

2021 Annual Report

Community



Knight-Hennessy Scholars
Stanford University

650.721.0771 | www.kh.stanford.edu | 580 Lomita Drive, Stanford, CA USA

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The **Knight-Hennessy Scholars** (KHS) program educates and prepares outstanding individuals for future leadership roles in academia, government, nonprofits, and corporations. The KHS program strives to develop transformational leaders who have a strong cross-cultural perspective, can create a bold vision for the future, will inspire others through their words and deeds, and are committed to a greater good.

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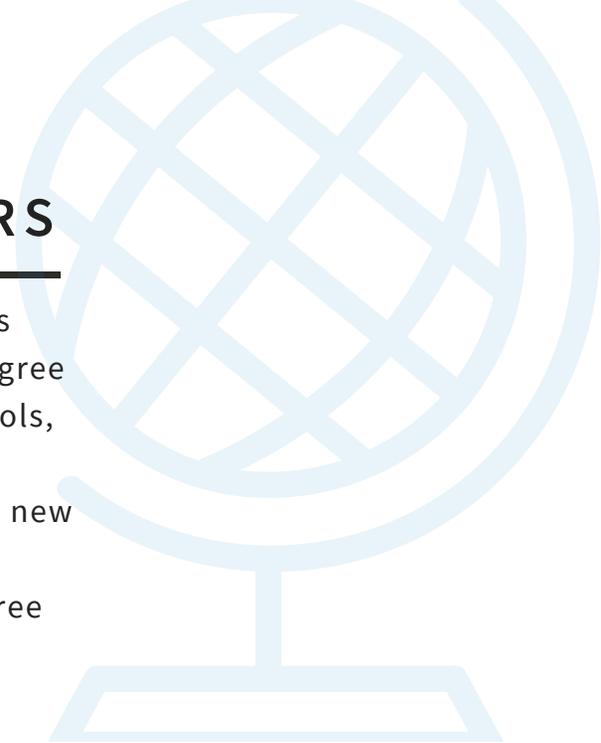
KNIGHT-HENNESSY SCHOLARS

[Knight-Hennessy Scholars](#) exhibit the independence of thought, purposeful leadership, and civic mindset to address complex challenges through collaboration and innovation.



KNIGHT-HENNESSY SCHOLARS

The [2021 cohort](#) of 76 new scholars, including students from 26 countries, pursuing degrees in 37 graduate degree programs across all seven of Stanford's graduate schools, will be joined by five scholars deferring from 2020, bringing the cohort size to 81. With the addition of the new cohort, we now have 270 scholars representing [51 countries](#), [119 undergraduate institutions](#), and 75 degree programs at Stanford.



270

KNIGHT-HENNESSY SCHOLARS

45% International

75 Degree programs

51 Countries

16% First to college

53% Female

AMONG U.S. CITIZENS/RESIDENTS:

45% Person of color

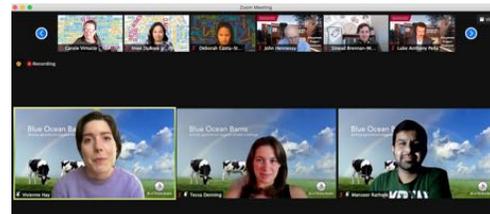
9% U.S. military

KING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (KGLP)

This year, the program reached an important milestone: the pioneer cohort of scholars completed three years with the Knight-Hennessy Scholars program. We are excited to welcome our fourth cohort to Denning House this fall, and look forward to offering both in-person and hybrid programming for scholars and the wider community.

Some highlights from this past year are:

- **SCHOLAR-LED PROJECTS: KHeystone Projects** provide scholars with an opportunity to form diverse working groups that collaborate across disciplines to grow ideas into solutions. Teams receive financial support and professional mentorship as they apply the skills they are learning through the King Global Leadership Program, along with the knowledge they are gaining in their graduate programs, towards solving important issues. At the culminating KHeystone Project Showcase, scholars presented inspiring updates on eighteen projects spanning climate change, healthcare advocacy, criminal justice reform, and much more. Many of these projects will continue next year.



KING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (KGLP)



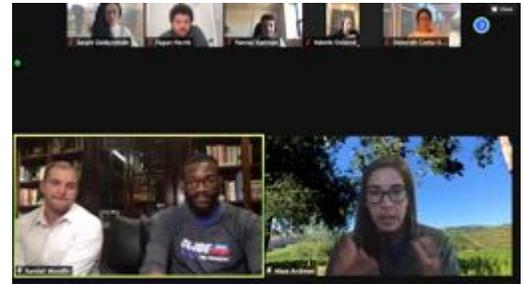
- MCMURTRY LEADERSHIP LECTURE:** Through the **McMurtry Leadership Lecture** series, scholars engage in conversations with prominent leaders, and have opportunities to introduce and moderate each session. Last year’s highlights include conversations with [Isabel Wilkerson](#), Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*; [Melinda Gates](#), philanthropist and author of *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*; and **LeBron James** of the Los Angeles Lakers. We were delighted to share both Isabel and Melinda’s formal conversations with the wider Stanford community, which were followed by intimate scholar-only conversations. We plan to host more events open to the community throughout the upcoming year.

- STORYTELLING AND DEBATE:** We continue to build communication skills through sessions with **Dan Klein** and **Lisa Rowland** from the Stanford Theatre Department, and **Jessia Hoffman** from On Deck Workshops, with a focus on presentation, storytelling, and improvisation. Motivated to foster thoughtful discussion on complex topics, the **KHS Debate Series** allowed scholars to dive deeply into controversial topics with the support of experts in the field. Topics included social media business models and the prioritization of COVID-19 vaccines to vulnerable groups versus essential workers.

Photos: Melinda Gates in conversation with Suhani Jalota (2018 Cohort), Dan Knapp (2019 Cohort) and Aya Mouallem (2020 Cohort); Isabel Wilkerson in conversation with Gaby Joseph (2018 Cohort) and Leah Matchett (2018 Cohort); Session with Dan Klein and Lisa Rowland

KING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (KGLP)

- CORE SEMINARS:** Scholars who are PhD students received guidance through the “**Navigating Your PhD**” workshop. The seminar “**Seeing, Seizing, and Scaling Opportunities**” was led by Tess Hatch and Tina Seelig, KHS Executive Director. Other seminar highlights include “**Contentious and Difficult U.S. Elections**” led by John Hennessy, and the “**Justice 2020**” series, where scholars heard from experts in the fight against racial injustice and were taught frameworks to apply in navigating lines of difference.
- SCHOLAR-DRIVEN EVENTS:** These events have become a cornerstone of KHS programming. Scholars actively engage with each other to expand the ways they build community virtually. In addition to the popular **Deep Dives** that continued on-line, enabling scholars to learn about each other’s personal stories, scholars led **KHversations**, where they conversed about current events; **KH Geographic**, which provided scholars opportunities to share and learn about each other’s countries and cultures
- COMMUNITY EVENTS:** During this fully virtual year, we introduced **Microcommunities**, smaller multi-cohort teams with their own names, symbols, and alliances, including some competitive fun with other microcommunities to help foster connection. **Town Halls** continue to be essential touchpoints between scholars and KHS staff, and an important source of feedback for future planning.



Photos: Mayor Randall Woodfin in conversation with Maya DiRado Andrews (2020 Cohort); Microcommunities night with magician Andrew Evans; Around the World with KHS cooking night; Draw Your Improbable Fact activity

- Finally, we plan to reintroduce, in spring 2022, the global study trips which were postponed due to the pandemic. Our evolving leadership model continues to shape the KGLP programming as we aim to provide meaningful experiences to scholars. We are confident that the Knight-Hennessy Scholars program will continue to cultivate leaders who will drive innovation and high impact solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

KHOMPLETION CELEBRATION & WACHTEL CONCERT

- The **2021 KHompletion Celebration** was held on June 10 at the North Lawn of Cantor Museum for the Visual Arts. We honored the 60 scholars who completed their Stanford graduate experience as well as those who reached their third year of the Knight-Hennessy Scholars program. The event was live streamed for friends and family who wanted to share in this celebration of accomplishment. The evening was also filled with performing arts, thanks to the inaugural **Wachtel Concert**, named in honor of Jeff Wachtel, founding executive director of Knight-Hennessy Scholars. The dance and music repertoire reflected the diversity of our scholars, and served as a beautiful backdrop for this special gathering of family and friends of KHS.
- As we send off our pioneer cohort and graduates, we have plans to stay connected with our alumni and look forward to seeing what the future holds in store for each of them.



ART & THE DENNING HOUSE COLLECTION

- The arts expose scholars to creative and unique perspectives that are essential in the development of the transformational leadership we hope to foster. The Denning House Collection is at the center of the arts at KHS and is an integral part of the scholars' daily experiences. Under the guidance of our Arts Advisory Committee, the Denning House Collection was launched in 2018 and has grown to include eight innovative and distinctive works by six contemporary artists.



Haegue Yang

*Sonic Rotating Line
Type A- Nickel
Plated #10, 2013*

- Last year, Denning House acquired two works by South Korean artist Haegue Yang. Referencing art history, science, politics, and her own autobiography, Yang's work uses common objects to uncommon ends, transforming the utilitarian into the sublime with a dynamic sense of movement. KHS also commissioned a work by Teresita Fernández, inspired by the natural setting of the Palo Alto Baylands and a rethinking of landscape and place, as well as by diverse historical and cultural references. In the year ahead we have plans to introduce a new artist to the collection and grow the visual and performing arts into the scholars' experience through the KGLP offerings.



Pregnant Mountains - Trustworthy #316, 2017

SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, Knight-Hennessy Scholars continue to use their voices to raise awareness and address important challenges facing the world. Here are some accolades, awards, publications, and accomplishments of Knight-Hennessy Scholars:

Response to COVID-19



[Hannah F. Fung](#), article in Stanford Medicine [Scope](#) “The Household Secondary Attack Rate of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2): A Rapid Review - IDSA Clinical Infection Diseases.”



[Marissa B. Reitsma](#), published in [Journal of General Internal Medicine](#), “Mapping inequality in SARS-CoV-2 Household Exposure and Transmission Rise in the USA.”



[Mallory Harris](#), article in the [New York Times](#), “The U.S. May Never Hit the Herd Immunity Threshold. That’s OK.”



[Tyler Chen](#) and his team published in [Applied Biosafety](#) about their pioneering work on reuse guidelines for N95s.



[Nadine Jawad](#), [rapid response](#) to article in the British Journal of Medicine, “Covax must go beyond proportional allocation of covid vaccines to ensure fair and equitable access.”



[Leehi Yona](#) in [The Nation](#), “My Students are Struggling. You’ll Never Guess Why.”



[Jude Alawa](#), [BioMed Central](#) paper, “Addressing COVID-19 in humanitarian settings: a call to action”



[Eli Cahan](#), [Newsweek](#) top story, “More than 100,000 U.S. COVID-19 Deaths May Be Uncounted, Many of Them of Blacks or Latinos”, [British Journal of Medicine](#), “Rwanda’s secret weapon against COVID-19: trust”, [Science](#) magazine, “Ethical or exploitative—should prisoners participate in COVID-19 vaccine trials?”

SCHOLAR COLLABORATION

[Alexis Doyle](#), [Mollie Friedlander](#), [Courtney Smith](#), [Nitisha Baronia](#), [Mallory Harris](#), [Seth Kolker](#), [Abd Al-Rahman Traboulsi](#), [Amanda Zerbe](#), [SSRN](#) paper, “The Evidence and Tradeoffs for a ‘Stay-at-Home’ Pandemic Response: A Multidisciplinary Review Examining the Medical, Psychological, Economic and Political Impact of ‘Stay-at-Home’ Implementation in America”

Articles and Publications

[Magdalene Zier](#), “Crimes of Omission: State-Action Doctrine and Anti-Lynching Legislation in the Jim Crow Era” published in the [Stanford Law Review](#).



[Nitisha Baronia](#), “Reviewing Extraditions to Torture” published in the [Stanford Law Review](#).



[Sievlen Len](#), article in [The Washington Post](#), “Opinion: Cambodia is trying to take away women’s right to freely choose what to wear.”



[Drew Bent](#), [Neil Rens](#), “iPhone and Apple Watch Could Assess Heart Condition”, [Forbes](#) article review.



@stanford



[Olamide Oladeji](#) is serving on the [School of Engineering's Dean's Graduate Student Advisory Council](#).



[Amnahir Peña-Alcántara](#) is serving as a community associate at the Graduate Life Office.



[Darion Wallace](#) is Graduate Scholar in Residence at [Black Community Services Center](#) and Social Co-Chair of [Black Graduate Students Association](#).



[Lillie Reed](#) is community outreach manager at [Cardinal Free Clinics](#).



[Zachary Young](#) is co-president of [Stanford Law and Technology Association](#).



[Jonathan Deemer](#) is on the Graduate Student Council at [Associated Students of Stanford University](#).



[Ade Ayoola](#) is on the [Stanford Medicine Commission on Justice and Equity](#).



[Amanda Zerbe](#) and [Eli Cahan](#) received the [2021 Stanford Community Impact Award](#).

Research Articles and Publications



[Anoop Manjunath](#), *Nature Biotechnology*, "Comprehensive analysis of 2.4 million patent-to-research citations maps the biomedical innovation and translation landscape"



[Solomon Oyakhire](#), *Advanced Energy Materials*, "Revealing and Elucidating ALD-Derived Control of Lithium Plating Microstructure"

Scholar voices continue to help shape the program. Representatives for the community serve on the **KHS Scholar Advisory Board** and the **KHS Finance Committee**.



Awards and Accolades



[Aya Mouallem](#) featured in [The New York Times](#) article "10 Women Changing the Landscape of Leadership" for her work after the explosion in Beirut.



[Suhani Jalota](#), [Stanford Center for Innovation in Global Health 2020 Seed Grant Winner](#): Special COVID-19 Call, "Effects of COVID-19 on Health Seeking Behavior, Stigma and Livelihoods, and Disease Surveillance in Urban Slums in Mumbai," [Schmidt Futures Reimagine Challenge](#) winner (2021), [Global Citizen Prize](#): Cisco Youth Leadership Award Finalist



[Aadith Moorthy](#), [O2C Marketplace](#), [2021 Ericsson Innovation Award](#) Finalist, NA regional winner, 3rd place winner overall (2020)



[Sydney Frankenberg](#), U.S. Naval institute Magazine, Diversity & Inclusion Essay Contest—First Prize essay, "[Sir, No Excuse, Sir!](#)" and "[Draft Us Too, America.](#)"



[Aditya Vishwanath](#), founded [Inspirit](#), a virtual reality education company focusing on developing technologies that support universal access to immersive learning content.



GRADUATES SHARE WHAT BEING A KNIGHT-HENNESSY SCHOLAR MEANS TO THEM

Being a KH Scholar means life-long learning. It means building relationships with people that both challenge and encourage you. And it means a sincere desire to make an impact on the world around you. I can't say enough how grateful I am for my time here.

-LUCAS BEISSNER (2019 Cohort, graduate)



It is about critical and thoughtful engagement with the world. It is about building community with one's peers in order to learn more about yourself. It is about sharpening your skills to then move into the world a more self-aware and proficient leader. I am grateful for this community of Knight-Hennessy Scholars and I cannot wait to see all that we will do to change this world.

-NIMA DAHIR (2018 Cohort, graduate)



Being a Knight-Hennessy Scholar means being part of a community of kind, ambitious, and compassionate individuals all committed to contributing to alleviating suffering, promoting justice and building a better world for future generations. It means choosing everyday to care about others and our world, to continuously seek solutions to relevant problems, and to lead courageously and humbly.

-ADE AYOOLA (2018 Cohort, graduate)



It means intellectual curiosity. It means immersing yourself in deep thought and debate and reflection, challenging yourself to move beyond your comfort zone to learn uncomfortable truths and expand your understanding of the world. It means learning compassionate leadership: training yourself to feel empathy for others and to imbue your leadership style with your core values and principles. It means being part of something bigger than yourself. It means being part of a community of equally ambitious, curious, and starry-eyed future leaders and thinkers who will together forge a better world.

-REX WOODBURY (2019 Cohort, graduate)



BEING A KNIGHT-HENNESSY SCHOLAR MEANS...

Having a willingness to tackle the world's biggest problems, while remaining humble and kind throughout the journey!

-AADITH MOORTHY (2018 Cohort, graduate)



It means being in community with others who envision a better world; who feel a tremendous sense of responsibility to make meaningful contributions towards the actualization of that vision; who maintain a steady spirit of humility, self-awareness, and growth; and who care deeply for and fiercely love the people around them.

-YIRAN LIU (2018 Cohort, graduate)



Being a Knight-Hennessy Scholar to me means building, empowering and contributing to communities no matter where you are. Living thousands of miles away from home, I found in the Knight-Hennessy community the most wonderful family that turned even a cloudy day into sunny weather. Knight-Hennessy helped me get an understanding of my responsibility as hopefully a future leader to bring people closer together, build bridges and create a feeling of home — whether that's at work, in my neighborhood or with strangers I meet.

-ANDREJ SAFUNDZIC (2020 Cohort, graduate)



Being a Knight-Hennessy Scholar means wanting to make a difference in the world — being willing to dream big and work hard. It means engaging in a community of individuals with diverse experiences and impressive goals, expanding my horizons, and learning from scholars, staff, faculty, and speakers alike.

-KELLY MCFARLANE (2019 Cohort, graduate)



Knight-Hennessy Scholars Stanford University

Congratulations to our scholars completing
the Knight-Hennessy Scholars program,
including the 2018 pioneer cohort!



The Knight-Hennessy Scholars program cultivates and supports a highly-engaged, multidisciplinary and multicultural community of graduate students from across Stanford University and prepares them to address complex challenges facing the world.

Visit kh.stanford.edu to learn more.



Knight-Hennessy Scholars Stanford University