

The HAMMIESPHERE



Alexander Hamilton Scholars' Quarterly Newsletter

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Happy Holidays
* from us at AHS!

WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
LIGHT AND LOVE THIS SEASON



Lynell Ergler

AL

Elias Olson

Kelly Harrington



Michelle L.

George Cox



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Winter, Hamilton Community!

As our fourth quarter of 2021 nears its completion, our team

continues to engage our 147 active Scholars with meaningful mentorship, internship support, emergency funds, Leader Weeks, professional development series, and community.

With fall concluding and winter starting on December 21st with Winter Solstice — a time I associate with lighting candles, contemplation, and connecting with who and what matters in both solitude and collaboration. This season has continued to challenge our communities: [graduate student worker strikes](#), [front-line workers continuing to navigate the realities of COVID-19](#), the Delta and Omicron variants, and [natural disasters impacting communities across the country](#). My on-going hope for all of our communities is safety where they reside, continued access to vaccinations, and resources to navigate unsettling times.

Additionally, I want to celebrate the successes of our Program Staff for effectively delivering four Virtual Leader Weeks, the continued delivery of remote curriculum, ongoing pillar-based conference calls, and the formal and organic mentorship with our Scholars.

Highlights of Fall Quarter:

- The 2022 Hamilton Award Cohort application launched, accepting applications through January 26th, 2022; please encourage high

- school juniors that'd be a good fit to apply
- We renovated our Program Overview and Hamilton Award website pages
- We concluded our Alum led HamFam Fireside Chats series; speakers included Bea DC Blin ('09), Nereyda Luna ('15), Lauren Prox ('14), TJ Thomas ('16), Alia Kabba ('16), and Nazshonnii Brown ('12)
- Adriana Maciel Metal ('17), researched with the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars and NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program
- Paloma Del Valle ('21), was named the 2022 Distinguished Young Woman of New Mexico
- Team member, Lynell Engelmeyer, was featured on the podcast Inside College Admissions: Money Matters: A Walkthrough of Financial Aid for College
- Reem Numan ('21) premiered "A Hero's Journey" as part of Argus Quartet 2021 Composers Institute
- AHS' Mikala Lain ('15), attended The Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) in Atlanta Georgia
- AHS' Kelly Herrington and Lynell Engelmeyer, attended The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) in Seattle, Washington
- You helped us raise \$24,480 during Giving Tuesday
- Thank you to those that have already donated to our End of Year Campaign: Growing Where We are Rooted. If you have not donated, please consider an end of year gift today

May each of you find warmth, contemplation, connection, light, and love this winter season in the ways that are most meaningful for you.

All my best,

Dr. Angela Hedwall

SPOTLIGHT / ALUM



The Art of Pivoting Khalid Osman 2010 Hamilton Scholar

The paralysis of perfection and imposter syndrome are two things everyone — especially Hamilton Scholars — struggles with, according to 2010 Hammie Khalid Osman. But, to Osman, the key is accepting the inevitability of change and understanding that life's puzzle pieces will fall where they may — if you let them.

Osman, a Cairo-born, first-generation college graduate from Miami University of Ohio, Coca-Cola Scholar, and Fullbright recipient, says reaching that understanding meant pivoting through hardship.

His first pivot came at 18 years old after losing his father to cancer during a summer internship in New York.

"Growing up, my father was my biggest inspiration," Osman said. "New York was my first time being away and I realized — oh, man — what am I going to do? I lost my guidance."

Grappling with immense grief and struggling academically, Osman said his pivot meant following his gut and taking a break from school to travel

(Above) Osman poses a sign saying "Puncak," a pass on the Indonesian island of Java.

before returning to finish his Bachelor's of Science in Business.

Afterwards, Osman — never one to sit idle — continued on his journey of self-discovery and focused on making the most of developing transferable skills.

"You come to a point in life where you realize that nobody has the right answers even though they pretend to," Osman said. "Life's going to throw you curve balls, and it doesn't do you any good to lose your calm and overreact from a place of emotion."

For Osman, learning this art of pivoting — grappling with reality while navigating the complexities and challenges of life — took lots of trial and error.

During the 2021 Texas Leader Weekend Gap Year Panel, Osman shared about being intrinsically motivated — how Hammies can and should be ambitious, but to not let their value be predicated

A closer look:

Favorite Hammie Memory?

The boat ride during Seattle Leader Week



on extrinsic motivation or validation. But, just like learning to pivot, this took realizing it for himself.

Hammies are poster kids — everyone's doing incredible things — I felt like I had to constantly prove myself. But, you realize that everyone has unique motivators and drivers. When I got to college and my father passed, I thought, 'who am I doing this for?' People build an image of you that you feel pressure to live up to, and when you [remove] accolades or grades — what do you have left?

Osman shared that AHS and its founder, George Cox, offered guidance during those pivotal



moments; Cox helped Osman see a path forward, even when Osman couldn't see it for himself.

"I remember George saying, 'Life doesn't always play the tune we wish to hear even as we cry out to hear distant drums that remain mute; silent.'" Osman said.

Being a Hammie, Osman said he never felt judged for presenting his authentic self; AHS wasn't looking for him to fit an archetype or be something he wasn't.

"I've always liked being in an environment of people who'll push me to think differently and challenge myself," Osman said. "That's what I find with AHS!"

After sharing at 2021 Texas Leader Weekend, Osman looks to continue his real-estate virtual tour and staging services small business with the goal of attending law school. For so long, Osman said he resisted changes that came into his life because of how they conflicted with his vision — or the image that others built of him — but now, he says he knows better.

"I firmly believe that life's puzzle pieces fall in place the way they're supposed to if you let them," Osman said. "And, at the end of the day, I'd like to be someone like George — to have the same impact on others that he had in my life."

(Above) Osman poses with fellow 2010 Hamilton Scholars and Lynell Engelmeyer on top of the Space Needle during Seattle Leader Week (left to right): Octavio Viramontes, Abraham Guadarrama, Khalid Osman, Lynell Engelmeyer, Caleb Bradford, and Neel Mandavilli



PROGRAMMING

Updates

While we were disheartened to not see our students in-person again this year, we truly made the most of our new, virtual space. From June to November we successfully engaged our four active Hammie cohorts with each other through virtual leader weeks.

This year's Texas Leader Weekend reconnected us with the 2018 Hammies as we explored their post-undergraduate options following graduation!

We welcomed amazing speakers from across the country who shared their experiences on two panels: graduate school programs — PhD programs, master's programs, law schools, and medical school — and gap years — service opportunities or programs like Americorp, and internships.

Scholars also focused on leadership complexities, developing a personal elevator pitch, and advanced money management. As always, we're so thankful

"We learn a lot about how to keep moving forward when different things happen in your life financially, and also academically," a Scholar shared. "My favorite was the Gap Year panel for its honesty; TLW helped bring back some motivation to keep pushing onward."

to our speakers and committed volunteers, Lynell and Arthur Hollingsworth, for helping make this weekend a success!

Other programming updates:

- Students engaged with long-loved internship partners virtually with JUMA Ventures, New York Historical Society, Students for Justice, Mattel, and Keck Graduate Institute.
- We brought in new expertise to Leader Weeks via guest speakers GiGi the First Gen Mentor and Jennifer the Academic Latina.
- Our amazing financial aid and college counselors, Lynell and Kelly, worked one-on-one with the 2020 cohort to ensure 100% found their best-fit paths after high school graduation; Scholars were able to use laptops awarded to them by AHS for these endeavors.
- Our 2016 cohort celebrated the monumental achievement of graduating from college - making them the first to receive our additional \$500 award upon completing the program!
- We connected virtually with every single active Hammie twice this year.
- The Hamilton community's strength persisted through virtual space; multiple Hammies carved out meet-up time with fellow Hammies across cohorts throughout the year.



2022 Application

Our Alumni Board connected with 162 high schools and counselors to spread the word about the 2022 Hamilton Award and AHS Empowerment Program! We also hosted an informational webinar on December 15th for students, parents, counselors, and others interested in learning more about who we are, what we do, and the application process.

Applications are open until January 26th at midnight PT — then the fun begins with the extensive judging process!

Past staff, alumni board members, board of directors members, alumni Hammies, and long-time volunteers come together with current staff to process applications over four stages of review; in March we invite our top 60 applicants to phone interviews before selecting up to 40 to enter our community as the 2022 cohort.

We're looking for changemakers who have an active dedication to supporting their own communities, with visions for how they would like to be a leader of tomorrow. These students should be ready to commit to cultural humility, global citizenship, personal reflection, and dedication to their college journey. While we focus on providing resources to the historically underserved — first-generation, low income, minority populations — we follow no strict restrictions so that our applicant pool can determine what the future cohort will look like.

Emergency Fund Breakdown

Between October and December, AHS released to scholars \$3,700 to assist with housing insecurity, food insecurity, and winter clothing.

Q4 \$3,700

YTD \$19,078

Housing insecurity	81%
Food insecurity	12%
Winter clothing	07%

Hammie News

Six Hammie Meet-Ups and Counting DJ Wynter, 2021



2021 Hammie, DJ Wynter traveled far and wide, connecting with Scholars and staff across the HamFam, including: Benito Angel Gonzalez ('20), Chris Badillo ('20), Elias Olson (staff), Evelyn Nut ('20), Kirsten Chung ('21), Mikala Lain ('15; staff). "I've been honored to meet such amazing people," Wynter said; he plans to continue meeting with more in the coming year.

2022 Distinguished Young Woman of New Mexico Paloma Del Valle, 2021

2021 Hammie, Paloma Del Valle, was named the



2022 Distinguished Young Woman of New Mexico, winning the talent, self-expression, and scholastic events. Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program promoting and rewarding scholarship, leadership, and talent in young women. Del Valle will head to nationals in Mobile, Alabama next to represent her state!

World Premiere Composition: "A Hero's Journey" Reem Numan, 2021



This past October, 2021 Hammie Reem Numan premiered "A Hero's Journey" to the world — a piece she composed as part of her participation in the Argus Quartet 2021 Composers Institute.

"My piece was inspired by Japanese media I enjoyed during my childhood, including Legend of Zelda, Kingdom Hearts, and Studio Ghibli movies," Numan said. "The stories told were enhanced by the music that accompanied the protagonists' journeys — I hope my piece emulates that."

Argus' Composers Institute is dedicated to mentoring and performing the works of underrepresented high school composers; Numan and five other students were selected to work with BIPOC composers Carlos Simon and David Sandford. At the conclusion of the program, the institute held a virtual concert debuting all five of the students works. The full performance is available to [stream on YouTube](#).



Santos Fellow & Publishing Premiere Youbin Park, 2019



2019 Hammie Youbin Park joins 2008 Hammie and Miami-Dade County School Board member Luisa Santos office as a student fellow.

Park also published their first piece of poetry with Dreamer by Night, a new magazine that selected Park as its featured writer.

Doris Duke Conservation & NOAA Hollings Scholar Adriana Maciel Metal, 2017



Adriana, a 2017 Hammie, interned with the Kroeker and Munch Labs at UCSC to perform data analysis and modeling fieldwork in Tomales Bay in California! Adriana studied enterococci distributions in the region while also performing spatial surveys of

seagrass and invertebrates with the support of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program and the NOAA Hollings Scholarship Program. Currently, Adriana is a senior at Yale majoring in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Environmental Justice; her upcoming senior essay will focus on developing an environmental education curriculum that encourages self-advocacy in young students.

Directing First Documentary Bre Legan, 2013



2013 Hammie and past staff member, Bre Legan is directing a short documentary film about Maranta Plant Shop, Milwaukee's first Black & Brown owned plant shop. Currently, they're in the editing phase with plans to release the final film before the end of the year.

Shine a spotlight

Have exciting news to share? Did you hear about a fellow Hammie's amazing accomplishment? We want to celebrate you! Fill out the spotlight form on our website so we can share the news to our entire community!

hamiltonscholars.org/spotlight

Alex asks



DEVELOPMENT

Growing Where We're Rooted

With the end of the year fast approaching, so too does the end of our Growing Where We're Rooted campaign.

The 2022 Hamilton Award application closes in January, meaning we'll soon be welcoming 40 new high-achieving, underserved young leaders to our program, providing hands-on-mentorship, and wrap-around support to help them thrive in college and beyond.

Our campaign, "Growing Where We're Rooted," is just as it sounds; looking to the future, our goal is to grow:

- Our number of Scholars served per year
- The number of partnerships that foster Hammie opportunities
- Our team in order to achieve more on behalf of our Hammies
- The services offered through our Empowerment Program.

Breaking the poverty cycle for these future changemakers cannot happen without your continued belief in our mission and support of our Scholars. **Together, we've already raised just over \$140,000**, but we need your help to reach **our end of year goal of \$160,000**.

Please know we are all thinking of you as we continue to struggle in these unprecedented times.

For our Scholars, **disruption continues to be the norm since the pandemic began in 2020**. Our newest Scholars are using college counseling, admissions, and scholarship services as never before. Many of our Hamilton Scholars enrolled in college continue to **experience virtual classes with the same tuition costs**.

To complicate matters further, **many Scholars and their parents/guardians continue to face increased unemployment, housing insecurity, and food scarcity due to COVID-19**.

Our growth here is to fully support our vast community of brave and determined Scholars.

Grow alongside us and help make this possible! **We absolutely cannot do this important work without you and your continued belief in our mission to break poverty cycles**. Please help us reach our end of year goal of \$160,000, which includes pivotal supplemental emergency and internship funding for our Scholars.





Employee matching

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees and/or retirees and/or spouses. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please check with your Human Resources team. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift, and we will do the rest. Your dollars can easily be doubled or tripled!

Some local Seattle employers that do donation matching: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Microsoft, Google, Bank of America, King County Employee Giving Program, Amgen, Boeing, Chase, Deloitte, Disney, Morgan Stanley, Paccar, and Verizon.

Did you know?

There are several ways you can monetarily support AHS passively at no cost to you by selecting AHS as your "Charity of Choice" on these websites:

- Amazon Smile — smile.amazon.com
- Give with Bing — bing.com/give
- Fred Meyer Community Rewards — fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

Giving Tuesday

AHS' end of year campaign always includes Giving Tuesday. This year, our Alumni Board, led by 2009 Hammie Mackenzie Welch, challenged our HamFam — particularly alum — to join in support of AHS during this global day of generosity!

Together we raised \$23,584.32 from 59 total donors — with over 69% being alum — and an incredibly generous 10K match from an anonymous donor!

We are so proud how our alum mobilized their fellow peers, reached across cohorts, and joined AHS's "Growing Where We're Rooted" campaign to support future generations of Hammies.

A huge thank you to you and to all of the beautiful souls who wish to remain anonymous for growing in your support alongside AHS!

SPONSORS

Our important work is made possible with the generous support of organizations, including:

Morgan Stanley



Alexander Hamilton Scholars' is a Seattle-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit empowering high-achieving, underserved students to succeed in college and career. Our vision is to build leaders of character who will improve our nation and our world through their service, innovation, and excellence. Our five-year program provides these students with a comprehensive network of support and guidance as they transition from high school to college, and college to career.

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