



Back row, left to right: Shanna Arceo, Katie Quinn, Ben Gustafson, Jasmine Stewart, Kayla Dimitrakopoulos, and Jacqueline Baron. Front row, left to right: Jordan Chaplik, Rebecca Bromberg, Agata Kubinska, and Kimberly Garner.

Welcome to Our 2017 – 2018 Interns!

JPA is so pleased to have a bright new class of interns dedicated to working with children and families affected by trauma. They'll be with us for the school year 2017-18, working under the supervision of therapist Michele Lansing and our team of experienced counselors. Read the intern's biographies below, as they discuss where they're from, what drew them to the field and to JPA, and a unique thing they'd like their readers to know about them.

Shanna Arceo

I was born and raised on the Northwest Side of Chicago. I attend Erikson Institute. I was drawn to JPA because of its huge focus on psychodynamic therapy. I liked how JPA wanted to help support and improve the lives of children. I was very excited that JPA could give me the opportunity of working with a wide range of children and being able to see what fits with my style. I love to travel and meet new people. I love learning about other people's cultures and being able to integrate them into my daily life.

Jacqueline Baron

I was born in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania and grew up in Alpharetta, Georgia. I'm currently

studying at University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration. I've always been extremely passionate about working with youth. As a former teacher, I enjoyed the opportunity to engage with students on a daily basis, but didn't feel as though I was able to focus on enough socio-emotional components of learning. I believe in order to truly educate children, we have to see them holistically, rather than treating them like little robots in a classroom who are expected to "sit and get."

JPA seemed like a great match for me because it allows me to be in a school setting, working with youth, conducting therapy, and implementing trauma-informed practices. It's basically a collection of everything I'm interested in. I absolutely LOVE to dance! Though I haven't been on a team since 2013, I'm always down to try a new class or bust a couple moves on somebody's dance floor.

Rebecca Bromberg

I'm originally from St. Louis, Missouri. I'm currently studying at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. I've always loved working with children- whether that was through babysitting or working as a camp

counselor. During college, I was a school social work intern, and that really solidified social work as my passion. JPA provided me the perfect opportunity for creating long term relationships with clients within an environment that provides easier access to therapy. This internship allows me to work with children who are not likely to receive support without JPA's services, and that is so important. I competed as a gymnast for over 10 years. I feel like this describes my energetic, but serious- when-I-need-to-be, personality!

Jordan Chaplik

I am originally from the northern suburbs of Chicago, and am currently studying at The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Since a very young age, I've always wanted to grow up to be a teacher. During college at The University of Texas, I combined my love for education and history and began pursuing a dual-degree in these subjects. However, I quickly discovered my frustration with educational systems, and felt more drawn to the social-emotional side of learning and development. Following graduation,

I served two years as an AmeriCorps Member with Communities in Schools of Central Texas in which I was able to mentor a caseload of twenty students and learn alongside so many thoughtful and hardworking social workers. It was through this experience that I realized I could channel my passions for youth, education and social justice through a career in social work. JPA provided me the opportunity to continue working in all these sectors, as well as strengthen my clinical skills and understanding of therapy. I am an avid traveler, and one of my goals is to travel to every country in Latin America!

Kayla Dimitrakopoulos

I was born in Missoula, Montana but have resided in the western Chicago suburbs since I was seven years old. I am currently in my last year at Erikson Institute studying social work. I have always known I wanted to work with children and families, I was just unsure what exact career I wanted to pursue. After graduating from Northern Illinois University, I became a preschool teacher. I

absolutely loved teaching and that specific age group, but still felt I had much more to learn about children. I began my master's degree at Erikson in Child Development, but after one semester of classes I still felt like I was missing something. I switched to the Social Work program and finally felt that I had found my calling.

I am interested in the clinical aspect of social work, especially in the 0-5 age group. JPA caught my eye because of their focus on early intervention in young children and their work in the school systems. I am excited to be working in a new clinical role with preschoolers and their families and can't wait for the journey that lies ahead. My family lives in Greece and after graduation I plan to travel to Greece for a month.

Kimberly Garner

I was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. I'm finishing my second master's program at Erikson Institute where I am currently studying Social Work. After many years of work with young children and their families in the field of child development, I returned to school for a master's in Child Development to broaden my knowledge and strengthen my skills. My field placement during that graduate program inspired me to do more clinical work.

So, I immediately enrolled in the Social Work program after graduation. Throughout my journey there, I began to hear so many great stories about JPA. It was the agency's reputation for doing extraordinary clinical work with young children, engagement in reflective practice, and provision of quality reflective supervision that made JPA my first choice for my Advanced Year field placement. I was extremely confident that an internship with JPA would provide me with the necessary clinical foundation to begin my career in social work. I am so looking forward to the rich experiences ahead with JPA. I have a very creative mind. I truly enjoy being crafty in my spare time. I especially enjoy interior design. I am also a big music lover. These interests have often inspired some of my work with children.

Ben Gustafson

I am from a northern suburb of Chicago and am attending The Institute for Clinical Social Work. I started off with a career in sales after college. While I enjoyed this work, something in it was lacking for me. I did not feel the same level of passion that I had experienced in past roles -- such as working with at-risk youth at the Southern Appalachian Labor School in West Virginia, or working as a Deaf Ed teacher's aide in college. The interpersonal aspect of the job was great, but I realized that I wanted to make a deeper connection to the individuals I was working with.

At this time I also began to seek therapy for myself, and the more I learned about psychotherapy the more interested I became. As I began to work with my first real clients last year, I knew I had found my calling. When investigating options for my second internship, I knew I was interested in working with children in vulnerable populations.

When I learned of JPA's history and reputation for social justice, I was very eager to apply and interview for an intern position. Outside of school, I play loose head prop for The Chicago Dragons Rugby Football Club. We are an LGBT inclusive team, which gives us access to participate in the second largest rugby tournament in the world, The Bingham Cup. I have travelled to Sydney, Australia, and Nashville, Tennessee to play in this tournament and am very excited for the next one which will be in Amsterdam next summer!

Agata Kubinska

I was born in Poland and raised in Chicago. I am attending Erikson Institute. I have always been drawn to gain a deeper understanding of human behavior. I began working with at-risk youth through Spark Chicago, a mentorship program, which led me to serve a year in AmeriCorps working in afterschool programs in CPS schools across Chicago.

I loved the energy that students brought each day, but I was also moved by their personal stories of community violence. JPA is the perfect extension of the work I had begun as a mentor

and am looking forward to working with children on a more individual level. I really enjoy road trips. So far, I have driven to Canada and the Gulf of Mexico on my own.

Katie Quinn

I'm originally from Madison, Wisconsin. I'm currently studying at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. After my first-year social work internship, I realized how much I enjoy providing therapy in the school setting and was excited to see JPA offered a school-based therapy program. I am also passionate about working with children impacted by trauma and found that JPA offered a special opportunity not only to help children heal from trauma through therapy, but also to prevent trauma from occurring in the first place by working with their families and schools. I play soccer each week through Women's Sports Chicago.

Jasmine Stewart

I am from the western suburbs. I currently live in Hillside and am attending Loyola University Chicago. Ever since I was in 4th grade I've known that I wanted to be a social worker. I had a very strong connection with my school social worker and learned at an early age that venting repressed emotions through talking was essential. I was drawn to JPA after researching the organization and what they stood for.

Along with a heavy utilization of psychodynamic theory, a model I am very fond of, this organization was founded by Jane Addams. She is the individual I would consider to be the pioneer of social work and interning at an organization that holds her legacy is a dream. I like to try to read one book a week. [JPA](#)