



2018-2019 Luce Scholars



Rishi Ahuja

Leah Everist

Robert Greene



Kelsey Harpham

Casey Herrick

Matthew LoCastro



Robert MacGregor

Andrew Maguire

Laura Marsolek

Phillip McGloin



Nikolas Oktaba

John Phillips

Madeline Rita

Olivia Route



Dominiquo Santistevan

Rachel Stamler-Jonas

Seheri Swint

Mayra Tenorio



2018-2019 LUCE SCHOLARS

Name	Age	Nominating Institution	Professional Interest
Rishi Ahuja	24	University of California, Berkeley	Financial Inclusion and Empowerment
Leah Everist	22	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	Community Preparedness & Emergency Response
Robert Greene	27	College of William and Mary	Financial Markets & Fintech
Kelsey Harpham	28	Occidental College	Water; Wastewater Treatment
Casey Herrick	23	Wesleyan University	Contemporary Art - Painting
Matthew LoCastro	22	Hunter College	Economic Development and Infrastructure
Robert MacGregor	27	Claremont McKenna College	Economic Development and Social Entrepreneurship
Andrew Maguire	28	New York University	International Education
Laura Marsolek	27	Syracuse University	Jewelry History and Curatorial Practice
Phillip McGloin	23	Vanderbilt University	International Sports Business
Nikolas Oktaba	24	Fordham University	Trauma Studies, Comparative Literature, Psychotherapy
John Phillips	25	Tufts University	Human Rights, Conflict, Development, Governance
Madeline Rita	22	University of Virginia	Healthcare
Olivia Route	25	University of Pennsylvania	Youth Development and Refugee Support
Dominiquo Santistevan	23	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Data Science; Artificial Intelligence
Rachel Stamler-Jonas	21	Northwestern University	Theatre
Seheri Swint	25	Johns Hopkins University	Film
Mayra Tenorio	24	Swarthmore College	Sociology; Gender Studies



2018-2019 LUCE SCHOLARS

Bios

Rishi N. Ahuja

Age: 24
Degree: M.S. in Economics, Trinity College Dublin, 2016; B.A. in Economics; Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, 2015
Nominating Institution: University of California, Berkeley
Field of Professional Interest: Financial Inclusion and Empowerment

Rishi Ahuja graduated from Berkeley in 2015 as a Regents' and Chancellor's Scholar where he double-majored in Economics and Political Science. He then completed a Masters of Science in Economics at Trinity College Dublin as a George J. Mitchell Scholar. At school, he served as an elected official in the Berkeley student government and editor-in-chief of Trinity's sole graduate research journal, and conducted field experiments measuring discrimination against same-sex couples on Airbnb to highlight the issue of fairness in technology. Rishi interned with U.S. and Irish regulators focusing on emerging issues in consumer financial protection, and upon graduation joined the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) as part of the Director's Financial Analyst rotational program. He spent his first rotation helping build a digital platform for collecting mortgage data from across the country and is now conducting research on the agency's over one million consumer complaints. His interest in Asia was sparked during a year-long project with the CFPB exploring the potential for alternative data to expand access to responsible credit internationally. As a Luce Scholar, Rishi hopes to explore the role of government and technology in transforming the ways in which underserved communities organize their financial lives.

Leah G. Everist

Age: 22
Degree: B.S.P.H. in Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, (expected 2018)
Nominating Institution: University of North Carolina
Field of Professional Interest: Community Preparedness & Emergency Response

In May 2018, Leah Everist will graduate from the University of North Carolina as a Morehead-Cain Scholar with a BSPH in Health Policy and Management, minor in

Anthropology, and certificate in Community Preparedness and Disaster Management. Her interest in emergency planning and response began in Uganda, where she taught biology at a secondary school and helped develop a first aid course in the remote Ssesse Islands. Her dedication to this field deepened at Doctors Without Borders, where she worked on a team that coordinated operations in Chad, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. She is currently working on a disaster response and resilience project in Puerto Rico, promoting sustainable rebuilding and community empowerment in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Public health is another area in which Leah has had a diverse range of academic and professional experience. A doula at UNC Hospitals, Leah has a background in maternal and child health and worked in a business development role at Maven, a digital health company that uses telemedicine to bridge gaps in perinatal care. She is currently on a team of student consultants working with a refugee justice organization to improve interpretive services with local health providers, and is the co-director of Get Covered Carolina, an organization that trains Certified Application Counselors to help community members sign up for health insurance through the federal exchange. She has studied Chinese and Hindi, and built her French proficiency during a semester in Morocco and Switzerland, where she studied global health and development policy and published an anthropological paper on vaccine hesitancy in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In her final semester at UNC, she is teaching a course on emotional science and behavioral economics. Leah has volunteered for conservation organizations in Montana, the Grand Canyon, and the high Caucasus Mountains of Georgia and Armenia, and tries to go hiking and camping as often as she can.

Robert W. Greene

Age: 27
Degree: *M.P.P in International Trade and Finance, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2016; B.B.A. in Finance; Public Policy, College of William & Mary, 2012*
Nominating Institution: *College of William & Mary*
Field of Professional Interest: *Financial Markets & Fintech*

Robert is a strategic advisor and senior associate at Patomak Global Partners, a Washington, D.C.-based financial services consultancy. There, his client work focuses on developing advice, reports, and research on strategic and regulatory issues facing asset management firms, broker-dealers, cryptocurrency market participants, and insurance companies. He also manages various financial technology business development and thought leadership efforts. Prior to joining Patomak, Robert was an associate at Promontory Financial Group, an IBM Company, where he worked on engagements related to stress testing, equity derivatives markets, mortgage servicing, and consumer complaint management. Before entering the private sector, he worked for the U.S. House Financial

Services Committee on bank regulation reform and Federal Reserve System oversight efforts. Earlier in his career, Robert examined financial sector trends as a researcher at Harvard University's Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government and George Mason University's Mercatus Center, producing studies on community banking, asset management regulatory issues, and consumer lending markets. His research has been cited in *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, and publications by U.S. regulators. He has also presented his findings before academic, industry, and public sector audiences across the U.S. Robert earned his M.P.P. from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and his B.B.A., magna cum laude, in finance and public policy from The College of William and Mary. While in college, Robert competed internationally in Model United Nations, earning the WorldMUN conference's Diplomacy Award each year for his performance in simulations of financial policymaking bodies. He also planned high school MUN debates, worked as a fellow in the Office of the Governor of Virginia, and was on the club lacrosse team.

Kelsey L. Harpham

Age: 28
Degree: *M.S. in Water Resources Engineering, Oregon State University, 2016; B.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy, Occidental College, 2011*
Nominating Institution: *Occidental College*
Field of Professional Interest: *Water and Wastewater Treatment*

Kelsey Harpham is passionate about water, and about the connection between communities and water resources. With a dual background in policy and engineering, she has focused on place-based approaches which value local knowledge and integrate it with technical practice for solutions that build capacity and resiliency within communities. Kelsey currently works as a design engineer on a wide range of water and wastewater treatment projects throughout the U.S., providing water quality analysis, treatment recommendations, and hydraulic modeling for municipal and industrial clients. Kelsey received a M.S. in Water Resources Engineering from Oregon State University in 2016, supported by a Selected Professions Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She completed a masters thesis focused on the potential for repurposing an abandoned dam site in Central Oregon, proposing an integrated approach to balance the ecological impacts of water use in the high desert with the necessity of that water for personal livelihoods and economic development. At Oregon State University (OSU), she earned the Faculty Award for Excellence, was the lead coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Water Research Symposium, and was an active member of the "Hydrophiles" student organization. Prior to attending graduate school, Kelsey worked at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council in Bend, Oregon, where she turned her attention to the critical need for collaboration and the

importance of focused investments in facilitating diverse stakeholder engagement for change. Kelsey graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Occidental College with a B.A. in Urban and Environmental Policy, completing a senior comprehensive project on food justice in Los Angeles, and spending a semester in Fortaleza, Brazil, where she engaged in research with local stakeholders on issues of sustainable development and social justice. Outside work, Kelsey serves as the curriculum director for AAUW Central Oregon Tech Trek, a summer STEM camp for middle school girls; the coordinator for the Watershed Community Scholarship, an alumni-funded award for OSU Water Resources students that she initiated; and is the Water for People committee chair for the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association. She enjoys spending time adventuring in the mountains, lakes, and rivers that surround her hometown of Bend, Oregon.

Casey S. Herrick

Age: 23
Degree: *B.A. in Studio Art; Psychology, Wesleyan University, 2016*
Nominating Institution: *Wesleyan University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Contemporary Art - Painting*

Casey Herrick is a Houston-based artist and a designer at ttweak LLC, an artist-based strategic communications firm in Houston. A 2016 graduate of Wesleyan University with a double major in Studio Art and Psychology, Casey was deeply involved with Wesleyan's Center for the Arts, serving as a photography lab assistant and a wood-shop monitor, in addition to working as a teaching assistant for several studio art classes. In 2015, he received the University's Zawisa Grant to photograph the American South, with a focus on regional identity in Louisiana and East Texas. He has studied in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Guanajuato, Mexico, and has served on the student council of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. Casey's art explores societal norms with an emphasis on geographic and cultural themes. While much of his work takes the form of figurative painting, Casey employs a wide range of artistic mediums. His thesis, *Safe Conduct*, focused on expectations and traditions associated with gender and the role of society in boys' coming of age. Featuring a ten-by-six foot canvas, in addition to five other paintings, his thesis work earned him Highest Honors. Casey was also awarded the Studio Art Program Award for departmental achievement. Upon his graduation, New York's Leslie-Lohman Museum purchased one of his thesis paintings, *The Herndon Climb*, adding it to their permanent collection. While pursuing a disciplined practice in his Houston studio, Casey also works as ttweak's lead 3D designer and as a photographer, graphic designer and video editor. His career at ttweak, which began after two years of internships with the firm, provides him with an opportunity to work with some of the city's most prominent institutions: the Houston Endowment, the Texas Medical Center, the Lawndale Art Center and the Houston Parks Board, among others. His

collaboration with these organizations is focused on helping them communicate in the most dynamic and effective way possible. Increasingly focused on his painting, Casey is currently undertaking his next major body of work.

Matthew LoCastro

Age: 22
Degree: *B.A. in Economics; Political Science, Macaulay Honors College, Hunter College, 2017*
Nominating Institution: *Hunter College*
Field of Professional Interest: *Economic Development and Infrastructure*

Matthew LoCastro recently graduated from the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College with a B.A. in economics, a B.A. in political science and a minor in public policy. Born and raised in Huntington Station, New York, Matthew developed an interest in civics through leadership training opportunities provided to him by his high school teachers. At Hunter, he co-founded a chapter of the national civics education non-profit, Generation Citizen, and served in the Undergraduate Student Government for three years. As President of the Student Government in his senior year, he launched Hunter's first anti-sexual assault campaign, and passed budgetary reforms resulting in universal access to menstrual care products, expansion of the reduced cost MetroCard program, and creation of a civic action fund. He interned at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, focusing on innovative business development in Downtown Brooklyn, and worked with the New York State Regional Economic Development Council on business grant and tax credit distribution. The internships and a course he took with General David Petraeus inspired him to take a closer look at the critical role of infrastructure in security and economic development. At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute, Matthew contributed to the 2017 International Energy Security Risk Index Report and researched energy infrastructure development costs and legal proceedings. His work at Kohlberg, Kravis and Roberts (KKR)'s Global Institute led him to pursue independent insights into emergency response infrastructure and sustainability, landing him on the island of Lesbos, Greece in the summer of 2017, volunteering in refugee camps. Currently, Matthew works as an Urban Fellow with the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, focusing on renewable energy procurement for the City of New York. His experiences in the public and private sector drive him to pursue a future as a federal public servant to develop the framework for long-term infrastructure investment required to ensure sustainable economic growth. When not working, Matthew enjoys cycling, camping, and exploring new restaurants.

Robert J. MacGregor

Age: 27
Degree: *B.A. in Economics; International Relations, Claremont Mckenna College, 2013*
Nominating Institution: *Claremont McKenna College*
Field of Professional Interest: *Economic Development and Social Entrepreneurship*

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Robert spent a summer in Piura, Peru during high school in his first extended international experience. Working on community economic development activities, he realized that his highest value skill at the time was simply effort and was motivated to eventually return to a developing country armed with a relevant skillset that could positively impact a community. Robert studied Economics and International Relations at Claremont McKenna College. He was selected as a Robert Day Scholar for his academic excellence and leadership ability and participated on the varsity swim team where he was named to the All-Conference Academic Team three times. Robert spent three years in the private sector after graduation, first as an investment banking analyst in New York with Bank of America Merrill Lynch and then as an associate at private equity firm Shamrock Capital Advisors in Los Angeles. His passion for economic development led him to join the public sector as an associate on the Access to Medicines Team with the Clinton Health Access Initiative. Based in Kampala, Uganda, he has worked on a range of data analysis, forecasting, and supply chain projects to support the Government of Uganda in improving access to medicines for HIV patients. His experience in Uganda's public health sector has solidified his belief in the valuable lessons private sector principles could offer for public sector challenges. He looks forward to his Luce Scholar experience as a unique opportunity to understand economic development activities and approaches in Asia.

Andrew Maguire

Age: 28
Degree: *M.P.A. in International Policy and Management, Wagner School of Public Service, New York University, (expected 2018); B.A. in American Studies; Psychology, Vanderbilt University, 2012*
Nominating Institution: *New York University*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Education*

Andrew Maguire is an international development practitioner driven to create more inclusive and effective education systems globally. Andrew began his career at World Learning, an international NGO dedicated to empowering young leaders through education, exchange and civil society programming. As a program development officer, he worked on a diversity of projects, from organizing exchange programs for HIV prevention, anti-poaching efforts, and

STEM education to leading the design of a USAID-funded youth development program across Mongolia. Recognizing limited staff capacity in supporting participants of diverse identities, especially queer youth, Andrew launched an internal LGBTI Inclusion Working Group, and led trainings on strategies to best support queer youth and to improve the workplace for LGBTI staff. As an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University, Andrew studied American Studies and Psychology and served as president of Vanderbilt Model United Nations. His passion for inclusive international development led him to New York University's Wagner School of Public Service, where he studies International Policy and Management and was awarded the Lisa Ellen Goldberg Fellowship, given to one student each year for their commitment to philanthropy. He has supported the foundation relations team at Doctors Without Borders and built public-private partnerships at the U.S. Department of State's Office of Global Partnerships. He currently serves as a Fellow at the Catalyst Foundation for Universal Education, where he provides programmatic and strategic guidance for non-formal refugee education programming in the Middle East. On the weekends, Andrew continues his hunt for New York's best bagels and plays (too competitively) on a gay volleyball team.

Laura M. Marsolek

Age: 27
Degree: *M.A. in Italian Renaissance Art History, Syracuse University, 2017; B.F.A. in Art History; Metalsmithing, Syracuse University, 2013*
Nominating Institution: *Syracuse University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Jewelry History and Curatorial Practice*

Laura Marsolek is a metalsmith and art historian who aspires to become a jewelry expert and museum curator. She currently lives in Florence, Italy. A teaching assistant for both Syracuse and Stanford Universities, Laura teaches Italian Renaissance art history and leads site visits for American students studying abroad. She makes jewelry at a Florentine studio where she is learning the time-honored art of hand engraving from a former Buccellati goldsmith. She is interested in metal craft traditions and techniques, as well as educating others and promoting craft heritage. This interest began as an undergraduate at Syracuse University where her honors capstone project focused on Medici symbols in the jewelry worn by the Grand Duchess of Tuscany in 1545 and the techniques used to make the adornments. She read metalsmithing treatises written by the Medici's court jeweler, traveled to Italy to shadow Florentine jewelers using Renaissance techniques, and recreated the Duchess's jewelry. Following graduation, Laura spent a year in Kosovo on a Fulbright grant studying filigree jewelry traditions, and investigated religion's role in adornment traditions and conflicting cultural ownership of the filigree craft amongst Kosovo's ethnic groups. She also apprenticed at a master's filigree studio, Filigran Company, where her role evolved into cultural marketing. Laura graduated from Syracuse University in Florence with

an M.A. degree in Italian Renaissance Art History in 2015. Her M.A. thesis focused on a little studied, sixteenth-century rock crystal wine fountain. Laura's research on Italian and Kosovar metal craft traditions has been featured on the American Craft Council blog and in *Adornment Magazine*. She has also been a featured speaker at conferences by the Association for the Study of Jewelry and Related Arts. Laura is eager to learn about Asian metal craft traditions and museum curation. In her spare time, she enjoys teaching English as a second language and taking part in English activities for Italian schoolchildren at Florence's Horne Museum.

Phillip J. McGloin

Age: 23
Degree: *B.A. in Economics; Political Science, Vanderbilt University, (expected 2018)*
Nominating Institution: *Vanderbilt University*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Sports Business*

In May 2018 Phillip McGloin will graduate from Vanderbilt University where he has majored in Economics and Political Science and minored in Finance and Chinese. Born in Washington DC to a white dad and a black mom, Phillip learned early in life about the racial and cultural differences that divide the world, and saw some of the ways those divisions can be overcome. Phillip has been passionate about sports from a young age. He achieved one of his major athletic goals by becoming a member of the men's basketball team at Vanderbilt University. The team went to the NCAA tournament in 2015-2016 with three players who have gone on to play in the NBA. During his time as a student-athlete, Phillip was recognized as a Vice Chancellor's scholar athlete, named a member of the SEC Honor Roll, and made the Dean's List. While committing 11 months per year to a high-major Division I basketball program, Phillip also volunteered as a field canvasser for now Nashville Mayor Megan Barry. He also served as an intern with Congressman Jim Cooper where he worked to analyze the impact of Obamacare in Tennessee. The internship inspired his interest in public service. Phillip started learning Chinese during middle school, and worked in Taiwan for Geber Brand Consulting as a Project Manager. He plans to combine his passion for sports and his interest in Asia to pursue a career in international sports business with the goal of bringing people with different backgrounds and identities closer together.

Nikolas Y. Oktaba (Nik)

Age: 24
Degree: *M.Phil. in Classics, University of Cambridge, 2016; B.A. in Classics, Fordham University, 2015*
Nominating Institution: *Fordham University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Trauma Studies, Comparative Literature, Psychotherapy*

Growing up in Brooklyn, Nikolas Oktaba frequented the local public library searching for books to read when he accompanied his mother at her job as a cleaning lady. At the library, Nikolas had his first visceral encounters with the power of literature as testimonial that disrupts and intervenes in our sense of the world. He studied Classics at Fordham University and was awarded Beinecke and Gates Cambridge Scholarships for his M.Phil. at the University of Cambridge. Integrating literature and the humanities as a whole into discussion of identity, sexuality, and trauma, Nikolas has presented his research, concerning trauma and intersecting topics ranging from Dionysiac cult practices to Weimar nightlife, in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. Nikolas has in the past two years taught courses at Oxford and Cambridge Universities about military history and espionage, and is translating ancient Greek magic scrolls for his book about pharmaco-religious beliefs of Late Antiquity and their continuing contemporary resonance. Nikolas believes that narrative is necessary for understanding and narratives of trauma across literary and cultural contexts provide the tools with which one can potentially treat the symptoms of trauma. In Asia, Nikolas hopes to deepen his understanding of trauma from a global perspective, using storytelling to investigate various forms of witnessing in post-traumatic survival, and exploring new ways to bridge academic and public discussions on trauma and its symptoms.

John T. Phillips

Age: 25
Degree: *M.A.L.D. in International Relations, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, December 2017; B.A. in Political Science, California State University, San Marcos, 2015*
Nominating Institution: *Tufts University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Human Rights, Conflict, Development and Governance*

John Phillips began his professional life at seventeen by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. He served for four years on active duty as a musician, performing in thousands of ceremonies and public relations events as a flute player and conductor. To pursue education on a full-time basis, he transitioned to the Marine Reserve in 2014, serving as a training and deployment processing chief. A military Career Counselor since 2017, he mentors servicemembers on opportunities and benefits available to them in their military and civilian careers. John earned his bachelor's in Political Science from California State

University, San Marcos in December 2015. A leader among the student veterans community, he served as Veteran Students Representative to Associated Students, Inc. and as Vice President of the Student Veterans Organization. He used these positions to advocate on behalf of other veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and coordinated events to improve student veterans' access to benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also studied abroad in Amman, Jordan to sharpen his Arabic language skills. For his master's at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, John focused on public international law, gender analysis, and conflict resolution. Among several community engagement initiatives he led, he brought Israeli, Palestinian, and American students together to simulate negotiations of the peace process in an Israel-Palestine Working Group. He also interned in the Stability and Humanitarian Affairs office in the Pentagon. Since graduation in December 2017, John has begun work with a gubernatorial campaign in Maine, and created his own political consulting firm with the objective of providing expert electoral campaign advice to under-resourced political campaigns in the New England region in order to reduce barriers to access for potential candidates.

Madeline R. Rita (Maddie)

Age: 22
Degree: *B.A. in Global Studies, University of Virginia, (expected 2018)*
Nominating Institution: *University of Virginia*
Field of Professional Interest: *Healthcare*

In May 2018, Maddie Rita will graduate from the University of Virginia (UVA) as a Jefferson Scholar with a degree in Global Development Studies. Her academic training in both social and natural sciences has deepened her commitment to an interdisciplinary medical career alert to the needs of vulnerable populations. Maddie has had a variety of field-based public health research experience. As an intern at Asociacion de Comadronas del Area Mam, a Maya birth center in rural Guatemala, Maddie documented medicinal practices of traditional birth attendants, coordinated international funding projects, and traveled regionally to initiate partnerships with other local organizations. She took part in the UVA Public Health Field School, a community-based participatory research project that qualitatively analyzed circumcision practices and HIV prevalence amongst Xhosa men in Khayelitsha, South Africa. She is currently a member of an undergraduate team studying e-health technology for American epilepsy patients using a human factors design framework; their paper is being submitted to the American Medical Informatics Association. At UVA, Maddie is employed as a medical scribe for the University Hospital's Emergency Department. She serves as a Vice Chair and Investigator for the University Judiciary Committee and is one of the university's very few undergraduate teaching assistants for organic chemistry. In Fall 2017, she taught

a semester-long seminar on reproductive healthcare through the Cavalier Education Program, which allows selected students to design and teach their own courses. In her free time, Maddie tutors incarcerated students at the Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail in English, science, and mathematics. Her poetry has been published in the *Virginia Literary Review*. A Colorado native, she also loves outdoor activities and home gardening.

Olivia M. Route

Age: 25
Degree: B.A. in International Relations; Russian, University of Pennsylvania, 2015
Nominating Institution: University of Pennsylvania
Field of Professional Interest: International Youth Development; Refugee Support

Born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, Olivia Route received highest honors when she graduated in 2015 from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in International Relations, Russian Language and Culture, and a minor in African Studies. Through Penn Engineering, she studied in Ghana and interned with the Kumasi Community Water and Sanitation Agency. She taught English and math in a village school in Nepal as a Penn International Intern. Her passion for refugee support let her to volunteer for children in internally displaced people (IDP) settlements in Georgia. After graduation, Olivia moved to Armenia to serve in the Peace Corps. For two years she lived in a rural village, teaching 3rd-12th grade English and organizing educational activities. She partnered with a local NGO to develop a youth initiative fund, inspiring young people to create and implement their own community development projects. As project manager for Border to Border, a nationwide program teaching leadership and healthy life skills to over 1,000 youth annually, she engaged with the project on all levels, from writing grants to walking half the length of Armenia as a volunteer teacher. She then directed Armenia's Girls Leading Our World initiative, securing funding through the U.S. Embassy's Democracy Commission and two Let Girls Learn grants to empower hundreds of students across the country. Drawn to an opportunity to work with Syrian refugee youth, Olivia extended her Peace Corps service. Now at Aleppo-NGO, a Syrian-Armenian humanitarian relief organization in Yerevan, she writes grants, develops projects, translates articles, and implements a program for endangered language preservation and young refugee support. Selected to serve as the 2017-2018 Peace Corps Armenia Volunteer Leader, she trains incoming volunteers and supports others with problem solving and cross-cultural advice. She plans to spend her life working in IDP and refugee relief, especially in youth programming and educational assistance for displaced children. Olivia likes hiking, running, theatre, and chocolate in all forms.

Dominiquo D. Santistevan (Niquo)

Age: 23
Degree: *B.S. in Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2017*
Nominating Institution: *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*
Field of Professional Interest: *Data Science; Artificial Intelligence*

Niquo Santistevan graduated from MIT in 2017 where he received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. From the city of Pueblo, Colorado, Niquo dreamed of becoming a theoretical mathematician; it wasn't until arriving at MIT that he was exposed to the world of data science and artificial intelligence as well as the world beyond the U.S. border. Data science allowed him to explore his environment in a new way. Through the lens of data science, he was able to ground his questionings of human-environmental interactions with empirical data. Curiosity about other cultures led him to spend a year at the University of Cambridge through the Cambridge-MIT Exchange program. That winter he interned in Paris analyzing pollution data to predict the infamous pollution spikes that shrouded the city in a haze. Back at MIT, he performed research with his advisor, Yan Leng, in the Human Dynamics Lab of the MIT Media Lab. He studied the Familiar Stranger Phenomenon, which concerns people who often share physical proximity but have no direct interactions. Using anonymized cell phone data provided by the Government of Andorra, he inferred these physical interactions and social networks between callers, and this in turn helped quantify the likelihood of future social interactions between two callers as well as identify common geospatial communication channels throughout the country. This work was presented at NetMob 2017, the leading conference for mobile phone data analysis. At the Makerere University Artificial Intelligence laboratory in Kampala, Uganda, Niquo conducted research on image recognition and its applications, using mobile phone photos to diagnose cassava leaves for diseases such as cassava mosaic virus. Currently, Niquo is spending a year in Santiago, Chile working at Adolfo Ibañez University's GovLab. Working at the intersection of big data and public policy, he and his GovLab colleagues are bringing data-driven decision making to Chilean legislature. Niquo plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Social Computing, a multidisciplinary field linking social science and data science. When not in front of his computer, Niquo enjoys frequenting jazz clubs in whichever city he's in, listening for foreign twists on American Jazz Standards.

Rachel M. Stamler-Jonas (SJ)

Age: 21
Degree: *B.A. in Theatre, Northwestern University, (expected 2018)*
Nominating Institution: *Northwestern University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Theatre*

Rachel Stamler-Jonas grew up in Metro Detroit where exposure to community-based art projects inspired her to use art as a mechanism for collective action. As a director, writer, and facilitator, Rachel uses theatrical forms of devising, creative drama, and civic practice, along with puppetry, writing and music, to meet community needs. In June 2018, she will receive a B.A. in Theatre from Northwestern University. As one of eleven “Alumnae of Northwestern University Undergraduate Research Scholars,” Rachel researched and developed a nonbinary Hans Christian Andersen adaptation, *The Little Merperson*. She directed the play with an entirely transgender cast as part of her Honors Thesis. The School of Communication awarded her the Performing Arts Grant for co-authoring and directing *Ignition: a New Blues-Rock Musical*. Rachel serves on the LGBTQ Student Advisory Board and is Marketing Director for Lipstick Theatre, Northwestern’s feminist theatre board. As a three-time selected Peer Adviser, she provided yearlong mentorship and dialogue facilitation for dozens of new students each year. Her peers elected her Communications Director for the Performing Arts Residential College. Rachel attended CPCP/Sojourn Summer Institute and NOURISH, gaining invaluable experience in collaborative arts partnerships and creative problem-solving strategies. She developed a grassroots project focused on women’s relationships to environmental action and performed as part of an ensemble. As a Drama Counselor, Rachel created a summer-long adaptable curriculum for six to twelve-year-olds. She also worked with local middle school students as a teaching artist. Rachel writes poetry and songs, including “SJ Maude,” an original album available on iTunes and Spotify. She enjoys sculpting, photography, painting, acting, performing drag, and has danced 120 hours total for Northwestern’s Dance Marathon community fundraiser.

Seheri S. Swint

Age: 25
Degree: *M.A. in Film and Media, (expected 2019); M.S. in Urban Educational Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 2017; B.A. in Creative Writing, Pepperdine University, 2014*
Nominating Institution: *Johns Hopkins University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Film*

A proud Detroit native, Seheri turned to storytelling at a young age to reimagine the world around her. Joining a youth theatre company at age 12, her first performance was aptly entitled, “The Story of Me.” That same year, Seheri wrote her first screenplay and has continued to write and tell her story in various formats ever since. At Pepperdine, Seheri made the leap from screenwriting to film production with the completion of her debut short film. During her senior year, Seheri participated in The Multicultural Theatre Project, reciting an original monologue about the socioeconomic issues affecting her family in Detroit. This pivotal experience was the first time Seheri employed oral storytelling in a personal, reflective manner. Her work often functions as witness literature, drawing on personal

narrative to transcend conflict and inspire hope. Her writing style is inspired by Maya Angelou whose boundless prose transcended literary genres and sparked healing through her piercing imagery and selfless vulnerability. Seheri's inner-city upbringing gifted her with an acute awareness of the unique challenges facing urban youth. During her graduate studies in Urban Education, Seheri conducted research at a Baltimore high school investigating whether the stimuli students encountered along their commute to school impacted their well-being. This research culminated in her commencement address before the Johns Hopkins University School of Education during which she shared a poem about her adolescent experience commuting the streets of Detroit. In 2017, with a renewed sense of purpose motivating her art, Seheri began a master's program in Film and Media. She founded 5 Minute Shorts, a graduate student organization dedicated to fostering collaboration and producing impact-driven media. Striving to harness the cooperative nature of filmmaking as a powerful medium to engage local youth, she partners with an after-school program to teach documentary filmmaking to fifth grade students in Baltimore City. Seheri aspires to found a production company dedicated to telling diverse stories and a non-profit arts organization for students in Detroit. Through her art and community involvement, Seheri hopes to spark social change and empower urban youth with the tools to express their stories and gain agency in directing their lives. In her spare time, Seheri enjoys journaling, writing free verse poetry, and riding her beloved bike.

Mayra Tenorio

Age: 24
Degree: *M.Phil. in Multidisciplinary Gender Studies, Cambridge University, (expected 2018); B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology, Swarthmore College, 2015*
Nominating Institution: *Swarthmore College*
Field of Professional Interest: *Sociology; Gender Studies*

Mayra Tenorio is a Gates-Cambridge Scholar and M.Phil. candidate in Multidisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her dissertation explores how indigenous women in Guatemala mobilize their bodies and communities to resist gendered violence and is informed by her time as a 2015 Watson Fellow. Her Watson project allowed her to spend a year documenting women's stories of survival in eight countries and, along the way, join women and girls in their personal and local efforts towards gender equality. She led focus groups with female community leaders in the Dominican Republic, helped facilitate a leadership module for girls on the Peace Accords in Guatemala, planned campaigns with women's collectives to decriminalize abortions in Argentina, and joined a female-led caravan defending indigenous land and food sovereignty in Canada. Mayra's interests in gender research developed while she studied sociology and anthropology at Swarthmore College.

As a Mellon Mays Fellow, she received research training and completed two research projects examining men's role in gender equality, including an award-winning senior thesis on men's friendships. Outside of class, Mayra immersed herself in the vibrant advocacy efforts of her Latinx immigrant community, and served as a Student Academic Mentor, Green Advisor, and member of the Abuse & Sexual Assault Prevention Taskforce. She returned to her high school in Waukegan, IL, and co-led two series of leadership workshops for young women. She worked closely with students to facilitate Know Your Rights workshops for undocumented families, and chaperoned an exchange trip to South Dakota that brought together the historical struggles of Latinx and Lakota students. As a case manager, she helped working-class immigrants access public benefits and legal counsel, and prepare for the U.S naturalization exam. Mayra aspires to grow as a gender scholar and educator that brings women's experiences and voices to the forefront. Currently, she is part of a student-led team evaluating a series of initiatives launched across Cambridge to prevent harassment and sexual assault misconduct. An avid podcast listener, Mayra is slowly organizing her archive of interviews with women from around the world to produce her very own show.
