MEET
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Brandon Boylan is a fourth-year PhD candidate in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA) at the University of Pittsburgh. His research interests include international security with a topical focus on terrorism and ethnic conflict and a regional focus on Western Europe. His dissertation examines the strategic logic of ethnic terrorist organizations, particularly the adoption of terrorist tactics by politicized ethnic groups and violence variations between ethnic terrorist campaigns. His research has been published by the Woodrow Wilson School’s Journal of Public and International Affairs and Josef Korbel School’s Journal of Advanced International Studies. At the University of Pittsburgh, he is an assistant in the Ford Institute for Human Security and Center for Russian and East European Studies and teaches a course on the public policy process. Prior to starting doctoral studies, he worked at Wake Forest University in the Center for International Studies. He received his Master of Arts from the University of Limerick, and his Bachelor of Arts from Mercyhurst College, Pennsylvania.

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Jennie Choe is a graduate student pursuing an MS in neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University. She conducts research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute for children with developmental disorders in Baltimore, Maryland, where she is investigating the proteomic progression of Down syndrome into early-onset Alzheimer’s disease in children with trisomy 21. She received her BA from Johns Hopkins University in neuroscience with a minor in writing seminars in 2010. She has previously written for the international science and technology journal The Triple Helix.
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Braden Civins is in his fourth and final year of study in a dual degree program at the University of Texas. He is pursuing a JD from the University of Texas School of Law and a Master of Global Policy Studies from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs, where he specializes in security studies.

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Joanna Drozdz is a graduate student of International Studies at DePaul University, Illinois. Her research has focused on European integration, with concentration on immigration policies in the European Union at both national and supranational levels. Joanna worked as an intern in the European Parliament, Brussels, from January to April 2010. She attended immigration and asylum-oriented Committee and Plenary meetings, shared her scholarly expertise at lunch briefings, and engaged in research in the field of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Joanna holds a bachelor’s degree in cultural anthropology from the University of Illinois, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Joanna is fluent in English, Polish and Spanish.
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Carolina Forero, a Fulbright Scholar from Colombia (2008-10), is a second-year graduate student of the Master in Public and International Affairs program at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), with emphasis on global political economy, international business and the Latin American region. She holds an MA in Economics from the Andes University, Bogotá. She has work experience as an analyst in corporate banking and an economic research analyst in the Colombian financial sector. She was a teacher of economics and a research assistant of the Economics Department of the Andes University.

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Hannah Kim received a Master of Music in vocal performance from the University of Utah and has performed many operatic roles. Her many interests including politics, culture, religion, the arts, history and Asian American studies have led to her decision to earn a PhD in ethnomusicology, the anthropological study of ethnic music. She plans to begin a PhD program in the fall of 2011.
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Jenny Kim is currently a third semester student majoring in International Cooperation at the Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies. She received her BA from Wellesley College with a major in Political Science specializing in Comparative Politics and a minor in Economics. Prior to studying at Yonsei, Jenny studied abroad in China for one year in Shanghai and Beijing and interned in various organizations, including the American Chamber of Commerce in Seoul and the Massachusetts State Senate.

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Andrew Riplinger is a graduate student of International Studies at DePaul University, Illinois. He is also the International Programs Coordinator for the Adolescent Community Health Research group within the Department of Psychology at DePaul University. In this role, he coordinates a project funded through the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) that supports a nationwide HIV prevention program for youth in Kenya. Additionally, he is also the Executive Director of the Rafiki Collaborative, a Chicago-based non-profit organization which also supports and coordinates HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care projects in Kenya. He is currently finishing his master’s thesis on the impact of climate change on less-developed countries, and hopes to continue his work in the field of international development.