

Class of 1960 Branford Summer Travel Fellowships 2018

We met at noon on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at the Branford Master's house (now known as Branford House) for lunch with three of our 2107 awardees and Enrique De La Cruz, the new Master (Head) of Branford College. Present were committee members:

Enrique De La Cruz
Peter Dickinson '60
Carrie Reynolds '86
Joanna Riesman '86
Richard Roberts '86

Also present were the following 2017 awardees:

Katherine Anstreicher, who had spent last summer in Copenhagen working on a food foraging project with a renowned chef.

Amanda Corcoran, who had been in Italy working on health issues among refugee women.

Zoe Kempf-Harris, who had been in England studying Knoll House architecture as it related to Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*.

Harry Gray was absent due to a schedule conflict. He had studied electronic music in Paris.

Arvin Murch also joined us for lunch.

We heard descriptions of their projects from the awardees as we enjoyed our sandwiches in the living room. It was interesting to hear how Katherine and Amanda had found their projects evolved in ways unforeseen, which limited their accomplishment of their goals. But all three felt enriched by their experiences. Parenthetically, I am not sure that all of us were aware that Amanda is functionally deaf. I only learned this from Betsy Bradley when I mentioned Amanda's speech. I was stunned to think that she had become fluent in Italian under these circumstances.

After lunch, our 2017 awardees thanked us for making their summer projects possible and departed. We proceeded to interview eight current applicants who had ranked highest among the 15 or so original applications submitted. I felt that the level of interest in the Branford Summer Travel Fellowships seemed diminished compared with prior years, but that was only an impression, not something supported by data. The quality of the finalists was mixed, but the five students receiving awards were really quite spectacular. Four students were ultimately awarded \$3,725 each, and a fourth was awarded \$2,000. The latter award was smaller because, while we felt that she was the most impressive of our interviewees, we expected that she would be fully funded by the Class of 1960 Heinz Fellowship committee.

Going forward, Carrie Reynolds, '86 will chair the committee. Mike Griffin retired from the committee this year and will be followed by Clint Brooks. Peter Dickinson will remain to represent our Class on the committee until our 60th reunion in 2020.

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Here are the projects our awardees will be undertaking with our financial support:

Jude Alawa '19

Evaluating Cancer Awareness and Barriers to Treatment Among Refugees in Lebanon

With local support from Islamic Relief, the Children's Cancer Center affiliated with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the American University in Beirut, Jude plans to document the availability of and barriers to treatment of chronic, non-contagious diseases, cancer in particular, among Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Ludivine Brunissen '19

Comparison of effects of logging on two species of Lemurs in Madagascar

Ludivine will travel to Madagascar to take an internship with SEED Madagascar, a non-profit organization acting to preserve the biodiversity of Madagascar's last littoral forests. She will be a member of a team studying two species of Lemur, one nocturnal and the other diurnal, and how they have been affected by and adapted to ecological pressures, especially illegal logging, in the Sainte Luce Forest.

Levan Margvelashvili '19

Internship at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Brussels, Belgium.

Levan will be a program and research intern, assisting Carnegie Europe scholars with research on EU treaties, institutions, the migration crisis, transatlantic relations, European security, and Eastern European integration.

Serena Ly '20

Internship in the Ministry of Public Health in Bangkok, Thailand.

Serena will work on a project studying the patterns of rabies transmission and rabies surveillance systems under the direction of the Head of Epidemiological Surveillance at the Ministry of Health.

Leila Chang '19

State Department internship in the political section of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, South Korea.

The political section of the embassy is responsible for the execution of U.S. foreign policy towards North and South Korea. She believes that her work is likely to focus on the U.S. diplomatic engagement with North Korea.

We considered the applications and interviewed eight quite remarkable young people, and these were the best of the best. Interestingly, Levan is a citizen of Georgia and Ludivine is French, but the other three, while U.S. citizens, are not very far removed from family immigration to the U.S. Jude is Syrian by birth, Serena is Cambodian, and Leila is of Korean extraction.

Peter Dickinson, '60
Acting committee chair