



Michelle Abou-Raad



Maame Boatemaa



Margaret Burns



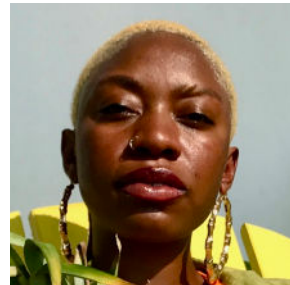
Fiona Carter-Tod



Elena Castellanos



Zachary Denton



Eva Dickerson



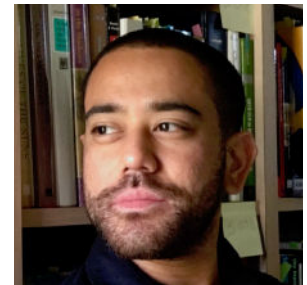
Jason Mazique



Harrison Nugent



Jackson Pearce



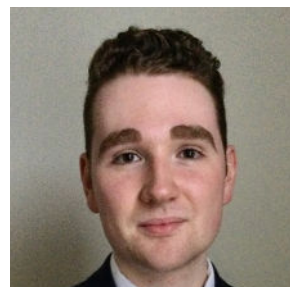
Noah Perales-Estoesta



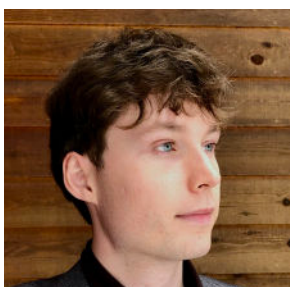
Nihaal Rahman



Yazmina Sarieh



Matthew Shorten



Evan Tims



Jonathan Villela



Jordan Walker



William Wheeler

2021-2022 LUCE SCHOLARS

Name	Age	Nominating Institution	Field
Michelle Abou-Raad	27	Boston University	International Development
Maame Boatemaa	24	New York University	Transportation and Urban Planning
Margaret Burns	22	University of Notre Dame	Art – Visual Arts
Fiona Carter-Tod	21	University of Richmond (Non-Affiliated Institution)	STEM – Science
Elena Castellanos	21	Claremont McKenna College	Transportation and Urban Planning
Zachary Denton	25	Emory University	Education
Eva Dickerson	23	Spelman College	Food and Agriculture
Jason Mazique	21	Williams College	Medicine and Public Health
Harrison Nugent	23	Georgetown University	Government and Public Policy
Jackson Pearce	24	Furman University	Medicine and Public Health
Noah Perales-Estoesta	28	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Publishing
Nihaal Rahman	21	Johns Hopkins University	Medicine and Public Health
Yazmina Sarieh	22	Emory University	International Development
Matthew Shorten	23	Vanderbilt University	Art – Performing Arts
Evan Tims	23	Bard College	Anthropology
Jonathan Villela	28	University of Texas, Austin	Art – Performing Arts
Jordan Walker	21	Occidental College	Transportation and Urban Planning
William Wheeler	28	Vassar College	Art, Education & Technology



2021-2022 LUCE SCHOLARS - BIOS

Michelle Abou-Raad

Age: 27
Degree: B.A. in International Relations; Middle East and North Africa Studies, Boston University, 2016
Nominating Institution: Boston University
Field of Professional Interest: International Development

Michelle Abou-Raad is a first-generation Lebanese-American, born and raised in the suburbs of Boston. She was awarded the Cardinal Medeiros Scholarship to attend Boston University (BU) where she graduated in 2016 with honors in International Relations and Middle East & North Africa Studies. The first member of her family to attend college, Michelle has focused her studies and career on empowering underserved communities. While at BU, she wrote an honors thesis and conducted field research about the efficacy of vocational programs for refugee women and interviewed women living in Zaatari refugee camp and in urban areas in Jordan. She also co-founded Urban Refuge, a mobile application that helps refugees and vulnerable individuals locate aid and services in cities. Michelle has written articles to raise awareness about forced migration, and spoken at the United Nations to advocate for involving migrant and refugee youth in migration policy development and program implementation. Following her graduation from BU, she worked as an employment specialist at JVS Boston, the largest workforce development agency on the East Coast, where she assisted refugee and immigrant clients with reaching their employment goals. From 2017 to 2019, she worked at Creative Associates, an international development NGO, managing multimillion-dollar capacity building projects in the Middle East. Now based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Michelle works in strategy consulting at Strategy& (part of the PwC network) where she helps public and private sector clients in the Middle East develop strategies to pursue growth and create value in developing markets. Michelle aims to lead – or establish – an organization, be it a nonprofit or social enterprise, that empowers individuals and their communities through education and vocational programming. In her free time, she enjoys boxing, exploring new places, and trying different cuisines.

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Maame Boatema

Age: 24
Degree: MSc in Environment and Development, London School of Economics, (expected) 2021; B.A. in Urban Studies, African Studies, Environmental Studies, and History (Individualized Major), New York University, 2019
Nominating Institution: New York University
Field of Professional Interest: Transportation and Urban Planning

Maame Boatema grew up at the crossroad of her two homes, Ghana and the U.S. A fully funded MSc candidate in Environment and Development at the London School of Economics, she explores urbanity through the lens of history, design, environment, politics, immigration, imperialism, and literature. As an Albert Gallatin Scholar at New York University, she critically interrogated how urban spaces transform in diverse social, economic, and political settings, and won several grants for research in Ghana, Kenya, and Senegal, which shifted her academic trajectory to revisiting indigenous and community-based practices and unsettling Western notions of development. During her time at NYU, Maame was recognized for her dedication to community-building and development, including the NYU President's Service Award and the Clyde Taylor Award for Distinguished Work in African American and Africana Studies. After graduation, on a Princeton in Africa fellowship, she spearheaded the Hinji Project, a pragmatic intervention for soybean farmers in Central Zambia that reduced reliance on imported machinery for harvesting. The local farmers and community leaders she worked with inspired her to place community wisdom and collaboration at the center of her career in development and urban planning. Maame's love for community building, travel, and storytelling led her to spend nine months learning about web design to create an experimental platform, The Garlic Project. The published pieces on the Garlic platform engage with the daily mundane thoughts and occurrences that invariably define the human experience and has featured contributions from over twenty countries since its launch in 2019. Anchored by a sense of gratitude and responsibility, Maame imagines a redefinition of cities around the world that encourages people to self-actualize with the promise of community, without the fear of displacement or starvation.

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Margaret Burns (Meg)

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in Art History, University of Notre Dame, (expected) 2021
Nominating Institution: University of Notre Dame
Field of Professional Interest: Art – Visual Arts

An aspiring curator and art historian from San Antonio, Texas, Meg Burns is devoted to culturally sustaining curation and community-centered arts education. She expects to graduate from the University of Notre Dame in May 2021 with a B.A. in Art History and a minor in the Glynn Family Honors Program. With a grant from the Glynn Family, she traveled to Ireland to conduct research on American installation artist Mark Dion, prior to her junior-year study abroad at University College Dublin. Her current honors thesis addresses contemporary artist Theaster Gates, and how he interrupts, creates, and manipulates systems of capital in an effort to revitalize his community on the South Side of Chicago. At Notre Dame's Snite Museum of Art, Meg helps build exhibitions and completes research for upcoming publications as a Curatorial Research Assistant for Photography Curator Dr. David Acton. In the summer of 2020, Meg served as Havner Curatorial Intern for the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, where she assembled bibliographies, wrote interpretive text, and crafted exhibition proposals for the museum's collection of modern art. She has also worked as a Curatorial Intern for the Terra Foundation for American Art, where she first became interested in the ability of international partnerships to enrich and diversify art-world narratives. On campus, Meg serves as the president of the Art History Club; an event planner on the Snite Student Programming Committee; a passionate representative for Notre Dame Votes; and a Resident Assistant in her dorm. Her thesis work and outreach with ND Votes have driven her interest in American politics and continued postgraduate study of the global intersections of politics and art. In her spare time, Meg enjoys exploring new cities, reading short fiction, and spending time with her friends and family.

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Fiona Carter-Tod

<i>Age:</i>	21
<i>Degree:</i>	B.S. in Biology; Leadership Studies, University of Richmond, (expected) 2021
<i>Non- Affiliated Institution:</i>	University of Richmond
<i>Field of Professional Interest:</i>	STEM – Science

Fiona Carter-Tod is pursuing a career in immunological research centered around social justice and the elimination of health disparities affecting disproportionately vulnerable and underserved groups. She entered the University of Richmond as a Richmond Scholar, the University's most prestigious academic honor given to 25 incoming students each year, and will graduate with a dual degree in Biology and Leadership Studies in 2021. At UR, she conducted research on the inflammatory effects of biomass smoke, produced by the burning of natural materials for heat, light, and cooking predominantly in developing nations, and investigated the potential of yew tree bark as a natural combative supplement against biomass-induced inflammation. Having presented her findings at the 2020 Annual Biomedical Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS), she is completing the research

as her senior independent study for the Jepson Science Leadership Scholars Program. Outside of the lab, she studies leadership, ethics, and philosophy, and actively engages with her community. As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the first historically black sorority, and the former president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council chapter at UR, she has volunteered with organizations such as Future Young Leaders, The Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Richmond Peace Education Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School. Her initial interest in global health came from summer mission work in Guatemala City, Guatemala and Cape Town, South Africa during high school. This interest grew when she researched indigenous and eastern views on health while studying abroad in New Zealand. Fiona plans to pursue a Ph.D. in immunology and continue fostering her understanding of global and domestic health disparities. Beyond academics, Fiona enjoys painting, hiking, playing basketball, writing poetry, novice skateboarding, and cooking.

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Elena Castellanos

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Philosophy, Politics, Economics (PPE); Public Policy, Claremont McKenna College, (expected) 2021
Nominating Institution: Claremont McKenna College
Field of Professional Interest: Transportation and Urban Planning

Elena Castellanos is a senior at Claremont McKenna College dual-majoring in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) and in Public Policy. First becoming attuned to the intrinsic value of public spaces while working at her local library, Elena is invested in understanding how communities navigate public life in their neighborhoods. At CMC, she is a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research fellow studying how feminist epistemology can serve as a tool for evaluating unjust spatial arrangements and aid urban planners in adopting participatory planning. Her research on space and equity has led her to study the impacts of the 2008 recession on rural community development in Ottumwa, Iowa, and the uses of design as a tool for social exclusion during apartheid in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2019, Elena studied Urban Planning and Design at the University of California-Berkeley's Design and Innovation for Sustainable Cities (DISC) summer program. She was a 2020 Carnegie Mellon University Public Policy and International Affairs fellow and studied Public Policy and Data Science there. At Claremont McKenna, Elena leads a group called College Knowledge that supports school-wide college-readiness programs at Chaffey High School. She also manages the Kravis Lab for Social Impact Fellowship, a human-centered product design fellowship for non-technical student social entrepreneurs. Elena is committed to a career at the intersection of community capacity building and inclusive urban planning, creating opportunities for neighborhoods to learn, collaborate, and design together. A Los Angeles native, she never misses the opportunity to watch a sunset at the beach, take an ocean view hike, and enjoy the city's culturally rich food scene. * * *

Zachary Denton

Age: 25
Degree: MPhil in Education, University of Cambridge, 2020;
B.A. in Sociology; Spanish and Linguistics, Emory
University, 2018
Nominating Institution: Emory University
Field of Professional Interest: Education

Dedicated to promoting social equity, Zach Denton works at the intersection of immigration and education to challenge the systemic criminalization of the migrant identity and ensure that adequate social and educational resources reach migrant communities. At thirteen, Zach began helping his neighbors in Atlanta, Georgia, on GED, as they were barred from public classes due to their migration status. He has since continued to engage with migrant rights through nonprofit work, academic pursuits, and activism. As a Fulbright Scholar, he taught in Spanish and English in a multilingual, nationally diverse secondary school in Madrid, Spain. He constructed decolonized, inclusive curricula and challenged bias toward migrant students. His MPhil Research in Second Language Education thesis at the University of Cambridge examined Moroccan migrant student identity formation as a result of teaching practices in Spanish bilingual schools. In Lumpkin, Georgia, Zach piloted the expansion of a nonprofit hospitality house, the only one of its kind in the region, to serve migrants and asylum seekers being released from Stewart Detention Center, the largest immigration detention facility in the country, as well as their families. Currently, Zach is working with a multi-generational community of Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic through Yspaniola, a local, community-led nonprofit. Based on dialogue with the community of Batey Libertad, he conceptualized and implemented novel COVID-informed programming to provide access to literacy and university education as a way of overcoming systemic barriers to the documentation of Haitian people. Looking ahead, he is committed to replacing detention-based models worldwide with proactive social services and educational opportunities to migrants. Zach is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Societies and a former Eli R. Callaway and Elias Shepard Scholar. He enjoys cooking, hiking, and creative writing.

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Eva Dickerson

Age: 24
Degree: B.A. in Comparative Women's Studies, Spelman
College, 2019
Nominating Institution: Spelman College
Field of Professional Interest: Food and Agriculture

Eva Dickerson dreams of a freer, greener future for herself and the communities she loves, and sees her work connecting culturally relevant food justice strategies to global climate solutions as an integral part of getting there. Studying under Black earth stewards, farmers, agrarians, and climate activists of the south, she was initiated in the Black radical tradition of building self-determined communities through cooperative agricultural practices. After apprenticing on both scale production farms and urban education gardens in Atlanta, she developed her own theory of change, Constellation Architecture, the practice by which communities support individuals in the work that makes them feel most brilliant, and collectively shine as a result. As Miss Spelman College, she worked across departments to develop the Spelman Fresh Food Market, the college's first ever community farmer's market. Later appointed as manager of the West End Farmer's Market, she was able to demonstrate to scale how food sovereignty, community development, and climate change intersect, and continue to use food and land justice as an innovative solution to community problems. Today, Eva passionately serves as the Urban Agriculture Program Manager for Thomasville Heights Elementary School, where she works with students and their families to catalyze a future in which growing food nourishes our bodies, our communities, and our planet. Her students study the legacy of Black farming, practice mindfulness in the garden, and learn to be bold conservationists. After the pandemic struck Atlanta, Eva worked alongside parents and educational advocates to adapt the class structure and start a mutual-aid garden project. She has been appointed to the AgLanta Grows-A-Lot Advisory Committee where she brings her community organizing background to policy discussions. When she is not on the school farm, Eva most enjoys working with her friends on Sapelo Island and playing in their sandy low country soil.

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Jason Mazique

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Political Science, Williams College, 2021
Nominating Institution: Williams College
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Public Health

Jason Mazique will graduate from Williams College with a B.A in Political Science in the summer of 2021. He is an aspiring health services researcher who hopes to leverage both quantitative and qualitative means to improve outcomes within black communities in his home state of Maryland and across the U.S. Growing up on the outskirts of the nation's capital, he repeatedly witnessed the unintended and secondary effects of federal health policy at the state and local level. Especially from volunteering at his local family center every summer, he watched how gaps in insurance coverage, lack of health information, and a dearth of primary care practitioners generated dire healthcare needs for black and Latinx families in Washington D.C and Maryland. Inspired by the lack of creativity in health policy and driven by his focus on health disparities, Jason completed a report

regarding the effects of Maryland’s all-payer healthcare model on acute inpatient price variation across rural and urban counties as part of the Sentinel’s Fellowship for Public Policy. As a Summer Undergraduates Minority Research Program (SUMR) scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, he similarly employed mixed-methods research to better understand chronic pain discrepancies among minority patients and the efficacy of narrative-based interventions in counteracting opioid addiction. Previously, Jason interned at the Health Resources and Services Administration in Washington D.C., where he gained firsthand insight into the obstacles surrounding the implementation of health policy at the highest levels of government. In his free time, he enjoys playing rugby with his friends, attempting to craft new cocktails from around the globe, snowboarding, and trying to complete the latest NYT crossword puzzle.

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Harrison Nugent

Age: 23
Degree: B.S. in Foreign Service, Georgetown University, 2020
Nominating Institution: Georgetown University
Field of Professional Interest: Government and Public Policy

Harrison Nugent is a summa cum laude graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where he majored in International Politics with a focus on national security issues. The grandson of a farmer and a truck driver, and the son of a U.S. Army veteran, Harrison grew up in Pineville, Louisiana where he lived until college. At Georgetown, he was a student body senator for the Class of 2020 and a manager for the Men's Basketball program. His senior thesis analyzed the evolution of the Fourth Amendment as a judicial standard for warrantless surveillance practices. Through internships for House Speaker Paul Ryan, the White House Historical Association, and Senator Bill Cassidy, Harrison developed his love of policy and civic engagement. He currently works on the health policy team for D.C.-based public relations firm Venn Strategies, but hopes to attend law school in the future with the aspiration of being the Assistant Attorney General for National Security in the Department of Justice.

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Jackson Pearce

Age: 24
Degree: M.D., Medical University of South Carolina, (expected) 2022; B.S. in Psychology, Furman University, 2018
Nominating Institution: Furman University
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Public Health

A Charleston, SC native, Jackson Pearce is a third-year medical student at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). He completed his undergraduate studies at Furman University, where he majored in psychology and pursued a broad spectrum of research projects: he wrote his senior thesis in social psychology on the topic of social influence, worked with the Greenville Health System in clinical informatics and public health research, and spent a summer at Vanderbilt University studying acute kidney injury. He served in various leadership roles across campus, including the Office of Admissions, the Shucker Leadership Institute, and the Office of Institutional Assessment and Advancement. At MUSC, he serves as a voting member of the medical school's curriculum committee and representative for his class, interviews applicants for acceptance to the college, co-led the independent student analysis for the medical school's LCME accreditation process, and conducts research with the Department of Neurosurgery. He is completing a yearlong fellowship in health policy with the Society of General Internal Medicine and is eager to apply his new knowledge and skills in addressing complex issues in medicine, including access to affordable and equitable healthcare. After his year in Asia as a Luce Scholar, Jackson will return to Charleston to complete his fourth year of medical school, pursue residency in neurological surgery, and continue to advocate for improvements in healthcare. In addition to his professional interests, he enjoys cooking and reading.

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Noah Perales-Estoesta

<i>Age:</i>	28
<i>Degree:</i>	B.A. in English; Spanish, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2015
<i>Nominating Institution:</i>	University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
<i>Field of Professional Interest:</i>	Publishing

Noah Perales-Estoesta is a Hawai'i-based editor of print and digital books. Born and raised on the island of O'ahu, he attended the University of Hawai'i (UH) at Mānoa as a first-generation student, double-majoring in English and Spanish. During his time as an undergraduate, he worked for nearly three years as a copy editor at Mānoa: A Pacific Journal of International Writing, a biannual literary publication highlighting fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and drama from throughout Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas. He also served on UH's Student Media Board, where he helped oversee the strategic direction, finances, and policies of the university's four student-managed media programs. Other extra-curricular activities included service on the English Department's curriculum-development committee and as a writing-center consultant. After graduating in 2015, Noah lived in Brazil as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching English and researching the country's literature and publishing industry. He edited *Becoming Brazil: New Fiction, Poetry, and Memoir*, a special issue of Mānoa that gathered a diverse collection of Brazilian literature in English translation. Since 2017, he has worked at the University of Hawai'i Press, where

he oversees open-access and backlist-digitization initiatives, manages the creation and distribution of metadata and e-books, and coordinates grant projects. Noah hopes to build a career around the publication of works by and about globally underserved people.

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Nihaal Rahman

Age: 21
Degree: B.S. in Environmental Science; Public Health Studies,
Johns Hopkins University, (expected) 2021
Nominating Institution: Johns Hopkins University
Field of Professional Interest: Medicine and Public Health

A proud Clevelander, Nihaal Rahman is an aspiring public health pediatrician with a dream to solve health disparities across the globe. He will graduate from Johns Hopkins University in 2021 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Public Health. At Johns Hopkins Medicine, Nihaal has worked on a variety of research projects centered around the improvement of childhood health, including a global health project researching environmental exposures, a clinical education initiative on trauma-informed care, and an investigation of appetite factors in childhood obesity. Additionally, he has co-authored multiple papers with faculty on the intersections of sustainability and health, and served as a research assistant at the JHU Center for a Livable Future focusing on solving inequities within the global food system. In 2020, through the Global Health Established Field Placement program, he conducted economic and geospatial analyses in Kampala, Uganda on the availability of medications to treat COPD. Working with the JHU Center for Social Concern, he enlisted partner organizations, developed a social justice curriculum, and reinstated the alternative break program at Hopkins, enabling students to participate in community service projects across the country. Selected as one of four Hopkins Votes Ambassadors for active and engaged citizenry, he has also served as a vice-president and project coordinator of Alpha Phi Omega, the co-ed service organization that completes 5,000+ hours of community service each semester with 35+ partner organizations in Baltimore. Nihaal is also a dedicated executive board member of HOPthon, the JHU branch of Dance Marathon, which raises \$20,000+ each year for the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. He has recently accepted a position as a Health Equity Intern at the Maryland Department of Health and will spend his last semester analyzing the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adolescents from racial and ethnic minority groups throughout Maryland.

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Yazmina Sarieh

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in History; Arabic, Emory University, 2020
Nominating Institution: Emory University
Field of Professional Interest: International Development

Yazmina Sarieh graduated from Emory University in May 2020 with a Bachelor's degree in History and Arabic. Born and raised in a small immigrant community outside of Nashville, Tennessee, Yazmina has always had a passion for service, social justice and diversity. At Emory, she co-directed Behind the Glass, an organization connecting students with undocumented detainees who were being held in a nearby detention center. She led initiatives at Georgia Organics, a food justice organization, managing a project that mapped demographics, health disparities and nutritional assets in order to alleviate food insecurity among schoolchildren. She has volunteered with the International Rescue Committee to support the integration of newly arrived refugees from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo and Honduras. While interning at the Carter Center, she worked on large-scale conflict resolution with international actors regarding the Syrian Civil War, specifically advocating for the rights of internally displaced populations. As a Gilman Scholar at al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco and the Sultan Qaboos University in Manah, Oman, Yazmina connected with people around the globe, engaging in cross cultural dialogue and integrating into diverse communities. She was named a Phi Beta Kappa scholar upon graduation, and received the Matthew A. Carter Citizens Award from the Emory History Department, given to one student who best exemplifies academic achievement and good works in the community. Yazmina is motivated to work in migrant rights and advocacy, hoping to create more efficient policy, programming and infrastructure that will enhance economic growth, social inclusion and political stability among marginalized communities. During her free time, Yazmina loves to preserve her Palestinian heritage through embroidery, reading ethnographies and caring for her plants.

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Matthew Shorten

Age: 23
Degree: B.M. in Composition, Vanderbilt University, 2020
Nominating Institution: Vanderbilt University
Field of Professional Interest: Art – Performing Arts

Matthew Shorten is a composer, tenor, conductor, and arts educator. Born in Wollongong, Australia, he is an interdisciplinary musician and a passionate advocate of Baroque music, contemporary art song, and global choral repertoires. He has composed for diverse

instrumentations, ranging from pieces rooted in historical performance practice to large-scale works combining choral and orchestral forces. As a cross-cultural composer, Matthew is invested in the proliferation of Australian art song, as well as the creation of contemporary works for Japanese instruments, often coalescing their timbral possibilities with Western Classical instruments. He seeks to unify these rich traditions, engaging with audiences around the globe. With an eye for unconventional programming and a love of transformative musical experiences, Matthew led and curated both the “Blair Salon” and “Living Sounds” concert series at Vanderbilt University. He also co-developed the Adopt-A-Choir Initiative with the Vanderbilt ACDA Chapter, an organization he co-founded, providing opportunities for Nashville choir students to meet and perform alongside college-level musicians. Matthew’s works have been commissioned by artists and ensembles internationally, including the VOCES8 Foundation, Kyo-Shin-An Arts, chatterbird, the New Haven Symphony, the Cortona Sessions for New Music, the Royal Academy of Music in London, the Vanderbilt Symphony, and Wintergreen Music. Recent highlights include his choral work *White Fog*, debuted and recorded by the VOCES8 Scholars at Minnesota Public Radio, and his orchestral piece *Floating Isles*, which won the 2018 Vanderbilt Symphony Competition and the 2019 Tennessee Valley Music Festival Competition. As an emerging tenor, Matthew is a VOCES8 Scholar, a staff singer at the Cathedral Church of the Advent in Birmingham, and a member of Chorosynthesis, a Seattle-based ensemble. He also received the General Director’s Award at the James Toland Vocal Arts Competition in 2019. He was one of two artists selected globally to join the Victoria Bach Festival as an Emerging Artist for 2020 & 2021, and was invited to attend the Oregon Bach Festival Composers Symposium as a Composer-Performer Fellow in 2021. Matthew graduated from Vanderbilt as the 2020 Founder’s Medalist, the university’s highest student honor, and received his Bachelor of Music in Composition, Voice, and Violin *summa cum laude* from the Blair School of Music.

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Evan Tims

Age: 24
Degree: B.A. in Human Rights and Written Arts, Bard College, 2019
Nominating Institution: Bard College
Field of Professional Interest: Anthropology

Evan Tims is a police misconduct investigator, climate fiction writer, and researcher. Growing up in coastal Maine, Evan developed an early interest in the relationship between narrative, social justice, and environmental change. At Bard College, he received a joint B.A. in Human Rights and Written Arts, two fields that allowed him to explore formulations of rights and cultural attentiveness to injustice through a variety of lenses. While at Bard, Evan won two Critical Language Scholarships that funded Bangla studies

in Kolkata, India. Evan’s senior thesis explored the intersections between climate and social justice using a combination of experimental fiction and academic research. Evan received the Bard Written Arts Prize and the Christopher Wise Award in environmentalism and human rights for his thesis, which he later published in shortened form in *Mapping Meaning: The Journal*. Evan’s passion for human rights led him to become an investigator for the Civilian Complaint Review Board of New York City, the largest police oversight agency in the U.S. At the CCRB, he has investigated numerous cases of NYPD misconduct and developed a broader understanding of the intersecting crises of environmental and social injustice. Evan ultimately hopes to spend his career addressing the social harm engendered by the climate crisis through the perspective of human rights. When he isn’t working, Evan is usually devoted to a number of other interests, including gardening, landscape painting, and Bangla vocal performance, or otherwise lost somewhere in the woods.

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Jonathan Villela

<i>Age:</i>	28
<i>Degree:</i>	D.M.A. in Wind Conducting, (expected) 2022; M.A. in Wind Conducting, University of Texas, Austin, 2020; B.A. in Music Education, Oklahoma State University, 2015
<i>Nominating Institution:</i>	University of Texas, Austin
<i>Field of Professional Interest:</i>	Art – Performing Arts

Jonathan M. Villela is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Texas at Austin where he pursues a D.M.A. in Wind Conducting under the tutelage of Professor Jerry Junkin, and assists with concert ensembles, undergraduate conducting instruction, graduate wind literature and the Longhorn Band. He studied saxophone, chamber music, and pedagogy under Dr. Jeffrey Loeffert at Oklahoma State University, graduating in 2015 as a Velma Forbes Scholar. He then began his teaching career at Four Points Middle School, in Leander, TX, where he served as Assistant Director of Bands. The Concert and Symphonic Ensembles consistently received highest ratings in competitions and state evaluations under his direction. Jonathan was a National Chamber Music Finalist in the Music Teachers National Association Competition, a drum major of the OSU Cowboy Marching Band, and remains a clinician at public schools, university music camps, professional conventions in Texas, the Midwest Clinic, and most recently, the Conn-Selmer Institute. On several occasions, he traveled to Singapore as a guest clinician of the Wind Bands Association of Singapore. He has held guest conducting positions with the Dallas Winds and Cedar Park Winds. With Cedar Park Winds, he conducted and led the recording of David Maslanka’s “Give Us This Day,” contributing to the ensemble’s submission and invitation to the 71st Midwest Clinic. He commissioned Donald Grantham’s “Effulgent

Light” and conducted its world premiere in Chicago, IL with Cedar Park Winds. Jonathan received a Richard E. Rainwater innovation grant and support from the City of Austin Cultural Arts initiative, and was recently awarded the Texas Music Educators Graduate Scholarship. As an appointed member of the Texas Civic Impact Council, he contributes to community growth solutions and COVID-19 recovery strategies.

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Jordan Walker

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Economics, Occidental College, (expected)
2021
Nominating Institution: Occidental College
Field of Professional Interest: Transportation and Urban Planning

Jordan Walker's passion for transportation is rooted in his belief in justice and equity and desire to improve communities' access and build healthy neighborhoods. Growing up in New York City, Jordan saw municipal government's ability to do good by the people it serves, and came to understand transportation to be an intersectional good. At age 13, he embarked on his first endeavor in transportation activism by organizing with his local civic association to lobby New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority to improve his neighborhood's commuter rail service. Several years later, he interned at the New York City Council and worked to regulate app-based for-hire vehicles companies that had brought unprecedented levels of congestion to city streets, primarily impacting low-income drivers and public transit riders. In addition to supporting a minimum wage for drivers and a reduced number of for-hire vehicles, Jordan also worked on legislation that would create bus-only streets to mitigate the effects of the closure of one of New York City's busiest subway lines. Jordan will graduate from Occidental College in May 2021 with a Bachelor of Arts in economics. As Vice President of Financial Affairs of Oxy's student government, he partnered with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide every Oxy student a transit card entitling them to unlimited free rides on ten different Los Angeles-area transit agencies. His research in development economics led him to study the impact of transportation infrastructure investment on ethnic minorities in Vietnam. He is currently a Senior Fellow in the Occidental College Office of Admission and Director of Oxy's Blyth Fund, a student-managed investment portfolio. Jordan recently completed an internship at Cambridge Associates, serving investment goals for not-for-profit endowments and foundations. He plans to pursue a J.D. to continue to advocate for stronger communities where public transit is the best option and owning a car is optional.

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William Wheeler

Age: 28
Degree: M.F.A. in Sculpture, Yale School of Art, 2017; B.A. in Philosophy; Studio Art, Vassar College, 2014
Nominating Institution: Vassar College
Field of Professional Interest: Art, Education and Technology

In 2016, thousands walked by a larger-than-life animated dog that waved to them from the windows of an art gallery in downtown Manhattan. Few passersby knew that the dog's movements were directly tethered to the artist, Will Wheeler, who was living in the gallery behind the window. This exhibit, like much of Will's artwork, uses technology to address issues of equity and inclusion to audiences outside of the traditional art world. As an undergraduate at Vassar College, Will studied philosophy and studio art, and won awards in community service excellence, specifically for teaching art to underserved elementary students. In 2015, Will joined Yale's sculpture MFA program as the youngest in his class and began introducing sensors, mixed reality, and robotics into his artwork to elicit active participation from unsuspecting audiences. As a member of Yale's Blended Reality research group, he continued to integrate art and technology to explore social norms. He exhibited techno-philosophical artworks in the U.S. and abroad, and prototyped electronics for the sculptor Nari Ward. In a 2017 exhibition, he connected a handmade, virtual reality headset to a vintage voting booth, revealing that while immersive technology can allow us to inhabit fantasy, surreal politics make us skeptical of reality. In 2018, Will moved to Washington, D.C. to manage artist Sam Gilliam's studio. His recent exhibits include an enormous robotic pencil that erases its own scribbles in a Sisyphean struggle and a collection of fleshy, autonomous spheres that challenge the conventions of human-machine interaction. For the last two years, Will has taught art concurrently at a bilingual elementary school, at the Corcoran School of Art, and at George Mason University. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he realized that current technology did not support the collaborative, spontaneous exercises necessary for art education. To address the gap, he worked with coders, teachers, and art therapists to build an art-making app that allows people to create together in real time, yet at a distance. Will is excited to continue developing new ideas and technologies that promote creativity, collaboration, and connection—especially among disparate communities.

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