

The Center for Documentary Studies (CDS) at Duke University is pleased to announce the 2007-2008 Lewis Hine Documentary Fellows: Rebecca Herman, Margaux Joffe and Amanda van Scoyoc.

The Lewis Hine Documentary Fellows Program is a project of the Center for Documentary Studies (CDS) at Duke University. Each year, Lewis Hine Fellows are sent to placements domestically and abroad to work with local organizations to document humanitarian issues over the course of ten months. They then return to work with documentarians at CDS to further develop their projects.

The Lewis Hine Documentary Fellows Program is supported by the Philanthropic Initiative and the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation. Lewis Hine Fellows are selected each spring from a highly competitive pool of graduates of Duke University and of the Continuing Studies Certificate Program at the Center for Documentary Studies.

Rebecca Herman graduated from Duke in 2005 with a dual major in Literature & History and Spanish. Fluent in Spanish and in Brazilian Portuguese, Rebecca has worked on human rights issues over the last three years in Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Bolivia. Most recently, she finished a short film called “Yo, Si Puedo,” on a literacy campaign in Bolivia. Prior to that, Rebecca worked in Argentina with Memoria Abierta, an oral archive of filmed testimonies given by torture survivors, exiles, militants and family members. Rebecca’s role was to help Memoria Abierta develop a large documentary graphic exhibit to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the coup. “In my work I seek to explore social and political issues through individual testimonies,” says Rebecca. “The lessons that I have been taught by my colleagues abroad, the experience of living and working in a large variety of cultural contexts, and the Spanish and Portuguese that I have learned in my time here will greatly enrich and expand the ways in which I can contribute to the work of my host organization.” Rebecca will be working in Boston with Roca. Roca (meaning “rock” in Spanish) is a large, dynamic, 20-year-old community organization based in Chelsea, a city that is just north of Boston. Roca works with young, disenfranchised mostly Latino youth (ages 14-24) in neighborhoods in the northern part of Boston and adjoining communities. Many of the people Roca serves are gang and street youth, young people leaving foster care, dropouts and disengaged youth, pregnant teens and young parents, court-involved youth, refugees and recent immigrants.

Margaux Joffe graduated from Duke in 2006 with a major in Literature & Media Studies and a Certificate in Film, Video & Digital. Josh Gibson, instructor in the Film program said, “Margaux produced two of the best films to come out of our program in the last five years.” Margaux, like the other two Hine fellows, has been awarded numerous grants and awards for her documentary pursuits. In addition to two documentary videos, she has also completed several fictional videos under the name of her company “Margaux Eve Productions,” and has published papers on the Hip-Hop movement in Cuba. For the past year, she has been working as a teacher in the Dominican Republic teaching a variety of courses, from social studies to photography. Margaux says, “I believe that creative mediums such as photography are excellent ways for young people to share their unique views of the world and develop the important skills of self-expression.” Margaux will be working with the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation in Boston. When JPNDC was founded 30 years ago, the Jamaica Plain neighborhood was pretty

dismal, with much abandoned housing and few businesses. In the years since, the JPNDC has steadily grown and developed the neighborhood in radical and impressive ways, but the downside is that the neighborhood has become a very desirable place to live. As is happening in communities throughout Boston, Jamaica Plain is being quickly gentrified, with rents and housing prices increasing to rates that were previously unimaginable for this neighborhood. JPNDC is now seeking a vision for its next 30 years.

Amanda van Scoyoc graduated from University of Pennsylvania in 2005 with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Fine Arts. For the last six years, Amanda has worked on a variety of documentary projects, including a series of photographs, interviews and writing about the impact adopting two 9-year-old Russian twin sisters has had on her family, as well as on their own adjustment and development. Over the last year, she has volunteered as a photographer with two non-profits in Guatemala and Honduras. Most recently, she has been working as an Art Teacher at a Boy's Club of America, where she has incorporated journaling into the teaching. "I have always been interested in particular groups of "at risk youth" and would be very interested in working with kids who are growing up in situations different than their peers, for example, kids who act as a caretaker, older age adopted kids, kids growing up with grandparents or in foster care, or kids growing up with a handicap. I have found that a lot of them feel that the problems they encounter on a daily basis are unique. Documentary work could help them feel more connected to other kids who are growing up in similar situations." Amanda will be placed with Rebecca at Roca. Roca employs almost 100 full- and part-time employees, runs five large youth programs and serves almost 1000 youth in the northern Boston region.