



2016-2017 Luce Scholars



Isabel Ball

Emily Dickey

Gracelee Lawrence



Elizabeth Linton

Alexandra McDougle

Jessie Moravek

Alyson Neel



Kaytie Nielsen

Dustin Palmer

Jennifer Payne

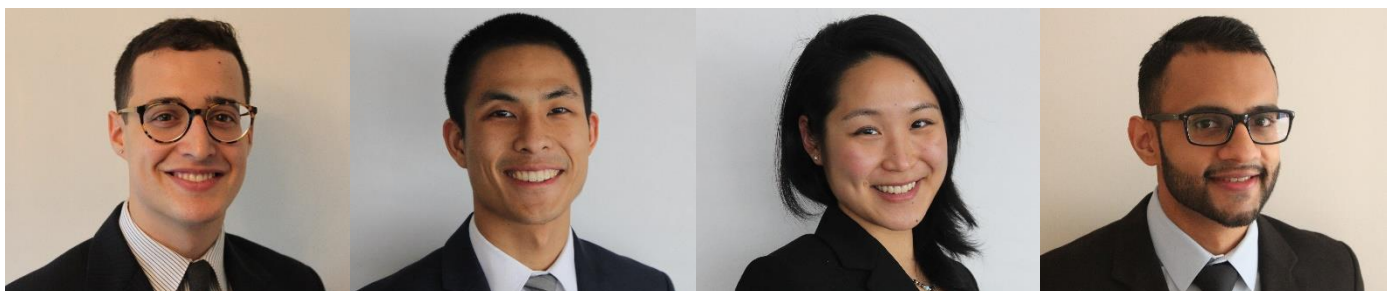


Rebecca Peters

Anne Peyton

Robert Rogers

Rebecca Schectman



Evan Silver

Nathan Truong

Jennifer Tu

Mohammad Zia



2016-2017 LUCE SCHOLARS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Nominating Institution</i>	<i>Field of Professional Interest</i>
Isabel K. Ball	23	Lewis & Clark College	Social Work; Human Services
Emily J. Dickey	27	Willamette University	Education; Youth Empowerment
Grace L. Lawrence	26	University of Texas	Art; Sculpture
Elizabeth A. Linton	23	Vanderbilt University	Chronic Disease Epidemiology
Alexandra M. McDougle	22	University of Hawaii at Mānoa	Anthropology; Archaeology
Jessie A. Moravek	22	Northwestern University	Environmental Science
Alyson K. Neel	27	Tulane University	Gender and Development
Kaytie N. Nielsen	21	Carnegie Mellon University	Filmmaking; Theatre Arts
Dustin B. Palmer	27	Washington University in St. Louis	Rule of Law; Criminal Justice
Jennifer L. Payne	22	Barnard College	Mental Health Care
Rebecca M. Peters	25	University of California, Berkeley	Global Water Diplomacy, Science, and Policy
Anne M. Peyton	27	Tulane University	Urban Planning; Architecture
Robert P. Rogers	23	University of Michigan	International Affairs; Public Health Policy
Rebecca D. Schectman	22	College of William and Mary	International Development
Evan J. Silver	22	Brown University	Theatre Directing; Playwriting
Nathan M. Truong	23	Rice University	Education Policy
Jennifer Y. Tu	21	Harvard University	Geriatric Medicine
Mohammad U. Zia	25	Willamette University	Economic Policy and Sustainable Development; Islamic Societies



2016-2017 LUCE SCHOLARS

Bios

Isabel K. Ball (Isa)

Age: 23
Degree: *B.A. in Psychology, Lewis & Clark College, 2015*
Nominating Institution: *Lewis & Clark College*
Field of Professional Interest: *Social Work; Human Services*

Isabel Ball graduated from Lewis and Clark College in 2015 with a major in Psychology and minors in Ethnic and Latin American Studies. A dual Mexican and US citizen raised in the Arizona borderlands, Isabel is dedicated to working with immigrant and migrant communities and plans to pursue a career in clinical social work, supporting the reintegration of deported migrant children and families. Since graduation, she has done extensive research on migration trends and policies, border enforcement, and networks of migrant support in North and Central America, at the Migration Policy Institute and as a research assistant to investigative journalist and writer Todd Miller, author of *Border Patrol Nation*. As an undergraduate, she carried out independent field research on child-rearing practices among an indigenous Maya community in Guatemala and co-led an alternative spring break collaborating with local youth in rural El Salvador. Recognizing the importance of providing culturally relevant support, she has cultivated her ability to work across cultures at Arizona's Child Protective Services as an assistant case worker and at the Immigrant Women's Support Services of Australia. In her free time, Isabel loves to dance, bake, hike and take road trips.

Emily J. Dickey

Age: 27
Degree: *B.A. in Anthropology, Willamette University, 2011*
Nominating Institution: *Willamette University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Education; Youth Empowerment*

Emily Dickey recently spent a Fulbright year in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, where she studied filmmaking at the Memorial University of Newfoundland's Digital Research Centre for Qualitative Fieldwork and created collaborative video projects with members of the Innu communities of Sheshatshiu and Natuashish residing in the Canadian Arctic. Previously, she worked for her alma mater as Director of the Willamette University-Chemawa Indian School Partnership, a service learning program based on mutual teaching and learning. Emily's dedication to partnering with marginalized people to build a more just world through education has also been influenced by interning with the Institute for Policy Studies, where she designed a curriculum for survivors of labor trafficking that used storytelling as a healing and leadership development tool, and by teaching English to Spanish-speaking migrant workers in her hometown of Ashland, Oregon. Growing up in Southern Oregon shaped Emily's commitment to the communities and ecologies of rural areas. She conducted

research for the U.S. Forest Service, co-authoring a report identifying barriers that tribal members face when trying to exercise their treaty-protected rights to gather traditional plants on federal land. She currently serves on the advisory boards of Rogue Climate, a non-profit working to help Southern Oregon transition to a renewable energy economy, and the Oregon Community Foundation's Latino Partnership Program. She has previously served as a member of the Oregon Indian Coalition for Post-Secondary Education and Willamette University's Native American Advisory Council.

Grace L. Lawrence (Gracelee)

Age: 26
Degree: *Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Extended Media, University of Texas at Austin, (expected) 2016; B.A. in Sculpture, Guilford College, 2011*
Nominating Institution: *University of Texas*
Field of Professional Interest: *Art; Sculpture*

Gracelee Lawrence will graduate from the University of Texas at Austin in May with a Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture + Extended Media. Her work examines the systems and structures of control around bodies, in particular the female body, using food as a reference and replacement in sculptures, fountains, videos and drawings. She was a Principled Problem Solving Scholar at Guilford College, graduating with an honors degree in Sculpture and minors in Spanish and Art History. She is a Co-Director of Pig & Pony, a small house gallery which brings artists from outside of Texas to Austin for intimate two-person exhibitions, employing humor and diversity to rethink traditions of domesticity. As a contributing writer to the International Sculpture Center, she focuses on Texas-based artists, writers, critics, and curators. She has shown work internationally and held solo exhibitions nationally at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum in Austin, TX; grayDUCK Gallery in Austin, TX; BLUEorange Contemporary in Houston, TX; Saint Cloud University in Saint Cloud, MN; and Cape Fear College in Wilmington, NC. She is the recipient of the 2015 UMLAUF Prize, the 2014 David Womack Memorial Fiber Arts Scholarship, 2013 Eyes Got It Prize, and the 2011-12 Ella Fountain Pratt Emerging Artist Grant. Competing and training horses in dressage and eventing since childhood, Gracelee is a proud graduate of the United States Pony Club. She is an artist, writer, cook, traveler, macramé enthusiast, and lifelong horsewoman.

Elizabeth A. Linton

Age: 23
Degree: *Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, (expected) 2016; B.A. in Medicine, Health and Society, Vanderbilt University, 2014*
Nominating Institution: *Vanderbilt University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Chronic Disease Epidemiology*

Elizabeth Linton is studying advanced epidemiology at Columbia University and will graduate in May with a Master of Public Health degree. She is currently supporting two research studies at Mount Sinai Hospital as a research coordinator, investigating health outcomes for geriatric patients and predictors of inpatient mortality among people with sickle cell disease. Her interest in public health began in high school, when she organized a health activism project “Get Rich, Health is Wealth” in the streets of New York City, her hometown. This experience inspired her to study epidemiology to learn how to truly listen to people’s health narratives and translate such stories into research that could support population change. As an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University, Elizabeth studied medicine, health and society (MHS). She conducted qualitative research and built sickle cell health maintenance tools for a hospital medical record system as a research assistant in the Department of Biomedical Informatics. Her work was presented at the 2014 American Medical Informatics Association Annual Conference. A member of the MHS student advisory committee, she created an internship/job database to enhance student access to non-traditional career opportunities. During a semester abroad in South Africa, she volunteered at the YMCA of Cape Town and helped design and lead art, science, and life skills afterschool lessons for disadvantaged elementary and middle school youth. A Posse Scholar, Elizabeth is devoted in her free time to mentoring first-generation college hopefuls through the college application process and volunteering at her church’s youth outreach.

Alexandra M. McDougale (Alex)

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in Anthropology, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, 2015
Nominating Institution: University of Hawaii at Mānoa
Field of Professional Interest: Anthropology; Archaeology

Alex McDougale is an anthropologist focusing on bio-archaeology and forensics. In 2015, she graduated from the University Hawaii at Mānoa with high honors in Anthropology and a minor in French, and began working as a forensic archaeologist with History Flight, an American NGO focused on the recovery and repatriation of missing combat veterans. Conducting extensive fieldwork in the Gilbert Islands in the Republic of Kiribati, she supports the current excavation effort for American Soldiers killed during the 1943 Battle of Tarawa in the Pacific Theater. Alex’s interest in conflict archaeology stems from her upbringing as the child of an archaeologist and a military officer. As a high school student, she volunteered with the excavation of a World War II internment camp hidden in the valleys of West Oahu. While in college, she worked with the Ifugao Archaeological Project investigating upland rice field systems of Cordilleran people of Luzon in the Philippines. Her research addressed the potential of skeletal samples of children, leading to an undergraduate thesis analyzing the ways in which children of rice farming populations defied accepted understandings of population health during the initial introduction of sedentary farming, and underscored the need to include more diverse population samples to challenge generally accepted grand narratives of archaeology. As an African-American female, Alex is passionate about giving voices to marginalized peoples and increasing minority representation in academia. When not in the field, she is an amateur poet, coffee connoisseur and hip hop fanatic trying to make the world a better place.

Jessie A. Moravek

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in Biology and Environmental Science,
Northwestern University, (expected) 2016
Nominating Institution: Northwestern University
Field of Professional Interest: Environmental Science

Jessie Moravek will graduate in June 2016 with a B.A. in Environmental Science and Biology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She is interested in ecology and conservation, and enjoys exploring nature along the shores of Lake Michigan. She has helped assess groundwater availability on a national forest in Utah, worked in a carbon laboratory at Northwestern to identify carbon sources that may contribute to climate change, and spent a semester studying salt marsh ecology at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. She was a “2015 Best Speaker” at the Northwestern Undergraduate Research Exposition, and serves as a representative to the Environmental Science Student Advisory Board. Through an NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship, she studied salmon conservation in Seattle, Washington. She presented this work at the Hollings Scholar Symposium in Washington, D.C. and a poster at the American Geophysical Union 2015 Fall Meeting, and is using the collected data for a senior thesis about salmon habitat restoration. Throughout her research experiences, Jessie has strived to connect with people and communities. She writes for the campus nature magazine *In Our Nature* and advises younger environmental students. She is also a member of the Northwestern University Marching Band and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Alyson K. Neel (Aly)

Age: 27
Degree: M.P.A., Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International
Affairs, Princeton University, 2015; B.A. in Political
Communication, Louisiana State University, 2010
Nominating Institution: Tulane University
Field of Professional Interest: Gender and Development

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Aly Neel is a feminist working on the forefront of gender and development. After receiving her B.A. in Political Communication at Louisiana State University in 2010, she spent two and a half years in Istanbul, reporting on gender-based violence and discrimination for *Today's Zaman*, the largest English-language daily in Turkey, and contributing to *The Washington Post* and other publications. She returned to the U.S. to pursue a master's degree at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. There she conducted research for UN Women on the barriers female UN employees face, helped build a coalition to pass campus sexual assault legislation in Louisiana, and helped reform Princeton's campus sexual assault policies and practices. She most recently worked as an adviser on civil society engagement to the UN Foundation's Policy Team in New York, and is currently a Women's Policy, Inc. (WPI) Congressional Fellow, working on gender, economic, and health policy for U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin. Aly enjoys shaking up her normal routine, whether in the form of morning dance parties (now a thing in

New York, Washington and Los Angeles), farming (which she did in Turkey's Black Sea region and Sardinia), or more recently, rocket yoga.

Kaytie N. Nielsen

Age: 21
Degree: Bachelor of Humanities and Arts in Creative Writing and Drama, Carnegie Mellon University, (expected) 2016
Nominating Institution: Carnegie Mellon University
Field of Professional Interest: Filmmaking; Theatre Arts

Kaytie Nielsen developed a passion for storytelling at an early age, growing up at her family's theatrical costume shop near Fort Worth, Texas. She aspires to a career in film and theater that create space for others to tell their stories and advance positive social change. In May 2016, she will graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Carnegie Mellon University with a Bachelor of Humanities and Arts degree, with concentrations in Creative Writing and Directing and a minor in French and Francophone Studies. In 2013, aided by a Humanities Scholars Summer Fellowship, she wrote, directed, and produced a musical on feminism and civil rights in the 1960s, proceeds from which benefitted Traffick911, an anti-human trafficking organization. That same year, she undertook dramaturgical research on the 20th century Irish conflict in Belfast, Northern Ireland that laid the groundwork for a musical she later produced through Carnegie Mellon's Playground Festival. In 2014, she completed a documentary on the history of Senegalese theatrical performance and served as a Media Intern for the Council on International Educational Exchange in Dakar, Senegal. As Director of Video Production for The Unexpected Laboratory, a young multidisciplinary artistic company, she led a film team to Tamil Nadu, India in 2015 to create videos for Visions Global Empowerment focused on uplifting disenfranchised communities. Kaytie is a filmmaker for the CREATE Lab of Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, currently directing a documentary on the dangers of transporting crude oil by rail. She is in post-production for her senior honors thesis, a documentary film on Afro-French female identity.

Dustin B. Palmer

Age: 27
Degree: M.P.A., Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, (expected) 2016; A.B. in Political Science and in American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, 2011
Nominating Institution: Washington University in St. Louis
Field of Professional Interest: Rule of Law; Criminal Justice

In May, Dustin Palmer will graduate from his Master in Public Affairs program at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. Hailing from the small town of Lowell, Indiana, Dustin graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Washington University in St. Louis in 2011 with majors in American Culture Studies and Political Science. While in St. Louis, he worked for two years

as a research assistant on legislative processes at the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, and as an intern with the St. Louis County Public Defender. After graduation, he interned at the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Fiji and then spent nearly three years working at the National Democratic Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that supports and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Since graduate school, Dustin has focused on justice system issues. He interned in Jakarta, Indonesia with KontraS, an Indonesian NGO dedicated to human rights and access to justice issues, completing an assessment of the nascent Indonesian national legal aid law. He is currently a graduate fellow in the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, where he supports city-wide efforts to combat the school-to-prison pipeline and implement arrest diversion programs. He tutors incarcerated men at the Albert C. Wagner correctional facility on mathematics weekly. In his spare time, Dustin enjoys bicycle touring, mountain biking, and cooking inventively mediocre meals. He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Public and International Affairs*, and his writing has appeared in the *Jakarta Post*, *OpeningParliament.org*, and the *Baines Report*.

Jennifer L. Payne (Jenny)

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in Ethnomusicology & B.A. in Neuroscience and Behavior, Barnard College, (expected) 2016
Nominating Institution: Barnard College
Field of Professional Interest: Mental Health Care

Jenny Payne will graduate in May 2016 from Barnard College of Columbia University with B.A. degrees in Ethnomusicology and Neuroscience. Jenny aspires to a career in mental health that combines her passion for biomedical science, social justice, and anthropology to provide equitable and culturally informed patient care. Originally from Silicon Valley, Jenny began her work in community health volunteering with AMIGOS de las Américas in Rivas, Nicaragua at age fifteen. After her first year at Barnard, she returned to AMIGOS to run a 50-person project, collaborating with the Servicios de Salud de Oaxaca on public health projects in Oaxaca, México. Currently, she serves as the director of Nightline Peer Listening, Columbia's student-run mental health hotline, and as a crisis counselor for the national text hotline Crisis Text Line. She has also worked as an advocate for survivors of sexual violence at Columbia's Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center and the Crime Victims Treatment Center, and has undergone over 200 hours of crisis intervention training. Jenny is entering her second year working for the Lucy Wicks Adult Psychiatry Clinic at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, where she assisted in developing a toolkit for clinics looking to improve their services to the LGBT+ community, and is focusing on enhancing access to services by incorporating mobile technology into patient care. Through Barnard's New York City Civic Engagement Fellowship, Jenny is planning a city-wide conference on student mental health activism to take place in April 2016. In her free time, Jenny enjoys analyzing pop music videos through a feminist lens, eating spicy guacamole, and playing the Japanese koto with the Columbia University Hogaku Ensemble.

Rebecca M. Peters

Age: 25
Degree: M.Sc. in Water Science, Policy and Governance, Kings College London, (expected) 2016; M.Sc. in Poverty and International Development, University of Manchester, 2015; B.S. in Society and Environment & B.A. in Development Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2014
Nominating Institution: University of California, Berkeley
Field of Professional Interest: Global Water Diplomacy, Science, and Policy

Growing up on a river in the progressive corridors of Los Angeles fostered Rebecca Peters' interest in a career that combines water research and policy. She pursued an interdisciplinary education, graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California, Berkeley in 2014 as the University Medalist with degrees in Society and Environment (B.Sc.) and International Development Economics (B.A.), and a minor in Global Poverty. While at Berkeley, she founded the Pachamama Project, which has continued to collaborate with water-focused NGOs in Mexico and Bolivia to establish gender and water programs in schools and maintain water treatment systems. She co-created and facilitated an undergraduate course on water and human rights, served as president of the Berkeley Water Group, and co-wrote a pamphlet on nitrate contaminated water in the Central Valley with California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA). Rebecca received an M.Sc. in Poverty and Development Economics with distinction from the University of Manchester, and is currently a M.Sc. candidate in Water Science and Governance at King's College London, both supported by a Marshall Scholarship. She is also a Truman and a Udall Scholar. Active in water and community leadership, she serves on the Board of the Global Scholars Symposium, as a regional leader in the Water Youth Network, and is the founding Director of the Water Law and Security Programme at the London Centre for International Law Practice (LCILP). Rebecca is an avid outdoorswoman and enjoys learning from different cultural traditions, especially by sharing meals, music, and art.

Anne M. Peyton (Annie)

Age: 27
Degree: Master of Architecture & Bachelor of Architecture, Tulane University, 2011
Nominating Institution: Tulane University
Field of Professional Interest: Urban Planning; Architecture

Annie Peyton is an architectural designer and avid urbanist. She is passionate about the intersection between the physical and social aspects of the built environment, and believes that public space and mass transit are catalysts for promoting social equity. She studied architecture, studio art and urban studies at Tulane University on a full merit scholarship, graduating with a Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Architecture in 2011 and receiving an award for her thesis proposing a new system of public transit and public buildings across New Orleans. Annie studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, whose highly functional integrated transit systems showed her the link between well-designed urban infrastructure

and quality of life. She recently spent a year as a Global Health Corps fellow with architecture firm MASS Design Group in Rwanda, where she co-managed the construction of a primary school in a Northern Province village and participated in the design of the Munini District Hospital that won the Canadian Architect Award of Excellence in 2015. Annie is currently a designer with WRNS Studio, an architecture firm in San Francisco, and previously worked as a designer for Hart Howerton, an architecture and planning firm in New York City; a program assistant for the Architecture and Design program of the Danish Institute for Study Abroad in Copenhagen; and as a design and urban research intern for the Tulane City Center in New Orleans. She is an avid photographer, and unsurprisingly, enjoys exploring urban environments by bike, foot and public transportation.

Robert P. Rogers (Rob)

Age: 23
Degree: *M.A. in Political Science, L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques d'Aix-en-Provence, (expected) 2016; B.A. in Philosophy, University of Michigan, 2014*
Nominating Institution: *University of Michigan*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Affairs; Public Health Policy*

Rob Rogers is pursuing a Master's degree in Globalization and Public Decision Strategy at Sciences Po Aix, the French institute of political science in Aix-en-Provence. As the elected cohort delegate, he organizes academic and social events and facilitates communication with the school administration. To fund his studies in France, he works part-time as a bartender, an English teacher with the Acadomia Institute, and as a freelance French-to-English translator. In 2014, Rob graduated Phi Beta Kappa with honors from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Philosophy. He was the president of the school's philosophy club, and volunteered regularly at the World Medical Relief and The Freedom House in Detroit. He worked for three summers in Ann Arbor as a research assistant and project leader with the University of Michigan Health System, where he studied Project Healthy Schools, an educational intervention aimed at reducing childhood obesity in Detroit schoolchildren. He has presented the research findings in peer-reviewed publications and at national public health conferences. Rob remains passionate about the alleviation of global health and educational disparities. This spring, he will complete his master's degree with an internship at the UNESCO office in Dakar, Senegal, where he will analyze the effects of an HIV education program in West Africa. In the long term, Rob hopes to apply his academic and professional experiences to a career at the intersection of public health and education policy. In his free time, he enjoys travel, snowboarding, studying languages, and craft beer.

Rebecca D. Schectman

Age: 22
Degree: *B.A. in International Relations, College of William & Mary, (expected) 2016*
Nominating Institution: *College of William and Mary*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Development*

Rebecca Schectman will graduate from the College of William and Mary in May 2016 with a degree in International Relations and a minor in Latin American studies. She has worked extensively with AidData, a research lab investigating international development finance. Experienced in both quantitative and qualitative research methods, she has worked as a geocoder to track the impact and effectiveness of foreign aid, developed methodologies to study governance reforms, and helped design field experiments. As an AidData Summer Fellow at UNICEF Uganda in Kampala, she piloted AidData field research initiatives on aid management platforms and citizen feedback data, the findings from which she presented at USAID's 2014 TechCon. In January 2015, she worked as a Global Policy intern at the ONE Campaign in Washington, DC, where she wrote for ONE's official blog and provided research support for Global Policy staff. While studying abroad in La Plata, Argentina, she interned with the Comisión Provincial por la Memoria, and documented human rights sites for the commission's multimedia map. Rebecca has co-taught an English literacy class and now individually tutors adult learners at Literacy for Life in Williamsburg. She has worked with the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville as a family mentor to newly arrived refugees. An International Orientation Peer Leader, she has welcomed over 150 new international students to campus each fall. She enjoys competing in races with W&M's Triathlon Club and playing violin with the Appalachian Music Ensemble.

Evan J. Silver

<i>Age:</i>	22
<i>Degree:</i>	<i>B.A. in Literary Arts, Brown University, (expected) 2016</i>
<i>Nominating Institution:</i>	<i>Brown University</i>
<i>Field of Professional Interest:</i>	<i>Theatre Directing; Playwriting</i>

Raised in a vibrant arts environment in Chicago by a banjo-playing printmaker and an architect, Evan Silver developed a passion for creative storytelling from an early age. In May 2016, he expects to graduate with honors from Brown University with a B.A. in Literary Arts and a focus in Writing for Performance. A theatre director and playwright, he also has experience in film, photography, printmaking, painting, drawing, graphic design, fiction, and poetry, all informing his practice as a theatre artist. His work explores themes of human constancy and variation across time and place, as well as tropes and archetypes drawn from ancient and modern mythologies ranging from Arabian folklore to apocalyptic cinema. Evan is also a musician and composer, and his music – a fusion of folk, jazz and pop styles – often plays an important role in his creative work. At Brown, he has directed nine theatre productions and five films, many of which have been original works with original music. In addition to Brown, Evan has trained at Drama Centre London, the Yale School of Drama, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, The Second City, and Lookingglass Theatre. He has observed and experienced a diversity of approaches to theatre-making which have deeply influenced his personal practice. When not making art, Evan is doing his best to experience the world with open eyes and a full heart. He loves meeting new people and is an avid traveler, mountaineer and wildlife photographer.

Nathan M. Truong

Age: 23
Degree: *B.A. in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Rice University, 2014*
Nominating Institution: *Rice University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Education Policy*

Born to Vietnamese refugees and raised in ethnically and racially diverse southwest Houston, Nathan Truong is fascinated by the effects of upbringing on life outcomes and particularly interested in the role of education in overcoming poverty. His enthusiastic teachers at urban and suburban Houston public schools kindled his lifelong interest in science and inspired him to pursue a degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology at Rice University. As a research assistant at Rice, he developed a diagnostic assay to detect diabetes for resource-poor settings. At the Baylor College of Medicine, he researched the genetic underpinnings of Rett Syndrome, a debilitating neurological disorder. He interned for the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs at the National Science Foundation, where he authored Congressional reports and public media that analyzed the return on investment for basic science research. Motivated by the community service of his mentors, Nathan has tutored low-income Houston youth in science and advised his fellow college classmates as a Peer Academic Advisor. Currently an Instructor of Physics and AP Statistics and a Teach for America Corps Member at YES Prep Public Schools, Nathan is leading efforts to expand STEM resources for his campus and has formed partnerships with established Rice University and MIT STEM enrichment programs. He enjoys drawing and watching thought-provoking movies, and especially looks forward to seeing his first cohort of students graduate YES Prep as the founding class of 2016.

Jennifer Y. Tu (Jenn)

Age: 21
Degree: *B.A. in Neurobiology, Harvard University, (expected) 2016*
Nominating Institution: *Harvard University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Geriatric Medicine*

Jenn Tu is a Chinese American born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She will graduate from Harvard College in May 2016 with a B.A. in Neurobiology and a secondary concentration in Global Health and Health Policy. She served as co-president and summer director of Harvard-Radcliffe MIHNUET, which brings undergraduate musicians to more than twelve long-term care facilities in Boston for year-round concerts, and introduced a “resident performer” system that fosters longitudinal relationships between volunteers and their audiences. She also co-directed the Harvard College Alzheimer’s Buddies, which matches students with Alzheimer’s patients for one-on-one weekly visits, and coordinated an IRB-approved research study to quantify the program’s clinical effects, which she later presented at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Copenhagen. At Harvard Medical School, Jennifer has pursued two research projects focused on cellular modeling of familial Alzheimer’s disease and analysis of volumetric differences in brain regions among the elderly. By seeking out experiences in diverse social and scientific settings, she aims to build a deeper

understanding of aging and related issues, including the incorporation of intergenerational interaction as a therapy for dementia and the elucidation of structural changes in the brain that occur with aging. In recognition of her efforts, she received Leading Age's 2015 Great Minds Exceptional Friend or Family Caregiver Award and the Creativity Foundation's 2015 Benjamin Franklin Legacy Prize for Creativity in Service. Jennifer plans to pursue a career in geriatric medicine, integrated with innovative initiatives in music, service, and advocacy. In her spare time, she enjoys playing piano and chamber music with friends, mentoring children at the Harvard Ed Portal, people-watching, caricaturing, and taking part in community runs.

Mohammad U. Zia

Age: 25
Degree: *Masters of Public Policy, University of Oxford, (expected) 2016; B.A. in Global Diplomacy and Development, University of Maryland, 2014*
Nominating Institution: *Willamette University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Economic Policy and Sustainable Development; Islamic Societies*

Born in Saudi Arabia to parents of Afghan and Pakistani descent, Mohammad Zia moved to the United States when he was six years old and was raised in Queens, New York and rural Kentucky. In 2005, immigration issues forced his family to move back to Pakistan but he eventually returned and became an American citizen in 2010. He attended the University of Maryland where he created his own major, Global Diplomacy and Development. He volunteered abroad with rural farmers in Uganda, marginalized youth in Senegal and Tanzania, and disabled communities in Morocco. He also interned at the U.S. Embassy in France and with USAID, and served as a legal clerk at the U.S. Department of Justice. Upon graduation in 2014, he worked as a short-term consultant with the World Bank's Inspection Panel where he constructed a comprehensive database of over 90 legal investigations, and then spent a year in Jordan studying Arabic as a Boren Scholar and volunteering with Syrian refugees. Recognized as a Humanity in Action Fellow and a Truman Scholar, Mohammad aspires to become a leader in U.S. foreign policy advancing effective governance and sustainable development. He is currently a candidate for the Master of Public Policy at the University of Oxford where his studies focus on energy resources and economic policy. He speaks Arabic, French, and Urdu and plans to study Persian in the future. He hopes to learn more about the intersections of sustainable resource development, regional diplomacy, and Islam in Asia while studying a local language and enjoying the continent's diverse food cultures.
