



2013-2014 LUCE SCHOLARS

Name	Nominating Institution	Field of Professional Interest
Benjamin A. Bissell	University of Virginia	Political Demography
William F. Broderick	Oberlin College	Computational Neuroscience
Samantha G. Chadwick	University of Illinois	Railway Engineering
Martin A. Chorzempa	University of Minnesota	Financial Sector Development, Microfinance and SME Finance
Matthew P. Cortland	Rutgers University	Business and Education
Claire Duvallet	Columbia University	Biomedical Engineering
Eryn R. Eby	University of Puget Sound	Global Public Health
Genevieve E. Gebhart	University of Washington	Information Sciences
William D. Leimenstoll	University of North Carolina	Urban Planning
Adam B. Lerner	Cornell University	Literature, Creative Writing, Journalism
Gene B. Merewether	Princeton University	Engineering Solutions to Disaster Response
Megan Mills-Novoa	Lewis & Clark College	Agriculture, Food Security and Environmental Change
Jeremy I. Pivor	Washington University in St. Louis	International Ocean Policy and Conservation
Henry L. Ross	University of North Carolina	Criminal Law
Aya Saed	University of Pennsylvania	Politics and Social Innovation
Tamara T. Shogaolu	University of Southern California	Film, Television and Interactive Media Production
Nicholas J. Thompson	Emory University	Medicine, Public Health
Tarlise N. Townsend	Indiana University	Environmental Health Science

2013-2014 LUCE SCHOLARS

Bios

Benjamin A. Bissell (Ben)

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: University of Virginia
Degree: B.A., Politics and Russian Language (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Political Demography

Ben Bissell grew up as one of four in a boisterous Jewish household in the small town of Fairfax Station, Virginia. His close-knit family taught him an important childhood lesson he has never forgotten: every individual is a product of his/her human relationships. With a keen passion for the role of social structures in constructing individual identities, Ben entered the University of Virginia to research political demography, pursuing a double major in Politics Honors and Russian Language. His academic interests are varied, but have largely focused on the interaction between demographic events, such as aging or urbanization, and the stability of political regimes. Ben has concentrated on the international implications of demography, especially in emerging economies in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Faced with a dearth of courses focusing on such topics at UVa, he created and taught his own credited undergraduate class, entitled “An Introduction to Political Demography,” and started a demography blog. He has presented original research on aging and political stability at the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference. He is also writing a thesis on ethnic re-identification and strategic depth in the Former Soviet Union using age cohort regression between the 1989 Soviet Census and later republic censuses. Research for his thesis has led him abroad to Russia, where he translated Soviet Censuses using the Critical Language Scholarship. Ben also works as an intern at the Weldon Cooper Center, a demographic think tank. His current work involves using spatial mapping to help advise the Charlottesville Fire Department where to put future stations. Proficient in Russian, Arabic, and Hebrew, Ben is an avid language learner, and has sought to increase language learning at UVa and abroad. Ben has led two international service trips from UVa to Israel and Ukraine. Ben acted as the Teaching Assistant for two ESL classes, one geared towards international graduate students, and one to a visiting delegation of Chinese PhDs. He also travels the country as a Language Ambassador for the State Department to encourage Americans to learn critical languages. In his free time, he loves to read, play Dance Central, and eat sushi.

William F. Broderick (Billy)

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Oberlin College
Degree: B.A., Neuroscience and Mathematics (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Computational Neuroscience

Billy Broderick was born in the Philadelphia area, where he grew up and attended local Quaker schools before attending Oberlin College in Ohio, from which he will graduate in May with a B.A. in Mathematics and Neuroscience. He has a lifelong interest in scientific research, working in wet labs in high school and college before deciding that computational research is of greater interest, focusing on mathematical and computational models and simulations. While in college, Billy was also a member of the varsity tennis and club ping pong teams, competing against fellow Oberlin students and those at other schools. Although math and science are his primary interests, Billy is also passionate about learning languages and experiencing other cultures. He took the opportunity to study abroad in Budapest, Hungary and Beijing, China while at college. While in Budapest on the Budapest Semester in Mathematics program, his studies concentrated on math (including combinatorics, for which Hungary is renowned), but he also took advantage of the opportunity to learn a small amount of Hungarian and explore Eastern Europe. In Beijing on the Princeton in Beijing summer program, Billy continued his studies of Mandarin Chinese and tasted as many different varieties of food as he could find. He has also studied French and hopes to continue to learn new languages. After graduation, Billy plans to work as a research assistant to experience different research environments and topics before pursuing a Ph.D. in computational neuroscience.

Samantha G. Chadwick (Sam)

Age:	24
Nominating Institution:	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Degrees:	M.S., Civil Engineering (Railway Engineering) (2012); B.S., Civil Engineering (Transportation and Structures) (2010)
Field of Professional Interest:	Railway Engineering

Sam Chadwick is a graduate research assistant with the Rail Transportation and Engineering Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Her research is focused on improving safety at highway-rail grade crossings by minimizing the risk of train derailments. She earned her B.S. in Civil Engineering from UIUC in 2010, concentrating in transportation and structures. As a recipient of an International Engineering Fellowship, Sam spent a year at L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Géologie in Nancy, France where she studied geotechnical engineering and completed a minor in French. The freedom of visiting dozens of French cities without once setting foot in a car fueled Sam's love of passenger rail travel, and prompted her to pursue a career in passenger rail in the U.S. She worked as an engineering intern for HNTB Corporation in Chelmsford, MA during the summer of 2010, designing light rail, commuter rail and high-speed rail systems for implementation throughout North America. Sam also served as President of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) Student Chapter at UIUC in 2011, sharing her knowledge and passion for rail with other students and the Illinois community. She believes that addressing the growing need for transportation capacity with rail rather than roads can make American cities cleaner, safer and more sustainable, ultimately improving quality of life for everyone. In her free time, Sam enjoys a variety of activities including skiing and cooking. She is a lifelong musician, with more than ten years of training as a flautist and handbell ringer, and currently sings with UIUC's Oratorio Society as a soprano.

Martin A. Chorzempa

Age: 24
Nominating Institution: University of Minnesota
Degree: B.S.B. in Business (2011)
Field of Professional Interest: Financial Sector Development, Microfinance & SME Finance

Martin Chorzempa grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota. He graduated summa cum laude in finance and international business from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota in 2011. As an undergraduate, he took on leadership roles in community organizations, student government, and as the head of the fraternity system. He also gained work experience in the private sector, interning as a financial consultant to evaluate the effects of financial regulation on banks and value subprime mortgage securities. He spent the spring of 2010 doing masters coursework in business and international affairs at the École des Hautes Études Commerciales in Paris, France, where he wrote his thesis on a 14th-century financial crisis in Florence. After graduation, Chorzempa went to Germany on a Fulbright Scholarship to study the role of public banks in the financial crisis. He then worked for the Association of German Banks in Berlin, where he focused on European banking regulation and small business finance. He hopes to work in financial sector development, founding small credit institutions in underbanked markets and helping developing countries formulate policy to better govern their rapidly expanding banking sectors.

Matthew P. Cortland (Matt)

Age: 24
Nominating Institution: Rutgers University
Degrees: M.Ed., Education and Social Change (2013),
University of Miami;
B.A., Art History (2011), Rutgers University
Field of Professional Interest: Business and Education

Matthew Cortland was born and raised in Southern New Jersey. He graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and with honors from Rutgers University where he earned a B.A. in Art History and interdisciplinary studies, with a minor in Italian Studies and a Certificate in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies. Matthew's interdisciplinary major was designed surrounding a three-year ethnographic research study of an all-male drum and bugle corps, where he participated as a drum major while also conducting field research involving the construction of language, communication in a closed community, and the enactment of masculinity. Matthew is a Teach for America fellow, currently teaching reading and serving as Department Chair at Miami Northwestern Senior High School. While working with the school's struggling readers to understand the foundations of literacy, Matthew completed a M.S.Ed. in Education and Social Change from the University of Miami. Matthew plans to continue working in education through emerging educational technologies with the aim of making learning more individualized and targeted. Matthew serves on several boards including the New Jersey Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism, the Theta Delta Chi Educational Foundation, and Theta Delta Chi Grand Lodge.

Claire Duvallet

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Columbia University
Degree: B.S., Biomedical Engineering (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Biomedical Engineering

Claire Duvallet is defined by the meshing of different cultures, mentalities, and passions: as a French-American speaking English at school and French at home, as a daughter heavily influenced by her social worker mother and engineer father, and as a student juggling her love of music and science. Currently a senior biomedical engineering major at Columbia University, Claire hopes to pursue a Ph.D. at the intersection of engineering and global health. Her ultimate goal is to work on developing and implementing technologies to improve health in developing countries, a career choice inspired by her work in Dr. Samuel Sia's Molecular and Microscale Bioengineering Lab. She joined this lab in the fall of her junior year, working on a project to develop a microfluidic device capable of diagnosing tuberculosis in resource-limited settings. When finished, the robust and low-maintenance chip will quickly process a raw sample into a simple diagnosis without requiring extensively trained personnel. Claire is fascinated by the challenge of addressing complex health problems with unique solutions appropriate for the specific constraints posed by remote settings. Claire's various international experiences have also influenced her goals by shaping her desire to continue discovering, exploring, and learning from new cultures and lifestyles. In Spring 2011, Claire studied abroad at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia where she balanced her coursework with travelling in Australia and New Zealand. Upon her return, Claire began working with Columbia's Office of Global Programs to actively encourage engineering students to consider studying abroad. She also led a small group of students to bring therapy dogs to Columbia during finals week for the first biannual Puppies Study Break, hoping to share the work-life balance she discovered abroad with her fellow Columbia students. Claire also enjoys serving as a mentor for other students, having tutored both college and high school students throughout her time at Columbia and serving as a Teaching Assistant for the biomedical engineering section of the freshman introductory engineering course. She loves working with students to play with difficult concepts until they arrive at a genuine understanding of the material, and hopes to continue teaching and mentoring in her future career. In her free time, Claire enjoys playing percussion in the Columbia University Orchestra, playing ultimate Frisbee, swing dancing, and going on adventures.

Eryn R. Eby

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: University of Puget Sound
Degree: B.A., Politics and Government (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Global Public Health

Eryn Eby grew up in Anchorage, Alaska and the surrounding mountains. She will graduate from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington in May 2013, with a degree in International Relations and an interdisciplinary emphasis in Global Development Studies.

Eryn's interest in public health stems from her personal experience growing up with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Because of her own experiences with the healthcare system, she was inspired to become involved in the medical world, starting by working with an ophthalmologist on iritis research in high school. They presented a poster at the 2010 American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus National Annual meeting and were published in the Binocular Vision and Strabology Quarterly in fall 2012. In summer 2012 Eryn founded and ran Camp ARCTIC (Arthritis Can't Tame my Independence and Courage), the first summer camp and community for children with arthritis in her home state of Alaska. She worked with physicians and nurses at the Alaska Native Medical Center to find facilities and staff, secure grant funding from prestigious sources, and manage volunteers to create the best possible experience for the children and families that came from remote and urban communities around the state. After high school Eryn planned a gap year of volunteering internationally before college. She taught AIDS education and basic first aid at a public health clinic in Zambia and taught second grade for five months in Ecuador. She returned the following summer to help run the teaching program in Ecuador. After returning to the United States, Eryn interned with the Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services program in Alaska where she negotiated differences in beliefs about gender roles, viable work opportunities, and financial assistance in order to devise culturally acceptable and financially feasible solutions to help refugees adapt to their new lives. Eryn is currently working with Etta Projects, a small non-profit that does development work in Bolivia and prioritizes partnership with local community members. All these experiences have taught her the importance of sustainability in organizations and community-led solutions. They have inspired her to work on the development, education, and implementation side of public health projects in her future career. Eryn loves to be in the outdoors backpacking, kayaking, and skiing wherever possible, and balances her academic experience with involvement in leading the outdoor program at her school and orientation for incoming students.

Genevieve E. Gebhart (Gennie)

Age:	22
Nominating Institution:	University of Washington
Degree:	B.A., International Studies & Economics (2013)
Field of Professional Interest:	Information Sciences

Gennie Gebhart, a Sacramento native and now a proud Seattlite, grew up exploring libraries. Gennie will graduate from the University of Washington in June 2013 with a degree in International Studies and Economics. While her academic studies at the UW have focused on environmental economics and international energy politics, she is aiming to extend these fields of study into a career in information justice and international librarianship. The UW Libraries have opened countless doors for Gennie, and she owes her current informatics skills and aspirations to them. Having worked at the UW Libraries' Odegaard Undergraduate Library, the Northwest branch of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, and the UW's Media Center (the main multimedia library), Gennie has had hands-on experience in what it takes to keep a university library running from day to day through everything from budget cuts to large-scale renovations. Gennie's introduction to the art and study of cinema at the Media Center has led to her current senior Honors thesis on Italian film, which she has been

fortunate to undertake in Rome during winter quarter 2013. Her activities in Italy so far have included trips to Naples for Christmas and New Years with strangers-turned-family, trying to fix her apartment's water heater, and speaking as much Italian as possible. Gennie's greatest passion lies in the problem-solving and advocacy she has found as a student representative on the UW's Library Student Advisory Committee and Faculty Council on University Libraries. In these groups, terms like "open access," "information justice," and "digital commons" have taken on tangible and urgent meaning. Gennie hopes to enter the global open access debate armed with international experience, a multidisciplinary education, and constant mindfulness of the vital human side of digital information technology.

William D. Leimenstoll (Will)

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Degree: B.A., Environmental Studies (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Urban Planning

Will Leimenstoll grew up in the heart of Greensboro, North Carolina as the son of historic preservation architects. His unique childhood in a downtown, storefront building helped him discover a passion for city planning at a young age. Beginning in middle school, he served on a community advisory team charged with redeveloping a brownfield adjacent to his childhood home. As downtown Greensboro revitalized, he was the sole voice for the under-thirty age group at countless vision meetings. Will is now a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Urban Studies & Planning. Through his academic pursuits at UNC, he has conducted original research on recycling rates and taken graduate-level city planning courses. In the fall of 2011, Will participated in an Honors semester in Cape Town, South Africa where he interned with the city's Social Development Office and conducted research on informal recycling practices. Will is currently acting as Student Body President of UNC-Chapel Hill. In this role, he works with the university and town administrations and serves as a member of UNC-CH's Board of Trustees. He has successfully advocated to sustain robust financial aid policies, reduce tuition increases on out-of-state students, and legalize gender non-specific housing on campus. He also manages a team of over 200 student leaders charged with carrying out an ambitious 40-page campaign platform. He hopes to eventually get a Masters in City Planning with a concentration in Urban Design and use his degree to construct environmentally friendly buildings and neighborhoods. In his free time, Will enjoys running, swimming, hiking, road trips, and relaxing with family and friends.

Adam B. Lerner

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Cornell University
Degree: B.A., English (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Literature, Creative Writing & Journalism

Adam Lerner will graduate from Cornell University in May of 2013 with an English major and a minor in International Relations. He became involved early in his collegiate career with The Cornell Daily Sun, joining the Arts Staff his first semester, becoming a biweekly columnist a year later, and being awarded an honorary position on the Editorial Writing Board last year. He also became an Assistant Editor for Rainy Day Literary Magazine his first semester at Cornell. He spent two weeks that summer volunteering in Eastern Ukraine, helping to refurbish a community center with a group of Cornell students. During his sophomore year he served as Vice President of Promotions for the Cornell Class Council and worked as a Peer Engagement Intern for Cornell Hillel. He then revived The Cornell Book Review after a yearlong hiatus following the founder's graduation, recruiting a new staff of writers, editors, and illustrators, and he has been its Editor-in-Chief ever since. He also became a Teaching Assistant for the Knight Institute at Cornell University's course "Writing and Research in the Disciplines" and a tutor at the Writing Center. He spent a semester studying in Paris, France where he interned for the Columbus Association, a non-profit at UNESCO that fosters cooperation between Latin American and European universities. The past three years he has worked for the Columbia University Summer Program for High School Students as a teaching assistant for courses in philosophy, international relations, and English and as a resident advisor in the dorms. Because of his role in founding and maintaining the program's blog, he was promoted this past summer to Senior Media Coordinator, a member of the twelve person Senior Staff that oversees the entire 2,000-student program. Through this position he oversaw the program's website, blog, newsletters, yearbooks, and video, and oversaw twelve university-age interns. Recently, he was made a contributor to USA Today's college section. Academically, he is a member of Phi Beta Kappa national honor society, has been placed on the Dean's List every semester, is an Honor's Candidate in the Department of English, and is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. Adam hails from the Washington DC area and spent his senior year of high school studying at a Spanish-language school in Zaragoza, Spain. He is a brother in Phi Kappa Tau and in his free time he plays guitar, reads, and performs standup comedy.

Gene B. Merewether

<i>Age:</i>	22
<i>Nominating Institution:</i>	Princeton University
<i>Degree:</i>	A.B., Chemistry (2013)
<i>Field of Professional Interest:</i>	Engineering Solutions to Disaster Response

Gene Merewether grew up in La Jolla, California, racing sailboats, hiking and camping, and building robots with his dad. His experiences on the water and in the mountains sparked a love of fast-paced, stressful situations. Coming from a family of scientists and engineers, he planned to study science and engineering from an early age. Currently, he is majoring in chemistry with a minor in computer science at Princeton University. He spent the summer before his junior year at EaStCHEM, an interdisciplinary chemistry institute at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. While there, he expanded the usable range of a tool for measuring chemical potential in living cells, which will provide insights into cancer regulation and programmed cell death processes. During his undergraduate research in the inorganic chemistry lab of Professor Jeffrey Schwartz, he developed high-strength, rapid-prototyped

polymer implants, the applications of which include spinal fusions and prosthetic hips. The surface treatment he applied to the devices will increase the lifetime of the devices in the body. He now focuses on manufacturing surface features on the same scale as human connective tissue cells, to test the ability of the cells to migrate from a flat plane into three dimensions. Gene volunteers with Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad as an EMT and rescue technician, following his passion for helping people in vulnerable situations. He plans to find humanitarian uses for drone technology by building autonomous vehicles for search and rescue. Throughout his graduate work and career, he hopes to maintain his links to the fields of emergency medicine and urban technical rescue, helping him to design products to improve the safety and efficiency of disaster relief.

Megan Mills-Novoa

Age: 26
Nominating Institution: Lewis & Clark College
Degree: B.A., Environmental Studies (2009)
Field of Professional Interest: Agriculture, Food Security & Environmental Change

A native Minnesotan, Megan graduated with honors and *Phi Beta Kappa* from Lewis & Clark College in 2009 with a degree in environmental studies and conservation biology. During college Megan created a youth garden education program at a public housing development, worked as a Global Engagement Coordinator, and co-led new student trips focused on sustainable food systems. She also conducted research in Cuba, Turkey, Greece, and New Zealand, and completed an honors thesis on agricultural adaptation to climate change. Following graduation, Megan was an Emerson National Hunger Fellow working within Albuquerque middle schools as a youth organizer and with the National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) in Washington, D.C. conducting research regarding the role of policy in supporting beginning farmers as well as farm credit programs. In 2011 Megan worked as a Fulbright research fellow at the Centro de Cambio Global in Santiago, Chile, researching the impact of climate change on vineyards in Central Chile. Currently, Megan is the Hunger Education Coordinator at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier in upstate New York. In this role Megan is responsible for directing an educational program that raises awareness around food insecurity, offers leadership development opportunities for low-income youth and supports student activism.

Jeremy I. Pivor

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: Washington University in St. Louis
Degree: B.A., Environmental Biology (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: International Ocean Policy and Conservation

Jeremy Pivor, majoring in environmental biology at Washington University in St. Louis, is passionate about international environmental issues and ocean conservation. Interested in the interconnection between science and policy, he has conducted research ranging from disease ecology near Missouri caves, oyster reefs in North Carolina, coral reefs in

Madagascar, and lobster diversity in the Sargasso Sea. His interest in international environmental policy has been developing ever since he co-founded Washington University Students for International Collaboration on the Environment (WUSICE). With WUSICE he organized a climate change conference between American and Chinese students. A memorandum featuring joint solutions to climate policy issues was presented to the lead U.S. and Chinese negotiators at the 2010 climate change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. The following year he organized the first Washington University delegation to the climate change negotiations in Durban, South Africa. Concurrently, he was selected to be an international youth delegate for the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) where he focused on building U.S.-China relations and co-initiated the first youth water policy working group. Sailing with his grandparents every summer, Pivor fell in love with the sea at an early age. Studying abroad affirmed his passion for the ocean. For three months he lived with the Vezo in a remote coastal fishing community in Madagascar working on marine conservation. He assisted biodiversity research of the coral reefs and in education initiatives for local youth in the community. He left Madagascar with a sense of responsibility to dedicate his life towards solving ocean issues to support communities, like the Vezo, that depend on the ocean for their survival. Following his experience in Madagascar, Pivor studied marine biodiversity and conservation of the Sargasso Sea. Aboard a brigantine tall ship, he sailed from St. Croix to Massachusetts via Bermuda. En route, he trained in sailing the ship and conducted ocean science and policy research. In order to better inform management strategies he continued his research for a thesis project, investigating the genetic diversity of Caribbean Spiny Lobster larval cohorts in the Central Atlantic. Jeremy is also president of his university's emergency medical service, plays saxophone, and is an avid scuba diver. His goal is to represent the United States government at the international level. He aspires to work on the interconnection between science and policy by promoting policies that best reflect scientific consensus for the vitality of both the oceans and coasts.

Henry L. Ross

Age:	22
Nominating Institution:	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
Degree:	B.A., Classics (2013)
Field of Professional Interest:	Criminal Law

Henry Ross is a senior and Morehead-Cain Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In May 2013, he will graduate Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in Classics and a minor in Biology. Henry's international, academic, and extracurricular background has fueled his commitment to the improvement of trial advocacy and due process through comparative legal theory. Raised in Italy and Switzerland, Henry has taught third grade in rural Zimbabwe, conducted legal research as a summer analyst for an international investment firm, and traveled to Cape Town on a research grant to study South African criminal procedure under the apartheid regime. He has witnessed directly both the tyranny of the law—to impoverish, enrich, and immure—and the opportunity for great leaders to direct it toward justice. Henry's coursework has combined the study of personal narrative, legal framework, and objective knowledge that he considers crucial to criminal law. He has pursued independent and graduate-level studies in ancient Greek and Latin since his sophomore year, culminating in

his receipt of the department's top undergraduate award for Greek studies and an Honors Thesis on narrative perspective in Vergil's *Georgics*. Henry has supplemented Classics with significant work in constitutional law, criminal law, chemistry, and upper-level biology. Since 2009, Henry has served as a counsel in UNC's student-run honor system, progressing from handling cases of minor plagiarism to arguing some of the University's most serious sexual assault cases. Henry has completed a comparative study with the Chair of the Faculty on policy and procedure in the disciplinary systems of UNC's peer institutions, spearheaded a faculty outreach initiative, and designed a novel data collection system expected to vastly improve the system's transparency and fairness. He currently serves the University as the deputy student attorney general and solicitor general for the student body. Last summer, he worked as an investigator for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia gathering oral and written evidence for indigent defendants accused of Felony 1 crimes. On the side, Henry remains active on the UNC Squash Team, which he captained for the 2011-2012 season. He relies on music, friends, and family for guidance and inspiration.

Aya Saed

Age: 22
Nominating Institution: University of Pennsylvania
Degree: B.A., International Relations (2013)
Field of Professional Interest: Politics and Social Innovation

Aya Saed was born to Nubian parents in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and lived in Khartoum, Sudan and Washington, D.C. Her passions lie at the intersection between journalism and entrepreneurship in the technology sphere. As a blogger for the Huffington Post and an editorials columnist for the Daily Pennsylvanian, writing has become both a hobby and a passion. She writes extensively on protests in Sudan, racial profiling in urban environments and the role of religion in American politics. Aya had the opportunity to explore the potential of technology for empowerment as a New Business Development intern at Google, where she worked to launch the Speak2Tweet product in Sudan during the #SudanRevolts movement. Speak2Tweet allows users to access Twitter via a mobile device when Internet is shut down. It was popular across the Arab Spring movement and continues to be in use today. Pursuing her interest in technology and online content creation, Aya worked on projects linking technology leaders with educators during her studies in Ghana, and created high school journalism programs for Arabs living inside Israel as an Ibrahim Fellow in the Middle East. She will graduate from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2013 with a B.A. in International Relations.

Tamara T. Shogaolu

Age: 27
Nominating Institution: University of Southern California
Degrees: M.F.A., Film and Television Production (2013),
University of Southern California;
B.A., Economics (2008), Occidental College
Field of Professional Interest: Film, Television & Interactive Media Production

Tamara Shogaolu grew up living in Panama, the U.S. and the Middle East. She is driven by her goal to tell stories that need to be told and make films and multi-media projects that inspire cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. She has worked in film, research and media in the Middle East, United States, Africa and Latin America on both narrative and documentary projects. Most recently she worked on the biopic film CHAVEZ directed by Diego Luna about the life of civil rights activist Cesar Chavez. Her research has ranged from tracking economic trends, to the experiences of migrant workers in the Middle East, and to the Afro-Ecuadorian Civil Rights Movement. In addition to doing research as a Fulbright Scholar in Egypt, she worked with project ObjecDEFY, whose mission is to encourage people to defy the sexual harassment of women in order to effect societal and legal reform in the Middle East. In addition to producing and directing various projects, she has worked as a Film and Media for Social Change consultant for various nonprofit organizations, as a development intern with Participant Media, Canana and Warner Brothers Films, and as a production assistant for WE TV. She also co-organized the first annual Cairo Refugee Film Festival, where she designed and organized workshops that built community between refugee and Egyptian youth through the art of storytelling. Tamara is currently producing and directing a short animated documentary film and interactive media project on experiences of Egyptian women during the January 2011 revolution and in this post-Mubarak era. Tamara is concluding her work as an MFA candidate in the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts.

Nicholas Thompson (Nick)

Age:	22
Nominating Institution:	Emory University
Degree:	B.S., Biology and Music (2013)
Field of Professional Interest:	Medicine & Public Health

Nick Thompson is a senior at Emory University and will receive his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Bachelor of Arts in Music in May 2013. Nick has pursued his professional interests, medicine and science, for much of his time in college. After his freshman year, he was a clinical research volunteer in the Neurology Department at the University of Chicago. There, he facilitated a drug trial with Multiple Sclerosis patients and helped standardize a new imaging technique, Optical Coherence Tomography, as a method of marking the progress of the disease. At Emory, Nick started an independent research project investigating the mechanisms of exercise and electrical stimulation to enhance axon regeneration after peripheral nerve injury. He has continued this research project through his senior year and is currently pursuing an honors thesis in biology with this work. Nick is also deeply interested in the overlap between culture, religion, and medicine/science. During the summer of 2012, he participated in Emory's Tibetan Mind/Body Sciences program, a 5-week program in Dharamsala, India. The program largely explored the role that religion and culture play in influencing healing practices in Tibetan populations, as well as the convergence of those subjects with Western neuroscience. In addition to his studies of medicine and science, Nick has pursued other interests while at Emory. An accomplished cellist, he has been principal of the cello section in the Emory University Symphony Orchestra, played in several musical ensembles, and engaged in intensive solo

performance. Nick also has a passion for the game of chess, which led him to become a chess instructor at local Atlanta elementary schools and president of the Emory Chess Club. He has led efforts to partner with the Georgia Chess Association to create intercollegiate tournaments for students in Georgia. Nick places a high value on community service and Jewish culture. He is president of the Emory chapter of Challah for Hunger, a group that, nationally, has raised more than \$400,000 for Sudanese refugees. Through the weekly baking and sale of challah bread, Nick has directed and organized fundraising and advocacy for the American Jewish World Service in Sudan and the Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta.

Tarlise Townsend (Tarlise)

<i>Age:</i>	22
<i>Nominating Institution:</i>	Indiana University
<i>Degree:</i>	B.S., Neuroscience; B.A., Germanic Studies (2012)
<i>Field of Professional Interest:</i>	Environmental Health Science

Tarlise Townsend is a visiting researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin (MPIB). The focus of her work there is to understand processes underlying real-world decision-making, such as people’s strategies for shrinking their carbon footprint, how the communication of relevant data affects those strategies, and whether policy should “nudge” individuals to make better decisions for the sake of the greater good. Tarlise’s interests in these issues emerged from a diverse background. While obtaining her B.S. in neuroscience at Indiana University (IU), she gained a foundation in the neural and cognitive underpinnings of human behavior. Through her work in Dr. Tom James’ neuroimaging laboratory, she was trained in the methodological building blocks of empirical research. Tarlise also holds a B.A. in Germanic studies, and spent a year in Freiburg, Germany. Exposure to European approaches to environmental and health challenges piqued her interest in such bigger-picture issues, leading her to explore their relationship to psychology. During an earlier internship at the MPIB, she co-designed a study on risk literacy in health decisions, and learned about transparent statistics and the use of simple strategies (heuristics) in decision-making. Motivated by her burgeoning interest in the intersection of environment and health, Tarlise later pursued an internship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she developed communications materials for the agency’s hydraulic fracturing study, gaining insight into environmental decision-making at the policy level. In her spare time at IU, Tarlise volunteered and worked on a variety of education projects. She served as the educational programmer for her residence hall, co-designed and co-taught a course on models of empathy, and mentored child survivors of domestic violence. On the IU Scholarship Advisory Committee, she helped connect high-achieving high school students to their place at the university. On the Board of Aeons, a research and advisory group to the IU president, she tackled major issues facing IU students. Her undergraduate honors thesis examined social inequality in the German public school system and won IU’s Provost’s Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity. After graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in August 2012, Tarlise returned to the MPIB with support from a DAAD graduate study scholarship. She hopes to continue pursuing a career that links psychology, health, and the environment. ###