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Ambassador NEWSLETTER 2017





A Letter From Yumi

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Above, from left to right: María Gabriela Huertas Díaz, Amy Paolillo, Yumi Kuwana, Mr. Hideki Matsui, Liz Losch and Kara Dove during the Champion a Champion Breakfast in May, which launched the collaboration between GCI and Matsui 55 Baseball Foundation to help youth around the world identify and follow their passion.

Dear Ambassadors,

Happy holidays from GCI! We hope 2017 has been as fantastic a year for you as it has been for us. Since 2012, our community has grown and so has our reach around the world. This year, the GCI team traveled all over the world sharing our message and program with prospective applicants and supporters.

We started the year in New Hampshire visiting our Founding Partner School Phillips Exeter Academy and collaborating with our faculty to finalize the curriculum for the Summit 2017. We followed with trips to California and Brazil, where I had the honor of delivering the keynote speech at Ambassador 2015 Tomas' graduation at the Escola Americana do Rio de Janeiro.

In July, we hosted the fourth annual Global Citizens Youth Summit. Make sure you turn to page 4 to meet the new 28 Ambassadors and see what wonderful things transpired during this year's Summit! In September, we visited Japan and India. In November, our Chief Operating Officer Liz Losch visited the United Kingdom and our Senior Associate María Gabriela traveled to Washington DC to host the first ever GCI Regional Reunion.

This December, Liz visited our friends in Hawai'i, while our Director of Programs and Operations Kara Dove and I visited Tokyo to lay the foundation for the launch of the 2019 Summit in Japan. Our expanding global reach is supporting us as we continue to empower young global citizens from all over the world, such as yourselves, as lifelong leaders of positive change.

In this spirit, we are excited to share our program as the "GCI Fellowship," where the nine-day Summit and nine-month Mentorship work in tandem to support our mission. We now call Scholars "Fellows," and once they launch their Global Service Projects, they become GCI Ambassadors and lifelong members of GCI's community of global leaders.

As we look forward to more wonderful things coming our way in 2018, let's continue to stay in touch. We love hearing about your accomplishments and are always looking to support you on your journey as a global citizen.

Sincerely yours,


Yumi Kuwana
Founder and President

The DC Reunion



When five Ambassadors '16 joined two other Ambassadors '14 as students in the United State's capital city earlier this year, the GCI team knew it was high time for a reunion and that Washington DC was the perfect place to host it.

On November 16-17, GCI hosted its first official Ambassador Reunion in DC. Not only did our Ambassadors at Georgetown and American universities join, Sydnie '15 drove all the way from UPenn to spend the two days with us!



Thursday, November 16, Jawed '14, Sydnie '15, David '16, Philip '16, Sari '16 and Wisdom '16 met María Gabriela, GCI's point-person for Ambassador engagement, at Falafel, Inc. in Georgetown. It was the perfect setting. Falafel, Inc. is "the world's first falafel quick-service food social enterprise." The establishment donates \$1 of every \$10 it earns to organizations providing food to refugees, so as we bonded over delicious falafel and built bridges across different Ambassador cohorts, we were also supporting refugees around the world.



On early Friday morning, Philip, Sydnie, Wisdom and María Gabriela met for breakfast at Fishers Farmers Bakers and enjoyed the beautiful view of the Potomac. Afterwards, they hugged Sydnie goodbye, who had to return to Philadelphia for class.



At noon, Jawed and María Gabriela headed to Halcyon House, home of the Halcyon Incubator. The Halcyon Incubator provides residence, office space, connections and resources to outstanding social entrepreneurs, so naturally, GCI wanted to introduce our Ambassadors. After a warm welcome and tour, Ryan Ross, Halcyon's Program Director, gave a fantastic presentation on how to pitch effectively.

Once the evening arrived it was time to say goodbye. JD '16, Jawed, Philip and Wisdom met at Umay Izakaya in downtown DC for a delicious Japanese dinner before heading home, having made new friends and excited for the next GCI Reunion in 2018. Stay tuned for more details!

2017

Our Newest Members

Abdallah. Catherine. Daniel. Elif. Gianna. Giuliana. Haydn. Ider. Joe. Karla. Kelsey. Kemmia. Konstantina. Kuzivakwashe. Kylie. Mako. Marius. Masa. Matt. Norzin. Obaidullah. Omar. Omowunmi. Paulo. Sydney. Taylor. Trevor. Yue.



The Global Citizens Youth Summit 2017 started with the usual buzz of TAs going and Scholars coming to and from our home for the nine days: the Irving House at Harvard. The excitement grew more palpable the more Scholars arrived and the more we got to know one another.

The day after meeting each other, we found ourselves facing our fears and nerves together at Thompson Island. In less than a day, we grew closer than most people do in months.

The class of 2017 embodies 33 cultural heritages, speaks 30 languages and represents 25 schools in 14 countries. The diversity of this cohort enhanced conversations, both in and out of the classroom, and allowed us to include multiple perspectives into our own way of thinking. Building on Dr. Page's plenary on engagement, Mr. Blackwell's on ethics and Ms. Simmons' on excellence, we explored global issues in ways we could not have anywhere else.

Our speakers, some new and some old friends, shared their words of wisdom and inspired their attentive audience to dream and act bigger. Mr. Benjamin Zander taught us about the art of possibility. Mr. Eugene Korsunskiy coached us through the Design Thinking methodology so we could design implementable and sustainable Glocal Service Projects. Dr. Seung Kim showed us how to identify our calling. Mr. Jack Meyer shared lessons learned through his philanthropic successes and failures. Ms. Angela Jackson took us on a journey of how our definition of a global citizen might change as we grow and meet new worlds and peoples. Professor Joshua Margolis revealed how business can be put to use for the social good. Ms. Barbara O'Brien, through her beautiful voice and music, enabled us to reflect on our time at the Summit and what would come next. And finally, Mr. Jonathan Starr advised us on how we may overcome the unforeseen challenges that we might face in pioneering social change.

In between the academic sessions, Glocal Service Project workshops, speakers and more, we found time to bond as friends and family. We danced but mostly laughed together during BollyX, played beach volleyball at the Harvard Law School, explored downtown Boston and went for ice cream in Harvard Square. We were exhausted, but the fact that we had so little time together energized us to treasure every second spent in each other's company.

We could speak of each day in great detail, but could not communicate the magic of the Summit as well as our Founder and President could. Yumi wrote a wonderful reflection piece that beautifully captured the essence of what transpired during the Summit 2017. We leave you with her words of wisdom and gratitude.

Continue onto the next page to read Yumi's reflection.



"From all corners of the world, 28 scholars came to Cambridge, MA with one united goal: to make the world a better place.

A Buddhist Bhutan girl shared toothpaste and breakfast with a Catholic American girl. Their minds opened like lotus flowers during sun rise.

A boat ride and rolling in nature at Thompson Island built the foundation that we are all human, we all depend on one another.

Exposure to fine literature and ethical dilemmas through a round table discussion led by outstanding faculty, allowed the minds to ponder; the arc of world view grew longer.

The critical question of "How Might We..." permeated the program and became the basis for the GSP (Glocal Service Projects) mindset to think globally and act locally.

A Brazilian boy half soaked, shared a small umbrella with a with Kenyan boy who left his small town for the very first time. Their hearts connected as though they were childhood buddies.

Influential leaders in science, music and business shared their journey in life. Their words added to knowledge, prompted self-reflection, seeded the room with wisdom.

Ideas percolated, service projects crystallized, plans for the future took shape. Strong bonds formed. It felt like a family; it is a family! The GCI family.

The celebratory dinner culminated the nine days. Souls were touched at the core, hearts became one and minds were transformed magically producing sparkles in their eyes.

Buds were ready to burst as Scholars went home to launch as agents of change. A pebble slid down the shingle, into the ocean, the ripple effect of positive change commenced around the globe.

This was the Global Citizens Youth Summit 2017!"

- Yumi Kuwana



2016

Abigail. Abokor. Anwaar. Audrey. Bella. Bushra. David. Edward. Erica. Erik. Esmatullah. Jenny. JD. Kamel. Lara. Lawrence. Michelle. Molly. Nadine. Nancy. Philip. Robin. Roland. Sari. Sohini. Tomás. Wei Yang. Wisdom.



Philip United States

At GCI last summer, my passion for journalism drove me to focus on ideas regarding access to journalism—specifically how I could provide the same extensive journalism opportunities afforded to me at Exeter to other boarding schools in the New England area. Over the course of the school year, I reached out to the newspaper editors and advisors at Phillips Andover Academy, Choate Rosemary Hall, and The Lawrenceville School to discuss press independence and resources. Our dialogue resulted in a drafted guideline for securing greater press independence at private boarding schools, ideas on how each of our newspapers can grow its financial resources, and a presentation that took place at Exeter regarding both of these topics.

At the start of this summer, some of my high school friends and I traveled to Spain and Italy after our graduation. This fall, I embarked on a gap year before enrolling in the University of Chicago in the fall of 2018. I secured a political internship working as the press secretary for a South Carolina senator in Washington, D.C., and in the spring, I will be in Hong Kong for an internship in business development. •



Anwar Jordan

This summer I bonded more with the people of my native Jordan through visiting as many sites in the country with friends and family to discover our land's beauty and rich history. Moreover, I visited some of the distant, impoverished areas of Jordan and helped their people as a community service. This fall I started at Northwestern University, met new people and explored new courses and places!

My Glocal Service Project, Reading to Flourish, is running well so far, and I am very glad for its progress. A library has been created in one of the governmental schools who were the first to join and support my project. And now, my goal is to provide every school in Mafrq with a library of books for the young children to read from. I also have heard recent news from the schools, which I am working with, that the Jordanian Ministry of Education is planning to implement a Reading Class for students in grades 1-3! This is very exciting news for me, and I cannot wait to see more readers emerge from Jordan! •



Abigail United States

This summer I worked in a warehouse as a "picker," which meant I picked products we stored in bulk to be shipped out. It wasn't a fancy internship, but I'm doing this for spending money. I'm learned a lot, particularly about the people who do this to support entire families. This has changed my entire perspective on healthcare, especially in light of the latest American GOP healthcare bills.

This fall I started at Jimmy Iovine and Andre Young Academy, a new multi-disciplinary program at the University of Southern California. My major is called "Arts, Technology, and the Business of Innovation." I enrolled in this program after being introduced to design thinking, entrepreneurship, and disruptive innovation at Harvard U.Labs during my time at GCYS 2016. In fact, in order to get into the program, I had to interview before a panel of Iovine and Young administrators and advisors, one of whom had worked at Harvard U.Labs. I could not have been more excited for school!

I am also collaborating with F3M and my close friend and colleague Saria Samakie, also GCYS '16, working with some of his students and continuing to facilitate a partnership between F3M and the GCI club I started at Phillips Exeter Academy this past year. I am working with the club's new board and some recent alumni to find American volunteers for F3M's summer session. I also headed out to California a few weeks in advance of the academic term, so I planned to spend some time working with David Gomez on his project when I got to LA. •



Erik Brazil

I had two main activities this summer:

- First, I gave a keynote speech at a worldwide student volunteer conference for Operation Smile (a worldwide medical NGO), which is hosted around the world yearly in July. This time around, from July 17th to 24th, I both participated alongside 600 other students from over 35 countries in the week-long activities, and also took the podium to deliver a 20-minute address on my personal life story and how it has affected my engagement with the NGO.
- Secondly, I was present at a worldwide yoga summit for Naam Yoga, the yoga venture I'm engaged with, in Tel Aviv, Israel, from July 24th to the 30th. There I gave a 20-minute speech on my work for the NGO, as well as raised another flash fundraiser in a style similar to that which I did in 2016 (that raised nearly USD\$5,000 in 48 hours).

Beyond these two highlights, my whole summer was comprised of academic and extracurricular work, as I endeavored toward the life-changing time period that is senior year of high school.

For this school year, I am juggling my passion projects with curricular demands, which ought to become more challenging than at any previous point in my academic career (especially with college applications). Nonetheless, I committed to several extracurricular engagements, namely:

- I am partaking in six to eight Model United Nations conferences (student conferences that simulate the diplomatic work of the UN) in the academic year, bringing my overall conference count by the time I graduate to approximately 35.
- I plan to revamp several functionalities of my school's Student Council, over which I preside. Primarily, I hope to institute a new, simplified constitution, aimed at streamlining bureaucracy and maximizing anyone's ability to 'get things done', as well as beat our fundraising record set last year at over USD\$10,000.
- Finally, I have several exciting ideas concerning my Glocal Service Project, IdeasLux, which I hope to implement sometime in the academic year. In terms of activity and engagement, as a baseline, I will participate in another two or three food catering events throughout the year.

My Glocal Service Project, IdeasLux, has grown intrepidly this last year, and I am excited to see in which direction it will go. The project's key mission objective, that of providing both monetary aid as well as awareness to select medical NGO's, has been methodically tackled via partnerships with both Operation Smile, a renowned worldwide NGO, and Naam Yoga, a yoga venture in Los Angeles. Unexpected and impactful fundraising campaigns have involved selling pens in bulk for Naam Yoga and creating a catering service atop a bicycle for Operation Smile. The project has succeeded in raising significant funds and fostering deep awareness for each of the companies.

The project's supplementary pillar, that of inspiring others into action, has also been a masterful success. By being featured in over 5 different print and online local news publications, I have disseminated knowledge that it is in anyone's power to cause positive change in their community. This was taken a step further when I was invited to be a keynote speaker in the yearly summit for both Operation Smile and Naam Yoga, which provides me with a unique platform to inspire others.

The project's success has also made me one of the 5 yearly recipients of the Association of American Schools in South America Global Citizen award, which includes a USD\$1,000 stipend for investment.

In my engagement with other extracurricular duties, I would like to highlight that I coordinated the Student Council in my school in raising a record amount of money in December 2016 (over USD\$10,000) for its signature event, and a thank-you barbecue for the school workers. This hefty sum allowed us to plan a memorable event, distribute basic care packages with a full turkey to each one, and raffle 15 large domestic appliances. •

2015

Abdirahim. Alvin. Anna. Aziza. David. Eliza. Fabrice. Falih. Henry. Hidehiko. Jessica. Kevin. Laurel. Mako. Muslima. Nestor. Nuhamin. Patricia. Shinnosuke. Sydnie. Takunda. Tomas. Whitney. Yumeka.



Laurel **United States**

This summer I worked with a UPenn professor and his crew on a documentary that is in conjunction with FilmAid International. I did research and prep in NYC and then traveled down to Kakuma, Kenya to visit the refugee camp there and speak with the locals. There, the crew and I filmed a documentary for FilmAid and the UN that speaks about the life of a refugee. I also helped create Virtual Reality projects on life in the camp. As a Women Studies and Cinema Studies double-major at UPenn, I strive to continue to learn more about film and find ways to use it as an empowering medium to create change in the world. •

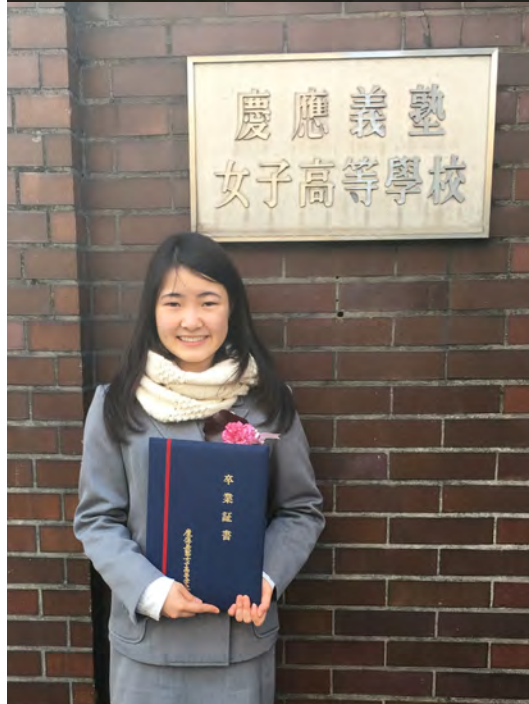


Shinnosuke Japan

This summer, I hosted my friends from the States in my house in Tokyo so that they get the chance to experience Japan. This was our graduation trip, we just graduated from high school in California.

This summer also served as a resting period before I embarked on a gap-year journey traveling around the world taking on multiple STEM-related internships to expand on my interests as a prospective engineer. I am extremely excited about my journey as I will be able to experience different cultures as they pertain to engineering. I am planning to travel to Mumbai, Bangalore, Beijing, Paris, Nairobi, Wellington, Manila, and San Francisco. A good majority of the companies I am working for have the goal to help out the community and to create a change. For example, my first company, WorkIndia, helps blue collar workers find jobs without hiring agents, allowing them to save their money and establish job stability.

Due to scheduling conflicts, I was unable to invite Mr. Boris Dittrich, the advocacy director of Human Rights Watch's LGBTQ Rights Program, to my school last fall. Therefore, although I graduated, I am inviting him over to the Thatcher School again, as he expressed interest in wanting to further push for progress on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. I am working with the Thatcher Human Rights Coalition, a group that I was formerly the head of, to make this plan a reality. It would be incredible for the community to be able to learn about Mr. Dittrich's remarkable background and learn of actions they can take to combat injustice against the rights of LGBTQ people around the world. •



*Above, Shinnosuke with friends.
Below, Mako after her high school graduation ceremony.*



Mako Japan

In the beginning of August, I visited Stanford University to do a short presentation and receive an award as one of the top two students to finish the Fall 2016 Stanford e-Japan Program. Then I went on a short family trip to San Francisco and Yosemite National Park. For most of the summer, I studied for the Japanese bar exams as well as working part time at a family restaurant.

This Fall, I began my studies at Keio University Faculty of Law. Also, I am currently a mentor for my junior from high school's school festival community, frequently answering questions and giving pieces of advice from what I learned in the previous year. •



Muslima Tajikistan

I had a couple of plans for the summer, including learning how to drive, mastering the art of stitching and sewing, reading books, improving my artistic skills and teaching a couple of young girls English Language. Some of the books that I planned to read are deep philosophical novels that expand the thinking of a person, including; *Forty Rules of Love* by Elif Shafak, *The Architect's Apprentice*, *Myortvie Dushi* by Gogol, *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari* etc. I intended to improve my artistic skills not only because it's my passion, but also because I am going to pursue Architecture at University of Toronto and it is vital for me to be able to express myself artistically. Lastly, I am currently working with a few young girls, here in Tajikistan, to improve their English and artistic skills. I taught them about some of the principles that I have learned in my life having lived far away from home, in Kenya. Their English is improving day by day.

I started my first year of university this fall at University of Toronto and plan to settle and find my way around university as well as learn how to coexist in my new environment and make new friends. My main plans include building meaningful relationships with my professors, finding opportunities for internships in my field and reading books related to architecture.

Aside from my academics, I plan to use my time to raise awareness about poverty in LEDCs including Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Kenya, Tanzania and a few other African countries. I want to create a group of people interested in poverty alleviation and try to improve the quality of life for the poor people living in Canada around us.

Lastly, I want to continue practicing the traditional Tajik flute, so that I am not only able to showcase my culture to other people, but also preserve it and have the ability to pass it on to the next generation.

Before leaving Mombasa for university, I gave an opportunity to a couple of YOUTheory members to do the president of the club's job for 3 weeks, which helped me to choose the next president. His name is Masrur Rahimjonov and he is now in his last year of high school. I left the group with the vision, mission and a big to do list for next academic year. Now, I can only hope that YOUTheory will be continued in the correct manner. ●

Below left, Zuhail and Usnik, Muslima's students, reading Snow White. Below right, Nuhamin with her family.



Nuhamin Ethiopia

This summer, I finished my freshman year in Minerva and have moved to LA to meet my family there and explore the city. I prepared for my sophomore year in Seoul and Hyderabad by reading about the cultures and learning the basic language skills. I'm very excited to be visiting the cities and plan on co-creating a blog with a fellow classmate to write about the different places and cultures. I'm also part of a nonprofit startup called Rural Empowerment and Development Innovations to help re-launch its services of business consulting and data collection for rural women entrepreneurs in Kenya and hope to apply what I learn from majoring in economics and minoring in business next year. ●





Patricia Belgium

During the summer, I worked at the European Parliament as a Policy Advisor to Depute Minister Louis Michel (former European Commissioner and Minister of Foreign Affairs for Belgium, and father of the current Prime Minister of Belgium). I concentrated on Committees LIBE (Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs) and ENVI (Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety). I took part actively in committee conferences: wrote reports, fact notes, MEP vote explanations; answered MEP's emails of inquiry about the EU; and translated documents. My two-month internship cumulated in the plenary session in Strasbourg.

In addition, I traveled throughout Europe during the summer. I went to London and Munich for long weekends to further discover and explore the metropolitan cities. I visited Portofino with my family to enjoy some cultural activities and recharge my batteries. Finally, I ended my summer holiday in Corsica with my family and friends.

I am continuing my Policy Analysis and Management studies at Cornell University. After my summer internship at the European Parliament, I discovered a real passion for environment and legislation. Therefore, I will be concentrating on environmental policy.

As extracurricular activities, I am also the undergraduate student representative of the Dean's Undergraduate Advisory Council. I act as the liaison between the student population and the Human Ecology Dean. I am responsible for making recommendations to the faculty on the educational philosophy of the college and the policies necessary and desirable for implementing that philosophy. We review and make recommendations on college requirements, department curricula, new courses, college-wide educational programs and courses. In addition, I am a news journalist for The Daily Sun (Cornell's Independent Student Newspaper). I am responsible for writing an article per week, editing my peers' articles, and attending biweekly meetings.

I am also running a half marathon in support of the charity my sorority supports, Rock the Casa. In addition, I am an active member of the Vegan Society at Cornell. The Cornell Vegan Society strives to bring the connection between diet and ethics, health, and the environment into public consciousness. Through community outreach and volunteer work, we strive to implement positive and sustainable change at Cornell and beyond. •



Aziza Afghanistan

This summer I took summer classes in Easton, Massachusetts. I am currently going to college in Pennsylvania and haven't done anything for my project yet. •

Below, Patricia at the European Parliament.



parlamentarium
Strasbourg

Greetings from the
European Parliament!





Hidehiko
Japan

This August I participated in a joint summer program between The University of Tokyo and Seoul National University. Japanese students including me stayed in Seoul during the second half of the 20-Day program, after we hosted Korean students in Tokyo during the first half of it. I was very much looking forward to receiving lectures from leading researchers of both universities and having academic discussions with Korean students. I also planned to work as an intern at the Japan Ministry of Defense in late August since I have a strong interest in national defense. I hope I can learn lots of things during this summer vacation.

I am planning to start practicing Kyudo, a Japanese traditional martial art of longbow archery, as I have been interested in it since I was a junior high school student. In the upcoming year, I would like to start studying a third foreign language, probably Korean or French, alongside studying Chinese which is my second foreign language.

Unfortunately, my Glocal Service Project hasn't made much progress, but now I am planning to work as a volunteer for a NPO which gives educational support to students from low income families. I believe this action will be an important step toward the realization of my project. ●



Nestor
Spain

This summer, I worked at a Falmouth Harbor Sailing School as a racing instructor for younger kids. This fall I returned to Stanford for my sophomore year and pursue my interests in Engineering, Computer Science and English. My Global Service Project was too hard to orchestrate from across the globe as it was based in the UK, and I live in California. Although I do stay involved in the community by helping out at community centers near Palo Alto through programs offered at my University. It mostly consists of sorting food for food banks to later collect and distribute. ●

Below left, Yumeka, Mako, Hidehiko and Luke, the Summit's photographer, reunited in Tokyo. Below right, Hidehiko at the debate contest in Sophia University.





Anna China

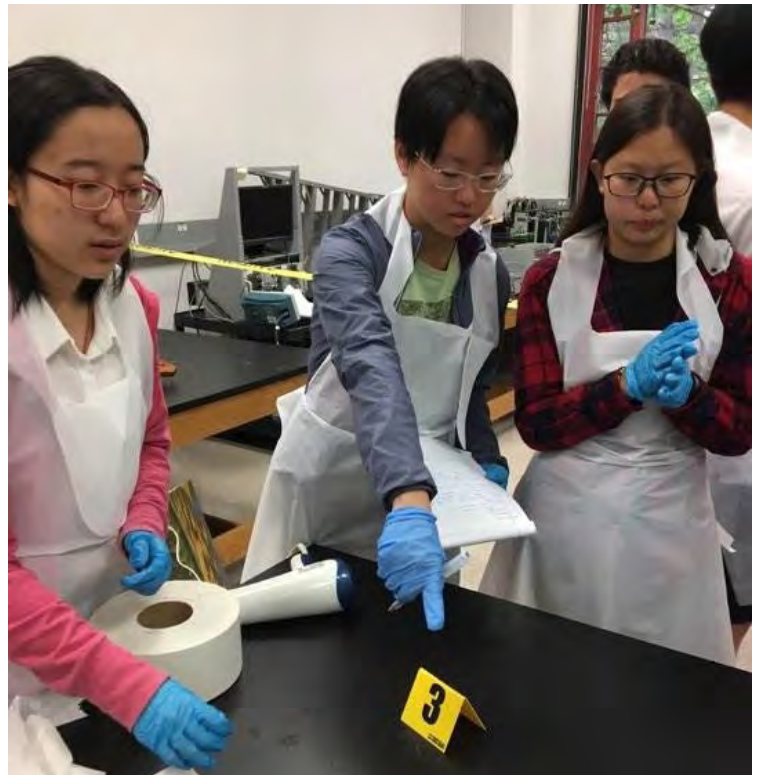
This summer I took a two-week Forensic Physics course in the University of Michigan Math and Science Scholars program. In my free time, I continued to practice playing the piano, take ballet and golf lessons, and run several times a week. I also prepared for my college applications in the fall. I am interested in studying neuroscience.

In terms of education, I am a Chinese tutor at school. I am also quite involved with things related to our environment in my community. This summer, I volunteered at a local animal shelter in Monterey, CA and a summer camp related to organic garden and culinary skills. I also helped with beach-cleaning in Shenzhen, China. •



Henry United States

This summer, I worked at an early stage private investor called Loeb.NYC. This fall, I will be attending Wharton at UPenn. I've been working to help students at charter schools learn about public speaking and foreign affairs through a program called United Classrooms. •



Above, Anna in the Forensic Physics course at the University of Michigan's advanced Physics lab.



Alvin Hong Kong

During this break between my first and second year in university, I focused on enriching my legal studies by engaging in internships with two lawyers. I've been self-learning Japanese as well - a recent trip to Hiroshima has increased my speed in reading Japanese! Now if only I could understand what they mean instead of merely reading it out loud... Mako even acted as a virtual tour guide, recommending the best attractions and food in the city! Reconnecting with a fellow GCI scholar in this way was special, to say the least.

Speaking of tour guides, our GCI photographer, Luke, came to Hong Kong during his island-hopping trip this summer. He reached out to me and a 2016 GCI scholar, Jenny, asking if we could show him around. Being the friendly locals that we are (surely we are?), we became tour guides for half a day. Showing someone around the city I know and love was a truly amazing experience.

In the coming year, I'm going to contribute to the law student community as the vice president of a society dedicated to advocacy and mootng. The society holds moot competitions (something similar to mock trials) throughout the year, providing law students with opportunities to brush up their advocacy skills. It's going to be a hectic, yet undoubtedly fulfilling, year ahead. •



Sydnie United States

This summer I was home in Raleigh, NC interning at International Focus. The nonprofit has many exchange programs through the US Dept. of State to bring international visitors to the area to study certain topics like education or agriculture. Then, I went to China for a month! I saw a family friend, aunt and uncle and their families in Changsha and also visited Beijing and Shanghai. In August I flew to Aachen, Germany to visit my best friend from high school who is going to medical school there. Throughout the summer I took several road trips to visit friends from college as well as worked part-time at a tacos restaurant.

My first semester of sophomore year started at Swarthmore in September! I'm very excited about the courses I'm taking. I'm also hoping to volunteer in Philly again and maybe design some more t-shirts.

My glocal project was passed down to the seniors of last year. This past year has proven to be a struggle at my high school for many students who are trying to do "workshopping," mostly because of a rise in closed-mindedness and an apathy that resulted from the election. However, I am still in touch with the students who were in my group while I was in high school and available as a resource to them as they try to start various workshops for other students. •

Below left, Sydnie with a friend in Atlanta during one of her roadtrips. Below right, Sydnie and her brother in Boston.





Kevin United States

This summer (around mid-May) I flew to Taiwan with my model UN team to help host a conference for local Taiwanese high-schoolers. It was my first time in Taiwan, and I absolutely fell in love. Everything is cheap, the food is delicious, and the boba is to die for. Best of all, the kids we worked with were extremely appreciative of our efforts and it was clear that our conference had impacted them in a positive manner. I led the Arab League committee, and the issues we discussed were combating ISIS and the Syrian refugee crisis. It's funny to think that without GCI I probably wouldn't have involved myself in the MUN program at my college since Alex Small was the one who really encouraged me to apply to be a part of the Yale Model UN Taiwan team.

After that, I flew to Thailand and met up with Hiro (Yumi's son) and two other buddies from high school. We spent a couple days fooling around in Bangkok before heading to Ko Phang-an—just an absolute blast.

Once I finished my adventures in Asia, I came home, switched out my luggage, then headed to Salta, Argentina for my six-week marketing and business administration internship. I worked at a foundation that helps hemophiliacs in the region, and the director of the foundation is an absolute rockstar. It was interesting to learn what the conditions are to make an NGO continuously successful. You have to continuously show your impact and convince others that your work has value. It's not as tangible as seeing profits in a typical business, and there's lot more room for interpretation and subjectivity.

The greatest thing that happened to me at Yale during my freshman year was becoming a part of the breakdance team. This year I'm the president – not because I'm the best dancer but because I do all the paperwork – haha! This summer I worked on organizing a huge block party which will feature jazz, rap, performances from different hip hop groups on campus as well as an exhibition battle between the Yale and Princeton's breakdance teams. It's really more of a showcase than a party, but we call it a party so more people will show up. I'll also be returning to Taiwan again next spring. Because the conference is such an enormous event, we spend the entire year planning it. My position will be a bit higher than last year's and I'm excited to work with the new team.

I was surprised to learn that younger students at my school continued the "We All Bleed Red" art exhibit (my Glocal Service Project) after I graduated. There's sort of a club now, and the people in it are planning on making the showcase an annual event. I was so happy and proud when I learned of this, but then again, none of this would have happened if Yumi hadn't encouraged me to apply for GCI two years ago. You know Yumi – the center of all our ripples. •

Below top, Kevin with his high school friends on Kao Sang Road in Bangkok, Thailand. Below middle, Kevin "cheesing by a cactus" during a weekend excursion to Salinas Grandes, Argentina, Below bottom, Kevin atop Cerro San Bernardo in Salta, Argentina.



This summer, I spent the first two weeks conducting the preliminary phase of my undergraduate research track on the self-designed topic of "Ethical Innovation in Africa's Extractive Industry". The capstone of this research will be my senior thesis for my political science major. Additionally, I took part in a study abroad intensive summer French course in Tours, France for one month. Immersion in the French language and culture for about 5 weeks has been a great highlight in my life.

Furthermore, I spent the rest of the summer in and around Johannesburg, South Africa advancing the work of my non-profit, Circle of Influence Projects Society. The focus for my team is to establish an administrative framework and to carve out the agenda for the next calendar year. It is exciting that we will have our first ever intern for the organization, who will receive an internship stipend through one of our supporters. By the end of the summer, we aim to have a functional locally-based administrative team of about 5/6 young people who will take on the task of promoting our entrepreneurial curriculum across South Africa. By summer 2018, we aim to have at least 100 additional active projects started by our members. Securing funding and the targeted audience are a top priority for us.

For the fall, academically, I am taking on my sophomore year in college with all my might! I am taking classes that are core to my primary major (BBA in Finance) and spending some time working with my research advisor in analyzing my findings gathered over the course of my summer and designing the next phase.

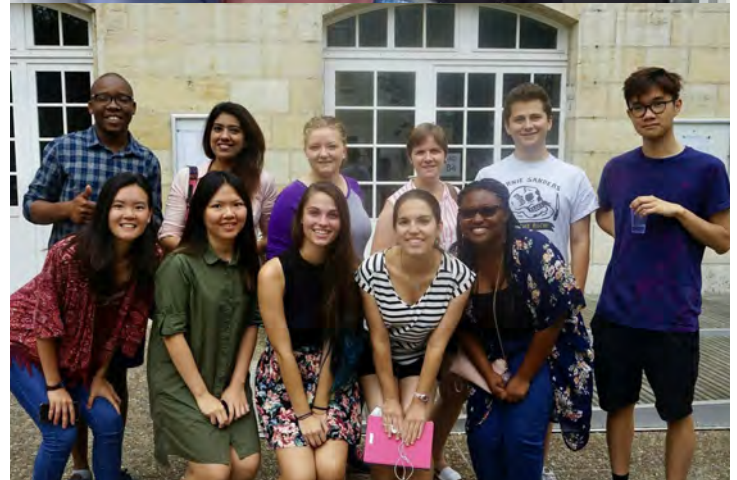
In addition, I am planning to organize a comprehensive fundraising event for a new project within our organization in Zimbabwe. I have agreed to deepen a partnership with a local orphanage based in the city of Bulawayo by co-creating a poultry-raising business to meet the financial needs of the orphanage. We are still in the initial stages of this project; however, I am certain that a serious collective effort is required from my partners and myself in piecing together the fundraiser. As of now, I have a draft idea comprised of hosting a creative dinner or cocktail party where students adapt university staff as their parents for the evening. I am open to feedback and suggestions on this worthwhile endeavor.

I should also mention that I have the pleasure of being a speaker/panelist at Sodexo's 2nd Quality of Life Conference October 16-17, 2017 in London, UK. More details are available here <http://www.qualityoflifeconference.com/home.html>

In addition to the updates I have already shared above, I can add that I am part of the founding team of Future Africa - a regional organization started to reshape the political, economic and social discourse and path of action across the African continent through youth-driven engagement and influence on public office and policy design. The website with more details is www.futureafrica.net. This project takes a lot of my weekend and I have been involved in the project ideation and creation for the past 24 months. My specific role within Future Africa will be heading the Future Africa Fellowship. Here I will be working to roll out a year-long program for aspiring public officers and diplomats to introduce them to diplomacy and equip them with practical opportunities to work with current leaders. ●



Takunda Zimbabwe



Top right, Takunda with Future Africa's founders. Middle right, Takunda with classmates in France. Bottom right, Takunda showcasing CIPS work at a workshop at school.



Yumeka
Japan

Since graduating high school in March, I've been working almost every day at a small private English supporting school for kids, teaching English. The concept of the school I teach at is not to "study English," as many English teaching schools tend to be, but to "use English" through different activities. Although teaching primary school children can sometimes be frustrating and requires patience, I am thrilled to be able to be part of their English-learning process. Since many of the students attend public Japanese schools, they seem to face challenges acquiring English and conversing. This was my major concern about the English curriculum in Japanese public schools, so during GCYS I decided my project to be about passing on more practical English education to the younger generation. Thus, although I have not been able to conduct my own English project, I truly enjoy my current job. Furthermore, I look forward to basing my project from the experience I am gaining.

This fall started college life at Carleton College in Minnesota. Through the liberal arts education, I look forward to exploring various academic areas as Neuroscience, Education, and Sociology and studying the human social behavior which I have always been interested in. After transferring schools eight times, I became fascinated by my flexibility to adapt. I want to study the plasticity of neurons and the human social behavior through Psychology and Neuroscience. I have attended both Japanese public schools and International schools, and noticed how much the school curriculum and the people have influenced me to become who I am today. Thus, my interest reaches to Education and childhood development as well. As a bilingual, I want to understand myself better through courses such as Psychology of Language. Having lived in China, I wonder how Chinese and Japanese people are friendly on an individual level – but hostile on a collective level. I'd like to learn about stereotypes, prejudice, and discriminations from a psychological and biological approach. Thus, I am excited to take an interdisciplinary approach for my interest, and I cannot wait to start college. •

*Right, Abdirahim picking up
Scholars during the Summit 2017.*

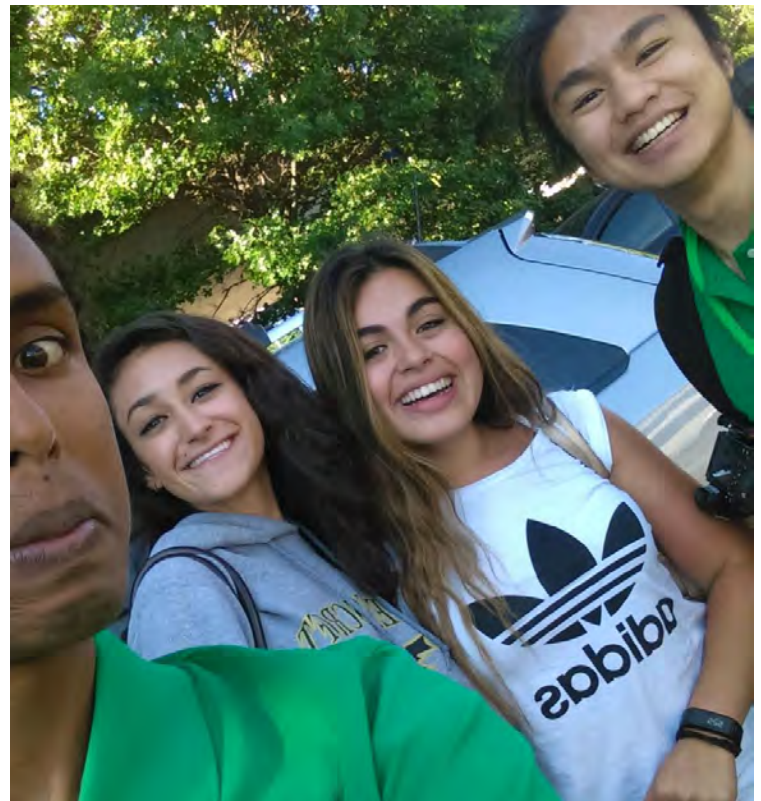


Abdirahim
Somalia

I am working with a professor in the economics department at Brown University to learn more about the refugees in Providence, RI. I also tutored refugee students at a summer camp two days a week. Moreover, I spent ten days at Cambridge as a teacher assistant for GCYS.

My plans for this fall and the upcoming year is to academically do very well and to surpass the expectations for the community service in which I am involved. I also want to make sure that I enjoy myself and do the things that make me happy. For me, next year is a lot about growing and learning more about myself and my surroundings.

The trajectory of my education is in many ways centered around my Glocal Service Project. My love and care for children, whether it is ensuring that they are learning from the best curricula or growing in the healthiest environments, is something that I want to pursue. The work I do outside Brown is a representation of my desire to perfect my Glocal project. •





Fabrice Rwanda

This summer I completed a four-month internship at OpenText AG as a Localization Quality Assurance Specialist. Basically, I did that for the whole summer. This fall, I started my third year in my bachelor's program. For the upcoming year, I'll do my second internship from January until end April. Then for summer 2018 I will be completing my last session of 3rd year and plan to go back to Rwanda for vacation in August.

For my Glocal Service Project, I was not very active due to a condensed schedule because I'm doing a joint honors degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. However, I continued to be socially involved where I work at OpenText in activities such as Clean the Capital, where we do cleaning in Ottawa. ●



David United States

I studied finance and development economics at the London School of Economics until August. Then I served as a TA for GCI! I am now in my sophomore year at Columbia. I am hoping to pursue internships in finance with an interest in sustainable development. I have heard from correspondents back at my high school that the waste recycling project I started has continued. I am encouraged to hear that it has gained traction without my presence. ●

Top right, David as a TA during the Summit 2017 helping his scholars with their Glocal Service Projects. Below left, Fabrice at work at OpenText. Below middle, OpenText's offices. Below right, David's picture of a London street,





Jessica United Kingdom

This summer I took time to volunteer, and also to work. It's been an intense year so I tried to take it a little easier than originally planned.

I'm back at Cambridge for my second year - I'm specialising in politics and social anthropology which I'm very excited about. I volunteer with Food Cycle which is a great charity where food that would be thrown away from local supermarkets is donated, and then made into meals for anyone in the community, usually the homeless. •



Eliza United Kingdom

This past summer I finished my first year at university where I'm reading history and political science in Trinity College Dublin, which has been the most unreal experience! In all honesty, I could wait for college to start up again. I then worked to fund my travels in South East Asia (HK/ Cambodia/Thailand), so life has been absolutely amazing and exceptionally busy. I am now in my second year of college and all the excess that entails. •



Whitney United States

This summer I interned at GCI and got ready to head off to college in the fall. I am attending the University of Pennsylvania and hope to study neuroscience and mathematical economics. I am still volunteering for the non-profit that helped me arrange a food donation run at my school and hope to pass my project down to an underclassman to continue next year. •

*Below, Whitney during GCI's
Intern Pitch Day.*



2014

Abhishek. Jawed. Akihiro. Ala. Asrat. Derek. Eden. Elianne.
Fabiola. Ghada. Heather. Joanne. Juhaku. Jurin. Karishma.
Kristen. Marisa. Mikel. Nhi. Nicholas. Noa. Onyinyechi. Pierre. Sao.



Asrat Ethiopia

This summer I worked as a research assistant in a human physiology lab at Stanford working on a strength conditioning program for female athletes. I also worked as a mentor in a summer high school program here at Stanford. In addition, I worked as a health educator and coordinator in a free clinic through Stanford Medicine. I have changed my interests from computer science to human biology and medicine as well. •

Right, Asrat at Stanford University.





Jawed Afghanistan

This Fall, I went back to school to finish my undergrad. I will be writing two theses, both required– one for my major (international political economy), and the other for my certificate in international development. I'm also waiting to hear back on an internship confirmation (but since it's still pending, I can't disclose that info– I'll keep you posted accordingly). This summer, I interned at an international development consulting firm here in DC (Chemonics International) within their Afghanistan Division. It was a terrific experience.

Another update: every year my high school (THINK Global School) awards one alumni a grant, after a competitive selection process, to come to graduation to give a talk. This year I won the award. I wasn't able to go to Vancouver to deliver the talk in person so we had it filmed in NYC. I'm attaching the link here. •



Karishma Kenya

This summer was quite a game changer for me. I spent the first three weeks in Bangalore, India as part of an intensive theater program. We participated in a wide range of workshops and trained in various classical South Indian art forms including Mohiniyattam, Kathakali and Kalaripayattu. Each experience pushed me out of my comfort zone in such an eye opening way. I am returning in December to continue my training!

I am taking an academic semester this fall and am working on many other extracurricular programs and projects. I am an RA in and on campus residence hall, and I directed and produced the StudentWorks production at NYU Tisch! I also got voted into office as the secretary of the Tisch Undergraduate Student Council, and will be working on Matone de Chiwit during my free time.

I am spent the second half of my summer in Mombasa working on establishing relationships with communities on the ground to carry out my beta testing for Matone de Chiwit. I have submitted a couple of grant applications which I should hear about in the near future to help forward the initiative. •

Below, Karishma during her intensive theater program in Bangalore, India.





Marisa United States

My senior year flew by so fast. It was hard to slow it down but I made sure to make the most of my last year at my high school! I continued my leadership as the president of the Guiding Eyes club where we take care of and engage with dogs that are training to become seeing eye dogs. Last December, I received news that I was accepted into my dream school, Cornell University to study animal science. I graduated this June from Hackley School! I am so grateful and I definitely couldn't have made it this far without all the experiences I have had especially all the lessons I learned at my time at GCI in 2014 as well as the amazing people I got to meet. It is wonderful how I still can connect with my fellow Ambassadors thanks to social media. It makes me so happy to see how far we have all come. Seeing what my other fellow ambassadors have been doing really inspires me to work hard and try my best in anything I pursue. I can't wait to see what the future has in store for us. •

Below, Marisa at Hackley School. Top right, Ala in front of the iconic London Eye. Bottom right, puppies from Marisa's Guiding Eyes club.



Ala Iran

This year I continued my connection with museums, therefore this summer I applied for an international training program in the British museum. Fortunately, I got in! I stayed in London till the 12th of August. The British museum program offered a series of sessions including sessions on collection management, storage and documentation, exhibitions and galleries; conservation and scientific research; national and international loans; learning, audiences and volunteers; fundraising, income generation and commercial programs and museum management.

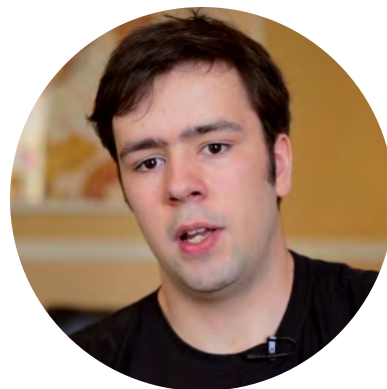
This fall I started my third semester in the University of Tehran studying architecture. I'm looking for ways to introduce my global project in my college, but as you can guess it's not that easy. •





Fabiola
Rwanda

In my last year, I was in Berlin, Germany for the first semester and the last semester I was in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Both cities were unique in their own ways, but I loved Buenos Aires the most--nice weather and very warm people with Latin American vibes. In Berlin, I worked with an online university for refugees called Kiron. I was developing a curriculum that enabled them to easily adapt to online learning and better succeed in their courses hereby enabling them to join German universities in their second year. In Buenos Aires, I volunteered for Telefonica to build houses for low-income families and also worked on a semester-long project with the Ministry of Education to develop an innovative high school curriculum, which I very much enjoyed and enabled me to gain a better understanding of Argentina. I finished school in April, and did an internship in Delaware. The internship was working with a non-profit developing a global youth entrepreneurship program in Wilmington, Delaware. It was very rewarding as I pretty much owned the project and the project got approved for a \$100,000 grant. I then moved back home (haven't been to Rwanda in 2 years now), so it was great seeing family again. I am now working with African Leadership University (a new and very innovative university that I worked for last year in the island of Mauritius and now in Rwanda). I am doing data analysis for them on the student experience with the curriculum. ●



Pierre
France

Having just finished my first three years of post-"bac" education, I joined the *Ecole Normale Supérieure* in Lyon in September, ranking 14th nationwide among my series of exam. It is the most prestigious literary school in the country, which one can only get into through a highly-selective competitive exam (about 2.5% of the people taking the exam actually pass it) - needless to say this was a matter of great joy and feeling of accomplishment.

These three years of intensive studying have been an occasion to reflect on my long-term goals and ambitions. Now that I am a civil servant (as anyone entering the ENS), I am on track to become a teacher. I have wanted this position for a very long time; my major and my personal philosophy will therefore become my life's work. In my attempts to "think global and act local", I have considered how education and philosophical questioning can be the Alpha and Omega of responsible thinking and decision-making.

Hoping it won't remain secluded, as a sort of endeavor for the white-bearded elderly, philosophy should work within an expanded spectrum of influences, taking into account the works and methods of social sciences - sociology, anthropology... This will be my mindset as I try and act (and write) as a global citizen within my own communities and academic environment. ●

104 GCI Ambassadors

2017 2016 2015 2014

Abdallah Al Khawaldh
Catherine Jara
Daniel Sequeira
Elif Sensurucu
Gianna Morano
Giuliana Bertoia
Haydn Robarts
Ilder Bayar
Joe Bridges
Karla Gonzalez
Kelsey Gabriel
Kemmia Ghodrat
Konstantina Christogianni
Kuzivakwashe Mutsvangwa
Kylie Yeung
Mako Ishikawa
Marius Julius Seiryu Yo Schmich
Masa Kawasaki
Matthew Roer
Norzin Dorji
Obaidullah Barakzai
Omar Zaatreh
Omowunmi Awelewa
Paulo Breitman
Sydney Ochieng
Taylor Walshe
Trevor Lwere
Yue Zhuo

Abigail Africa
Abokor Ismael
Anwar Al Husban
Audrey Reyes
Bella DeVaan
Bushra Al-Sou'b
David Gomez
Edward Caffyn-Parsons
Erica Miner
Erik Novak
Esmatullah Zeerak
Jenny Ng
John Hock
Kamel Kamour
Lara Caouki
Lawrence Li
Michelle Tumur
Molly Kalb
Nadine Khayyat
Nancy Wu
Philip Kuhn
Robin Playe
Roland Naijuka
Sari Samakie
Sohini Chakrabarti
Tomas Cortes
Wei Yang Chew
Wisdom Matsuzaki

Abdirahim Mohamed
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Anna Manjun Li
Aziza Hamidi
David Shepley
Eliza Cudmore
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Falih Al-Dulaimi
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Muslima Niyozmamadova
Nestor Cano
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Shinnosuke Taniya
Sydnie Schwarz
Takunda Rodney Ushe
Tomas Salazar
Whitney Elmlinger
Yumeka Hirayama

Abhishek Subba
Ahmad Jawed Sakhi
Akihiro Takigawa
Ala Talebian
Asrat Alemu
Derek Chung
Eden Giese
Elianne Paley
Fabiola Kabera
Ghada Amer
Heather Lam
Joanne Chan
Juhaku Okugawa
Jurin Okugawa
Karishma Bhagani
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