Gift L.F. Kamanga, MSc

Doctor of Public Health student
Health Policy and Management,
Executive Leadership Program

Donald and Jennifer Holzworth Merit Scholar

Gift Kamanga believes in his potential to contribute to the well-being of his society. He remembers having that goal as early as age 10, and having it clarified when his grandmother died of antepartum hemorrhage in a place where there was no hospital. Many of his relatives — some of them family bread winners — also have died from preventable infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

“When I joined the Malawi College of Health Sciences,” he says, “I saw a way to contribute. I am particularly passionate about advancing interventions with vulnerable groups in the areas of sexual and reproductive health. Public health requires multi-sectional collaboration and good leadership. I am aspiring to be one of the top leaders to bring about this effective coordination.”

Caitlin Kleiboer

Master’s student
Health Behavior and Health Education

“I have a long-standing passion for two things: public health and photojournalism,” says Caitlin Kleiboer, Master of Public Health candidate in health behavior and health education at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. “At Carolina, I am exploring the intersection of these two disciplines.”

Kleiboer, an Americorps VISTA volunteer in 2009–2010, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan. It was there she became interested in social justice and began to use photography as a tool for change.

“Through domestic and international work, I kept returning to the nagging questions in my head about the links between poverty and disease,” she says.

She credits her public health class in qualitative research methods with teaching her how to develop interview questions that get to the heart of individuals’ experiences with their health. In her photojournalism class, she gains firsthand experience in long-term documentary projects. As a research assistant in the dean’s office, she has explored how social media can help students and educators, artists and scientists across the globe connect on important issues.

“Photography is not going to end war or poverty,” Kleiboer says. “It will not cure disease. But time and time again, it has made a difference. I want to make a difference in the field of global health through my photographs.”