



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	25	Lewis & Clark College	Social Work; Human Services
Emily J. Dickey	28	Willamette University	Education; Youth Empowerment
Grace L. Lawrence	28	University of Texas	Art; Sculpture
Elizabeth A. Linton	24	Vanderbilt University	Chronic Disease Epidemiology
Alexandra M. McDougle	23	University of Hawaii at Mānoa	Anthropology; Archaeology
Jessie A. Moravek	23	Northwestern University	Environmental Science
Alyson K. Neel	28	Tulane University	Gender and Development
Kaytie N. Nielsen	22	Carnegie Mellon University	Filmmaking; Theatre Arts
Dustin B. Palmer	29	Washington University in St. Louis	Rule of Law; Criminal Justice
Jennifer L. Payne	23	Barnard College	Mental Health Care
Rebecca M. Peters	26	University of California, Berkeley	Global Water Diplomacy, Science, and Policy
Anne M. Peyton	28	Tulane University	Urban Planning; Architecture
Robert P. Rogers	25	University of Michigan	International Affairs; Public Health Policy
Rebecca D. Schectman	23	College of William and Mary	International Development
Evan J. Silver	23	Brown University	Theatre Directing; Playwriting
Nathan M. Truong	25	Rice University	Education Policy
Jennifer Y. Tu	23	Harvard University	Geriatric Medicine
Mohammad U. Zia	26	Willamette University	Economic Policy and Sustainable Development; Islamic Societies

2016-2017 Luce Scholar Placements

Isabel (Isa) Ball

(Lewis & Clark College)
Migrant Assistance Program (MAP) Foundation
Chiang Mai & Mae Sot, THAILAND

Emily Dickey

(Willamette University)
The Story Kitchen
Kathmandu, NEPAL

Gracelee Lawrence

(University of Texas)
Department of Multidisciplinary Art
Faculty of Fine Arts
Chiang Mai University
Chiang Mai, THAILAND

Elizabeth Linton

(Vanderbilt University)
Centre for Ageing Research and Education
Duke-NUS Medical School
National University of Singapore
SINGAPORE

Alexandra (Alex) McDougle

(University of Hawaii at Mānoa)
Department of Archaeology and Prehistory
Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts
Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA

Jessie Moravek

(Northwestern University)
Wildlife Conservation Nepal
Kathmandu, NEPAL

Alyson (Aly) Neel

(Tulane University)
Akhaya Women
Yangon, MYANMAR

Kaytie Nielsen

(Carnegie Mellon University)
The Jamun Collective
New Delhi, INDIA

Dustin Palmer

(Washington University in St. Louis)
MyJustice
Yangon, MYANMAR

Jennifer (Jenny) Payne

(Barnard College)
School of Human Welfare Studies
Kwansei Gakuin University
Nishinomiya, JAPAN

Rebecca Peters

(University of California, Berkeley)
Asian International Rivers Center
Yunnan University
Kunming, CHINA

Anne (Annie) Peyton

(Tulane University)
Landprocess (Landscape Architecture &
Urban Design)
Bangkok, THAILAND

Robert (Rob) Rogers

(University of Michigan)
Development and Policies Research Center
Hanoi, VIETNAM

Rebecca Schectman

(College of William and Mary)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees (UNHCR) - Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

Evan Silver

(Brown University)
Rumah Sanur
Bali, INDONESIA

Nathan Truong

(Rice University)
Science Education Center
National Taiwan Normal University
Taipei, TAIWAN

Jennifer (Jenn) Tu

(Harvard University)
Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine
National Taiwan University
Taipei, TAIWAN

Mohammad Zia

(Willamette University)
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Jakarta, INDONESIA



2016-2017 LUCE SCHOLAR PLACEMENTS

Isabel (Isa) Ball

Migrant Assistance Program (MAP) Foundation
Chiang Mai & Mae Sot, **THAILAND**

For her Luce Scholar year in Thailand, Isa will support the *Rights for All* project of the Migrant Assistance Program (MAP) Foundation, a grassroots NGO that seeks to empower migrant communities from Myanmar living and working in Thailand. MAP works towards a vision of the future where people from Myanmar have the right to stay securely within their home country as well as the right to migrate safely and where human rights and freedoms of all migrants are fully respected and observed. MAP works to formulate and implement human rights-centered policies on migrant workers; to enable local migrant worker communities to collectively improve their conditions; and to promote awareness in the host country and reduce discrimination.

<http://www.mapfoundationcm.org/eng/>

Emily Dickey

The Story Kitchen
Kathmandu, **NEPAL**

Emily is one of the first Luce Scholars ever to be placed in Nepal. She will work in Kathmandu, the capital, to support the work and programs of The Story Kitchen, a space dedicated to amplifying "herstory," adding the stories of women to Nepal's historical narratives through both traditional and new forms of media. The Founder and CEO of The Story Kitchen, Ms. Jaya Lunitel, is a 2015 Asia Foundation Development Fellow.

<http://thestorykitchen.org/our-story/>

Gracelee Lawrence

Department of Multidisciplinary Art, Faculty of Fine Arts
Chiang Mai University
Chiang Mai, **THAILAND**

Gracelee, a sculptor, will be Visiting Artist in the Department of Multidisciplinary Art at Chiang Mai University. Founded in 1982, Faculty of Fine Arts offers academic studies and professional training at graduate and undergraduate levels with emphasis on contemporary art including the integration of the new technologies alongside traditional modes of art theory and practice, a special focus for Gracelee. During her Luce year, Gracelee will have opportunity to work with acclaimed Thai artist Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, a lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts, whose work "challenges viewers' moral sense and tolerance through complex and provocative imagery" (Guggenheim Museum Collection Online).

http://www.cmu.ac.th/en/enorganize_info.php?orgid=74

Elizabeth Linton

Centre for Ageing Research and Education
Duke-NUS Medical School
National University of Singapore
SINGAPORE

For her Luce year in Singapore, Elizabeth will support the work and programs of the Centre for Ageing Research and Education (CARE), a research center based in Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School. CARE investigators and staff conduct multidisciplinary research in ageing from a comprehensive gerontological perspective, combining biological, social, medical, and environmental perspectives. CARE also spearheads educational programs to build competencies on ageing amongst researchers, policy and program professionals.

<https://www.duke-nus.edu.sg/care/>

Alexandra (Alex) McDougale

Department of Archaeology and Prehistory
Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts
Phnom Penh, **CAMBODIA**

Cambodia has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, and archaeology is critical for understanding and preserving that heritage. As recent as 2013, a ground-breaking archaeological discovery in Cambodia has revealed a colossal 700-year old urban landscape connecting ancient cities and temples to Angkor Wat. For her Luce year in Cambodia, Alex McDougale will work on a range of archaeological and historical preservation projects connected with the Department of Archaeology and Prehistory under the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts in Phnom Penh.

<http://www.mcfa.gov.kh/#/>

Jessie Moravek

Wildlife Conservation Nepal
Kathmandu, **NEPAL**

Jessie is one of the first Luce Scholars ever to be placed in Nepal. She will work with Wildlife Conservation Nepal, a non-governmental organization. With about 40 staff and 600 volunteers throughout the country, WCN works to conserve and protect endangered species and their habitat while protecting the rights of the local people by providing training to uplift their living standard through non-timber forest products, agro-forestry and farming. It conducts environment impact assessment studies to safeguard forest and other ecologically important areas, and carries out outreach and mentorship program in schools and colleges to promote youth leadership on conservation and environmental awareness.

<http://www.wcn.org.np/>

Alyson (Aly) Neel

Akhaya Women
Yangon, **MYANMAR**

For her Luce year, Aly will work in Yangon with Akhaya Women, a local initiative led by and for women, providing tools and support mechanisms necessary for women in Myanmar to challenge gender stereotypes, to bring gender equality into their family homes and communities, and to campaign for a safer and more equal living environment for women. Akhaya Women is based on a model that seeks to empower women through experiential learning and small-sized support groups, to enable women to engage with the broader social environment with confidence and newly acquired knowledge.

<http://www.akhaya.org>

Kaytie Nielsen

The Jamun Collective
New Delhi, **INDIA**

Kaytie, a filmmaker and theatre artist, will be based in New Delhi working with Jamun, self-described as “a collective of co-conspirators, an ensemble of visual storytellers who strive to create brilliant images of concepts and ideas.” Dedicated to digital filmmaking, the team at Jamun focuses on collaborative creative processes and is driven by interdisciplinary border-crossing. The collective embraces and explores new technology and tools of creation, while seeking to preserve “the romance of filmmaking.”

<http://www.jamun.net>

Dustin Palmer

MyJustice
Yangon, **MYANMAR**

For his Luce year, Dustin will work in Yangon to support the efforts of *MyJustice* program, a new initiative aimed at enhancing access to justice for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized across Myanmar. *MyJustice* will provide technical expertise to justice centers in six regions in Myanmar, including the training of lawyers and mobile paralegals who will service the centers and provide outreach to communities. Community-driven and locally led, *MyJustice* seeks to empower communities to identify and deliver solutions to the challenges they face. The four-year (2015-2019) program is funded by the European Union with 20 million EUR and managed by the British Council.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org.mm/myjustice>

Jennifer (Jenny) Payne

School of Human Welfare Studies
Kwansei Gakuin University
Nishinomiya, JAPAN

Jenny is placed with the School of Human Welfare Studies at Kwansei Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan. For her Luce year, she aims to explore how mental health issues are addressed and understood in Japan. The School of Human Welfare Studies is committed to being a “center of practical science” through its rigorous research and academic programs. At the School, she will be mentored by Dean Mie Oowa and other professors in the Department of Social Work including Dr. Satoshi Ikeno whose current research focuses on long-term psychosocial effects of traumatic events such as the atomic bombings and major natural disasters on survivors.

http://global.kwansei.ac.jp/academics/academics_005547.html

Rebecca Peters

Asian International Rivers Center
Yunnan University
Kunming, CHINA

For her Luce year, Rebecca will support the programs and research of the Asian International Rivers Center (AIRC) at Yunnan University in Kunming. The AIRC, established in 2000 by Dr. He Daming, is the first not-for-profit organization in China devoted to the study of international rivers and watersheds. The primary goal of the AIRC is to generate theoretical and practical research on trans-boundary rivers in China, the Greater Mekong Sub-region and elsewhere in Asia, and on associated questions of natural resources and ecological security.

http://www.lancang-mekong.org/Asian_en/Asian_aboutus_cn.asp?PDclass=137

Anne (Annie) Peyton

Landprocess (Landscape Architecture & Urban Design)
Bangkok, THAILAND

For her Luce year in Thailand, Annie, a trained architectural designer, will work with Landprocess Co., Ltd., a landscape architecture and urban design company in Bangkok. The firm’s notable projects include the popular 2015 Thailand Pavilion in Milan and Suanluang Square in Bangkok, which was nominated for the 2015 Thai Landscape Architecture Award. The founder and director of Landprocess, Ms. Kotchakorn Voraakhom, is a 2016 Asia Foundation Development Fellow, and has previously founded the Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI), the international partnership that works with communities and difficult landscapes to design and rebuild public space through participatory process.

<https://www.facebook.com/Landprocess/>

Robert (Rob) Rogers

(University of Michigan)
Development and Policies Research Center
Hanoi, **VIETNAM**

For his Luce year in Vietnam, Rob will work in Hanoi to support the work and programs of the Development and Policies Research Center (DEPOCEN). Established in 2005 as an independent research organization, DEPOCEN has gained its reputation for its wide-ranging coverage of socioeconomic issues, including poverty analysis, macroeconomic policies, business and investment environment, market research, trade liberalization, governance, gender equality, program monitoring and impact evaluation.

<http://www.depocen.org>

Rebecca Schectman

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, **MALAYSIA**

For her Luce year, Rebecca has the opportunity to work in Kuala Lumpur with UNHCR Malaysia. UNHCR began its operations in Malaysia in 1975, and works with government agencies and civil society to protect refugees and assist in their welfare needs while they are seeking temporary asylum in Malaysia. Malaysia is not a State Party to the 1951 Convention and its Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. As there are currently no legislative or administrative provisions in place for dealing with the situation of asylum-seekers or refugees in the country, UNHCR conducts all activities related to their reception, registration, documentation and status determination, in cooperation with the Malaysian Government.

<http://www.unhcr.org.my>

Evan Silver

Rumah Sanur Creative Hub
Bali, **INDONESIA**

Evan, a theatre artist, will have the opportunity to explore Indonesia's rich cultural and artistic traditions as an Artist in Residence at Rumah Sanur in Bali. Rumah Sanur is a hub and vibrant destination for the local community and businesses, artists, creatives, thinkers, innovators and social entrepreneurs to connect and collaborate. Bringing communities together to stimulate ideas and build relationships across sectors, it nurtures creative ecosystems and encourage social innovation and place-making.

<http://rumahsanur.com/>

Nathan Truong

Science Education Center
National Taiwan Normal University
Taipei, **TAIWAN**

For his Luce year in Taiwan, Nathan will work with the Science Education Center at National Taiwan Normal University. Long known for its contribution in research and development in science education, the Science Education Center was established in 1974 as a think tank for Taiwan's Ministry of Education. The Center hosts experienced researchers of science and of science education who advise the Ministry of Education on planning and strategy, and carries out research projects funded by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan.

www.sec.ntnu.edu.tw/english/english.htm

Jennifer (Jenn) Tu

Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine
National Taiwan University
Taipei, **TAIWAN**

Jennifer has been passionate about the study of ageing. For her Luce year, she will work in the Lab of Geriatric and Genomic Epidemiology Research at the Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, which is part of the College of Public Health of the National Taiwan University. The lab focuses primarily on research on the elderly, and runs projects on cognitive function, dementia and osteoporosis, as well as international collaborative projects on prostate cancer. The lab has extensive collaboration with clinicians of different specialties (geriatrics, neurology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology and cardiology) and multidisciplinary experts (biostatistics, nutrition and spatiotemporal environment).

<http://homepage.ntu.edu.tw/~karenchen/eng/index.html>

Mohammad Zia

Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources
Jakarta, **INDONESIA**

For his Luce year in Indonesia, Mohammad will work with the Indonesian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in Jakarta to explore innovative ways for local governments to finance renewable energy using information, investment, and technology to address growing electricity demand and promote sustainable development in Indonesia. Mohammad will be working on initiatives such as the Indonesian Centre of Excellence on Clean Energy (COE), a Bali based research and innovation hub that will convene expertise to facilitate the transfer and deployment of renewable energy technology through innovative business models. Mohammad will be providing both research and strategic advice on incentivizing renewable energy uptake to ensure a sustainable energy future in Indonesia.

<http://www.esdm.go.id/index-en.html>



2016-2017 LUCE SCHOLARS

Bios

Isabel K. Ball (Isa)

Age: 25
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 migrant and immigrant families in search of a better life. For her Luce Scholar year in **Thailand**, she worked with the **Migrant Assistance Program (MAP) Foundation**, a grassroots NGO that seeks to empower Myanmar migrants living and working abroad. At MAP, she supported its Rights for All program, which connects migrants with resources in the community and promotes awareness around the challenges they face in Thailand. Since graduating college, Isabel 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, Isabel 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. In her work as an assistant case worker at Arizona's Child Protective Services and at the Immigrant Women's Support Services in Australia, Isabel cultivated an ability to work across cultures and communities. In her free time, Isabel loves to dance, bake, hike and take road trips.

Emily J. Dickey

Age: 28
Degree: *B.A. in Anthropology, Willamette University, 2011*
Nominating Institution: *Willamette University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Education; Youth Empowerment*

Emily Dickey is spending her Luce year with **The Story Kitchen (TSK)** in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. She supports TSK's work to amplify the voices of women who survived violence during Nepal's civil war. She is currently co-producing a short film exploring the experiences of women conflict survivors. Prior to coming to Nepal, Emily 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. She has previously conducted research for the U.S. Forest Service to identify barriers that tribal members face when trying to exercise their treaty-protected rights to gather traditional plants on federal land. She has served on the advisory boards of Rogue Climate, a non-profit working to help Southern Oregon transition to a renewable energy economy, the Oregon Community Foundation’s Latino Partnership Program, the Oregon Indian Coalition for Post-Secondary Education and Willamette University’s Native American Advisory Council.

Grace L. Lawrence (Gracelee)

Age: 28
Degree: *Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Extended Media, University of Texas at Austin, 2016; B.A. in Sculpture, Guilford College, 2011*
Nominating Institution: *University of Texas*
Field of Professional Interest: *Art; Sculpture*

Gracelee Lawrence is currently a Visiting Artist in the **Multidisciplinary Department of Art at Chiang Mai University** in **Chiang Mai, Thailand**. Gracelee also works with artist Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, a lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts and founder of the Multidisciplinary Department of Art. Gracelee graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2016 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-Founder/Director of Pig & Pony Gallery and the Founder/Director of the Virtual Studio Visit Network. As a contributing writer to the International Sculpture Center, she focuses on Texas and Thai artists, writers, critics, and curators. She looks forward to two solo exhibitions this coming summer in Thailand and has held solo exhibitions across the US 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: 24
Degree: *Master of Public Health in Epidemiology, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, 2016; B.A. in Medicine, Health and Society, Vanderbilt University, 2014*
Nominating Institution: *Vanderbilt University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Chronic Disease Epidemiology*

For her Luce year, Elizabeth Linton is a visiting research associate in **Singapore** with the **Centre for Ageing Research and Education (CARE) at Duke-NUS Medical School**. In this role, she helps support a study of the impact and benefits of lifelong learning on Singaporean seniors. Additionally, she is involved in organizing CARE's gerontology education initiatives including the Expert Programme lecture series, research methods workshops and annual Signature Conference. Before joining CARE, Elizabeth studied at Columbia University where she earned a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology. She also worked 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. 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: 23
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. Alex is working in the Department of Archaeology and Prehistory with the **Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts** in **Phnom Penh**. She has collaborated on projects with the Royal University of Fine Arts, The Tuol Sleng Genocide Center, and the National Museum of Cambodia. Her work ranges from preservation of Angkorian era artifacts, to developing methods of analysis of Khmer rouge victims. When not in the field, she is an amateur poet, noodle connoisseur and hip-hop fanatic trying to make the world a better place.

Jessie A. Moravek

Age: 23
Degree: *B.A. in Biology and Environmental Science, Northwestern University, 2016*
Nominating Institution: *Northwestern University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Environmental Science*

Jessie Moravek lives in **Kathmandu, Nepal** and works for **Wildlife Conservation Nepal** (WCN), a Nepali NGO that promotes sustainable ecosystem management and hands-on environmental education. Her work with WCN focuses on Parvati Kunda, a small high-altitude wetland located north of Kathmandu in the Rasuwa district of Nepal that is a critical source of drinking water for 3,000 people that live in a nearby village. Jessie's research will establish a baseline dataset of water quality and wetland biodiversity, as well as to assess potential water management strategies. Jessie greatly values the opportunity to connect with Nepali people and cultures through her study of nature, and enjoys learning from her Nepali peers and colleagues every day. She also enjoys daily life in Kathmandu, where she bicycles to work and is learning to play the Sarangi, a traditional Nepali string instrument. Jessie graduated in June 2016 with a B.A. in Environmental Science and Biology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. In college, she studied salmon conservation in Seattle, Washington, 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 served as a representative to the Environmental Science Student Advisory Board, wrote for the campus nature magazine *In Our Nature* and advised younger environmental students. She was also a member of the Northwestern University Marching Band and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Alyson K. Neel (Aly)

Age: 28
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 then worked as an adviser on civil society engagement to the UN Foundation's Policy Team in New York, and as a Women's Policy, Inc. (WPI) Congressional Fellow, working on gender, economic, and health policy for U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin. For her Luce year, Aly is working with **Akhaya Women**, (akhaya means "essential" in Myanmar), a local women's organization based in **Yangon, Myanmar**, targeting multiple dimensions of gender inequality – including violence against women (VAW) and low representation of women in elected office and laws and policies that discriminate against women and girls. In her spare time, Aly is writing and publishing a bilingual children's book on exceptional women throughout history in Myanmar. She also enjoys blogging, meditating, not so slowly eating her way through countless tea shops, and exploring the streets of Yangon with her first film camera, a funky Holga 120 found in Chiang Mai.

Kaytie N. Nielsen

Age: 22
Degree: *Bachelor of Humanities and Arts in Creative Writing and Drama, Carnegie Mellon University, 2016*
Nominating Institution: *Carnegie Mellon University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Filmmaking; Theatre Arts*

Kaytie 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 creates space for others to tell their stories and advances positive social change. As a Luce Scholar, she works in **New Delhi, India** at an independent film company called **Jamun**, where she has served as a cinematographer and editor on several short films. In May 2016, she graduated 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. Her interests in history have shaped the theatrical pieces she has written and directed, and her work in film is mostly documentary, aiming to provide a platform for disenfranchised and underrepresented individuals. 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. She currently serves as Director of Video Production for Round Room Image, a multidisciplinary creative collective.

Dustin B. Palmer

Age: 29
Degree: M.P.A., Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 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

During his Luce Year, Dustin Palmer is working in **Yangon, Myanmar** with **MyJustice**, an access to justice initiative managed by the British Council alongside civil society partners. MyJustice supports over a dozen local organizations in strengthening access to justice, and conducts innovative research, programming, and policy work to empower communities to develop solutions to challenges they face. Dustin is connecting MyJustice's various activities to policy engagement with the Myanmar government, as well as helping to develop robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning efforts, including a national legal awareness survey. Prior to moving to Myanmar, Dustin finished his Master in Public Affairs degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. As a student, he interned in Jakarta, Indonesia with KontraS, an Indonesian NGO dedicated to human rights and access to justice issues and consulted for the India-based Research Institute for Compassionate Economics. He was a graduate fellow in the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, where he supported city-wide efforts to combat the school-to-prison pipeline and implement arrest diversion programs. He also spent two years as a tutor to young incarcerated men in mathematics at the Albert C. Wagner correctional facility. Before the MPA degree, Dustin worked on governance and rule of law programs at the National Democratic Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that supports and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Washington University in St. Louis, where he interned with the St. Louis County Public Defender and the U.S. State Department, and served as a two year research assistant to the Director of the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy. In his spare time, Dustin enjoys bicycle touring, mountain biking, and cooking inventively mediocre meals. He has been 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: 23
Degree: B.A. in Ethnomusicology & B.A. in Neuroscience and Behavior, Barnard College, 2016
Nominating Institution: Barnard College
Field of Professional Interest: Mental Health Care

Jenny Payne is placed at the **School of Human Welfare Studies at Kwansai Gakuin University** in **Nishinomiya** and the **Center for the Health and Rights of Migrants (CHARM)** in **Osaka, Japan**. At Kwansai Gakuin, she is supervised by Professors Li-Mei Chen and Konomi Imai in the Department of Social Work and is studying contemporary and early twentieth-century

social reform movements. In her fieldwork at CHARM, she is able to put the academic study of social welfare into practice by providing support and advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS, foreign residents, and other populations who have difficulties accessing health care and other social services. She is currently working on a maternal health project that draws from the experiences of foreign mothers who have given birth in Osaka City in order to develop proposals for how they can be better supported in the health care system. Jenny graduated from Barnard College of Columbia University with B.A. degrees in Ethnomusicology and Neuroscience, and aspires to a career in mental health that combines her passions for biomedical science, social justice, and anthropology to provide equitable and culturally informed patient care. Originally from the Bay Area, 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. At Barnard, she served 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 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. In her fieldwork at the Lucy Wicks Adult Psychiatry Clinic at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, she assisted in developing a toolkit for clinics looking to improve their services to the LGBT+ community. Through Barnard's New York City Civic Engagement Fellowship, she planned a city-wide conference on student mental health activism. In her free time, Jenny enjoys analyzing pop music videos through a feminist lens, eating spicy guacamole, and laughing.

Rebecca M. Peters

Age: 26
Degree: *M.Sc. in Water Science, Policy and Governance, Kings College London, 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*

For her Luce year, Rebecca Peters supports the programs and research of the [Asian International Rivers Center \(AIRC\) at Yunnan University in Kunming, China](#). The AIRC, established in 2000 by Dr. He Daming, is the first not-for-profit organization in China devoted to the study of international rivers and watersheds. The primary goal of the AIRC is to generate theoretical and practical research on trans-boundary rivers in China, the Greater Mekong Sub-region and elsewhere in Asia, and on associated questions of natural resources and ecological security. 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 recently completed a M.Sc. in Water Science and Governance at King's College London, both supported by a Marshall Scholarship. She is also a Truman and Udall Scholar. Active in water and community leadership, she served on the Board of the Global Scholars Symposium and as a regional leader in the Water Youth Network. In addition to her dedication to water security for vulnerable populations, Rebecca is an avid outdoorswoman and enjoys learning from different cultural traditions, especially by sharing meals, music, and art.

Anne M. Peyton (Annie)

Age: 28
Degree: *Master of Architecture & Bachelor of Architecture, Tulane University, 2011*
Nominating Institution: *Tulane University*
Field of Professional Interest: *Urban Planning; Architecture*

Annie 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. For her Luce year, Annie is partnered with **Landprocess Landscape Architecture and Urban Design** in **Bangkok, Thailand**, where she also co-taught an undergraduate design studio at Chulalongkorn University and participated in a thesis review committee at King Mongkut's University of Technology. Annie 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 spent a year as a Global Health Corps fellow 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 has worked for architecture firms WRNS Studio in San Francisco and Hart Howerton in New York City; for the Architecture and Design program of the Danish Institute for Study Abroad in Copenhagen; and 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: 25
Degree: *M.A. in Political Science, L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques d'Aix-en-Provence, 2016; B.A. in Philosophy, University of Michigan, 2014*
Nominating Institution: *University of Michigan*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Affairs; Public Health Policy*

Originally from a small town in Southeastern Michigan, Rob Rogers is currently a Luce Scholar with the **Development and Policies Research Center (DEPOCEN)** in **Hanoi, Vietnam**, where he contributes to a wide variety of development policy analysis projects throughout the country. His individual research at the center focuses on the socio-demographic disparities in Vietnamese adolescents' knowledge of sexual health and contraceptive methods. Before coming to Vietnam, Rob worked for four months as a project assistant at the UNESCO office in Dakar, Senegal, where he helped analyze the impacts of an HIV education program in West Africa and assisted UNESCO in their sexual education advocacy efforts. Prior to his time in Africa and Asia, Rob completed a M.A. in Globalization and Public Policy with high honors from Sciences Po Aix, the French Political Science institute in Aix-en-Provence, and a B.A. in Philosophy with honors and distinction from the University of Michigan. As an undergraduate in Ann Arbor, he worked for three summers as a research assistant and project leader with the University of Michigan Health System, where he researched Project Healthy Schools, an educational intervention aimed at reducing childhood obesity in Detroit schoolchildren. Rob remains passionate about the alleviation of health and educational disparities, both in the United States and abroad. After his Luce fellowship, Rob will continue to pursue a career at the intersection of public health and education policy. In his free time, Rob enjoys travel, snowboarding, studying languages, and craft beer.

Rebecca D. Schectman

Age: 23
Degree: *B.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies, College of William & Mary, 2016*
Nominating Institution: *College of William and Mary*
Field of Professional Interest: *International Development and Human Rights*

Rebecca Schectman graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2016 with a degree in International Relations and 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 geo-coder 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 individually tutored 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 triathlons and playing classical and bluegrass violin. Rebecca is currently working with the Protection Unit at the [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#). Through this placement, Rebecca has had the opportunity to gain first-hand experience on the precarious lives and legal situation of refugees in Malaysia. Her work includes casework regarding protection concerns and consolidating statistics on extortion of refugees and asylum-seekers. In her free time, she enjoys learning to make pottery and discovering new hikes and food spots throughout Kuala Lumpur.

Evan J. Silver

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in Literary Arts, Brown University, 2016
Nominating Institution: Brown University
Field of Professional Interest: Theatre Directing; Playwriting

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. He graduated 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 directed nine theatre productions and five films, many of which were 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. He is currently based in [Bali, Indonesia](#) on a Luce Scholarship, studying traditional Balinese masked dance, shadow puppetry, and gamelan music, and is an Artist in Residence at both [Rumah Sanur Creative Hub](#) and the [Bali Purnati Center for the Arts](#). 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. Next year, he will pursue a postgraduate theatre degree at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London on a two-year Marshall Scholarship.

Nathan M. Truong

Age: 25
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 is especially proud of his first cohort of students graduating YES Prep as the founding class of 2016 as well as students to follow. For his Luce year in **Taipei, Taiwan**, Nathan is working at the **Science Education Center at National Taiwan Normal University**. The center carries out research projects related to understanding and developing science education pedagogy and resources and is funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science and Technology. Nathan works on research projects concerning the intersection of science, education, and communication and the overlap that exists and is forming between these fields. His time at the Science Education Center has concurrently provided tremendous insight into the vibrant progress being made in Taiwanese education as well as further highlighting education's foundational role in society.

Jennifer Y. Tu (Jenn)

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in Neurobiology, Harvard University, 2016
Nominating Institution: Harvard University
Field of Professional Interest: Geriatric Medicine

Jennifer Tu is a Chinese American born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated 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 was 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, Jennifer 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. For her Luce Scholar year in **Taipei, Taiwan**, Jennifer Tu is closely observing Dr. Jen-Hau Chen in the Department of Geriatric Medicine and Dr. Tzung-Jeng Hwang in the Department of Psychiatry at **National Taiwan University** Hospital, while working with Prof. Karen Chen in the Lab of Geriatric and Genomic Epidemiology Research, Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the College of Public Health of the National Taiwan University, on a narrative review of quality of life and burden of caregivers for patients with dementia. Jennifer plans to pursue a career in geriatric medicine, integrated with innovative initiatives in music, service, and advocacy. In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out with elderly people, playing piano and chamber music with friends, sketching and caricaturing, running and swimming, and stationary shopping.

Mohammad U. Zia

Age: 26
Degree: *Masters of Public Policy, University of Oxford, 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

For his Luce year in Indonesia, Mohammad Zia is working with Kawasan National Energi Bersih (KNEB), an **Indonesian Ministry of Energy** sponsored project based in **Bali**. Mohammad is working with the KNEB team to explore innovative ways to facilitate renewable energy technology transfer and financing in rural Bali. Mohammad is providing both research and strategic advice on incentivizing renewable energy uptake to ensure a sustainable energy future in Bali and Eastern Indonesia. Mohammad is also assisting with site visits to evaluate community needs for renewable energy technology. Born in Saudi Arabia to parents of Afghan and Pakistani descent, Mohammad 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 and marginalized youth in Senegal and Tanzania. 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 advancing effective governance and sustainable energy development. He received a master's degree in Public Policy at the University of Oxford where his studies focused on energy and economic policy. He speaks Arabic, French, and Urdu and is currently learning his Bahasa Indonesian. Mohammad hopes to continue learning more about the intersections of natural resource governance and sustainable development in Indonesia while exploring the archipelago's incredible beauty.
