health experiences of Latin American immigrants and Afghan refugees in Maryland. While in graduate school, she developed an interest in key populations living with HIV by becoming involved in quantitative research analyzing factors associated with HIV care among persons returning to the community following incarceration in South Africa. Recently Nimasha has been applying her skills to monitoring and evaluation of international HIV programs and designed a protocol to evaluate a HIV-specific provider education program in Kenya for her Masters. She is also co-founding the Sri Lankan American Knowledge Exchange, an emerging organization aiming to facilitate the transfer of knowledge between the U.S. and Sri Lanka in order to address health challenges. Nimasha aspires to earn a doctoral degree in public health to advance her career promoting the health of underrepresented communities and preventing health from limiting the potential of the underserved.