



2016 CLASS OF 1960 RECIPIENTS



SEPTEMBER 6, 2016
BRANFORD COLLEGE

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STUDENT

CLASS YR

Charlotte Desprat.....'18

Darby Herkert.....'18

Ariadne Lih..... '17

Jenny Nathans.....'18

Hannah Rees.....'18

Charlotte Desprat

Bio:

Charlotte is a French student from the Class of 2018 in Branford College at Yale majoring in history. Having lived in Prague for the last eight years of her life before moving to Yale, she was exposed early on to the products of the history of Eastern Europe. At university, she pursued this interest through various courses in history, political science, anthropology, and language, and gradually focused on Russian and Soviet history. Similarly, her passion for foreign cultures and languages has led her to currently work as editor-in-chief for *Accent*, the only multilingual publication on campus. In addition, she has written a number of articles on Russian politics and the European migrant crisis for *The Yale Globalist*, another on-campus publication focused on international affairs. She also works as an administrative assistant at the Department of French and at the Office of Development. In her spare time, she likes to hike, ponder the meaning of Russian jokes, learn German idioms, and travel.

Summary:

As the recipient of the Class of 1960 Fellowship, Charlotte was able to spend five weeks of her summer in Saint Petersburg, Russia. While she was traveling as part of a Yale-organized program on Russian language and culture, Charlotte also intended on completing a research project she had been working on. Indeed, she had decided to study the impact of the new Russian history textbooks that were recently commissioned by the Russian government to replace all other textbooks in schools across the country beginning September 2016. In order to do this, she had to interview residents living in Russia and ask them about their understanding of and opinions on Russian 20th-century history. By combining the content of these interviews with her study of the textbooks' own approach to history, Charlotte hoped that she could gauge the role that these textbooks would play in national identity-building. Having these goals in mind, this summer was a true success on many levels. First of all, thanks to intensive language courses and continuous exposure to locals, Charlotte made tremendous progress in her Russian-language skills. Secondly, through numerous excursions in Saint Petersburg, Moscow and Novgorod, as well as many readings of various literary works, Charlotte deepened her knowledge of Russian culture. Furthermore, in regards to her research project, she was able to interview 20 locals displaying an even distribution of different generations and various levels of education. Although she will need to further analyze the data she gathered, the content of her interviews showed an impressively wide range of opinions and is sure to lead to promising results. Finally, as was the case for most students on the same summer program, this trip was especially enriching in the sense that it allowed Charlotte to discover the dynamics within Russian society and understand Russians first-handedly. As a result, this trip severely

undermined many preconceptions that she had previously had regarding Russians – most of which had been heavily influenced by her exposure to the Russian community in Prague – and only deepened her interest in the country and its people. For all these reasons, Charlotte is very grateful to the Class of 1960 Fellowship for having enabled her to achieve her first trip to Russia – the first of many more in the future, certainly.

Darby Herkert

Bio:

Darby Herkert is a Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology major from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is also a member of the Global Health Scholars Program. She became interested in global health and development through her summers abroad in high school, and spent the previous summer performing maternal health research in Nicaragua. At Yale, Darby is a former co-director and current board member of Student Partnerships for Global Health, Co-Coordinator of Community Health Educators, and office assistant for the Yale Office of Trademarks and Licensing. In her free time, she enjoys running, reading, and spending time with friends and family.

Summary:

Darby spent the summer as an intern for Amaltas Consulting Pvt. Ltd, a health consulting firm located in New Delhi, India. At Amaltas, her primary project was to perform the quantitative analysis for a study developed in conjunction with Amaltas's partner NGO – the Amrit Foundation of India. This study focused on the barriers families of children with intellectual disabilities (Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability) face in terms of accessing resources and assistance. It was extremely interesting to be a part of this analysis from beginning to end, and to see which factors were correlated and which were not. During her internship, Darby also spent time in Southern India as a part of a UNICEF-backed nutrition study, and performed various other tasks for Amaltas and the Amrit Foundation. It was an incredible learning experience, and she is very thankful to the Class of 1960 for the fellowship she received.

Ariadne Lih

Bio:

Ariadne Lih is a senior music major and classical soprano from Montreal, Canada, and she is especially passionate about early music. She will be singing in her third production with the Yale Baroque Opera Project this year, and she is a concert soloist both on and off campus; she has sung for the Tiny Baroque Orchestra of Pierson College, Yale Temperament consort of viols, the Yale Vitry Symposium and the Elm City Consort. She is also soloist, section leader and manager for the manager for the Yale Collegium Musicum; working with the Collegium is one of the best experiences she has had at Yale, because the group allows people who might never have played early music to create truly magical performances. Ariadne also loves singing with the Opera Theatre of Yale College and participating in small, student-led music projects. In addition to her musical activities, Ariadne tutors French and works as a French-English translator.

Summary:

The Class of 1960 Fellowship allowed Ariadne to spend July at SongFest, a summer music program in Los Angeles. It was a month of intensive training in the performance of art song with an emphasis on contemporary American composers. She believes she improved more as a singer in those 28 days than she has over the past year! The quality and variety of the teaching she personally received and witnessed in masterclasses worked wonders, as did the opportunity to discuss and exchange with her many very talented peers. For Ariadne, this was a rare opportunity to devote her whole mind, heart, and body to studying the craft of performance, and it truly prepared her for a senior year filled with music.

SongFest was an educational experience on many levels. There was much discussion of possible career paths, and she was able to start drafting lists of possible grad schools and concrete goals to achieve before applying to them. She also learned concrete strategies for learning and practicing repertoire that will serve her this year and for the rest of her life. In particular, she learned how to approach contemporary music, which will be an essential skill for this year's Opera Theatre of Yale College production of Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and she hopes to delve deeper into new music with student composers and other student groups as well. Lastly, she was exposed to a huge amount of new repertoire, including many fantastic women composers whose music she can't wait to perform, and finalized her senior recital program based on the kind of innovative programming she saw at SongFest. She is extremely grateful to the Class of 1960 Fellowship for making this incredible learning experience possible.

Jenny Nathans

Bio:

Jenny Nathans is a Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry major from Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is a member of Mixed Company, a co-ed A Cappella group, and the former Business Manager. During the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years she was a member of Democracy United, a group that worked to promote transparency in campaign finance. She works in the lab of Professor Joan Steitz during the year, studying non-coding RNA and transcription termination. In the summer of 2014 she worked at a plant bacteria lab in Rehovot, Israel at the Weizmann Institute of Science. This spring she volunteered in the Adult Emergency Department of the Yale-New Haven Hospital and shadowed a surgical pathologist.

Summary:

As a class of 1960 fellowship recipient, Jenny spent this past summer in Oxford, England, in the lab of Professor Nicholas Proudfoot in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, under the guidance of Dr. Hannah Mischo. Her project involved studying the stability of non-coding RNAs in yeast cell lines with mutations in their RNA degradation pathways. She tested for the stability of these RNAs in these cell lines arrested at different points in the cell cycle, which correlate with different levels of the protein Sen1. Sen1 is suspected to be a key player in non-coding RNA transcription termination in yeast. These experiments aimed to provide evidence for the importance of Sen1 in non-coding RNA stabilization. Her work this summer taught her important lab techniques such as Western Blots and protein activity assays. She also became more interested in the fields of mechanisms of transcription termination, and learned to work with yeast as a model system. England was also in the midst of an intense debate over the impending vote to leave the European Union, and it was incredibly interesting to learn about the politics of both sides, as well as seeing the immediate results of the Brexit vote. Jenny is thankful for her learning experience that was made possible through the Class of 1960 Fellowship.

Hannah Rees

Bio:

Hannah Rees is a Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology major and a Global Health Scholar from Los Angeles, California. She is primarily interested in the improvement of cancer prevention, diagnosis, and care in the developing world. At Yale, Hannah is co-president of Student Partnerships for Global Health, an organization that facilitates student-developed research projects in Latin America. She is also a Community Health Educator group head, teaching fellow students how to present health workshops in New Haven public schools. Hannah loves playing on the Yale club tennis team, and has a passion for traveling, baking, and paddle boarding.

Summary:

Through the generosity of the Branford Class of 1960 Fellowship Award, Hannah spent eight weeks in León, Nicaragua this summer conducting a mixed-methods investigation with two Yale College students and a student from the Yale School of Public Health. The goal of the study was to assess the barriers to screening for human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer in the subpopulations of urban and rural women of León. Working within three urban health centers and three rural health posts, her team completed over 300 surveys and 21 patient interviews. For the educational component of the project, Hannah created a culturally competent handout that detailed information regarding HPV and cervical cancer, which was given to each participant after the study. Her team also created posters for the health centers with information about HPV, cervical cancer, Papanicolaou tests, and the HPV vaccine, which were presented in health workshops. This opportunity enabled Hannah to experience firsthand both the challenges and rewards of working in the field of global health. It has reaffirmed her decision to pursue a career as an oncologist working to improve cancer prevention and treatment strategies in developing countries.
