HECKSCHER NEWS

GEOFFREY HOWARTH,
DIRECTOR OF THE HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

GRANTS MANAGER,
ASHLEY DUNN HAS A PURPLE BELT IN JIU JITSU

OUR DIRECTOR OF GRANTMAKING PROGRAMS,
SHELBY ABELE, WELCOMED A NEW BABY GIRL.

MEET OUR NEW RECEPTIONIST & ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, NADJA SERAJ

AUDREY HOWARTH PERFORMING AT THE NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

GISELLE'S NEWS CORNER

HARRY

ODIN

THIS YEAR WE HAVE LOTS TO CELEBRATE. OUR JUNIOR CLASS HEADED TO AN EXCITING SUMMER ABROAD AND ALL THROUGHOUT NEW YORK CITY. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL GLIMPSE, SEVEN OF OUR SCHOLARS ARE TRAVELLING TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND ECUADOR TO DO COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK AND LEARN MORE ABOUT GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.

OUR JUNIORS ARE EXPLORING FIELDS SUCH AS VETERINARY MEDICINE, VARIOUS KINDS OF ENGINEERING, CYBERSECURITY, NEUROSCIENCE, BUSINESS, PHILOSOPHY, FILMMAKING, AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP. THEY WILL ATTEND NYU, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY, AND SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY THIS SUMMER TO EXPAND THEIR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE COLLEGE CAMPUS LIFE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING ABOUT WHAT THEY LEARN THIS SUMMER AS THEY GET READY TO APPLY TO COLLEGE THIS FALL.

THE SENIOR CLASS HELD THEIR GRADUATION ON MAY 23RD, 2023 AT THE HECKSCHER FOUNDATION. IT WAS AN EXCITING DAY CELEBRATING THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF OUR SENIORS. THEY ARE AN ACCOMPLISHED GROUP, WHO WILL BE PURSUING THEIR DREAMS AT COLLEGES SUCH AS BARUCH, COLUMBIA, OSWEGO, WELLESLEY, AND MANY MORE! CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST BELOW. WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT THIS YEAR'S CLASS RECEIVED OVER $600,000 IN FINANCIAL AID, AND THAT MANY OF OUR SCHOLARS HAVE RECEIVED FULL-RIDE AND FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS.

WE WISH OUR SENIORS THE BEST OF LUCK!

123 EAST 70TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10021
MEET OUR GRADUATING CLASS

CLASS OF 2023

ADHURESA UKAJ
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

ARIEL ANDRADE
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

ASHLEY GAMARRA
WELLESLEY COLLEGE

BRIANA ESPINOZA
COLLEGE OF MOUNT ST. VINCENT

BRYAN CALLE
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

CHARLAY SLEDGE
BARUCH COLLEGE

CHEICK DIAKITE
MACAULAY HONORS AT LEHMAN COLLEGE

FATIMA MELGAR
JOHN JAY COLLEGE

GUADALUPE FLORES
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

JARELY JASSO
OSWEGO COLLEGE

JULIO GUILLEN
CITY TECH

LOURAIN GONZALEZ
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

VICTORIA LOPEZ
CITY COLLEGE

ZITTLALI TEPZILA
BARUCH COLLEGE

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BRIANA ESPINOZA, A GLOBAL GLIMPSE AMBASSADOR AND HECKSCHER SCHOLAR GRADUATE, APPEARED IN A CAMPAIGN FOR GLOBAL GLIMPSE ON A BILLBOARD IN TIMES SQUARE.
RISING JUNIORS (CLASS OF 2025) VISITS VASSAR COLLEGE
Look back at the past 5 years in college acceptances

The Heckscher Scholars Class of 2023 received $600,000 in Financial Aid.

95% of the Heckscher Scholars graduate from a four-year college.

Our Scholars attend colleges in major cities like Massachusetts, Boston, New York, Washington D.C.
WE PROUDLY CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HECKSCHER SCHOLAR (CLASS OF 2018 ALUMNI) JOCelyn RENDON PASCUAL, VASSAR COLLEGE CLASS OF 2022, WHO IS THE FIRST IN HER FAMILY TO GRADUATE COLLEGE.

JOCelyn HAS STARTED HER JOB AS AN OPERATIONS ANALYST AT THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON. DURING THE SUMMER OF 2022, SHE WORKED TO PREPARE THE HECKSCHER SCHOLARS FOR THE CHALLENGES THEY MIGHT FACE IN APPLYING TO AND PERSISTING IN COLLEGE.

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Enis Santana (Class of 2022)

Enis is in her spring semester at Stony Brook University majoring in marine sciences and minoring in creative writing. She recently travelled to Albany to advocate to the New York State legislature for more funding for EOP Students and has joined the National Society for Women in Marine Sciences.

Jeffrey Mensah (Class of 2019)

Jeffrey Mensah attends the state university of Oswego in New York and while he first came in as a broadcasting major, he is enjoying studying market trends through technical and fundamental analysis and has decided to major in finance. After graduation, this year he intends to look for job opportunities in the future, being a certified market technician for a company or possibly even becoming his own boss and day trade. He joined several dance teams in college including the African student dance club (Tempo) and the Caribbean student dance club (Spice) and was a director of finance for the Caribbean student association (CSA) and the African American males empowering network (AAEMEN).

Charlene McKenzie (Class of 2012)

Charlene McKenzie is a mom to a beautiful baby girl (7 months old). She finished her master’s degree in special education (Grades 1-6) in December 2022 and is currently working as kindergarten head teacher at the Children's Academy.

Aisha Mann (Class of 2019)

Aisha Mann is wrapping up her last semester at Barnard majoring in computer science. She also dipped her toes in East Asian languages and cultures — loved it so ended up double majoring. She will be working as a software engineer with Bank of America after graduation. She also started swimming lessons.

Tachrina Ahmed (Class of 2011)

Tachrina Ahmed finished her M Ed degree in Education Policy at Columbia a few years ago and is now the director of College Access and Success at Henry Street Settlement. She oversees a two-part program that supports students from their high school to their bachelor’s degree completion. In her leadership role, she is often advocating to find ways to increase scholarship amount for our college-going students. In that advocacy, she still uses her own Heckscher anecdotes to demonstrate how the combination of college access and direct funding makes an enormous difference for underserved youth in NYC.

Ayanna Bailey (Class of 2017)

Ayanna Bailey is a graduate student at Fordham University’s School of Social Service. She is graduating soon with her MSW and interning at a psychoanalytic institute in the city. She has enjoyed providing therapy to people and getting to know them and hearing how fruitful their life stories are.
Saida Blair (Class of 2017)

SAIDA BLAIR GRADUATED FROM SUNY PURCHASE WITH A BFA IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND ART HISTORY, MOVED TO CHICAGO TO PURSUE A GRADUATE DEGREE AT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (SAIC) IN THE VISUAL CRITICAL STUDIES PROGRAM, AND WILL GRADUATE IN MAY 2024. WHILE AT SAIC, SHE STARTED AN ORGANIZATION ON CAMPUS CALLED COBRA (COALITION OF BLACK RESTORATIVE ARTISTS). COBRA'S MISSION IS TO CULTIVATE AND CREATE A COMMUNITY AMONGST BLACK GRADUATE STUDENTS AT SAIC AND THE LARGER BLACK CHICAGO COMMUNITY. SHE WAS SPOTLIGHTED IN AN ARTICLE BY PHMUSEUM, IN COLLABORATION WITH BLACK WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS, AS ONE OF EIGHT BLACK WOMEN PHOTOGRAPHERS TO WATCH IN 2023.

[NOTE: THE HECKSCHER FOUNDATION PROUDLY EXHIBITS ONE OF SAIDA'S PHOTOGRAPH IN OUR OFFICE]

Jeo Bravo (Class of 2019)

JEIO BRAVO IS CURRENTLY A SENIOR AT SKIDMORE AND GRADUATING THIS YEAR. HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING AT SKIDMORE'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER AS A CAREER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT AND INTERNING REMOTELY AT DAN KLEIN FILMS AS A DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING INTERN. AFTER FINISHING HIS STUDY ABROAD SEMESTER IN MADRID, SPAIN LAST YEAR, AND TAKING A COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION MARKETING COURSE LAST SEMESTER, HE IS SEEKING AND APPLYING FOR ENTRY-LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY WITH AN INTEREST IN BRAND DEVELOPMENT OR BRANDING INNOVATION.

Kiyat Hance (Class of 2019)

KIYAT HANCE GRADUATED FROM SKIDMORE COLLEGE AND IS NOW A PROGRAM ASSOCIATE AT THE REVSON FOUNDATION.

Chelsey Sarante (Class of 2018)

CHELSEY SARANTE GRADUATED FROM DENISON UNIVERSITY LAST SPRING, MAY 2022, WITH A B.A. IN COMMUNICATION AND A B.A. IN BLACK STUDIES. SHE OFFICIALLY BECAME A PUBLISHED AUTHOR IN FEBRUARY 2022. HERE IS THE LINK TO THAT ARTICLE: HTTPS://WWW.WPCJOURNAL.COM/ARTICLE/VIEW/2122. SHE ACCEPTED A JOB AT NCR CORPORATION AS A PROJECT MANAGER. SHE MOVED TO ATLANTA, GA AFTER GRADUATION TO WORK OUT OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS. SHE PLANS TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO GET HER M.S. IN COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE AND SHE WILL BE MOVING TO PHILADELPHIA THIS SUMMER.
Isaak Basis (Class of 2019)

Isaak Basis graduated with a BBA in Finance in May of 2022, a year earlier than envisioned, and is currently attending a six-month MBA in Professional Accounting Program at Rutgers University - Newark without breaks. He completed a two-month Audit & Assurance Internship at Deloitte & Touche LLP and will be graduating mid-August with the 110 credits required to sit for the CPA Exam and an Audit Analytics Certificate. He is looking to make fair use of his knowledge and experience in a full-time position in a related field of business, finance, accounting, and/or technology immediately following graduation.

Lisa Beqiri (Class of 2016)

Lisa Beqiri graduated from Franklin and Marshall College back in 2020 as a Posse Scholar with a BA in Political Science/Philosophy. Since then, she has been working at PwC as a Consultant in their Financial Services Practice where she is primarily focused on helping banking clients improve their digital banking strategies/products/services. She was promoted to Senior Consultant this past January. Outside of work, she volunteers with Mentor which is a non-profit that matches inner city high schoolers with young professionals who serve as their mentors.

Maham Hassan (Class of 2018)

Maham Hassan graduated from Bryn Mawr College last May and got her degree in Math and Economics. She is currently working as a Financial Advisor at a Municipal advisory called Caine Mitton on West 35th Street. It issues housing bonds for different state housing agencies. In college she got her Muslim Students Association Club approval for a $40,000 budget that she managed (largest of any club at Bryn Mawr). She completely revamped and revitalized the club, bringing it back from the dead by hosting tons of events. During Ramadan she organized one event for every day of the month.

Ami Konateh (Class of 2019)

Ami Konateh is a senior at Fordham University, almost ready to cross the finish line. Because of the Heckscher and her opportunity to do Global Glimpse, she is now majoring in Anthropology and has a minor in Latin American and Latino Studies (previously African Studies). She went to Bogota, Colombia, with Fordham's Global Outreach as a participant and led the Spring 2023 trip to Puebla, Mexico.

Jahnica Ottley (Class of 2013)

Jahnica Ottley graduated from College at Virginia Union in 2018 with her Bachelors in Biology and is thinking about a Master's degree but has not made a decision yet. She has a son now who turned 1 years old in December 2022. She works remote for a customer service company at the moment.

We at the Heckscher Foundation for Children are so proud of our former Heckscher Scholars and look for ways we can assist them in their careers. Please let us hear from you.

Stay in touch and send an email to: ghowarth@heckscherfoundation.org
ATTENTION SCHOLARS
PLEASE ALWAYS UPDATE YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE

CAN YOU HELP US LOCATE THESE SCHOLARS?

ASHLEY VEGA - CLASS OF 2010
HANCER CABRERA - CLASS OF 2012
MEGAN MARCANO - CLASS OF 2012
ANIBA SHAKEEL - CLASS OF 2014
DANTAY GABRIDON - CLASS OF 2018
TAHMINA KEYA - CLASS OF 2018
ANGELIE LALL - CLASS OF 2018
ERIC VASQUEZ - CLASS OF 2018
JASON AVILES - CLASS OF 2013
NELSON STEVEN MARTINEZ - CLASS OF 2013
RAIHANNA JEFFERSON - CLASS OF 2013
VALENTINA KATCLIFFE-RUIZ - CLASS OF 2013
JOSUE PEREZ - CLASS OF 2015
LUIS PEREZ - CLASS OF 2015
NICOLE MELO - CLASS OF 2015
PATRICIA PENA - CLASS OF 2015
QUINTON SIMMONS - CLASS OF 2015
THE HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

IS A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS FROM UNDER-RESOURCES PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS HOUSED AT THE HECKSCHER FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY.

OUR PROGRAM PROVIDES INDIVIDUALIZED ACADEMIC GUIDANCE, COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID COUNSELING, AND A MULTITUDE OF OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT TO STUDENTS FROM DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES. HECKSCHER SCHOLARS GUIDES ITS STUDENTS TOWARDS THE GREATEST PATH OUT OF POVERTY, A COLLEGE EDUCATION, OPENING DOORS TO COMPETITIVE FOUR-YEAR PRIVATE COLLEGES AND A HIGHER EDUCATION THAT WILL HAVE A CATALYTIC IMPACT ON THEIR FUTURE.

AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT

THE OVERARCHING PHILOSOPHY OF HECKSCHER SCHOLARS IS TO GIVE ITS STUDENTS WHATEVER IT TAKES FOR THEM TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS. HECKSCHER SCHOLARS BEGINS WITH A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM, WHERE SCHOLARS RECEIVE RIGOROUS ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION, TUTORING, PERSONALIZED COLLEGE GUIDANCE, FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION SUPPORT, CAREER-READINESS SUPPORT AND LIFE-SKILLS TRAINING.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AN INTENSIVE FIVE-WEEK ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM THAT BEGINS IN THE SUMMER BEFORE THEIR JUNIOR YEAR, AND CONTINUES THROUGH SENIOR YEAR WITH WEEKLY MEETINGS. ONCE OUR STUDENTS ENTER COLLEGE, HECKSCHER SCHOLARS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT AS INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ARISE.

A FOCUS ON THE INDIVIDUAL

HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROVIDES A DEEPLY PERSONALIZED EXPERIENCE FOR EACH STUDENT THROUGH ITS ACADEMIC AND COLLEGE ACCESS SUPPORT. HECKSCHER SCHOLARS’ STAFF DEVELOP STRONG AND LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE STUDENTS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE ACADEMIC AND CAREER SUCCESS.

WITH INDIVIDUALIZED GUIDANCE, OUR SCHOLARS FIND INTERNSHIPS, COLLEGE COURSES, AND PROGRAMS THE SUMMER BEFORE THEIR SENIOR YEAR, AND MOST EXPERIENCE OVERSEAS TRAVEL THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL GLIMPSE.

WE FOSTER A COMMUNITY OF FUTURE LEADERS, GIVING OUR SCHOLARS THE RESOURCES AND TOOLS THAT THEY NEED TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES AND FIND A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS.
"AFTER A BIT OF REFLECTION, I TRULY BELIEVE THAT HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM PROVIDED ME WITH THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO PREPARE ME FOR MY UNDERGRADUATE TRANSITION INTO SKIDMORE. MY TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS REALLY STARTED DEVELOPING AT HECKSCHER AND HELPED ME PUSH MYSELF TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND TAKE INITIATIVE. THE HECKSCHER STAFF REALLY WANTS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION AND YOUR EDUCATION & CAREER GOALS IN MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS. HECKSCHER PROVIDED A SPACE FOR ME TO BREATHE IN AND OUT ALL MY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT COLLEGE. WHEN I LEFT THOSE WEEKLY MEETINGS AT HECKSCHER, I ALWAYS FELT CONFIDENT IN MYSELF AND KNEW THAT I WAS CAPABLE OF SUCCEEDING AS A SCHOLAR. THE HECKSCHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM WAS THERE FOR ALL MY ACADEMIC AND CAREER-BUILDING NEEDS, EVEN WHEN I DID NOT REALIZE THAT I NEEDED IT, AND I THINK THAT IS WHAT MAKES THE PROGRAM UNIQUE AND IMPACTFUL."

JEO BRAVO, HECKSCHER SCHOLAR CLASS OF 2019; SKIDMORE COLLEGE

"I AM NOW THE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS AT HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT. I OVERSEE A TWO-PART PROGRAM THAT SUPPORTS STUDENTS FROM THEIR HIGH SCHOOL TO THEIR BACHELORS’ DEGREE COMPLETION. WE SERVE PRIMARILY FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS OF COLOR IN LOWER MANHATTAN. I’M ACTUALLY IN THIS CAREER FIELD LARGELY BECAUSE OF MY OWN EXPERIENCE AT THE HECKSCHER FOUNDATION, PERSONALLY KNOWING HOW RESOURCE ACCESSIBILITY COULD DRastically IMPACT ONE’S FUTURE HAS INFLUENCED MY DECISION TO DO THE SAME FOR YOUTH IN MY CAREER NOW."

TACHRINA AHMED, HECKSCHER SCHOLAR CLASS OF 2019; COLUMBIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION; MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

"I AM ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR HECKSCHER AND THE SUPPORT I RECEIVED TO TACKLE THE BEAST THAT IS COLLEGE ADMISSIONS. THE PAST FOUR YEARS, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PURSUE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES, BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND PERSONALLY, TO CULTIVATE MY MIND AND DEEPEN MY KNOWLEDGE. I HAVE MET SO MANY INTERESTING PEOPLE. I HAVE READ A LOT AND CODED A LOT. I AM WALKING AWAY FROM COLLEGE WITH TOOLS THAT’LL ALLOW ME TO CONTINUE LEARNING AND BE A STUDENT OF LIFE, FOR LIFE, AND I’LL ALWAYS BE THANKFUL TO HECKSCHER FOR sending me off on this journey."

AISHA MANN, HECKSCHER SCHOLAR CLASS OF 2019; BARNARD COLLEGE