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## STUDENT INFORMATION

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## JACKSON BREAKFAST ROTARY SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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In one of La Romana's public hospitals in the Dominican Republic, I am standing in front of a newborn swaddled to a hot water bottle. The hospital cannot afford an incubator, so a hot water bottle is the only warmth the hypothermic newborn gets. At a rural hospital in Uganda, I try to comfort an eleven-year-old girl crying from extreme stomach pain due to typhoid.

These two children I saw were suffering in a way they would not if they were in a developed country. Most of the conditions I saw in the Dominican Republic and Uganda did not arise randomly, nor were they genetic. Usually, they happened because of easily recognizable risk factors in the environments where the patients lived, factors that could have been changed before disease developed or an injury occurred.

My conversation with a nurse at the Bwindi Community Hospital in Uganda prompted me to spend part of my internship shadowing public health specialists. Shadowing them I encountered a movement of fascinating and talented practitioners who work in every region and community in Uganda with the sole purpose of preventing the needless suffering I saw every day in the clinic. I learned what this group of people had achieved in terms of sanitation, immunization, maternal and child health, malaria prevention, and alcoholism. I came to see that the good healthcare that most of us enjoy is no accident. It is the result of a coordinated effort in which doctors, hospitals, and other providers work together.

Through interning, volunteering, traveling, and living abroad I have witnessed some of the world's most crucial global health problems. Global health is my passion. I want to become educated in this field in order to address health inequality in developing countries.

By studying global health I will be exposed to more than just biology and policy, but also the interaction of environment, culture, and the political economy of health and development, and how these relationships influence global health outcomes.

By becoming a global health specialist I will be able to improve the lives of the people I saw struggling in Uganda and the Dominican Republic. I believe that the only way to improve health inequality is through education and through my future education I hope to be able to learn how to make a positive and lasting impact on the world.

