



**Micah Elias, The 2018-19
Joe Lurie Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Gateway Fellow
at International House, UC Berkeley**

Hello! My name is Micah Elias and I earned my B.S. in International Agricultural Development from UC Davis in 2012. After graduating I worked with international development organizations and non-profits working to connect small farmers to markets and technical resources. Later, I served in Peace Corps Panama and worked as the National Coffee Coordinator where I trained volunteers and their community counterparts on farm and project management. After returning from the Peace Corps, I began working for Tradin Organic managing international agricultural supply chains from Asia, Latin America, and Africa.



As a graduate student in the Energy and Resources Group, I plan to focus my research the ecosystem services and social benefits of holistically managed agricultural systems in order to incentivize a more sustainable global food system. In my free time I race open ocean outrigger canoes and like backpacking and mountain biking.

From Micah's academic department's nomination: Micah is committed to fostering a truly diverse and respectful community of scholars. His attitude is best described by a member of the coffee cooperative in Panama who was collectively nominated to write a letter for his application: "The community was initially wary of having an American live with us; some families were skeptical of his motives. However, Micah quickly built deep friendships and trust in the community with his positive attitude and willingness to work on any project. We appreciated Micah's hard work and dedication to Guabal. This recommendation is a big responsibility for me; my family considers Micah a brother. He left his family in the US and moved to a community he did not know because of his desire to help others. The community remembers Micah most fondly for the relationships he developed with his counterparts and the friendships he made."
-Marino Vasquez, Guabal Coffee Cooperative



The Joe Lurie Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Gateway Fellowship provides support for residency at International House. This endowment fund was established to honor Joe Lurie's service as I-House's Executive Director from 1988 to 2007 and is earmarked for a returned Peace Corps volunteer. Joe previously served as a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Kenya.