Siwaar Abouhala, A23
*Arabic and Community Health*

Siwaar’s project will assess the socioeconomic outcomes of Arab-American food industry workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City. Siwaar plans to offer free marketing services to Arab-owned food workers and businesses through her own website, as well as the social media assistance of various partners, including the Tufts Arab Students Association (ASA), the Arab-American Institute (AAI), the Arab American Association of New York (AAANY), and the Arab American Family Support Center (AAFSC). By collaborating with Dr. Anne Marie Gaul, a Tufts postdoctoral fellow at the Center for the Humanities, and resourcing skills she has built as a Refugee Resettlement Intern at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Siwaar hopes to further explore and focus her work on issues of food insecurity and unemployment, specifically as it pertains to Arab-Americans in NYC. This project will not only be a public resource that raises awareness for a minority population, but also one that will document the experiences of an often underrepresented group of people.

Aishu Amarnath, A23; Sophia Banel, A23; Malvika Wadhawan, A23
*Undeclared Majors*

Aishu, Sophia and Malvika are working to support the mental health of young people during COVID-19 through an online platform designed to provide practical tools to navigate commonly experienced issues, access to inspiring speakers, and opportunities to stay engaged in community life through volunteer work. Their project has three components. First, they are conducting research into the current state of mental health for young adults during the COVID crisis and engaging with nonprofits in the Seattle community to understand community resources and needs in this field. Next, they will create their online platform as a space for community connection through offering a variety of sessions with organizational leaders and experts on ways to stay mentally strong and emotionally resilient and related topics. Finally, they seek to connect students from diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds with one another and with organizations who need volunteer service. They are supported by a mentor from the World Health Organization and through Pyramid Communications, a Seattle-based nonprofit that is providing access to their network as well as consulting support in the areas of research methodology, materials development and outreach.

Sarah Beatty, A22
*Cognitive Brain Science*

Since the beginning of the pandemic in the U.S. there has been great demand for counselors for first responders, people who have lost their jobs, and people who are dealing with grief. The Crisis Text Line, a nonprofit organization, aims to address this need by providing nationwide access to free mental
health counseling. Counselors provide support via texts to assure privacy and safety, providing access to a counselor when it is not safe to call. This can be the case in domestic violence or in circumstances when people live in close quarters with one another and might be overheard. Often, teens in distress are more comfortable texting than speaking on the phone.

Sarah works as a trained Crisis Counselor with the Crisis Text Line. She completed a 30-hour training session and has committed to 200 hours of working on the text line. In addition to counseling individuals, Sarah also conducts risk assessments, takes action to ensure safety, and provides resources.

**Julia Beebe, G21**

*Urban & Environmental Planning*

Julia is the lead organizer at the Matahari Women Workers’ Center, a Boston organization where women of color and immigrant women, most of whom are employed as domestic workers, organize to end gender violence and exploitation. Immigrant women workers of color need mental health resources to cope with the fear, isolation, and financial anxiety exacerbated by the pandemic, and health justice resources to heal the generational trauma and violence exaggerated by this global moment of reckoning with systemic racism. Matahari’s member-leaders and staff are determined to meet this community need by organizing a healing justice webinar series, coordinating virtual blessing circles that center women of color (especially Black women), and connecting their community members with mental health providers and other resources – all of which will be executed with language interpretation and translation so that everyone can access these spaces and resources. They will record all activities – including virtual yoga and meditation classes, among other activities – as appropriate in order to develop a digital library of healing justice resources for immigrant women workers now and into the future.

**Alex Betley, F21**

Since the pandemic has begun, food insecurity in the United States has increased to unprecedented levels for modern times, and the rapidly progressing impact of COVID-19 on food security will have devastating consequences for the most vulnerable populations globally. In response, Alex is working with Global Minnesota, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing international understanding and engagement, to host a virtual conference in October focused on the impact of COVID-19 on food security around the world. The conference’s goal is to bring together partners from the corporate, NGO, intergovernmental, and academic realms to exchange ideas and lessons learned on how communities across the globe are best addressing COVID-19 related food security challenges, and forge new partnerships and models to support the world’s most vulnerable populations. Alex is playing a key role in conference development and planning and connecting Global Minnesota’s current partners with his own networks within academics, intergovernmental organizations and foreign policy think tanks, as well as developing promotional materials and an impact measurement system.
Ruth Block, A21  
*English and Africana Studies*

Ruth is working with Groundwork Somerville as a Community Food Relief Intern. In response to COVID-19 and the resulting economic toll, Groundwork Somerville has shifted their focus to emergency food response and community resource connection. Ruth’s project connects local food insecure families with nearby, fresh, and affordable or free produce while building Groundwork’s relationships to a network of essential resources for families, including those related to mental health, food and supplies, and internet access. Ruth will oversee communication and outreach to food insecure families to ensure that their needs are being met by local aid networks and to connect them with fresh and reliable food sources. This work will not only provide immediate relief to families, but also lay the foundation for long term equitable access to fresh food. Ruth will also be creating a series of tutorial videos on produce and farming production in her own backyard which will be used to train Groundwork youth farmers to create COVID relief farming projects.

Cassidy Boomsma, M23  
*Cassidy’s project with the Tufts Medical Center is titled “Sources of Infection (pre- and post-universal mask use) and Outcomes of Tufts Medical Center Employees Infected with COVID-19”.*
The aim of this project is to investigate COVID-19 infections in Tufts Medical Center (TMC) employees, with the ultimate goal to guide strategies to reduce exposures for healthcare workers. Since the emergence of COVID-19, healthcare workers have been at high risk of infection, resulting in mortality and severe shortages in the same workforce that is critical to addressing the pandemic. This study will examine the sources of infection within the hospital setting, pre- and post- a universal masking policy. There are three aims of this study. The first and primary aim is to identify probable sources of COVID-19 infection in TMC employees. The second aim is to assess the impact and limitations of implementing universal mask use in the hospital on the risk of COVID-19 infection of employees. The third aim is to describe and compare rates of clinical outcomes between TMC employees and the general population. The TMC Office of Human Resources believes that this study will be crucial not only internally but for healthcare facilities around the world. Cassidy will serve as project manager, leading the team of medical student research assistants.

Samuel Brill, A23  
*Undeclared Major*

Sam will be a part of a medical research team that specifically looks at the effects of COVID-19 on different populations served by St. Michael’s Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey under the guidance of the Director of Medical Research and Clinical Trials, James Fallon. The population of Newark, NJ is 47% Black or African American, 39.2% Hispanic or Latino, and 8.88% White. Approximately 28% live in poverty which is more than double the poverty rate for the entire United States. Sam’s role will include data collection and compilation for analysis through declassified patient files. This research will most closely benefit those in Newark who utilize St. Michael’s Medical Center but will have broader benefit when published.
Corey Bryton, A22  
*Biochemistry*

Families experiencing homelessness make up one of the most at-risk groups during the COVID-19 crisis, and kids in shelters are missing out on school, outdoor playgrounds, and other opportunities away from overcrowded shelter spaces. Corey will support children and families living in homeless shelters in the Greater Boston area by providing them with a STEM education video series. These videos will offer education in an array of STEM topics, including biology, chemistry, math and geology, for various age groups. Videos will also be supplemented with hands-on, interactive activities that children can participate in to promote curiosity and STEM learning. Through a partnership with Horizons for Homeless Children, Corey will distribute videos and supplies for projects to twenty-nine family shelters in the Boston area, providing children innovative and hands-on learning in essential STEM areas.

John Button, A22  
*Biochemistry and French*

As school systems moved to online learning this spring, access to continued learning has varied greatly and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and areas have suffered. John’s research project will study how the pandemic and closure of schools has impacted rural school systems and the students they serve. By documenting the many challenges that students in rural areas are facing during the current crisis, like those in John’s own hometown of East Brookfield, John’s research aims to provide policy makers with clear information on how schools in rural areas need to adapt to better support students as the pandemic continues. John is working with Dr. Gouvea, a Tufts professor whose research into the ways people learn will offer valuable insight into this work.

Fanny Cai, A20  
*Clinical Psychology*

Fanny currently volunteers as a research and project assistant at the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma (HPRT). Those who serve the health and mental health needs of torture survivors, refugees, and asylum seekers are dealing with enormous health disparities, psychosocial issues (e.g. loss of income), and racial attacks related to COVID-19. At HPRT, Fanny is working on a project to rethink self-care for helping professionals during COVID-19. As a part of this project, Fanny is producing a series of videos for the wider helping professional network within Massachusetts (and potentially even wider) that will be made available online.

Alessandra Cancalosi, N21

Farmers and growers who rely on selling produce and food to restaurants and schools are struggling to find new pipelines for their products during the pandemic. Alessandra is working with the Maine Farm to School and Farm to Institution Networks to provide funding resources, information and strategies to
support agriculture and food organizations and groups that are being impacted by COVID-19, and to reduce the hardships they are facing. Alessandra’s work specifically focuses on communication, including researching local food funding sources, updating and providing resources on the MSFN and MFIN websites, and creating and sharing newsletters to keep network members informed with updates and to offer opportunities for members to connect with one another during this challenging time.

Ned Carlson, SMFA & A23
*Environmental Science, Architecture and Sculpture*

With art galleries shuttered and the economy depleted, COVID-19 has had a profound impact on the arts at a time when art creation and sharing is needed more than ever – as an outlet for creativity, an avenue for release, and a point of connection between people. In response to these challenges Ned, a dual degree SMFA student, is creating a new digital gallery for the Tufts community to display art created during, and about, the COVID-19 pandemic. The Box’d Gallery will function as an open curated platform for Tufts and SMFA students, staff, and faculty to present their pandemic-related art to the wider Tufts community. As chief curator, website designer, social media content developer and outreach coordinator, Ned is focused on creating an open, inclusive space that fosters community, provides exposure for Tufts artists, and serves as an archive for the future.

Ruitong (Stacy) Chen, A21
*Community Health and Economics*

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)’s Academic Health Department formed the Consortium Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps (APHVC) as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stacy will serve as a volunteer in APHVC, whose mission is to leverage a large volunteer workforce of public health students and alumni to promote public health efforts through health communications, equity, administration, and other needs as identified by local boards of health. Her responsibilities include health communications to educate businesses as they reopen; working on the Phase II reopening slide deck for the policy team to be distributed through the department of health; providing infographics, website content, training, and social media content for local health boards. The locations she was assigned are north of Boston, including North Reading, North Andover and Andover.

Matthew Chilton, M23; Isabelle Doan Van; M23

Matthew and Isabelle are working on the COVID-19 Biorepository and Comprehensive Database at Tufts Medical Center, creating a comprehensive database of de-identified clinical and epidemiological data from all Tufts Medical Center patients tested for COVID-19. This database is a critical resource designed to accelerate Tufts Medical Center and Tufts University research on the epidemiology and transmission of COVID-19 as well as a variety of translational research studies aimed at characterizing SARS-CoV2 and host immune response. In addition, the work will support identification of health
disparities between people with COVID-19 in different socioeconomic groups and municipalities in Massachusetts. Matthew and Isabelle are transferring medical records of patients who have been tested/and or treated for COVID-19 into the database and supporting development of the data dictionary and automated data verification/validation queries.

Ming Dongfang, F21

Ming is working to construct a comprehensive and universally reportable social justice ‘dashboard.’ In order to do so, Ming is examining and aligning various online metrics, including the Bloomberg ESG, and collaborating with an Information System Management student at Carnegie Mellon University to design an efficient tool that measures companies’ social justice efforts. This project is closely aligned with Ming’s Research Assistant work at Digital Planet, Institute for Business in Global Context at The Fletcher School, where she recently focused on COVID contact tracing apps in different countries, and the implications of remote work on social justice. As a student of International Business at the Fletcher School, Ming’s work also closely relates to her field of study and goals for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) integration in asset management.

Imogen Eads, A22 (International Relations); Nithya Badrinath, A22 (International Relations); Emma Davis, A22 (Computer Science); Gaby Lewis, A22 (Child Study & Human Development); Danielle Piccoli, A23 (Undeclared); Mona Tavangar, A22 (Psychology); Ellen Miller (TUSM Instructor)

Many people are feeling overwhelmed, isolated, and helpless during this time – but this group of students is coming together to show that there are ways to remain civically engaged and involved in your community while social distancing and/or in quarantine. Their project is creating engaging and informative videos that provide the tools for individuals to take civic action. These videos will be shared through social media and targeted to various related groups and organizations for promotion through their channels as well. Videos will be short and engaging and cover important topics including updates on current legislation and how to contact your elected representatives, using social media to spread accurate information and stay informed, an overview of the census and how to support ensuring that everyone is counted, voting rights and local elections, and more.

Iverson Eliopoulos, A21

Music

For young musicians, the closure of youth orchestras and cancellations of concerts due to COVID-19 has had a profound impact. A strong foundation of arts education is critical for our artistic future, and yet many young musicians find themselves without the opportunity to play and practice with their orchestras or to pursue private lessons due to cost barriers during an economic and health crisis. As a cellist in the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and a music major at Tufts, Iverson is using his musical knowledge to provide free cello lessons by zoom to support young cellists continuing their musical pursuits through the pandemic. Specifically, he will be supporting young musicians connected
with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra’s Intensive Community Program (ICP) which focuses on student musicians in need and student musicians from underrepresented communities. As a teacher, mentor and support for young cellists, Iverson is supporting the ongoing education and development of the next generation of classical musicians.

Stella Elwood & Alena Naimark, V23

Stella and Alena, veterinary students at the Cummings School, will be leading a study to understand how to offer veterinary telemedicine. The goal of the study is not only to allow ongoing veterinary care during the COVID crisis when in-person appointments are only recommended for emergencies, but also to expand access to veterinary care to underserved populations and create a template for ongoing telemedicine. The study will include 200 clients of the Tufts at Tech Community Veterinary Clinic, a distinguished veterinary teaching hospital that provides economically disadvantaged people in the Worcester area with greatly subsidized veterinary care. The research design includes pre and post surveys to assess the effectiveness of telemedicine care from the perspectives of clients, student doctors and clinicians. Results will seek to highlight barriers, opportunities and best practices for utilizing telemedicine at Tufts at Tech both during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond, and share best practices with other veterinary clinics.

Ella Fasciano, A21

Civic Studies, Film and Media Studies

Ella created “Generations in Touch” to connect community members with elders who are in isolation due to COVID-19. While isolation was already a major problem for elders before the pandemic, today more people than ever are feeling the effects of being isolated and alone. Elders in nursing homes are now longer allowed visits from their loved ones or volunteers; loneliness has a negative impact on health outcomes and a will to live. “Generations in Touch” is starting in Hunterdon County, New Jersey where Ella lives. Its elder population has been the hardest hit by the pandemic because of the high levels of nursing homes and a spread-out rural aging population. Working with partners such as the local Department of Aging, Hunterdon Partnership for Health, the Mental Health Task Force and Meals on Wheels, Ella is creating a system that includes weekly phone calls between elders and community volunteers. It also includes a training for volunteers and a conversation prompt guide. Elders may also choose to participate in a storytelling initiative where they can share their perspectives and pass on their insights and ideas to the rest of the community. By creating a record of their stories, these isolated elders can make sure that their voices are shared with people around them. After learning that other countries such as the UK have national calling services to help isolated elders, Ella hopes that her program can be replicated in other locations.
Zoltan Feher, F22

Zoltan is working on a new research and writing project to address the impacts of COVID-19 and its political, social, and economic consequences on international politics. He is especially focused on how the major players of international relations (U.S., European Union, China, Russia) have handled the coronavirus within their jurisdictions and how this is affecting their international standings. Of particular interest to him is how the current pandemic and economic downturn influence the U.S.-China competition, the world economy, and the changing of the world order. He will investigate how different lenses and theories of International Relations may perceive the current situation and offer possible ways out of the world’s present conundrum. He has already been asked to contribute this work through articles in publications such as the leading Hungarian political news portal Azonnali; the Institute for Dispute Resolution (IDR) at New Jersey City University (NJCU) International Mediation, Global Business & Global Affairs Depository; eCCO Magazine, a professional publication in the field of business communications; and the Global Security Review.

Zachary Ferretti, A23

Political Science

Zachary is working with Urban Justice Center, a nonprofit legal services and advocacy organization, to support New York City’s homeless population during the pandemic. As a part of the Benefits Legal Clinic, Zachary will support the program that provides legal services to individuals denied access to public assistance benefits due to issues of unemployment and governmental delay due to COVID-19. He will also be researching partnerships with vacant hotels for temporary housing solutions while also helping to develop solutions for permanent housing. Through these roles, Zachary will serve the needs of community organizers as well as currently homeless and low-income New Yorkers in an effort to mitigate the pandemic’s financial and legal reach.

Jasmine Gale, M21

The COVID-19 National Student Response Network (NSRN) was founded by medical students as a network for health professional students across the country to support healthcare essential workers in a variety of ways, from pet and childcare to PPE drives and onsite clinical support. Jasmine is serving as one of two NSRN Massachusetts State Coordinators, building networks with health professional students in all medical, physician assistant and nursing programs across the state and connecting them to volunteer opportunities in over 500 hospitals, public health departments and other healthcare facilities. With 700 active volunteers in Massachusetts, NSRN students are having a huge impact supporting medical workers in underserved facilities, as well as through community advocacy efforts, including remote reading programs and vulnerable population support.
Connor Goggins, A21  
*Mathematics and Quantitative Economics*

COVID-19 has shuttered public transportation networks and created new challenges for urban planning and transportation. In response, cities around the world have expanded bike lanes to allow for alternate transportation, but bike lane expansion in Boston has so far targeted wealthy areas. Connor is researching the best options for new bike lanes within the City of Boston. He aims to support economically marginalized communities by providing high-quality evidence of the infrastructure that can help mitigate the very real risks inherent in commuting. His research design includes considering which areas have the least alternatives to public transportation and how to consider equity in bike lane creation. He will map out the best options for the city - including recommendations for 25, 50, and 75 additional miles of additional bike lane creation which he will share with city officials.

Mateo Gomez, E21

Mateo’s project, which is titled “Associations among air quality, meteorological factors, and COVID-19 transmission and severity,” looks to explore how various factors, such as air quality, temperature, relative humidity, and sunlight, affect the transmission and severity of COVID-19. Through this study, Mateo hopes to assess the relationships among environmental risk factors and COVID-19 trends. He plans to make vulnerability indices and state-of-the-art early warning systems publicly available on an already-existing online interactive platform through the Tufts Center for Equity in Health, Wealth, and Civic Engagement. This data can ultimately be used to support decision makers in better understanding the role of meteorological factors and air pollution as regions across the U.S. move to reopen.

Anthony Goss, A21  
*Computer Science and Civic Studies*

Anthony is interning with the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network as a Justice Tech Fellow. The Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network is the largest immigrant-led coalition in Washington state, with over 100 member organizations, serving as a hub that coordinates the grassroots organizing of immigrant communities. Anthony is working on several virtual projects to support immigrant communities through the pandemic. These include development of: a Resource Finder to share essential information and resources around COVID-19 in multiple languages reflecting the immigrant communities in the state; a video platform for community members to upload their personal stories during the pandemic which can be used to urge lawmakers to support relief funds for undocumented workers; and a secure case management system to allow staff to retain information about COVID Hotline callers and provide more holistic and sustainable support to community members.
Kurt Hager, N21 & Sara John, N21

Kurt and Sara are conducting a research project to learn how changes within federal nutrition programs due to COVID-19 are impacting low-income families. Through this project, they aim to support low-income households with school age children who are accessing nutrition programs and identify the policy changes that are most effectively supporting these American families during the pandemic, and potentially beyond. Their research design includes both surveys of 1,500 low-income households across the country and in-depth interviews of 50 participating families to better understand how federal nutrition programs are supporting food security and dietary quality, determine household motivations for participation in programs and discover if COVID-related innovations are helping manage economic and physical wellbeing. With partnerships with Qualtrics, Rhode Island Food Bank and Children’s Health Watch, their research will provide critical data that has broad policy implications for the nutrition and overall health of low-income families across the country.

Trevor Hall, A22

Biochemistry

As a first generation Questbridge scholar, Trevor knows firsthand how challenging it can be for students from low income backgrounds to navigate the college application process. While programs like Questbridge are having huge impacts for selected high school students, many other students need college access support and resources. This need is exacerbated by the pandemic which is causing incredible financial and health stress for students from low income families. Trevor’s project is the creation of a website for high school students from low income backgrounds who are looking for support and guidance on the college application process. In light of the pandemic and the mental health toll it is taking, the website will include mental health resources, sample personal statements and other information on application materials, and contact information for students from top universities across the country. As prospective students cannot travel to campuses due to both health and financial impacts of the pandemic, speaking to current students will be vital to their decision-making processes. Trevor will continue to feature new content throughout the fall to support students through their entire application process.

Kaman Hau, A22

Community Health

Kaman created The Mission Park College Access Program in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic and as a resource that provides free, remote college guidance for local low-income high school students. Kaman’s community, Mission Park, consists largely of first generation low-income students of color, many of whom are immigrants and non-English speakers. Kaman developed this program along with Emily Lew, another rising junior at Tufts, to serve as mentors, advisors, and tutors for these Boston Public School students. Resourcing their personal knowledge and experience of applying to universities as first generation college students, they will be mentoring 10-15 FGLI students of color, advise them on the college admissions process, and serve as standardized test-prep tutors.
Kristina Hopkins, A21  
*Child Studies and Human Development & Cognitive Brain Science*

As we shelter in place, one of the byproducts of COVID-19 is the constant isolation that we face. Whether we live with family or completely alone, serve as an essential worker or work behind a screen, we have all felt isolated. We are distanced from our communities, schools and loved ones. Studies on the psychological impact of quarantine show that this can have long term consequences even in a post-pandemic world. In response to these emotional challenges, Kristina is writing a children’s book called *I Feel Lonely* to help children to understand and process their feelings. The book will help kids identify loneliness and understand where it comes from, and support families in having open conversations about loneliness and coping skills. Kristina has teamed up with an illustrator and will be conducting pre-writing research on loneliness and its impact on kids, as well as learning from a mentor who is a seasoned author of children’s books. Though her book is particularly relevant to today and the impacts of COVID-19, its messaging and lessons for kids will resonate for any situation in which a child might feel lonely.

Michael Jordan, D22

Michael is using his skills as an artist to support his home community of Johnston County, NC in staying safe and informed during the pandemic. He will be creating a COVID-19 information campaign through art in public places as a means to support public health measures. Michael hopes that by illustrating facts about the pandemic and reminding people to wash their hands and wear a mask not just for themselves but for others, he will educate people in his community and encourage them to stay safe, and if possible to stay at home. He will also be using art as a means to engage elementary school students and their families, including them in activities to create public art while learning about public health issues.

Sarah Kaplan, A23  
*Undeclared Major*

In Ohio, no law prohibits the placement of children into solitary confinement in juvenile or adult facilities. This summer, Sarah is working to change that. As an intern for the Children’s Law Center (CLC) located in Northern Kentucky, she will be supporting the CLC’s special project to end juvenile solitary confinement. The CLC is a non-profit legal service center that provides individual legal advocacy to children and youth and seeks to improve the systems that serve them. The CLC offers services in Kentucky and Ohio and collaborates with other organizations within the region and nationally.

The CLC’s Stop Solitary for Ohio Youth project is devastatingly connected to COVID-19. The CLC is actively working to get children out of detention centers to free them of the risk of COVID-19 infection. According to lawsuits in five states, interviews with facility staff members, and statements from youth, juvenile and adult facilities are using solitary confinement to isolate children with COVID-19 or who
have been exposed to COVID-19. In recent months, the CLC has observed that facilities are calling their use of solitary confinement “isolation,” “room term,” “quarantine,” or “lockdown” because they do not wish to publicize their use of solitary confinement. These detention centers are inappropriately using solitary confinement to keep kids “healthy” through extreme social distancing. But because children are still developing, the psychological effects of solitary confinement are especially detrimental. As the sole undergraduate intern, Sarah will be working closely with legal interns at the CLC to develop public education materials based on their legal research.

Zara Khan, M23

Zara is working with the Director of the Science and Health Education Center at Dana Farber Cancer Institute on a project to support education about COVID-19 within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. They are developing an interactive phone application called Corona Expert to provide reliable COVID information for those living in MENA countries, with translations available in the many languages spoken in the region including Arabic, English, Farsi, French, and Swahili. This app will increase awareness and education on the virus and how to stay healthy, and is particularly aimed at young people, as those 24 and under make up nearly half of the population across the MENA region. After its launch, app users will also be invited to participate in a genomic study to better understand how the pandemic is impacting different minority groups and/or ethnicities based on their health status and other factors.

Audrey Ledbetter, A22 (Philosophy); Rachael Totz, A21 (Sociology and Civic Studies)

Audrey and Rachael are working in conjunction with the Holocaust Museum Houston to offer a writing workshop for high school students from the Houston area. Participants will use journals to reflect and cultivate their own personal narratives related to the pandemic and learn to see their voices as valuable historical narratives that will be important records of this unprecedented time. This workshop will guide students through the narrative writing process and utilize historical memoirs to illustrate how first-person accounts are essential historical artifacts. The program will result in a group compilation of participants’ narratives that will be printed and available to the public through a local bookstore.

Lenor Levy, SMFA & A23

Quantitative Economics, Visual and Fine Arts

With mass, widespread and unprecedented business closures across the nation, a staggering 44 million Americans filed for unemployment since mid-March when lockdowns began. This economic shock burdens vulnerable communities that already have fewer resources. Lower income workers who often have less to fall back on when they get sick or lose their jobs are being asked to risk their health to keep their families afloat. Sheltering at home with entire families is difficult enough, and some do not even have access to computers or online learning for their children.
Currently, there is a huge need for products to engage children who will most likely be spending their summer at home. To address this, Lenor is creating a storybook that doubles as a coloring book which will tell the stories of various essential workers in a cartoon, child-friendly form. It will highlight the importance of the often-underpaid staff who have kept the country operational during this pandemic. She hopes to document the entire process on YouTube or TikTok, where she has previously received upwards of 80k views on a single video of my art making process. She will be print the book in a low-cost format and is planning distribution through local NYC nonprofit organizations.

Rachel Levitt, A23
Community Health and Math

The Western Massachusetts Health Equity Network (WMHEN) aims to achieve the highest level of health for all residents by eliminating preventable inequities. One of their main areas of work is addressing racial injustice within the healthcare system. WMHEN has a virtual Health Equity Summit scheduled for early fall, to address how COVID-19 is exacerbating health inequities in western MA. As an intern, Rachel will work with the outreach director of WMHEN to help develop this summit and work on related projects assessing racial inequities and the pandemic. Rachel also plans to research the immigrant populations in Western Massachusetts and how they have also been disproportionately hit, assessing the many health barriers they face. Her goal is to incorporate this topic into the summit.

Raissa Li, A22
Community Health and Biology

Raissa is working with Cambridge Health Alliance’s Health Education and Access Programs to create a COVID-19 community resource guide that is easily accessible to immigrant communities. She will survey immigrant communities to determine what information should be included in the guides, and then research and consolidate current health and safety guidelines to present information in a way that is clear and culturally inclusive. Guides will be produced in English and translated into Spanish, Mandarin, Haitian Creole, Arabic and Portuguese. Finally, guides will cover essential resources on mental health as well as information to support undocumented individuals and families.

Rachel Librett, A21
International Literary & Visual Studies and Spanish

Rachel is working with StreetCred, a program at Boston University Medical Center’s pediatric department, to embed voter registration into pediatric appointments. StreetCred’s voter registration initiative targets low income families in Boston’s South End, many of whom are not native English speakers, and aims to support their ability to vote by mail in November’s national election. Civic-engagement and healthcare are not always thought of as partners in social change, but StreetCred skillfully employs their position in the community to better health and economic inequity. This project will enfranchise and empower marginalized groups in the Boston community and continue to promote children’s health and well-being in a time of crisis. Rachel’s work spans researching and designing
voter registration protocols, training office staff, and providing remote support to families and hospital staff as the program is implemented.

Gina Lightner, D21

Gina’s project aims to increase voter participation of health professionals-in-training in Tufts graduate programs in the 2020 election. Tufts graduate students are voting at lower rates than undergraduates, and older students also vote at lower levels, and these disparities are likely to grow in light of new restrictions and precautions due to COVID-19. Gina will design and implement a survey to identify specific barriers to voting faced by Tufts health professional students, particularly those that are new in relation to COVID-19. She will analyze and interpret this data and develop a centralized and convenient online resource for information. This online platform will seek to address the barriers that Gina discovers through the survey results as well as COVID-specific information including changes in election dates and policies by state, deadlines for absentee and by mail ballot requests and requirements necessary to satisfy the valid excuse requirement for those registered in states that require such for voting by mail.

Simone Lipkind, A22

International Relations

When New York City’s public school system was moved online this spring due to COVID-19, Simone was one of a group of college students who created EduMate NYC, an online platform matching New York City public school students with college student tutors. Since March 25, EduMate NYC has served 755 New York City public school students from a variety of backgrounds, prioritizing those who qualify for free and reduced lunch and who live in temporary housing and city shelters. As EduMate NYC’s English Language Student Coordinator and Resource Advisor Lead Simone’s work focuses on matching ELL students with multilingual college tutors, as well as recruiting professionals with teaching and tutoring experience to serve as Resource Advisors and support EduMate’s college tutors. The EduMate NYC team will continue to offer valuable enrichment and programming for NYC students over the summer months, continuing individual tutoring as well as offering courses in academic subjects, standardized test preparation, and the arts.

Hannah Loeb, M23

Hannah is part of a research team studying the impact of COVID-19 social distancing on people who use intravenous drugs in Maine. Previous studies have shown that people who use intravenous drugs experience more readmissions and higher mortality rates without substance abuse treatment after hospital discharge, and that people in Maine are experiencing significant barriers to accessing syringe service programs. Meanwhile, social distancing protocols are impacting peer support and drug treatment programs and human interaction, all of which can be vital for recovery. Hannah and her team seek to fully understand what impact social distancing is having on this vulnerable population, and to explore potential interventions. As a research fellow, Hannah will be conducting phone
interviews, data extraction and analysis and writing up findings. This project will bring to light important findings on how the pandemic impacts intravenous drug users and can be used to support strategies to minimize fatalities and maximize efforts to help this patient population on a local and national level.

**Nitin Malik, F20**

Nitin is working on a research project, which is called “Invisible citizens: Comparative analysis of Covid's impact on migrant communities in cities in the United States and India,” which will highlight the voices and experiences of migrant communities in both the U.S. and India during COVID-19. In order to do this, Nitin plans to conduct a rigorous analysis of COVID-19’s impact and the city governments’ policy actions in both countries. Preliminary analysis of COVID-19’s impact suggests that current policies have an outsized and disproportionate impact on migrant communities. One of the main goals of the project is to identify whether there are any systemic biases present in public policy-making, which make migrants invisible, and thereby, negatively impact migrant communities.

**Alexandros Markowitz, A21**  
*Biopsychology*

Due to COVID-19, many cancer survivors have been unable to attend in-person meetings at clinics yet remain in dire need of support services. For his project, Alexandros is supporting survivors by helping to develop and refine a protocol for a virtually delivered mind-body health intervention involving relaxation and mindfulness techniques. These mind-body techniques have been found to alleviate symptoms of fear of cancer recurrence (FCR), which is widespread among survivors and associated with distress and hopelessness. Optimizing the virtual administration of these techniques, while assessing the feasibility, acceptability, and effect of this program, is thus crucial in improving the health outcomes of survivors who have difficulties attending in-person sessions. Alexandros is working with Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School on this project.

**Alex Maykel, A21**  
*Biology and Economics*

With the K-12 school cut short and remote learning inaccessible to many children from lower-income families, there is a disparity in preparedness for school in the coming year. The Angel Net Foundation, which is based out of Alex’s hometown of Worcester, helps to prevent summer learning loss in math, reading, and writing among immigrant and refugee children. This year, they needed more help than ever because of a steep increase in learning loss and the decrease in volunteers due to the remote program. Alex will design and run the first-ever STEM program at Angels-Net over the summer. The course will meet twice per week and will introduce interesting concepts in the STEM field to students in an engaging way. His class consists of 7th and 8th graders who have shown strong interest in the STEM field over the past months. Students will be introduced to topics about environmental science, physics, and biology and include weekly experiments done at home together via Zoom.
Austen Money, SMFA & A23

*Studio Art*

With schools closed and parents juggling work and childcare, kids are missing the creative outlets that school and extracurricular activities provide. Using her background in both visual art and teaching, Austen's project is creating craft kits for kids that will be delivered on a weekly basis to families in her community of Blythewood, SC. These kits will be designed age-appropriately and projects will be as independent as possible so as not to require constant parental supervision. Tactile activities like origami, painting, jewelry-making, play-doh sculpting, and simple science experiments would be included along with written and picture instructions to guide each project. In order to support students working on the project, Austen will hold a weekly Zoom time for both social connections and instruction. To foster community among participating families, Austen will create a facebook page where students can upload photos of their projects and families can participate in polls and offer feedback to help Austen create her next kits.

Danielle Mulligan, G21

*Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning*

Danielle’s project engages Boston Public School high school students over the summer in a participatory action research project. The goal is to answer the question: How is COVID-19 impacting young people’s experience of gentrification or the threat of gentrification in Boston? Using a Youth Participatory Action (YPAR) framework, this project addresses three key needs. The first is a need for consistent, engaging, and affirming opportunities for youth over the summer when many programs have been postponed due to COVID-19. Second is a need for more youth voices in research both broadly, and more specifically, on the topic of gentrification and how this phenomenon impacts young people. Third is a need to document (and inspire action to address) the ways that COVID is exacerbating the existing crisis of displacement in Boston. Through addressing each of these needs, Danielle hopes her project will spur many direct and indirect benefits to communities across Boston.

Thawanda Malambo, A23

*Economics*

In Thawanda’s home country of Zambia the number of COVID-19 cases are increasing rapidly. With the pending opening of schools and lack of PPE available, there is great concern that case numbers will continue to climb. Thawanda is managing a group of ten tailors whose businesses have been negatively impacted by COVID-19 to produce face masks to be distributed at underfunded public schools. Thawanda will distribute 15,000 face masks to support the health and safety of students and staff in low income communities.
Allison Neeson, M23

Allison is working with the Medical Director of the Division of STD Prevention & HIV/AIDS Surveillance at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on two projects around the impact of COVID-19 on health in the state. The first project will examine how COVID-19 directly impacts health in the pediatric population through the Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C), a recent spike of which suggests a link to COVID-19. As part of the team examining admission and discharge summaries of all children admitted with MIS-C in Massachusetts, Allison is supporting the state in tracking data related to the disease, treatment methods, and outcomes. Concurrently, Allison is also supporting research into the impact of COVID-19 on sexual health. With primary and specialty care offices closed and people afraid to visit the doctor due to risk of transmission, there is decreased access to routine STI screening and gynecological care. Allison’s team is developing a longitudinal study to examine whether patients with bacterial STIs reported during the COVID-19 pandemic have a higher incidence of more complicated or severe disease, compared to before the pandemic began.

Chima Omike, F22

As the pandemic shut down schools in Chima’s home country of Nigeria most secondary school students are not receiving any form of education as schools lack the financial ability to offer virtual learning resources. Chima is working with Children That Change The World (CTCTW) Academy to offer virtual educational resources for secondary school students in the Ogbomoso region. CTCTW Academy is currently offering virtual pre-recorded classes in all major subjects as well as unconventional subjects like computer programming, cognitive thinking and financial intelligence. They have also partnered with a gaming quiz platform to offer interactive and fun ways to learn, and have reached 79 students so far, with a goal of reaching up to 3,000 in the coming weeks. In addition, he is working with CTCTW Academy to expand radio program previously offered to increase educational access to all families, regardless of internet access. They plan to expand this program to offer daily radio classes during the pandemic to reach all students daily. Chima’s role will be to support CTCTW Academy with monitoring and evaluation, supporting monitoring efforts and offering strategies to make these efforts more effective.

Seth Owusu-Mante, F21

As the government in Seth’s home country of Ghana plans to ease virus-related restrictions there is a lack of educational materials in local languages to support people in staying safe and healthy. Seth’s project will share important information about the virus and best practices for preventative measures in order to support rural communities and vulnerable populations in combating COVID-19. As the founder of Young Diplomats of Ghana, a nonprofit that engages young people, Seth is uniquely positioned to spearhead this initiative. He is utilizing YDG members to create brief videos in 8 local Ghanaian languages sharing public health information on the virus and ways to stay safe. These videos will be distributed widely through social media, WhatsApp, and distributed to church groups and local
leaders in rural areas. Finally, Seth is also running a fundraising campaign with the goal of distributing PPE to rural communities and health care workers across the country.

**Ellen Park, A22; Sharif Hamidi, A21**  
*Community Health*

As interns for Connect for Health Colorado (Colorado’s state-based health exchange), Ellen and Sharif will be working on a number of projects intended to directly reduce the uninsured rate caused by the coronavirus in Colorado and help ensure all Coloradans have access to affordable coronavirus testing and treatment. Established under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), state-based exchanges provide an opportunity for individuals and small businesses to purchase health coverage when they do not receive employer-sponsored insurance or make too much money to qualify for Medicaid. During times of recession, health care exchanges see increased enrollment. The current recession caused by the pandemic has also created a dramatic increase in the uninsured rate, due to the loss of employer-sponsored insurance. In her specific role as a Policy Research and Implementation Intern, she will be responsible for learning the ins and outs of health exchange policy. Under the supervision of Tufts alum Emma Oppenheim A’12, Ellen and Sharif will be working on a number of projects intended to reduce the uninsured rate caused by the coronavirus pandemic in Colorado, and help ensure that all Coloradans have access to affordable coronavirus testing and treatment.

**James Parker, A21 (Biology); Samar Shaqour, A21 (Biopsychology)**

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a dire toll on census work as in-person census polling now carries a health risk. Samar and James have designed a project to increase census participation, particularly for low-wage people of color, immigrant workers, people experiencing homelessness and non-English speakers. Samar and James are volunteering with census phone banks, recruiting other students and community members to join these efforts, and connecting with local community organizations who work with vulnerable constituencies at risk of not being counted. They are also organizing social media campaigns and hosting virtual information sessions to educate others on the importance of participating in the census as well as recruit additional volunteers for their efforts.

**Palak Patel, D22**

Palak’s project is to create virtual oral health games and activities for students at the Lee School in Dorchester. While schools and teachers work to design creative online learning and educational activities, there remains a gap for young children to find innovative ways to learn and play virtually. As a dental student who is accustomed to interactive, hands-on, and collaborative classroom settings, Palak is hoping to keep young students engaged through fun oral health activities. Examples of these include “Beach Blanket (Oral Health) Bingo” and “Smile Wide Jeopardy,” which can be designed in an online format and played over Zoom. Palak also plans to coordinate dental arts and crafts projects to be done at home and lead interactive project-making activities. This project expands on the pre-existing connection that TUSDM has with the Lee School, which Tufts has supported for over 24 years.
Jean Phuong Pham, EG21

Jean is conducting an in-depth analysis on the effects of COVID-19 testing in the United States. Many experts have warned about the second wave of COVID-19 with peak time happening in the fall or winter of 2020. One of the measurements that determine the state of our public health is the accessibility to COVID-19 testing across the nation. Without adequate testing for the general population, many states will have to face the second or third wave of COVID-19 that can cause human casualties that exceed the current magnitude. By leveraging the power of data science and qualitative interviews, Jean’s research project aims to bring clarity to the current state of COVID-19 testing in the U.S. and provides pragmatic recommendations from both macro and micro levels. As a Board member of the Association of Vietnamese Students and Professionals in the U.S., Jean hopes to use public data collected by the Vietnam Ministry of Health, specifically related to testing and contact tracing. Jean will use both data science and qualitative interviews in order to provide insights and recommendations on both micro and macro levels, especially for marginalized groups and vulnerable populations during these critically challenging times.

Riley Platten, E22

Biomedical Engineering

Riley is designing a system that can create filters in order to provide a more reliable and safer solution to commonly-used thin cloth masks. Using 3D printing technology, Riley will build and test an electrospinning system, which can create filters that offer comparable performance to N95 masks at a relatively cheap price point. Riley will upload a list of non-3D printable parts and video tutorial to his Tufts website, which is available to the public, so anyone can download and print the parts. Additionally, Riley’s website will contain suggestions of possible materials that can be used, offering a relatively cheap method for producing effective mask filters on a larger scale.

Lena Popkin, A22

Women’s Studies and Civic Studies

Lena is working with a criminal defense attorney (and Tufts alumna) to support petitions for passionate release for prisoners who face serious health risks from exposure to COVID-19. Prisons have emerged as dangerous viral hotspots and Lena’s work reviewing cases, researching rules and regulations and preparing communication on behalf of inmates is vital to protecting a population that has been largely neglected during the current health crisis.

Channah Powell, A21

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Biology

The Boston Circle of Movimiento Cosecha is "a nonviolent movement fighting for permanent protection, dignity, and respect for the eleven million undocumented immigrants in the United States," currently supporting the undocumented community in Greater Boston during the COVID-19 crisis.
pandemic has put this population which is already extremely vulnerable at even greater risk who are on the frontlines, working essential jobs to keep our society afloat without receiving financial or social support from the federal government. They are facing disproportionate rates of unemployment, poverty, and illness. Channah’s role will be to act as an organizer, grant writer, and administrator, with a focus on virtual fundraising events for the Undocumented Worker Fund. Additionally, Cosecha has formed a unique coalition with Never Again Action, a Jewish organization fighting against unjust immigration policies. Channah will be working directly to support this partnership, building resources and relationships across these communities.

Haya Raef, M22

Haya is working in conjunction with a dermatologist from Massachusetts General Hospital to create free skin care kits for front line health care workers who are treating COVID patients. The prevalence of skin damage of first-line health care workers was found to be 97% in a recent study. This damage is largely PPE induced and includes skin damage from wearing tight masks, contact dermatitis from increased exposure to soap and rubber in gloves and respirators as well as dryness from frequent hand washing and sanitizing, which compromises the skin barrier and increases risk of infection. Haya’s project addresses these concerns by supplying health care workers with sample skin products that alleviate these issues. They have so far distributed 300 skin care kits to health care workers at Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, and plan to expand to distribute at least another 500 kits to health care workers in the Portland, Maine area. In addition to providing health care workers with these skin care kits, their team has also provided kits for 800 people experiencing homelessness in the Portland and Boston regions.

Joseph Raphael, A21

*Biology*

Joseph is contributing to scientific studies on the treatment of COVID-19 by conducting remote radiological research. His project builds on initial work by early investigators during the first few weeks of the outbreak by evaluating novel radiological data specifically from cancer patients to better characterize ground-glass, consolidative pulmonary opacities and vascular dilatation. In doing so, he hopes to understand if COVID-19 more closely resembles a bacterial infection in cancer patients as compared to the commonly characterized viral infection in non-cancer patients. Upon completion of the project, Joseph will publish and/or distribute his work to cancer centers around the world, with the goal of improving treatment for cancer patients as they battle the devastating pulmonary effects of COVID-19.

Vaughn Rogers, A23 (Biopsychology); Maximilan Eimbinder, A23 (Biology & Biopsychology)

Vaughn and Maximilan’s project consists of creating a comprehensive, accessible literature review of COVID-19 information. This would include a systematic review of existing published information about COVID-19 in order to present correct findings in an accessible format and combat false, scientifically
inaccurate, but widely circulated information. They will examine current findings on pathology, different impacts the virus has had socially, economically, and racially. The two plan to create a website that will easily present findings in a straightforward and user-friendly fashion. They will update the site as new findings are released and hope to expand their work by looking at current models and analyzing and compiling their data.

**Miguel Rothe, E22 (Civil Engineering); Elsa Rohm, E22 (Environmental Engineering); Noah Bedrosian, E22 (Environmental Engineering)**

The Lantagne Group, a lab at Tufts that seeks to reduce the burden of infectious diseases in low-income and emergency contexts, is researching the persistence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus on surfaces and the most effective means of disinfection. As a team, Noah Bedrosian, Elsa Rohm and Miguel Rothe are supporting this research by conducting a systematic review of scientific literature regarding COVID-19 and extracting data relevant to low-income and humanitarian contexts worldwide. They will summarize this data in both a technical manuscript and an easily accessible and comprehensive fact sheet for healthcare providers, governments, agencies, and humanitarian responders in such contexts. Their goal is to support the timeliness and quality of situation-specific aid for low-income populations with limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene resources.

**Rebecca Rose, A23**

*Community Health*

Massachusetts is home to the second largest Brazilian immigrant population in the country, many of whom reside in Tufts host communities of Medford and Somerville. Becca’s project aims to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the Brazilian community in these areas and to utilize these findings to develop culturally and linguistically appropriate educational materials to address COVID-19 information needs. As an alumna of the Tufts 1+4 Bridge Year program in Brazil, Becca is putting her Portuguese skills and cultural knowledge to use. Becca will add questions specifically about COVID-19 to a survey instrument she helped design with a team at Tufts and in collaboration with community partners and public health organizations including the Brazilian Women’s Group and the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs. The study utilizes Community-Engaged Research to engage active input from community members and organizations. Findings will be used to create infographics, PSAs and/or digital stories focused on COVID-19 transmission, strategies to minimize exposure, signs and symptoms of illness, treatment strategies, and available resources for support during the pandemic.

**Maycon Santos, E22**

*Engineering Psychology*

Maycon is from Januba, Brazil, located in the Serra Geral Valley. According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics Foundation (IBGE), around 70% of the local population lives with $5 a day. There is only one public hospital to fulfill the needs of approximately 300 thousand people distributed in over 16 different villages and small towns.
There are not enough ventilators for everyone with respiratory complications, therefore initiatives from local engineers and designers are developing scalable, low-cost ventilators. Maycon will be working with The Minas Up Institute, a nonprofit organization whose current focus is to develop accessible and scalable ventilators to help alleviate the impacts of coronavirus on the only hospital. Maycon will be designing buckles that make face masks less painful to wear for the healthcare workers treating coronavirus patients and working on the development of an automated ventilator with adapted windscreen wiper motors.

**Carl Schirmeister, A21**  
*Biochemistry*

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted low income communities and exacerbated issues of food insecurity and hunger. Together with two health professionals and a software engineer, Carl is part of a team effort to create an initiative to provide free food delivery for food insecure COVID patients for a full two weeks to cover their quarantine. This project supports patients who are food insecure by providing food and grocery delivery for their entire household for two weeks while also reducing the risk for the broader community by keeping COVID positive patients out of grocery stores, food banks and public places. The project has so far partnered with over twenty community organizations to provide food and assistance, and Carl plays an essential role by bridging the gap between the Cambridge Health Alliance Hospital system and the community-based organizations conducting food delivery. This essential program has so far served 845 individuals in Northwest Boston, primarily focused on Tufts’ neighboring communities of Somerville, Medford, Cambridge and Everett.

**Jordan Sclar, A22**  
*Psychology*

Jordan is writing and illustrating a children’s book for young children of healthcare workers and first responders. Many frontline workers have to leave their homes for days on end and social distance from their families due to COVID exposure at their jobs, leaving young children with confusion and distress. The goal of Jordan’s book is both to inform and provide support for children through text and images that explain the pandemic as well as highlight parents working the front lines as superheroes who are helping others and saving lives. The book will focus on why parents have to social distance and support young children in understanding why their regular routines and interactions have changed. The final book will be distributed through social media as a free PDF to ensure widespread and easy access.

**Radhika Sharma, A23**  
*Biology and Community Health*

Twenty-three million Indian girls have dropped out of school due to menstruation-related issues, and the pandemic has exacerbated and amplified the challenges that Indian women and girls face around menstruation and cultural norms. As the author of *A Guide to Menstruation: Sparking the Discussion to a*
Healthy Period which has been translated into six languages and is utilized in schools in eight Indian states, Radhika is uniquely poised to continue to support conversation, education and sanitation for Indian women and girls, and to address the specific challenges that the pandemic poses for this population. Radhika’s project focuses on providing education, sanitary materials and sanitation facilities to begin to address the gaps in menstrual equity that have widened during COVID-19. Her organization Project Period will safely distribute A Guide to Menstruation and reusable pads to rural households and build community toilets in a small town where lack of toilet access causes health and safety challenges for women who are menstruating. She is also updating her book to contain pandemic-specific information to help girls avoid exposure to COVID-19 and navigate having their period during a pandemic.

**Ryan Sheehan, E21**  
*Computer Science*

Ryan and a group of friends created CovidGoodNews to offer uplifting and inspiring stories amidst the loss and fear of the pandemic. Their platform has found a growing audience of 3.3k followers on Instagram and 4.1k website users and has created community and positivity for people feeling anxious and sad about our current health crisis. Ryan’s project is an extension of this platform called CovidGoodNews: By the Numbers – a quantitative, data-driven design-led visualization of the good things happening during COVID-19. Whether it is the increase in music and art being created or the types of online communities that are forming around the world, Ryan’s visualizations will use statistics to highlight some of the creative and impactful ways that people are responding to the pandemic.

**Matthew Siegel, A22**  
*Biopsychology*

Matthew is working with the World Peace Foundation at the Fletcher School on a project with lead researcher Bridget Conley. Called “Tracking Covid-19 in Detention”, its aim is to both qualitatively and quantitatively track the spread of Covid-19 through prisons and jails across the country. Detention settings facilitate the spread of contagious diseases; as such, this coronavirus has spread far more quickly in prisons and jails than in the general population. As well, a disproportionate amount of people in detention settings are in an at-risk category for this disease. Matthew will be completing case studies and researching different state policies. The culmination then will be to use this information to construct a list of effective policies for detention facilities in the case of a second wave of the virus. The goal is to see more releases allowed in order to decrease the incarcerated population, testing will be quicker and more accessible in detention settings, and policies to mitigate the spread overall will be adopted more quickly with guidance from public health experts.

**Eric Smith, F21**

Eric will be serving on InterAction’s humanitarian team, which has been working with its members to address the effects of COVID-19. As the largest alliance of international NGOs and partners in the
United States, InterAction has launched a COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Working Group and leveraged its U.N. Partnerships Working Group for COVID-19 adaptive humanitarian programming. In addition, InterAction has used its network to put pressure on lawmakers to include humanitarian funding in COVID-19 bills. InterAction’s work has delved into how COVID-19 has exacerbated issues of agriculture, democracy and governance, conflict zones, gender equality, global health, and climate change. Eric’s work includes conducting literature reviews and researching key policy issues, assisting with tracking global policies and contributions, and generating data visualizations and information materials.

Eric Spencer, A23  
*Political Science*

The COVID-19 pandemic has created unique challenges to democratic institutions and participation in the United States, and comes at a critical time as we conduct a Census and prepare for a presidential election. Eric’s work with MassVOTE will address the need for full, fair and equal participation in elections and in the 2020 Census in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. By expanding vote by mail options, ensuring an accurate Census count, and lobbying for election day voter registration in Massachusetts, Eric’s advocacy work focuses on ensuring that marginalized communities who are being particularly impacted by COVID-19 have access to civic engagement and voting rights. Eric will conduct policy research, spearhead media and communications campaigns, lobby state legislature and raise public awareness of the crucial challenges that COVID-19 is causing our democracy.

Ruben Torres, E22  
*Biomedical Engineering*

As cities begin reopening after the first wave of COVID-19 and risks of a second wave of infections are imminent, any and all precautionary measures that mitigate the propagation of the virus will be instrumental. Given the importance of sanitation, Ruben’s project seeks to provide a cheap, fast and reliable way to sanitize personal items, such as phones, wallets, and keys. Ruben is collaborating with a Tufts postdoctoral scholar, Dr. Vincent Fitzpatrick, to create a UV-C sanitation booth, which could be used to deactivate microbial agents that may be carried on personal belongings. This booth could function as a public station where peoples’ personal belongings, often breeding grounds for microbial organisms, can be sanitized and made pathogen-free within minutes, limiting the spread of infection.

Puneet Tripathi, EG20; Nirant Chilimbi, EG20

Puneet and Nirant will be working with the Center for Global Data Visualization (CGDV) and centering their work on the spread of COVID-19 in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, and Egypt. All of these countries have had an increasing number of cases, exacerbated by high population density, limited health care systems, and existing food insecurity issues. The organization prioritizes the use of data in achieving better outcomes in health, education, social equality, and economic advancement, and the two will work closely with Tufts Gordon Institute Gerry Brown in pursuing their project.
Ravy Uong, F21

While developed nations like the U.S. grapple with the immense challenge of reconciling the health and safety of workers with the economic cost of re-opening economies, less attention has been paid to implications for laborers at the other end of global supply chains. Southeast Asia, in particular, is a global manufacturing hub with a high concentration of factories. With global demand for many products severely curtailed as a result of COVID-19, the region faces unprecedented challenges. Factory workers are not able to work remotely and will likely see already dangerous working conditions exacerbated even further by COVID-19. Many other workers are likely to lose their jobs altogether, with few if any opportunities to replace their lost wages.

Ravy’s project seeks to examine and better understand these impacts on manufacturing workers in Southeast Asia, focusing primarily on Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Indonesia. In addition to identifying livelihood impacts and formulating worker archetypes to demonstrate challenges faced, Ravy is assessing policy and aid responses undertaken by government, the private sector, and multilateral organizations. The project analyzes how effective these responses are to the workers and formulate recommendations for improvement, culminating in a final report that can help better inform policy makers, NGOs and multilateral organizations, and private sector stakeholders.

Amruta Valiyaveetil, V22

During the COVID lockdown, UN Women’s organisations have deemed the issue of domestic and emotional abuse as the ‘shadow pandemic’ with world statistics reaching colossal numbers. Amruta’s project is to create an online forum through which English-speaking Indian women can discuss issues of emotional abuse during COVID-19. The website will include links to books, music, videos and short stories of abuse experienced by women, as well as anonymous question posts by women who feel like they could be in an abusive relationship or have realized they are experiencing abuse. This online forum will help address the issue of emotional abuse faced by women trapped in homes during the times of COVID. Amruta’s goal is to build a dynamic and user-friendly website, “where women can just be heard, seen and form a community to dissect and build upon our understanding of emotional abuse in India during COVID, while supporting one another.”

Silvia Wang, A23

Undeclared Major

Silvia will be an intern to help launch the Global Center for Climate Justice, directed by Christina Schlegel, a Tufts alumna and climate justice researcher, and Daniel Faber, an author and professor at Northeastern University. Silvia will work throughout the summer compiling, writing, and researching information about COVID 19 linked to environmental justice, and how it disproportionately affects communities of color and low-income communities. As the newsletter coordinator, she will create and send out weekly newsletters for the organization, which will cover information about the pandemic in relation to climate change and provide an advocates’ toolkit for readers to use.
Julian Willett, M20

The COVID19 crisis has led to an unparalleled rise in healthcare use that has come with increasing demands in items required to protect both patients and healthcare providers. As global trade faces limits due to the virus, innovation in protective equipment is required to ensure care can continue to be delivered to the sick. Julian’s project is to create protective equipment, PPE, for healthcare providers nationally so the vulnerable can continue receiving the outstanding and adequate care they deserve. Julian creates this equipment using 3D printing and is working with Operation Dynamo to send requested items to medical centers across the country.

Julia Williams, A22
Child Study & Human Development and Education

Julia is working with the nonprofit organization ThinkGive to review and update their curriculum educating middle school and junior high students on the importance of kindness, connection, and empathy. This project is particularly relevant and essential due to both the pandemic as well as the recent incidents of police violence against Black people. ThinkGive teaches children the importance of connection, actively educates students to dismantle harmful and limiting stereotypes, and focuses on kindness to oneself, which is especially necessary in such a stressful time. Social emotional learning is taking on a new level of importance as we educate children how to handle difficult and troubling times, and ThinkGive’s work centers this pedagogy. Julia’s role includes updating and refreshing older learning materials to fit the new modern aesthetics of the organization, scouting new materials that are more relatable to diverse communities, and joining staff in general revisions of both curriculum and resources.