

Food Security, Nutrition, and Child Development around Lake Victoria in Kenya

The goal for this project's summer research activities is to better understand food security, nutrition, and child development trends on Mfangano Island in Lake Victoria in Kenya. Lake Victoria is the second largest lake in the world and supports one of the largest fisheries. The 35 million people living around the lake are dependent on its resources for income, livelihoods, and health. Despite their proximity to such resources, surrounding communities remain poor and malnourished. The undergraduate will assist with preparing, analyzing, and disseminating data collected on Mfangano Island in order to inform publications and programs to improve food security and nutrition.



Erin Milner
Ph.D. Candidate, Public Health

Erin Milner is a Ph.D. candidate in the Environmental Health Sciences Division in the School of Public Health. Her research has taken her to Kenya for the past three years to assess the impacts of fishery access on household food security, nutrition, and child development in communities surrounding Lake Victoria.

Erin hopes the SMART program will allow her to better understand health around Lake Victoria while developing leadership skills. She looks forward to building a strong mentoring relationship with Rose in which they can strengthen analytical abilities and grow professionally together.



Rose Paneno
*Junior, Integrative Biology
and Social Work*

Rose's passion for health and ecology has been greatly expanded by her experience at UC Berkeley. While she has always been interested in the health field, recent coursework in Global Health, along with volunteer work in a hospital emergency room, drew her towards understanding health on a community level.

Raised in Sonoma County, she has worked with the Bodega Marine Labs and various other conservation groups, allowing her to more deeply understand factors of ecological change and invasive species. The research project draws upon these interests in health and ecology by exploring the impact environmental change has on malnutrition in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya.

Rose is excited to learn more about the process of Public Health research through the SMART program. She hopes to be inspired by her contribution to the project and incorporate the skills she learns into her own future research.

UC Berkeley's Student Mentoring And Research Team (SMART) is a paid professional development program that engages doctoral students in creating mentored research opportunities conducted with selected undergraduate student mentees during a ten-week period over the summer. Both participants receive compensation and training throughout their participation. SMART broadens the professional development of doctoral students and fosters research skills and paths to advanced studies for undergraduates.

Expenses associated with each team total \$10,000,000 (\$5K graduate stipend/ \$3.5K undergrad stipend/\$1.5K research and conference costs). As a donor-supported program of the Graduate Division, the majority of teams are underwritten through a combination of donor funds paired with matching support courtesy of the Graduate Division.

Learn more at smart.berkeley.edu