

Ms. Kai Xin Tai '19

Thank you! I am very grateful for the John Kennedy Ewing IV Memorial Scholarship. Here is a short bio I've written:

Kai Xin Tai '19 is a junior pursuing a major in Computer Science and a certificate in Entrepreneurship from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. On campus, Kai is involved with various musical theatre groups including the Princeton Triangle Club, Princeton University Players and Theatre Intime. She also organizes international events as a Davis International Center leader, works in the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China and is a member of the Princeton Tower Club. During her time in Princeton, she's been to a talk by Meg Whitman, gone on tour with the Princeton Triangle Club and participated in a Global Seminar in Beijing, China. She hopes to pursue a career in tech where she can combine her interests in artificial intelligence, computer vision and psychology.

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Ms. Nsomma A. Alilonu '21

I am honored to have received the John Kennedy Ewing IV Memorial Scholarship.

Academically, I want to become a doctor, so I'm on the Pre-Medicine track. However, my mother, who is also a physician, is rather passive-aggressive about me becoming a doctor. It was extremely hard for her as she had my older brother, and me during her residency, two more of my sisters shortly afterwards, then a fifth girl five years later. I think she resents not being able to spend as much time with us as our father, since she is constantly going in between hospitals and working. Even without children, the job seems very time-consuming and tiring, and she doesn't want me to go into medicine with a false perception of how it truly is. Therefore, I am also majoring in Computer Science; a subject that I like because I love the creativity and flexibility with each program; you can pretty much solve things your own way as long as it's logical, and apply it to anything. If I find that I can't handle the pressure of medicine, I will always have an out. But at the same time, my mother doesn't want me to completely dissociate myself from medicine, and quite frankly, I don't really want to either. I've heard of the tiring hours and the ungrateful patients and the sheer exhaustion of it all, but I can't help but be drawn to a profession where it requires that I give my whole self in service to others. I was somehow born into a family that could afford to send me to good schools, an intelligent mind miraculously good enough to get into Princeton, and a heart willing to give it all to help, and I can't help but feel that if I weren't to become a physician I would waste all these gifts I've been given and regret it for the rest of my life.

Perhaps that was a little more information than you expected, but I felt my academic choices deserved proper explanation in order that you gain some insight into who I truly am. As for my extracurriculars and hobbies, I do a couple of things.

Last year I did Sinfonia because I play violin, albeit rather badly as I'd only been actively trying to improve myself for a year. I wanted to challenge myself to get better, and there is nothing like an orchestra to do that. However, I quit because I felt a stronger call in another direction. During the same hours of orchestra practice, there are training hours for this organization called CONTACT, a suicide prevention hotline, and I wanted to give more to the world rather than more to myself. Music can be therapeutic and bring great happiness to others, but actually preventing someone from committing suicide by being a friend to them is a bigger step in the right direction. I haven't given up violin, though.

My roommate and I play violin and flute duets in our dorm (at appropriate hours) when we have free time.

I'm also in Knitting Club, although I don't knit, I crochet. Interestingly enough, it's what I'm known for by a lot of people on campus because I walk around in animals hats I make for myself and I make stuffed toys and hats for other people (maybe I'll attach some pictures of them below). It's really quite easy, fun, and satisfying to see people become so overjoyed at something so simple and inexpensive.

Homefront is another activity I participate in. Every week, I and a couple of volunteers drive up to the Atkinson Childcare Center, a nonprofit for vulnerable families, and take care of the children there. It's really fun playing with the kids, and sometimes needed as there are a lot of them and they usually don't get much attention when there are too few volunteers. But lately, there have been a lot more volunteers, so perhaps that is why I felt the need to do CONTACT as well.

I'm part of the Pro-Life club (and eager for the March for Life in a few months), and finally I'm also part of the Catholic choir. My faith motivates me, and I love music (as you may have guessed from above), so a combination of the two was pretty great for me.

I may be a little over my head (as I have only realized by writing this email), but all these activities are important to me and do not require too much time, so I hope I can continue them for the rest of my Princeton experience.

My immediate plans for the future are to get good grades and an internship. So far, my grades don't seem too bad. I have a good chance of getting As and Bs. I'm taking a freshman seminar called Neuroethics, which I am most definitely getting an A in, a writing seminar called Climate Science Fictions, which is likely to be an A, and Physics and Math, which I may only get an A in if I try very hard on the exams and if the curve pushes me along those last final points. I hope for at least a B in those classes, but of course an A is the goal. I've applied for an internship in Newcastle, England, but I haven't heard from them yet. I also applied to one in Arizona, where I live, so I can be closer to my family and move back and forth easily, but I've heard nothing from there, either. Looks like I need to apply to more internships...

After college, I hope to go into medical school if I am still enamored with the idea of medicine, and after medical school I hope to be a volunteer for Red Cross, Peace Corps, or some other organization where my knowledge as a doctor would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps I'll come back and get a job in the United States again, or maybe I'll love volunteering so much (with the grateful patients and the rarity of lawsuits) that I'll stay there.

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Mr. Minjae Kim '21

Thank you for the Richard and Susan Galloway '54 Scholarship.

Academics and Performance:

I'm (probably) listed as an English major, if not undecided.

I felt that the most applicable major of study would be an English Theater track major. I'm very involved in theater and wish to pursue it as a career. I've joined Theatre Intime and am currently the Props and Costume Manager on the Board. So far this year, I've acted in a production of *She Kills Monsters*, directed for the *24 Hour Play Festival*, and tapped in *TapCats: Presence*. I will be hosting auditions soon for *Hello Out There* by William Saroyan, the play that I will be directing for the *One Act Freshman Festival*. I am also currently in negotiation with another show about conflicting rehearsal schedules that I may be playing the trumpet for. The *Student Playwright's Festival* will be asking for submissions soon and I will be submitting one of my recent works, whether it is *My Dad is Bald* or *Stuck in Motion*. Both require some heavy rewriting before I submit them. I've spent this week performing with the Princeton tap dancing group, TapCats. I began tap dancing this year and have been enjoying it since. We finished our second performance today and our final performance will happen in... approximately 17 hours.

Sports:

On an athletic aspect, I enjoy a wide variety of sports. During high school, I played a lot of soccer and a bit of rugby. But during university, I decided to continue boxing, a sport that I picked up when I was in grade eight. I was a solid member of the Princeton Martial Arts Consortium until my show schedules began to prevent me from going to practices. Even though I wish that I could make more practices, my second semester seems to have more performances, and therefore I will continue to practice alone.

Aspirations:

If I could perform for people for the rest of my life, that would be wonderful. Unfortunately, I can only dream for so many hours in a day. To pursue a career in theater, it is vital to learn other related skills, especially because there are many other fellow thespians who get buried amongst the mass of competitors. At Princeton, I hope to explore the different skill sets required in theater, both on and off stage. While continuing to write plays and screenplays, I am trying my best to learn more about theater management. When I finish my time at Princeton, I hope to be well versed in both on and off stage and enter the performing arts industry feeling more ready.