Undergraduate Spotlight
Farewell Seniors!

Siriana Abboud will be working on her MA in Early Childhood Education with bilingual extension at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Arielle Cohen is planning to attend Loyola Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago following graduation.

Mattie Hedgebeth plans to return to her home state of Maryland. There she plans to work while volunteering in a psychology lab at the University of Maryland. In the fall, she will apply to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in psychological anthropology.

Danielle Lehmann will be working in NYC for an internship and then will be returning to CMU for a Masters of Arts in Professional Writing.

Stanton Man will be missing the Children’s School from Philadelphia where he will be working for Accenture as a Digital Consulting Analyst.

Jessey Schwartz plans to work in research before attending graduate school for speech pathology in 2017.

April Tillinghast will be attending Texas A&M University’s Masters of Education Program and hopes to teach near Houston, Texas.

Sam Walczak will continue his education at the Heinz College getting his Masters of Information Systems Management degree. Afterwards, he hopes to do technology consulting through an international company that will allow him to utilize his Chinese language skills.

1000PLUS Volunteer Day

On Saturday, April 2, six CMU student volunteers worked with Miss Hancock to prepare the playground and hillside garden for the spring. The students worked to “fluff” the playground mulch that had compacted over the winter. In addition, they removed leaf debris on the hillside, pruned our perennials, and turned over the soil in the garden beds to prepare for our spring planting days in May. Thank you so much to these hardworking volunteers!!
Honor for Siriana Abboud

Excerpts from “Respect and Compassion Drive Senior’s Educational Philosophy”
By Emily Stimmel (https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/news/news-stories/2016/april/lankford-prize.html)

Siriana Abboud’s (DC’16) educational philosophy is simple: “Tout moun se moun.” Derived from a Haitian proverb meaning “All people are people,” the phrase encapsulates respect, dignity and compassion — values that drive Abboud’s teaching and volunteer work. “As a teacher, I cannot assume that I can completely change the lives of the students I will teach,” said Abboud, a psychology major with an additional major in French and Francophone Studies. “Rather, they will influence me as I influence them.”

To recognize her commitment to quality education, Abboud has been selected as the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences’ 2016 recipient of the Gretchen Lankford Prize. Modern Languages Department Head Susan Polansky nominated Abboud for the award. She remarked, “Siriana is a true global citizen with multicultural and multilingual skills in English, French and Arabic. She has lived, worked and volunteered in diverse places around the globe, including Lebanon and Haiti.” As a freshman, Abboud co-founded CMU in Haiti and joined Carnegie Mellon University’s International Student Union. On a 2014 visit to her home country of Lebanon, she gained hands-on clinical experience as a psychiatric intern at the American University of Beirut Medical Center and at a men’s drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic. And as a development intern at Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) in Pittsburgh, she helped organize fundraisers and connect HAS to other non-profit organizations working in Haiti. Through activities like these, Abboud has developed a multicultural perspective that informs her teaching in the Children’s School. Last fall, Abboud enrolled in Sharon Carver’s “Practicum in Child Development,” a course designed to help students deepen their understanding of developmental psychology by assisting in a classroom. Carver, the director of the Children’s School, noted Abboud’s nuanced understanding of child development. “She frequently noted cross-cultural commonalities and contrasts based on her personal experiences, and she challenged the group to consider many types of diversity that might impact development,” Carver wrote.

The prize is named for the late Gretchen Goldsmith Lankford, a 1943 graduate of Margaret Morrison College. It underscores Lankford’s deep conviction that “devoted teaching makes a difference in the lives of young people, helping them to fulfill their potentials as intellectuals, citizens and as human beings.” To Polansky, Abboud exemplifies Lankford’s vision for the prize. “She has already excelled in teaching and is working with students of different ages, cultures and backgrounds, both locally and internationally. She appreciates how crucial education is, and she is passionate about cultivating networks for growth to make the lives of individuals and groups better,” Polansky said. After graduating from CMU, Abboud will pursue her M.A. in early childhood education with a bilingual extension from Columbia University, Teachers College. She hopes to eventually work in education policy and reform. Abboud commented, “It was so inspiring to meet students and teachers who fought to break down the barriers of a broken educational system on a daily basis.” She also draws inspiration from the Dietrich College faculty who encouraged her to pursue the enriching work of education. “I have been warned time and time again that teaching will be a challenging profession. The most important thing I can have to succeed will be support,” said Abboud. “Through this award, I have found support from fellow educators, and I have a new spark of excitement to begin my graduate studies and find my way back into the classroom.”