

Class of
2017

Urban Studies Certificate Graduates

**Akua Achampong
Hammad Aslam
Jared Bell
Maria del "Pilar" Bennett
Alistair Berven
Harrison Blackman
Haraya "Raya" Buensuceso
Tiffani Chanroo
Zixuan "Sharon" Deng
Claire Egan
Hiba Elbuluk
Shu "Christie" Jiang
Michael Manning
Makenna May
Spencer Parts
Carlos Sotelo
Achille Tenkiang
Katharine Toll
Charlotte Williams**

Congratulations!

Akua Achampong is a Civil Environmental Engineering major, in the Engineering and the Liberal Arts track from Detroit, Michigan. Akua is passionate in learning about the role that various agencies have in empowering urban communities. On campus, she has lead and participated in the Princeton Association of Black Women, National Society of Black Engineers, and Princeton Faith and Action. After graduation, Akua will be participating in the Project 55 Fellowship Program in Newark, NJ.
Advisor: Aaron Shkuda

Hammad Aslam is a Near Eastern Studies major with certificates in Urban Studies, Finance, and South Asian Studies. Born in Lahore, Pakistan, Hammad is passionate about studying state formation, nationalist movements and contemporary foreign strategic affairs of the United States, Middle Eastern and South Asian states. He is an undergraduate fellow with the Program on Religion, Diplomacy and International Affairs at the Liechtenstein Institute of Self-Determination. His other academic interests include financial markets, corporate restructuring, Persian literature, mysticism and philosophy. After graduation, Hammad plans on working as an investment banker at Wells Fargo Securities in New York and is considering returning to school in the near future potentially for a Master's degree in Public Policy, Conflict Resolution or International Relations.
Advisor: Doug Massey

Jared Bell is a Politics Major with a certificate in Urban Studies. Originally from Portland, Maine, Jared is deeply interested in the American housing finance system. On campus, Jared is a member of the Varsity Track & Field Team and is the Founder and President of the Princeton University Real Estate Group. After graduation, Jared plans to work in the real estate industry.
Advisor: Nolan McCarty

Pilar Bennett is an Ecology and Evolutionary Biology major with certificates in Urban Studies and Environmental Studies. Originally from Charleston, South Carolina, Pilar is passionate about issues at the intersection of the natural and urban environments. On campus, she is an Outdoor Action Leader and Project Leader for the Big Siblings mentoring program.
Advisor: Bruno Carvalho

Alistair Berven is a Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering major. He is pursuing certificates in Sustainable Energy and Urban Studies, and his studies have been focused on energy and environmental issues. Previous work includes papers on improving photovoltaic design, optimizing agricultural development, and fieldwork designing and building an anaerobic digester. Alistair is originally from San Francisco, and attended The Lawrenceville School in New Jersey. He plays for the Varsity Men's Lacrosse team at Princeton, and plans to play for the English National team next year while studying for a Master's degree in Environmental Change and Management at Oxford University.
Advisor: James Smith

Harrison Blackman is a History major with certificates in Urban Studies, Hellenic Studies, and Creative Writing. He was born in Southern California and lives in Maryland. On campus, he is the Editor-in-Chief of Tortoise: A Journal of Writing Pedagogy, which publishes excerpts of exemplary Princeton academic writing to demonstrate how the writing 'works' and how it was developed. A Princeton International and Regional Studies Fellow, Harrison previously served as a Head Fellow for the Princeton Writing Program and as a features editor for The Daily Princetonian. For the Program in Creative Writing, he has also written a second thesis, a thriller novella called Blood Falls, which concerns a climate change scientist on a doomed Antarctic expedition. After graduation, Harrison plans to pursue a career in writing and journalism.
Advisor: Alison Isenberg

Haraya "Raya" Buensuceso is an Economics concentrator with certificates in Urban Studies and Political Economy. Born and raised in the Philippines, her passion lies in the intersection of public policy and urban development. She is specifically interested in the way public transportation can be harnessed to improve communities, combat socioeconomic inequality and promote environmental sustainability. On campus, she is a proud member of Manna Christian Fellowship, Women's Club Volleyball, the Princeton Traveler.
Advisor: Mario Gandelsonas

Tiffani Chanroo is a Woodrow Wilson major with a certificate in Urban Studies. Originally from San Jose, California, Tiffani is passionate about understanding and addressing the problems of underprivileged communities. On campus, she enjoys taking visual arts classes and is a Senior Program manager from Princeton Student Events Committee. After graduation, Tiffani plans to attend law school.
Advisor: Anastasia Mann

Zixuan (Sharon) Deng, Architecture major, grew up in Wuhan, China, and it was Wuhan, aptly and poetically named the “furnace city” because of the scorching summer heat, that Sharon began her exploration in how writing, film, architecture, and the urban environment could become agents of change. Her interests at the intersection of design, narrative, and activism have guided her throughout her extracurricular activities on campus, including co-founding the Architecture Association of Princeton, the first and only student-run organization to bridge the gap between students of architecture and those in other, design-related, fields, and making *Paris, Ni Hao*, a 40-minute independent documentary capturing the Paris of Chinese immigrants, which won best documentary film award at the 2016 Chinese Student Micro Film Festival. After graduation, Sharon plans to pursue a Master of Architecture to continue exploring how her stories play out in three dimensions and make a tangible difference in the lives of those who fall outside our dominant social narratives.

Advisor: M Christine Boyer

Claire Egan is an Economics major with certificates in Urban Studies, Environmental Studies, and Chinese Language and Culture. A native of Arlington, Virginia and an avid backpacker, she is interested in issues concerning the intersections of urbanism and the environment. On campus, Claire was President of eXpressions Dance Company, Vice President of Philanthropy for Pi Beta Phi sorority, and an Outdoor Action leader. After graduation, she will be working in management consulting in New York City.

Advisor: Bruno Carvalho

Hiba Elbuluk is an Architecture major with a certificate in Urban Studies. Hiba is from Cleveland, Ohio and is passionate about using design to better peoples’ lives. Hiba’s thesis works on understanding the increased mobility and precision provided to individuals and groups through the use of computational textiles at the body and building scales. On campus, Hiba is a leading member of Princeton Women in Business and works for the McGraw Center as both a Learning Consultant and a Digital Learning Lab Student Tech Consultant. She plans to pursue business after graduation.

Advisor: Patricia Fernandez-Kelly

Christie Jiang is a Civil and Environmental Engineering major with a certificate in Urban Studies. She is interested in the ways that the built environment and natural resources affect society and politics. Her time at Princeton has been defined by volunteering through the Pace Center both locally and globally, dancing for Princeton Bhangra at competitions and weddings, and writing for *The Stripes*, a blog on race and culture. After graduation, Christie will be working for a year as a Ministry Fellow for Manna Christian Fellowship here on campus.

Advisor: Janet Chen

Michael Manning is a Music major with certificates in Urban Studies and Vocal Performance. Originally from Cincinnati, OH, Michael is passionate about understanding how music and art can impact the development of cities. On campus, he has participated in many programs through the Music Department, including the Princeton University Glee Club, Princeton Opera Theater, and Early Music Princeton. After graduation, Michael will work at the New Markets Support Corporation in Chicago helping entrepreneurs and small business owners in underserved communities access financial products and tax credits to help foster equitable growth and redevelopment.

Advisor: Aaron Shkuda

Makenna May is a French and American Studies major with a certificate in Urban Studies. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Makenna is excited to begin a career working in student affairs upon graduation. While at Princeton, she has studied abroad in Paris, France, and in Geneva, Switzerland, and she has also done an internship abroad in Athens, Greece. While on campus, she has most enjoyed serving on the Student Health Advisory Board, working as a Peer Academic Advisor for Butler College, and writing blogs for the Office of Undergraduate Admission. She looks forward to eventually pursuing a Master’s degree in Student Affairs after first gaining some work experience in higher education administration.

Advisor: Christine Boyer

Spencer Parts is a History major with a certificate in Urban Studies. Spencer is from Chicago and is interested in and invested in the future of Midwestern cities. As a student, he has sought to understand forces that govern how people relate to each other in American cities, including civic ideals and racial prejudice. He has worked as a freelance journalist for local and national newspapers at Princeton, as well as writing on music and politics in Havana, Cuba while studying abroad there.

Advisor: Alison Isenberg

Carlos Sotelo is a WWS major with a certificate in Urban Studies. Born in Mexico, with the majority of his upbringing spent in Pasadena, Texas, Carlos is passionate about understanding and addressing college access problems of first-generation students and underrepresented minorities. On campus, he has participated in DREAM Team, Princeton Latinos y Amigos, the College Counseling Project, and on the Student Advisory Board for Princeton Internships in Civic Service.

Advisor: Marta Tienda

Achille Tenkiang is an independent concentrator in African Studies and Development with certificates in Urban Studies and African Studies. Originally from Cameroon, Achille is passionate about addressing the social and political transformations that impact African urban spaces. On campus, he has participated in the African Students Association, Umqombothi African Music Ensemble, Ellipses Slam Poetry; and serves as a Peer Academic Advisor and Diversity Mentor. Achille was named a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow in 2015, and PIIRS Undergraduate Fellow in 2016. Through these fellowships, he has conducted research in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Senegal, and Cameroon. He was recently named a recipient of the Henry Richardson '26 Prize Fellowship, where, he will spend the next year in Nairobi helping urban refugees actualize their political voice through spoken word poetry and social justice.

Advisors: Simon Gikandi

Katharine Toll is a senior in the Woodrow Wilson School focusing on education policy. Toll is a fellow of the James Madison Program with a certificate in Urban Studies. She has spent summers interning in the United States Senate and working with the Cheyenne and Arapaho American Indian tribes on initiatives designed to improve indigenous educational access. She serves as a student board member of the Office of Community-Based Learning Initiatives and has received the Woodrow Wilson School's Janet McCartney Award for excellence in the study of education. After graduation, she will join Anheuser Busch InBev as a Global Management Trainee.

Advisor: Doug Massey

Charlotte Williams is an Anthropology major with certificates in Urban Studies, Archaeology, and Latin American Studies. She is primarily interested in the representation of archaeological cultures in museums, and creative collaborative projects to involve better representation of descendant communities. On campus she is a Residential College Advisor for Forbes College, a peer representative for students accused of violating the honor code, served as captain of the Mock Trial team, and was a staff writer for Princeton Traveler Magazine. Over the summers, she has worked as researcher on an archaeological site, and held internships at the Penn Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After graduation, Charlotte plans to study museum ethics and practices as a Gates-Cambridge Scholar by pursuing an MPhil. in Archaeology within the Museums and Heritage Studies Track.

Advisor: Vera Candiani