2013PREAScholarship

2013 PREA Scholarship Recipients

PREA has awarded more than \$575,000 to 206 undergraduate and graduate students concentrating in real estate studies at 49 academic institutions in the United States and Canada. We congratulate the following 2013 scholarships recipients.



Daniel Bertao is a 2014 Master of Real Estate Development Candidate at the University of Southern California. Bertao is a licensed

architect with more than five years of experience in the planning, design, and construction of various project types, including hospitality, mixed use, multifamily, and high-end residential. He has worked for Robert AM Stern Architects in New York, the Town Architect of New Urbanist community Seaside in Florida, and various international design firms. Bertao is a LEED-AP and an active member of the San Diego ULI chapters. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Architecture with a concentration in business.



Steven Carroll is a 2014 MBA candidate at the Brigham Young University Marriott School of Management, studying

finance and real estate. Prior to the Marriott School, Carroll was a Senior Project Engineer for C.W. Driver, providing commercial construction services to large universities, cities, and real estate developers. Carroll was actively involved in the Orange County Urban Land Institute, participated in the ULI Young Leaders Mentorship program, and earned the LEED Accredited Professional license. Post MBA, Carroll's goal is a career focused on institutional funded real estate development in Southern California.



Karl Chan is a 2015 MBA candidate at Columbia Business School. He graduated with honors from Cornell University in

2010 with a degree in urban and regional studies. Chan was named the Cornell Merrill Presidential Scholar for academic

excellence, leadership potential, and propensity for contribution to society. Prior to attending business school, Chan was a Management Trainee at Swire Properties in Hong Kong, where he rotated through different departments, including residential sales, office leasing, retail leasing, and development and valuation. Chan founded the Hong Kong Public Space Initiative in 2011 to raise awareness of public space in Hong Kong.



Sandra Choy is in the MIT Master of Real Estate and Development program. She has been working as an architect for nine

years at architectural firms in New York City, Hong Kong, and Seattle. She has been involved in multinational projects of varying functions and sizes. Choy's diverse professional responsibilities include technical and regulatory research, management of professional consultants, feasibility studies, design, and construction administration. Her focus is in mixed-use and innovative urban infill projects that revitalize downtown neighborhoods. Originally from Hong Kong, Choy pursued her architectural studies at the University of Michigan. She continued her graduate studies at Yale University, where she focused on conceptual design research.



Ailena DiBenedetto is a senior at the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in management informa-

tion systems and minoring in marketing. She will complete her degree, along with the Undergraduate Real Estate Certificate program, in 2014. She works as an intern in the investment sales division at The Weitzman Group. DiBenedetto has held a

real estate sales license in Texas for more than four years and plans to pursue a career in commercial real estate brokerage, leveraging her expertise in technology, investor relations, and the central Texas commercial real estate market after graduation. She currently serves as the Technology Director for the Undergraduate Real Estate Society at UT.



Johnny Din is a 2014 Master of Science in Real Estate Development candidate at Columbia University, where he is the Presi-

dent of the Student Council. Din is an advisor to Singapore-based Lippo Realty for the identification, evaluation, and execution of US real estate investments. Prior to Lippo Realty, he was a Vice President with a Harvard University start-up, where he focused on fund-raising and investor relations. Previously, he was a Project Manager with a nonprofit organization in São Paulo. Din began his career as an Investment Banking Analyst in the Global Financial Sponsors Group of Lehman Brothers. He graduated from UCLA with a BA in business economics and was a Riordan MBA Fellow from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.



Jordan Francisco Estevez Lopez, a 2014 dual degree MBA/MPS real estate candidate at Cornell University, graduated with a

bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo. During college, he also worked full time at LEXCO Engineering, Management, and Construction, where he started as Assistant Engineer and was appointed Assistant Project Manager a few years later and led the creation of the surveying department. Upon completion of his dual degree program, Lopez intends to pursue a career in domestic and international real estate development and investment.

GrantRecipients



Guanhua Puah is a 2015 MBA candidate at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Puah began his career at

J.P. Morgan in the Global Funds Group before rotating through the Debt Capital Markets and the Real Estate and Lodging groups. Most recently, he worked at Edge Principal Advisors, focusing on acquisitions and asset management. Puah graduated from Columbia University, where he earned a BA in political science with a concentration in economics.



Blake Riedling is in the Auburn University Masters of Real Estate Development program and will graduate in 2014. He has been

involved in the construction and development field for more than eight years, managing large-scale commercial projects across the Southeast, Midwest, and Northeast. Areas of focus in his studies are new urbanism, brownfield redevelopment, and repurposing of old industrial spaces.



Kenneth Soyeh is a PhD candidate in business administration majoring in real estate at Georgia State University, Atlanta.

His research interests are in the areas of residential real estate, real estate investment trusts, mortgage pricing, commercial real estate, behavioral real estate, and real estate brokerage. Soyeh received a BS in land economy from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana; an MS in development management from the London School of Economics; and an MS in real estate from Georgia State University. Previously, he worked in the estate and policy planning office of the government of Ghana.

2013 PREA-Toigo Fellowship Grant Recipients

PREA and the Robert Toigo Foundation have collaborated for the past nine years to support the educational and professional development of minority students pursuing careers in real estate. We congratulate the following 2013 recipients of the PREA-Toigo Fellowship Scholarship Grants.



Nikoa Ham is a 2014 MBA candidate at Columbia Business School. She is concentrating in finance with a focus on real estate. Last summer,

Ham worked in Houston with the debt & equity finance group at CBRE, focusing on capital sourcing for senior housing development and acquisition projects. Prior to enrolling at Columbia Business School, Ham worked as a Debt Syndicate Analyst at ABN AMRO and then as an Investment Consultant at Hewitt EnnisKnupp. She earned a BBA in finance, from Howard University in 2005.

Natalie Hooper is a second-year MBA stu-



dent at the MIT Sloan School of Management, concentrating in real estate and finance. She is the President of the MIT Sloan Real Estate

Club, Co-President of the Black Business Students Association, and a member of the Deans Student Advisory Committee. Prior to attending MIT, Hooper worked as a designer for two large architecture firms in New York City. This summer, Natalie had an internship with The Howard Hughes Corporation. Hooper received a bachelor of architecture degree from Cornell University in 2006. That year, she also became a LEED Accredited Professional. Hooper is a member of the Robert Toigo Foundation, as well as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Alvin Jerome Nichols II is a 2014 MBA candidate at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and Co-Chair of Booth's

full-time Real Estate Group. Following a career in the NFL, Nichols spent five years in multifamily development with The Bozzuto Group. During that time, he created and continues to operate a residential portfolio in Washington, DC. Nichols earned a bachelor of science in business management from Wake Forest University. This past summer, he interned with the investments team at Capri Capital Partners in Chicago.



Peter Oden is pursuing an MBA in finance and real estate at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He

graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor of sciences in civil engineering and was a member of Tau Beta Phi, the engineering honor society. Following graduation, Oden worked with The Concord Group, a real estate consulting and valuation firm, rising from Analyst to Engagement Manager. Competing in the National Real Estate Challenge, Oden helped lead his team to a second-place finish. He received First Year Honors for his academic performance and has been honored with the Joseph Wharton Fellowship for his achievements. This past summer, Oden worked as an Acquisition Associate for GoldOller Real Estate Investments.