

# The 2016 Lee D. Baker Scholars



Roy Auh is a sophomore at Duke University. He is majoring in Philosophy and Global Cultural Studies. He is currently part of Project Vox, the philosophy research project at Duke to bring female philosophers of the Enlightenment era out of academic obscurity. An active classical bassist, Roy has performed: alongside Edgar Meyer and Fazil Say, for Francois Rabbath and Edwin Barker, and as a soloist at Kennedy Center in DC and Merkin Concert Hall in Manhattan. His other interests include Taekwondo, rock climbing, and creative writing.

The Lee D. Baker Scholars Program, sponsored by Humanities Writ Large and the Thompson Writing Program, offers a select group of outstanding undergraduates the opportunity

## Roy Auh

### Research Project: On the Ontological Bases of Polyphonic Poetics: the Dialogues among Bakhtin, Dostoevsky, and Watchmen

While most novels may only have a single ideology that are manifested as the singularly dominating voice of the entire work, polyphonic novels are characterized by the multiplicity of ideologies and their mutual contradictions. Bakhtin theorized that this novelistic technique was used for a certain ontological foundation to such poetics by Dostoevsky, but Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' revolutionary graphic novel, *Watchmen*, offer a different philosophical argument on nature of man, using an evolved form of polyphony. My research examines how *Watchmen* became the culmination of literary polyphony's evolution throughout twentieth century as it was expressed through a higher form of graphic theories and formal innovations, to produce its own unique philosophical stance on what it is to be human.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Kimberly K Lamm, Women Studies*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Arianne Hartsell-Gundy*

This research project began in Writing 101 "Are Novels Still Novel?" with Instructor Hannah Rogers



Max Bernell is a member of the class of 2019. Possessing a wide variety of interests, he is involved in Duke's fashion and lifestyle publication, FORM magazine, as well as working as the Vice President of Internal Affairs for Blue Devils United. The research for his paper was inspired by his exposure to Chinese literature while growing up in China, as well as by his mother, who managed to overcome the difficulties of life as a young woman in communist China.

## William Maxwell Bernell

### Research Project: The Role of Femininity in 20th Century Chinese Culture

My research project centers on the short story works of LuXun, the father of modern Chinese literature. The project focuses mainly on themes of the impact of Neo-Confucian values on women in 20th century Chinese society. Thus, I explore not only LuXun's portrayal of female sufferings in early 20th century China, but also the extent to which women's roles changed in literary and sociopolitical spheres during this time. To do this, I hope to analyze scholarly responses to LuXun's commentaries on femininity, and explore policies implemented under the Communist Party for the betterment of women to gauge the amount of gender related political change occurring. Finally, the research considers the aesthetics of women in late 20th century Chinese literature and in the critical conversations about these primary texts.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Carlos Rojas, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Luo Zhou*

This research project began in Writing 101 "Stranger Than Fiction" with Instructor Kevin Casey



Janie Booth is from Charlotte, North Carolina. She is studying Art History and Chemistry, and pursuing a certificate in Museum theory and practice. She is a co-chair of the student board of the Nasher Museum of Art and is also a member of the Duke Chorale.

## Janie Booth

### Research Project: RITUAL NETWORKS: Aboriginal abstract painting in the contemporary art world

Museums and collectors are part of the expansive network of the “art world”, acting as translators and mediators between artists and the public. My project examines the role of these institutions in preserving and presenting artworks by Aboriginal Australian artists, with consideration of the ritual and ancestral meaning of each painting. The paintings themselves offer reenactments of the sacred, embodying newly emerging Aboriginal Australian identities. This project explores how pieces by Aboriginal artists are positioned within the global web of contemporary art. I will examine the confluence of cultural tradition and anthropology, by primary research through interviews and exhibits. Accounts by artists, curators, historians and collectors will offer a picture of the rapidly expanding network of the sacred, ritual, and aesthetic.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Marshall Price, Associate Curator Nasher Art Museum*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Lee Sorensen*

This research project began in Writing 101 “Soundscapes” with Instructor David Font



Julian Lafaurie is a Trinity sophomore from Miami, Florida. He is currently interested in Public Policy and Political Science, planning to major in both with a minor in Mandarin Chinese. His research is inspired by his tenure as Student Advisor to the Miami-Dade Public School Board, where he learned the importance of race and ethnicity as a factor in drafting positive education policy. He continues this research at Duke, primarily focusing his work on education at the Social Science Research Institute.

## Julian Lafaurie-Hammes

### Research Project: A Double Sided Life

This case study explores the relationship between my bi-ethnic identity and my adolescent development, as well as the internalized guilt associated with reaping all the societally induced benefits such as preferential treatments while not receiving any of the discriminatory factors associated with being a minority. At the core of my analysis is the psychological implications of not having a cultural “home” and its effects on my perception of both myself in relation to others and the world at large. By listening and studying the narratives of other multi-ethnic students at Duke, I begin to comprehend the scope of how much being bi-ethnic can shape a life’s identity.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Pedro Lasch, Art, Art History and Visual Studies*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Ciara Healy*

This research project was started in Writing 101 “Coming of Age” with Instructor Sheryl Welte



Kushal Kadakia is currently a sophomore at Duke University studying biology, public policy, and global health. He has researched heart disease at the School of Medicine, intellectual property at the School of Public Policy, and healthcare policy at the School of Business. An Angier B. Duke Scholar, Huang Fellow, and POWER Fellow, Kushal serves as the Chief of Staff of Duke Student Government and the Vice Chair of the Honor Council.

## Kushal Kadakia

### Research Project: Rewriting Humanity: Exploring the Ethics of CRISPR/Cas9

Creation is no longer the dominion of the divine. Using a new gene-editing platform called CRISPR/Cas9, scientists can completely re-write paragraphs of DNA for \$30. This unregulated technology has infiltrated thousands of labs in fewer than four years, allowing researchers to re-program mosquito populations and penetrate the secrets of human embryos. This project will frame the historical and ethical challenges surrounding the CRISPR/Cas9 revolution, temporarily stymied by a patent dispute. We must explore these issues to understand how the court's precedent will not only resolve legal questions of ownership, but also draw a moral line for personalized medicine.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Michael B. Waitzkin, Science & Society*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Cheryl Thomas*

This research project began in Writing 101 "Science Fail" with Instructor Mark Ulett



Devin Nieuwma is from Reston, Virginia. She is pursuing a double major in Environmental Sciences & Policy and Public Policy, as well as a certificate in Innovation & Entrepreneurship. She is a member of the Duke Climate Coalition and a writer for the Duke Research Blog. Her academic interests include environmental justice, sustainable agriculture, and urban planning, the latter of which she will explore this summer in working for the Oregon regional government.

## Devin Nieuwma

### Research Project: Virtual Ethnography of Opinion-Editorials of the Flint, Michigan Water Crisis

My research project focuses on the public perception of the lead contamination of drinking water in Flint, Michigan. I will be conducting an observational virtual ethnography on the comments sections of online articles from various news organizations to gain a better understanding of how readers have reacted to the incident. Ethnographic codes of the comments will form a data profile of reader opinions related to the water crisis. This research will investigate the politicization of environmental justice issues by examining the data differences in the codes of article comments from separate news sources.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Lisa Campbell, Marine Science & Conservation Division*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Ryan Denniston*

This research project began in Writing 101 "Environmental Justice" with Instructor Denise Comer



Holly Quivera is currently a rising Trinity sophomore at Duke University and intends to major in English with a minor in Chemistry. She hopes to combine the two fields in the work she does now and into the future so that she is better able to connect and interact with others through her abilities. Already fluent in English and Spanish, she discovered a new interest in Italian when she recently studied abroad in Bologna, Italy focusing on Italian language and literature. As a pre-med student, she has done volunteer work and internships both at Caldwell Memorial Hospital and The Falls Pediatrics Clinic. As a member of Duke University's Cardea Fellows, she attends events and workshops that better her medical knowledge and allow her to create a network of friends and mentors. In her free time, Holly enjoys painting with oil based paints, traveling, and running.

## Holly Quivera

### Research Project: The Secret Effects of Alzheimer's Disease

Holly's research involves identifying the impact that Alzheimer's disease has on relationships and interactions with caregivers and loved ones surrounding the patient. The hope is to shed light on the need for more research on these relationships to ensure that caregivers and patients are getting the necessary treatment and attention. By (1) using various published and peer reviewed articles and sources from Duke and other universities' libraries, (2) performing in person interviews with support group coordinators for families and loved ones that have been diagnosed with AD as well as primary caregivers and doctors and nurses that work alongside patients and their families, and (3) designing a case study that exemplifies these trends in which the caregiver addresses his/her feelings of depression and anxiety (when applicable) through journal entries that will serve as illness narratives, I will obtain necessary information that will aid in the determination of how best to treat the parties involved. While this case study will serve as a potential alternative to medication in order to treat symptoms of anxiety or depression. By using the power of prose to assess the symptoms of Alzheimer's patients, caregivers and doctors can create a strong foundation for diagnosing and improving the lives of patients and facilitators.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Jehanne Gheith, Slavic Languages and Literature*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Hannah Rozear*

This research project began in Writing 101 "Illness Narrative" with Instructor Denise Comer



Natasha Torrens is a sophomore at Duke University interested in majoring in Economics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies. She graduated from the International School of Beijing, and spent a year before college studying Turkish in Izmir, Turkey, with the U.S. State Department's National Security Language Initiative for Youth. At Duke, Natasha is an Air Force ROTC cadet, competes on the debate and Moot Court teams, and writes for Duke Political Review.

## Natasha Torrens

### Research Project: Kurdish experience in Nashville & Bolu

Nashville is home to North America's largest Kurdish community, affectionately known by its residents as "Little Kurdistan." As the world's largest ethnic group without its own state, Kurdish culture is exceptionally diverse—no more so than in Nashville, where four distinct waves of refugees have been settled in the past 50 years. This case study aims to explore the cultural and historical context of this community, based on interviews and secondary sources on the Kurdish diaspora. Using theories of migration applied in Little Kurdistan, I plan to create a project exploring the diversity of social and political thought between waves of immigrants to Nashville. The goal of this project is to investigate differences in culture and assimilation processes utilized by community members involved in each wave of immigration. This involves in-depth interviews and comparison of lifestyles before and after immigration to Nashville from Iraq, Iran, and Turkey.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Mona Hassan, Religion*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Sean Swanick*

This research project began in Writing 101 "The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow" with Instructor Peter Pihos



Helen Yang is a member of Duke University's Class of 2019, pursuing a double major in Linguistics and Political Science and a minor in Psychology. Through her position as the VP of International Association's Cultural Committee and her status as a second generation AAPI, she greatly emphasizes the importance of diversity. Focusing on the misrepresentations of Asians and the societal, psychological, and economic damages that are arising due to such injustices, her aspirations aim to educate, to amplify the unheard voices of AAPI communities, and to cultivate an atmosphere of equality that is devoid of generalizing and detrimental stereotypes.

## Helen Yang

### **Research Project: White Washed Out: Asian American Representation in Media**

While there have been efforts to increase diversity within Hollywood, the Asian minority continues to only receive 1% of representation. My project focuses on examining the societal implications of Asian misrepresentation and investigating how stereotyped portrayals can contribute to systemic racism. Starting from a statistical analysis of Hollywood and the Academy, I will look at the lack of Asian actors in lead roles and model the demographic data. Furthermore, I will continue to evaluate the few examples of Asian roles in media and explore the stereotypes and normalized conventions that the roles embody, observing the frequency of "Yellowface," in which white actors are chosen to fulfill Asian roles. Lastly, through sociolinguistic and psychological research, which will be conducted through in-person interviews, short films, and photo/implicit association tests to examine bias and profiling, I will research how such misrepresentations shape current perceptions of Asians and how it developmentally impacts Asian Americans.

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Nayoung Kwon, Asian & Middle Eastern Studies*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Danette Pachtner*

This research project began in Writing 101 "Care and Kinship in Dystopian Literature" with Instructor Jennifer Ansley

## Lucy Zhang

### **Research Project: Grappling With Ego and the Criminal Justice System through Poetry**

Since its founding, American society has exalted independence, and indirectly, the human ego. However, the human ego has become a central factor in many of the recent domestic shooting. These events have led to the quick dehumanization of the guilty with superficial considerations of these peoples' pasts and more importantly, futures as inmates. Supposedly a means of reform, the system has become a place to deposit problems—not humans. Poetry, on the other hand, does precisely the opposite, concerned about the overarching human condition rather than the isolated being. The purpose of my project is to determine and analyze how poetry presents and psychology affects the relationships between human and crime. What gives rise to these "inhumane" murderers? What in society pushes a person's ego to the point where consequences on others' lives are deemed irrelevant? Can poetry make a difference in how inmates are portrayed, identified, and perceived?

*Faculty Research Mentor: Professor Dominika Baran, English*

*Librarian Research Consultant: Arianne Hartsell-Gundy*

This research project began in Writing 101 "Extra-Poetic" with Instructor Stefania Heim



Lucy Zhang is a rising sophomore majoring in electrical and computer engineering and computer science. She does data visualization for the Chronicle and is also doing research and engineering in Bergin Labs about air quality sensors. As a participant in the Duke STEAM challenge, she enjoys the intersection of arts, humanities and technology. While not coding, writing, or studying, she finds great satisfaction in watching anime.