“I’m trying to stimulate leaders of the future to make a difference through the grounding in education that I’m helping to give them. When I started my business career, I took my own history lesson from Princeton: I learned how leaders make a difference, in their countries, in their centuries. So I invested in leaders, and that investment helped me to be successful. …I’m looking to invest again in leaders of the future.”

SHELBY M.C. DAVIS
Co-founder and Philanthropist

“We strive to build critical masses of globally minded young men and women on American campuses, to foster highly personal relationships between outstanding Americans and non-Americans, and to seed global networks. These networks can serve a higher calling of international understanding and common purpose among future leaders in all walks of life in our world.”

PHILIP O. GEIER
Co-founder and Executive Director
The Program

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**Why the Davis United World College Scholars Program?**

From its inception in 2000, the Davis United World College Scholars Program has been guided by two key strategies. First, to fund heretofore unavailable need-based scholarship support at American colleges and universities for graduates of the United World College (UWC) schools. And second, to help transform American campuses into more diverse global communities in the belief that all students, faculty, and staff will have more valuable educational experiences by living with and learning from those who are different from themselves.

These two strategies inform the five principal goals of our program:

- **provide scholarship support** for exemplary and promising students from a wide range of countries and cultures who have adopted the passion and mission of building international understanding through their education at the worldwide UWC schools;

- **build meaningful cohorts** of these globally and culturally aware scholars amidst the undergraduate populations of selected partner colleges and universities across the U.S.;
strengthen the American undergraduate experience through international diversity on U.S. campuses—as much for the large majority of traditional American students as for the UWC scholars;

leverage the value of this philanthropic initiative for the long-term benefit of all on our partner campuses, to contribute to strategic shifts in institutional thinking, and to incentivize others by our example to bring even greater resources to this effort; and

contribute proactively to a better future for our highly volatile and interdependent world by motivating our scholars and those with whom they interact to take personal responsibility for making a positive difference around the globe.

Our program is at once practical and aspirational. It reflects the huge potential of private philanthropy to promote international understanding in dynamic and expanding ways through partner educational institutions that share our strategic vision and are committed to building greater opportunities for global learning for all their students. In essence, our program is about using philanthropic leadership to leverage increasing support for transformative impact on individuals, institutions, and the wider world.

Our program has grown immensely in numbers and impact: there are now 4,209 scholars at 181 American college and university partner campuses; they are graduates of all 18 United World College schools and come from 164 home countries. Our program and all our scholars are distinguished by the UWC movement’s unique selection process—its worldwide voluntary “national committees” that promote and select the most promising youngsters from their countries to gain scholarships and opportunities, first by completing their secondary education at UWC schools and then at a wide choice of higher education at our U.S. college and university partners.

Our program would not be possible without our partnerships with the many American colleges and universities that value the UWC mission and its graduates. Essential to these partnerships are their campus liaisons who are listed by their home school at the back of this annual report.

We extend our ongoing gratitude to all who contribute their expertise and efforts to helping the Davis UWC Scholars Program realize its goals.

— Philip O. Geier, PhD
Executive Director and Co-founder
Davis United World College Scholars Program
This academic year, there are 100 U.S. colleges and universities in partnership with the Davis UWC Scholars Program. For partner schools, the program provides annual grants in support of need-based scholarships for each matriculated UWC graduate for up to four years of undergraduate study. The total number of Davis UWC Scholars attending these schools has now reached 4,209 from 164 countries. The 2024 graduating class includes 928 students from 144 nations. To date, the program has supported 14,723 scholars.

With their education made possible through their own merits and the help of the Davis UWC Scholars Program and its partner schools, Davis UWC Scholars will go on to play important, meaningful, and often leadership roles in their communities, in their home countries, and in the world. The partner schools will have become more globally engaged and more internationally diverse educational communities.

Since 1962, thousands of young people from 175 nations have been selected by committees in their home countries to complete their last two years of high school at one of 18 United World College schools. UWC schools are located in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Tanzania, Thailand, the Netherlands, the United States, and Wales. The UWC movement works to build multinational, cross-cultural communication and understanding among all its students.

In 2000, the Davis UWC Scholars Program began providing scholarship grants to a pilot group of American colleges and universities to support UWC graduates who matriculated at these schools. These pilot schools — Colby College, College of the Atlantic, Middlebury College, Princeton University, and Wellesley College — are graduating their 21st class of Davis UWC Scholars in 2024. Based on the success of building clusters of globally minded scholars at these pilot schools, Davis philanthropy chose to greatly expand the number of campuses and scholars in the program.

How This Works

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3. This academic year, there are 100 U.S. colleges and universities in partnership with the Davis UWC Scholars Program. For partner schools, the program provides annual grants in support of need-based scholarships for each matriculated UWC graduate for up to four years of undergraduate study. The total number of Davis UWC Scholars attending these schools has now reached 4,209 from 164 countries. The 2024 graduating class includes 928 students from 144 nations. To date, the program has supported 14,723 scholars.

4. With their education made possible through their own merits and the help of the Davis UWC Scholars Program and its partner schools, Davis UWC Scholars will go on to play important, meaningful, and often leadership roles in their communities, in their home countries, and in the world. The partner schools will have become more globally engaged and more internationally diverse educational communities.
164 Home Countries — 4,209 Current Scholars

Numbers indicate how many scholars are from that country.
The Program’s Partner Colleges and Universities throughout the U.S.

1. Amherst College, Amherst, MA
2. Babson College, Wellesley, MA
3. Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
4. Barnard College, New York, NY
5. Bates College, Lewiston, ME
6. Bennington College, Bennington, VT
7. Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME
8. Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
9. Brown University, Providence, RI
10. Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA
11. Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA
12. Carleton College, Northfield, MN
13. Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
14. Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA
15. Clark University, Worcester, MA
16. Colby College, Waterville, ME
17. Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
18. College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID
19. College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, ME
20. Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO
21. Columbia University, New York, NY
22. Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
23. Connecticut College, New London, CT
24. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
25. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
26. Davidson College, Davidson, NC
27. Denison University, Granville, OH
28. Drew University, Morristown, NJ
29. Duke University, Durham, NC
30. Earlham College, Richmond, IN
31. Emory University, Atlanta, GA
32. Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA
33. Furman University, Greenville, SC
34. George Washington University, Washington, DC
35. Georgetown University, Washington, DC
36. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA
37. Goucher College, Baltimore, MD
38. Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
39. Hamilton College, Clinton, NY
40. Harvard College, Cambridge, MA
41. Harvey Mudd College, Claremont CA
42. Hobart College, Fredrick, MD
43. Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY
44. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
45. Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, MI
46. Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL
47. Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
48. Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR
49. Luther College, Decorah, IA
50. Macalester College, Saint Paul, MN
51. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
52. Methodist University, Fayetteville, NC
53. Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT
54. Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
55. New York University, New York, NY
56. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
57. Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
58. Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA
59. Pomona College, Claremont, CA
60. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
61. Queens University of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
62. Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA
63. Reed College, Portland, OR
64. Ringling College of Art + Design, Sarasota, FL
65. Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY
66. Savannah College of Art & Design, Savannah, GA
67. School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
68. Scripps College, Claremont, CA
69. Smith College, Northampton, MA
70. St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD and Santa Fe, NM
71. St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY
72. St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN
73. Stanford University, Stanford, CA
74. Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
75. Trinity College, Hartford, CT
76. Tufts University, Medford, MA
77. Union College, Schenectady, NY
78. University of California, Berkeley, CA
79. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
80. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
81. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
82. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
83. University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
84. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
85. University of Richmond, Richmond, VA
86. University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
87. University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
88. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
89. Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
90. Warburg University, Vienna, Austria
91. Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA
92. Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA
93. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
94. Wheaton College, Norton, MA
95. Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA
96. Williams College, Williamstown, MA
97. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA
98. Yale University, New Haven, CT
99. Washington, DC
100. Chicago, IL
# U.S. Colleges: Scholars by Class Year

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| Totals | 928 | 1,077 | 1,077 | 1,140 | 4,209 |

*At as of 11/2023

No longer accepting new scholar applicants.
The Davis United World College (UWC) Scholars are graduates of a family of worldwide schools that share a mission of making education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. The UWC movement was founded in 1962 and now comprises a network of 18 international schools on four continents, short courses and a system of volunteer-run National Committees in more than 155 countries.

UWC offers a challenging education to an intentionally diverse group of students, placing high value on experiential learning, community service and outdoor activities, and complementing high academic standards delivered through the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (DP) and Career-related Program (CP).

Today, more than 11,000 students from over 155 countries are studying on UWC campuses. Admission to a UWC school is independent of socioeconomic means, with over 80 percent of UWC National Committee-selected students in the International Baccalaureate DP or CP receiving full or partial financial support. Graduates of the UWCs are eligible to become Davis UWC Scholars at nearly a hundred college and university campuses throughout the U.S.

Where the Scholars Come From

UWC Adriatic, founded in 1982 near Trieste, was the first UWC outside the English-speaking world. The school’s buildings and residences are spread throughout the Italian-Slovene village of Duino. All students study Italian, and participate in a social-service program with the local community.

UWC Atlantic College, the first UWC, was founded in 1962 in the 12th-century St. Donat’s Castle on the south Wales coastline. The college places a strong focus on community service with a wide range of opportunities open to students.

UWC Costa Rica, near the capital San Jose, is UWC’s only bilingual school, teaching the IB in English and Spanish. It became a UWC in 2006, and its approach is built on peace, environment, and multiculturalism.

UWC Changshu China opened in 2015 and offers a two-year IB diploma program as well as a one-year pre-IB preparatory program. Changshu is located in Yangtze Delta, in the Suzhou metropolitan area. The vision of the first campus in mainland China is to become a sustainable village dedicated to the fostering of peace and international understanding.

UWC Dilijan opened in 2014, with generous funding from the RVVF Foundation. The campus is set on 88 acres of land backing onto a beautiful national park. The educational program is diverse and engages with both the expansive setting and the local community. The college builds upon the movement’s legacy of engaging with postconflict zones to create dialogue and a peaceful future.

UWC East Africa was established in 1969 in Moshi Kilimanjaro as the International School Moshi (ISM) and opened a second campus in Arusha in 1987. In August 2019, it welcomed its first cohort of UWC students as the second UWC school on the African continent. It is the oldest school in Africa to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP). Located in the mountainous northeast of Tanzania, the school offers unique outdoor experiences that train the students in teamwork and leadership skills.

UWC ISAK Japan opened in 2014 and became a UWC in 2017. The school was founded by an alumna of Pearson College. It offers an innovative leadership program focused on entrepreneurial skills and design thinking. Students explore Japanese culture, history, and traditions, and are encouraged to study Japanese language.
Li Po Chun UWC of Hong Kong, founded in 1992, emphasizes the Chinese traditions of proper conduct, practical wisdom, appropriate social relationships, and respect for academic learning. Li Po Chun has developed strong links with various parts of the country, especially for service activities.

UWC Maastricht was founded in 2009 in the Netherlands as a K-12 school, and the students graduate with either a IB Diploma or an CP career-related certificate.

UWC Mahindra College, founded in 1997, is in a rural area of the western Ghats near Pune. The school has dedicated much of its land to a biodiversity park and conservation reserve, which is a study resource for all local schools and colleges. Mahindra also supports local schools with its educational program, Akshara, and community-service projects.

UWC in Mostar, founded in 2006, is the first UWC with the explicit aim of contributing to the reconstruction of a postconflict society, in this case Bosnia and Herzegovina. A diversity of students from the country, the region, and abroad live, study, and volunteer together in the community, offering the host nation a working example of integrated education.

Pearson College UWC was founded in 1974 on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada. The floating marine-sciences center contains a well-equipped seawater environmental-systems lab, and students conduct research above and below water at nearby Race Rocks, an ecological reserve managed by the college.

UWC Red Cross Nordic opened in 1995 in Flekke, Fjaler municipality in western Norway. Both regional and Red Cross traditions are reflected in the school’s emphasis on Nordic studies and humanitarian and environmental concerns. Cooperation with the Red Cross creates service opportunities in areas such as first aid, lifesaving, youth training, and humanitarian action.

UWC Robert Bosch College opened in 2014 in Germany. Built thanks to the generosity of the Robert Bosch Foundation, the campus is a former Carthusian monastery in Freiburg. Recognized as a “green city,” it’s suited to the college’s emphasis on environmental sustainability and how technology can be used and developed to build a peaceful and sustainable future.

UWC South East Asia, founded in 1971, is the largest UWC school, with about 5,389 students ages 4-18 at two campuses in Singapore at full capacity. The school’s global-concerns program introduces concepts in leadership and organization, and all students are encouraged to develop their own initiatives along with doing community service.

UWC Thailand is situated in northern Phuket, Thailand. Representing 99 different nationalities and boasting the full IB continuum across the PYP, MYP, and DP, UWC Thailand serves over 500 students from age 2 to grade 12. With a unique focus on well-being, students seek to realize their highest human potential, cultivate genuine happiness, and take mindful and compassionate action, all while engaging in unparalleled outdoor experiential education opportunities and community-based service partnerships. With a campus nestled at the foothills of a beautiful national park and within a traditional Thai village, ecological and cultural connections abound as students live the UWC experience of a lifetime.

Waterford Kamhlaba UWC SA, founded in 1982 on the site of historic Montezuma Castle near Las Vegas, New Mexico, is situated in northern Phuket, Thailand. Representing 99 different nationalities and boasting the full IB continuum across the PYP, MYP, and DP, UWC Thailand serves over 500 students from age 2 to grade 12. With a unique focus on well-being, students seek to realize their highest human potential, cultivate genuine happiness, and take mindful and compassionate action, all while engaging in unparalleled outdoor experiential education opportunities and community-based service partnerships. With a campus nestled at the foothills of a beautiful national park and within a traditional Thai village, ecological and cultural connections abound as students live the UWC experience of a lifetime.

Sources of the Davis UWC Scholars*

*as of 10/31/23

- USA, 253
- Thailand, 117
- South East Asia, 523
- Robert Bosch, 204
- Red Cross, 189
- Maastricht, 193
- Japan, 133
- Japan, 133
- Mostar, 222
- East Africa, 229
- Changshu, 388
- Costa Rica, 193
- Dilijan, 259
- Atlantic, 222
- Adriatic, 142
- Davis United World College Scholars Program 19
For the tenth time in the past 11 years, the University of Oklahoma has been awarded the Davis Cup in recognition of its enrollment, largest in the nation, of first-year Davis United World College Scholars.

A total of 328 Davis UWC Scholars represent 108 countries at OU, including 87 who began their studies last fall. Nearly 100 American higher education institutions participate in the program, but OU remains the only public university in the nation to receive the honor.

“Forking awarded the prestigious Davis Cup for the tenth time fills us with immense pride at the University of Oklahoma,” said OU President Joseph Harroz, Jr. “Davis UWC Scholars embody service-minded leadership and a commitment to positively impact our world. Their profound contributions are leaving an enduring mark on our university community that will resonate for years to come.”

Since OU enrolled its first Davis UWC Scholars in 2008, they have earned recognition as members of the President’s Leadership Class and President’s Community Scholars, and as Outstanding Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. They have served in a variety of leadership roles, including as Ronnie K. Irani Center for the Creation of Economic Wealth team leaders, International Advisory Committee executive officers, and resident advisers.

“My experience at OU was enriched by the myriad of opportunities, and a strong sense of community and inclusion fostered for Davis UWC Scholars throughout the campus,” said Tenzin Tsomo (Tibet, UWC Atlantic), a senior Davis UWC Scholar with a double major in community health and anthropology.

Since 2008, OU has received more than $60 million from the Davis UWC Scholars Program to support student scholarships. This year alone, the program’s grant will surpass $11.5 million for the 2023-24 academic year.

“We are so proud of the University of Oklahoma for its long-standing commitment to advancing the cause of international understanding through the Davis UWC Scholars Program,” said Shelby Davis and Phil Geier, the program’s cofounders. “We remain hopeful that the relationships and educational growth taking place in Norman will serve the world well in the decades to come.”

### The Davis Cup

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<td>Colby (13)</td>
<td>Middlebury (8)</td>
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It is our firm belief that as the world grows more and more diffuse, it is paramount we develop an increasing number of people who are versed in the many ways of the world. The 18 UWC schools afford their students this possibility early in their lives, and we see these students evolving into thoughtful, internationally conscious young leaders whose panoramic worldviews become one of their more valuable assets.

As UWC graduates become Davis UWC Scholars at our numerous U.S. partner schools, we witness a dynamic synergy between scholars and those on American campuses. This has made our program a beacon of positive change and one of the defining elements that sets the Davis UWC Scholars Program apart. We remain enthusiastic about our program because it aligns so closely with the demands of tomorrow’s world.

In reflecting on another year of inspiring Davis UWC Scholars, Shelby Davis looks down the road with conviction:

“This journey we have begun will extend far beyond my own journey. One of the great blessings in my life has been to witness the growth of our program under the leadership of Phil Geier and a handful of dedicated stewards, infusing invaluable meaning and purpose into the past three decades. Yet, despite the impact it has had on me personally, I take pride in stating that we are committed to a program that far outlasts me.

“As I once saw on a UWC bulletin board: ‘The world needs dreamers, and the world needs doers, but most of all the world needs dreamers who do.’ My philanthropy is committed to providing access and opportunity to those deserving dreamers who do—and our goal is to do so forever. I have faith in our program, our scholars and our partners to help carry the torch long after I am gone. I am confident that the seeds we are sowing together are taking root and will continue to grow for generations to come.”
The Davis UWC Scholars Program combines the transformational philanthropy of the Davis family with donations from many others to our partner colleges and universities. Given this financial partnership, we are pleased to recognize their generous support for today’s scholars and tomorrow’s leaders. Each partner school was invited to name the students they would like to be listed in this report along with the Davises. This effort at donor recognition only scratches the surface of the many who give to their alma maters in support of the financial aid awarded to our scholars. We are grateful to those who are contributing to their schools in this way, and look forward to continuing the growth of this honor in the years ahead.

This recognition is arranged by partner school with the information provided. It captures the growing number of philanthropists captivated by the value of supporting our scholars — and theirs — by investing at their chosen college or university. Some have given to annual funds, indicating their interest in the Davis UWC Scholars Program. Others have given larger amounts (>$100,000 or more) toward their alma maters in a portion of a scholar’s total financial aid package and have been assigned scholars, sharing naming opportunities with the Davises. A few have given major endowments in support of international scholarships assigned to Davis UWC Scholars and share naming opportunities with the Davises each year. At the heart of the Davis UWC Scholars Program is “giving back,” a trait we strive to see manifested over time in our scholars as they make their way in the world.

**PHILANTHROPISTS HONOR ROLL**

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Nancy Pierce Endowed Award for International Scholars
H. L. Pratt and Barbara Gendening Pratt ’53, P’83 International Travel Endowment
The Noah and Joan Patlin Kenya Travel Fund
Aime Pampona Research Award for International Studies
Public Health Endowed Internship Fund
J. Ansell Ramsay Student Enrollment Award
Frederic Remington Prize in Fine Arts
The Betty Cogger Reizman International Travel Endowment Fund
SLU PIC Program
Stewart’s Shops and Dale Family Internship Fellowship Fund
Stroedi Student Research Endowment Fund
Daniel F. ’65 and Ann H. Sullivan Endowment for Student/Faculty Research
The Tanner Fellowship Award
Thompson-Weatherup Family Charitable Foundation University Fellows
William and Judy Fren ’69 Thorne International Travel Fund
Croms Wagner ’69/71 Endowed Internship Fund
The Walker Family US/Canadian Internship Fund
Weave News Abroad Fellowships
Weaver/Nicolaus Family International Travel Endowment Fund
Carol A. Williams ’73 Endowed Internship Fund
Lilian J. Wittwer Travel Fund
St. Olaf College
All the Worlds a Stage Fund
An Anonymous Fund
Ballard Family Endowed Scholarship
Barney and Noble Book Award
Brenda Berkman NYC Art
Margaret Beattie Anderson Endowed Scholarship
Bromley Scholarship
Dennis & Kathleen Brekken Scholarship
Karen L. Clark Endowed Scholarship
Cox Scholarship
Fjestad Music Scholarship
Mary Foshager MD Endowed Scholarship
Steven Fox Endowed Scholarship
Goepfert Family Endowed Scholarship
Grant Institute Scholarship
Helgen Family Scholarship
Herbert & Deborra Hildebrandt Asian Scholarship
Hoyle Scholarship
International Studies Endowed Scholarship — Palm
Kunau Scholarship
David & Karen Kiemele Salim International Travel Endowment Fund
Dee & Langerqout Endowed Scholarship
Larsen Family Scholarship
David & Darlene Lee Music Lessons Endowment Fund
Sidney & Marie Leesan Scholarship
Mueller Family Endowed Scholarship
Narvestad Scholarship
Dennis & Kris Olson Scholarship
G. A. Paulson Scholarship
E. M. Pearson Scholarship
Rand Scholar Fund
Lutzer & Barbara Rippey IOS Endowment Fund
Smith Family Scholarship for Study Abroad
Maxine L. Wade Endowed Scholarship
The College of Idaho
Araminta Researcher
Laura Arjona & Alex Frey
Brian & Amy Baek
Jonathan Blunt
Cade Cherry
Thomas Clifford & Ida-Louise Smitt
Rebecca Constantino & Steve Sines
George & Ken Crookham
Michael & Lynda Danielson
Juki Delbohr
Peter & Kathryn Decker
Coby & Susan Dennis
John & Elaine Detweiler
Manisa Diener & Frank Vannelli
David & Lilly Douglass
Diana Emry
Billie Fakery & Stephen Smith
Jeanne Flowers
Gregory & Laura Franz
Artis Gonatas
Alexandra Grande & Brady Harrison
Joe & Carolyn Hagard
George & Joan Hall
Alan & Jacqueline Heffman
Arnold & Terri Hernandez
Wayne King & Cynthia Hepple
Mary Higdon
William Hith
Anthony & Carolyn Hunt
Ruth Trefeth & Bruce Ingeleth
Matthew & Jaci Johnson
Emilie Jones
Haylee & Spencer Kindall
Jill Kondal
Shawn & Sharon Krinke
Steven & Ann Krajza
Grove Kniker
Matthew & Bridget Laye
Palmona Magida-Pabst
Joseph & Jeanne Masar
Patricia Matthews
Jim & Karen McCulloch
William Meyer
Winston Moore
Richard & Lisa Ogie
Lorenzo & Ariel Olexa
Jack & Allison Parsons
Jennifer Pattes
Michael & Wendy Polder
Wayne & Wendy Rancourt
Steven & Tamara Reames
Kevin & Janee Reed
Vestalos Rifio
Carlynn Rich
Yana Sadouskaya
Srinivasan Seshadri
Michael & Donna Shines
Benjamin Thomas
Emily Tomley
Jill Turner
Mary Wald
Theodore & Donna Walters
David Webster
Richard & Donna Weed
Layth Yasef
Tufts University
The Oliver Chapman Fund
Jane Eltis-Andrews Endowed Scholarship
David & Carolyn Yendall
University of Chicago
Neubauer Family Foundation
University of Florida
The Margaret Early United World College Scholarship Program
Bill Kab Memorial Fund for Davis United World College Scholarship Program Support
University of Michigan
Cliff Sieling
University of Oklahoma
The Holten Family University of Richmond
Arabic Studies
Avramson Family Scholarship
Chinese Language Program
Chinese Student’s Travel Fund
Don Quijote Scholarship
French Studies
Friends of Study Abroad Scholarship Fund
German Studies Program
Global Studies Program
Ada Moss Hartlow and William Maupin Hartlow Scholarship
International Business Industries Department International Education Office’s Discretionary Fund
International Students Support Fund
Italian Department
Japanese Language Program
Languages, Literatures and Cultures Discretionary Fund
Latin American and Iberian Studies Discretionary Fund
Mednick Fellowship
Russian Studies
The Scholars Latino Initiative — VA
Joseph Edwin Trask Traver Fund for International Students
Trusloe International Education Program Fund
Jean Gray Wright Scholarship
Vassar College
Sharyle Dales Butler Scholarship Fund
The Martha Jarnigan Evans Scholarship Fund
Dorothy W. King Scholarship Fund
J.P. & L.T. Maranaro Family Scholarship
Pasquer Family Scholarship
President’s International Advisory Council Scholarships
Sarah Tod Fitz Randolph Scholarship Fund
Yannis Pankis Vandriyannis Scholarship Fund
Warburg College
Dr. Yehanen T. & Tosaye Abraham
Dr. Corey L. & Karla Bekken
Dr. Benjamin D. & Dr. Samantha C. Larimer
Booquizz
Scott D. & Jennifer Coleman
Dr. Delford J. Doherty
Bradley J. Duellman
Kimberly K. Folkeirs
Lester L. Frazee
Daniel C. & Kasandra L. Gresser
James J. & Ruth M. Heim
Dr. Donald L. Johnson
Knight’s Experience Grant Program
Dr. David A. & Janet J. McCubbage
Mary L. Mortensen
Dr. Donald M. & Claudia Parker
Margaret E. Phelps
Peggy J. Retka
Dr. Alexander F. & Sharin G. Smith
Dr. Mark F. Toa & Dr. Ann Henninger
Dr. Edward A. & Jill L. Weston
John A. & Kay Wiese
Dr. Linda L. & Gerald L. Wolf
Drs. Roland K. & Sharon A. Yoshida
Whitman College
Kris Barry
Kyle Mertz ’07 Scholarship Fund
Williams College
Elizabeth Whitman for Study Abroad
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The Class of 2024

The following pages list the members of the Davis UWC Scholars Class of 2024. The listing is alphabetical and includes the scholar’s home country, the UWC school they attended, their college or university, and their major field(s) of study.
I know that I wanted to take the leap and start my Japanese learning journey there,” writes Stella König (Austria, UWC Atlantic, Connecticut College ’25) of her decision to begin studying the Japanese language in college.

After winning Connecticut’s Christine W. Matteson ’69 Prize for excellence in first-year Japanese, Stella secured a Proctor Language Scholarship to help fund eight weeks of total immersion last summer at the Middlebury College Language Schools.

“Studying Japanese has been one of the hardest but most rewarding experiences of my life,” she says. “It has taught me to embrace discomfort, be humble, and bounce back quickly after failure — three things that were only solidified even more during my intense time at Middlebury.” An international relations major and East Asian studies minor, Stella went to Kyoto in January 2024.

At Connecticut, Stella helps to promote intercultural learning as a Fellow of the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement. She has served as an elected representative on the Honor Council, reviewing misconduct cases and helping preserve student self-government on campus.

“What initially made me want to serve on the Honor Council was the desire to be a voice for international students — because I believe that everyone who comes before the council should feel heard and like that their experiences are acknowledged,” she explains. “International students’ circumstances can be quite unique sometimes, and I have found it very rewarding to provide insight in situations where this was relevant.”

Stella König

Class of 2024

Davis United World College Scholars Program
Antara Dave
South Africa
Waterford Kamhlaba
UWCSA
College of Idaho
Design

Juliana Coelho
Argentina
UWC Changshu China
University
Teaching

Samuel De Sousa De Abreu
Portugal
Mahindra UWC India
Bennington College
Psychology/Politics

Olivia Degen
USA
Li Po Chun UWC
University of Chicago
Biological Science/ Mathematics

Shahrom Deholi
USA
UWC Changshu China
Whitman College
Computer Science

Sophie Demassy
Canada
Pearson College UWC
Connecticut College
Botany/ Economics

Zhiyu Deng
China
UWC Changshu China
Swarthmore College
Philosophy/Economics

Tanyaradzwa Dimingu
Zimbabwe
Waterford Kamhlaba
UWCSA
Concordia College
Accounting

Anele Dlamini
South Africa
UWC Thailand
Brown University
Geology/Physics/Mathematics

Bongiswa Dlamini
Esatini
UWC Dilligan
University of Oklahoma
Health/Science

Calumusa Dlamini
Esatini
Waterford Kamhlaba
UWCSA
Computer Engineering

Mahbubi Ntsesetselo Dlamini
Esatini
UWC Robert Bosch College
Skitdmore College
Mathematics/Economics

Sulive Dlamini
Esatini
Li Po Chun UWC
St. Olaf College
Psychology

Nesilla Dladlu
Esatini
Waterford Kamhlaba
UWCSA
College of Idaho
Computer Science

Uyen Do
Vietnam
Waterford Kamhlaba
UWCSA
College of Idaho
Business/Marketing & Digital Media

Wangdrak Dorji
Bhutan
UWC South East Asia
Brown University
Computer Science

Yuden Dorji
Bhutan
UWC-LISA
Concordia College
Biology

Ghumam Ali Doulat
Afghanistan
UWC Red Cross Nordic
University of Oklahoma
Management Information Systems

Ireza Dar
Palestine
UWC in Mostar
University of Richmond
Computer Science

Hanadi Draela
Bosnia-Herzegovina
UWC in Mostar
Lewis & Clark College
International Affairs

Ivana Drozdevczyk
Argentina
UWC Costa Rica
Concordia College
Finance

Wing Tung Clare Duan
Hong Kong
Li Po Chun UWC
Whitman College
Psychology

Iris Dugas
Bosnia-Herzegovina
UWC in Mostar
Lewis & Clark College
Psychology

Emir Duzalic
Bosnia-Herzegovina
UWC in Mostar
University of Oklahoma
Microbiology

Magdalena Dvorakova
Czechia
UWC USA
Colorado College
Psychology/Film & Media Studies

Yi Fen Fang
China
UWC Changshu China
Middlebury College
Biology

María Dzhołos
Ukraine
UWC Changshu China
Middlebury College
Economics

Irene Echeverria Bedoya
Panama
UWC Changshu China
Pomona College
Philosophy

Alessa Edgáin
Haiti
UWC-USA
Concordia College
International Affairs

Abdulmalek Elieghel
Libya
UWC Robert Bosch College
Lake Forest College
Physics/Data Science

Haykel Falome
Mozambique
UWC-USA
Univ of Oklahoma
Chemical Engineering

Yu Feng
St. Louis
UWC-USA
University of Oklahoma
Health & Exercise Science

Karam El Haji Sleiman
Lebanon
UWC Dilligan
University of Florida
Chemical Engineering

Alina Enikeeva
Russia
UWC Dilligan
University of Richmond
Computer Science/Psychology

Aline Enikeeva
Russia
UWC Dilligan
University of Richmond
Computer Science/Psychology

Marta Erdézy
Georgia
UWC Adriatic
Case Western Reserve University
Computer Science

Abdul Amin Fara
Kenya
UWC Red Cross Nordic
University of Oklahoma
Management Information Systems

Solhiphata Fatima
Indonesia
UWC Changshu China
Middlebury College
Biology/Anthropology

Cristina Escrivá
d'Rodriguez
Costa Rica
UWC Changshu China
Eartlham Global Management/ Psychology

Natalia Fedy
Spain
UWC Thailand
University of Oklahoma
Ethnic Film Making

Wenwu Falae
Nigeria
UWC Changshu China
St. Olaf College
Psychology

YiFen Fang
China
UWC Changshu China
Middlebury College
Biology

Kramuddin Faqiri
Afghanistan
UWC Adriatic
Randolph-Macon College
Computer Science

Abdul Amin Fara
Kenya
UWC Red Cross Nordic
University of Oklahoma
Management Information Systems

Putting Biology to Work for Marine Conservation

Immersing herself in whale research at college, Nina Overgaard Therkildsen (Denmark, UWC Red Cross Nordic, College of the Atlantic ’05) found she was mainly interested in biology’s relevance to society. “This caused me to shift my focus to fisheries-related issues that let me pursue topics at the science-policy interface,” she writes.

Nina earned a master’s degree in biology from the University of Copenhagen and a PhD in population genetics from the Technical University of Denmark, and did postdoctoral work at Stanford. Today she’s an associate professor at Cornell’s Department of Natural Resources, where her research focuses on “how environmental factors and human impacts shape patterns of genetic variation in fish.”

The revolution in DNA sequencing enables scientists to study any organism’s whole genome — and that “opens completely new opportunities for discovering diversification within and among species,” Nina writes. “We look at how subpopulations of a species differ genetically to identify distinct parts of a species range that warrant separate protection, and we use both experiments and archived historical samples to track how quickly evolution occurs in response to human impacts.”

Along with working on fundamental questions in biology, Nina plans to “continue working with state and NGO partners on specific conservation projects, to develop genetic tools that can improve conservation efforts.” She also guides PhD students while mentoring early-career researchers, “to pay forward what I learned at CoA by creating a motivating, supportive and inclusive learning environment.”

“The changing face of conservation has shifted my focus to fisheries-related issues that let me pursue topics at the science-policy interface,” she says. “I’m mainly interested in biology’s relevance to society.”

“This caused me to shift my focus to fisheries-related issues that let me pursue topics at the science-policy interface,” she writes.

Nina Overgaard Therkildsen

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**GRADUATES IN ACTION**
Breathing New Life into an Almost-Lost Language

At home growing up, Antonio Jorge Medeiros Batista Silva (Brazil, Pearson College UWC, Dartmouth ’25) heard a few words here in there in Krenak, the disappearing language of his father’s indigenous side of the family. He began studying languages at Dartmouth, then secured a 2023 Projects for Peace grant to spend last summer creating a Krenak textbook for young people.

When he started his summer project in Brazil, community leaders suggested instead of trying to collect Krenak’s very few living native speakers, Antonio could more usefully provide greater access to existing dictionaries and dissertations on the language. “Our first solution was not to create new materials, but to reclaim the existing ones — turn them into video tutorials on Krenak sound systems, sentence formation, grammar, and more,” Antonio wrote in an essay for the Endangered Languages Project. “Once we understood what the community really wanted ... our work finally got a flow to it.”

The Web-based platform that Antonio named Kjeme Itchok has been adding resources suggested in its online chatbox. “Community members, local teachers, and scholars of indigenous linguistics have all sent individual works our way that they believe would be useful for teaching and learning Krenak,” he writes. Plans include publishing an interactive dictionary, and offering trainings in using the online resource.

“Kjeme Itchok is a living project, and it won’t be done for a while,” Antonio concludes. “This isn’t my bachelor’s thesis I’m working on — it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be there for my relatives, ancestors, and future generations of Krenak speakers.”

**UNDERGRADUATES IN ACTION**
Writing and Teaching on Shaping the Future

An anthropologist and filmmaker who is working on his third book, Peter Sutoris (Slovakia, UWC Atlantic, Dartmouth ‘11,5) is assistant professor in climate and development at the Sustainability Research Institute of the University of Leeds in the UK. “I try to get my students to think about our world’s shared future not as something that’s predetermined,” he writes, “but to open them up to different possibilities and activate their moral imagination and political agency, so that they don’t think of themselves as cogs in a machine but rather think about what the machine is doing.”


He’s currently co-writing Development Reimagined, a book that, Peter writes, “looks at ways international development might be rethought in the face of the global challenges faced by the world.” His writing has also appeared in Scientific American, Mother Jones, Politics, Salon and The Guardian. “The environmental crisis is not a crisis of technology or science, it is a crisis of imagination,” he wrote in Scientific American. “Cultivating imagination means learning from history’s disruptors who made the allegedly impossible palatable.”
Introducing the U.S. to Georgia’s Traditional Wines

In his first year at Davidson College, Sandro Chumashvili ’24 (Georgia, UWC Dilijan) started working on a business aimed at introducing traditionally made wines from his home country into the U.S. By his senior year, Sandro’s U.S.-Georgia Wines project “has grown into a significant undertaking,” he writes. “With a federal importer license in hand, I have formed partnerships with premier Georgian winemakers and established comprehensive shipping and logistics arrangements.

“Remarkably, much of this project’s progress occurred before I turned 21 — a fact that sometimes surprises even me.”

Sandro is powered by a passion for Georgian wines that are crafted, especially in villages that grow unique grape varieties, through a long-practiced process that centers on the qvevri, “an egg-shaped earthenware vessel used for making, aging and storing the wine,” says a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage citation.

“Remarkably, much of this project’s progress occurred before I turned 21 — a fact that sometimes surprises even me.”

Sandro also co-founded the Davidson Venture Capital Club, which he calls “a platform for developing critical thinking, decision-making skills, and a deeper understanding of the financial world.

“We engage in real-world financial scenarios, enhancing our analytical and strategic thinking abilities,” he adds. “We’ve surprised even me.”

This project is more than a business; it’s a channel for sharing my cultural heritage and identity,” writes Sandro, who has a passion for Georgian wines that are crafted, especially in villages that grow unique grape varieties, through a long-practiced process that centers on the qvevri, “an egg-shaped earthenware vessel used for making, aging and storing the wine,” says a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage citation.

“Remarkably, much of this project’s progress occurred before I turned 21 — a fact that sometimes surprises even me.”

Sandro says that growing wine in his homeland is a family tradition that has been passed down for generations.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country/programs</th>
<th>University/College</th>
<th>Major/Degree</th>
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<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Pennington</td>
<td>Eswatini Waterford Kambhala</td>
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<td>Maria Pereira da Rocha</td>
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<td>Mahindra UWC India</td>
<td>Economics/International Studies</td>
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<td>Daniel Andres Perez</td>
<td>Malo</td>
<td>Chile</td>
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<td>Jacopo Perlininotto</td>
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<td>UWC Robert Bosch</td>
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<td>Malavi</td>
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<td>Keanna Price</td>
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<td>Adefolu Olorunborun</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>University of St Andrews</td>
<td>Global Management/Public Policy</td>
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<td>John E. (Jed) Petersen</td>
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<td>Aerospace Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alessandra Rosa</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>UWC Atlantic College</td>
<td>Macalaster College Economics &amp; Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ionela Popa</td>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>UWC in Mostar</td>
<td>Physics/Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reja Popovic</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>UWC Robert Bosch</td>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elvina Poursabian</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>UWC Dilijan</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<td>Volda Poursabian</td>
<td>Iran</td>
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<td>Ringing College of Art &amp; Design</td>
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<td>Danuta Rudayna</td>
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<td>Halsia Rajbhandari</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
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<td>Davis United World College Scholars Program</td>
<td>Class of 2024</td>
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</tr>
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Building on the Wisdom of Bees

He’s neither an architect nor a designer — but when Esteban Arguedas (Costa Rica, UWC USA, Earth ’15.5) learned that Airbnb’s OMG! Fund was offering $100,000 for new vacation-home rentals built on uniquely cool designs, he was confident he could develop a winner.

“That confidence comes from my educational background, one hundred percent,” he says. Esteban had stumbled on an article about the strength of hexagonal shapes in beehives. “Beehives knew way before humans that this shape was perfect,” he notes: “It uses the least amount of material to hold the most weight.” He proposed to design and build a vacation home that made use of the beehive design, on land his parents own near a 55,800-acre rainforest preserve in Pocosol, Costa Rica.

When Airbnb selected his proposal as one of 100 funding recipients around the world, Esteban and his wife, Maria Jesus, had just under a year for design and construction. “That made this a crazy year for us,” he reports. “When building something so unique, there are just many inherent challenges.”

A quality assurance engineer for a software company, Esteban worked with a local architecture company on the project. Right on schedule last year he opened the Rainforest Beehive House, which features large hexagonal windows and hexagonal shapes throughout. “The Beehive is carefully designed to complement nature rather than compete with it,” Esteban says. “I really hope it becomes a hub for people trying to make a change, and for people who are trying to do good.”
Nico Quijano Franco

A “Future Nobel Laureate” Focuses on Global Health

Among those who made an all-expenses-paid trip to Sweden last December for the annual Nobel Week Dialogue was Nico Quijano Franco (Colombia, UWC-USA, Earlham ‘23), one of 10 students from nine countries, studying at U.S. colleges and universities, who received a 2023 Future Nobel Laureate Scholarship.

“The philosophy of this program revolves around the idea that in order to change the world, you need to experience it first,” Nico writes. “Scholars work remotely before traveling to Sweden on a project of their own interest that promotes equity and justice in society. Our goal is to continue to work together to bring this project into actualization and see it come to life.”

Nico also received a Global Health scholarship from the Flywire Charitable Foundation, which he said “recognizes students committed to promoting health and well-being on a global scale.”

“I am very passionate about global health,” he writes. As he completed his undergraduate work, Nico said, “I still believe there is a lot of learning I need to do to make a long-lasting difference. I want to dive deeper into the field of public policy in order to make systemic changes that will prevent marginalized individuals from continuing to be neglected. I cannot say what the future holds, but I look forward to the unexpected.”

Naco Quijano Franco
A Venture Capitalist Helps to Build Solutions

Having worked in venture capital since graduating from Johns Hopkins, Demi Obayomi ’15 (Nigeria, Pearson College UWC) believes there’s no more exciting career.

“Venture capital is the story of David and Goliath played out again and again in every technology category you can think of — and that’s what makes it so worthwhile,” he writes. “It exposes you to the ups and downs of taking a small kernel of an idea and transforming it, from a small founding team to a full-fledged operating company. Many of the largest and most well-known technology companies got their start with venture capital.”

After college, where he started a venture capital fund investing in startups founded by Johns Hopkins students, Demi worked for two years at Goldman Sachs and FirstMark Capital in New York City. He then moved to San Francisco to work with NextWorld Capital, which he describes as “coming to the major leagues of venture capital.” After a few years he joined Sapphire, a larger firm in the field, where he’s working today.

“I’ve been fortunate to partner with over a dozen companies over the last few years at Sapphire and the firms I previously worked at,” Demi notes. “At the heart of venture capital investing you have a small founding team, typically of five people or less, that sets out to work on a problem they feel so strongly about that they need to build the solution themselves.

“Over the years I’ve run into several venture capitalists and startup founders who are also UWC alumni,” he adds. “It’s been a welcome surprise!”
Crafting Communications for “Lasting Impact”

A communications major at Lake Forest who aims for a career in public relations, Juan Jose Campos Villalta’24 (Costa Rica, UWC Costa Rica) describes himself as a “devoted storyteller. I aim to craft narratives that not only serve a purpose but also leave a lasting impact on the audiences and communities I engage with.”

He has made a strong start. Along with completing communication and media relations internships with BMO Harris Bank, Executives’ Club of Chicago, a Chicago PR agency and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, “Juanjo” has been publicly chair for the college chapter of its On Us, a national organization that advocates for awareness and prevention of sexual assault on campus. He has also been a student mentor for First Connection, Lake Forest’s pre-orientation program for students of color, international students, and others starting college from historically marginalized backgrounds.

“Sexual assault prevention and assisting newcomers in navigate their new environment are pivotal topics,” Juanjo writes.

“These roles not only amplify student voices but also highlight the collective strength we possess as a community.”

A member of the National Committee for UWC Costa Rica, Juanjo assists with Agents of Change, UWC’s two-year program in which students learn to work in collaboration to generate positive impacts in communities.

“My involvement with Agents of Change has been transformative,” Juanjo writes. “The most rewarding aspect is witnessing students transition from mere belief in their ability to effect change to actively implementing it. They start with small, impactful projects in their communities, evolving into true agents of change.”

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A Pastor Embraces the Calling to Serve

Menzi Nkambule (Eswatini, Waterford Kamhlaba UWC, Luther ’18) is now Pastor Menzi. He graduated from Luther Seminary in spring 2022, and that August he answered a call to lead St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in Jersey City, New Jersey.

“As a solo pastor in a small urban church with no office employees, I am a jack of all trades,” he writes, “I am my own secretary, stewardship coordinator, public relations officer, community outreach coordinator and spiritual leader. Depending on the day, I fundraise for the church’s food pantry, walk with people experiencing hard times, celebrate life’s rites of passage, preach the Good News, etc.”

It was at a Campus Ministries event on his first day at Luther that Menzi discovered the community-service orientation of the faith he would come to embrace. “I connected with that immediately,” he told the college’s alumni magazine. By senior year, he knew he wanted to go to seminary, and was baptized into the Lutheran faith.

“More than religious work, it is a way of being that gives me great joy,” he says of the ministry — “one that I might not have embraced if it were not for my UWC experience.

“My journey as a Davis UWC Scholar has also been good for my personal life. I found love,” he tells UWC. “If it were not for my UWC experience, I would not have experienced the love of a woman who is now my wife.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>UWC/Country</th>
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<th>Major/Program</th>
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<td>Mary Sofia Torres Mendez</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Pearson College UWC</td>
<td>University of Oklahoma Public &amp; Nonprofit</td>
<td>Administration/International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linh Tran</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>UWC ISAK Japan</td>
<td>University of Rochester</td>
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<td>Sabine Umuhire Gbinumt</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Waterford Kamhlaba UWC/SA</td>
<td>Case Western Reserve University Nutrition</td>
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<td>Jasmine Velekaert</td>
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<td>Waterford Kamhlaba UWC/SA</td>
<td>Whitman College</td>
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<td>Zewei Wang</td>
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<td>UWC Atlantic College</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
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<td>UWC Atlantic College</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>Anthropology/Financial Economics</td>
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The Undergraduates

The following pages list the undergraduate Davis UWC Scholars — the classes of 2025, 2026, and 2027. The listing is alphabetical and includes the scholar’s home country, the UWC school they attended, and their college or university.

Class of 2025

Omar Aalabbou
Morocco
Mahindra UWC India
University of Richmond

Gendra-Marleen Aasmaa
Estonia
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Concordia College

Ashad Abdulah
Pakistan
Waterford Kamhlaba UWC SA
Kalamazoo College

Oluwanifemi Abikoye
Nigeria
Mahindra UWC India
Warburg College

Diekololaolu Adebakin
Nigeria
UWC Red Cross Nordic
New York University

Sarah Helena Rose
Acheson-Field
USA
UWC Adriatic
St. Lawrence University

The Undergraduates
PRESIDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES

“Bucknell University’s Davis United World College Scholars enrich our community by helping to create an environment that values global education and prepares our graduates to be citizens of the world. These individuals are among our most engaged and motivated students, and they offer diverse experiences and perspectives that deepen our understanding of international society. I am inspired by their dedication, leadership, and service, and the positive differences they make on campus and beyond. We treasure our partnership with this exceptional program, and we are so grateful for the Davis family’s generous support.”

John Braman, President
Bucknell University
Having interned last summer with his country's mission to the UN, Hasan Jashari (Belgium, UWC South East Asia, Lehigh '24) said that "despite the challenges we face today, I truly believe the future is global, and closer cooperation on that level is crucial. It was clear that despite our political differences, we all saw a common form of humanity in us that all united us." Hasan has turned that conviction into action, both on campus and back home. He has been a teaching and research assistant for Lehigh's International Relations Department. UN special projects manager in the Lehigh/United Nations Partnership, and president of Lehigh's World Affairs Club. He led the club's revival after a period of inaction, creating a series of workshops that promoted intercultural communication and understanding. The university has honored him with its Class of 2004 Award, which honors evidence of future leadership, and the Contribution to Student Life Award.

For the National Committee of UWC Belgium, Hasan served as outreach and alumni engagement coordinator and Executive Committee member. He continues to give time to its selection process, helping to review and score applications.

"Our National Committee is completely volunteer-run," he noted. "It is because of alumni and parents giving their free time to the National Committee and the UWC mission that my life changed. I wanted to spread the UWC mission, its values and opportunities to more people across Belgium, especially young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds."
The moment College of the Atlantic and the Davis UWC Scholars Program joined forces is arguably the most important moment in COA's 52-year history. After 13 years as president here at COA, one of the things I will miss the most upon my departure will be the constant commitment of the Davis UWC Scholars Program has helped catalyze an entire generation of students who will make fundamental improvements to the world around us. That impact cannot be overstated.
As a representative of the Sahrawi, the displaced people of Western Saharan, Senia Bachir-Abderahman (Western Sahara, UWC Red Cross Nordic, Mt. Holyoke ’20) never takes her work lightly.

“It is very hard for me to enjoy the most basic life luxuries like running water and easily accessible food and comfortable bed when my whole family struggles with accessing water during the summer, with temperatures exceeding 120 degrees,” she observes.

Senia grew up in a Sahrawi refugee camp in southern Algeria; she has never seen her home nation, most of which has been occupied by Morocco since 1979. In 2022 she was appointed by the Polisario Front, the National Liberation Movement of Western Sahara, as its official representative in Sweden.

“My primary work is to represent the people of Western Sahara, and inform relevant stakeholders about our plight for freedom and liberation as the last colony in Africa,” she writes. “Ever since receiving the UWC scholarship and seeing the world from a new perspective, I realized just how little is known about my people, their story and struggle. I took it upon myself to be their voice and share their stories and histories with the world.”

“My source of inspiration and the reason I continue to advocate for my people and cause is mostly certainly my family, and all my people who continue to resist and survive in the refugee camps and in the occupied territories of Western Sahara. If they are able to share their stories and histories with the world, I feel that I have to do the same,” she says.

Senia Bachir-Abderahman

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At Harvey Mudd College, Davis UWC Scholars contribute impactfully to a learning environment where a wide range of ideas and perspectives are welcomed and explored, and discovery abounds. In our increasingly global and fragmented world, this could not be more important. Our Davis UWC Scholars are standout students, asking critical questions as they consider wide-ranging points of view involved in addressing global issues, and demonstrating a commitment to community and civic engagement. Harvey Mudd College is honored to be a partner in the Davis United World College Scholars Program, and grateful for its trust in us to educate future leaders at the frontiers of their fields.

HARRIET B. REMSHARD, PRESIDENT
Harvey Mudd College

UNITING THE WORLD

Turkey
Lara Guzelsoy
St. John’s College
UWC Robert Bosch College

Singapore
Abhinav Gupta
Cornell University

Zixin Guo

Nicole Gunawan
UWC South East Asia

Senior University

Ashish Gurung
Wesleyan University

Clare-Anna Hamissi
Tanzania
UWC East Africa
University of Florida

Zain Hammad
Jordan
UWC Robert Bosch College
Earlham College

Ahmad Hammoud
Lebanon
Li Po Chun UWC
College of Idaho

Aina Hameeg
Armenia
UWC Dilijan

Colorado College

Chaofan Han
China
UWC Dilijan
Carleton College

Rawan Hannoon
Palestine
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Luther College

John Hanson
USA
UWC USA
Cornell University

Jasmine Hao
Canada
UWC Robert Bosch College
Princeton University

Enam Hassan
Pakistan
UWC Red Cross Nordic
University of Oklahoma

Mariam Hassan
Egypt
UWC USA
Case Western Reserve University

Willhelm Hector
Haiti
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Anna Holting
Germany
UWC Robert Bosch College
College of the Atlantic

Samuel Henderson
Zimbabwe
UWC Robert Bosch College
University of Rochester

Kelvin Henry
Tanzania
UWC East Africa
Trinity College

Katia Herg
Republic of Korea
UWC Robert Bosch College
Middlesex College

Sumin Hoc
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
Wellesley College

Fernanda Hernandez Morin
El Salvador
UWC East Africa
St. Olaf College

Malek Hinnawi
Syria
Mahindra UWC India
College of the Atlantic

Chau Hoang
Vietnam
UWC ISAK Japan
Ringling College of Art + Design

Rosette Hobelich
Lebanon
UWC in Mostar
University of Oklahoma

Daniel Frederik Hodde
USA
UWC-USA
University of California Berkeley

Quinn Holden-Schrook
USA
UWC USA

Yun Pin (Robin) Huang
Taiwan
UWC Dilijan
Stanford University

Qijia Huangchen
China
UWC USA

Brown University

Ching Fei Hung
China
Li Po Chun UWC
Cornell University

Erie Hurley
USA
UWC Costa Rica
Skidmore College

Zunan Hasin
Bangladesh
UWC Atlantic College
Bowdoin College

Mayo Hussein
Jordan
UWC USA
Lake Forest College

Salman Hussein
Iraq
Mahindra UWC India
Ringling College of Art + Design

Hana Hyman
Jordan
Pearson College UWC
Lewis & Clark College

Thipatat Samvuthipreetha
Thailand
UWC South East Asia
New York University

Yuvanes IYaseen
Australia
UWC South East Asia
Cornell University

Abdul Reheem Idris
Norway
UWC Dilijan
Princeton University

Artur Idriisov
Ukraine
UWC ISAK Japan
University of Richmond

Moe Iino
Japan
UWC ISAK Japan

University of Colorado

Ishita Jain
India
UWC South Asia
Trinity College

Nilufar Imsirova
Tajikistan
UWC USA

Babson College

Shikha Jain
Singh
UWC South East Asia
University of California Berkeley

Robin Imsirova
Tajikistan
UWC USA

University of Oklahoma

Ali Jamoussi
Palestine
UWC-USA
University of Florida

Ams Jaramillo
Colombia
UWC Dilijan
Lake Forest College

Vasyli Jean-Francois
Haiti
UWC East Africa
Lewis & Clark College

Rakab Jebessa
Ethiopia
UWC South East Asia
College of Idaho

Wejden Jemmezai
Tunisia
UWC Adriatic
St. Lawrence University

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Davis United World College Scholars Program

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Uniting the World
Promoting Peace and Citizenship on Campus and at Home

Anna Diagne Sène (Senegal, UWC Red Cross Nordic, Macalester ’24) came to college resolved to “keep living up to my UWC values of empathetic leadership, global citizenship, and building peace.” The last two Septembers, she led planning returning to Senegal in December 2022 with a $2,000 grant from Macalester’s Live It Fund, Anna led a three-day workshop she developed for 20 middle-schoolers, Xam Sa Bopp Xam Sa Addurra (Know Yourself, Know the World). The participants “talked about the genocides in Myanmar, Tigray, and Ukraine and what the path to justice was like for all of them.”

Anna also organized a two-week campus exhibit on genocide and justice. “The project transformed me, and reaffirmed my goals to use education for peace building,” Anna reports. “Some participants’ parents called me after the project to thank me for involving their children. I was immensely touched.”

Even amid the conflicts and violence that plague the world today, Anna reflects, “we can always make the world more peaceful.”

UNDERGRADUATES IN ACTION

Anna Diagne Sène

Class of 2025

Seo-na Kim
Republic of Korea
UWC Changshu China
Northwestern University

Yujin Kim
Republic of Korea
Li Po Chun UWC
University of California Berkeley

Joyasila Kimamo
Tanzania
UWC Robert Bosch College
Lake Forest College

Tan Kitapli
Turkey
UWC Maastricht
Ringsing College of Art + Design

Jasmine Klein
USA
UWC Atlantic College
University of Florida

Marie Henriquez-Iklom
Germany
UWC Robert Bosch College
University of Florida

Stefan Khvlers
Netherlands
UWC Maastricht
University of Florida

Andrew Kiko
Kenya
UWC Atlantic College
University of Oklahoma

Phil Kmeto
Slovakia
Li Po Chun UWC
Lake Forest College

Stella Koenig
Australia
UWC Atlantic College
Connecticut College

Rosane Koffi
Cote D’Ivoire
UWC-USA
University of Oklahoma

Chi-Kui Juan
Japan
UWC Costa Rica
Mount Holyoke College

Karolina Koletic
Slovenia
Li Po Chun UWC
George Washington University

Goosen Jeong
Republic of Korea
Mahindra UWC India
Colorado College

Mithil Jethwa
India
Mahindra UWC India
Brown University

Lufei Jia
China
UWC South East Asia
University of California Berkeley

Wanli Jing
China
UWC Changshu China
Brown University

Chanchal Jitvillasoonsi
Thailand
UWC Thailand
St. Olaf College

Dev Javani
USA
UWC USA
Georgetown University

Nirajan John
Sri Lanka
Mahindra UWC India
St. John’s College

Oratorio Johnson
Botswana
Waterford Kamhlaba UWCSA
Lake Forest College

Abdes Jomaa
Syria
UWC in Mostar
Whitman College

Antonio Jorge Medeiros
Brazil
Pearson College UWC
Dartmouth College

Gili Joseph
Israel
UWC Robert Bosch College
Princeton University

Shreyja Joshi
India
Mahindra UWC India
Amherst College

Shehan Juralie
Sri Lanka
University of Durham

Reem Khaddour
Syria
Mahindra UWC India
College of the Atlantic

Seena Kim
Republic of Korea
UWC Changshu China
Northwestern University

Sun Min Kim
Republic of Korea
Li Po Chun UWC
University of California Berkeley

Yoon Kim
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
University of Virginia

Nguyen Khanh
Vietnam
UWC Changshu China
University of Virginia

Seora Kim
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
University of Virginia

Filip Krsto
Slovenia
Li Po Chun UWC
George Washington University

Davis United World College Scholars Program

Class of 2025

Uniting the World
Class of 2025

UNITING THE WORLD

PRESIDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

“Lake Forest College could not be prouder to serve such a significant number of Davis UWC Scholars as a unique and integral population that adds so much to the richness of campus life. Their presence and contribution to campus events add such an important dimension to the student experience. The impact on our learning environment has been extraordinary; there are multiple examples of faculty who have adapted their teaching in response to the diversity and influence of the Davis UWC Scholars in our classrooms.”

JILL M. BAREN, PRESIDENT
Lake Forest College

86 Uniting the World

Davis United World College Scholars Program 87

Presentation of crystal globes to first-years at Bard College.

Ibrahim Kondeh
Sierra Leone
UWC Atlantic College

Eljo Kondi
Albania
UWC in Mostar

Andy Kongolo
Congo
St. Olaf College

Nchome Kotelo
Malawi
University of Oklahoma

Jana Kraleva
Russia
Whitman College

Veronika Kostyeva
Russia
UWC South East Asia

Iluliana Kulagina
Russia
Pearson College UWC

Sara Kumiawan
USA
UWC South East Asia

Mikhail Kutapov
Russia
UWC South East Asia

Maksym Kuzhitin
Ukraine
Cape-Western University

Emily Lubnitz
Germany
UWC Costa Rica

Jiaming Li
China
Northwestern University

Xinchang Liu
China
UWC South East Asia

Kevin Lin
Taiwan
Bowdoin College

Hsuan-en Lo
Taiwan
University of Richmond

Qianyu Li
China
UWC Changshu China

Kechen Liu
China
University of Chicago

Tsewang Dhundup Lama
Nepal
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Iliana Kulagina
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Mikhail Kutapov
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UWC South East Asia

Maksym Kuzhitin
Ukraine
Cape-Western University

Adriatic

St. Lawrence University

PRESIDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES

“The Davis UWC Scholars Program is a testament to the power of education to change the world. These students come from all corners of the globe, bringing with them a wealth of diverse perspectives and experiences. Their presence enriches our campus and challenges our students to think deeply about the issues that affect the world today.”

JILL M. BAREN, PRESIDENT
Lake Forest College

86 Uniting the World

Davis United World College Scholars Program 87

Presentation of crystal globes to first-years at Bard College.

Ibrahim Kondeh
Sierra Leone
UWC Atlantic College

Eljo Kondi
Albania
UWC in Mostar

Andy Kongolo
Congo
St. Olaf College

Nchome Kotelo
Malawi
University of Oklahoma

Jana Kraleva
Russia
Whitman College

Veronika Kostyeva
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86 Uniting the World

Davis United World College Scholars Program 87

Presentation of crystal globes to first-years at Bard College.
“From the time of my first encounter with UWC students during a recruiting visit to Asia more than a decade ago, I have been impressed by the curiosity of UWC students, their broad global exposure, and their global perspective. Davis UWC Scholars add greatly to our campus; their experiences and backgrounds expand the geographic and cultural horizons of all Lehigh students. As a new president, I am thrilled to have Lehigh welcome and host Davis UWC Scholars.”

JOSEPH J. HELBLE, PRESIDENT
Lehigh University
Nicole Magabo volunteers for her local UWC chapter, "mentoring the next generation of UWC students," along with working on new film projects this vital work of empowering storytellers from diverse backgrounds. "Since 2020," she reports, "BMJ has been awarded $419,000 in grant funding from the Open Society Foundation to continue Uganda's anti-LGBTQ law. This is the project I am most proud of," Nicole writes, even though both those movies are barred from domestic release by a young boy who confides a secret about his male crush to an online friend.

Nicole made With a grant from the Open Society Foundation to tell stories of Ugandans marginalized by discrimination, Nicole made

Be a Good Girl, which can be seen on Vimeo and the

Family Tree.

Nicole Magabo

Malta

Olivera Caballero

Ukraine

UWC ISAK Japan

Lake Forest College

Faith Olusegun

Shana

UWC Maastricht

St. Lawrence University

Victor Olutoye

Nigeria

UWC Robert Bosch College

Luther College

Aida Omar

Iraq

UWC Dilijan

College of Idaho

Franko Omair

Palestine

UWC Atlantic College

Whitman College

Temilola Omokoya

Nigeria

UWC Maastricht

Cornell University

Dorelie Jolinta Oforo

Congo

UWC East Africa

Methodist University

Qiao Se Ong

Malaysia

Mahindra UWC India

Mount Holyoke College

Jasmine Akello Ongole

Uganda

Waterford Kamhlaba UWCISA

Case Western Reserve University

Paula Darlie Ongwala

Congo

UWC Changsha China

College of Idaho

Adela Ordula Martinez

Mexico

UWC in Mostar

Bennington College

Antonio Orfanel

Philippines

UWC Maastricht

Cornell University

Gulsimo Osimi

Tajikistan

UWC-MBA

University of the North West University

Ahmed Osman

Somalia

UWC East Africa

Luther College

Emmanuel Oyeku

Nigeria

UWC Dilijan

Cornell University

Cynthia Ozbek

Uzbekistan

UWC Changsha China

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Rafael Perez

Portugal

UWC-USA

Eartham College

Fevio Cesar Perez Garcia

Peru

UWC South East Asia

University of Oklahoma

Kristine Petersen

Latvia

UWC ISAK Japan

Colorado College

Nini Pharesadze

Georgia

UWC Dilijan

Brown University

Jamie Phillips-Freeman

Canada

Pearson College UWC

Oberlin College

Sinuan Phoeung

Cambodia

UWC South East Asia

Trinity College

Phumzile Phuzha

Malawi

UWC South East Asia

University of Richmond

Tahmuras Pirmak

Tajikistan

Mahindra UWC India

Methodist University

Joaquim Barreto

Venezuela

UWC Dilijan

Cornell University

Joanne Peng

Canada

Pearson College UWC

Princeton University

Voxuan Peng

China

UWC Changsha China

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Soukeyna Pittrofa

Burkina Faso

UWC Costa Rica

Furman University

Pero Platanic

Bosnia-Herzegovina

UWC in Mostar

University of Oklahoma

Maegan Polanco

Belize

UWC Changsha China

St. Olaf College

Pavel (Pasha) Polishchuk

Russia

UWC Robert Bosch College

University of Florida

Shantai Ponce Samayoa

Guatemala

Waterford Kamhlaba UWCISA

University of Florida

Yada Pongsirun

Thailand

UWC Maastricht

Colorado College

Gabriel Ponon

Philippines

UWC ISAK Japan

Case Western Reserve University

Usay Poyraz

Turkey

UWC ISAK Japan

Skidmore College

Suvessa Pradhan-Tuladhar

Nepal

UWC-USA

Lake Forest College

Juan Pramo

Ecuador

Mahindra UWC India

Lake Forest College

Irvin Charles Provost

Canada

Pearson College UWC

St. Lawrence University

Pavel Luka

Nepal

UWC-USA

Middlebury College

Seung Eun Ryu

South Korea

UWC ISAK Japan

Colorado College

Maha Sayed

United Arab Emirates

UWC-USA

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Maha Sayed

United Arab Emirates

UWC-USA

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
student interest in working toward a more peaceful world.

We are proud to already count many of the scholars among our alumni and equally proud of the ways in which their experiences, knowledge, and hope for a better future. MU counts on these future leaders to continue sharing their highest of any group at the university. They are counts on these future leaders to continue sharing their highest of any group at the university. They are

In addition, Davis UWC Scholars continue to be some of our very best students at Methodist University. Their graduation rate, as a group, is the highest of any group at the university. They are students who will become leaders in many different fields across the globe in future years. We are proud to already count many of the scholars among our alumni and equally proud of the ways in which their presence, intelligence, and leadership skills enhance our educational programs by sharing their experiences, knowledge, and hope for a better future.

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"It is a privilege for Methodist University to have a significant number of Davis UWC Scholars at MU to enhance our educational programs by sharing their experiences, knowledge, and hope for a better future. MU counts on these future leaders to continue sharing their determined spirit and encouraging the growth of interest in courses related to social justice, international studies, law, education, and the environment. They have fostered student interest in working toward a more peaceful world and have taught all of us something about overcoming cultural and ethnic barriers.

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DR. STANLEY WEARDEN, PRESIDENT

Methodist University
Naomi Schroeder
Hong Kong
Pearson College UWC
Vassar College

Míchal Schulman
USA
UWC Atlantic College
Duke University

Emelie Schultz
Sweden
UWC Red Cross Nordic
University of Oklahoma

Alan Schulz Diaz
Colombia
Pearson College UWC
Macalaster College

William Schwarz
USA
UWC South East Asia
George Washington University

Aubra Joy (Xe) Scott-Hinkle
USA
UWC Dili
Amherst College

Semo Winnie Sobit
South Sudan
UWC Adriatic
University of Oklahoma

Leslie Sedes
Mexico
UWC Robert Bosch College
Earlham College

Sarah Seebacher
Austria
UWC Robert Bosch College
St. Olaf College

Aidan Serna
USA
UWC Robert Bosch College
Columbia University

Aryan Shah
Bangladesh
UWC Atlantic College
University of California Berkeley

Raoz Shah
Malta
UWC South East Asia
Northwestern University

Sejal Shah
USA
Mahindra UWC India
Brown University

Varun Shodhan Shah
India
UWC South East Asia
University of California Berkeley

Mehreen Shahid
Tanzania
UWC East Africa
Carleton College

Mohammad Shaker Aasi
Jordan
UWC Changhua China
Trinity College

Alison Shang
Canada
UWC Costa Rica
University of Chicago

Phyllis Ong Shao Ying
Malaysia
UWC Changhua China
University of Rochester

Kartikya Sharma
India
UWC in Mostar
University of California Berkeley

Morav Sharma
India
Li Po Chun UWC
Lake Forest College

Nandini Sharma
India
UWC Dili
University of California Berkeley

Reva Sharma
India
Mahindra UWC India
Buddh University

Galal Shehata
Egypt
UWC Maastricht
Lake Forest College

Aslam Shehroz
Pakistan
Waterford Kamalaha UWCISA
Lake Forest College

Krishten Shen
China
UWC Atlantic College
Carleton College

Yazhou Shen
China
UWC Changhua China
Franklin & Marshall College

Lakpa Sherpa
Nepal
Pearson College UWC
Washington and Lee University

Judy Shi
China
UWC Atlantic College
Barnard College

Eugene Shin
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
Wellesley College

Siam Shimul
Bangladesh
UWC USA
Concordia College

Ezra Shilinbaro
Libya
UWC Maastricht
Lake Forest College

Anushee Sivasankar
Singapore
UWC South East Asia
Duke University

Sarah Skilleter
Denmark
UWC Dili
University of Oklahoma

Ona Shire
United Kingdom
Li Po Chun UWC
Lake Forest College

Fea Ali Sheailt
Singapore
UWC South East Asia
Yale University

Ahana Shrestha
Nepal
UWC Costa Rica
Cornell University

Ahmed Shuwehdi
Libya
UWC Changhua China
Bennington College

Felix Sibo Marul
Rwanda
UWC-USA
College of Idaho

Anj d Simic
Serbia
UWC Adriatic
St. Lawrence University

Josef Simions
USA
UWC Maastricht
Colorado College

Aditya Singh
India
Mahindra UWC India
Brown University

Akshay Singh
Guyana
UWC Red Cross Nordic
University of Oklahoma

Tanuj Singh
India
UWC South East Asia
University of California Berkeley

Maia Singham
Australia
UWC South East Asia
Tufts University

Isha Sinha
USA
UWC South East Asia
University of California Berkeley

Anish Subhankulova
Russia
Mahindra UWC India
Ringling College of Art & Design

Aryan Subramanian
India
UWC South East Asia
Babson College

Tim Sulierta
Croatia
UWC in Mostar
University of Florida

Rudjung Sun
China
Li Po Chun UWC
St. Olaf College

Bright Suit
Thailand
UWC Robert Bosch College
Whitman College

Baixi Wuzhen Sunyani
Indonesia
UWC ISAK Japan
St. Olaf College

Saimon Suzuki
Japan
UWC Costa Rica
University of Oklahoma

Daryna Sviachenko
Ukraine
UWC Atlantic College
University of Chicago

Raghd Sweiss
Palestine
UWC Costa Rica
University of Oklahoma

Alexes Tafel
Albania
Li Po Chun UWC
Colgate University

Ephrata Mubrankadzwe
Ethiopia
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Sara Tahia
Palestine
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Muyong Taing
Cambodia
UWC Maastricht
Lake Forest College

Seraya Talbot-Carey
UK
UWC Costa Rica
Lewis & Clark College

Enrico Tamayo
Austria
Li Po Chun UWC
St. Olaf College

Miritha Tame
India
Mahindra UWC India
Lewis & Clark College

Angela Tan
China
UWC Changhua China
Princeton University

Kai Yang Tan
Singapore
UWC South East Asia
Swarthmore College

Celebrating UWC Day at Luther College with Davis UWC Scholars Program liaison Jon Lund.
“At a time where boundaries and walls are higher than ever, we need leaders from diverse backgrounds who will think with open minds, explore alternatives, and reach across differences. Our Davis UWC Scholars bring with them a unique worldview and a commitment to inclusion, intercultural understanding, and service. They help to create a 21st-century global community at Middlebury and inspire all of us to lead lives of impact and work toward a more just and peaceful world.”

Laurie L. Patton, President
Middlebury College

Class of 2025

Davis United World College Scholars Program

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UNDERGRADUATES IN ACTION

Building New Futures for Young Haitians

To help motivated high schoolers in his nation build the knowledge and skills they need to access higher education abroad, the Hector Foundation, created by Wilhem Hector (UVA, UWC Red Cross Nordic, MIT ’25), runs the intensive, three-week online Program for the Advancement of Young Scholars (PAYS). Modeled in part after pre-college summer programs at some U.S. universities, PAYS exposes students to a range of subjects the Haitian curriculum doesn’t offer, plus workshops on academic writing, public speaking, democracy and other subjects “that can be useful to them as they become citizens of the world,” Wilhem says.

Begun in 2020 and managed by Wilhem and two fellow UWC alumni, PAYS is taught by Haitian professionals in the country and abroad. Forty students participated last summer, and Wilhem hopes to double that in 2024.

“Our summer program is often their only opportunity to learn about going to college in the U.S., and how they can best make themselves competitive candidates,” Wilhem writes. “Thirty-five percent of our students the past four years have received scholarships to pursue their studies in the U.S., Canada, and Germany.”

Wilhem also led the development of Project Manus, an open-use maker space that opened last summer as the first resource of its kind in Haiti. The project has trained a team of engineering students at Haitian universities to lead its weekend workshops, and has been building partnerships with schools in Port-au-Príncipe.

“The ultimate goal of Project Manus is to establish the grounds of hands-on science within the Haitian national curriculum,” Wilhem writes. “We aim to train hundreds of kids yearly.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marjan Zovko</td>
<td>Croatian University of Mostar</td>
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Presidents’ Perspectives

“At the University of Oklahoma, everything we do is driven by our fundamental purpose, We Change Lives — three small but meaningful words that encapsulate our essence and aspirations. At every turn, our Davis UWC Scholars exemplify how they embody this purpose in their daily lives. Their unwavering commitment to the greater good and the betterment of others is truly remarkable. The Davis program brings us students who are already well on their path toward a life of meaning and impact, and we are delighted to further nurture and develop these qualities within them. The gratitude we feel for Shelby’s and Phil’s visionary investment in the future, through these exceptionally talented and generous students, cannot be overstated. Their positive impact resonates far and wide throughout our university community.”

Joe Joseph Harroz, Jr.
President
University of Oklahoma

Class of 2026

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Macalester College

Mohamed Alshamsi
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University of Oklahoma

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University of Oklahoma

PRESIDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES

“At the University of Oklahoma, everything we do is driven by our fundamental purpose, We Change Lives — three small but meaningful words that encapsulate our essence and aspirations. At every turn, our Davis UWC Scholars exemplify how they embody this purpose in their daily lives. Their unwavering commitment to the greater good and the betterment of others is truly remarkable. The Davis program brings us students who are already well on their path toward a life of meaning and impact, and we are delighted to further nurture and develop these qualities within them. The gratitude we feel for Shelby’s and Phil’s visionary investment in the future, through these exceptionally talented and generous students, cannot be overstated. Their positive impact resonates far and wide throughout our university community.”

Joe Joseph Harroz, Jr.
President
University of Oklahoma
Guided by Faith on a Journey of Service

“My professional journey is anchored in the principles of servant leadership, driven by the belief that one’s gifts and talents should be harnessed for the collective betterment of others,” writes Tatenda Dzvimbo (Zimbabwe, UWC in Mostar, University of Oklahoma ’22).

Guided by those values, she currently serves as an associate loan processor with the Housing Assistance Council, a Washington, DC NGO that helps a diverse range of housing developers build new affordable housing in the rural U.S.

In 2023, Tatenda was selected by Hallmark, a faith-based nonprofit that cultivates a network of young change-makers, as its youth ambassador for that year. She represented Hallmark at the IMF and World Bank 2023 Summit, where she interacted with finance ministers from a number of nations, including India and Republic of Korea.

“These summit experiences allowed me to contribute to conversations on global economic development and youth leadership,” Tatenda writes.

Tatenda adds, “I would have never imagined that someone with my background would be navigating these prestigious arenas,” Tatenda reflects. “As a devout Christian, I see the guiding hand of grace in my journey. I truly believe the greatest impact and legacy I can leave is to inspire positive change, foster hope, and bridge divides wherever my journey takes me.”
“Each year, the Davis UWC Scholars Program brings exceptional students to the University of Richmond from other nations worldwide. These students are among Richmond’s most highly prepared and actively engaged community members. They can be found throughout our campus — enriching classroom discussions; serving as lab assistants, researchers, and tutors; and working as resident assistants, cultural advisors, and ambassadors for newly admitted students.

The Davis UWC Scholars Program aligns with the university’s strategic priority to increase access and affordability while seeding opportunities to foster greater cross-cultural understanding. We are thrilled to welcome students from other nations worldwide. These students bring new perspectives to our discussions; serving as lab assistants, researchers, and tutors; and working as resident assistants, cultural advisors, and ambassadors for newly admitted students.”

KEVIN HALLOCK, PRESIDENT
University of Richmond
Northwestern's fall gathering of its Davis UWC Scholars.
PRESIDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES

“On behalf of Wartburg College faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to the Davis UWC Scholars Program. The impact of Davis UWC Scholars on our campus cannot be understated, and I am privileged to work alongside students from all over the world who serve as leaders on our campus in residential life, student life, student organizations, and of course, in the classroom. The diversity of race, ethnicity, culture, and worldview that we create as a Wartburg family, and I am thankful for the support that allows these students to call Wartburg College their home away from home.”

REBECCA EHRETSMAN, PRESIDENT
Wartburg College

Nina Goddyn
France
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Hood College
Alex Ivan Goinis Ayala
Panaguay
UWC South East Asia
Trinity College
Alexandra Gomberg Shokhikova
Mexico
UWC USA
Brown University
Ana Gomes dos Santos
Brazil
Li Po Chun UWC
Trinity College
Julien (LI) Gonzales
France
UWC Maastricht
John Hopkins University
Silyeios Iskheidh Gonzalez
Panama
UWC USA
Methodist University
Elora Gore
India
Mahindra UWC India
Lewis & Clark College
Filip Goshkevski
Macedonia
UWC Maastricht
Cato-Semple Reserve University
Omoureou Gouba
Burkina Faso
Pearson College UWC
University of Oklahoma
Ehaan Govil
Singapore
UWC South East Asia
Princeton University
Ziyan Goyinidi
United Kingdom
UWC Maastricht
University of California Berkeley
Aanu Goyal
India
Mahindra UWC India
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Moana Sophia Gregori
Austria
UWC South East Asia
Bowdoin College
David Grzesbyta
Germany
Li Po Chun UWC
St. Lawrence University
Jinkang Gu
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Emory University
Xinyi Gu
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Tufts University
Yilan Gu
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Bates College
Banele Gumede
South Africa
UWC Diploma
Luther College
Jialu (Lucy) Guo
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Smith College
Ananya Gupta
India
Mahindra UWC India
Union College
Aniket Gupta
Nepal
Li Po Chun UWC
Skidmore College
Anju Gupta
Singapore
Li Po Chun UWC
Skidmore College
Anya Gupta
Singapore
UWC South East Asia
Lake University
Uditi Gupta
Singapore
UWC South East Asia
University of California Berkeley
Varini Gupta
India
UWC South East Asia
Sarah Lawrence College
Soniya Gunung
Nepal
UWC East Africa
Case Western Reserve University
Elvira Gutierrez
Timor-Leste
Li Po Chun UWC
Trinity College
Paloma Guth Kronbauer
Brazil
UWC Maastricht
St. Olaf College
Maria Gutierrez Delgado
Peru
Pearson College UWC
Middlebury College
Nyasha Gwaza
Zimbabwe
Waterford Kamalaba UWCSA
University of Rochester
Tenzin Gyaltser
South Africa
UWC Adiratic
St. Olaf College
Phoung Khanh Ha
Vietnam
UWC-USA
Georgetown University
Jodi Hahn
USA
UWC South East Asia
Cornell University
Xander Hall
USA
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Macalester College
Zakee Hamevi
USA
UWC South East Asia
George Washington University
Katrin Hambardzumyan
Armenia
UWC Diploma
Methodist University
Amirali Hamidi
Iran
UWC East Asia
Tufts University
Laila Hammoudeh
Palestine
Pearson College UWC
College of the Atlantic
Aizl Hanafi
Tunisia
UWC ISAK Japan
Davidson College
Shushan Hayriyan
Armenia
UWC Diploma
College of Idaho
Varenzi Haaza
India
Mahindra UWC India
Skidmore College
David He
Canada
Pearson College UWC
Bates College
Ruizhe Hao
China
UWC Maastricht
Lake Forest College
Nouhaila Hardoum
Morocco
UWC Atlantic College
University of Rochester
Hugo Owen Hesthamana
Rwanda
UWC East Africa
Concordia College
Dejanae Hargis
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Waterford Kamalaba UWCSA
Lake Forest College
Trainat Hamtaweeompone
Thailand
UWC Thailand
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Isabella Heron Menendez
Venezuela
UWC in Mutare
University of Rochester
Aften Hasic
Bosnia-Herzegovina
UWC in Mutar
University of Mutara
Abdulwali Hassan
Somalia
Waterford Kamalaba UWCSA
Wartburg College
Claire Hatch
USA
UWC Maastricht
Middlebury College
Isa Hartem
Syria
UWC ISAK Japan
Davidson College
Guzmán Heriberto
Colombia
UWC East Africa
University of Chicago
Tong Hao
China
UWC Maastricht
Lake Forest College
Rathika Heendran
Sri Lanka
UWC East Africa
Concordia College
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UWC Chiangmai China
Barnard College
Yunfan He
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Brown University
Zhijun He
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UWC Chiangmai China
Williams College
Yimin He
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UWC Chiangmai China
Brown University
Yiyang (Forrest) Hu
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Williams College
Ying (Yun) Hu
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Brown University
Yiyan Hu
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UWC Chiangmai China
Brown University
Yu Hua
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Brown University
Haochen Hu
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Brown University
Bo (Bobo) Hou
China
UWC Diploma
Brown University
Dan Hoang
Vietnam
UWC Thailand
University of Chicago
Sterre Honsbeek
Netherlands
UWC Costa Rica
McMaster College
Bo (Bobi) Hou
China
UWC USA
Stanford University
Xiaotian (Dora) Hou
Hong Kong
UWC Chiangmai China
University of Chicago
Haochen Hu
China
UWC Chiangmai China
Carleton College
Xiaoyang Hu
China
UWC Robert Bosch College
St. Olaf College
Yang (Forest) Hu
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UWC Chiangmai China
Williams College
Lei Huang
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UWC Atlantic College
Yale University
Jingli (Medina) Huang
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UWC Maastricht
University of California Berkeley
Li Huang
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UWC Chiangmai China
University of Chicago
Po-Chao Huang
Taiwan
UWC Costa Rica
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UWC Robert Bosch College
Brown University
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Guatemala
UWC South East Asia
Case Western Reserve University
Jose Hernandez Perussina
Guatemala
Li Po Chun UWC
Lake Forest College
Mariana Hernandez Toba
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UWC East Africa
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George Washington University
Wang Cheng Hua
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UWC East Asia
Northwestern University
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Iraq
Mahindra UWC India
University of Oklahoma
Barlina Hussein
Somalia
Li Po Chun UWC
Concordia College
Adriana Hyun
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UWC South East Asia
Yale University
Almira Israihem
Somalia
Li Po Chun UWC
Concordia College
Nuria Isac
Spain
UWC East Asia
Trinity College
Iasa Isac
Spain
UWC East Asia
Trinity College
Israel Isac
Spain
UWC East Asia
Trinity College
Yana Isac
Spain
UWC East Asia
Trinity College
Sara Isac
Spain
UWC East Asia
Trinity College
Aziz Isac
Spain
UWC East Asia
Trinity College
Noura Isac
Spain
UWC East Asia
Trinity College
Kemal Isic
Ukraine
UWC ISAK Japan
Davidson College
Ouaz Isinc
USA
UWC East Asia
Cuatro Caminos
Rebecca Isinc
USA
UWC East Asia
Cuatro Caminos

Focusing a Learning Path for Afghan Women

A computer science major at Methodist who was born a refugee in Pakistan and raised in Afghanistan, Zakia Maryam Najafizada '24 (UWC Red Cross Nordic) responded to the Taliban’s 2021 takeover of her country, and its resulting barriers to higher education for women, by developing an online English-learning application for Afghan females. Amoosh is primarily for women who speak Dari, Afghanistan’s most common language. “At Amoosh, we believe that education is a fundamental right, and everyone should have access to quality learning resources,” says the application’s website, amooshapp.com.

“I developed it using programming languages like Swift for iOS and Java for Android, with a focus on user-friendly design,” Zakia writes. “I aim to develop it into a comprehensive educational initiative that provides free electronic devices, seamless Wi-Fi access, and an extensive catalog of learning materials.”

Zakia has been chosen as a teaching assistant in the Computer Science department, where her own research delves into the complex interplay of AI and cybersecurity.

“The focus is to understand how these attacks work, specifically evasion attacks and their impact on AI systems like Chat GPT and Bing,” Zakia explains. “I found that while AIs have their own unique mechanisms, they can be exploited with certain inputs. To counter this, I proposed a multi-pronged approach, whose strategies aim to enhance the AI’s resilience against the deceptions of adversarial inputs. This research could help improve the security and reliability of AI systems, which is crucial both for my future projects and the broader tech community.”

Anne-Sophie Janssen
Belgium
UWC South East Asia
Tufts University
Jelle Janssen
Netherlands
UWC Atlantic College
Bowdoin College
Ahmed Saajidan Jeraj Rashid
Bangladesh
UWC Maastricht
St. Olaf College
Deepak Jha
India
Mahindra UWC India
University of Oklahoma
En-Song Jiang
Taiwan
UWC Dilijan
St. John’s College
Jerry Jiang
China
UWC Changshu China
Bates College
Yunmen Jiang
China
UWC Changshu China
Bowdoin College
Sliknam Jiewattipong
Thailand
UWC Thailand
Lake Forest College
Paloma Joho Vidal
Argentina
Mahindra UWC India
College of the Atlantic
Christine John
India
UWC ISAK Japan
Earlham College
Eva Jovanevic
Croatia
UWC in Mostar
Cornell College
Jebbula Jujin
Premakumar
Sri Lanka
UWC Atlantic College
Methodist University
Jovid Jumaa
Tajikistan
Waterford Kamhlaba UWCISA
Furman University
Ahim Jung
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
University of California Berkeley
Jeonseok Jung
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
Cornell University
Qubra Jusabani
Tanzania
UWC East Africa
Lake Forest College
Arlette Kagaba
UWC East Africa
Lake Forest College
Sophia Kahn
USA
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Middlebury College
Robin Kalküll
Estonia
UWC Atlantic College
Bard College
John Kaluiji
Angola
UWC East Africa
St. Olaf College
Jiana Kambo
India
UWC USA
Case Western Reserve University
Franck Andrew
Kane Mpong and Nguno
Cameroon
UWC South East Africa
Lake Forest College
Olivera Kamenaroska
Macedonia
Pearson College UWC
Colorado College
Marina Kamperai
Greece
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Case Western Reserve University
Ethen Kantu
Zambia
UWC Red Cross Nordic
Macalester College
Kristiana Karihelieva
Bulgaria
UWC Maastricht
University of Oregon
Maahlyne Karunagama
France
Mahindra UWC India
Earlham College
Timur Kashkarov
Russia
UWC Atlantic College
St. Lawrence University
Marina Kashumba
Tanzania
UWC East Africa
Brown University
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USA
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George Washington University
Jannis Kastner
Germany
UWC Robert Bosch College
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Bright Kata
Uganda
UWC Costa Rica
Wartburg College
Matthew Katamba
Uganda
UWC East Africa
Earlham College
Shinsaku Kataoka
Japan
Li Po Chun UWC
Amherst College
Mariam Katsadze
Georgia
UWC Dilijan
University of Chicago
Bryan Katuari
Indonesia
UWC South East Asia
Lewis & Clark College
Hannah Khambule
Netherlands
Mahindra UWC India
University of Virginia
Ari Kazantceva
Russia
UWC USA
Lake Forest College
Emmohous Kebede
Ethiopia
UWC East Africa
Lake Forest College
Carolyn Kelly
USA
UWC South East Asia
Sarah Lawrence College
Pavel Kerkov
Slovenia
UWC in Mostar
Lewis & Clark College
Bryan Katuari
Indonesia
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Lewis & Clark College
Hannah Khambule
Netherlands
Mahindra UWC India
Trinity College
Ani Kharaityan
Armenia
UWC Dilijan
St. Olaf College
Swkriti Kharel
Nepal
UWC Dilijan
Middlebury College
Anna Khuzhenko
Russia
UWC Robert Bosch College
Lewis & Clark College
Azeza Khudreda
UWC East Africa
St. Olaf College
Khongorzul Khuziyava
Mongolia
UWC USA
Case Western Reserve University
Petter Kiama
Tanzania
UWC East Africa
Tufts University
Juliana Kidde
Uganda
Waterford Kamhlaba UWCISA
St. Olaf College
Kyung Won Kim Koh
Guatemala
Li Po Chun UWC
Case Western Reserve University
Ju Han Kim
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
University of Chicago
Kiboom Kim
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
Tufts University
Min Soo Kim
Republic of Korea
UWC South East Asia
University of Chicago
Alesis Kituka
Ukraine
UWC East Africa
University of Oklahoma
UNIVING THE WORLD

Marlowe College

Norway

Mats Kjelle-Skjelbred

African Scholars Program

Class of 2026

Class of 2026

PRESIDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES

“Far more than 20 years, Washington and Lee University
has benefitted significantly from the Davis United World
College Scholars Program. From providing strategies
to recruit exceptional international students to supporting
the cost of admitted scholars’ attendance, the program
advances our mission to educate talented students from
all backgrounds and prepare them for lives of personal,
professional, and civic success. Our university benefits
most from the scholars themselves, who contribute
talents and perspectives to campus that enrich the
educational experience for all.

‘We trust our students and give them great
responsibility. Davis UWC Scholars become strong
threads in the fabric of our campus, serving as leaders
of 2027, and we remain grateful for our valuable
partnership with the Davis United World College.

WILL DUDLEY, PRESIDENT
Washington and Lee University

Davis United World College Scholars Program

Class of 2026

Class of 2026
Presidents' Perspectives

"As we work to prepare our students for a world of constant change and complex challenges that reach beyond borders, Whitman College is pleased to once again welcome a record number of Davis UWC Scholars to our campus. Our Davis UWC Scholar cohort is more than 100 strong this year, including 35 first-year students! A campus community that reflects many varied backgrounds and worldviews is a vital part of a rigorous liberal-arts education. Each new Davis UWC Scholar adds to the educational and cultural richness of our learning community, and we are better off for their presence. We look forward to welcoming many more Davis UWC Scholars from around the globe in the years to come."

SARAH BOLTON, PRESIDENT
Whitman College

Class of 2026

Davis United World College Scholars Program
Addressing the Complexities of Improving Public Health

“...I initially wanted to become a physician,” writes Francis Poitier (Bahamas, Pearson College UWC, University of Richmond ’14), “but it was at UR where I got my first taste of public health, and that helped me realize that I can make a broad impact.”

Pursuing that impact, he earned a master’s degree and a PhD in international public health from the University of Leeds in the UK, where he became a postgraduate researcher focusing on gender and health in small island developing nations. His doctoral project used an intersectional approach to examine the persistence of obesity in his home nation — and that led to his current role as a teaching fellow in international health at the University of Leeds.

Francis is working with the World Health Organization to develop a planning tool for maternal, newborn and adolescent health. Pursuing that impact, he earned a master’s degree and a PhD in International Public Health from the University of Leeds in the UK, where he initially wanted to become a physician. However, at the University of Richmond in the USA, where he earned a bachelor’s degree, he discovered his passion for public health and decided to pursue a career in the field. His doctoral project focused on understanding the persistence of obesity in his home nation, which led to his current role as a teaching fellow in international health at the University of Leeds.

In his research, Francis examines the intersection of factors that contribute to obesity, including health policies, environmental factors, and social determinants of health. He believes that by understanding these factors, we can develop more effective interventions that focus on building community and student support within the PhD student cohort at his university’s School of Medicine.

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Addressing the Complexities of Improving Public Health

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
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<td>Yiyang Sun</td>
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**PRESIDENTS’ PERSPECTIVES**

“Case Western Reserve’s entire campus benefits from our partnership with the Davis United World College Scholars Program. These young people bring unique global perspectives, exceptional academic preparation, and deep appreciation for inclusive excellence. Their commitment to engaging broadly enriches the experiences of all of our students, enhancing their understanding of other cultures and the common humanity we all share.”

ERIC W. KALER, PRESIDENT
Case Western Reserve University

Crystal globe ceremony at Randolph-Macon College.
Melvin Osei Opoku ’26 (Ghana, UWC-USA) was selected by UF as an Emerging Scholar. By his second semester, in Professor Jeffrey Rudolf’s chemistry lab, he was investigating how certain bacteria can produce organic chemicals called terpenoids.

“Most terpenoids are derived from plants, just a fraction from bacteria,” Melvin explains. “My research focused on functionally characterizing predicted terpene syntheses (Ts) and the terpene products they make. The characterization of bacterial Ts will advance the fields of natural products, terpene enzymology and terpene utilization.”

With a scholarship from the American Society of Pharmacognosy, Melvin continued his research last summer, after which he presented his findings at the society’s annual conference and via an ASP webinar. In the fall, he joined Prof. Ayagbo Kundu’s Brain Mapping Laboratory, “determined to align my research and career aspirations in neural engineering. “Patients with Tourette syndrome get brain-computer interfaces (brain chips) surgically implanted,” Melvin said. “My work is to analyze the brain signals and create an algorithm to automatically detect when the patient is about to experience a tic. Results from my research can help prevent motor and vocal tics in patients.”

He served this year as director of international student affairs with UF Student Government — and he was the only student of color and international student chosen as a Fellow of UF’s Hamilton Society, which promotes deep learning about the Western intellectual tradition. “I am proud to represent my country and the entire international community during our meetings,” Melvin noted. “I offer a unique perspective.”

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Yona Tsetlin
Singapore
UWC South East Asia
Concordia College

Muhammad Hasnain Zaravar
Pakistan
UWC South East Asia
University of the Punjab

Erika Zutter
Canada
SFU

Wesley Zwaan
UWM

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Davis United World College Scholars Program

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Uniting the World

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Davis United World College Scholars Program

Class of 2026
Davis United World College Scholars Program
The Dynamic Days of an Academic Grantwriter

After college, Karen Kemirembe (Uganda, UWC of the Atlantic, Wellesley ’12) earned a master’s and a PhD in entomology from Penn State, graduating with her doctorate in summer 2020 soon after she and her husband, Troy Carl, had their first daughter. At that point, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, “I found an online job doing impactful remote work,” she writes — and that led to a new job, writing grants for nonprofits.

“I could write grants from anywhere, and if the projects were funded, the nonprofit recipients benefited greatly,” Karen says. Now the parent of two girls, Alina and Inkeri Carl, she is assistant director in Penn State’s Office of Foundation Relations, where she continues to focus on grantwriting.

“Because she serves all of Penn State, no day is the same,” the university reports “She works on proposals spanning nursing school scholarships, cancer diagnostics and maintaining space telescopes,” collaborating with faculty members as they seek funding from beyond the customary government sources.

“I like the work I am doing because it is dynamic,” Karen writes “It involves helping stakeholders to meet their funding needs for different projects, understanding and keeping track of different funding priorities of grantmaking organizations, and helping to tailor future grant applications towards meeting both the organizations’ and communities’ needs while taking emerging global trends into consideration.”

In autumn 2022, Karen and her family hosted a Ukrainian family through the U.S. Uniting for Ukraine Program, helping the family to become financially independent and establish their own home within three months.

Karen Kemirembe and her family, from left: Inkeri Carl, Troy Carl, Alina Carl and Karen.
“In an era marked by uncertainty and shifting global dynamics, the need for cross-cultural understanding is paramount. What better way to nurture future leaders than to bring them together during their formative years, fostering shared experiences and intellectual growth? Davis UWC Scholars take this intercultural setting instantly, but they stand out for their independent spirit that sets them apart. Their ease with diversity and change and their willingness to seize opportunities inspire their peers. This mindset extends beyond the classroom, sparking introspection and inviting consideration of alternative perspectives.”

“The Davis UWC Scholars’ presence enriches our campuses and classroom community, embodying the ideals we hold dear at Pomona College. Their presence amplifies the essence of higher education as a transformative journey that bridges and embraces difference. We are honored to have the opportunity to educate future leaders to face the challenges of our global future together. Together, we can empower tomorrow’s leaders to think boldly and act decisively in a fragile and interconnected world.”

G. GABRIELLE STARR, PRESIDENT
Pomona College
our lens and enable us to tackle big ideas and challenges from all corners of a diverse and global university.

Together, we share a common language that is helping us build a shared vision — we are preparing the global leaders of tomorrow and equipping them with the skills to thrive during a period of rapid disruption and change in our world.”
Researching for Solutions to Complex Diseases

In her first year at the University of Oklahoma, Aylin Ak ’24 (Germany, UWC in Mostar) learned that her grandfather had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. She became passionate, she writes, about “research that improves human health by discovering actionable solutions to complicated diseases.”

She joined the OU Visual Neuroscience Laboratory, where she’s now undergraduate research coordinator. “Collaborating with OUNL’s partner laboratory, the Brain and Biomarker Laboratory led by Dr. Lauren Ehnhri, I immersed myself in the study of misophonia — a condition in which one or more specific auditory stimuli cause an extreme emotional response. My investigation focused on the neural representation of auditory stimuli in individuals with misophonia and subthreshold autidic phenotypes,” utilized by electroencephalography for a comprehensive investigation.

“I presented the project at the 2023 Society for Neuroscience Conference, the world’s largest organization of scientists and physicians devoted to understanding the brain and the nervous system.” She also presented at conferences hosted by Harvard, Yale and the Vision Sciences Society.

“I have been involved as a board member at the OU Honors Undergraduate Research Journal, in which I helped manage the editorial process,” Aylin adds. “Moreover, I was the service-learning chair for the OU MEDLIFE chapter. MEDLIFE is a national non-profit organization focused on bringing quality change to communities through medicine, education and development. I planned and executed a weeklong educational journey to Peru, fostering community development through volunteer work and medical support.” She is also one of OU’s first UWC grads to join in Greek life, having joined the Delta Gamma sorority.

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Sending STEM Ambassadors into Tanzania’s Schools

With a Davis Projects for Peace grant in the summer after her sophomore year at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Elitumaini “Eli” Swai ’23 (Tanzania, UWC South East Africa) launched a project in her home country that she named Sayanasi Ambassadors. She drew inspiration from WPI’s Engineering Ambassadors program, which sends undergraduates into middle and high schools to be STEM role models.

The first Sayanasi Ambassadors did hands-on teaching activities in primary schools, focused on electrical circuits. When a science teacher at one school mentioned how difficult it was to teach computer-related topics without computers, Eli decided to provide them.

In 2022 Eli used funding from the WPI Women’s Impact Network to purchase iPad tablets for schools, focusing on electrical circuits. When a science teacher at one school mentioned how difficult it was to teach computer-related topics without computers, Eli decided to provide them.

Eli works as a research and development engineer at AM Batteries, a lithium-ion battery electrode manufacturing startup founded by

Eli’s program has expanded. “We have a total of 30 iPads,” she reports, “and the team of PAs at the moment is eight.” However, learning was a challenge. They also conducted sessions with female students on menstrual hygiene, and provided sanitary kits.

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“Bard places tremendous value on the contributions of our Davis United World College Scholars to the intellectual and social life of our campus. Davis UWC Scholars are natural leaders who are distinguished by their intellectual engagement and their commitment to community building and civic participation.

“Davis UWC Scholars are inspired by their United World College experiences to be powerful contributors to campus life at Bard. Our Davis UWC Scholars are leaders across campus, serving in student government, leading clubs like the International Student Organization and Model United Nations, and contributing to the Trustee Leader Scholar program. Bard’s singular student-led civic engagement initiative.

“Bard College’s partnership with the Davis United World College Scholars Program plays a vital role in enriching our shared values, and to identifying opportunities for young people around the globe.”

LEON BOTSTEIN, PRESIDENT

Bard College
Assessing the Effects of Head Trauma on Athletes

The long-term effects of repeated concussions on athletes is a major concern — and working as a researcher investigating the issue at the University of Rochester’s Strong Memorial Hospital has given invaluable experience to Angel-lee Randone (Thailand, UWC Thailand, Rochester ’24). So has the work she has done at the hospital’s Emergency Department, identifying and enrolling patients eligible for a diversity of research projects.

“Interestingly, I am planning to pursue a career in veterinary medicine,” Angel-lee notes. “However, I think that working in the Emergency Department superbly enhanced my social interaction skills in regards to a medical facility.”

Among the work she’s done in the ED, Angel-lee collected nasopharyngeal samples from patients as part of an effort to improve COVID-19 testing. And through the university’s Department of Emergency Medicine, she joined a team led by Dr. Jeffrey Bazarian that has investigated the factors contributing to the concussion-related brain injury known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE.

In her independent research, Angel-lee “explored the impact of repetitive head trauma on 39 distinct brain regions in collegiate football players,” the university reports. At year’s end, she and her collaborators were working to finalize their research data for a paper they planned on submitting to the journal *Neurotrauma*.

“It definitely is very ironic for me to be working on an essentially very American-centric sport as an international student!” Angel-lee writes. “It has given me quite a bit of insight into American culture. I have now gained an interest in football, thanks to my research and a lot of my friends (go Bills!).”

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Angel-lee Randone

Davis United World College Scholars Program
Jake Minnick attending University of Florida’s fall gathering.
Two Rhodes Scholars Aim toward Clean Energy in Africa

Rhodes Scholarships have been awarded to a pair of Davis UWC Scholars, both of whom are African — and both are focused on meeting the challenges of their home continent’s transition to renewable energy.

Beginning this fall at Oxford University, the two Rhodes Scholars will each begin studying for two master’s degrees. Bertha Tobias (Namibia, UWC Changshu China, Claremont McKenna ’24) aims to earn one degree in sustainability, enterprise, and the environment, and another in water science, policy and management. Ayomikun Ayodeji (Nigeria, UWC Adrician, MIT ’22) will work toward degrees in energy systems and global governance and diplomacy.

“Bertha is a force of nature: a strong and capable leader who throws herself into all manner of projects,” writes Brian Davidson, “Ayo has worked hard to develop his vision and express it in ways that will capture the imagination of the broader world,” writes Nancy Kanwisher, co-chair of MIT’s Presidential Committee on Distinguished Fellowships. “It is a thrill to see him recognized as a transformative leader in Namibia and Southern Africa.”

Ayodeji (bottom)

Bertha Tobias (top) and Ayomikun Ayodeji

“Is passionate about expanding reliable, affordable and sustainable energy access across the African landscape,” writes Ayo. “At Oxford, I aspire to pursue postgraduate programs that will not only expand my understanding of the technical, political, and societal aspects of power generation, but will also empower me to accelerate the just, zero-carbon transition on the continent.”

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Bertha Tobias (top) and Ayomikun Ayodeji (bottom)
Presidents’ Perspectives

“The Davis UWC Scholars Program’s support strengthens Macalester College immeasurably. In so many ways, Macalester and the Davis UWC Scholars Program are kindred in their missions and values. We share a commitment to academic distinction. We believe deeply in the power of fostering community from difference. We are dedicated to building a more just and peaceful world together. The impact of this partnership is transformative, and — this year and beyond — we look forward to building on this deep and meaningful collaboration.”

DR. SUZANNE M. RIVERA, PRESIDENT
Macalester College

Class of 2027
Jake Mihokian attending the fall gathering of Bates College’s Davis UWC Scholars.
The goals of the Davis United World College Scholars Program — to prepare and educate leaders from around the world, promote cross-cultural understanding, and provide opportunities for international engagement — have never been more vital. To address global challenges like the climate crisis, armed conflicts, increasing polarization, and resource scarcity, we need future leaders who hold international worldviews as foundational components of their lived experiences. With their unique perspectives, leadership skills, and dedication to serve their global communities, Davis UWC Scholars enrich the educational experience for all our students on Yale’s campus.

“I am grateful to the Davis United World College Scholars Program for supporting these exceptional members of our campus community who contribute so much to make Yale University a place of multicultural identity, inclusion, and acceptance. As I begin my transition to return to faculty full-time, I could not be prouder of what we have achieved together, and I am eager to build on this foundation as we work to promote light and truth, knowledge, and understanding at Yale and around the globe.”

PETER SALOVERY ’86 P.D. PRESIDENT Yale University
Applying to Become a Partner School

The Davis UWC Scholars Program reviews requests on an annual basis from colleges and universities interested in becoming partner schools. To be considered, a letter of request from the institution’s president should be submitted, explaining in detail why their school would be a good candidate for the program. An important prerequisite for a candidate school is to have already made recruiting trips to several of the UWCs (whether in person or virtually), have a proven track record of successfully recruiting and matriculating graduates from United World College schools at the time of application, and are committed to meeting full demonstrated need-based aid for all admitted UWC graduates. It’s essential that applicant schools be in alignment each year with the Davis UWC Scholars Program’s key goal of the internationalization of the U.S. undergraduate experience by building clusters of globally aware UWC graduates on their domestic campuses (offshore campuses and affiliates are ineligible). Letters may be submitted at any time during the academic year, but no later than May 31, as decisions are finalized by August each year.

The Davis UWC Scholars Program makes grants to institutions only—not to individual schools. To be considered, a letter of request must be submitted expressing interest in becoming a partner school. Philanthropists who want to help bring the world to U.S. campuses—especially their own alma mater—are invited to become a part of the Davis UWC Scholars Program. Philanthropist Shelby Davis created the program 24 years ago, and since then it has grown to become the world’s largest international scholarship program for undergraduate study.

One hundred American colleges and universities have been selected to partner with this major philanthropic investment to transform American campuses by providing scholarships to students from more than 164 countries to attend these schools for their undergraduate degrees.

The scholarships are awarded to students who are proven winners. As 15- or 16-year-olds, they won national competitions in their home countries that allowed them to complete their last two years of high school at one of the premier United World College schools. They have demonstrated their leadership, they are informed and engaged in world issues, and they have been admitted to some of the finest institutions of higher learning in the U.S. Everyone at these campuses—students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community—benefits from this exposure and the global networking that will inevitably link our country’s future leaders with those of many other nationalities.

The Davis United World College Scholars Program is a genuine partnership—Davis philanthropy provides need-based aid for up to four years of undergraduate study to each of the partner schools. Grant funds are awarded to our partner schools in support of their financial aid packages for individual students and never in direct support of particular beneficiaries. As partner schools are expected to meet each of their scholars’ full demonstrated need, these scholarship packages are often quite substantial—making your additional philanthropy most welcome.

Other philanthropists have already chosen to participate. They have invested in a proven and exciting global program by co-funding a portion of these scholars at their alma maters or at other partner schools of particular interest to them. This opportunity exists for you as well. Share a naming opportunity for a scholar and their four-year undergraduate degree.

Your philanthropy, in concert with Davis philanthropy and your favorite school, will help create a three-way partnership for a better world.

For more information, please visit www.davisUWCScholars.org.