

## CLASS OF 1954 RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS 2017 -18

### Gabrielle Chen '18 (Art and Archeology)

As a visual arts concentrator in the Art & Archaeology department, my senior thesis is a solo exhibition of artwork pertaining to memory and the continuous self. Through short films, animation, textile work, and sculpture, I'm seeking to understand the reverberations between recalled moments and constructed images. Thanks to the support of the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Fund, I was able to travel to Mexico City over winter recess to study pre-Columbian textiles, contemporary and folk art, and Mexico's deep, rich cultural history and memory. During the trip I completed a number of textile studies, environmental explorations, gestural drawings, and short film tests—capturing inspiration and reference both in building a foundation for the final pieces in my senior show.

### Samuel Chiaechia '18 (Molecular Biology)

For my thesis, I orchestrated a prospective case control study investigating Pediatric Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, a highly lethal affliction of non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema and hypoxia commonly associated with trauma, sepsis, and shock that is especially dangerous in children. I studied PARDS-associated differential DNA methylation using *Illumina's* Infinium EPIC microarray which measures DNA methylation at over 850,000 loci in the human genome. Bioinformatic analysis of this data shed light on a number of interesting, and potentially clinically relevant, disease- and severity-associated changes in DNA methylation, offering exciting support for future investigations of this type. While the cost of the microarray was covered by a research grant awarded by *Illumina*, the generous award from the Class of 1954's Senior Thesis Endowment Fund helped with my additional costs and was integral in the early stages of this project.

### Sarah Cho '18 (Art and Archeology)

I traveled to 6 cities in the U.K. for my thesis research. I am currently writing my thesis on Gwen John's portraits of women and how her works reflect the question of what it was like to be an artist and a woman in the early 1900s. My first chapter is on her self-portraits and the second chapter is on her portraits of friends and nude models. In order to be able to write about these works, it is imperative to go see them and parse through the non-digitized archives. One of the perks of being an art history student is the necessity to travel! I got to go to the galleries and storage

rooms of the Tate Modern and Britain (London), National Museum Wales (Cardiff), National Library Wales (Abberystwyth), Graves Gallery (Sheffield), Manchester Art Gallery (Manchester), and Leeds Gallery (Leeds).

As a low-income student, receiving funds from the university to complete thesis research was extremely important to me, and I am forever grateful. The '54 Fund helped with my costs in the U.K. for the duration of the trip. Did I mention my trip occurred over winter break? England and Wales are magical during that time for there are so many quaint markets, and the festivities fill the crisp (and sometimes foggy) air. There were lots of mince pies and holiday bangers and mash involved. Wow, I miss it so much! Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to undertake thesis research with the help of the '54 funds. I really couldn't have traveled and completed my research without these funds and it inspires me so much that Princeton alums are looking out for their own.

### **Alexander Lin '18 (Comparative Literature)**

I did research in Japan from January 16-27 [2018] for the part of my thesis that deals with the work of Japanese novelist Mishima Yukio. I was in Tokyo January 16-19 and 22-27 to work with my advisor Professor Inoue Takashi at Shirayuri Women's University and other professors at the University of Tokyo, and in Yamanakako January 19-21 to conduct archival research at the Mishima Yukio Literary Museum, which houses Mishima's archive.

I was able to accomplish my main objective of researching Mishima's final work, the tetralogy The Sea of Fertility, especially in consulting the originals of his draft notebooks at his archive, which revealed much about his writing process. Of particular interest was the insight that Mishima almost always had the structure of an entire work figured out in his mind even before he started writing notes; but also that as he was working on The Sea of Fertility in the last years of his life, his writing process seemed uncharacteristically to be influenced by the events of his life over the course of writing rather than remaining fixed in his original conception. Apart from the interest to studying Mishima in himself, this allows me to draw a stronger link between Mishima on the one hand and Mann and Musil, the other two novelists I investigate in my thesis, on the other.

My days in Tokyo were mostly spent meeting with different professors to discuss my thesis. I also had the opportunity to see a production of "The Black Lizard," a play adapted by Mishima; this was important in helping me draw a connection between Mishima as novelist (the most immediate interest of my thesis) and Mishima as dramatist.

### **Nitasha Siddique '18 (Psychology)**

With the help of the Class of 1954's Senior Thesis Endowment Fund, I was able to conduct two studies on 200 Muslim women exploring the effects of exposure to negative media about Muslims on symptoms of depression and anxiety as well as

their estimates of how likely they are to experience various forms of discrimination in the future. Without the funding, I would have been extremely limited in my research as there are few if any data sets or studies specifically exploring this question that I could access. I hope that whatever comes out of my thesis can contribute to growing research on the way our media engagement is influencing our daily lives, as well as culturally relevant stressors and concerns that practitioners need to be aware of in order to effectively treat and support Muslim patients. Thank you so much for your support and commitment to the pursuit of knowledge at Princeton!

### Valerie Wilson '18 (History)

The funds I received from the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Fund enabled me to travel to the United Kingdom for five days over Fall Break this year. My thesis is a comparative study of the dioceses of Exeter and Winchester, with respect to how the religious bureaucracies there each dealt with the societal and economic changes caused by the Black Death. I flew into London and first traveled to Exeter in the county of Devon, where I worked at the Exeter Cathedral's Library and Archives. There I looked at manuscripts of the fabric rolls of the Cathedral (with the help of a wonderful printed finding aid). This helped me immensely with the financial aspect of my study of the diocese, because I discovered that construction slowed while bequeathed funds increased. I then traveled to Truro in Cornwall to work at the Cornwall Record Office. There I found several manuscript land deeds granted to clergymen by private individuals, as well as an interesting case of excommunication carried out during the height of the plague. This helped me understand how the diocese carried out other aspects of business not directly related to their finances. The research I conducted during Fall Break, in short, has been extremely helpful to my work, and I will remember the experiences I had there forever. Thank you so much for your generosity.