



Melanie Arroyave



Gavin Brehm



Jackson Brook



Ariel Chu



Austin Coffey



Jennifer Dikler



Maya Foster



Annika Freudenberger



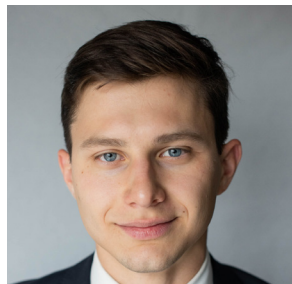
Abigail Lahnert



Heather Nelson



Wesley Price



Roman Shemakov



Bakari Sibert



Noor Tasnim



Summer-Solstice Thomas



Shivram Viswanathan



Bennett Weissenbach



Saifelddeen Zihiri

2020-2021 LUCE SCHOLARS

Name	Age	Nominating Institution	Field of Professional Interest
Melanie Arroyave	21	Rutgers University	Domestic Worker Rights, Migration and Climate Change
Gavin Brehm	23	Northwestern University	Musical Instrument Design
Jackson Brook	23	Brown University	Journalism
Ariel Chu	24	Syracuse University	Creative Writing
Austin Coffey	22	University of Oklahoma	Humanities; Public Policy
Jennifer Dikler	21	CUNY Hunter College	Economics and Finance
Maya Foster	21	Johns Hopkins University	Biomedical Engineering
Annika Freudenberger	23	Barnard College	Urban Planning and Climate Resilience
Abigail Lahnert	23	Willamette University	Art – Visual Arts
Heather Nelson	22	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Human-Centered Design and Sustainability
Wesley Price	21	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Health Economics and Policy
Roman Shemakov	21	Swarthmore College	International Affairs
Bakari Sibert	22	Howard University	Sustainable Textiles
Noor Tasnim	24	Duke University	Biomechanics
Summer-Solstice Thomas	21	Williams College	Toxic Chemicals & Public Health
Shivram Viswanathan	23	Rutgers University	Economics and Finance
Bennett Weissenbach	22	Princeton University	Journalism
Saifeldeen Zihiri	22	CUNY Hunter College	Civil Society and Social Justice

2020-2021 LUCE SCHOLARS - BIOS

Melanie Arroyave

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Labor Studies and Employment Relations,
Rutgers University, (expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: Rutgers University
Field of Professional Interest: Domestic Worker Rights, Migration and Climate Change

A participant of the U.S. Coast Guard College Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI), Melanie Arroyave is an active-duty servicewoman and a full-time student. Born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, she is a proud Colombian-American, the first of her family to attend college. She expects to graduate in May 2020 with a B.A. in Labor Studies & Employment Relations and a minor in Public Health and Women and Gender Studies from Rutgers University, having transferred from American University in 2017. During her time in Washington D.C., she interned for U.S. Congressman Albio Sires (NJ-8). At Rutgers, she is an Institute for Women's Leadership Scholar and a recipient of the Equal Opportunity Fund and the Hispanic Fund Scholarships. As a 2018-2019 Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, Melanie conducted a comparative analysis on the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in New York and New Jersey. In the Spring of 2019, she worked pro bono as a Federal Mediation Associate for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in New York. Most recently, Melanie was awarded the 2019 Student Upstander Award, and shared with her community how interviewing a Holocaust survivor has helped her come to terms with her own family's struggles as Andean natives of Colombia, and how it shaped her future. After her Luce Scholar year, she will attend Coast Guard Officer Candidate School to train to be an officer. She plans to earn a J.D. degree and pursue a career as a Judge Advocate in the military while also defending domestic worker rights. During her free time, Melanie volunteers at her local Girl Scouts and enjoys podcasting, kayaking, hiking, and high interval training.

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Gavin Brehm

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in Trumpet Performance; Integrated Design and
Research; Cognitive Science, Northwestern University
(expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: Northwestern University
Field of Professional Interest: Musical Instrument Design, Engineering, Performing Arts,
and Business

Gavin Brehm is a multi-disciplinary designer, musician, and researcher. He will graduate in June 2020 from Northwestern University with a triple major in music performance, cognitive neuroscience, and human-centered product design and development. Currently a member of the Multisensory Lab, Gavin conducts research on audio-tactile perception and human-computer interaction, and works with applying generative artificial intelligence and emerging manufacturing technologies to traditional musical instrument design. Outside Northwestern, Gavin has worked with Steven Haulenbeek Studio, Impossible Objects 3D Printing, and Conn-Selmer Music. While in high school, he founded a company to build custom brass instrument components for local musicians. Gavin maintains an active performing schedule as a trumpet player in the Chicago area. Often using performances as a testing ground for his instrument designs, he can be seen playing in works ranging from film score to musical theatre: *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Ein Heldenleben*, and *The Pines of Rome*, to cite a few recent examples. Gavin grew up Minneapolis where he spent his childhood exploring the lakes and forests of central Minnesota. An avid cook and fermenter in his free time, he can be found concocting anything and everything under the sun for his friends and family.

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Jackson (Jack) Brook

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in History, Brown University, 2019
Nominating Institution: Brown University
Field of Professional Interest: Journalism

Jack Brook is a journalist and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University. Fascinated by the ways narratives are produced and contested, and how that informs our present, he studied for a degree in history. At Brown, he developed a passion for environmental histories, learning to analyze human societies through their relationship to the natural world, energy production and other life forms. Growing up in Palo Alto with his mother, Jack was inspired by her accounts of her job as a social worker and rehabilitation officer in a Santa Clara jail. He volunteer taught in the Rhode Island prison system throughout his undergraduate career. Through his reporting, he has tried to deconstruct and illuminate the structures, policies and values that perpetuate racism, poverty and the prison industrial complex. He wrote for the *Brown Daily Herald*, was an editor at *The Indy* magazine, and spent a year on a team investigating elder abuse for *The Providence Journal*. He has sought out international reporting experiences, covering unrest in the West Bank for the *Jerusalem Post* and environmental challenges in Chile for the *Santiago Times*, for which he was awarded an Overseas Press Club Scholarship. After graduation, he interned at *The Miami Herald* and *The Marshall Project*, an outlet investigating the criminal justice system, and continues to serve as a contributing editor for the *Brown Alumni Magazine*. An aspiring long form narrative journalist, Jack hopes to confront the exploitative forces that perpetuate both mass incarceration and the climate crisis. Sponsored by a grant from the Pulitzer Center, he is currently reporting the story of South America's largest toxic waste tailings dam and the Chilean village that fought against it for decades. He has also produced a range of documentary and fictional films, including a mockumentary on a competitive eating prodigy, "The Voracious Appetite of Chowhound Chambers." In his spare time, he enjoys journaling, hiking and getting lost in new places.

Ariel Chu

Age: 24
Degree: M.F.A. in Creative Writing, Syracuse University, (expected) 2020; B.A. in English, Williams College, 2017
Nominating Institution: Syracuse University
Field of Professional Interest: Creative Writing

Ariel Chu is a writer from Eastvale, California. She is the daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, both of whom sacrificed their passions to raise a family in the United States. Drawing from her experience as a queer Asian American woman, she writes stories about intersecting identities, the burden of everyday power differentials, and what it means to be “authentic” given competing cultural influences. In 2017, Ariel graduated with highest honors from Williams College with a B.A. in English and the title of Class Poet. She was also awarded the Hubbard Hutchinson Class of 1917 Memorial Fellowship for excellence in creative writing. Ariel is currently a third-year MFA student in fiction at Syracuse University. She is an editor in chief of *Salt Hill Journal*, the winner of the Spring 2018 Masters Review Flash Fiction Competition, and a finalist for various literary contests and residencies. Her work can be found in *The Sonora Review*, *Nat. Brut*, and *Wildness*, among others, and her fiction has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Best of the Net Award, and Best Small Fictions. Ariel’s creative ethos is rooted in a sense of community and mentorship. A former editorial intern at the Asian American Writers’ Workshop, she serves as a college application editor for first-generation students. At Syracuse University, she is an English instructor as well as a Creative Writing instructor, and has been recognized with a 2019 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. A recipient of 2019 P.D. Soros Fellowship for New Americans, Ariel plans to pursue a Ph.D. in creative writing while completing her first novel. An aspiring writing professor, she hopes to aid young writers in articulating and challenging their identities. In addition, Ariel aims to create her own literary journal, retreat, and arts organization, providing an outlet for marginalized voices in the United States and beyond. Having worked with a variety of creative communities and publications, Ariel aims to create new artistic platforms that serve as a force for social change and political action.

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Austin Coffey

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in Economics; B.A. in Letters: Constitutional Studies, University of Oklahoma, December 2019
Nominating Institution: University of Oklahoma
Field of Professional Interest: Humanities, Economics and Public Policy

Austin was born and raised, with no pun intended, in Austin, Texas. He attended the University of Oklahoma on OU’s National Merit Scholarship, and graduated in January 2020 with degrees in Letters (a combination of history, literature, and philosophy) and Economics. Both of these fields addressed his interest in political economy, but they did so with different methodologies. Outside of the classroom, he led a four-year project within Student Government to establish a new office devoted to addressing students’ legal needs. He interviewed prospective attorneys,

designed the financial infrastructure, and served as chairman of the board. Austin’s research on American intellectual history was selected for publication at OU, and he is now one of four co-authors of a forthcoming book on American constitutionalism. Austin spent the summer of 2019 in Washington D.C. as a Fellow at the Hertog Foundation, mining great texts for insight that could guide contemporary public policy and engaging with policymakers. Yet the depth of his interest in politics is coupled with a delight in learning across fields. At OU, Austin led or participated in reading groups covering more than 30 books, facilitating discussion on topics ranging from quantum mechanics and evolutionary biology to Buddhism and James Joyce. He was also honored to present his research on his favorite author, Dostoevsky. Later, his long-running interest in German philosophy drew him to Heidelberg, Germany. Those experiences, and the bodies of knowledge to be found in biology, literature, and psychology frequently improved his understanding of politics and the value of approaching familiar phenomena from novel directions. He thinks that the task of genuinely understanding one another, across culture and place, is a great moral endeavor, and aspires to serve in it.

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Jennifer (Jenn) Dikler

Age: 21
Degree: B.A./M.A. in Economics; B.A. in Political Science, Macaulay Honors College at CUNY Hunter College, (expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: CUNY Hunter College
Field of Professional Interest: Economics and Finance

Jennifer Dikler will graduate in May 2020 from the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY Hunter College with a B.A./M.A. in Economics and a B.A. in Political Science. As a child of immigrants, Jennifer has always been fascinated by the movement of people and goods throughout the world. Following her passion for trade policy, she completed an undergraduate thesis on dispute resolution in the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) in her junior year. She was later selected to present her research at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. For her Master’s thesis, she is exploring how corporations affect dispute resolution in the WTO. Jennifer’s passion for helping people pushed her to seek out a role as an immigration paralegal at Tseitlin Law Firm, where she has worked since she entered college, performing country condition research, drafting immigration relief waivers, and preparing affidavits on behalf of clients who have come to the United States seeking a better life, just as her parents did. As a CUNY Women in Public Service Scholar, Jennifer was placed at the Office of the Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. Working directly under Brewer, she put together a task force of stakeholders and community leaders to handle the impact of the closure of Rikers Island for Manhattan. Fascinated by the intersection of business and nonprofit worlds, she first interned at the Foundation of Centerbridge Partners, a hedge fund and private equity firm, where she worked with education nonprofits and created financial models measuring their social return on investment. Most recently, she served as an analyst on the not-for-profit healthcare team of Barclays Investment Bank, examining how corporations interact with nonprofit entities. Through her experiences in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, Jennifer hopes to bring a unique lens as she continues to study trade and its long-term effects on individuals and the global economy. In her free time, Jennifer enjoys kickboxing, cooking, and gathering mushrooms with her family.

Maya Foster

Age: 21
Degree: B.S. in Neuroscience, Johns Hopkins University, 12/2019
Nominating Institution: Johns Hopkins University
Field of Professional Interest: STEM – Technology (Biomedical Engineering)

Maya Foster is an aspiring neuro-engineering researcher and global public health entrepreneur. She will graduate in May 2020 from Johns Hopkins University with a B.S. in neuroscience. Maya has worked on projects exploring psychiatric disorders at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the University of California San Francisco, including studying the pathology responsible for psychosis, a symptom of schizophrenia, and neural signatures characteristic of vitamin B6-dependent epilepsy. A data science internship in Israel impressed her with the scalability of technology and its potential to impact lives. Combined with her computer science training since freshman year, this experience shifted her interest in neuroscience toward a more computational-centric track. Maya volunteered with Making Neuroscience Fun, teaching neuroscience topics in Baltimore City classrooms and eventually serving as the outreach practicum’s co-chair. Maya is an advocate for diversity on her campus and has striven to bring awareness to issues women of color face. She created the first annual women of color conference and the first annual culture festival that united over 300 students, faculty, and staff on campus. Since 2017, Maya has been a part of Aquatas, LLC, a student-run social enterprise passionate about addressing the global water shortage by providing an affordable water purification system. Intrigued by the process of designing a viable product that would improve lives in underserved communities, she was inspired to do the same in the neurological health space. Ultimately, Maya wants to dedicate her career to developing technological tools that improve our understanding and treatment of incurable neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s Disease. She also aspires to make currently available treatment options for such disorders more accessible on a global scale. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, dancing, and playing her cello.

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Annika Freudenberger

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in Urban Studies, Barnard College, 2018
Nominating Institution: Barnard College
Field of Professional Interest: Urban Planning and Climate Resilience

Annika Freudenberger’s dedication to urban equity and resilience stems from her childhood growing up in Fianarantsoa, Madagascar. Her early curiosity in how cities can become more equitable and livable for all strengthened in her teenage years as she dove into local government in Burlington, Vermont, where her family moved when she was 12 years old. She received her B.A. in Urban Studies from Barnard College in 2018, where she conducted original research and wrote her senior thesis on issues of informality, governance, and public space in Fianarantsoa’s outdoor second-hand clothes markets. Annika’s commitment to developing more economically and socially just cities intersects with her interest in climate resilience. At Meridian Institute, a non-profit consultancy she joined upon graduation, Annika

has delved into issues of climate change mitigation, resilience, land use, and renewable energy. She has provided strategic advice and designed collaborative processes to help governments, foundations, the private sector, and civil society develop and implement solutions to these complex and often controversial issues. Prior to Meridian, outside of her studies, Annika's experience centered in political advocacy, facilitation, and participatory training. She has worked on youth leadership and reproductive health education with *Projet Jeune Leader* in Madagascar, and in the United States, Annika has worked on affordable housing policy at *Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future* and on criminal justice issues at the *Drug Policy Alliance* and for her Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Annika is a 2017 Truman Scholar from Vermont and received a Davis Projects for Peace grant in 2015. She hopes to pursue a Master's degree in urban planning and focus her career on building climate resilience and adaptation in rapidly growing, developing cities.

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Abigail Lahnert

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in Studio Art; Anthropology, Willamette University, 2018
Nominating Institution: Willamette University
Field of Professional Interest: Art – Visual Arts

Abigail Lahnert is an artist and curator invested in nuanced storytelling that encourages us to think imaginatively and poetically. A graduate of Willamette University, they earned dual degrees in anthropology (with a focus on positionality and American Sign Language) and studio art (doing installation work exploring texts). In 2015, Abigail were awarded a Learning by Creating grant to research swing dance communities in Oregon, where they learned how to dance as well as how dance brings meaning to peoples' lives. Abigail completed a Carson Grant in 2016, traveling across the country studying what was to become their biggest passion: odd museums. From the Museum of Jurassic Technology in Los Angeles to Leila's Hair Museum in Independence, Missouri, these small museums and their makers inspired Abigail by demonstrating how the idea of "museum" can be used to complicate how we determine what has cultural value. In 2017, continuing this fascination with collections and collecting, Abigail completed, on a Willamette Presidential Scholarship, an eight-month daily drawing project, *Elusive Archive*, in which they worked to understand how much of a person's life could really be documented, and how that documentation communicated what was valued. After graduating with honors in 2018, Abigail set to work founding the Museum of Reinterpretation, an educational institution in Golden, Colorado that uses curation as a tool for building genuine human relationships by developing connections between ideas. With a team of local artists, researchers, and community members, the museum produces exhibits and events throughout the state. Aside from their work with the museum, Abigail has shown work as an artist at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, the American Mountaineering Museum, and Lighthouse Writer's Workshop, among others, as well as in the publication *Emergency Index*. Abigail's practice is largely interdisciplinary, working with large-scale drawings, weaving, printmaking, and writing. In partnership with Lighthouse, in response to a gap in the organization's programming, Abigail formed the group *Queer Creatives* where queer writers meet monthly to share space and stories. As a queer, nonbinary maker, liminality and fluidly are key parts of all the work they do, whether in community building or art making.

Heather Nelson

Age: 22
Degree: B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Field of Professional Interest: STEM – Engineering (Human-Centered Design and Sustainability)

Heather Nelson will graduate in May 2020 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Design. She is passionate about human-centered design, where the user experience of a product or machine is thoroughly taken into account during the design and engineering process. Over the past two years, Heather has worked at the Self-Assembly Lab at MIT as an undergraduate researcher, focusing on sediment transport in atoll environments with the goal to design underwater systems that promote targeted sand accumulation and the growth of sandbars that can protect coastlines from rising sea levels due to climate change. This has been a special project for Heather, having grown up in New Jersey only minutes away from the ocean and having seen her familiar coastlines morph into unrecognizable beaches. She has also worked on 3D printing and additive manufacturing. On an internship at the Airbus headquarters in Spain, she developed a 3D printer for aerospace parts that uses recycled carbon fiber filament. While working at MX3D in Amsterdam, she designed and manufactured a bicycle frame that was 3D printed out of aluminum, and researched wire arc additive manufacturing techniques. Her love of exploring new places has led her to volunteer at a special-needs community in Ireland, study integrating “serious games” in educational systems in France, teach electronics workshops to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, and research magnetostrictive materials in Italy. She speaks French, is conversational in Spanish, and enjoys learning bits of languages as she travels. Looking forward, she hopes to integrate her interests in mechanical engineering research, human-centered design, and sustainability to positively impact and empower communities around the world. Throughout her journeys, she enjoys documenting her experiences on her film camera and seeking out waves to surf.

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Wesley Price

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Political Science; Biology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, (expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Field of Professional Interest: Health Economics and Health Policy

Wesley Price is an aspiring health economist and policy researcher from Washington, D.C. with a passion for music and a deep commitment to civic engagement. A Morehead-Cain Scholar, he studies political science, biology, and mathematics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has guided curriculum development, arranged music and sung with UNC’s oldest a cappella group, and taught statistical programming. Wesley’s interest in health programs began during his work as a research assistant in health behavior at the Center for

Advanced Hindsight, a behavioral economics laboratory, where he collaborated in the development and analysis of randomized control trials in medication adherence and vaccination uptake. His belief in data-driven social impact has led him to pursue academic and professional opportunities at home and abroad. As an exchange student at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago, he researched the long-term effects of a Peruvian teaching program and dove into the data surrounding the 1918 flu pandemic, while making time to tour as a tenor with the Coro de Cámara. Last summer, his interest in the quantitative side of social science took him to Nairobi, where he developed a hardware location tracking protocol for a Kenyan technology firm focused on democratizing internet access across the region. In North Carolina, Wesley's dedication to community engagement has led him to advise the city government, chamber of commerce, and foundations of Greensboro on talent retention; develop curriculum and lesson plans for a civic education initiative in Chapel Hill and Carrboro schools; and serve as a Spanish interpreter with a free community health clinic. Wesley plans to pursue a Ph.D. in economics, and works toward rigorously evaluating and scaling up empirically motivated health policies, integrating applied statistics and machine learning into health research, and joining the family business of teaching. He is happiest at a piano, in a busy kitchen, or meeting new friends in unfamiliar places.

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Roman Shemakov

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in History and Economics, Swarthmore College,
(expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: Swarthmore College
Field of Professional Interest: International Affairs

In May 2020, Roman Shemakov will graduate from Swarthmore College as a Rubin Scholar with an honors major in History, and minors in Economics and Russian. Born and raised in Ukraine, Roman immigrated with his family to Phoenix, Arizona after the election of the now-exiled Viktor Yanukovich in 2009. He is the first in his family to attend a college, with the help of a full-ride Questbridge Scholarship. Roman is passionate about fostering sustainable and equitable economic development, with a particular focus on global cities as vehicles for change. Ukraine's 2014 Revolution of Dignity was a turning point in Roman's political consciousness. With some of his family still living in Eastern parts of the country, he secured a grant to film a short documentary for an organization in Odessa focused on nonviolence mediation and resettlement programs for refugees from Donbas. Through strategic distribution, the project helped raise funds and public consciousness about the war's aftermath. To foster ongoing support, he founded the Project for Eastern European Relations, which invites international experts to lecture at Swarthmore and publishes academic works on Eastern Europe through an undergraduate journal. Roman completed academic research for political scientists on Eastern Europe's war and peace policies since the 1960s and spent a semester at Yale-NUS in Singapore, studying international law and urban theory. Over his undergraduate career, Roman has worked for an infrastructure regulatory advisory in Washington D.C., the Democratic National Committee in Philadelphia, a political consultancy in Singapore, and a higher education NGO in Moscow. His writings have been published in the *Harvard Classics Journal*, the *Columbia Journal for Slavic Studies*, and *The Swarthmore*

Review. Fluent in Russian and Ukrainian, with lessons in Spanish and Arabic, Roman is looking forward to breaking new linguistic ground in Asia. He is an avid tennis player, with interests in sound art, documentary photography, and Russian literature.

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Bakari Sibert

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies (Bioethics); Political Science, Howard University, (expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: Howard University
Field of Professional Interest: Environment (Sustainable Textiles)

Bakari Sibert was born in Atlanta, Georgia and raised in Washington DC. As an adolescent Bakari spent his weekends collecting discarded building supplies and making repairs to houses with his father, and in his spare time reselling second-hand clothes with his mother. As an undergraduate student majoring in Political Science at Howard University, he developed a strong interest in the philosophical principles of political theory as well as bioethics. As Director of Health and Wellness for the Howard University Student Association, he and his team successfully implemented the Free Feminine Hygiene Provision Program, a campus-wide water fountain renovation, and additional sustainability projects. As a Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics research fellow, Bakari developed a codebook of ethics for genetics and genomics research for the country of Uganda in partnership with H3Africa. Bakari is an artist, and his practice involves carpentry, illustration, and fabric dyeing with natural dyes created by hand. He is excited to explore sustainable textile creation that is minimally subtractive, with a focus on longevity created through ethical labor practices, quality and organic materials, and minimized water and chemical usage. He believes that textiles, as one of the oldest art forms, is a solution to mitigating the effects of climate change, and with creative application, can be used to heal the environment and foster a more eco-centric social consciousness. His mission is to create work that will inform and affect change in environmental policy and aid work.

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Noor Tasnim

Age: 24
Degree: B.A. in Evolutionary Anthropology; B.S. in Global Health, Duke University, 2018
Nominating Institution: Duke University
Field of Professional Interest: STEM – Science (Biomechanics)

Noor Tasnim is an aspiring biomechanist and practicing dancer with research interests in human lower-limb biomechanics, musculoskeletal injuries, and performance. He graduated from Duke University in 2018 with dual-honors in Evolutionary Anthropology and Global Health. In his junior year, Noor traveled to Guatemala and assessed knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among Mayan women as part of the Duke Global Health Institute's Student Research Training Program. He and his teammates hosted

interactive lectures to discuss methods to reduce indoor air pollution, water contamination, malnutrition, and STIs. Near campus, he served as a visual arts instructor at Duke Children's Hospital for patients and their families. After joining an urban dance team, Noor developed an interest in barefoot locomotion and lower limb injuries. In 2017, Noor conducted his thesis research in Mandena, Madagascar. He examined differences in foot shape between men and women in a minimally shod population, and showed that orthopedic problems, already well documented in the West, were a global phenomenon reaching even remote agrarian communities. He presented his findings at the 9th Annual Global Health Conference of The Consortium of Universities for Global Health in New York, where his poster was recognized as a Top 10 Poster by an Undergraduate Student. As a first-generation, low-income college graduate and child of first-generation immigrants, Noor understands the importance of guidance and mentorship for students. He is currently the Ubben Fellow for Student Programs at Duke Alumni Affairs and is continuously thinking of innovative methods to connect alumni to students seeking guidance throughout their time at Duke University. After his Luce Year, Noor plans to pursue a Ph.D. and return to the classroom as a professor and lab director. He also performs as a member of the Origin Urban Dance Crew in Cary, North Carolina and is continuing his training in urban and contemporary dance.

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Summer-Solstice Thomas

Age: 21
Degree: B.A. in Environmental Studies, Williams College,
(expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: Williams College
Field of Professional Interest: Toxic Chemicals, Environment and Public Health

Summer-Solstice Thomas is a researcher and activist aspiring to use her intellectual curiosity and propensity towards quantitative analysis to affect social change. Summer-Solstice will graduate with honors from Williams College in June 2020 with a degree in Environmental Studies. Growing up exploring the diverse habitats of her hometown of Santa Cruz, CA, Summer-Solstice has pursued many quests to understand the natural world, from studying bee health and abundance in Californian urban gardens to the effects of deforestation on rivers' fluvial paths in Borneo. Summer-Solstice plans to dedicate herself to studying how toxic industrial chemicals enter and interact with the environment to affect public health disproportionately across axes of race, socio-economic status, and geography. She desires to understand how power manifests across landscape to perpetuate inequality and illuminate how systems of privilege can be shifted to provide for a more healthy, just, and equitable world. As a research intern at the Center for Health, Environment and Justice in Washington, D.C., Summer-Solstice spearheaded the design of new policies regulating air pollution in sacrifice zones. Her senior thesis, which will result in two forthcoming papers, analyzed patterns of PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, pollution across the Housatonic River floodplain to better inform clean-up of the carcinogenic material. As a varsity Track and Field co-captain (with a hard-earned team national championship in 2019), Summer-Solstice is a five-time All American with a passion for cooperation and community. She hopes to extend this passion into her career, working with leading researchers to empower and amplify the efforts of grassroots community groups to receive the protection from toxic chemicals. Summer-Solstice enjoys running, surfing, river-rafting and anything involving lots of sunshine, dogs, or smiles.

Shivram (Shiv) Viswanathan

Age: 23
Degree: B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, Rutgers University, 2018
Nominating Institution: Rutgers University
Field of Professional Interest: Economics and Finance

Shivram Viswanathan is a student of history, political economy, and economic and financial policy. As a senior research analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, he conducts academic research on banks, their regulation, their history, and how they affect household decisions. He also works on administering and developing statistical and economic models in the Dodd-Frank Act Stress Tests (DFAST), which were created in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis in 2008. This annual exercise tests whether each of the largest U.S. financial institutions can endure a variety of adverse economic scenarios, and ensures that the financial system is healthy. A graduate of Rutgers University, Shivram honed his skills in programming and data processing while conducting research on historical economic phenomena such as banking supervision, the slave trade, and civil conflict. In Fall 2016, he led Rutgers University to their second District and first National Championship in the College Federal Reserve Challenge. Additionally, he was a member of the first cohort of the New Brunswick Google Community Leaders Program. As part of this team, Shivram consulted with nonprofit and poverty-alleviation organizations in the area to better serve their clients by establishing a more robust web presence, registering their physical location with Google Maps, and conducting search engine optimization to raise awareness for their programs and services. Having been exposed to how policies mitigate or amplify inequities inherent in the local community, Shivram hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in financial economics to study these dynamics in more detail, both to advance academic discourse, and to inform the policy-making process. Shivram is an avid student and performer of spiritual music from various cultures. From major choral works to Islamic mystical Sufi songs, these musical styles put him in touch with his identity as a hyphenated American. In addition, he enjoys playing and watching basketball, and cooking and consuming spicy food.

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Bennett (Ben) Weissenbach

Age: 22
Degree: A.B. in English, Princeton University, (expected) 2020
Nominating Institution: Princeton University
Field of Professional Interest: Journalism

Ben Weissenbach is a senior at Princeton University, where he studies English and Environmental Studies. In this age of digital absorption and climatic change, Ben aspires to write engaging stories about our changing relationship to the natural world. He has spent much of the past two years in Alaska, shadowing scientists who study different facets of climate change. Last summer, for example, Ben joined an National Science Foundation-funded research expedition that walked and packrafted 360 miles across the Brooks Range to try to determine why tree lines are advancing north in some parts of the Arctic but not

others. He is weaving together research and first-hand experiences from the past two years into a narrative nonfiction undergraduate thesis on climate change in Alaska. At Princeton, Ben has studied writing under John McPhee and Rebecca Mead. He has also freelanced for local publications as a member of the Princeton University Press Club. A two-time National Outdoor Leadership School alumnus and an avid outdoorsman, he summited Denali in 2018 via the Muldrow Glacier route. He also spent three months in Bolivia and Peru during a gap year before college, backpacking, living with locals, and learning about environmental and political issues. As an ocean therapy volunteer with the Jimmy Miller Memorial Foundation, Ben teaches at-risk youth and veterans with PTSD to access the healing power of the ocean through surfing. Ben loves running, surfing, and sharing his passion for the outdoors.

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Saifeldeen (Saif) Zihiri

Age: 22
Degree: B.A. in Religion; Political Science, Macaulay Honors
College at CUNY Hunter College, 2019
Nominating Institution: CUNY Hunter College
Field of Professional Interest: Civil Society and Social Justice

Growing up Muslim-American in post 9/11 New York, Saif Zihiri has dedicated himself to studying both extremist movements and government response towards extremism. While a student at Macaulay Honors at CUNY Hunter College, he worked with the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, tracking terror events happening in Somalia and Afghanistan. Under the Southern Poverty Law Center, he monitored domestic extremists and their connections to government officials. Working with the American Civil Liberties Union's National Security Project, he studied the Federal Government's activities in the name of countering violent extremism (CVE). Graduating in May 2019 with a double major in Religion and Political Science, as well as a certificate in Human Rights, he wrote two separate theses. Through the Religion program, he wrote on the preaching strategies of the more aggressive camps of the Black Hebrew Israelite movement. Through the Human Rights program he wrote on the anti-Muslim bias of the Federal Government's CVE program. After graduating, Saif spent a summer in Accra, Ghana with the West Africa Centre for Counter-Extremism, where he wrote on the importance of centering human rights within national security and helped the organization track terror events happening throughout West Africa. As a New York City Urban Fellow, Saif currently works for the New York City Police Department, where he conducts research on issues ranging from youth diversion strategies to internal use-of-force policies. Saif enjoys exploring antique shops and is an avid photographer of political activities in the city.

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