



PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY

# The Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund

## 2020-2021 Recipients

Ysabel I. Ayala '21  
Cameron L. Hayes '21  
Ashley N. Hodges '21  
Allen Kong '21 Grace  
R. Logan '21 Lauren  
McGrath '21

April 2021

## 2020-2021 Recipients

Ysabel I. Ayala '21 | Anthropology



**Gratitude:** My senior thesis in anthropology is an investigation into the intersection of language and dance, asking how dance comes to communicate meaning. The Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund was incredibly significant in my research because it enabled me to compensate my collaborators properly, especially at a time when their health and employment were at risk. Initially, my ethnographic research was to entail a summer of apprenticeship with the two dance companies at the center of my thesis, but the circumstances in the pandemic made this unfeasible. Therefore, my research relied on extensive virtual interviews with dancers in the company as the bulk of my ethnographic material. I'm grateful to the fund because it provided me the means to connect with a variety of dancers and compensate for their labor of interviewing with me, upholding the ethical standard of the field. Through this, I have been able to highlight a variety of perspectives to build a more nuanced argument of how dancers articulate decolonial politics through choreography.

Cameron L. Hayes '21 | Neuroscience



**Gratitude:** The support provided to me by the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund was incredibly helpful for the completion of my senior thesis research. Following the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, I had to revise my planned research to be compatible with remote work since students no longer had access to on-campus laboratories. As a result, I changed my thesis topic from in-lab rodent work to a human study involving online participants. As I am a low-income student, the funds awarded to me were crucial in allowing me to pay the subjects for their time in completing the task, which in turn made it possible for me to collect a large amount of useful data. Not only that, but these funds alleviated any financial stress that otherwise would have made it much more difficult for me to balance so many academic responsibilities at a busy time of the year. Thank you so much for your financial support. I know this fund will be similarly impactful for many students to come.

## Ashley N. Hodges '21 | African American Studies



**Ashley Hodges** is from Fredericksburg, Virginia. At Princeton, she is concentrating in African-American Studies with a Teacher's Prep certificate. As a first-year, Ashley wanted to study politics with the hopes of becoming a politician. Although she isn't sure if the dream of being a politician is completely behind her, she is sure that she has found her home away from home in the African American Studies department. She was immediately drawn to the department because of its small, familial size and the love and support she felt from her professors. Ultimately, Ashley felt as though the department valued her academic strengths long before she was able to recognize them within herself.

On campus, Ashley is a member of the Undergraduate Board of Advisers for the African American Studies department, a Mellon Mays Fellow, an intern at The Carl A. Fields Center, the Editor-in-Chief of The Stripes Magazine, and a tutor for Petey Greene. After Princeton, Ashley hopes to enroll in a graduate program and obtain her Ph.D., ultimately becoming a professor. During her time at Princeton and after, she wants to remain engaged in social justice activism to be a part of the larger black freedom struggle.

## Allen Kong '21 | Anthropology

**Gratitude:** Through the generous funding from the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund, I was able to cover my living expenses throughout the winter to complete my thesis research. My research



entails an ethnographic investigation of Chuukese people in Chuuk State, one of the four states in the Federated States of Micronesia. I am diving into the local health challenges within the communities in the unique, tropical archipelago geography. I covered multiple areas from the current endemics in Chuuk, the state of the hospital, and the health disparities among the disenfranchised communities who lack proper access to health care. I found that the disenfranchised are those who live away from the capital where all of the main health infrastructures are established; in particular, I found that the Outer Atoll and the Faichuk Islands suffer geographical isolation, social stigmatization, and others that collectively present as health barriers for the people.

Currently, I am on campus drafting my thesis, weaving my narratives into a collective prism to detail the health challenges of Chuuk. I plan to publish my thesis in a book, hoping to induce health organizations and grassroots to dedicate more attention to the Micronesian Islands, which I found lacked proper foreign intervention. Finally, I hope to encourage health policymakers to involve anthropological analysis of communities along with their current work in the health sector to properly intervene and make sustainable health changes throughout the local communities.

## Grace R. Logan '21 Anthropology



**Grace Logan** is from Tucson, Arizona. At Princeton, she is concentrating in anthropology. She spent two years as an experiential education facilitator and STEM instructor for the Princeton-Blairstown Center, which provides adventure-based, experiential education to historically marginalized youth. Grace was also a student manager in the Rockefeller College dining hall.

Recently, Grace worked in the VizE Lab as a research assistant. The VizE Lab is dedicated to new forms of ethnography that combine the person-centered and narrative traditions of ethnographic documentary, based on in-person research, with new techniques of data visualization and mapping. As a research assistant, Grace helped produce the first remote ethnography workshop, which supported students and scholars who wanted to do remote ethnographic research amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Her work helped enable researchers to use visual media for any topic and provided robust resources like a remote documentary, where researchers could follow workflows for making recordings from online interviews and editing techniques to create ethnographically engaging and visually rich stories.

Grace is currently working on her senior thesis. Information related to her thesis will be available in summer 2021.

## Lauren McGrath '21 | Anthropology



**Gratitude:** To the generous alumni contributing to the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund, I would like to personally thank you for your contribution to my research and thesis this past year. My thesis is entitled "Ethnographic Data Visualization as a Methodology to Expose the Health Impacts of Structural Violence in Urban Philadelphia Communities" and is coupled with my ethnographic website that you can view at [https:// commons.princeton. edu/invisible-violence/](https://commons.princeton.edu/invisible-violence/).

I cannot lie: pivoting to conduct ethnographic-based research (which has a core value of engaging with constituents in-person, in their respective environment) amid an unprecedented pandemic was foreboding. Mentally, I had to "undo" much of the anthropological methodology I was taught at Princeton, and figure out how to apply those same concepts to a novel, digital world. I wouldn't have been able to accomplish it without your support. From spring of 2020 to December of 2020, I went through more game plans than the letters of the alphabet. Your specific contribution allowed me to remedy my issues connecting with a neighborhood in Philadelphia from my location in Pittsburgh, PA; it was utilized to create mailed art packets, containing materials and instructions for the individuals to create their own "health narrative." The individuals I was seeking to collaborate with on my thesis, those subject to the daily harms of structural violence, do not necessarily have access to these materials or WIFI. Your funding allowed me to provide an "analog" version of my digital materials to my constituents. Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness. Tiger Tiger!