



## Chaddick Scholar Candidates

2018 – 2019



### Kyle Acevedo

Kyle grew up in the Northwest Suburb of Franklin Park. He is a first-generation college graduate and is currently working on his Master's in Sustainable Urban Development with a certificate in Metropolitan Planning and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at DePaul University. Kyle earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Zoology with an emphasis on Ecology. Kyle also had a chance to study abroad at James Cook University in Townsville Australia during the 2016 school year. While at JCU, he studied Marine Biology and assisted in The Global FinPrint Project. He has interned with the Cook County Department of Building and Zoning and is currently interning at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). His research interests include: Ecological Conservation and Restoration, Sustainable Transportation, and Local Government.

In his free time, Kyle is usually cheering on Chicago sports: Da Bears, Da Bulls, and Da White Sox. He also enjoys staying up to date in global news and issues and aspires to one day become the Mayor of a small town.



### Seth Baker

Seth is a graduate student in DePaul's Master of Public Administration program with a specialization in Public Management. In 2012, he earned a BA in Business Administration from Loyola University Chicago. His interests include: human resources in the public sector (what he does for a living!), the development of human potential, and the impact of public projects on low income and minority populations.

His favorite part of being a Chaddick Scholar is learning interesting things about cities that are close to Chicago.



### Nora Beamish-Lannon

Nora is pursuing a Master of Public Service Management degree with a concentration in Metropolitan Planning and Urban Affairs. She earned her bachelor's from Oberlin College in 2013 with a degree in Art History. Her coursework in architectural history first sparked her interest in the built environment and its ability to shape the metropolitan experience. Nora currently works for an international nonprofit in Chicago. She appreciates the opportunities to both develop skills necessary for effective nonprofit service while building a closer connection to the city she calls home.

A lifelong Chicagoan, involvement with Chaddick has been an excellent way to see the city—and region—in a new light. Study trips, visits with planning professionals, and interaction with Chaddick staff have helped illuminate how contemporary issues facing the city are tackled and where Chicago might go from here.



## **Isabella Downes**

Isabella is currently a first-year graduate student in the Master's in Sustainable Urban Development Program at DePaul. She is interested in transportation and economic development, particularly in cities that have seen economic divestment and devastation. She attended Wayne State University in Detroit, MI where she received an undergraduate degree in public relations. While in Detroit, she created a start to finish clean-up initiative and has a background in communications working for General Motors Headquarters.

She knew that the Chaddick Institute was the place for her after reading an article that quoted DePaul Public Policy Professor, Joe Schwieterman. Isabella had just been admitted to DePaul's SUD program and decided to immediately email Joe and became an active member of the Chaddick Institute. In May, she was selected to attend the Transportation Research Forum National Conference in Washington D.C. with Chaddick as a presenter where, along with fellow Chaddick Scholar's, presented their research.



## **Conner Rettig**

Conner is currently pursuing his Master's in Sustainable Urban Development with a certificate in Community Development. He is originally from South Lake Tahoe, California and has worked on a variety of sustainability and volunteerism projects and programs in Massachusetts, Oregon, Indiana, and California.

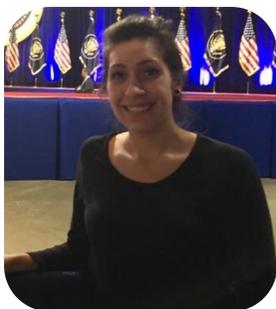
He is currently a research intern with the American Planning Association (APA) and a communications and outreach intern with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP); he plans on pursuing a career in building social equity and sustainability initiatives for local municipalities upon graduation.



## **Stephen Rodney**

Raised in Southern California, Stephen attended Loyola University Chicago and earned his Bachelor of Arts in 2016. After working at the University of California, Los Angeles, Stephen returned to Chicago to pursue the Master of Public Policy program at DePaul University. Stephen has immersed himself in his studies and has focused his assignments around transportation equity and accessibility. Stephen has interned for the Regional Transportation Authority and is currently an intern for the Chicago Transit Authority. Stephen is also an active member of the Young Professionals in Transportation and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Stephen's most memorable experience at DePaul was when he had the opportunity to travel to Springfield, IL. To meet with Illinois State Representatives and Senators. Stephen was able to take what he learned through his experiences as a Chaddick Scholar and apply it in meaningful conversations with elected officials. Stephen aspires to be a transportation and infrastructure policy analyst and work in some form of government capacity.



## **Jaquelyn Rodriguez**

Jaquelyn is a Chicago native and Double Demon. In 2016, she earned her bachelor's degree from DePaul in Civic Engagement and Leadership. With a special interest in poverty and inequity, she is currently pursuing a Master of Public Policy degree. She is an activist foremost, having organized, volunteered, and rallied all over the world. She previously co-founded a non-profit for sustainable education and interned at the YWCA in their Mission Impact department. She currently serves on the Community Relations Commission of Oak Park and The Steering Committee for the ACLU of Central IL.

The Chaddick Institute piqued her interest as a new lens for solving inequity and poverty. Since most of her experience has been in aid, representation or empowerment, she thought looking at infrastructure and planning would be an interesting learning experience. The study trips really have given her insight into how she can make a difference and why things take so long to change.



## **Kevin Snyder**

Kevin is a first-year student in DePaul's Master of Public Policy program. He has an extensive background in non-profit fundraising and development, and currently supports a wide array of faculty research on public policy, community engagement, and social sciences as an Associate Director of Foundation and Corporate Relations at the University of Chicago. Kevin strives to bridge the gap between research and policy, and is interested in helping governments better utilize data and research in their policy-making process to ensure social and economic equity at all levels.

Previously, Kevin lived in Washington, DC and worked at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In 2013, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Performance from Youngstown State University. In his free time, Kevin enjoys participating in Chaddick Study Trips, ice hockey, and hiking.



## **Santa Torrijo**

Santa grew up in the Southwest side of Chicago. She is a first-generation college student pursuing a Master of Public Policy degree at DePaul. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature from Northeastern Illinois University, graduating with University Honors. Her professional experience includes the completion of several internships with the Chicago City Clerk and the Department of Human Resources. She is currently employed by the City of Chicago's Department of Finance.

Her research interests include transportation and education attainment and accessibility across the city of Chicago. She is committed to pursuing a leadership role in the public sector, which would enable her to advocate for under-served communities and the need for an affordable, reliable and equitable transportation system across the city.