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Spring 2017 Matt Kleiner Award for Anne Laurita

Cornell Health is pleased to announce the 2017 recipient of the “Create Change: Health Leadership Award”: Anne Laurita. Anne was honored for her ongoing commitment and contributions to the evaluation of the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives’ [award winning](#) new bystander intervention video and workshop, [Intervene](#).

The “Create Change” award was established to honor and carry forward the legacy of Matthew A. Kleiner ’93. It is awarded to Cornell University students who demonstrate the courage and commitment to create change that will enhance the health of the Cornell community, as Matt Kleiner did as a student leader at Cornell.

Anne received her B.S. in Human Development from the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University in 2013, her M.A in Developmental Psychology from Cornell University in 2015, and she is currently pursuing a PhD in Developmental Psychology at Cornell University, expecting to defend her dissertation in June, 2017. Her research investigates the topic of neural, cognitive, and behavioral markers associated with close social relationships. Anne’s dissertation project uses functional magnetic neuroimaging to understand how mental representations of adult attachment figures reflect the structure and function of underlying neural networks. During her time at Cornell she has also served as a live-in Graduate Resident Fellow in Alice H. Cook House on West campus. Anne hopes to pursue a career integrating college health promotion with current methods in public health and psychology research.

Throughout her education, Anne has always been intrigued by translational research and she became particularly interested in public health through her work with the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives in 2016-2017. As a graduate student, Anne began volunteering her time with the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives in March 2016, where she helped design the evaluation for the *Intervene* project and continued to help analyze the data collected from a randomized control trial measuring the effect of viewing the *Intervene* video among undergraduate, graduate and professional students, as well as data collected from the workshop pilot evaluation study. Her commitment to the project throughout the 2016 spring semester, summer, fall 2017 semester and into the spring 2017 semester have been incredibly valuable to the department. Anne was invited to join Skorton Center staff members to present *Intervene* at the NASPA Strategies conference in January 2017. Anne was given the “Create change: Health Leadership Award” to recognize her sustained and substantial voluntary commitment to the *Intervene* project for the past year and for her desire to help improve the health and well-being of Cornell undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

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