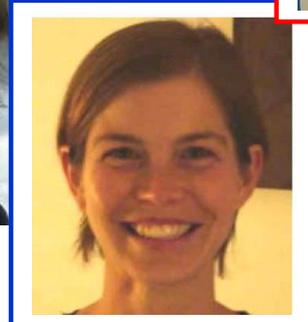
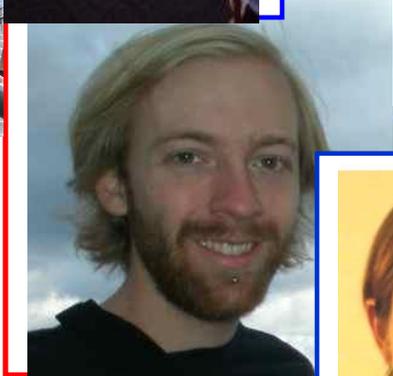
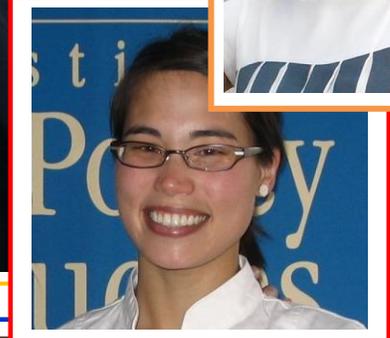
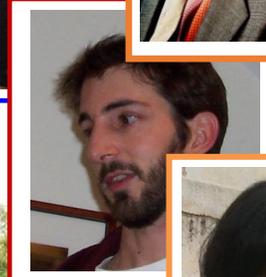
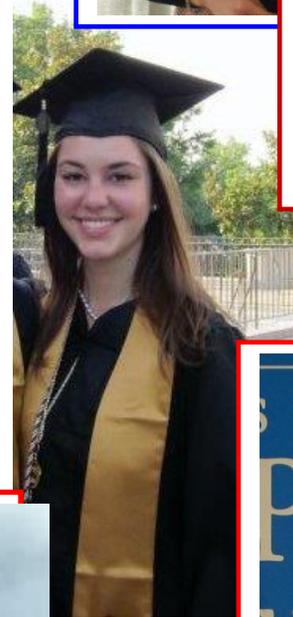
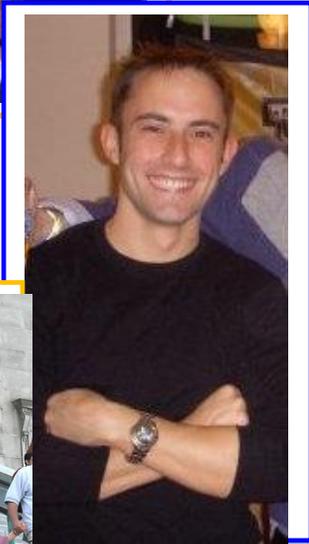




## Abell Award in Urban Policy Profile of Recipients



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## **THE ABELL AWARD IN URBAN POLICY**

The Abell Award in Urban Policy is an annual competition for the best student paper that provides a cogent analysis of a critical issue facing the City of Baltimore and proposes well-reasoned, feasible solutions. It is open to matriculated students at all Baltimore area colleges and universities. The submissions are blind-reviewed by a panel of distinguished judges. The winning paper receives a \$5,000 award and is distributed to key policymakers and opinion leaders and posted on the Institute's website.

I am delighted to share this brochure of photos and personal statements by Abell Award winners to date.

Sandra Newman, Ph.D.  
Professor, Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University  
Faculty Director, Abell Award in Urban Policy

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**Corbin A. Cunningham, MA, PhD and Marie Spiker, MSPH, RD, Co-authors  
Abell Award First Place Winners 2015**

The Abell Award in Urban Policy provides a unique opportunity for students to identify critical problems facing Baltimore City and to have a voice in the development of a solution. When I first heard about the competition, I was excited at the prospect of working on challenges facing Baltimore. However, I quickly felt out of my element. As a PhD student in the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University, my research investigates the cognitive and neural mechanisms of visual attention; what could I contribute to the world of urban policy? But I realized that my research training translated well into the ability to define a problem and gather the evidence needed to support a policy solution. As a City resident I was well aware of issues related to food access; and as a student who put myself through college working in the grocery business, I found myself drawn to the idea of improving the efficiency of the food supply chain in Baltimore City.



With my co-author, Marie Spiker, I developed a proposal for the creation of a vendors' market in Baltimore City. I was inspired by Haymarket, a vendors' market in Boston, from my days as a research assistant in the Visual Attention Lab at the Harvard Medical School and the Brigham and Women's Hospital. A vendors' market would be able to provide inexpensive, fresh produce by utilizing the substantial amount of consumable food that is sent to the landfill from area wholesalers. Through the development of a vendors' market, we could address two issues of great importance to the City: increasing the amount of affordable fresh produce available to City residents, while simultaneously decreasing the amount of food wasted in Baltimore City.

As the chair of the Science Student Council for the American Psychological Association (APA), it is my job to advocate for the interests of science-oriented graduate students in psychology. Through the experience of developing a paper for the Abell Award in Urban Policy, I was able to better understand how to clearly communicate complex ideas in an accessible and concise manner. This will better inform future policy work that I do with the APA and in my scientific discipline in general.



I am currently a first-year PhD student in the program in Human Nutrition in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I was introduced to the issue of food waste through my work with the Center for a Livable Future, a research center that studies sustainable food systems. With my co-author, Corbin Cunningham, I wrote about food waste and food access in Baltimore out of a desire to practice writing for a policy audience and improve the city we have both called home for the past three years.

I came to Baltimore to attend the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where I pursued an MSPH in Human Nutrition and completed the requirements to become a Registered Dietitian. My training involved clinical rotations at the Bayview Medical Center and the Johns

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Hopkins Hospital, as well as an internship with the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative. Through these experiences I saw the connections between what happens at the city and neighborhood level and what we see in the clinic. For example, a patient's difficulty in following dietary recommendations may be influenced by what is available at food stores in their neighborhood, which may be influenced by the foods available at area wholesalers. I learned that if we want to improve diets at the population level, we need to work with stakeholders at all levels of the food system.

The Abell Award in Urban Policy provided me with valuable experience in communicating with stakeholders outside of my field. My co-author and I learned firsthand how much work goes into a policy recommendation. Making a compelling case requires a fine balance between being persuasive and staying true to the evidence. This is a skill I anticipate will only become more important as I pursue a career in public health nutrition – a field that requires communication with federal policymakers, municipal leaders, representatives of the food industry and small businesses, healthcare providers, and the public.

**Anuja Trivedi, D.O. MPH 2014**  
**Abell Award Winner 2013**

When I first heard about the Abell Award in Urban Policy, I immediately realized that this competition would become a significant part of my one-year tenure at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. While working towards my Master of Public Health degree, I had received classroom training in many aspects of policy analysis. This competition represented an opportunity to apply those skills I had learned in the classroom to a relevant issue in Baltimore.



When considering some of the major issues in Baltimore, heroin addiction struck a chord. Initially, it was simply the one that my medical background best equipped me to grasp. During my psychiatry rotation at medical school, I had worked closely with an addiction specialist and that foundation gave me the confidence to delve deeper into the heroin addiction problem in Baltimore. Meetings with local addiction medicine specialists, medical directors of methadone clinics, and organizations that oversee funding of methadone slots in Baltimore provided the insight that only firsthand experience can impart. These meetings enhanced my appreciation for the complexity of the issue and informed my decision to propose a new treatment delivery system for buprenorphine in Baltimore.

Working on this project has been an integral part of my education at Johns Hopkins. Each set of revisions shed light on aspects of program planning that I had not fully grasped yet, facilitating the application of my book knowledge to a real world situation. The overall process sharpened my research, analytical, and technical writing skills, while also providing a way to engage with the Baltimore community.

After graduation, I will be starting Emergency Medicine residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. I plan to incorporate what I have learned about program planning in my future career as a physician by engaging in community-based initiatives. The Abell Award in Urban Policy has been a valuable learning experience for me, and the skills I developed through this project will be called upon throughout my career.

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**Seung Hee Lee, MS, PhD 2013**  
**Abell Award Winner 2013**

The Abell Award paper is an ultimate extraction of my dissertation project, “Baltimore Healthy Carryouts (BHC).” It is a summary of my four years of Ph.D. life at Johns Hopkins, which began when I moved from South Korea to Baltimore, MD in the summer of 2008. I started working for my advisor, Dr. Joel Gittelsohn, as a Korean liaison to his corner store research because most of the corner store owners were 1<sup>st</sup> generation Korean immigrants. It was fascinating to observe interactions between Korean owners and African American residents. I knew this too well because I just came from Korea, where looking straight into the eyes of the elderly is an offensive gesture, whereas it is offensive not to look someone in the eye in American culture. I wanted to work on implementing a food environment intervention that was culturally appropriate for both Korean owners and African American residents, focusing on improving prepared foods in carry-outs in low-income neighborhoods of East and West Baltimore. With enormous support and guidance from Dr. Gittelsohn, the BHC intervention was successfully implemented with positive outcomes.



While many people were concerned that I was spending many days in some of the most dangerous neighborhoods of Baltimore, in reality, I made many unforgettable memories; an old lady blessed me for my perseverance to influence the community, and a kind gentleman walked with me to my car because he was concerned that I would be walking alone in the dark. Whenever I was out in the field, I was reminded of why I wanted to devote my career to public health. I will always be grateful to BHC participants for their amazing support.

As the program coordinator of BHC, I coordinated and managed the BHC team, which consisted of undergraduate and graduate research assistants. I trained my team on qualitative and quantitative data collection and data management. I led weekly team meetings to oversee intervention planning, delivery and evaluation. We developed intervention strategies through formative research using environmental assessments, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. I conducted process evaluations to assess how well the intervention was implemented as planned. The carry-out level impact was assessed through weekly collection of hand-written order forms using multilevel analysis. The customer level impact was assessed through post-intervention structured surveys on intervention exposure using multiple regression modeling. Also, I was deeply committed to working with students on data analysis and report writing.

I believe the vast majority of Americans have a good understanding of what constitutes healthy or unhealthy foods, but because of poor food policies and environmental surroundings, individuals are limited in their ability to make healthy choices. After graduating with a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, I will start working for the CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer. I will continue with my obesity prevention research and policy work. Ultimately, I plan to become a public health researcher who focuses on obesity prevention vis-à-vis nutrition, especially among vulnerable populations such as children, minorities, and low-income populations.

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**William J. Sankey, MPP 2012 and J.B. Wogan, MPP 2012, Co-authors  
Abell Award First Place Winners 2012**

The idea for the Abell paper came over coffee. My colleague and I were discussing Baltimore—its strengths, weaknesses, what we thought of the city’s future and what we could do to shape that path. We talked about demographic changes from what we had seen working on the annual Baltimore Policy Project in the core policy analysis class we had taken the year before and how Baltimore was moving away from the Black and White city of its past. The skills I learned volunteering at the Citizens Planning and Housing Association (CPHA) and during my internship with the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR) at City Hall became important in determining what policy issues were relevant for Baltimore. After reading through the latest *Baltimore Sun* article on the 2010 decennial census, and talking through a few more cups of coffee, we decided to investigate the needs of the rising Hispanic population.



The process of conducting research and writing the Abell paper is invaluable. Visiting nonprofits that serve the Hispanic community and interviewing key stakeholders taught me to look further into the statistics, that numbers cannot be trusted in a vacuum. The Abell Award introduced me to the rigors and rewards of taking on a personal research project and following it through to the end. If I ever choose to earn a PhD in public policy I am sure I will use these skills again. In the meantime, I will be joining L&M Policy Research to work on healthcare policy evaluation where I will certainly be called upon again to collect, analyze, and interpret a mixed bag of data.

The Abell Award is an important competition for the benefit it provides students and, in good time, the City. Although none of our policies have been adopted yet my greatest hope is that we did some good for Baltimore City.



The Abell Award was the long-term investigative project I could never find time to do at my old job. A newspaperman by training, I had aspirations of "computer-assisted reporting," but my analytical skills were limited before graduate school. I knew how to conduct an interview and turn a phrase, but I had an aversion to interpreting Excel tables and graphs without the help of an expert source. The allure of a public policy degree was the chance to pursue original and independent research one day.

My classes at the Institute for Policy Studies enabled me to take on the kind of critical analysis and policy formulation demanded by the Abell competition. Policy Analysis bombarded me with reams of data that I had to translate and then contextualize for Power Point presentations and chapter drafts; this came in handy when my co-author Will Sankey and I sat down to review Baltimore City Public Schools' standardized test scores for Latino students and their peer groups. Statistics and Econometrics enabled us to read regression analyses, an essential skill in reviewing the academic literature on the relationship between

parent involvement and student outcomes. Introduction to Arc GIS gave us the skill set to discern demographic trends by mapping Census data.

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Perhaps the biggest payoff, however, was the opportunity to incorporate those academic methodologies into traditional reporting, with our own city as the beat: We called and emailed school staff, sat down with Latino parents and Latino nonprofit service providers, and asked whether our numbers matched people's personal experiences. In all, we interviewed more than 20 individuals, in addition to building original databases and maps and reviewing existing administrative data to hone our inquiries. It is by far the most rigorous effort I've undertaken to assess a policy issue. It is also the only time I have stepped out of my role as the diligent observer and watchdog to offer potential ways a city might resolve an urban problem. Like Will, I hope we have contributed something meaningful to the place in which we have lived for these last two years.

What will I do with my Abell funding? The bulk of it will go toward paying rent in Washington, D.C., where I will work a summer intern fact checking and reporting on the presidential election for *PolitiFact*. In the spirit of continuing my education as an investigative reporter, I plan to use part of the prize money to pay for seminars on computer-assisted reporting, studying ways reporters like me leverage software and online databases to tease out stories on current policy issues. I suspect I will look back at our Abell paper as the beginning of a new trajectory for my journalism career, the period when I gained the confidence and experience to dive deeper into the substance of a public problem and present findings in an objective, scientifically valid manner.

**Julia O'Connor, MPH, MSW**  
**Abell Award First Place Winner 2010**

As part of my research for the Abell Award paper, I sat in a local courthouse for hours listening to horror stories of domestic violence in Baltimore City. I heard women recount how they had been strangled, hit, and threatened with death. The stories were not new to me, having worked in domestic violence shelters and within the court systems previously. However, this time I was seeking a larger policy solution to keep these victims alive. The policy viewpoint differed radically from my previous work with individual victims trying to survive their situations. My paper addressed how firearms and domestic violence present a lethal combination for victims as well as solutions to address this combination through the local court system. In my paper I used methods, data and solutions from both of my fields of study - Social Work and Public Health.



Through my research for the Abell Award paper, I came to understand the need for solid data and information on which to base policies. As such, I have taken a job working in research on child abuse and neglect issues with the Ruth H. Young Center for Families and Children based within the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work. I currently work on projects surrounding foster parent recruitment and retention, implementation of family centered practice within the child welfare system and a project for young moms who are placed in the foster care system with their child.

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**Cailin McGough, MPP 2010 and Paul Messino, MPP 2010, Co-authors  
Abell Award Second Place Winners 2010**

The Abell Award motivated a classmate and I to expand research completed for a class project on neighborhoods undergoing revitalization. Over the course of the following year, we spent time digging into the gritty details of legislation that created state tax incentive programs for arts districts and data that resulted. We were also fortunate enough to meet a host of residents and business owners that shared their perspectives on what was behind the change taking place in the arts districts where they lived and worked. The prospect of the Abell Award encouraged us to ask some basic questions about a state tax incentive program -- what is it and what is it supposed to do? In answering those questions we came to understand how a theory of revitalization had shaped a program intended to foster growth in two specific areas of Baltimore City.



The research for the Abell Award was completed over time and coincided with part-time work at the Baltimore City Council through the Shriver Peacemaker Fellowship, an internship at Citizens Planning and Housing Association, and coursework in workforce development and economic development. The combination of these experiences cemented my interest in working at the local level on social justice issues. Since receiving the award, I completed my studies at the Institute of Policy Studies at Johns Hopkins and accepted a position with the Baltimore City Council President's Office where I help to implement community-based projects.



My co-author, Cailin McGough, and I wrote our second-place Abell Award paper on two of Baltimore's Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Districts: Station North and Highlandtown. Our initial interest arose from our prior analysis of the A&E district of Station North we conducted as part of the 2008 Fall Baltimore Policy Project at John Hopkins University's Institute for Policy Studies. While doing research for the Baltimore Policy Project, we became interested in the history of the program and the effects its policies had on art-based economic development across the city. By expanding the scope of the project both analytically and geographically, we gained a greater understanding of the economic development strategy and its strengths and weaknesses.

The Abell Award paper represents over a year of research including one-on-one interviews with artists and residents living within the A&E districts, correspondences with experts and policy makers, and a comprehensive literature review. Through this process, I learned about the rigors of research, the importance of seeking help from experts, and the value of teamwork.

After graduating from the Institute for Policy Studies at Johns Hopkins with an MPP with a concentration in Health Policy, I began working at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). I also enrolled in the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) program in the Department of Health Policy and Management. At DHMH, I primarily work on implementing the State's Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program. While completing my requirements for the Dr.PH, I am focusing my research on the policy of Health Information Technology.

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**Harvir Kaur, BA 2011**  
**Abell Award Co-Recipient 2008**

As a rising senior at Johns Hopkins University, winning the Abell Award reaffirmed my choice of profession which is to go into policy-making, social activism, and human rights law. Before taking the course Intro to Urban Policy, I did not know which career path I wanted to take. As complimentary to the course, all the students were placed in a non-profit organization in Baltimore City. My placement was at the Public Justice Center, which is a non-profit legal advocacy organization which seeks to enforce and expand the rights of people who suffer injustice because of their poverty or discrimination. This organization has solidified my interests and with the help from my supervisor, Laurie Norris, I conceptualized the idea for the Abell Award on the dental health crisis in Baltimore City. Given that oral health is an essential part of an individual's overall well-being, the focus of the paper was to present the state of the oral health care system in the State of Maryland using Baltimore City as a case study. This paper analyzed three barriers which the low-income and the Medicaid populations face in accessing adequate and preventative dental services. First, dentists are often unwilling to treat Medicaid patients under the age of 20 due to inadequate reimbursement rates, their dissatisfaction with the complex Medicaid procedures, and cultural barriers. Second, being under-educated about oral health care, low-income and Medicaid-insured individuals frequently choose emergency care over preventative care. Third, the unavailability of low-cost dental services for Medicaid-insured adults further exacerbates the situation because there develops a notion that dental care is not a main concern until pain arises. Thus, by identifying the barriers and analyzing the possible solutions which have been implemented in response to them, this paper examined what more Maryland can do to address the inefficiencies that persist in its oral health care system.



In Spring 2010, I studied abroad in India where human rights' violations are blatantly obvious to an outsider in both the public and the private spheres, which are there due to the rigid political, social, and cultural barriers present in society. However, there are numerous non-governmental organizations who are working on the most pressing issues in India. From April 2010 to August 2010, I interned for an organization called the Sahyog Trust and worked on independent projects with their help. One of the projects I worked on was analyzing the progressive judgments passed by the Supreme Court related to the four basic rights (right to food, water, shelter, and work) and the lack of implementation on the ground-level. I interviewed various human rights activists working in the field who face the difficulties in promoting and protecting human rights on a daily basis in India. My experience in India has certainly ignited my interest in working on human rights issues in developing countries. My career plan is to go to law school and work as a legal consultant to various non-governmental organizations. The dedication to human rights law from the Sahyog Trust has inspired me, in the near future, to start a legal-based NGO in the northern part of India where not only gender inequality but caste- and class-based discrimination is even more obvious and present. Thus, the Abell Award gave me a chance to explore my interests in the area of human rights law and has inspired me to keep pursuing my goals.

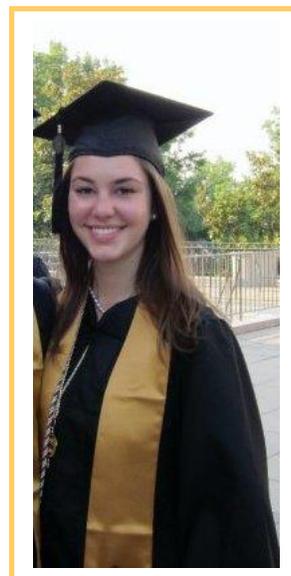
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**Natalie Draisin, BA 2010**  
**Abell Award Co-Recipient 2008**

Writing my very first policy paper and submitting it for the Abell Award seemed to be a daunting task, but proved to be rewarding as it led me to recognize the field I wanted to pursue. The paper was about methods of preventing and treating childhood obesity in Baltimore City, and allowed me to combine my passion for public health while developing my policy foundation. This opportunity allowed me to immerse myself in the community, and fostered a better understanding of Baltimore, outside of the 'Hopkins bubble.'

Researching this paper provided me with the background and confidence necessary to become an advocate for mandatory ignition interlock legislation in Maryland, in response to the death of my sorority sister. Both of these experiences confirmed my penchant for policy advocacy.

Next year, I will be working as a Leadership Fellow at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, DC, building upon the foundation established through my experience with the Abell Award. In the future, I strive to be a leader in the field, promoting positive change through policy.



**Elaine Rutkow, MPP 2005**  
**Abell Award Recipient 2007**



Researching and writing the paper that ultimately won the Abell Award in Urban Policy helped me to develop a greater appreciation of the community in which I live and work. Since moving to Baltimore in 2004, I have become increasingly interested in ways to foster students' engagement with the local community. To that end, I serve as a member of the Governing Board for SOURCE, the Student Outreach Resource Center, which coordinates volunteer and service-learning opportunities for students at the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health. Many of SOURCE's activities and projects address the type of distal determinants of health that my co-author, Emma Tsui, and I considered while writing our Abell Award paper. Winning the Abell Award provided additional incentive for me

to connect with community members. To this end, since 2007, I have served as a volunteer with the Reach Out and Read Program, which is based at the Johns Hopkins Hospital's Harriet Lane Pediatric Primary Care Clinic.

I am currently in the fourth year of my PhD in Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I plan to complete my degree in approximately one year. In addition, I am a Senior Fellow at the Center for Law and the Public's Health, a collaborative at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities. I have been affiliated with this Center since 2004. While I am normally based at Johns Hopkins, this October I moved to Cuyahoga County, Ohio, for five weeks and served as a Regional Voter Protection Coordinator with the Obama Campaign for Change.

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**Emma Tsui, MPP 2003**  
**Abell Award Recipient, 2007**

The Abell Award has influenced my continuing work in the PhD program in the Department of Health, Behavior & Society in three primary ways. First, the paper that Lainie Rutkow and I wrote for the Abell competition was an early foray for me into research at the intersection of workforce development and public health. While I had a general interest in this area prior to entering the competition, the opportunity to write the paper provided an impetus for exploring this topic in a more focused way. Since writing the paper, I have continued to do research on workforce development and health. Specifically, I have undertaken an ethnographic dissertation project, which follows a group of men and women who were enrolled in secretarial job training programs in East Baltimore, over the course of a year. Through this research, I am hoping to better understand the influence of such programs on the lives and health of participants.



Second, after winning the award, Lainie and I were put in touch with Melanie Styles at the Abell Foundation, with whom we have had invaluable meetings about the workforce development landscape in Baltimore and beyond.

Finally, I have been able to use the Abell Award funding to pay for the transcription of some of the interviews that were done as part of my dissertation project. Transcription is an extremely time-consuming process, and being able to pay for some transcription assistance has greatly facilitated my analysis and writing.

**Jennifer Prichard, MA, PhD Candidate, University of Maryland**  
**Honorable Mention, 2007**

Writing the paper for the Abell Award has given me direction on a career path that was largely undefined. I am currently working on my PhD in Community Psychology, a degree, however, that does not come with a matching job title. There are few, if any, positions that actually call for a "community psychologist," contrary to the title "clinical psychologist."

I knew which research area I was interested in and I also believed that an academic career was not on my professional path. So where did that leave me? The Abell Award has shown me that there are policy institutes that value the work I do. It has shown me that doing research can be an applied position and not one stuck in an "ivory tower."

Since receiving the award, I have worked with Baltimore County's Local Management Board to understand the problem of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system. This work is also the basis for my dissertation which I hope to defend this year. It has moved a little slower than I had hoped given that I also welcomed my son, Hudson, into the world since receiving the award!

I am also working on a project through University of Maryland, Baltimore County (where I am attending). The University's Center for Community Collaboration has been commissioned by the Maryland AIDS Administration to build capacity in local HIV organizations receiving Ryan White funding. This position, while not in my area of research interest, has taught me valuable lessons in university-community partnerships.

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Again, I would like to thank the Abell Foundation and the Institute of Policy Studies for the honor of the award and for the career guidance it has provided.

**Blake Trettien, BA 2006**  
**Abell Award Recipient, 2006**

I am currently a second year law student at NYU School of Law looking forward to a career in public interest law. The 2006 Abell Award prize allowed me to take an overland trip around Asia after graduation that I had long dreamt about, but would never have been able to finance. In eight months I travelled through Germany, Russia, Mongolia, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, and India. The trip was an incredible experience and also focused my commitment to pursuing a career in public interest law.



In my Abell Award paper I considered the consequences of aggressive policing tactics in Baltimore; and at countless border crossings, checkpoints and markets in some of the countries I visited, I witnessed the consequences of a more extreme breakdown in the rule of law. Official corruption, impunity, and repression turned the notion of the rule of law on its head. As in Baltimore, the consequences of a system that placed a wide swath of people in an adversarial relationship with the law denied them the benefits that justice and the rule of law should bring.

The Abell Award not only allowed me to travel, and undoubtedly helped me win admission to the law school of my choice, but also affirmed for me that public interest work is rewarding. Last summer I spent 10 weeks in Cambodia working for Legal Aid of Cambodia, which provides public defender services to the poor and works to re-establish a legal system after the Khmer Rouge regime killed all of the country's lawyers in the late 1970s and the ensuing decades of civil war. In the coming spring semester I will be working for NYU's Offender Reentry Clinic, where law students assist clients in overcoming some of the collateral consequences of convictions, such as accessing public housing, employment barriers, and restoration of their civil rights.

**Rachel Brash, MPP 2004**  
**Abell Award Recipient, 2004**



The paper I wrote for the Abell Award in Urban on the prevention and reduction of youth violence confirmed my desire to work to improve Baltimore's neighborhoods and on behalf of juvenile or adult offenders in the city. It drove home the importance of coordination among different levels of government and nonprofit agencies in addressing a social problem. More concretely, the Abell Award led me to a neighborhood safety job in Baltimore City and helped me execute the job once I started.

After winning the Award, I arranged an interview with the Abell Foundation's Bob Embry. He mentioned my job search to Kristen Mahoney, then Director of the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

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(MOCJ), who hired me as Director of Community Programs and Senior Policy Associate. As director, I administered the Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement Program, formerly HotSpots, a state-funded initiative to reduce crime in several distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore through community-based probation, nuisance abatement, and community mobilization. I also established an internship program to place social work graduate students in police district stations, helped steer a local prostitution task force, and helped coordinate state and local prisoner reentry and crime prevention programs. As senior policy associate, I examined the scope and effectiveness of the city's major public safety programs. The wide-ranging research the Abell paper required prepared me to gather and synthesize efficiently the information for this project.

Since leaving MOCJ in 2005, I have moved to the D.C. area, taken some time off to care for my two young sons, and worked part time as a research associate at the Urban Institute. At the Urban Institute I helped conduct a performance evaluation of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The rigor and independence required in writing my Abell paper helped me become quickly comfortable with a subject that was not in my area of expertise. When I return to work full time,

I intend to seek a neighborhood safety job in local government similar to the post I held at MOCJ. I very much hope that circumstances will permit me to hold that job in Baltimore, a city I became very attached to in my five years of residence.

**Eric Ding, BA, 2004**  
**Honorable Mention, 2004**

Eric Ding is a research fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health, and Chairman and founder of the O Campaign for Cancer Prevention. After receiving his B.A. in public health in 2004 from the Johns Hopkins University, with election to Phi Beta Kappa, he completed his dual-doctorates in 2007 from Harvard University in epidemiology and in nutrition, as the youngest ever doctoral graduate of either department. Eric has taught and lectured in more than a dozen courses at Harvard, where he received the Derek Bok Distinction in Teaching Award. He currently also serves as an appointed expert committee member on the World Health Organization's Global Burden of Disease Project.

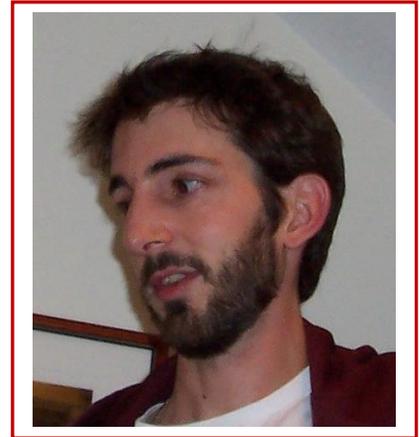
During his tenure as a doctoral student, Eric played a major role as a whistle-blower in the multi-year investigation into the drug safety of VIOXX that drew national attention. Published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Eric was recognized and named in the *New York Times* and *USA Today*. He is also the founder and director of the O Campaign for Cancer Prevention, a 501c3 non-profit with 4.5 million registered members, and featured in Newsweek. Eric was recently featured on over 1 million bags of Doritos, Frito-Lays Corporation. Eric's two dozen publications have also received over 200 external citations in just four years. He is a Soros Scholar, a 2008 recipient of the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship.

Now 25 years old, Eric grew up in Shippensburg, PA, and was a 2001 graduate of Shippensburg Area Senior High School, and was a winner of the Voice of Democracy Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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**Eric Friedman, MPP 2003**  
**Abell Award Recipient 2003**

In 2003, I was fortunate enough to receive the first Abell Award for Urban Policy for a paper that explored the problem of vacant properties in Baltimore City. This research project was yet another way--in addition to other IPS coursework and internship/service learning opportunities--to connect with real city residents and professionals and be immersed in the urban policy issues they were facing. More specifically, the Abell Award paper helped introduce me to the city's major redevelopment efforts and to some of the key local leaders with whom I would later work as a Community Investment Specialist in Baltimore's Mayor's Office.



After working for the City of Baltimore for a few years, the Abell Award helped qualify me for a job in the Maryland Department of Planning's Office of Smart Growth. After relocating with my family to Massachusetts, I am now working as a senior analyst in the City of Somerville, where as part of the CitiStat team I assist the Mayor in managing a number of departments, including the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development.