



Natalie Ecanow (SSDS '13)

Occupation: Analyst, Private Foundation
University: Duke University
High School: Rochelle Zell Jewish High School
Hometown: Highland Park, IL
Current City: New York, NY

If you're looking for Natalie Ecanow, you might find her commuting back and forth from her home in New York City to Washington D.C., where she works as an analyst at a private foundation that invests in national security programs, foreign and domestic policy, and efforts to support Jewish continuity. She has worked at the foundation since May, when she graduated from Duke University with a degree in political science.

"What I enjoy most about my current job is the opportunities I have to connect with, speak with, and learn from established professionals in their respective fields, as well as my exposure to a variety of key issues and ideas impacting our country today," says Natalie. In her work, Natalie frequently attends book discussions on various topics including thoughts of Irving Kristol and *Closing of the American Mind* by Alan Bloom. She frequently has dinner with prominent members of the United States government and administration.

Natalie's interest in American foreign policy began when she started attending the AIPAC conference in high school, and her interest deepened during her college years. She gained invaluable experience during a semester-long internship at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC., a think tank and research center dedicated to nonpartisan analysis of US and international economic, security, and political issues.

At the Hudson Institute, Natalie conducted research for Walter Russell Mead's forthcoming book on the US-Israel relationship and Wall Street Journal column. She also met Douglas Feith, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy in the Bush administration. Feith hired Natalie to conduct research on his book about the Arab-Israeli conflict and other foreign policy publications.

Natalie said she loves living in New York City, and recently started to reconnect with Schechter classmates, including Lexi Levin and Bobby Hochberg, who are also new to the city. In her spare time, Natalie loves exploring the city. She also hopes to find time to pursue her love of ballet, which offers her a creative outlet, a sense of discipline, and a unique sense of joy and freedom when she performs on stage.

When thinking back on her days at Schechter, Natalie credits Schechter with giving her a strong foundation in Jewish values, traditions, and texts, and a deep appreciation for community. Her Jewish connection continued at Rochelle Zell Jewish Highschool and Duke University.

Natalie is proud to be a second generation student at Schechter. Her father, David Ecanow, and her uncle, Jacob Ecanow, are 1982 and 1980 Schechter graduates. Her sister, Anna (SSDS '14), is a senior at Emory University, where she is majoring in neuroscience and behavioral biology. Her cousins are also Schechter alumni. Naomi (SSDS' 11) is a fourth year medical student at UIC, Gaby (SSDS '14) is a senior at MIT, and Eli (SSDS '14) is a senior at the University of Michigan.



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