‘Education is one of the most powerful ways to transform individuals and societies. In these times, it is ever more important to ensure that our Oxford Saïd community maintains its high standards and values, is a model for diversity, and has all parts of the globe adequately represented. Our generous donors, through the provision of the many scholarships offered to our students, not only enhance the lives of the awardees, but the life of the entire School. We are grateful to our devoted friends.’

Dean Peter Tufano
Nicole Andrea Yazon  
Philippines  
MSc Environmental Change and Management

**Summary:** Nicole aims to hasten the global energy transition to zero carbon while improving energy access in developing nations.

**Bio:** Nicole is passionate about engineering, energy, and the environment. She was born and raised in the Philippines, where her passion for environmental responsibility developed from seeing the damage being done to her beautiful island country by pollution and over-extraction of natural resources.

A chemical engineer by training, she started her career in the oil and gas industry, where she worked to reduce the environmental footprint of assets through energy efficiency and water management projects, and to increase the use of lower-carbon fuels and technologies such as natural gas and solar in their operations.

After Oxford, she hopes to work on deploying sustainable energy technologies to hasten the global transition to zero carbon while improving energy access in developing nations.

Nicole holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of the Philippines.

Martin Merello  
Argentina  
MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine

**Bio:** Two generations of physicians branded Martin with his family's passion for healthcare. Throughout his career, he identified how private and public visions on healthcare have dichotomized scenarios, which results in people's unfair access to basic health. Martin is convinced to address this problem from a broad social perspective, and his search for a multidisciplinary approach is what led him to Oxford.

Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Martin has spent the last years working at a boutique healthcare consulting firm – The Mind Company, mostly engaged in global-scale healthcare projects in Latin America & Europe. Moreover, he led local pro-bono programmes in which he had to manage with few resources, the sadly customary scenario in Argentina.

In 2015, he co-founded Sosteniéndonos, an NGO that supports families of patients with neurodegenerative disease. This endeavour ventured Martin into health policy-making, driving him to write a bill on the rights of neurological patients for an Argentine congresswoman in 2017.

Martin holds a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering from the Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA). As an honorary teaching assistant in Applied Statistics and Business Administration, he deepened into successful business models used in Public Health. His thesis in Economy of Health was selected to represent UCA in several congresses as the first of its kind in Argentina.

At Oxford, Martin will pursue a MSc in International Health and Tropical Medicine at the Nuffield Department of Medicine. He intends to enhance his understanding on new health challenges while complementing his engineering skill-set to manage scalable health ventures. As part of the course, he is eager to participate in an overseas project working alongside Global Health Organizations, where he plans to continue his advocacy for more inclusive health systems after his 1+1 MBA.
Raissa Brunhara
Brazil
Master of Public Policy

Summary: Raissa is a proud Latin American passionate about social justice. Her goal is to impact Latin America by generating social and economic advancement through social innovation and entrepreneurship.

Bio: Raissa was born in Brazilian state Minas Gerais and was raised by her mother, who is her a primary role model for hard work and resilience. Growing up, Raissa was always perturbed by inequality in her country and witnessed the poor living conditions of base of pyramid populations through charity work done while attending Jesuit school and also through her family’s life history.

In 2011, Raissa started her professional career in Management Consultant firm Bain and Company. But, a wish to give back and impact Latin American societies motivated her to transition to Endeavor, a non-profit with a mission to catalyze long-term economic and social growth by advising high impact entrepreneurs. Endeavor helps +1000 entrepreneurial companies access markets, talent and capital in 30 countries. In 2016, these companies made US$10B in revenues and generated over 700,000 jobs.

More specifically, as a Senior Manager at Endeavor Colombia, Raissa helped local entrepreneurs innovate, diversify, pivot their business models, develop and grow their staff and multiply their impact by mentoring and investing in fellow entrepreneurs.

Now, at Oxford, Raissa hopes to leverage her time to articulate how to most effectively catalyze the change she wants to bring to Latin America. Combining a Master in Public Policy with a Master in Business Administration, she hopes to articulating innovative collaborative cross-sector solutions for the betterment of Latin American societies.

Raissa holds a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG).

Eli Mitchell-Larson
United States
MSc Environmental Change and Management

Summary: Eli is an impact investor and social entrepreneur working to achieve a negative carbon future.

Bio: Eli Mitchell-Larson is an impact investor and social entrepreneur working at the intersection of technology and climate change.

After training as a geochemist, Eli began his career at New Island Capital, a San Francisco-based impact investment firm. At New Island, Eli's team deployed over $90 million across 14 deals, from utility-scale wind and solar assets, to an electric car components manufacturer, to large tracts of sustainably managed redwood timberland and organic farmland.

In 2016 Eli joined SunFarmer, a social enterprise that designs, deploys, and finances pay-as-you-go solar water pumps in Nepal to help smallholder farmers increase their incomes. He led operations, successfully transitioned the company from international to local leadership, and continues to serve on the Board of Directors.

At Oxford, his research focuses on comparing strategies for reaching negative global carbon emissions, and modeling the technology needs to achieve them.

Eli grew up in Maine, USA, and holds a B.S. in Geology & Geophysics and Environmental Studies from Yale University.
Michael Sean Philbin
United States
MSc Latin American Studies

**Summary:** Michael’s aim is to work in Latin American economic development, with a focus on enhancing current economic tools to promote growth and combat inflation in the region.

**Bio:** Born to Major General USAF Edward Philbin (deceased) and Vivian Philbin in Alexandria, Virginia, Michael grew up in Evergreen, Colorado.

During his first two summers at University, Michael worked at the State Department in Puerto Rico, as well as Fondo Esperanza, a microfinance institute operating in the most impoverished parts of Santiago, Chile. Through statistical analyses, attendance at local loan meetings, and evaluation of success metrics, Michael successfully illuminated challenges and opportunities for growth for Fondo Esperanza’s top clients. After graduating in 2012, Michael worked on several different trading desks at JP Morgan in both New York and London, and most recently managed the US Treasuries and Foreign Exchange trading books at Och-Ziff Capital Management.

While at Oxford Michael plans to combine his previous professional experiences with continued study of Latin American culture, politics, and economics, to help create scalable solutions to challenges in economic development.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Language Citation in Spanish from Harvard University.

---

Pershing Square Scholars – 2017-19 Cohort

Lauren Xie
United States
MSc Nature Society and Environmental Policy

**Summary:** Lauren’s aim is to develop her own organisation working at the public-private interface to improve the social and environmental sustainability of agricultural supply chains.

**Bio:** Lauren is fluent in English, Mandarin, and Bahasa Indonesia. She often finds herself in the middle of the Indonesian jungle with no WiFi or power supply managing projects that improve the lives of thousands of local farmers.

Upon graduating from Harvard, Lauren received the Rockefeller Fellowship which supported her to work for the United Nations coordination office for REDD+ in Indonesia. The Fellowship also enabled her to work as a voluntary consultant, improving the livelihoods of indigenous peoples in some of the most remote areas of Indonesia. With offers to join some of the world’s leading consultancy firms, Lauren instead decided to remain focused on Indonesia and began working for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, bringing together the Indonesian government, private sector stakeholders, and local research institutes in order to improve agricultural systems in the region.

Lauren selected to study the MSc in Nature, Society and Environmental Governance with the MBA, which will allow her to delve further into the social theory and ethical frameworks for understanding human-environmental relationships. For Lauren, it is not enough to focus on a narrowly defined set of environmental or development objectives within an organization without fully understanding how her energies can effect long-term sustainable and resilient outcomes toward social justice.

Lauren graduated from Harvard University with a BA in Environmental Science and Public Policy.
Giorgio Tarraf  
Lebanon  
MSc Comparative Social Policy  

**Summary:** Giorgio is an incredible orator who established an NGO in Beirut and has had a successful career at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.  

**Bio:** Giorgio is an inspiring and ambitious young leader who has faced enormous challenges head on in order to achieve positive social change.  

While studying at university in Beirut his father died and his family home was illegally demolished. This was commonplace in post-war Beirut and it inspired Giorgio to create the ‘Save Beirut’s Heritage’ NGO. He took on the construction companies and corrupt/incompetent government bodies by using social media and an army of volunteers. He took the fight all the way to Lebanon’s Supreme Court and won. As a result, the NGO saved 128 historic architectural landmarks in Beirut, as well as preventing the displacement of hundreds of families. However, soon after the ruling, seven landmarks were illegally demolished under the protection of armed militias, his NGO office was vandalised and he was instructed to flee the country. Giorgio has since rebuilt his life in the US, working on a variety of projects at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.  

As a Pershing Square Scholar, Giorgio will use the 1+1 MBA to create a consulting firm that will work to help guide the construction of cities that are safe, inclusive and sustainable. Clean energy, climate mitigation, inclusive housing, infrastructure, and public health are only some of the areas he plans to focus on.  

Giorgio graduated from the American University of Beirut with a BSc in Biology.

---

Tulsi Parida  
United States, India  
MSc Social Science of the Internet  

**Summary:** Tulsi is a Teach for America alumna now working as a director of an education social enterprise in India. She intends to develop online education solutions that extend beyond digital divides and are accessible to the lowest echelons of society.  

**Bio:** Tulsi received offers for both the MSc in Education and the MSc in Social Science of the Internet, but she decided to combine the MSc in Social Science of the Internet with the MBA for her 1+1, as she believes that innovations in technology provide the best opportunities to rapidly scale impact in the education sector.  

After graduating from Northwestern University in the US, Tulsi joined Teach for America and began teaching in the Bronx. She describes the first year of teaching as being the hardest year of her life; however she successfully brought 95% of her students to reading at grade level and increased English Language Arts test results by 70%. Tulsi then joined Newsela in the New York and gained valuable experience launching a literacy education tech solution to more than 100,000 teachers worldwide.  

Tulsi decided that she wanted to focus on having an impact on literacy in South Asia, so she relocated to Mumbai and took up a role as the Director of Growth for Zaya Learning Labs, an edu-tech start up aimed at supporting English learning for children in India. Tulsi joins Oxford as a Pershing Square Scholar with a plan to develop an education solution that incorporates teacher empowerment and user behaviour with technology to scale global literacy solutions, particularly in the Global South.  

Tulsi graduated from Northwestern University with a BSc in Education.
Carl Rietschel
Germany
MSc Computer Science

Summary: Carl is a First Class Mathematics graduate from Cambridge with a 780 GMAT, 3 years of progressive experience as a consultant at BCG, and a passion for the future of Artificial Intelligence.

Bio: Carl is very unique, as he combines astonishing academic prowess in the most quantitative of subject areas, with impressive communication skills (International Linguistics Olympiad) and strong leadership. Carl studied at one of the most prestigious high schools in the UK, achieving perfect grades in the most challenging quantitative subject areas, followed by a First Class Honours degree in Mathematics at Cambridge, which is widely known as the most challenging undergraduate degree in the UK, if not the world.

Completing internships at UBS and the Climate Service Centre, where he published papers on climate-induced migration, Carl went on to join the Boston Consulting Group where his passion for computer science grew. At BCG Carl lead projects that utilised Big Data in innovative ways, enabling a global automotive supplier to raise revenue, as well as creating effective models for strategic workforce planning in the public sector.

For Carl, Oxford’s 1+1 MBA, including a Master’s in Computer Science, will be the starting point to join the field of AI in both research and business. He finds the opportunities AI provides to tackle complex problems with positive impact in the real world deeply motivating, and strongly believes in the potential benefits of its applications for the public good.

When considering future game changers, in the line of Larry Page and Elon Musk, Carl Rietschel certainly has the intellect and ability to have an impact on a grand scale.

Carl graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Mathematics from Cambridge University.

Tim Krupa
Canada
Master of Public Policy

Summary: At just 25 years old, Tim is the Lead Policy Advisor on Youth, Sport, and Disabilities to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Bio: During his undergraduate studies, Tim travelled to Zambia and created a project which offered after-school community sports clubs for youth empowerment in rural areas. The project grew and now has more than 2,000 ‘at-risk’ girls and boys participating on a regular basis, promoting teamwork, gender equality, and supporting school completion.

After graduating, Tim joined the office of Justin Trudeau as a special assistant for outreach, representing the future Prime Minister at caucus meetings. Tim was a key member of the team that went on to win the election and he moved up from being a special assistant to being the lead policy advisor on areas such as Youth, Sport, and Disabilities. He lead the Disabilities Act, Youth Employment Strategy, and provides the Prime Minister with regular briefings on cabinet decisions and policy updates. Tim attends cabinet committee meetings on behalf of the Prime Minister and provides strategic reports to senior ministers.

Tim has seen the value of practical business experience in the field of politics and has chosen to pursue the MBA with the prestigious and highly competitive MPP in order to hone his skills in both political and business leadership, and in the long-term bring those skills back to the government of Canada and run for a senior leadership position himself.

Tim graduated as Valedictorian with a BSc in Biology from the University of British Columbia.
Boingotlo Gasealahwe
South Africa
MSc Economics for Development

Summary: Boingotlo is passionate about the development of the African continent and contributing to work that empowers people, lifts them out of poverty and affords them a fair opportunity to realise their full potential.

Bio: Boingotlo grew up in Taung, an impoverished rural community in the North-West province of South Africa. With the support of scholarships, she obtained a relatively good education, allowing her to overcome the many obstacles presented by her immediate circumstances. Boingotlo believes that her success illustrates the vast potential that lies dormant and undiscovered in many underprivileged communities and is committed to using her skills to eliminate the barriers that prevent children with her background from blossoming. Believing that public policy would be the best way for her to impact the lives of many people, Boingotlo spent the last five years working as an economist at the National Treasury of South Africa. She used her knowledge of economics to help shape the direction of fiscal policy, which in South Africa plays a crucial role in redistributing incomes to reduce poverty and inequality. Prior to coming to Oxford, she worked at the OECD where she assisted with the production of the South Africa 2017 survey, a report that recommends policies to accelerate long-run economic development. Motivated by a desire to better understand and explore solutions to existing challenges in developing countries, Boingotlo pursued an MSc in Economics for Development in 2017/18. However, during the programme and drawing on her experience in government, she has come to appreciate the role that the private sector can play in driving sustainable growth and creating jobs, especially when the public sector is constrained. During the MBA, she hopes to explore ways in which she can put into practice the insights she has learned.

Boingotlo holds a Master’s degree in Economics from the University of Cape Town, where she was placed on the Dean’s merit list every year of her undergraduate studies and placed first in her class for two of her master’s courses.

Dr Vuyane Mhlomi
South Africa
DPhil Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Summary: Dr Vuyane Mhlomi is a former Rhodes Scholar, Medical Doctor, and serial social entrepreneur who grew up in one of the most notorious townships in South Africa.

Bio: Dr Vuyane Mhlomi grew up with his single-parent mother in a household of 10 children in one of South Africa’s most notorious townships, Khayelitsha. His mother suffered a stroke as he was studying for his final exams, and he was tasked with studying while taking care of her. Despite these setbacks he graduated third in a class of 171 students. He was awarded the Dr Helen Brown Prize for the second-best final year student in clinical medicine and was on the Dean’s Merit List and Medicine Honours List. He has been awarded several honors, including the Ackerman Family Foundation Award for outstanding leadership, and the South African Medical Association Young Leaders Award. He is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and a Fellow of the Oxford Global Leadership Initiative. He is the founder of the MH Foundation, an educational non-profit organization he founded with other young professionals in South Africa. The MH Foundation offers scholarships to children from poor backgrounds through a program of educational support, mentoring, personal and career development, and social responsibility. Vuyane is named amongst the Johannesburg-based Mail & Guardian newspaper’s Top 200 Young South Africans.

Vuyane has a First Class Honours degree in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Cape Town.

Pershing Square Scholars – 2016-18 Cohort
James Burton  
Australia  
MSc African Studies

**Summary:** James is dedicated to supporting the development of breakthrough technologies that address humanity’s grand challenges.

**Bio:** James has had diverse professional experience, working to fund and implement innovative technologies across the public, private and non-profit sectors. Before coming to Oxford, James served as the chief of staff to entrepreneur and XPRIZE founder Peter Diamandis; researching and proposing new ventures, assessing investment opportunities, forming strategic relationships and contributing to key fundraising projects. He also helped Diamandis build HeroX, a platform for individuals to design, fund and run their own incentive competitions to solve key personal and professional challenges.  
James’ long-term focus is to bring his understanding of innovative technology and financing mechanisms to bear on problems of sustainability.

James holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Relations and Philosophy from the University of Sydney. He graduated from his MSc in African Studies with Distinction and was awarded the African Studies Prize.

Bethany Larsen  
United States  
MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation

**Summary:** Beth has a strong interest in poverty and health through work experience in Rwanda. Her goal is to improve the lives of impoverished women in Africa.

**Bio:** Beth's interest in tackling poverty and international health issues began when she was sixteen on a medical mission trip to Duk Payuel, now in South Sudan, where she witnessed shocking health inequity. This encounter inspired her to found during her time at Lawrence University, the chapter of GlobeMed, a national organisation that partners university chapters with grass-roots organizations to improve the health of the impoverished. Her work with GlobeMed led Bethany to develop a partnership with a community-based non-profit in Rwanda called Health Development Initiative (HDI), an organisation which she joined after graduation.

In her capacity as Program Coordinator and later as Director of Development for HDI in Kigali, Bethany oversaw the fundraising and strategic planning efforts of the organisation, focussing on fundraising and grant writing and addressing staff capacity gaps through workshops.

Beth’s intention is to create a business that connects female entrepreneurs in developing countries to resources and markets that empower them to take control of their lives and the lives of their children to break the cycle of poverty.

Beth holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Lawrence University.
James Dickson
New Zealand, Austria
MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation

Summary: James is passionate about data and how it can help to bring change to the developing world. His work background is strongly based in the UN in Vienna, with several roles in the past years.

Bio: After his studies of European Languages in New Zealand, James worked in Ghana and Taiwan until joining the United Nations in Vienna, where he has held several positions for several departments.

He worked on the design and implementation of development cooperation programmes across a range of sectors, helping to ensure that they are analytically sound, well-managed, with measurable impact on the communities. One focus has been change management, which means finding ways in which to help organisations work more efficiently, with greater learning while also analysing trends and changes that affect the future of these public sector organisations.

James’ wish is to change the world by measuring it. He is passionate about analysing and deconstructing problems, finding evidence, and promoting learning from prior experience, in order to effectively support communities and improve lives. The main focus of James’ future efforts is the use of mobile telephone platforms and how to generate and provide information to communities in developing countries, as well as looking how might be made more effective in supporting communities’ needs.

James holds a Master of Advanced International Studies, International Relations, International Law and Economics from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, and a Bachelor of Arts in European Languages from the University of Waikato.

Yisroel Meir Wachs
United States, Israel
MSt Study of Religion

Summary: Meir combines religious studies in Talmudic Law with a strong entrepreneurial background, having successfully founded and managed several companies.

Bio: Entrepreneurial from a young age, Yisroel has gained relevant experience founding his own company early on, growing it from a one-person to 30+ people operation.

At the age of 24, his scope expanded into Real Estate and Finance by investing into distressed real estate assets in the US after the 2008 market crash. Two years later, with financial independence and robust investments, Meir decided to move to Jerusalem to begin studies in Talmudic Law. During his study years, he continued to manage and grow his company, while at the same time co-founding a proprietary trading firm in New York. This successful venture eventually merged with another company.

In addition to his business responsibilities, Meir taught and provided counselling to over 400 undergraduate students in Israel. He also travels extensively all over the world, having visited over 70 countries in the past years.

Yisroel’s view to change the world concentrates on using entrepreneurship as a bridge and resource to the economic empowerment of individuals and societies, recognising the role religion plays in many conflicted societies.

Yisroel holds a Master in Talmudic Law from Ohr Somayach, Tanenbaum College and a Bachelor of Arts in Talmudic Law with a Minor in Education from the same College.
Katie-Coral Sicora
United States
MSc in Nature, Society and Environmental Governance

Summary: Through her recent work experience and her willingness to change the rules of the game, Katie-Coral’s plan is to address environmental and social challenges through ethical entrepreneurship.

Bio: From childhood to university, Katie-Coral has always been willing to challenge the rules of the game resulting in her being the first person in her family to go to college.

Stories that create change have inspired Katie-Coral, from shooting a documentary in Sierra Leone and writing content for presidential candidates in Kenya to supporting the first online communication office for a US Senator and most recently producing integrated marketing campaigns that highlight how the world’s biggest creators of waste can reduce their carbon footprint. In her last position before joining Oxford, Katie-Coral worked as Senior Marketing Specialist at Bluebeam where helped global contractors take paper-intensive processes digital and go paperless.

Her experiences with for-profit, yet mission-driven, technology have resulted in an interest in social enterprise. It is at the intersection of technology and the environment where Katie-Coral would like to continue working after her MBA. In the long-term, Katie-Coral’s goal is to lead a mission-driven technology firm that seeks to address global challenges to our natural resources.

Katie-Coral holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Communication: Leadership and Social Advocacy from Emerson College.

Ndakuna Fonso Amidou
Bamenda, Cameroon
MSc Social Science of the Internet

Summary: Ndakuna’s aim is to expand the availability of high-quality affordable healthcare across his native Cameroon by utilising technology and the Internet to scale his already successful clinic model.

Bio: Born to illiterate parents in a remote village of Cameroon, Ndakuna almost didn’t go to school and only began his formal education at the age of 10.

To fund his undergraduate engineering studies, he worked full-time for the National Health Service as a mental health nurse before beginning his career as a Telecommunications Engineer, first with Motorola and then Vodafone.

After many years of living in the U.K., Ndakuna visited Cameroon and was shocked at how little progress had been made in the healthcare delivery space. This wake-up call spurred him to help create whatever change he could by founding a clinic that caters to the rural population’s basic needs, such as pre-natal care, vaccinations, childbirth and disease management (including HIV/AIDS). The clinic now employs twenty people and has brought more than 1,000 children safely into this world.

Whilst in Oxford, Ndakuna focused on how technology and the Internet can be used to scale his clinic model and expand the availability to high-quality, affordable healthcare across Cameroon.

Since graduating Ndakuna has remained in the UK working as a specialist consultant on data privacy.
Davidson Edwards  
Roseau, Dominica  
MSc Computer Science  

Summary: Davidson's goal is to drive economic growth and the advancement of the Caribbean software industry by developing high-quality, innovative tools for the region's industries, governments and small businesses.

Bio: Davidson came to Oxford armed with steadfast perseverance and dedication to the future growth and development of the Caribbean software industry. While working full-time day jobs, his desire to make an impact in his home region fuelled his drive to excel in his undergraduate studies through the University of London's International Programmes in Computing.

Davidson founded Tropicode Software Solutions – the first registered software development business in Dominica – where his endeavours included the creation of software tools to aid teachers in addressing sub-optimal learning outcomes and help the local agriculture industry identify the latest market trends and best practices.

Davidson's goal is to return to the Caribbean to empower economic growth and enhance the output of the region's industries, governments and small businesses by continuing to develop high-quality, innovative software tools. He also hopes to nurture the development of the software industry itself, with the aim of creating a community and atmosphere where other professionals and organisations will thrive.

Since graduating Davidson has joined an augmented reality tech start up, Scape Technologies, and is building a real-time localization engine allowing AR content and digital services to be tied to specific locations in the real world.

Islom Nazarov  
United Kingdom  
DPhil Systems Approaches to Biomedical Science  

Summary: Through his extensive experience in biomedical research and practical business training, Islom (Bobojon) plans to ensure more beneficial scientific discoveries are available to the consumer market by fostering relationships between academia and industry.

Bio: Islom (Bobojon) began his career as a financial analyst in London and gained his Levels 1 and 2 qualifications as a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) before pursuing an MSc in Pharmacology and now a DPhil in Systems Approaches to Biomedical Sciences at the University of Oxford.

Whilst in Oxford, Bobojon's research focused on the mechanisms underlying cardiac disease with the aim of improving drug therapies. This work in academia has provided him with insights into the numerous, valuable laboratory findings that often remain dormant – particularly in the cardiac field.

To address this, Bobojon founded Oxford Pharmacology Ventures, a student society that brings new innovations to market by developing relationships between the University's Pharmacology Department and the biopharmaceutical industry. His long-term goal is to continue fostering ties between the academic and industry communities to ensure a larger number of biomedical discoveries more fully benefit society by being realised in the consumer market, whilst also generating financial returns to support further research.

Bobojon holds a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacology and a Master of Science in Economics, Finance & Management from University of Bristol; as well as a Master of Pharmacology from the University of Oxford.

Since graduating Bobojon joined M Ventures, the strategic venture capital arm of the Merck Group.
Ashley Thomas  
United States  
MSc Water Science, Policy and Management  

**Summary:** As a water engineer, Ashley has delivered clean water technologies in seven countries across Africa. Her goal is to create tangible on-the-ground solutions that will achieve large-scale impact by drastically improving water and sanitation services for the world’s poor.

**Bio:** Ashley’s career to-date has focused on delivering clean water technologies to improve the lives of Africa’s poor. Her work in providing products to two million customers in seven countries across Africa has given her an in-depth understanding of base-of-the-pyramid customers and the complex global supply chains required to reach them.

As a Design Engineer and Product Manager for International Development Enterprises (iDE) in Ethiopia, Ashley designed a new irrigation technology, set up micro-enterprises in three districts, and sold 15,000 products. She then worked as a Water and Environment Consultant at Harewelle International, before designing systems and supply chains for Evidence Action (formerly Innovations for Poverty Action) in Uganda and Kenya.

Ashley believes that the future of the clean water technology sector will require an integrated approach that includes governments, business and academia. Her goal is to work at this interface, translating knowledge into tangible on-the-ground solutions that will achieve large-scale impact, and ultimately to become a leader in this next generation of development by drastically improving water and sanitation services for the world’s poorest people.

Ashley holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and she has recently joined Remitly, a FinTech focused on migrant worker money transfer services for developing countries.

Seth Collins  
United States  
MSc Environmental Change and Management  

**Summary:** Seth has a background in climate policy, governance, and economics in the United States with a keen interest in transitioning cities to a low-carbon economy.

**Bio:** Seth decided to combine his MSc in Environmental Change and Management with the Oxford MBA as he sees that business is what will take the initiative and drive the change needed to prevent an excessive temperature rise on our planet.

Prior to his studies, Seth was a Program Analyst in the Climate Investment Funds at the World Bank Group, working to on the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program. This initiative looks at growing a trust fund for supporting real estate technologies in low income countries and support the development of investment plans in low income countries. Seth has worked in several policy roles, some in Washington D.C., mainly relating to environmental and energy issues.

Seth’s goal is to help cities as main drivers in the transition to a low-carbon economy by showing them that they are able to profitably facilitate the transition. He will achieve this by leading a fund to offer consultation around appropriate low-carbon solutions for a city and its infrastructure through investor-friendly green bonds.

Since graduation Seth has co-founded Metronome Energy, a green-tech start up based in the Oxford Foundry Entrepreneurship Centre.
Gayathri Balan
MSc in Comparative Social Policy

**Summary:** Gayathri’s path to Oxford literally started with a journey. In 2011, she was selected for Jagriti Yatra – a 15-day, nationwide train expedition to meet Indian social entrepreneurship role models and explore the country’s great diversity. This inspired her to leave her Functional Analyst position at Schneider Electric India to pursue her social entrepreneurial dreams.

Gayathri’s passion was to help alleviate India’s sanitation crisis through an engaging mass media campaign that will change people’s mind-set, and ultimately their behaviour, towards sanitation. While in Oxford, Gayathri enjoyed debates at the Oxford Union and served as the Oxford Women in Politics Society, Kellogg College Representative.

Gayathri holds a Bachelor of Technology in Information Technology from VIT University, Vellore, India. As a 1+1 student, she combined the MSc in Comparative Social Policy with the Department of Social Policy & Intervention with the Oxford MBA. She was also the recipient of the JN Tata Scholarship, Lady Meherbai D. Tata Scholarship, MK Tata Scholarship, KC Mahindra Scholarship and Sir Dorabji Tata Travel Grant.

Gayathri is currently with PwC India. She joined as a Consultant in the Social Sector Advisory team, New Delhi Office. This is part of the larger Government Regulations and Infrastructure Development (GRID) practice at PwC. She is working on a range of exciting projects with clients such as UNDP, Govt of India, World Bank, etc. The work entails capacity building, feasibility studies, and assessment studies. They also have a growing focus on Public Private Partnerships. Gayathri is on a fast track career trajectory and is the first Oxford graduate to join the team.

Eve Binder
MSc in Social Science of the Internet

**Summary:** Eve came to Oxford from the trenches of corporate crisis communications, where she formed strong opinions on the ways companies interact with their stakeholders. Eve’s research focused on gamification, advertising and social policy, with an emphasis on how game elements can be used to stimulate altruism in non-traditional audiences.

Eve holds a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from Yale University. In the first year of her Oxford 1+1 MBA programme, she studied the MSc in Social Science of the Internet at the Oxford Internet Institute. After completing the programme she joined Vox Media as a Business Development Director and has recently become a Director.

“I had a wonderful time at Oxford, and am extremely happy in my current job. I started as the business development director of Vox Media, which is a TV studio affiliated with the PR firm Tulchan Communications. My role is to turn the studio from a failing business unit into a successful communications satellite company; it’s a combination of marketing, finance, and sales that I find really challenging and exciting. I get to use both my MBA and my MSc in Internet Studies regularly, and do a lot of creative problem-solving. The job definitely still makes sense given my goals then and now. Among other things, I really enjoy helping young and interesting businesses tell better stories, particularly about social responsibility.”
Alexandria Crampton  
MSc in Child Development and Education

Summary: Alexandria (Lexi)’s passion for education policy has fuelled a decade-long, multi-continental exploration of education systems. What started as a high school student passing reforms in her local district ultimately led her to Oxford. Over the past ten years, Lexi immersed herself in a wealth of experiences including: teaching English in Quilpué, Chile; supporting teachers with high-quality instructional resources at DC Public Schools; touring schools in China with the Chinese Ministry of Education; a Fulbright Fellowship at la Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Mexico City; and teaching kindergarten in Miami’s Little Haiti neighbourhood as a Teach For America Corps member.

Lexi’s passion is focused on supporting high-quality, scalable early education programme that serves families living in poverty. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics from Georgetown University, and a Master of Science in Education and Social Change from the University of Miami.

Most recently, Alexandria consulted nationally on K-12 public education issues before joining All Our Kin as Knowledge and Learning Strategist, supporting community child care providers to ensure that children and families have the foundation they need to succeed in school and in life.

Lexi has recently had her Oxford MSc dissertation successfully published as a journal article in the British Journal of Educational Psychology.

“I really appreciate the support that I received from the Pershing Square Foundation, the degree programs I participated in at Oxford allowed me to get the job I have now. I also want to thank them for arranging the trek, as that was an eye-opening trip that really helped me explore what I wanted to do after graduation. It was one of the best experiences I had during my time at Oxford and was inspiring and useful in equal measure.”

Yasmin Kumi  
MSc in Social Science of the Internet

Summary: Yasmin’s passion for West Africa is fuelled by her Ghanaian roots, as well as the energy of the people and variety of business opportunities she experienced while living in the region.

After working with the German International Development Corporation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to grow West Africa’s cashew industry, Yasmin spent three years as a consultant at McKinsey & Company focusing on projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Her research focuses on a leading Ghanaian family business and its history since the 1960s.

While in Oxford, Yasmin is enjoyed learning from the diversity of backgrounds and life experiences of her fellow classmates and professors. In the first year of her programme, she served as a chair of the student-led Oxford Africa Conference 2015, which hosted the President of Ghana and 450 attendees in Oxford for a two-day event.

After completing the Oxford 1+1, Yasmin returned to McKinsey before leaving to start her own venture, the Africa Foresight Group, operating in Ghana, Nigeria and London. She also serves as the Executive Director of the Harambe Entrepreneur Alliance, an incredible network of highly educated young African entrepreneurs spearheading high impact social ventures across the continent.
Tarun Varma
MSc in Social Science of the Internet

Summary: Tarun is an Initiatives Manager at the Lego Foundation in Billund, Denmark. He serves on the Learning through Play in Early Childhood team where he is responsible for grants made to children’s centres across the world. He also helps shape the Foundation’s advocacy for learning through play. He sits on the Innovation Council at Teach for India and curates an online early childhood community, Early Insights.

At Oxford Tarun earned his 1+1 MBA with an MSc in Child Development and Education as a Pershing Square Scholar. His MSc dissertation focused on self-regulation in primary school classrooms based on field research in an academy in London.

Tarun grew up in nine cities and towns throughout India. His education varied from small schools in remote towns to one of India’s foremost high schools in New Delhi. He has been consistently struck by how people are shaped by the schools they attend and their school experiences.

Tarun began his career in a fast-track management cadre with Tech Mahindra managing projects for British Telecom. He then founded a firm that delivered software services to educational institutions. In 2011, Tarun transitioned to education when he taught grades 2 and 3 as a Teach for India Fellow.

Tarun is still very involved with the School and is a passionate supporter of the Pershing Square Scholars community, hosting gatherings and providing guidance to the current cohort of scholars throughout their time in Oxford.
Said Business School at the University of Oxford blends the best of new and old. We are a vibrant and innovative business school, but yet deeply embedded in an 800-year-old world-class university. We create programmes and ideas that have global impact. We educate people for successful business careers, and as a community seek to tackle world-scale problems. We deliver cutting-edge programmes and ground-breaking research that transform individuals, organisations, business practice, and society. We seek to be a world-class business school community, embedded in a world-class university, tackling world-scale problems.

‘Had I not received this scholarship, I would have missed out on studying at the best University in the world. However, more than that, I would never have gotten to learn from classmates coming from more than fifty countries, to exchange ideas with them and to gain an appreciation for the diversity of perspectives on any given issue. The MBA journey has been tremendous for my personal and professional growth and I am immensely grateful for the scholarship support that I received.’

Saïd Business School MBA scholar (2017-18)

‘Thank You - through this contribution, you have changed my life, the life of my family, and my immediate community. The seeds of greatness have been planted this year, your contribution was the very first watering.’

Saïd Business School MBA scholar (2016-17)

Your support
We are dedicated to inspiring the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs. To help us achieve this, we need your support. If you are interested in funding a scholarship at Saïd Business School, please contact Tom Childs.

Tom Childs
Senior Development Executive
T: +44 (0)1865 288826
E: tom.childs@sbs.ox.ac.uk