Dear Ambassadors,

Happy New Year from GCI!

As we welcome 2022 with new adventures and opportunities, we also look back with gratitude on 2021. The past year highlighted our GCI community's resilience, innovation and passion to continue creating positive change in the world.

In the face of an ongoing global pandemic, our Ambassador community has only continued to expand and grow stronger, finding new and creative ways to empower each other and form bonds with the assistance of technology! In its inaugural year, we have enjoyed watching the GoGCI platform develop into an ecosystem where you can share opportunities, resources and bridge connections with your fellow Ambassadors. We were also excited to see so many of you join us and draw inspiration from our virtual speaker events, first with climate justice activist Kumi Naidoo in March, and then later with criminal justice reform advocate Alexandra Wilson in July.

This summer, we introduced the GCI LEAD Challenge, our first entirely virtual program! Over an incredible 6 days, we were impressed by the thought-provoking discussions centered around the themes of Leadership, Ethics, Advocacy and Design Thinking held in our virtual classroom. After this one-of-a-kind experience, we also welcomed 36 new fantastic young global citizens into our Ambassador community!

In September, we had a happy in-person gathering (at last!) with a Mini Reunion dinner in Washington D.C.! It is always truly special when we gather as a community. With a new year on the horizon, we look to continue holding in-person GCI events and are thrilled to resume our full Fellowship program in 2022, kicking off with our first GCI Summit held at the University of St Andrews in Scotland!

Thank you for sharing your own 2021 experiences, updates and accomplishments with us. We continue to be inspired by your leadership, ambition and desire to create change, and we look forward to continuing to support you on your journey as a global citizen into this year!

Sincerely yours,

Yumi Kuwana
President and Founder
A Discussion with Kumi Naidoo

Chaitanya, Ghada, Giuliana, Karishma (Moderator), Kevin, Konstantina, Krissy, Kylie, Louis, Pratika, Sydney, Takunda, Trevor, Wisdom, Wunmi, & other GCI Community Members including Seminar Educators, Mentors, Faculty, Board and Team

On March 30th, our GCI community sat down with Kumi Naidoo for a discussion on sustainability and activism. Mr. Naidoo is the co-founder of Africa Rising, a climate justice activist, and the former head of Amnesty International and Greenpeace.

The discussion was led by Karishma Bhagani (GCI Ambassador 2014), who fielded questions from a group of GCI Ambassadors and Educators in attendance, while also connecting with Kumi over the value of ‘artivism’ -- activism through art -- and the role of arts and culture on moving social and climate justice forward.

Kumi shared experiences from his four decades as an activist and imparted his advice on how best to mobilize groups towards addressing inequities and making societal and institutional change. He acknowledged that in activism “we often project our own consciousness onto the people we want to organize” and that it is important to meet people where they are in terms of their knowledge, position, and context.

Over the course of the conversation, Kumi discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light many systemic and social inequities that are often overlooked by those in a position of privilege. He cautioned against the dangers of “affluenza”, his term for equating “acquiring material wealth” with leading a “good life’.

Kumi also expressed his regrets on what he views as his own generation’s failings in achieving their ambitions and goals towards climate justice. He went on to stress his hope in the next generation’s efforts and encouraged our Ambassadors to stay optimistic as they work “to find new solutions to old problems”.

We thank Kumi Naidoo and his team for speaking with our GCI community!
This summer, GCI welcomed 36 new Ambassadors upon the completion of our first ever GCI LEAD Challenge! As GCI’s first online program, we are incredibly excited to welcome this cohort of young agents of positive change—representing 30 different cultural heritages, 28 languages and 30 schools in 14 countries—to our global community.

Throughout the 6-day program, we were impressed by the thoughtful questions and dynamic discussions that took place in our virtual classrooms. Together, we opened our minds to different perspectives and innovative ideas as we explored the topics of Leadership, Ethics and Advocacy and the learning methodologies of Design Thinking and Harkness®.

Each day, expert speakers provided their insight on the day’s theme and top educators from Phillips Exeter Academy facilitated Harkness® academic sessions around the topic. Students applied what they learned during these sessions to collaborate on an advocacy campaign for the nonprofit organization APOPO, which trains rats to help to rid the world of landmines and tuberculosis.

With guidance from Aybike Oğuz, an educator from Robert College of Istanbul, and our 9 incredible Teaching Assistants (all GCI Ambassadors themselves!), students worked in groups to answer the question: “How might we make APOPO hero rats popular among young people?”

The GCI Team was blown away by each group’s unique and thoughtful presentation, where we were treated to a wide range of prototypes from the practical to the whimsical. We cannot wait to see how the students apply the lessons they learned through this project to their home communities to help solve local problems.

After an inspiring discussion on the program’s final day with Alexandra Wilson, an extraordinary young barrister and social justice advocate from the United Kingdom, we were sad to say goodbye, but we know that the conversations and friendships started during the GCI LEAD Challenge are far from over. We are so excited to continue to follow and be a part of our now 196 Ambassadors’ journeys!

*Harkness® is a registered trademark of Phillips Exeter Academy.
In September, GCI gathered as a community in person once more for a mini reunion in Washington D.C.!

The reunion was attended by Ambassadors representing almost every year, from 2014 all the way up to those who participated in this past summer’s GCI LEAD Challenge. Some even traveled to D.C. from as far as North Carolina, Florida, Ethiopia and Jordan!

Yumi, Rita and the Ambassadors were also joined by one of our Seminar Educators and a GCI Parent. It is truly a joy to see our community grow and connect not only across countries but also cohort years!
2021 Matriculates

Ellie (United States) University of Southern California
Eman (Ethiopia) Virginia Tech
Graciela (United States) Tufts University
Maxwell (United States) Northeastern University
Yassine B. (Morocco) Asia Pacific University
Yassine K. (Tunisia) Bowdoin College
Bishruti
Nepal

For my 2021 update, I graduated high school (virtually). I am working in a not-for-profit organization called ‘Ek Ek Paila’ in my gap year. I also raised 1,75,000 NRS by organizing a virtual musical concert alongside three other friends, through which we could fund preliminary COVID-19 medications to parts of rural Nepal through the organization.

Khushbu
Kenya

The school year has been relatively short this year as I graduated from the IB with a 37/45 points in May. Then I went on a full blown ‘vacation’ with myself just at home until September when I moved to Canada to pursue mechanical engineering at York University in January, however, I decided to change majors to psychology and with a minor in Economics or IT (yet to decide). It has been very hectic as due to COVID I had to stay at school for 5 months to finish my IB diploma, as well as the transition to Canada. However, I am thankful to the Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa for providing the best education as well as empowering me to be and do the best I can.

I am proud of pioneering Salama Minds along with my mother. To date we have funded for more than 25 youth in Kenya since the organization began in November 2020. We are very thankful to our sponsors including GCI. We are still quite challenged by lack of funds but through the grace of God we have been getting one time sponsors however, we are urging the world to sponsor Salama Minds to transform the lives of the youth. This year I am very proud of my mother, the COO of Salama Minds because she has been on the forefront as I have been in school and traveling. We have been featured on the Kenyan Asian Weekly and News Nation TV as well as the local Kenyan newspaper which is a very big accomplishment for us and for our organization. It is one step closer to reducing the stigma and to help the youth get the clarity they need in their lives.

In 2022, I am looking forward to making Salama Minds a ‘thing’ in Canada as well and improve on the inner workings of the organization so that the youth can reach us in a better way. I also would like to take time for my mental health because it has not been a very easy year.
Divya was awarded recognition on both Talerang “25 under 25” and Brainfeed Magazine’s “Top 20 under 20” lists for her continued work with her organization, Sehpaathi.

Sehpaathi is a social outreach program that strives to promote and achieve inclusive and gender-neutral education. Based in Delhi, India, we have worked extensively during the global pandemic, to educate underserved students about gender equality. We aim to create an atmosphere of acceptance towards marginalized communities with a focus on providing employment opportunities to Acid Attack Survivors and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Divya joined the student advisory board at ENpower, the world’s first structured online entrepreneurship fun-learning platform for early teens to hone their entrepreneurial skills. At ENpower’s Student Advisory Board she helps and mentors students as they start their social ventures. Divya has also successfully organized several business hackathons for students from classes 9-12.

In 2021, Divya took part in authoring a research paper under Emmah Khisa Senge Wabuke, PhD Candidate at the University of Cambridge, with the goal of undertaking a multidisciplinary approach to understanding gender equality, sexual orientation and colonialism in India in order to generate answers that will be instrumental in queer activism in the country.

Divya is the co-founder of Tyron, a fashion footwear brand that creates fashionable and quality products crafted out of recycled and upcycled tires. We found ourselves stumbling upon a unique idea – taking a fashionable and eco-friendly step towards a better future by creating stylish and comfortable footwear using old, discarded tires.

This year, Divya headed the events and PR team at Youth Action Hub-India (Delhi), a UNCTAD initiative, with a focus on increasing youth activism. She was also selected into the Harvard Youth Lead the Change program organized by Harvard Business School, Harvard Law School, and the Harvard School of education as one of the 126 students.

During the pandemic, Divya also started Society or Caretakers of Heritage (SOCH), an initiative that conducts virtual heritage walks to different historical sites in New Delhi, India to promote Indian Culture and Heritage and further deepen interest in visual arts.

Divya also works as an intern at Rainshine Entertainment Private Limited as a scriptwriter for Talerang’s Podcast to be released on Amazon Audible.
I’m currently at the end of my first semester as an undergraduate, and you can imagine how different it was from high school. I also decided to move across the world for my undergrad, making even more things in my life a new experience. So far, college life has been great. I could say this past few months will be one of my favorite unforgettable memories. I’m looking forward to my next three and a half years in undergrad. I wouldn’t say there weren’t challenges, but those gave me the full experience and taught me more about myself.

I’m a biomedical major on the pre-med track planning on minoring in psychology; we have so many assignments to do and many classes to take from biology to chemistry to calculus to physics and such. I’ve been told getting a 3.5 GPA was more than enough, and it’ll make you “competitive” for medical school.

As a person who wants to be a doctor, I’ve never understood this because I know why I’m going to school and why set my mind to a 3.5 GPA when I should be trying very hard to learn and understand everything I should be understanding. There’s this quote I have right on top of my study desk. It says, “You do not study to pass a test. You study to prepare for the day when you are the only thing between a patient and the grave.”(Reid).

I have dreams, and the reason I’m doing medicine is to accomplish those dreams. I wasn’t going to strive for a lower grade just because it’s “competitive” enough cause medicine isn’t about grades but the number of people’s lives that are in your hands. I’m in my finals week with only three final exams left, and here I am, not with a 3.5 GPA but with a 4.0 GPA at the current moment. I was told that was not easy to accomplish, yeah maybe, but it’s possible. I’m proud of myself for believing in myself.

What I look forward to in 2022 is meeting new people, making new memories, and finding a program I can do cancer research at during the summer of 2022.
Kaiya
Japan

After my time at the GCI Challenge 2021, I took a trip from Florida to Washington D.C. to attend the GCI Mini-Reunion Dinner. There I was able to meet Ms. Yumi, Ms. Rita, my TA Kem, and many other GCI members in person. Later, after the reunion, I was given the opportunity to become a Class Agent for GCI. As one of the officers at my school’s Japanese Club, we are in the works of the development of club t-shirts and working on a Senbazuru (paper cranes) project.

Top Right, Kaiya’s Senbazuru (paper crane) project

Bottom Left, Kaiya and Aymen (2021) with Yumi at the Washington D.C. Reunion Dinner

Julien
Germany, United States

The past year was quite busy from an academic standpoint as I am crawling closer and closer to the finish line of my final year of the International Baccalaureate. 2021 brought with it the return to in person classes which actually was quite uplifting and refreshing coming off a year of almost entirely continuous virtual schooling.

I am proud of having had opportunities for personal growth, fabricating new friendships, and gaining enriching experiences while undergoing a very rigorous and demanding stage of my academic learning, whilst simultaneously having persevered through the hardships associated with the situation resulting from the pandemic.

I am looking forward to bringing my senior year of high school to a close, and finally having an opportunity for a well-deserved break during which time will be spent with family and friends before commencing on my journey to fulfill my intellectual curiosity through the pursuit of a higher education.
Yassine B.  
Morocco

Unfortunately, I am still in Morocco and did not have the chance to go to Japan since Japan still has its borders closed due to the Pandemic. I have had 12 weeks of online classes so far and it is quite challenging. The challenge is not about the content taught in class but it is the time difference between Morocco and Japan. I have to wake up at 2am to start my classes and finish them at 10am and going through that routine never gets easy. But we move regardless! On the bright side, I am very proud of how much I have grown in Japanese class given the current circumstances.

I am currently working on a 100% Moroccan podcast that shares the stories of young Moroccan change makers. This is very exciting to me since there is no similar podcast that creates such content in Moroccan Arabic and what is even more exciting is that we will be releasing our first episode on the 31st of this month!

I am really hoping that the Japanese borders open as soon as possible so that I can better experience Japan and thrive at my university without having to worry about time difference or online classes. I am also looking forward to seeing my podcast grow in the next few months and create a positive impact within the Moroccan youth community in my beloved country!

Above, Yassine presenting with his Group (Antoinette, Bishruti and Yura) during the GCI LEAD Challenge

Left, Yassine practicing photography
2019


2021 Matriculates

Alicia (Italy, United Kingdom) Parsons School of Design
Karina Brunella (Peru) Smith College
Elyes (Tunisia) Williams College
Lucy (Canada) College of the Atlantic
Milei (Japan, United States) Columbia University

Nicole (Colombia, United States) Stanford University
Osasenaga (Nigeria) Harvard University
Ranay (India) University of Southern California
Sean (Hong Kong, Switzerland) Harvard University
Takaya (Japan) Minerva Schools at KGI
Alicia
Italy, United Kingdom

2021 has been full of ups and downs but it has been full of satisfying projects and new experiences. This year specifically, I really re-ignited my creative flame. I have just started on a partial scholarship as a Freshman at Parsons School Of Design in New York. I wanted to share with you all today some of my creative pieces and what I have been up to. I hope to major in Fashion Design and focus on amalgamating sustainability within my work.

I created a memorial to my mother’s survival fighting COVID. She was in the ICU for a month and fought an extremely strong battle. She spoke a lot about how her mind and memories saved her. Thus, this is what I emulated throughout this piece in her portrait and the collage behind. She is my inspiration and I really enjoyed placing this admiration I have for her in this piece.

A magazine cover:
This was focused on an individual called Frankie. I represented his identity through quotes from our interview, especially encapsulating his creative aura.
Brunella
Peru

Brunella took a gap year after graduating from ISAK and has been home in Lima, Peru. She has been a reporter for a magazine and is a freelance tutor for 14 to 16-year-olds helping them in Spanish and History. She will attend Smith College in the fall and is very excited.

Anna
United States, Japan

Anna is in her second year at the University of Pennsylvania. In the summer, she had an internship in Japan at a marketing/consulting start-up company. The firm works on neuroscience data and algorithms. She also is interested in women’s empowerment and is doing research for UPenn in feminist history in Japan (1945-present) regarding women’s rights and empowerment.

Chaitanya *Class Agent
India

Chaitanya is a sophomore currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree as an EGLS scholar in International Studies and Economics, and certificate programs in Advanced Leadership Studies and Political Thought at American University, Washington DC. She aims to pursue a career in economics, international development & public policy.

Right, November’s GCI Fellowship 2022 Webinar panel with Alicia (2019), Chaitanya (2019), Birk (2018), and Eita (2018)
In 2021, I wrapped up my gap year. After working at Denman Island Chocolate Factory for 4 months I transferred to management at the Denman island ferry terminal during our busiest summer season. I took on lots of responsibilities and developed a strong work ethic--just in time to start school at College of the Atlantic!

Now I’m living in Bar Harbor, Maine, and pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Human Ecology.
Jennie
Japan, South Korea

This year, I started my sophomore year at Wesleyan University and declared my major in both the College of Social Studies and Economics. I spent my summer working at a digital marketing firm and my winter completing a pre-MBA program with Dartmouth College’s Tuck School of Business. I also spent the year exploring my interests in technology and antitrust law, and personal finance.

Osasenaga  *Class Agent
United States, Nigeria

In June, I graduated from my high school Boston Latin School! Now I am a freshman at Harvard studying environmental science and public policy while on the pre-med track. This first semester, my main goals were to do well especially in my science and math classes and to start getting involved on campus. I’ve made new mentors and network connections on campus so I am excited to continue developing these relationships.

At the end of my winter break, I am participating in a program for developing civic engagement project called the Winnovation program. And I plan on reassessing my project ideas for my GSP.

Next semester, my goals beyond academic achievement is to get more involved in extracurricular activities and to secure internships or opportunities for the summer!
2018


2021 Matriculates

Khue (Vietnam) Lund University
Louis (Nigeria) Centre College
I was working this summer with the Venture Capital firm True Ventures focusing on sustainability and ESG investments. I worked a dual role there with one of their portfolio companies Kettle, an AI climate change reinsurer, while also working simultaneously with the VC firm.

I’m also have been working with the US Development Finance corporation for the past year and a half (full time last summer and fall and part time in equity investments now) focusing on development finance especially in Fintech, sustainability, and healthcare investments as well as creating developmental metrics for measuring projects. I also just accepted an offer to work at Bridgewater Associates next summer as an investment associate.

Birk is a current Junior at Duke University where he studies Public Policy and Economics. He spent last year working with the Duke Law School to help reform jail data collection methods for North Carolina and currently helps lead the Duke Justice Project, a campus organization dedicated to serving local justice-involved individuals.

He is also interested in investing for social impact and is part of Duke’s Impact Investing Group where he works to source innovative investment opportunities in environmentally sustainable startups. He has taken this interest and spent time working for two different investment firms focused on healthcare and enterprise software.
For the first half of 2021, I took a motorbike roadtrip to the South of Vietnam and did some volunteering work for the Mekong Social Enterprise Network. I ended my second gap year with an internship at the Centre for Social Initiatives Promotion (CSIP Vietnam) working closely with the local NGOs and social enterprises network Vietnam.

I started university and moved to Sweden in October, pursuing Development Studies at Lund University. Excited to plan meet-ups with some of my fellow 2018 GCI Cohort who are doing exchange in Europe next year.

Khue  *Class Agent  
Vietnam

Eita  *TA 2021  
United States, Japan

Eita is a sophomore at Babson College studying Business. In his free time, he enjoys playing basketball, electric guitar, and cooking. This summer he worked as a TA for the GCI LEAD Challenge.

Left, Khue on her motorbike trip through South Vietnam

Above Right, Eita as a TA with his GCI LEAD Challenge group: Antoinette (2021), Bishruti (2021), Yassine B. (2021) and Yura (2021)
Louis
Nigeria

This year has been a difficult and rewarding one for me. Writing this update on the plane, sleep-deprived after finals, I reflect on how I have had to learn to 'be a student'. After completing high school back in 2019, I went on to take two gap years. During that time in Nigeria I worked as a state political appointee.

Two years later, I received a Lincoln Scholarship to attend Centre College, and in a bit of an anomaly (at least for undergrads), I have had to abandon my full-time job and also relearn how to study in depth, sleep while someone is banging Taylor Swift at 3am and all the good old college stuff.

In spite of this stressful readjustment, I must confess: I love the satisfaction of engaging with difficult material, partaking in debates that spillover after class ends and getting to know my new people.

However, being an international student has also made me very homesick, and the U.S. has further challenged me identity-wise, socially and pushed me mentally. As I try to reconcile my experiences for fall semester, I will be reading Chimamanda Adichie’s Americanah, a novel about identity, feminism and immigration, if you wish to join me in this adventure.

Compliments of the season!

Right, Louis on campus at Centre College

Rawad
Jordan

This year was the most transformative year of my life. I turned 20 and I got to experience adult life through working 5 months at a full-time job with WayFair as an engineer while tutoring Arabic part time at Northeastern University. I learned so much throughout my experience and it made me more responsible and organized. I have also joined the Boston dabke troupe and performed all over Boston’s universities including Harvard, MIT, Boston University, and Brandeis. In addition, I took my passion (my project) for singing into the next level through joining a song writing club, making my own songs and performing in restaurants and on the streets of Cambridge.

I am hoping I will be dropping an EP next year while still pursuing my industrial engineering degree as a third year at Northeastern University! I miss GCI so much. Since I live in Boston, I keep passing through the places we went during the Summit, and it brings me so many nostalgic memories. I am still in touch with so many of my Fellows. The GCI family will forever be in my heart, and I am always glad that it keeps growing every year.
In September 2021, Sama will have started her third and final year of her law degree at the University of Bristol. In her first year, she was the arts representative for her hall’s committee. In second year, she worked at the Bristol Institute for Learning and Teaching, leading the Humans-of-Bristol-University initiative and tackling projects on decolonizing the university. She was also a student advisor for the Human Rights Clinic, treasurer for the Women-in-Leadership society, and Vice-President of the Friends-of-Palestine society. In third year, she anticipates leading both societies as president, joining the Law Clinic, and conducting further research on decolonization. She aims to pursue a career in human rights while maintaining involvement in arts and other hobbies.

I am currently in my 3rd year in dental school. I participated in a new research conducted in Jordanian dental schools to investigate the factors that affect the clinical performance of dental students. Also, I was able to attend the mini reunion in DC this summer, and it was so nice to see some familiar faces, meet some new GCI ambassadors, and chat with Yumi and other organizers over dinner. On the personal level, I started working in the editing and proofreading services for many projects. I also started playing the bongos recently. I hope 2022 brings the GCI community more success and happiness and looking forward to the upcoming GCI summit next summer.

*TA 2021

Sama
Jordan

Left, during the GCI LEAD Challenge TA Sama gives feedback to her group: Amy (2021), Divya (2021), Eman (2021) and Yuraj (2021)

Above, Zaid with Erik (2016) at the Washington D.C. Reunion Dinner

Zaid
Jordan
2017


2021 Graduates

Konstantina (Greece) University of Groningen
Kylie (Australia, Hong Kong) University College London
To start off, it was nice being able to reunite with Elif, especially on my stomping grounds this time! We were able to catch up over some poke, and it always feels like our time in our 2017 cohort wasn’t too long ago.

I also finished my spring semester of my junior year and fall semester of my senior year at Hawai‘i Pacific. I am currently getting my Bachelor’s degree in social work and will graduate next spring!

I am grateful for the many opportunities I’ve received throughout my time in the social program. As I approached my senior year, I got elected to be the BSW student representative on the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Hawai‘i Chapter. My responsibilities include representing the interests and concerns of all the undergraduate social work students across Hawai‘i, as well as advertise NASW Hawai‘i and their resources.

I also got accepted into the Mana Wahine Fellowship program at my university, which is a fellowship created to empower Pacific Islander women who are in their final year in the College of Health & Society. I was awarded $10,000 and have a year-long membership with my cohort, which includes mentorship, monthly check-ins, and inspiration series.

We’ve discussed topics such as overcoming impostor syndrome, pursuing graduate school, and navigating our Pacific Islander identities.

As a senior, I have also had the opportunity of working with a non-profit organization, We Are Oceania. They do amazing work to empower the Micronesian community, and I intern at their youth center. I was able to participate in outreach events, such as our cultural stations for children in low-income housing.

One of my biggest sources of support throughout this year has been my peers and mentors. Our social work program is small, which has allowed us to form strong relationships with one another. One of the classes I took this past semester was our macro social work class, and we did this class at a community center in Papakōlea, which is Native Hawaiian homestead. One outreach event that we helped to plan and participate in was a trunk-or-treat Halloween Fest. We decorated our trunks and dressed up according to a Monsters Inc. theme.

Lastly, I am currently working on a research proposal on the ways Native Hawaiian youth define, conceptualize, and practice wellbeing, and the impact of cultural identity on mental health outcomes. Moving forward, I plan to take a year off, then pursue my MSW and PhD. I eventually want to use my social work degrees to create a mentorship program for Native Hawaiian youth by other Native Hawaiians.

Aloha e kākou (hello everyone)!

I originally did not think I had many updates as we remain in the thick of a global pandemic, but after further reflection, I realized that there is much to celebrate.
I started my final year at UC Berkeley and will be graduating with a major in Cognitive Science, and minors in Data Science and Public Policy in Spring 2022. I accepted a full time offer at Accenture to be a Business & Integration Architect as part of the Technology Development Program in the San Francisco office and will be beginning in Fall 2022! I was elected as a Senator in the Associated Students of the University of California, and since then I’ve secured almost $1.1 million in software licensing for campus. Otherwise, I was lucky enough to travel to London to see my family, and I spent time with GCI Ambassador (2017) Catherine Jara in Hawai’i over spring break. Cal beat Stanford this year for the Big Game, so I had the opportunity to rub that in GCI Ambassador (2018) Alex Kearns’s face. This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to work with 4 scholars from around the world on their project to help bring attention to APOPO. It was a happy and healthy year, which is all one can ask for :)
Giuliana
Chile, Canada

*AAC

Giuliana is in her 3rd year at the University of Toronto, studying Political Science and Public Policy. Over the summer, she stayed in Toronto working for RBC and getting a chance to explore the city. She has currently developed a new passion for cooking and working out. In the new year, she is looking forward to being able to plan what her next year’s after Undergraduate may look like. She is planning to go to law school.

Konstantina
Greece

*Class Agent

I spent the first half of 2021 in Greece. I was following the last semester of my LLB in International and European Law from the University of Groningen online and spent quality time with friends and family. I really enjoyed being back in Greece and understanding myself and my background better. After writing my thesis on the Law of the Sea, I graduated and moved to Amsterdam to pursue an LLM in Public International Law.
I recently graduated with a BSc in Natural Sciences (Medical Physics and Policy, Communication and Ethics) from UCL, and now I am excited to continue on the path of medical imaging research. Currently, I am undertaking a Master of Research in Connected Electronic and Photonic Systems, which is a joint course between UCL and Cambridge. I have been really enjoying getting hands on experience in the lab, learning more about coding, and meeting people who are all in very exciting fields of research. I still have so much to learn, and I am really thankful to be in a great environment to do so.

Kylie
Australia, Hong Kong

I recently graduated with a BSc in Natural Sciences (Medical Physics and Policy, Communication and Ethics) from UCL, and now I am excited to continue on the path of medical imaging research. Currently, I am undertaking a Master of Research in Connected Electronic and Photonic Systems, which is a joint course between UCL and Cambridge. I have been really enjoying getting hands on experience in the lab, learning more about coding, and meeting people who are all in very exciting fields of research. I still have so much to learn, and I am really thankful to be in a great environment to do so.

Kemmia
*Class Agent, TA 2021
United States

Kem is currently a junior at North Carolina State University, double majoring in Sociology and Communication with a minor in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism management. At NCSU, Kem is a Global Ambassador and a member of the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. She plans to study abroad in Spain, in the Spring of 2022, and continue solo traveling after graduation.
Matt
United States

I spent 2021 at the University of Virginia for my Third and Fourth year. This summer I completed an internship at Houlihan Lokey in their Financial Restructuring group in NYC and will be returning full time after I graduate in 2022.

Sydney
Kenya

Sydney is currently in his senior year at Wesleyan University.

Trevor *TA 2021
Uganda

Trevor Lwere is a senior studying Economics and Global Affairs with a PPE minor at The University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

At Notre Dame, Trevor has volunteered with JIFFI, a student-led enterprise that seeks to end predatory lending in the South Bend area. He also recently served as president of the African students Association where he spearheaded the inaugural Pan-African Youth Conference held in March 2021.
2016


2021 Graduates

Abigail (United States) University of Southern California Iovine & Young
Anwaar (Jordan) Northwestern University
Audrey (United States) Niagara County Community College
Bushra (Jordan) Georgetown University
David (United States) Georgetown University
Jenny (Hong Kong) Cornell University
Molly (United States) University of Michigan
Saria (Syria) Georgetown University
Bushra | Jordan
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Bushra graduated from Georgetown University in 2021. She is now working at KCIC in Washington DC.

David | *AAC, TA 2021
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United States
David graduated from Georgetown University. He is now in Los Angeles and working for the United Service Workers West. He recently began representing janitors for Warner Brothers.

Top Left, Bushra (2016) and Chaitanya (2019) at the Washington D.C. Reunion Dinner in November 2021
Top Right, David (2016) and Yumi in Los Angeles, December 2021
Bottom Left, David (2016) moderating this summer’s discussion with Alexandra Wilson
Michelle

*Class Agent, TA 2019
Mongolia, United States

Michi will be graduating from the New School College of Performing Arts next spring with a Master’s in Arts Management + Entrepreneurship.

Recently she’s been on a technical residency at Dartmouth College with Urban Bush Women as a projection designer. Currently, Michi is working on a documentary theatre project about how displacement and gentrification is affecting Manhattan’s Chinatown.

Photos shared by Michi (2016) of her Dartmouth residency
Saria *TA 2019
Syria

Sari graduated from Georgetown University in Spring 2021.

Sohini *TA 2021
India

Sohini graduated with a major in Political Science from the University of Delhi in 2020, and is currently an India Fellow, at Gramin Shiksha Kendra in Sawai Madhopur, as part of a fellowship in the rural development sector.

Right, Sari (2016) and Yumi in Washington D.C. in September 2021

Above, Sohini (2016) as a TA during the GCI LEAD Challenge with her group: Ashley (2021), Linh (2021), Yassine K. (2021) and Yuka (2021)
2021 Graduates

Alvin (Hong Kong) University of Hong Kong
Eliza (United Kingdom) BPP University Law School
Hidehiko (Japan) University of Tokyo
Mako (Japan) Keio University
Muslima (Tajikistan) University of Toronto
Yumeka (Japan) University of Pennsylvania
David

*AAC, TA 2017 & 2018
United States

David is currently in Dubai working as an educational consultant with the Hale Education Group. He took a trip home in July 2021. This fall he has been working pro bono one-on-one with a student in Mumbai.

Alvin

*AAC, TA 2021
Hong Kong

Alvin is a recent graduate of the University of Hong Kong, with double degrees in Arts and Law. He now plans to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws and qualify as a solicitor.

Passionate about social entrepreneurship, Alvin completed his capstone undergraduate course by interning at PILnet, a global pro bono clearinghouse that effects social change in local communities via public interest law.

In July 2021, Alvin served as a TA during the GCI LEAD Challenge.

David

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In July 2021, Alvin served as a TA during the GCI LEAD Challenge.
Kevin  *AAC, TA 2021
United States

After receiving my vaccine earlier this year, I’ve been fortunate enough to travel to Orlando, New York, Los Angeles, Nashville, Yellowstone National Park and even Salvador, Brazil (twice)! Most of these trips centered around recreation and quality time with friends and family - it was amazing to see everyone after being cooped up for so long!

From a professional standpoint, I’ve been working on growing my tutoring agency, ZhenEd, and YouTube channel at the same time.

At times, the work feels endless since there’s always more to do, but I feel incredibly privileged and blessed that I’m able to be my own boss while also helping others around the world. In fact, just last week, we had two students get full rides into Yale and Amherst! As a low-income student who graduated from Exeter and Yale, I always believed I’d use my education to empower others, and I’m so grateful that through my businesses and initiatives I’m able to do just that.

I’m currently looking for more tutors to help with my tutoring and coaching business. If anyone’s interested, please let me know.

You can reach me at: kevin@zhened.com.
**Hidehiko**  
**Japan**

This year, Hidehiko graduated from Tokyo University and started working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). He is also studying for his GREs as he will have the opportunity to study in the USA for 2 years. He is looking into Master’s Programs and would like to maybe spend one year studying East Asian History and then an LLM (Master’s in Law).

**Jessica**  
**United Kingdom**

Jessica is training as a solicitor in London. She is working in financial services as well as taking on pro bono work.

**Mako**  
**Japan**

Mako graduated from Keio University in March. She started working at the Development Bank of Japan. After 5 years, in 2026, she will have the opportunity to study abroad and would like to do so. In 2021, Mako has coordinated virtual hangouts for GCI's Japan hub of Ambassadors, and she has continued to serve in her role as Secretary of the GCI Ambassador Advisory Council.

**Takunda**  
**South Africa, Zimbabwe**

Takunda is currently in Salt Lake City working for Goldman Sachs. In 2021, he has continued to serve as Chair of the GCI Ambassador Advisory Council.

**Yumeka**  
**Japan**

Yumeka graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. In March, she began working for Beyond Conflict, an NGO in Boston. In this position, she does applied-behavioral research.
2014


2021 Graduates

Akihiro (Japan) Williams College
Ala (Iran) University of Tehran
Noa (United States) Syracuse University
In February 2021, I graduated from University of Tehran with a Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture.

My final project was called “Rivi Visitor Center”, a center based on the user’s needs and a way to attract tourists to the vast Rivi archaeological site. I am now working closely with the site managers to hopefully turn my design into reality.

Additionally, I became a member of Movers Program, a regional movement of volunteers who develop SDGs awareness, entrepreneurial mindsets and 21st-century skills, and not only did I learn a lot about Sustainable Development Goals, but also oratorical skills were highly practiced.

In November 2021, I traveled by car from Kerman to Tehran, passing by Yazd, Isfahan and kashan, in order to visit Caravanserais (one of the most important forms of Persian Architecture that emerged because of route development and needs related to the demands and requirements of travel). This trip was certainly the highlight of my year.

Above, Ala on her trip to Caravanserais in November 2021

Jurin has started her year at the graduate school at University of Tokyo.

Jurin
Japan

*Class Agent
Iran
Jawed lives and works in Washington D.C. and will be starting a new position at Brown Advisory in early 2022. Outside of work, Jawed has increased his volunteering activities in the D.C. area and now sits on the Leadership Board at StreetWise Partners - an organization focused on tackling unemployment and underemployment in underserved communities.

Ghada *AAC, TA 2017 & 2018
Jordan, United States

Ghada currently lives in Washington D.C. and works as an analyst at Kobre & Kim.
Karishma
*AAC, Class Agent, TA 2016
Kenya

I moved to California to pursue my PhD in Theater and Performance Studies at Stanford University in September. It has been a wonderful journey so far. Specifically, my time as part of the Knight Hennessy Scholars Program has been enriching, nourishing and soul-feeding. I have met such incredibly talented global leaders through Knight Hennessy and I hope to continue working with them into the future.

Krissy
*AAC, TA 2017 & 2019
United States

This year, Krissy started working at DH Infrastructure. Her new company works with The Development Bank of Japan as well as many other large governmental institutions. Krissy has continued to serve as Vice Chair on the GCI Ambassador Advisory Council. In September 2021, Krissy celebrated her wedding.

Karishma, acting as moderator, discusses the value of artivism (activism through art) with Kumi Naidoo in March 2021
Marisa
Japan, United States

*TA 2019

After graduating early this past December 2020, I have been working full-time as a surgical assistant at an oculoplastic center in NYC while studying for the MCAT.

Onyinyechi
Nigeria

*Class Agent, TA 2019

Ukay is pursuing a Master of Business and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Left, Ukay and Yumi on her visit to Boston in May 2021
196 Ambassadors

2021
Akash Menon
Amy Ng’eno
Antoinette Wong
Ashley Wong
Aymen Kiyar
Bishrutri Rijal
Carlos Vegalara Cadavid
Divya Sijiwali
Eleanor Paik
Eman Ibrahim
Evan Gonzalez
Graciela Berman Reinhardt
Haley Outwater
Josephine Elting
Julie Hajducky
Julien Paschola
Kaiya Okuno
Khushbu Kotak
Layann Wardeh
Linh Duong
Luisa Junguito
Max Murakami-Moses
Maxwell Baker
Nomin-Erdene Bayarsaikhan
Rafi Rahmanzai
Samantha Shim
Tanya Das
Tina Huang
Tucker Pedersen
Wakako Ueshima
Yassine Khayati
Yassine Boumana
Yuka Itoh
Yura Mizutani
Yuraj Sato

2019
Alicia Corradini
Amirali Monshizadeh
Anna Komisarof
Ava Hillman
Can Ozcan
Chaitanya Venkateswaran, CLASS AGENT
Dina Dawod
Duc Dam
Elyes Laalai
Eunice Yanying Chong
Jennie Ebihara
Karina Brunella Tipismana Urbano
Kenzo Khoo
Kevin Belloso
Kimberly Rosales Castillo
Kosuke Saito
Lucy Dabbs, CLASS AGENT
Luke Remus Elliot
Milei Wyatt
Mohammad Makableh
Nicole Cortes
Oluwatise Okeremi
Osasenaga Idahor, CLASS AGENT
Ranay Sah
Rincheen Sherpa
Sean Zehnder
Takaya Maekawa
Will Hall-Tipping

2018
Abby Thayananthan
Adya Khandelwal
Alexander Kearns
Alexandra Prakke
Alqaim Lalani, CLASS AGENT
Anas Mahafzah
Andy Basaka
Birk McCaffrey, CLASS AGENT
Diane Okong’o
Eita Nakagawa, TA
Elizabeth Madamidola
Emiri Hasegawa
Jae Grace
Khue Do, CLASS AGENT
Louis Okon
Maile Kuyper
Maria Vitoria Torres
Milgo Bulhan
Osama Abdulazeez
Pratika Nagpal
Rawad Maiteh
Sama Zoubi, TA
Shelzy Rodriguez
Skylar Wiseman
Tanner Siu
Tsatsen Lkhagvajargal
Vivian Nga Laam Looi
Zaid Alamarat
196 Ambassadors

2017
Abdallah Al Khawaldh
Catherine Jara
Daniel Sequeira
Elf Sensurucu, AAC, TA
Gianna Morano
Giuliana Bertola, AAC
Haydn Roberts
Ider Bayar
Joe Bridges
Karla Gonzalez
Kelsey Gabriel
Kemmia Ghodrat, CLASS AGENT, TA
Konstantina Christogianni, CLASS AGENT
Kuzivakwashe Mutsvangwa
Kylie Yeung
Mako Ishikawa
Marius Julius Seiryu Yo Schmich
Masa Kawasaki, CLASS AGENT
Matthew Roer
Norzin Dorji
Obaidullah Barakzai
Omar Zaatreh
Omowunmi Awelewa
Paulo Breitman
Sydney Ochieng
Taylor Walshe
Trevor Lwere, TA
Yue Zhuo

2016
Abigail Africa
Abokor Ismael
Anwaar Al Husban
Audrey Reyes
Bella DeVaan
Bushra Al-Sou’b
David Gomez, AAC, TA
Edward Caffyn-Parsons
Erica Miner
Erik Novak
Esmtullah Zeerak
Jenny Ng
John Hock, CLASS AGENT
Kamel Kamour
Lara Caouki
Lawrence Li
Michelle Tumur, CLASS AGENT, TA
Molly Kalb
Nadine Khayyat
Nancy Wu
Philip Kuhn
Robin Playe
Roland Naijuka
Saria Samakie, TA
Sohini Chakrabarti, TA
Tomas Cortes
Wei Yang Chew
Wisdom Matsuzaki, CLASS AGENT

2015
Abdirahim Mohamed, TA
Alvin Shing Chit Yu, AAC, TA
Anna Manjun Li
Aziza Hamidi, TA
David Shepley, AAC, TA
Eliza Cudmore
Fabrice Ishimwe Kabera
Falah Al-Dulaimi
Henry Shapiro
Hidehiko Shigemasa
Jessica Arnold, AAC, TA
Kevin Zhen, AAC, TA
Laurel Jaffe
Mako Matsuzaki, AAC, CLASS AGENT
Muslma Niyozmamadova
Nestor Cano
Nuhamin Mengistie
Patricia De Pauw
Shinnosuke Taniya, TA
Sydnie Schwarz
Takunda Rodney Ushe, AAC,
CLASS AGENT, TA
Tomas Salazar, TA
Whitney Elminger
Yumeka Hirayama

2014
Abhishek Subba
Akihiro Takigawa
Ala Talebian, CLASS AGENT
Asrat Alemu
Derek Chung
Eden Giese
Elianne Paley
Fabiola Kabera
Ghada Amer, AAC, TA
Heather Lam
A. Jawed Sakhi, TA
Joanne Chan
Juhaku Okugawa
Jurin Okugawa
Karishma Bhagani, AAC, CLASS AGENT, TA
Kristen Truesdale, AAC, TA
Marisa Nakagama, TA
Mikel Merino
Nhi Ngo
Nicholas Baughan
Noa Siegel
Onyinyechi Ukaire, CLASS AGENT, TA
Pierre Duval, TA
Sao Sugimoto
Global Citizens Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, global social enterprise registered in Connecticut, United States. We empower young global citizens from all sectors of society to be lifelong leaders of positive change.

www.globalci.org