

# *The Leonore Annenberg Scholarship, Fellowship, and School Funds*

THE ANNENBERG  
PUBLIC POLICY CENTER  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## INTRODUCING THE LEONORE ANNENBERG SCHOLARS

### Scholar Profiles – 2013 Recipients

#### Zachary Egger



Soddy Daisy High School, Soddy Daisy, TN

Zachary is ranked first in his class in high school, a top-tier comprehensive school in rural Hamilton County. With an inherent enthusiasm for learning, Zachary is a self-taught computer programmer and coder, something he says was sparked by a keen interest in how computers work ‘at the core.’ Zac takes from his own time to help a variety of people in his community—from delivering meals to his great-aunt, to serving as the “go-to repair guy” for his teachers’ computers. His mathematics instructor also notes that his neighbors in class often turn to him for assistance their own work. A member of the Beta Club and National Honor Society, Zac also spends time volunteering at the Soddy Daisy Food Bank. Fascinated by the area of artificial intelligence, Zac aspires to study neuroscience and engineering.

#### Jennifer Hernandez



Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics Bronx, NY

There is no need to dress up Jennifer’s intellectual prowess: she is not only ranked first in her class at the Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics (BCSM), a reform-driven and highly competitive school, but her GPA (99.51 un-weighted) is the second highest in the school’s seven-year history. Jennifer also has the highest New York State Regents exam score of any student in BCSM’s history. Outside of school, Jennifer spends time volunteering at the Christadora-Manice Education Center, through which she participated in a clean-up of the Bronx River, and at the Children’s Garden at New York’s Botanical Garden. Jennifer also excels in applying the sciences towards creative ends: she won first place in the Women’s Engineering competition at Columbia University in 2012. She is a self-taught pianist and guitar player. Known by teachers for her kindness and modesty, Jennifer tutors other students in preparation for their Regents exams.

#### Payton Kaar



Northeast High School, Fort Lauderdale, FL

As a high school student, Payton Kaar crafted a scientific research paper extraordinary in its sophistication, “The Comparative Effects of Antifouling Paint and Sharklet on Aquatic Vertebrates.” Indeed, Payton’s forte in science is already well established: she won third place at the Broward County Science Fair in 2011 and placed second in 2012; she was also accepted to speak at the Junior Science Engineering and Humanities Symposium at the University of Florida. Alongside 13 other students, Payton worked on the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam to create a water filtration station to serve third world countries. Payton is ranked first in her class of 460 students at Northeast High, a time consuming feat in itself, though she always finds the time to serve her community as well. She volunteers at elementary and middle schools, has completed the Anti-Defamation League’s three-day training workshop to prevent bullying, and serves as vice president of Northeast High’s Key Club and the historian for the Psychology Club. Payton expects to enter the nursing profession.

### **Jilisa McCullough**



J.R. Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA

Enrolled at Masterman since the fifth grade, Jilisa now is taking a full load of AP classes while maintaining a straight-A record. Just as impressive are Jilisa's accomplishments in music and dance. She is a trained violin player; she takes part in her school's choir as well as the all-city school choir; and she is a gifted dancer who has received several dance scholarships and currently trains with a prestigious pre-professional junior dance company. Her plans are to study international business with concentrations in math and language. Considering that Jilisa is fluent in Spanish, participates in online programs created at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, and is a member of the Youth Leadership Team of her school's student government, it appears that she is already well on her way.

### **Isabelle Morris**



H.B. Plant High School, Tampa, FL

As her school's first junior-year student to be elected team captain of the rowing team, it makes sense that mentors have remarked on the high regard in which Isabelle is held by teachers and peers alike. This bright and thoughtful student excels in every measure of academic achievement. She has taken three Advanced Placement classes and achieved the top score of 5 on each exam, and she intends to have completed another twelve AP courses by the time she graduates. Isabelle has also scored in the impressive 99<sup>th</sup> percentile in both writing and critical reading on her PSAT exam. To add to these achievements, Isabelle is a talented violin player, having served for three years as a concert master for her school's orchestra, played in the All-County Orchestra, and participated in county-wide competitions. While she currently enjoys the subject of calculus, Isabelle is considering embarking on a career in psychology research.

### **Richard Otis**

Rivendell Academy, Bradford, VT



Richard's superior drive, intellect, and love for history have already taken him to other parts of the world. As part of a project for National History Day, the Normandy Sacrifice for Freedom Program chose Richard as a member of a very select group to take an extended tour of Washington, D.C. and Normandy, France. Math and science are other areas where Richard excels. Boasting a strong leadership record, Richard has taught Suicide Prevention classes, taken part in the Senate Youth Program, served as Rivendell's student body representative, and attended the New England Student Leadership Conference. When asked what makes a great leader, Richard emphasized the importance of motivating and relating to one's peers, communicating effectively, and being 'able to take joy in the accomplishments of others.'

Richard envisions himself attending a top-tier institute of technology and becoming either an aeronautical or civil engineer for one of the country's leading firms.

### **Amanda Stewart**

Soddy Daisy High School, Hixson, TN



Amanda is an avid reader known for being persevering and compassionate, and for demonstrating, as a mentor says, a "true love for learning." With such inherent enjoyment of her work, it is no wonder that Amanda's academic record is impeccable: she has a 4.0 un-weighted GPA and achieved a very impressive composite score on her ACT exam. Additionally, Amanda has logged over three hundred hours of volunteering at Erlanger Hospital, the Creative Discovery Museum, the Nature Center, the Daisy Nursing Home and the Tennessee Aquarium. At school, Amanda is a member of Beta Club, a service club, along with Key Club, and Future Business Leaders of America, for which she has attended state and regional competitions. Amanda is also a committed athlete, serving as a respected teammate on the soccer team at Soddy Daisy. She plans to major in economics at the university level and eventually become a financial planner.

### **Gina Sullivan**



J.R. Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA

Gina attends a magnet school for high achievers which has long maintained the highest public school test scores—by a wide margin—in the state of Pennsylvania. Gina has taken Masterman's maximum allotment for AP courses and still maintains a straight-A record. Committed to her extra-curricular activities, Gina plays on Masterman's varsity softball team and volunteers at The Giving Tree, the Philadelphia Marathon, and the Philadelphia Zoo. Last summer Gina assisted a teacher and students in a middle school science program as part of a mentorship initiative led by the Environmental Protection Agency. She has also participated in a historical exhibition competition for Philadelphia's National History Day, winning herself and her peers second and third place, respectively, in local and state competitions. An energetic participant in the Future Business Leaders of America club at school, Gina plans on studying international business and minoring in French.

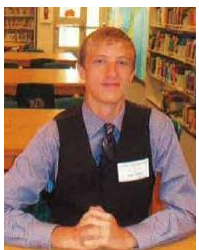
### **Isabelle Tersio**



Boca Raton Community High School, Boca Raton, FL

As someone who admittedly finds great value in 'doing small things for people all the time,' it was not surprising to learn that Isabelle is widely admired as both a student and classmate. Isabelle maintains a rigorous academic curriculum; she already has passed six Advanced Placement exams and she is currently enrolled in seven AP courses. She is a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, Math Honor Society, the Science Olympiad Team, and Interact (a service club, part of Rotary International). She particularly enjoys Biology because she is fascinated by the metabolic processes taking place in the body, especially on the cellular level. Her goal is to become a pediatric surgeon. Born in Haiti, Isabelle moved to the US at the age of three. She dreams of one day building a hospital in Haiti for Doctors without Borders to ensure a higher quality of medical care on the island. Her weekends are spent volunteering at a hospital, playing basketball for her school team, and serving as a basketball coach for Special Needs students.

### **Sean Vennett**



Jefferson High School, Tampa, FL

Sean Vennett is passionate about science and exploration, as evidenced by the thirty-eight merit badges he has earned as a Boy Scout. In fact, Sean is on his way to earning the prestigious Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts of America, an organization of which he has been a member since the first grade. At Jefferson High, a magnet school to which students must apply for enrollment, Sean's extraordinary academic record includes a full load of AP courses, a high GPA, and very high PSAT and SAT scores. Outside of his curricular achievements, Sean enjoys the experience of academic competitions: he is a two-time county and state finalist for competitions by the DECA, an international marketing and entrepreneurial association for students; he has participated in the Science Brain Bowl, a quiz event for the sciences; and he is a District Competitor for mathematics honors society Mu Alpha Theta. In addition, Sean serves as a mentor at the Lavoy Exceptional Center, a special education school in the Hillsborough School District, and is a member of Jefferson High's Green Team, which places students in charge of cleaning the school's campus. Sean hopes to be able to build a productive career in medicine, specifically in cancer research.

## Scholar Profiles – 2012 Recipients

### Natalie Antunez



Hialeah High School, Hialeah, FL

Natalie's teachers point to her impressive maturity for a high school junior, her deep reserve of self-understanding, and her high degree of empathy. She is articulate, academically accomplished (she has already taken six Advanced Placement courses and achieved the highest score of 5 on each), loves the music of the '80s and the "old rock" bands, has her sights set on becoming a cardiothoracic surgeon, believes in the work of human rights organizations, and helps to raise funds for a number of charitable projects. She is learning American Sign Language to minimize language barriers with a member of her extended family. Natalie at once sums up her accomplishments and her considerable potential: "I favor the thrill of a challenge." Natalie is a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar, a College Board award based on PSAT scores in the junior year.

### Johana Barxha



J. R. Masterman High School, Philadelphia, PA

Few teenagers understand the hardships and the opportunities associated with the "American Dream" as well as Johana, who came to America from Albania, with her family, at the age of five. She is highly motivated and adept at self-teaching: she learned English by watching the Discovery and History channels on television with her father, she spent the summer following her sophomore year reading and learning quantum physics, and she is teaching herself Italian as a third language. While demonstrating excellence in every subject, her deepest academic affection is for math and science; Johana was a member of her school's first Robotics team, describing it as "a great outlet for my love of engineering." She is also musical (she plays first flute in her school's orchestra) and athletic (she is a member of the badminton and tennis teams), and she gives generously of her time to help tutor classmates and younger students.

### Spencer Dunleavy



J. R. Masterman High School, Philadelphia, PA

As Johana's classmate at the most highly ranked school in the Philadelphia School District, Spencer has earned only "A"s for his entire school career while taking the most challenging courses. Even with such evidence of academic success, however, Spencer's overwhelming quality is his unwavering commitment to serve others. He arrives early at school each day to provide tutoring through the "Ninth Grade Initiative." He also meets with older and younger students at lunch and even during weekends to help support their academic success. He explains that he "loves to see someone else succeed" and that it gives him a great feeling to watch others achieve success they did not think possible. His talents, moreover, are not limited to the classroom or service projects; he also was elected captain of the school's soccer team in his junior year. His dreams for the future include pursuing a degree in chemistry or biochemistry on his way to medical school and a specialization in anesthesiology.

### Chelsea Jerome



Hazen Union High School, Hardwick, VT

A straight-A student and member of the National Honor Society, Chelsea has taken the college preparatory and honor courses offered at her rural school in the Northeast Kingdom, an area nestled between the Green Mountains and the Connecticut River. Chelsea has a special affinity for fiction writing. Describing her creative work as imaginative and technically exacting, her English teacher adds that she "exhibits both a willingness to take adventuresome risks in craft and an unusually perceptive grasp of human psychology." Her poem, "The Sky Exhales," appeared in the Green Mountain Trading Post, a publication featuring original writing in the North Country. Chelsea balances her rigorous academic program with numerous volunteer activities which reflect her deep-rooted sense of personal responsibility to others. She serves as a mentor in an eleventh-grade school program, aide at a local nursing home, and library assistant. She also is a member of her school's soccer and track & field teams as well as its Varsity Club.

## Ambar Peralta



Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics, Bronx, NY

Ambar has performed exceptionally well on her PSATs, her [New York State] Regents' exams, and in her honors and Advanced Placement classes. She is a well-rounded scholar and excels in all subjects, although she shows a particular gift for writing. She is also a talented artist whose work was featured in two exhibitions held at Lehman College. In addition to her serious academic commitment and artistry, Ambar is deeply involved in her school and community. She is treasurer of the Junior Class, a member of the National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society, and she tutors struggling students at the nearby Eagle Academy. Most notably, she is a participant in the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity program (SEO), an academic enrichment program hosted by a Wall Street firm. Ambar was selected for SEO among students citywide, and she was given the additional honor of being one of two Gear Up scholars who took classes at Harvard University during the summer between her sophomore and junior years.

## Scholar Profiles – 2011 Recipients

### Walee Ahmed



Hillcrest High School, Queens, NY

Walee came to the U.S. in 2009 when his family emigrated from Bangladesh. With an eye toward his goal of becoming a geneticist and clinical researcher, Walee was in the premedical program at Hillcrest High School. He excelled in his advanced placement and honors courses, earning college credits through the "College Now" program, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Walee describes success as the ability to help, motivate, and inspire others - and performed more than 100 hours of volunteer service at Queens Medical Center and enjoyed helping his peers with their homework. In his free time, he also enjoys researching quantum physics, competing at chess, and playing the guitar. Walee is currently enrolled at Hunter College in New York.

### Matthew Heinichen



Signal Mountain High School, Signal Mountain, TN

Matthew maintained excellent grades in his high school's most rigorous courses and participated in varsity cross country, the YMCA Youth Leadership Program, and a host of other activities, all while working part-time to help supplement his family's resources. He has a deeply loving relationship with his younger brother, whose heart condition has required numerous surgeries, and with whom Matthew spent time each evening before doing his homework. He received awards including the International Baccalaureate "risk taker," for which he was nominated by Signal Mountain's faculty for his "ability to approach unfamiliar and uncertain situations with courage and forethought, for his independent spirit, bravery, and his ability to articulate and defend his beliefs." Matthew is a freshman in the School of Engineering at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He spent most of his time so far focusing on his studies and establishing relationships but plans to join the rock climbing club and engineering club in the very near future.

### Kassandra Hopkins



Vinalhaven School, Vinalhaven, ME

Located in the Fox Islands off the coast of Maine, Vinalhaven is a tiny school - Kassandra was one of just 14 students in her graduating class. Wishing to expand beyond the opportunities available in Vinalhaven, Kassandra researched and applied to attend a semester at Coastal Studies for Girls, a unique residential school for girls interested in the sciences. A peer mentor, tutor, and leader, she was a founding member of the ACCESS Team, a group of youth volunteers who worked to transform her town's arts and recreation center into a student-run Internet coffee shop and business training center. Kassandra worked as a babysitter, helped care for her younger siblings, and was involved in numerous extracurricular and community activities. As an Amherst freshman, Kassandra is utilizing the many resources available to her, and has joined the Social Council, a group of students that plan school-sponsored, substance-free parties and events each month. She expects to participate in Amherst College Emergency Medical Services.

### **Emtithal Mahmoud**



Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA

Born in the Darfur region of the Sudan, Emtithal (“Emi”) is the oldest of five children whom she cared for after high school while her mother attended Thomas Jefferson University. She excels in science, participated in the Bridges to Regenerative Biology Program at the University of Pennsylvania, and has received first-place awards for her poetry. A committed young leader and advocate for the people of her native region, Emi began sharing her writings about the Darfur conflict as a middle-school student, and has since conducted presentations across Philadelphia, spoken at national rallies with the Darfur Alert Coalition and Save Darfur, and discussed the issue with members of Congress. Emi’s goal is to use her talents to improve the lives of others - she plans to become a doctor, earning an M.D. and a Ph.D. in order to both conduct research and treat patients. A freshman at Yale, Emi holds a position on the national competition team of a poetry performance group, joined the Arab Student Association and Muslim Student Association, and is helping to plan two conferences.

### **Alexandria Oviatt**



Red Bank High School, Chattanooga, TN

Ranked first in her class of more than 200 students, in 2007 Alexandria was the only eighth grader to accept the challenge of going to her local high school campus to take the PSAT. Her teachers described her as hard-working and selfless - though somewhat introverted in person, Alexandria frequently texted her English teacher to suggest a question or idea that might foster class discussion or aid a struggling student. “She’s amazing that way,” her teacher wrote. “Alexandria spends her time sending me links to help other students learn; most students don’t care that much about their own learning, let alone other students’ learning.” Alexandria was a member of the Principal’s Advisory Council, the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), and was the co-founder of her school’s first book club. A freshman at Barnard College, Alexandria joined the Extended Barnard Reach Out program. Every Friday, members meet for different activities that inform them about ways to get involved on campus and in New York City. Members have provided service to a farm in the city, an inner city high school, and Free Arts NY.

## **Scholar Profiles – 2010 Recipients**

### **Heirl He**



Central High School, Philadelphia, PA

Ranked #12 in her graduating class of 562, where her curriculum included both honors and advanced placement classes, Heirl He was involved in school and community activities. She played tennis competitively, and contributed significantly to her school’s citywide championship. Respectful of her cultural heritage, Heirl served as a Big Sister with the Cambodian Association and shares her knowledge of the Cambodian culture with children of transnational adoptions. She was also active in Central’s Asian Student Association, promoting knowledge of cultural traditions among her peers. Studying at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Heirl is contemplating a major in marketing. She is a member of the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) Culture Show and a member of Wharton Women.

### **Elia Lopez**



Edinburg North High School, Edinburg, TX

Ranked #3 in a graduating class of 811 students—with a weighted GPA of 103.8—Elia is determined to become a physician, and plans to return later to her community to serve its underprivileged members. Outside the classroom, Elia is a well-rounded and active athlete, extracurricular club member, and volunteer. In summer 2010, she participated in a program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for talented high school students who are interested in studying and exploring careers in science and engineering. Attending Brown University, Elia is majoring in Education and Anthropology. She also volunteers weekly at a local elementary school to assist low-income ESL students.

### **Karina Melendez**



Bronx School of Law and Finance, New York, NY

Karina, an honor roll student, was ranked second in her class at the Bronx School of Law and Finance. An aspiring judge, she was a member of her school's Law Academy, mock trial team, served as captain of the moot court team, and was a peer tutor. Her academic achievements and activities are only one facet of this extraordinary and resilient young woman: Karina is known not only for her gratitude toward those who have helped her to overcome numerous hardships, but also for her constant willingness to share her gifts and help others. Karina is attending Columbia University and pursuing a degree in English.

### **Katie "Brooke" Reed**



Red Bank High School, Chattanooga, TN

Brooke maintained a high class rank and GPA while taking the most challenging curriculum available, engaging in a host of activities—from the softball team to the newspaper, from the cheerleading squad to student government—and volunteering at Red Bank Elementary School with students in the CDC special-education classroom. An aspiring chemistry teacher, one of Brooke's recommenders wrote of her: "Brooke's extraordinary personality and selflessness make her chosen career of teaching a perfect match." Now enrolled at Clemson and pursuing a degree in teaching, Brooke volunteers with the service team at CRU and is a member of the National Science Teachers Association affiliate at Clemson.

### **Vanessa Zamy**



Boston Latin Academy, Boston, MA

Vanessa Zamy flourished in the college preparatory environment at Boston Latin Academy, placing herself at the top of its class of 2011. In 2009, she was one of 20 students selected among hundreds of applicants for Northeastern University's Young Scholars Program, which offers future scientists and engineers an opportunity for hands-on experience. Vanessa's drive and motivation also are evident in her community service work: she served as a mentor in the Boston Public Library's Homework Assistance Program and served lunch and visited with residents each week at the Kit Clark Senior Center. Studying at Stanford University, Vanessa has been accepted to a 3-week overseas seminar in India and a 7-day Arts Immersion Spring Break trip to New York City.

## **Scholar Profiles – 2009 Recipients**

### **Camila Diaz**



Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics, Bronx, NY

When Camila began her high school education, she had been homeschooled for a full year and needed to catch up to her ninth grade peers. By her junior year, Camila ranked third in her class of 116. In addition to taking AP and honors courses, she attended the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Program in Manhattan, a rigorous academic enrichment program that offers college-level curricula. She also dedicated time to peer tutoring and mentoring and served on her student government council. Camila attends Wellesley College and participated in a six-week study-abroad program in Barcelona between semesters. She serves on the Wellesley College Budget Advisory Committee, and is active in college government as a Senator and a member of the Student Organization Funding Committee.

### **Lydia Ducharme**



Hazen Union High School, Hardwick, VT

In high school, Lydia was known for her self-motivation and community-mindedness. One of her recommenders wrote of Lydia, “She talks of possibly becoming a high school chemistry teacher, and I can think of no better role model to put before the next generation of learners.” A natural leader, Lydia was Student Council President, played three varsity-level sports, sang in a local choir, played in the band, volunteered in her school and community, and worked part-time, all while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. Lydia attends Boston College and is currently studying abroad in Ireland at NUI, Maynooth. She has declared a major in sociology with a minor in education. She continues to volunteer as a Student Admission’s Greeter and works with Strong Women Strong Girls.

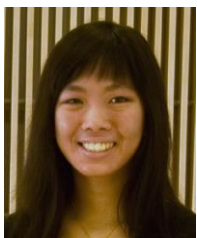
### **Juan Hernandez**



John H. Reagan Senior High School, Houston, TX

A model student while attending school in Houston, Juan consistently made academic honor roll, won the school and regional science fairs in 2007 and 2009, received a TAKS Commendation (for performance on the state-mandated tests), and was a Project GRAD Texas Scholar. He dedicated his free time to helping those who are less fortunate: at Communities in Schools (CIS) he tutored second- and third-grade students in math, while also volunteering at the Open Door Mission in nearby Harrisburg. A junior at Rice University, Juan is planning to declare a second major in Earth Science and continues to volunteer at both Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees and Habitat for Humanity.

### **Asdy Wan**



J.R. Masterman School, Philadelphia, PA

At Philadelphia’s Masterman, which is ranked in the top 60 high schools in the U.S., Asdy took advanced placement classes, earning straight A’s throughout her high school career. With a view toward her career plans, Asdy participated in accounting programs for high school students, including programs offered by PriceWaterhouseCoopers and the National Association of Black Accountants. As a member of School for Schools, Asdy helped raise money to build schools in Uganda. She was treasurer of the Asian Teen Union and tutored fifth grade students after school. Asdy is attending the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

### **Faith Zeng**



Boston Latin Academy, Boston, MA

Faith is described by her teachers and members of her community as intellectually curious, bright, generous, focused, and resilient. An accomplished artist, she is also a creative writer, an exceptional student, and a volunteer in both her school and her community. At Boston Latin School, she was a volunteer tutor with younger students in math and Latin; outside of school she has volunteered for the Homework Assistant Program and worked at a library with elementary school age children. Faith is attending the Savannah College of Art and Design and spent a quarter abroad studying in Hong Kong. While in Hong Kong, Faith engaged in volunteer work at an orphanage in nearby in Kanchanaburi by helping out with the children and designing business and marketing publications for the school.



## Scholar Profiles – 2008 Recipients

### Chevon Boone



KIPP Pride High School, Gaston, NC

Chevon grew up in tiny Garysburg, North Carolina (population 1,000) and came to Philadelphia in August 2009 to attend the University of Pennsylvania. While adjusting to her new life in a large city, Chevon enjoyed focusing both on academic pursuits and on some of Penn's extracurricular activities, of which the highlights for her were the New Spirit of Penn Gospel Choir and its freshman year concert. She is serving now as a peer counselor in the same pre-freshman program that helped to orient her to the university. Chevon has volunteered her time by serving dinner at a local homeless shelter and describes the experience as "life altering." After graduation this year, Chevon will be a corps member of Teach for America with a placement at North Star Academy Charter School of Newark (NJ). She took her teacher certification test in January 2013.

### Joivonnah Childs



Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics Bronx, NY

A marketing major at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Joivonnah minored in Japanese Studies. She participated in the Black Wharton Undergraduate Association, joined the marketing and freshman liaison committees, and for three years made an impressive presentation each spring to the next college-going cohort of Leonore Annenberg Scholars. She joined a community service organization called Stitch for Kids that crochets and knits blankets and hats for the Children's Hospital. Joivonnah has accepted a post-college offer of full-time employment at Colgate-Palmolive.

### Areej Hassan



Northeast High School, Philadelphia, PA

Areej arrived in the U.S. with her family from the Sudan (by way of Egypt) at the age of nine. She knew no English. Eight years later, she graduated at the top of her class from Northeast High School in Philadelphia. Now she is nearing her graduation from Princeton University. At college, Areej helped a professor of Arabic with research for a new book and served as a tutor for middle school students in nearby Trenton. In the spring of her junior year, she studied abroad at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan. By the end of her study abroad program, Areej had written two lengthy research papers entirely in Arabic and received a "Superior" rating on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' Oral Proficiency Interview. She also interned at the Witherspoon Institute (in Princeton, NJ), working for the director of the Islam and Civil Society Project and helping to prepare for the "Quran in the Modern World" seminar held at the Princeton Theological Seminary in July 2012. Following graduation, Areej will teach Arabic at a school in Chicago as a corps member of Teach for America.

## **Candace Hensley**



Boston Latin Academy, Boston, MA

A Dean's list student at Tufts University, Candace's curriculum included introductory courses in Italian, calculus, philosophy, and psychology, and drama. Candace declared a double major, English and Philosophy. Candace was selected for a John William Ward Public Service Fellowship during the summer before her senior year of high school, and she worked for the Fellowship program as coordinator for the Summer 2009 Fellows and their Sponsors. She also held a Discovering Justice internship at the Moakley Courthouse, and was hired for another summer internship at the Peabody-Essex Museum. Her work for Chief Judge Mark L. Wolf during the Discovering Justice internship and again last summer, together with her experience as a John William Ward Fellow, reinforced her desire to pursue public interest law. Candace now serves on the Board of the Ward Fellowship. She has received acceptances from several law schools.

## **Shiyah Trotman**



Urban Assembly School for Law & Justice, Brooklyn, NY

In addition to focusing on his academic studies, Shiyah—a budding filmmaker—has been taking advantage of the University of Chicago's extracurricular offerings since his first week on campus by performing in a Multicultural Students' Open Mic (earning him the alias "The Poet"). Shiyah joined the on-campus film group FireEscape Films, the Organization of Black Students on campus, the literary magazine, and the Rhythmic Bodies in Motion. His junior year, he studied abroad in both London and Paris and as a senior, Shiyah is working with the Black Student Organization RSO ("OBS") on its upcoming Cultural Show.