CALLA BARDWELL
Calla grew up in Connecticut and has been in New Orleans for the past three years, attending Tulane University. She is a Master of Architecture candidate (Class of ’17) and will be concurrently pursuing her Masters degree at the MSRED program. “I wish to pursue the MSRED degree because it will pair well with my Master’s in Architecture, allowing me to reach the wider range of steps to physically create, as well as to develop an environmental awareness within my future profession.”

AB COULON
Ab worked most recently as a Claims Analyst on the Deepwater Horizon Settlement Program, and previously as a Financial Analyst for Cypress Bayou Casino and Hotel. He is from Franklin, Louisiana, and graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a double major in Finance and Jazz Studies. He has also purchased and renovated two houses in New Orleans, which spurred his further interest in real estate development. “To say that I have learned a lot in the past two years in New Orleans would be an understatement; but I am eager to learn more.”

KIMBERLY FERRARI
Kim worked at the New Business Intake Coordinator at Jones Walker, LLP, a law firm in downtown New Orleans. She is originally from San Diego, California, and graduated from Tulane University with a B.A. in Political Economy and Environmental Studies. Kim is an advocate for sustainable development; she believes in its ability to help and engage communities while also addressing environmental and economic issues. “I have grown to love the City of New Orleans and see potential for development that can enhance the community and economy, while also addressing the significant environmental issues that threaten our city.”

XICHEN LIANG
Xichen worked as an intern at Ningxia Minsheng Real Estate Development Co., one of the top 10 developers in China. He grew up in Yinchuan City, China and graduated from Northwest A&F University, where he earned a Bachelor Degree of Land Resources Management. Xichen published two scholarly papers on the issues of wetland protection and social organizing in administrative decision-making. “Searching through programs available worldwide, I found that Tulane’s MSRED program in New Orleans fits my future job requirements based on two criteria: first is the nature of problems New Orleans is facing...and the second is the tourist destination nature of the city.”

BRIAN MORRICE
Brian spent the last six months traveling through Australia, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia. Before that, he worked as a Program Assistant for Northwestern University and on both presidential campaigns for Barak Obama; he also interned at the White House in between campaigns. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Brian graduated from Bennington College in Vermont with a B.A. in Political Science. “When growing up it is common to hear platitudes about how you should do what you love so that work never feels like ‘work’... I considered many different routes, but when I came across Real Estate Development, I finally had my answer.”

JENGA MWENDO
Jenga is a community organizer based in New Orleans’ Lower Ninth Ward. She has been working as Founder and Director of the Backyard Gardeners Network since 2009, with the goal of strengthening the community through the cultural tradition of growing food. Before moving back home to New Orleans, Jenga worked as a 3D modeler at Blue Sky Studios in New York City, where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Computer Art from the School of Visual Arts. Jenga joined the MSRED program in order to gain knowledge to advocate for sound development in her community. “Experience has taught me that idealism needs to be backed with power—resources, knowledge, clout and experience...Through the MSRED program I hope to gain some of the first three to positively impact my community.”
MICHAEL PIZZOLATTO

Michael works with the Tulane Center for Public Service developing campus-community partnerships and supervising AmeriCorps programs. He is a south Louisiana native and lives in New Orleans with his family. Following completion of his Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology and Sociology from Millsaps College in Mississippi, Michael served for one year with an education-focused non-governmental organization in Honduras. “Most of my professional career focused on working with low income communities to solve persistent social problems…. During much of the same time I have renovated three historic New Orleans homes, two of them blighted and abandoned, and my excitement for this work has grown with each project. By completing this graduate program I will have the opportunity to combine these parts of my life and to use real estate development as a tool to help communities build assets.”

ALLISON PRICE

Allison worked at Davis Square Architects, a mid-sized Boston firm specializing in affordable housing, and was a 2014 Summer Design Fellow at the Tulane City Center. She is originally from Boston, Massachusetts, and has a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and Community Design from the University of San Francisco. Allison is jointly pursuing a Master’s in Architecture along with the MSRED degree, and she hopes to combine her interests in community development and public interest design. “I'd like to leave Tulane having improved my skill set to achieve a positive social impact in a community context…. I want to share and cultivate my passion for a design process that facilitates appropriate, meaningful change.”

BEN SAMUELS

Ben worked at the progressive/alternative radio outlet, WTUL 91.5 FM, where he was General Manager from 2014-2015. A native of Santa Barbara, California, Ben recently graduated from Tulane University's Freeman Business School with a B.S. in Management and a Certificate in Entrepreneurial Management. Ben is seeking to begin a career in sustainable real estate development and property management. “Real Estate is not just buying, fixing, and leasing a building; it is an opportunity to make an impact on the surrounding community. It resonates with how I want to live my life.”

NATAWAT THANOMSAT

Before moving to the United States, Natawat worked as housing project consultant at Vuttichart Co. Ltd., a newly-founded housing development company currently run by his family. He was born and raised in Chonburi, a coastal city situated 50 miles from Bangkok, Thailand. Natawat earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Assumption University in 2013, and plans to augment his design education with a well-rounded academic program in real estate development. “I have been assigned to be part of my family’s housing project design and project management team, but feel that learning [real estate development] only through on-the-job training does not make me adequately well-rounded. What I need are formal academic studies in real estate that focus not only on sustainable design but also on creating a profitable business.”

BRYAN YIM

Bryan was most recently an intern at a private real estate practice in Apple Valley, California, and previously also worked as a Real Estate Salesperson for DSA Realty Services in New York City. He is originally from Southern California and graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Science in Real Estate. Bryan’s life in New York had a significant impact on his perspective, especially following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Sandy, which demonstrated how important sustainability and resiliency are in the built environment. “In [my undergraduate studies] I examined how sustainability is transforming the real estate industry with regards to the construction of new buildings and retrofits of existing buildings…. As a result, I gained a much better understanding into how retrofitting older commercial buildings to current, green building standards can bring significant reductions in cost and greenhouse gas emissions.”