

type keyword(s) here

- [+ Academics](#)
- [+ Admission](#)
- [+ Campus Life](#)
- [+ About Wheaton](#)

ALUMNI (HTTPS://WHEATONCOLLEGE.EDU/ALUMNI/)

ATHLETICS (HTTP://ATHLETICS.WHEATONCOLLEGE.EDU/LANDING/INDEX)

GIVING (/GIVING)

PARENTS & FAMILIES (/PARENTS-AND-FAMILIES)

INSIDEWHEATON (HTTPS://PORTAL.WHEATONMA.EDU)

**Wheaton College Scholarships**

ALUMNI (HTTPS://WHEATONCOLLEGE.EDU/ALUMNI/)

**Wheaton Athletics**

ATHLETICS (HTTP://ATHLETICS.WHEATONCOLLEGE.EDU/LANDING/INDEX)

**Wheaton Giving**

GIVING (/GIVING)

**Wheaton Parents & Families**

PARENTS & FAMILIES (/PARENTS-AND-FAMILIES)

**Wheaton InsideWheaton**

INSIDEWHEATON (HTTPS://PORTAL.WHEATONMA.EDU)

**Wheaton Campus Impact**

CAMPUS IMPACT (HTTPS://WWW.WHEATONMA.EDU/CAMPUS-IMPACT/)

**Wheaton Academic Impact**

ACADEMIC IMPACT (HTTPS://WWW.WHEATONMA.EDU/ACADEMIC-IMPACT/)

**Sustainability**

SUSTAINABILITY (HTTPS://WWW.WHEATONMA.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY/)

[Academics](#)

[Admission](#)

[Campus Life](#)

[About Wheaton](#)

type keyword(s) here

# Wheaton News

**VISIT WHEATON**  
[\(https://wheatoncollege.edu/admission/visiting-wheaton/\)](https://wheatoncollege.edu/admission/visiting-wheaton/)

[< BACK TO ALL NEWS ARTICLES \(HTTPS://WHEATONCOLLEGE.EDU/NEWS/\)](https://wheatoncollege.edu/news/)

## Lucas Rosa wins Watson Fellowship

March 23, 2018



### **Graduating senior will travel abroad to explore meaning, culture in mixed martial arts**

At first glance, the disciplines of philosophy and mixed martial arts seemingly have nothing in common. But Lucas Rosa '18, a philosophy and creative writing double major with years of mixed martial arts training, sees connections that link the two across cultures and time as well as inform his own life.

Rosa's desire to explore the parallels and bring them to light has earned him a 2018 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. He will travel to Holland, Thailand and Cambodia to study the nuances of the hand-to-hand combat tradition at mixed martial arts (MMA) academies in the three countries.

The [Thomas J. Watson Fellowship \(https://watson.foundation/fellowships/tj\)](https://watson.foundation/fellowships/tj) is a \$30,000, one-year grant for independent study and travel outside of the United States. This fellowship funds students of "unusual promise" who have an insatiable yearning to explore on a global scale a topic that is personally significant to them. Watson project ideas must come from a longstanding personal passion—something that the student will pursue, no matter the obstacles encountered.

Rosa is fascinated by the commonalities shared by the two disciplines—one intellectual, one physical. "Studying philosophy forces me to confront intricate questions on meaning, death, life and morality, which requires perceptiveness, curiosity and sometimes even courage," he wrote in his Watson proposal. "MMA demands these virtues and a thirst for knowledge, except in MMA the focus of these virtues is physical rather than abstract. ...Both disciplines require perceptivity to analyze the larger structures at play. They work the same sort of intellectual 'muscle,' just in abstract and physical ways, respectively."

During his year of Watson travel starting in late July, Rosa plans to train within fighting traditions specific to Holland, Thailand and Cambodia as well as explore the intellectual value of mixed martial arts and its meaning, history, artistry and evolution within each culture. "I cannot help but have philosophical curiosity about why so many cultures and people throughout the world engage in these disciplines," he wrote.

One of his major goals is to debunk misconceptions about mixed martial arts and those who engage in it. "For many, mixed martial arts seems inconsistent with my personality. I'm a quiet, nice, creative person who loves philosophy and writing," Rosa wrote. "My interest in MMA doesn't fit people's presuppositions; I seem like a walking contradiction. Yet my love for MMA is deeply consistent with who I am as an intellectual and a person."

Rosa, who was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society his junior year, is president of the Wheaton Men's Rugby Team, editor-in-chief of the *Wheaton Wire* and on the board of directors of the nonprofit Chucky's Fight to help prevent teen substance abuse. As the rugby team's liaison to the college's Sexual Misconduct and Assault Response Team, he helped organize the first "Purple Bowl" game to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month in fall 2017. He currently is leading an effort to organize the first "Unity Bowl" to help bring his campus community together in the name of tolerance. As the editor of the college newspaper, he stresses that he is committed to intellectual honesty.

His Watson pursuit is deeply steeped in personal history. Tragedy hit Rosa's family early, hard and often with the deaths of two of his six siblings, which motivated him to be keenly aware of life's impermanence. He and his twin brother, who also is a Wheaton student, trained in self-defense from age 6. Rosa also pursued wrestling, Brazilian jiu-jitsu and kickboxing.

He has proven his intellectual and physical fortitude in the classroom and on the playing fields this academic year. Pushing himself while recovering from a concussion suffered during a Rugby game in fall 2017, Rosa has successfully juggled a full course load and responsibilities as an editor and campus leader.

Clearly, he is ready for any challenges ahead, including one that will put heavy demands on his communication skills.

"This project will require that I spend time interacting with people who are both highly competitive and whose language I do not speak. It is important that I maintain respect for others wherever I am. I only speak English," Rosa wrote. "The sense of community inherent among mixed martial artists makes MMA a powerful way of forming tight bonds with others. I anticipate that my life will be changed by these communities in ways I cannot possibly imagine."

After the Watson year of traveling and exploring, Lucas wants to try his hand at being a professional MMA Fighter (like his older brother) and somehow combine that with a career as a professional writer.

"I know my dream sounds crazy but at least I have a year with the Watson to figure out how I'm going to do it," he said during a recent interview, still beaming after learning about his fellowship.

If anyone can figure out how to successfully do it, Rosa can, judging by the high praise from his philosophy professor and advisor, John Partridge.

"Lucas is exceptionally promising. Right from the start I saw that he was a serious, mature and dedicated student with intrinsic motivation. ...I have been able to see him grow as a student and person and have no doubt that not only will this be a transformative experience for him but also for those he meets and connects with," said Partridge. "I am eager to see how he not only submits to the rigor of training at these gyms, but also expresses his vision for a reformed understanding of the meaning of MMA and articulates these values in a cross-cultural exchange."

*(Photo by Keith Nordstrom)*

## CONTACT

Sandy Coleman

[coleman\\_sandra@wheatoncollege.edu](mailto:coleman_sandra@wheatoncollege.edu)

([mailto:coleman\\_sandra@wheatoncollege.edu](mailto:coleman_sandra@wheatoncollege.edu))

# Stay Connected



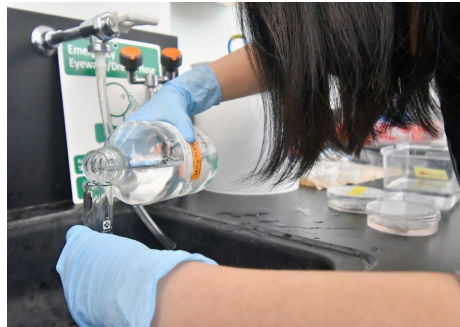
**@wheatoncollege**  
(<https://www.instagram.com/wheatoncollege>)  
June 19, 2018

Julia LaBarge '20 is spending 6 weeks this summer interning at the turtle sanctuary at Playa Junquillal in Costa Rica. Here's a video of Julia releasing her first 4 black sea turtles into the ocean. #WheatonMA (<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/WheatonMA>)



**@wheaton**  
(<https://www.twitter.com/wheaton>)  
23h

Wheaton College has won a competitive \$1 million grant from the @HHMINEWS (<http://www.twitter.com/HHMINEWS>) to develop new approaches to science education that will enhance student management and improve learning outcomes. #InclusiveExcellence (<http://twitter.com/search?q=InclusiveExcellence>) (<https://t.co/LugsxdvAhe>) (<https://t.co/vbnrhRx2AJ>)



**@wheaton**  
(<https://www.twitter.com/wheaton>)  
June 19, 2018

Julia LaBarge '20 is spending 6 weeks this summer interning at the turtle sanctuary at Playa Junquillal in Costa Rica. Here's a video of Julia releasing her first 4 black sea turtles into the ocean. #WheatonMA (<http://twitter.com/search?q=WheatonMA>) (<https://t.co/WZ2cWonTJp>)



## VISIT WHEATON

Learn more about when and how you can visit our campus.

## REQUEST INFO

Receive announcements and materials based upon your academic interests.

## APPLY NOW

Ready to apply? Check out our requirements and deadlines.

<https://www.wheatoncollege.edu>

26 E. Main Street  
Norton, MA 02766  
(508) 286-8200

ARTS (/ARTS)

DIRECTIONS  
(/ABOUT-WHEATON-COLLEGE/CAMPUS-AND-COMMUNITY/OUR-LOCATION/TRAVELING-TO-WHEATON/)

MAP  
([HTTPS://MAP.WHEATONCOLLEGE.EDU](https://map.wheatoncollege.edu))

NEWS (/NEWS)

BLOG  
([HTTPS://WHEATONCOLLEGE.BLOG](https://wheatoncollege.edu/blog))

ACADEMIC  
CALENDAR  
([HTTPS://WHEATONCOLLEGE.EDU/ACADEMIC-CALENDAR/](https://wheatoncollege.edu/academic-calendar/))

EVENTS CALENDAR  
(/EVENTS)

**f** ([HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WHEATONCOLLEGE](http://www.facebook.com/wheatoncollege))

**t** ([HTTP://WWW.TWITTER.COM/WHEATONCOLLEGE](http://www.twitter.com/wheatoncollege))

**in** ([HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/WHEATONCOLLEGE](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wheatoncollege))

**@** ([HTTP://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/WHEATONCOLLEGE](http://www.instagram.com/wheatoncollege))

**▶** ([HTTP://YOUTUBE.COM/USER/WHEATONCOLLEGE](http://youtube.com/user/wheatoncollege))

**EMERGENCY  
INFORMATION  
(/EMERGENCY/)**

**WORKING AT  
WHEATON  
(/WORKING/)**



**(HTTPS://WWW.SNAPCHAT.COM/**

© Wheaton College

[Accessibility Services \(https://wheatoncollege.edu/academics/filene-center-for-academic-advising-and-career-services/accessibility-services/\)](https://wheatoncollege.edu/academics/filene-center-for-academic-advising-and-career-services/accessibility-services/)

[Consumer Disclosures \(https://wheatoncollege.edu/consumer-disclosures/\)](https://wheatoncollege.edu/consumer-disclosures/) [Contact Wheaton \(/contact/\)](/contact/) [Policies \(/policies\)](/policies/)

[Privacy Policy \(https://wheatoncollege.edu/policies/privacy-policy/\)](https://wheatoncollege.edu/policies/privacy-policy/) [Title IX \(/campus-life/campus-safety/sexual-assault-information/titleix-information/\)](/campus-life/campus-safety/sexual-assault-information/titleix-information/)

# NEWS

## NEW WATSON FELLOWS WILL PURSUE INTERESTS AROUND THE GLOBE

MARCH 20, 2012

Two Davidson seniors have been awarded \$25,000 from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation to pursue a full year of independent, purposeful exploration and travel. Audrey Gyurgyik will explore a holistic approach to actor training, a form that incorporates the body, soul and mind. Alexis Valauri-Orton will explore ocean acidification and how the threat of oceanic carbon dioxide pollution is perceived by different marine-dependent cultures.

The two were among 40 graduating seniors selected to receive Watson Fellowships from a pool of over 700 applicants nationwide. The foundation began sponsoring the program in 1968 in hopes that the experience would enhance the fellows' resourcefulness and leadership, and promote their humane and effective participation in the world community.

Gyurgyik, a Belk Scholar and theater major from Shaker Heights, Ohio, holds two passions that have shaped her college career-acting and yoga. She melds the two in her Watson proposal, which is titled "Body and Soul: A Holistic Approach to Actor Training."

She said, "Being in touch with the whole body-physically, spiritually and mentally-is something I learned first from yoga at a young age. Later in life it has carried over into how I express myself in theater."

According to Gyurgyik, a physical approach to acting is more common outside of the United States. U.S. thespians tend to focus on mastering roles by understanding character psychology. Gyurgyik experienced the differences in these actor-training styles her junior year abroad at the Royal Academy in Dramatic Arts in London. "In America we learn very early to act by looking at and analyzing the text," she said. In London, I had to learn to get out of my head and to train from a physical standpoint. I came to act more from impulse and from what my body was telling me to do as well as from thought analysis."

First on Gyurgyik's travel itinerary is Tibet, where she plans to study yoga with a Tibetan monk. She will then fly to Brazil to train with Zikzira, a physical theater company, to Serbia with the Dah "theater of breath," and finally to Italy to the work center of renowned theatre practitioner Jerzy Grotowski.

Though she may employ some translators along the way, Gyurgyik noted language barriers shouldn't be a problem. "After all, I am on a journey to express myself through movement," she joked.

Gyurgyik hopes her Watson experience will instill her with self-confidence and the ability to adapt to whatever her future career might entail. "I want to work professionally as an actor," said Gyurgyik. "I want to explore and learn from as many different methodologies as I can."

Alexis Valauri-Orton, a biology major from Seattle Wash., will also use her award to explore her strong interest in ocean acidification. Her Watson proposal, "Thinking Outside the Lab: Discovering the Human Toll of Ocean Acidification," will take her to reef and fishery-dependant destinations so she can better understand the social impacts of this dire phenomenon.



(l-r) Alexis Valauri-Orton and Audrey Gyurgyik

Valauri-Orton's concern about ocean acidification grew from a more general interest in marine biology. She took marine biology classes in high school and competed on her school's National Ocean Science Bowl team. She credits her father for alerting her to acidification. "When I was younger my dad left articles on my bed, and when I was 16 he left me an article from The New Yorker on ocean acidification. I was shocked. I remember thinking "Ocean acidification is a major issue. How come nobody knows about it!?"

Ocean acidification occurs in seawater due to rising atmospheric CO2 levels. The ocean absorbs atmospheric CO2, causing the death of coral reefs which, Valauri-Orton says, will all have begun dissolving by 2050. "The reefs are done for. Even if we stop CO2 pollution this minute, we might be able to save a few tropical reefs, but that's it. This is a problem because reefs play a major role in providing things like food and shelter for other marine life."

Because Davidson does not have the facilities to study marine biology, Valauri-Orton has studied the problem independently. "I've kept up with the topic in little ways," she said. " I wrote my final paper on it for my environmental studies course freshman year, I created a web-site on it for animal physiology, and, as part of my senior capstone project, I'm writing a mock grant proposal that would help fund ocean acidification research."

In summer of her sophomore year she interned at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle, where she helped develop a curriculum for high school students to learn more about the phenomenon.

Valauri-Orton will use her Watson Fellowship to travel to Norway, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Peru and Mauritius. She looks forward to talking with people who work at fisheries or in the fishing industry. " I have no idea what I am going to find," she said. "I don't know how these other cultures are viewing this issue, but I'm traveling to discover other-worldly perspectives."

Valauri-Orton's other passion in life is music. She's no stranger to travel and, last summer, played 11 shows on a cross-country tour from Davidson to her home in Seattle. She's also produced two CDs. "I hope to connect to some people in my Watson travels through music," she said. "I plan to carry an old flute and possibly a guitar where ever I go."

All fellows are required to maintain contact with the fellowship program during their year abroad through quarterly progress reports, and must submit a final evaluation of their year with an accounting of the expenditure of fellowship funds. Seventy-eight Davidson students have received Watson Fellowships since the program began.

## [IN THIS SECTION](#)

[NEWS STORIES](#)

---

[IN THE NEWS](#)

---

[DAVIDSON JOURNAL](#)

---

[FOR THE MEDIA](#)

---

[DAVIDSON EXPERTS](#)

## Punk rocker to study contemporary anarchy

June 22, 2006 | By Stephanie Earls, Albany Times Union.

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. — It's final exams week at Union College , and the social sciences building is as quiet as, well, a social sciences building during final exams.

In ground-floor classrooms , students in T-shirts and shorts, with ponytails and bed-head, sit curled over test sheets. At the slightest sound from the hallway, pencils pause and heads snap up.

Elsewhere in the halls of academia, scholarship does not occur in silence.

Here, the punk rocker discusses anarchy with professors.

Noah Eber-Schmid has left his studded, patched jacket at home in favor of a black oxford and jeans. His longish hair is combed back, a few degrees shy of unruly.

You can tell -- from the black-rimmed glasses , the pale skin, scruffy fringe of beard -- that there's likely a different sartorial story here, as well. But on this day, Noah doesn't want anything to distract from the defense of his 125-page thesis on contemporary anarchism, which he spent the better part of his senior year working on.

The questions begin, and Noah talks about the culture of radicalism, about Marxism and postmodernism, anti-authoritarianism and the Situationist International, a political and artistic movement that began in Europe in the mid-20th Century.

For 40 minutes, sitting at the head of a long conference table, he talks about things so intellectual that the thoughts of non-philosophy majors, should they happen to accidentally eavesdrop on this closed-door meeting, might start to wander.



Noah's real audience -- four professors -- totally get it. He talks for a while about the May 1968 uprising in France.

"In my opinion, it's not so much about overthinking, but the divorcing of theory from actual action," Noah says evenly, in answer to a final question about the role of philosophy in anarchist theory: Did overthinking spoil the revolution?

Noah is graduating from Union College with a double major in political science and philosophy. And in a little more than two months, theory (that ethics, identity and belief bind punks in Europe together in a community and movement that transcends music) will be grounded in action (hanging out with European punks) in the 21-year-old's own life, as he travels central and Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, investigating the birthplaces of punk and the "do-it-yourself" attitude (make your own music, sell it cheap, don't get rich) of the culture there.

As Union's recipient of the 2006-07 Watson Fellowship, his yearlong project -- or at least \$25,000 of it -- will be paid for by a grant from the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship Program, which was created in 1968 by the family of the founder of IBM.

Past Watson Fellows from Union have studied Renaissance churches and Beaux-Arts train stations in Italy, the development of the long-necked lute in Central Asia, and the German literary critic Walter Benjamin. Noah's project on punk music -- chosen from among four finalists at the school -- might seem non-traditional, but only on the surface, said Charles Batson, associate professor of French, who worked with Noah during the academic year to hone his proposal before its review by the national Watson committee.

"As [a Watson Fellowship saying goes], what they're ultimately looking for is not a project that's going to lead to the smallpox vaccine, but they are looking for the Jonas Salk," Batson said.

For Noah, as for many fans, punk rock involves a tangle of contradictory elements. It is both personal and public.

Noah's fascination with the oft-maligned genre at the fringe of rock 'n' roll began in middle school. He grew up in hip and diverse Greenwich Village, the only son of highly educated, staunchly liberal parents. But when he was in 6th grade, his family relocated to Livingston, N.J., and Noah found himself dumped in "the banal and conforming environment of suburban New Jersey."

The way he saw it, he wasn't quite rich, poor or competitive enough to fit into the established cliques.

Punk, though, was a catchall group -- loosely defined by dress, attitude and, most of all, musical taste -- that seemed to transcend and overlap the easy categories.

**rral&utm\_content=thumbnails-f:Below Article Thumbnails - Archives:)**  
**rral&utm\_content=thumbnails-f:Below Article Thumbnails - Archives:)**  
**rral&utm\_content=thumbnails-f:Below Article Thumbnails - Archives:)**  
**From the Web**

(<https://article.everquote.com/?>

h1=startup&h2=brilliant\_company&auuid=52a5b138-bd52-4c4c-b16a-5829dc3caca4&&tid=584&id=584&subid=24681&dt=dup&utm\_medium=tribuned:chicagotribune&utm\_thumbnail=https%3A%2F%2Fstatic.evq1.com%2Fb655b12b-fe0c-4d69-b2c4-52ac2f1e6309.jpg)

**St Paul, Minnesota: This Unbelievable, Tiny Company Is Disrupting a \$200 Billion Industry**

EverQuote Insurance Quotes

(<https://article.everquote.com/?>

h1=startup&h2=brilliant\_company&auuid=52a5b138-bd52-4c4c-b16a-5829dc3caca4&&tid=584&id=584&subid=24681&dt=dup&utm\_medium=tribuned:chicagotribune&utm\_thumbnail=https%3A%2F%2Fstatic.evq1.com%2Fb655b12b-fe0c-4d69-b2c4-52ac2f1e6309.jpg)

(<http://adfarm.mediaplex.com/ad/ck/18916-228258-40863-0?>

ccreative=FORGET401K&cchannel=content&resourceid=6324506&ccsource=taboola:chicagotribune)

**Forget Your 401k if you Own a Home (Do This)**

Morning Finance | LendingTree Quotes

(<http://adfarm.mediaplex.com/ad/ck/18916-228258-40863-0?>

ccreative=FORGET401K&cchannel=content&resourceid=6324506&ccsource=taboola:chicagotribune)

(<http://verified.secure-clicker.com/724b13a8-5e26-4e13-8596-5cdbb7e7ae58?>

utm\_platform=Desktop&utm\_title=New+Device+Leaves+Auto+Mechanics+Angry:chicagotribune&utm\_campaign\_item\_id=91831950)

**New Device Leaves Auto Mechanics Angry.**

FIXD

(<http://verified.secure-clicker.com/724b13a8-5e26-4e13-8596-5cdbb7e7ae58?>

utm\_platform=Desktop&utm\_title=New+Device+Leaves+Auto+Mechanics+Angry:chicagotribune&utm\_campaign\_item\_id=91831950)

([http://articles.comparisons.org/why-did-no-one-tell-drivers-with-no-tickets-in-3-years-about-this-new-rule.php?aff=1169&sub=auto-desktop-](http://articles.comparisons.org/why-did-no-one-tell-drivers-with-no-tickets-in-3-years-about-this-new-rule.php?aff=1169&sub=auto-desktop-WomanGIF&utm_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&aux=91055245)

WomanGIF&utm\_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&aux=91055245)

**New Rule in St Paul, Minnesota**

([http://articles.comparisons.org/why-did-no-one-tell-drivers-with-no-tickets-in-3-years-about-this-new-rule.php?aff=1169&sub=auto-desktop-WomanGIF&utm\\_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&aux=91055245](http://articles.comparisons.org/why-did-no-one-tell-drivers-with-no-tickets-in-3-years-about-this-new-rule.php?aff=1169&sub=auto-desktop-WomanGIF&utm_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&aux=91055245))  
([http://collicts-unityprus.com/8d6226c6-a954-4959-867e-9167956ea31a?utm\\_source=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm\\_medium=CjAoZmZlMDQoZCo5NDkzLTQ4NGQtYTJmMy02](http://collicts-unityprus.com/8d6226c6-a954-4959-867e-9167956ea31a?utm_source=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm_medium=CjAoZmZlMDQoZCo5NDkzLTQ4NGQtYTJmMy02){ad})

### **Born Before 1964? Save With These 19 Free & Easy Rebates**

Life'd

([http://collicts-unityprus.com/8d6226c6-a954-4959-867e-9167956ea31a?utm\\_source=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm\\_medium=CjAoZmZlMDQoZCo5NDkzLTQ4NGQtYTJmMy02](http://collicts-unityprus.com/8d6226c6-a954-4959-867e-9167956ea31a?utm_source=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm_medium=CjAoZmZlMDQoZCo5NDkzLTQ4NGQtYTJmMy02){ad})

([https://www.getquip.com/blog/9-reasons-everyone-is-upgrading-to-quip?utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=red&utm\\_campaign=9reasons](https://www.getquip.com/blog/9-reasons-everyone-is-upgrading-to-quip?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=red&utm_campaign=9reasons))

### **9 Reasons This Electric Toothbrush is Worth All The Hype.**

quip

([https://www.getquip.com/blog/9-reasons-everyone-is-upgrading-to-quip?utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=red&utm\\_campaign=9reasons](https://www.getquip.com/blog/9-reasons-everyone-is-upgrading-to-quip?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=red&utm_campaign=9reasons))  
([http://www.parentztalk.com/view/what-you-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump/?src=taboola&utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm\\_campaign=1211591&utm\\_key=200&utm\\_term=PT\\_D\\_US\\_wyou-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump\\_shahar\\_7651\\_SAFE-FOR-MSN](http://www.parentztalk.com/view/what-you-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump/?src=taboola&utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm_campaign=1211591&utm_key=200&utm_term=PT_D_US_wyou-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump_shahar_7651_SAFE-FOR-MSN))

### **Most People Didn't Notice This in Forrest Gump**

Parentz Talk

([http://www.parentztalk.com/view/what-you-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump/?src=taboola&utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm\\_campaign=1211591&utm\\_key=200&utm\\_term=PT\\_D\\_US\\_wyou-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump\\_shahar\\_7651\\_SAFE-FOR-MSN](http://www.parentztalk.com/view/what-you-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump/?src=taboola&utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm_campaign=1211591&utm_key=200&utm_term=PT_D_US_wyou-didnt-know-about-forrest-gump_shahar_7651_SAFE-FOR-MSN))  
([http://hcrdtuzft.greeningz.com/entertainment/1970s-women-then-and-now/?utm\\_campaign=SAFE%2070s%20Loren%20over1%20-%20Desktop%20USA&utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm\\_term=Remember+Sophia+Loren%3F+Try+Not+To+Smile+Wpubplus-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com%2F6c70cfa6-c47a-44af-bf44-f1b0233425e3.jpg](http://hcrdtuzft.greeningz.com/entertainment/1970s-women-then-and-now/?utm_campaign=SAFE%2070s%20Loren%20over1%20-%20Desktop%20USA&utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm_term=Remember+Sophia+Loren%3F+Try+Not+To+Smile+Wpubplus-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com%2F6c70cfa6-c47a-44af-bf44-f1b0233425e3.jpg))

### **Remember Sophia Loren? Try Not To Smile When You See Her Now**

Greeningz

([http://hcrdtuzft.greeningz.com/entertainment/1970s-women-then-and-now/?utm\\_campaign=SAFE%2070s%20Loren%20over1%20-%20Desktop%20USA&utm\\_source=taboola&utm\\_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm\\_term=Remember+Sophia+Loren%3F+Try+Not+To+Smile+Wpubplus-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com%2F6c70cfa6-c47a-44af-bf44-f1b0233425e3.jpg](http://hcrdtuzft.greeningz.com/entertainment/1970s-women-then-and-now/?utm_campaign=SAFE%2070s%20Loren%20over1%20-%20Desktop%20USA&utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=tribunedigital-chicagotribune&utm_term=Remember+Sophia+Loren%3F+Try+Not+To+Smile+Wpubplus-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com%2F6c70cfa6-c47a-44af-bf44-f1b0233425e3.jpg))

MORE:

Attorney convicted in slaying of Eddy Curry's ex-girlfriend, baby daughter (/2013-02-13/news/chi-chicago-attorney-convicted-in-slaying-of-eddy-currys-exgirlfriend-infant-daughter-20130212\_1\_nova-henry-south-loop-town-frederick-goings)

Coping on land after surviving at sea (/2003-03-19/features/0303180492\_1\_sailing-cabin-south-pacific)

The truth about my father's death (/2006-06-16/news/0606160303\_1\_father-apartment-character-flaw)

Rights Or Negligence? (/1994-01-20/news/9401200213\_1\_snowmobile-rope-landowner)

When one partner in a marriage doesn't want sex, what are options? (/2008-06-05/features/0806030383\_1\_sexual-divorce-feelings)

Dark meaning of bubble-gum Pumped Up Kicks is tough to chew (/2011-10-03/entertainment/ct-ent-1004-foster-lyrics-20111004\_1\_school-shooting-pop-music-song)



**URBAN  
OUTFITTERS**

Free Shipping on Orders Over \$50!

**SHOP NOW**

\*See site for details

The advertisement is a rectangular box with a thin border. In the top right corner, there is a small triangle icon. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts. The main brand name is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the shipping offer is in a smaller, regular font. A 'SHOP NOW' button is highlighted with a white background and a thin border. At the bottom, a disclaimer is in a small, italicized font.

## Related Articles

An Audacious Gust Of Undergraduate Air (/1988-06-09/features/8801060798\_1\_playing-american-film-cabaret-voltaire)

*June 9, 1988*

It`s Not Quite Like Old Times For The Left (/1990-10-22/news/9003280525\_1\_chicago-conference-identity-crisis-democratic-socialists)

*October 22, 1990*

The Vacuum Of Peace (/1989-10-08/news/8901200114\_1\_soviet-threat-eastern-europe-western-europe)

*October 8, 1989*

Pope John Paul II (/2005-04-03/news/0504030459\_1\_pope-john-paul-ii-eastern-europe-papal)

*April 3, 2005*

There Are Plenty Of Losers Without The Wall (/1989-11-17/news/8903100605\_1\_east-germany-vladimir-lenin-berlin-wall)

*November 17, 1989*

## Find More Stories About

Eastern Europe (/keyword/eastern-europe) Philosophy (/keyword/philosophy) Theory (/keyword/theory) Final Exams (/keyword/final-exams)

---

---

Terms of Service

(<http://www.chicagotribune.com/tos/>)

Privacy Policy

(<http://www.chicagotribune.com/privacy/>)


Index by Date

(/2006/jun/22)


---

Index by Keyword

**Connect** (/keywords)

 Like us on Facebook

[www.chicagotribune.com](http://www.chicagotribune.com)  
(<https://www.facebook.com/chicagotribune>)

 Follow us on Twitter  
(<http://www.chicagotribune.com>)

(<http://twitter.com/#!/chicagotribune>)

---

**Chicago Tribune**

# Aguilar wins Watson Fellowship, Wang awarded Zeff Fellowship

KATHARINE SHILCUTT – MARCH 22, 2018

POSTED IN: CURRENT NEWS

Like 285

Tweet

G+

Share

8

Baker College senior Lucrecia Aguilar has been awarded a 2018 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which provides \$30,000 for a year of international travel for a research project after she graduates from Rice, and Will Rice College senior Courtney Wang received Rice's Roy and Hazel Zeff Memorial Fellowship, which also supports a year of world travel and independent study.

Aguilar was among 41 Watson Fellows chosen from more than 150 candidates hailing from eight countries and 17 states who were nominated at select U.S. private liberal arts colleges and universities. The Zeff Fellowship is given to the Rice student who is ranked highest by the University Committee on Fellowships and Awards but did not receive a Watson Fellowship.

Aguilar intends to visit five countries during her Watson year, where she'll study big cat species and their increasingly vulnerable existence.

"Because big cat species are severely threatened due to human activities such as habitat destruction or poaching, understanding how humans threaten big cats, how big cats impact local communities and how conservationists strive to save these species will be vital to creating sustainable human-cat coexistence," Aguilar said. "Humans also rely on big cats in many ecological, economic and cultural ways, so I want to explore how losing cats would affect people."

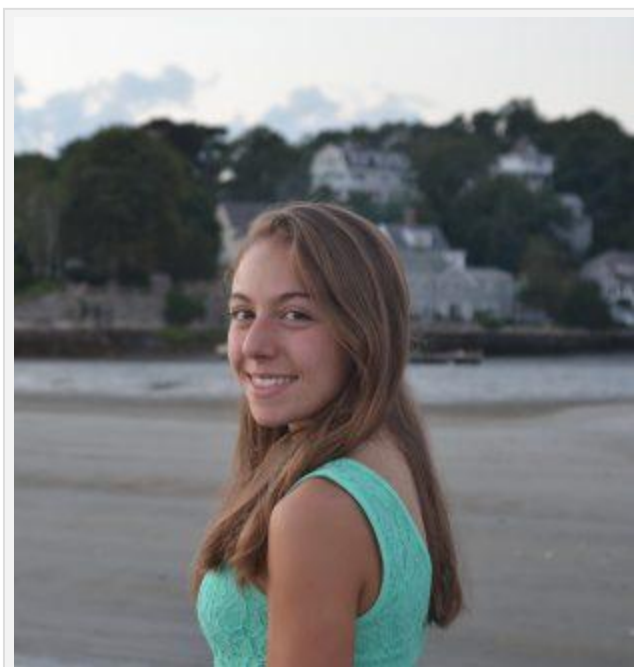
After winning a Wagoner Foreign Study Scholarship in 2016, Aguilar spent the summer of 2017 working with jaguars in Belize. The ecology and evolutionary biology major said the trip prepared her for both living abroad and studying big cats in remote locations. But her passion for big cats — a group that includes tigers, lions, jaguars and leopards — was born at an early age.

"I've loved big cats since first watching 'The Lion King' as a toddler," Aguilar said. "As I learned more and more about the risk of losing these species to extinction, I knew I wanted to work in wildlife conservation and help protect these magnificent, important creatures. My academic experiences at Rice, particularly study abroad and my professors in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology program, helped cement this life path for me."

Aguilar will visit Botswana, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Brazil and India, spending two to three months in each location. "In each country I chose, there are specific conservation problems and innovations that I want to explore to get a sense of the variety of ways in which human-cat coexistence is being facilitated," Aguilar said. "For example, I hope to work with a grassroots organization for part of my India stay that encourages locals to benefit from snow leopards through cat-specific ecotourism initiatives."

But what about England, where there are no native big cat species? "I chose this country because there are many interesting carnivore conservation groups based there," Aguilar explained, "and I wish to explore the conservation of one small cat species that lives there, the Scottish wildcat."

After her Watson year, Aguilar will pursue her Ph.D. in big cat conservation work and plans to spend her career working to save these species from extinction.



Baker College senior Lucrecia Aguilar has been awarded a 2018 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which provides \$30,000 for a year of international travel for a research project after she graduates from Rice.

Wang is majoring in psychology and sociology with a minor in poverty, justice, and human capabilities. The Zeff Fellowship will enable her to travel to Taiwan, Malaysia, Jordan, Sweden and Brazil to study multiracialism and how various societies conceptualize race.

“As someone who is half Chinese and half Egyptian, I want to learn about how multiracial individuals navigate their identities across different country contexts,” Wang said. “In learning how multiracial individuals conceptualize their identities and balance their multiple cultures, it will help me to better understand how I can do this with my own identity.” During her travels to Asia and the Middle East, Wang also will seek to “gain an understanding of my multiracial identity from those who share my ethnic backgrounds.”

Wang plans to meet with cultural and religious groups, academic organizations and immigrant populations in each country she visits to understand how multiracialism is treated at a societal level.

“Through these [meetings], I will build relationships with minority group members and learn about their experiences with multiculturalism,” Wang said. “Learning about multiracialism on a structural level is important because it provides the social framework in which multiracial people exist in different countries.”

Wang previously spent a semester abroad in South Africa, where she studied multiculturalism and human rights with respect to apartheid and its lasting effects on the country’s population.

“Choosing to study abroad was easily one of the best decisions I’ve made at Rice,” Wang said. “After my semester in South Africa, I knew I wanted to take advantage of as many abroad opportunities as I could.”

After graduation, Wang plans to attend law school and pursue a career in human rights advocacy.

The Watson Foundation was established in 1961 as a charitable trust by Jeannette Watson in honor of her late husband, Thomas J. Watson, the founder of IBM. Their children created the Watson Fellowship in 1968 in recognition of their parents’ long-standing interest in education and world affairs.

Stephen Zeff, the Keith Anderson Professorship in Business and professor of accounting, created the Zeff Fellowship at Rice in honor of his parents, Roy and Hazel Zeff. When the fellowship was first awarded in 2002, Stephen Zeff told Rice News, “There are so many meritorious proposals that are submitted each year [for the Watson]. This scholarship gives another Rice student the opportunity, so it’s as if Rice has an additional student who received the Watson.”



Will Rice College senior Courtney Wang received Rice’s Roy and Hazel Zeff Memorial Fellowship, which also supports a year of world travel and independent study.

**TAGS:** Center for Civic Leadership, Students, Watson Fellowship



#### About Katharine Shilcutt

Katharine Shilcutt is a media relations specialist in Rice University's Office of Public Affairs.

**Comments Closed**

Comments are closed. You will not be able to post a comment in this post.