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STUDENT DIRECTORY

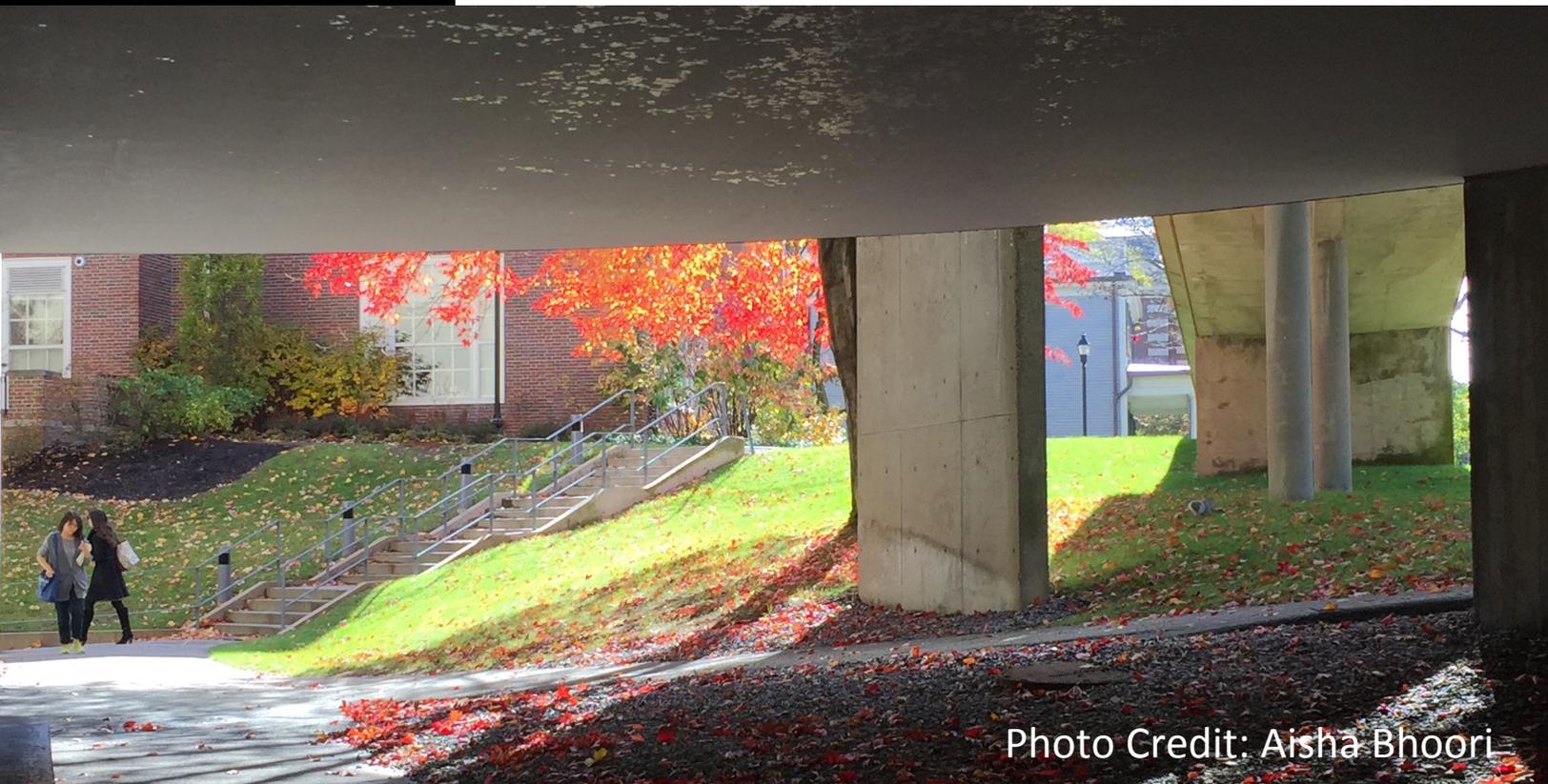
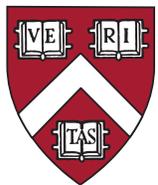


Photo Credit: Aisha Bhoori



HARVARD-AMGEN | SCHOLARS | PROGRAM



MARLEY ALFORD

Bard College | Mathematics and Computer Science

Hometown: Kingston, NY

Research Interest/Area: Computational Biology

“After college I hope to become a computational biologist focusing on projects that have medical or bio-conservation applications. I also enjoy pursuing non-scientific interests because I think it is important for scientists to be versed in social issues. Currently, I help run Women in STEM, a club that creates awareness and support for female science majors, and run a magazine with my friends created to serve and feature students of color at Bard. I love cooking and exploring new places!”



RAWAN ALMALLAHI

University of Houston | Chemical Engineering

Hometown: Houston, TX

Research Interest/Area: Materials Science and Environmental Technologies

“I was born in Jordan, but was raised in the Emirates. Having been raised in a different environment has inspired me to the ideas of exploration, innovation, and research. I aspire to become a researcher and synthesize materials that would benefit both people and the environment. I am currently a chemical engineering junior at the University of Houston. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, taking photos, and reading. I am excited to be part of this Harvard Amgen Program and explore Boston this summer!”



SARAH BRANTLEY

Gettysburg College | Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Hometown: Woodstock, MD

Research Interest/Area: Virology and Immunology

“I was born and raised Woodstock, MD, which is in the middle of nowhere, conveniently located next to somewhere. I’ve always known that I wanted to do scientific research, and since coming to Gettysburg, my interest has only increased; I am currently a member of a lab which studies the molecular evolution of bacteriophages. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy performing with my school Women’s Choir and mentoring introductory biology students. In the future, I hope to lead a virology lab.”



BARRY BRYANT

University of Notre Dame | Science-Business

Hometown: Columbus, OH

Research Interest/Area: Nanotechnology, Exosomes, and Regeneration

“I grew up in a suburb of Columbus, Ohio and lived there until I began college in South Bend, Indiana. As a student at Notre Dame I have cultivated my passions for both service and research, and found ways that they can be intertwined. My healthcare service experiences in Nicaragua, urban Columbus, and rural Appalachia have driven me to seek creative and effective solutions through my research in nanotechnology and exosome biogenesis for diseases that afflict these underserved populations. As President of College Mentors for Kids at Notre Dame I have sought to motivate at-risk children to pursue their dreams.”



KAITAVJEET CHOWDHARY

Harvard College | Chemical and Physical Biology

Hometown: Glastonbury, CT

Research Interest/Area: Stem Cell Biology and Neurobiology

“I grew up in a small town in Connecticut outside of Hartford. At Harvard, I have found my passion for working at the intersection of basic scientific research and medical therapy by conducting research on stem cell-based models of ALS. I have also immersed myself in efforts to promote undergraduate research opportunities and communities, through involvement with the Harvard College Undergraduate Research Association. In my free time, I enjoy dancing on the Harvard Bhangra Team, playing tennis, and trying my hand at cooking.”



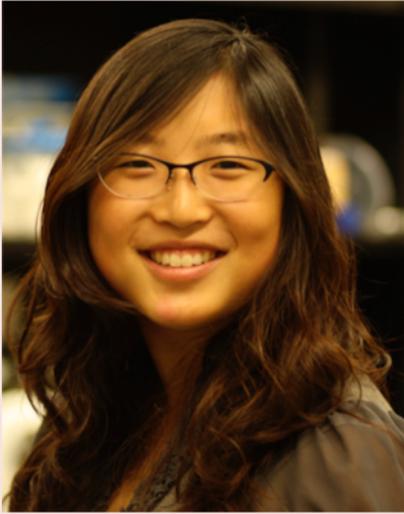
LAUREN DICKINSON

Hendrix College | Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Hometown: Siloam Springs, AR

Research Interest/Area: Synthetic Biology/Biomedical

“I grew up on a farm (cows and all) in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. I attend Hendrix College, where I currently study the DNA repair mechanism of bdelloid rotifers. Working with the rotifers has taught me that I feel passionate about scientific research, and, eventually, I hope to serve others through a career in biomedical research. Outside of the classroom, I play tennis for the Hendrix team, and I enjoy hiking, ping pong, pickleball, and watching Star Trek.”



FRANCES DING

Harvard College | Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Research Interest/Area: Neuroscience and Stem Cell Biology

“I grew up in Vancouver, Canada and later Nashville, TN before coming to Harvard. During college I’ve become fascinated by how minds work, how technology can change biology and society, and how to make sure those changes are positive. I work in a lab focused on understanding the exquisitely precise development of the brain, and am excited to continue these studies this summer. Outside of class and lab, I’m involved with the Effective Altruism movement. I also love bouldering, reading, and learning about cool ideas from any field, from artificial intelligence to international development to pen design.”



GABRIELLE EWALL

Olin College | Engineering with a Concentration in Computational Neuroscience

Hometown: Huntington, NY

Research Interest/Area: Neuroscience

“I study at a small engineering school, and cross register for classes to fulfill my concentration in Neuroscience. At engineering school, I’ve become passionate about blinking lights, hot glue guns, and the power of hands on application in education. During previous years, I have taught at local schools, where I love piloting new lessons. I’m passionate about making education accessible to students with learning disabilities and am hopeful that education can reduce systemic inequality. I am spending the current semester in Prague, studying sociology.”



CONNOR HORTON

Harvard College | Molecular and Cellular Biology

Hometown: Kinnelon, New Jersey

Research Interest/Area: Synthetic Biology

“I grew up in the small town of Kinnelon, New Jersey, where I learned to love science and teaching. As a result, my career ambitions have been guided by a thirst for knowledge and a desire to share this knowledge with others. My primary research interest is synthetic biology because it combines biology with creativity. Outside of school, I am an avid member of the Harvard Glee Club and a peer educator with Student Mental Health Liaisons.”



LAUREN KILLINGSWORTH

Stanford University | Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology & History
Hometown: Mill Valley, CA
Research Interest/Area: Neurodegenerative Diseases, Immunology, Cancer Biology, Ophthalmology

“My experience as a puppy raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind first sparked my interest in conducting research on retinal degenerative diseases. I am fascinated by molecular mechanisms of disease and have previously conducted research on Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), retinitis pigmentosa, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) at the NIH and the Buck Institute. I am especially interested in elucidating the molecular mechanisms of rare diseases in order to develop novel therapeutics. At Stanford I have developed specific interests in neurodegenerative diseases, immunology, and infectious diseases. In my free time I enjoy studying historical cartography, volunteering with science outreach programs, exploring cities, visiting museums, and spending time outdoors.”



PAVAN KOTA

Case Western Reserve University | Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering Minor
Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas
Research Interest/Area: Lab-on-a-Chip Devices

“After growing up in Kansas and living within 2000 miles of mountains and beaches, I moved to Cleveland, an equally exciting place, to attend Case Western Reserve University. Work experiences in a research lab, a large medical device company, and biotech startup have brought me full circle to pursue a PhD. Over the last year, I have developed a keen interest for point-of-care devices that seek to improve access to quality healthcare. Outside of work and academics, I play tennis, chess, and bass guitar.”



BRIAN MACDONALD

University of California Riverside | Chemical Engineering, Nanotechnology
Hometown: Upland, California
Research Interest/Area: Materials Science, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology

“I was born and raised in the small city of Upland California which is about 45 minutes from Los Angeles. As a student at UCR, I eagerly involved myself with scientific research, and currently work within the Kisailus Biomimetics and Nanostructured Materials Lab where I have been a part of the development of impact resistant biomimetic nano-composite materials. My dream is to apply aspects of materials science/chemistry and nanotechnology to biological systems in order to develop functional materials which will help solve significant problems affecting humanity. Outside of academics and laboratory, I enjoy meeting new people, exploring, hiking, fishing, and rock climbing.”



PAOLA MATOS-RUIZ

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez | Biology

Hometown: Cabo Rojo, PR

Research Interest/Area: Molecular Biology and Genomics

“I was raised in a small and touristic city called Cabo Rojo, located at the southwest coast of Puerto Rico. In the coming future, I visualize myself as a physician-scientist performing translational research. Last summer, I was awarded a fellowship at the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, Connecticut that sparked my interest in the Molecular Biology and Genomics fields. In here, I worked deciphering the role of a novel long non coding RNA molecule using overexpression strategies. As a part of my co-curricular activities, I’m a member of a student organization called Enactus. In Enactus, I am part of the social media committee, where I work on a project that focuses on helping to improve the lives of mentally challenged individuals by horticulture therapy. During my free time, I enjoy riding horses, taking spinning classes, cooking, weightlifting, and exploring the beauties of Puerto Rico.”



CRAY NOAH

Georgia Tech | Biomedical Engineering

Hometown: Houston, TX

Research Interest/Area: Tuning the Cellular Microenvironment

“Raised in Texas and surrounded by family members in the healthcare field, I’ve grown up hearing medical jargon and atypical topics of conversation at the dinner table. My fascination with the human body was thus peaked at an early age and led to me to the field of biomedical engineering, where I’m ceaselessly amazed at life at the molecular level; I can’t help but approach the research I do on the cellular microenvironment with humility and honor. Outside of the lab I enjoy teaching, whether that be as a tutor, a TA or a machine shop hand, and I’m constantly learning to teach and teaching to learn. I also love playing pickup sports and can’t be beaten in ping pong.”



PRISCA OBI

Harvard College | Molecular and Cellular Biology

Hometown: Jamaica, NY

Research Interest/Area: Immunology, Cancer

“As a Nigerian-American, I was born and raised in Queens, NYC, where I spent most of my days until coming to Harvard, where I am currently a rising junior. While I haven’t yet figured out my niche when it comes to research, I’ve had experiences in very different fields (from visual psychology to brain tumors to bone tissue) that have altogether taught me the importance of being open when it comes to finding what you want to do. This summer, I’m excited to begin a new chapter in a lab studying tumor immunology. Outside of school, I enjoy tutoring life sciences, reading female thrillers, and watching re-runs of Oprah and Olympic track and field races.”



KRISTEN RODRIGUES

Harvard College | Bioengineering

Hometown: Cumberland, RI

Research Interest/Area: Single Molecule Research and Drug Delivery

“I was born in Plymouth, MA and grew up in northern Rhode Island. I’m currently a rising junior with a passion for bioengineering because I believe it is a constructive way to harness interdisciplinary knowledge through research. I am especially interested in translational research that directly impacts medical knowledge. As a member of the Loparo Lab, I have used single molecule methods to study and probe the mechanism and interactions involved in bacterial DNA compaction. I hope to continue my education and apply this knowledge through research. When I’m not studying, I enjoy horseback riding, playing softball, and exploring Boston.”



CHABELY RODRIGUEZ

City University of New York Brooklyn College | Chemistry

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Research Interest/Area: Biochemistry/Chemical Biology

“I’m a first generation Mexican-American who grew up in Brooklyn and spent most weekends on my family’s farm in upstate New York. I became interested in chemistry during my sophomore year of high school. Upon entering Brooklyn College I became aware of the diverse opportunities offered for chemistry research on and off campus through the RISE and MARC Program. I participated in an REU Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Professor Laura Kiessling’s laboratory and started a target-oriented synthesis. In my home institution I conduct peptidomimetics research in Professor Gerona-Navarro’s laboratory. Both experiences have enlightened me on the biological applications of organic synthesis, and have sparked an interest in biochemistry research. Outside of school I enjoy trying new restaurants in New York City, traveling, and going to the gym.”



PAUL ROTHLAUF

Rowan University | Biological Sciences and Biochemistry; Chemistry minor;

Concentration in Honors Studies

Hometown: Ringwood, New Jersey

Research Interest/Area: Virology and Immunology

“I was born and raised in Ringwood, New Jersey, a beautiful town in the northern part of the state. I am a junior at Rowan University in Dr. Claude Krummenacher’s lab, where I examine the interaction of cell adhesion proteins and viral glycoproteins to better understand the entry of HSV-1 into cells. My interests lie in the fields of emerging infectious diseases and protection from biological terrorism. I hope to benefit others through the discovery of novel vaccines or through rational drug design against these diseases or disease-causing agents. Some of my hobbies include hiking, fishing, playing basketball, adventuring with my puppy, serving the community, playing the guitar, and leading Christian Bible studies.”



JAROD RUTLEDGE

Colorado College | Biochemistry

Hometown: Flagstaff, AZ

Research Interest/Area: Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Catalysis, Energy, Synthetic Biology, Systems Biology, Materials Science

“I grew up outside of Flagstaff, Arizona, where my love of science grew out of exploring the mountains and canyons of Northern Arizona. I am passionate about interdisciplinary research; I hope to tackle problems in diverse areas by using the tools of chemistry and biology. I spend my free time playing violin and exploring nature. I am an avid backcountry skier, rock climber, whitewater rafter, and backpacker. I cannot touch my toes, but I can cook a mean gado gado with a whisperlite stove and I once spent a month on a religious commune in Peru painting rocks.”



MIGUEL SOBRAL

Johns Hopkins University | Biomedical Engineering

Hometown: Lisbon, Portugal

Research Interest/Area: Cancer Immunotherapy / Drug Delivery

“I am originally from Lisbon, Portugal but I now live in Wyncote, Pennsylvania. I am currently a rising junior at Johns Hopkins studying Biomedical Engineering and minoring in Applied Mathematics & Statistics and Entrepreneurship & Management. Since my freshman year, I have done research at the JHU School of Medicine studying drug delivery to the brain. My current research interest is in the field of cancer immuno-engineering. Outside academics, I am a huge sports fan (especially soccer). I am thrilled by the opportunity to work at Harvard and explore the Boston/Cambridge area this summer.”



FORREST WALLACE

Middlebury College | Molecular Biology and Biochemistry/Computer Science

Hometown: Monkton, VT

Research Interest/Area: Human robotic augmentation/sensing

“I grew up in the small town of Monkton, Vermont, and now live in Middlebury, Vermont. I love to learn, and enjoy the opportunities that Middlebury has afforded me to explore a great variety of subjects in the arts and sciences. Beyond school, I love being in the outdoors. Most weekends, I can be found in the woods hiking, mountain biking, or climbing. I am very much looking forward to meeting other curious people and getting the opportunity to explore a new area this summer!”

