

## LAUREN McCANN



Lauren is a relentless optimist, everyday more excited by the potential for businesses and technologies to make our world a better place. Her interest in civic engagement started in high school where she made documentary films to share untold stories of urban education in her home state of Rhode Island and share stories of Haiti in the wake of the 2010 earthquake. Since coming to Penn, Lauren has plugged into various social impact initiatives, both in the form of clubs and campus start-ups. Starting freshman year, Lauren has worked for the Social Impact Consulting Group, serving local non-profits. She is also president of Penn's Social Entrepreneurship Movement, incubating student-run social ventures and promoting new ways of thinking about business on campus. Her volunteer work has largely focused on mentoring students in West Philadelphia neighborhoods and working at a transitional house for women coming out of prison and reintegrating in their communities. Outside of these activities, Lauren recently launched a website called [DearPennFreshmen.com](http://DearPennFreshmen.com), a mental wellness movement that shares letters upperclassmen wrote to their freshmen selves in hopes of creating more authentic and supportive communities here at Penn. After graduation, Lauren will be moving to India as a Fulbright Scholar where she will be teaching English at a high school and working with local female entrepreneurs to build up their small businesses.

## CAPSTONE PROJECT

### **DOCUMENTARY FILM: A KNOWN UNKNOWN: HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES**

*Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Brown, School of Nursing*

In recent years, human trafficking – the recruitment or movement of persons by means of coercion or deception into exploitative labor or slavery-like practices – has moved from the margins to the mainstream political agenda. With increasing public interest, and the power of film as a leverage to uncover the scope of human trafficking in Philadelphia neighborhoods, a capstone documentary attempts to define and analyze human trafficking patterns through academic research, domestic and international policies and laws, and examination of key modern cases and debates. The interviews look at sex trafficking – in contrast to labor trafficking – to identify vulnerability factors for specific populations as an attempt to understand the gendered dynamics driving stigma in the sex industry. Furthermore, the interviews assess resource availability, analyze recovery methodology and debate the concept of “free choice” in trafficking narratives. The film examines the origins of human trafficking in the United States and includes potential solutions as understood through the perspectives of organizations, experts, activists, academics, and victims.