



# The Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund

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## 2021-2022 Recipients

Ethan Boll '22  
Shelby Brainard '22  
Daniel Choo '22  
Jamie Kim '22  
Lehman Montgomery '22  
Noel Peng '22  
Montagu James '22  
Jack Sullivan '22

April 2022

## 2021-2022 Recipients

Ethan Boll '22 | Comparative Literature

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**Ethan Boll** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing an A.B. in comparative literature and a certificate in narrative film making. He also studies acting and directing in theater. At Princeton, Ethan works with the orientation program, Outdoor Action, as a leader and leader trainer, where he teaches group development, leadership skills, and diversity and inclusion to student trainees. Another one of Ethan's passions is health and wellness, which he channels through his work as a personal trainer at Dillon Gymnasium at Princeton.

Shelby Brainard '22 | Philosophy

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**Shelby Brainard** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing an A.B. in philosophy. At Princeton, he is involved in various on-campus activities including: powerlifting, chapel organ and the Christian Union Seeking God Team. Additionally, Shelby is in the Undergraduate Fellows Forum, which is a part of the James Madison Program and provides a unique opportunity for Princeton undergraduates to pursue, outside of the classroom, academic interests related to politics, history, law, and political thought.

Daniel Choo '22 | Neuroscience

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**Daniel Choo** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing a B.S. in neuroscience. At Princeton, Daniel is working in the Peña Lab, whose broad goal is understand mechanistically how early life experiences are encoded and maintained into adulthood to have long-lasting impact on behavior. The lab is currently focused on understanding how early life stress increases sensitivity to subsequent stress. When not in the lab, Daniel is involved with the Princeton Orchestra, the Princeton Film Society and Princeton Club Tennis.

**Gratitude:** “I want to extend a huge thank you to the Class of 1954 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund for supporting my senior thesis research project. Your amazing contribution has undoubtedly helped us tremendously in the research process. On that account, the underlying purpose of the senior thesis research project was to discover and characterize aspects of experience-dependent variation on paternal behavior within a biparental mammalian species known as African striped mice (ASM). One of the specific aims of the research was to replicate and confirm the behavioral influences of juvenile social isolation vs group housing in male African striped mice. This was conducted via several tests that examined exploratory and anxiety-like behavior after group or social isolation to determine the level of influence by pup interaction. Further analyses were conducted to determine which brain regions are activated during paternal behavior and how the neural activity of those specific regions changes based on experience and pup interaction. Specifically, brain tissue was extracted, perfused, and assayed with different fluorescent-conjugated antibodies for immunohistochemistry (IHC). This is where the generous funds were largely utilized, particularly in the purchase of different antibodies (e.g., c-Fos detection) in addition to several other materials necessary for our research. These brain assays were then correlated with certain behavioral patterns in the mice. As we are in the process of finalizing our data collection and analyses, we hypothesize that male African striped mice in social isolation (i.e., single-housing) will exhibit limited stress- and anxiety-related behavioral responses and decreased activation in ROIs hypothesized to be involved in paternal care (e.g., MPOA).

For my plans upon graduating from Princeton, I will be working as a research technician/project Mmanger in a neuroscience lab at Harvard Med/Mass General Hospital to research Parkinson's disease and its linkages to cancer for two years. Following that period, I plan on attending medical school and pursuing a career in neurology.”

## Jaime Kim '22 | Anthropology

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**Jaime Kim** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing an A.B. in anthropology. Before Princeton, she was a National AP Scholar, earned the President’s Volunteer Service Gold Award, and was a member of the National Honor Society and California Scholastic Federation. She has completed stem cell research at Caltech, co-captained the Science Olympiad team, was co-editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, and founded Color Seed, a nonprofit that helps disabled musicians build dexterity through art. Currently, she is studying medical anthropology and linguistics for a career in medicine. When she is not studying, she is an active member of the Princeton Water Polo team.

## Lehman Montgomery '22 | Politics

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**Lehman Montgomery** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing an A.B. in politics and a certificate in American Studies. On campus, Lehman is involved with the Pace Center, Undergraduate Student Government, and the Office of Admission. He's passionate about strengthening the bond between students and the greater Princeton community by making the university more accessible.

## Noel Peng '22 | Spanish & Portuguese Language & Cultures

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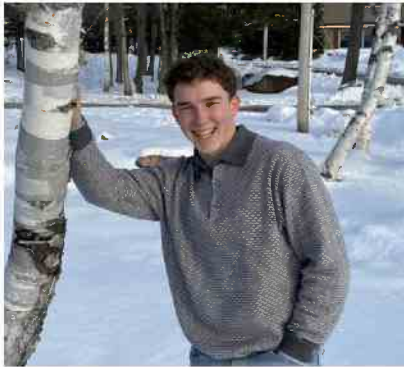
**Noel Peng** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing an A.B. in Spanish & Portuguese Language & Cultures and certificates in American Studies, Latin American Studies, and creative writing. She is the current managing editor for the Nassau Literary Review, Princeton's oldest undergraduate student-run publication, and sings with the Glee Club and Chamber Choir.

## Montagu James '22 | History

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**Montagu James** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing an A.B. in history. His research focuses on European diplomacy, European-American relations, and U.S. political history. He is also interested in Poland and its history because of the important role that Poland plays in Europe's history. This interest is inspired by his heritage. Montagu is a second generation American and half Polish. When not in the classroom, he enjoys playing the violin as a member of the Princeton Orchestra.



**Jack Sullivan** is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing an A.B. in history with certificates in African American Studies and teacher preparation. At Princeton, Jack is a communications assistant with the Office of Sustainability. Additionally, Jack joins fellow Class of 2022 Senior Thesis Endowment Fund recipient, Shelby Brainard, in the Undergraduate Fellows Forum of the James Madison Program.

**Gratitude:** “For my thesis, I have sought to meld all three of these fields -- history, African American Studies, and teaching/education -- into a cohesive topic. Accordingly, I am writing a thesis about educational history, looking at the teaching of U.S. history in American public schools and how it has changed over time. Specifically, I am looking at how American history instruction changed in response to the Civil Rights movement in the late 1960s and 1970s. My thesis looks into both pushes to incorporate Black history, a greater consciousness of Civil Rights protest, and a more truthful telling of American history through its treatment of African Americans into school curricula, as well as the conservative white backlash against these measures.

For my research, I went to Carnegie Mellon University to read the papers of Edwin Fenton, one of the preeminent reformers in social studies education during this period. I was looking for evidence of changing approaches to how American history is retold. The funds I received enabled me to take a deep dive into Fenton's papers, as well as to travel to Boston to investigate social studies reformers who were active at Harvard during this period. Looking at specific reforms implemented in social studies during this period has given me a lens through which I can better understand broader activism, both for and against changes to how U.S. History is taught, during this period.

As far as post-graduate plans go, I'll be in the Princeton area for the fall semester, finishing my certificate with the Teacher Preparation Program by completing my full-time student teaching. I am student teaching part-time at Trenton Central High School currently, and I plan on completing my student teaching there next fall as well. Once I receive my certification in early 2023, I plan on looking into jobs at public high schools in the New York City area to teach social studies.”