Knight-Hennessy Scholars Stanford University

Annual Report 2022-2023

Knight-Hennessy Scholars Stanford University

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All photos: Micaela Go

Letter from the Directors

As we celebrated our fifth anniversary this June, we had a chance to reflect on how much has changed since our formation, and what core elements have endured. From the start, the program was about building a global community of emerging leaders and bringing them together through meaningful interactions. This continues to be the hallmark of Knight-Hennessy scholars: While different in every possible way, our scholars are likeminded in their commitment to live a purposeful life dedicated to making a positive impact in the world.

What's changed over the years? We introduced our new Leadership Model, which has been reflected in all of our programming through the King Global Leadership Program. We also put an emphasis on supporting scholars who create programming of their own design—today more than half of our events are formulated and led by scholars. We also reduced the number of formal events we host in favor of many more interactive workshops and discussions. From the beginning, our scholar retreats proved to be especially meaningful, so we increased from one retreat a year to one each quarter! Always aiming to strengthen our community, we've offered more opportunities for engagement and spontaneous gatherings, including by providing lunch most days of the academic year as a way to bring scholars together on an almost daily basis.

In marking this fifth anniversary, we want to say a special thank-you to our supporters and advisory board who have been there throughout the journey and made it possible for us to bring these incredible scholars together. Thanks also to our faculty colleagues who have supported KHS and our scholars in multiple ways. And we'd like to thank our entire team, including the dedicated readers who work so hard to help us find the very best scholars. Finally, we give thanks to our scholars. They are why we are all here.

John L. Hennessy Shriram Family Director



Tina L. Seelig Executive Director



Knight-Hennessy Scholars: Inspiring Leaders

<u>Knight-Hennessy Scholars</u> (KHS) is a multidisciplinary, multicultural graduate fellowship program spanning all seven schools at Stanford University. Each Knight-Hennessy scholar receives up to three years of financial support to pursue graduate studies at Stanford while engaging in experiences that prepare them to be visionary, courageous, and collaborative leaders who address complex challenges facing the world. KHS programming complements scholars' graduate studies and prepares them to take on leadership roles in academia, industry, government, nonprofits, and the community at large.

As the largest, university-wide, fully-endowed graduate fellowship in the world, KHS is situated on the Stanford campus in Denning House, its dedicated convening space nestled in a grove of live oak trees. With its seven leading schools on a single campus, Stanford is a world-class institution with a strong legacy of innovation.



How Scholars Benefit

Through KHS, scholars have an opportunity to elevate their Stanford graduate school experience. We consistently hear that KHS is a transformative time for them, due to:

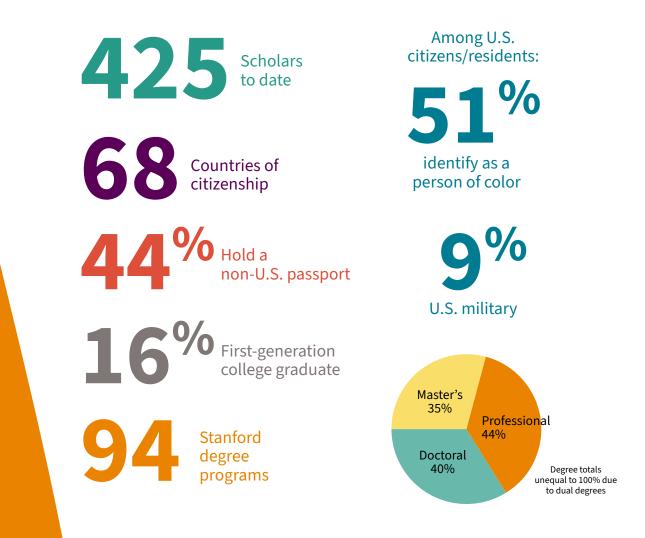
- **Community:** Scholars join a community of people representing a vast array of cultures, perspectives, and experiences. They learn from one another, foster meaningful connections, and build lasting friendships.
- **Experience:** The opportunities KHS offers enrich scholars' academic studies and personal development. The programming inspires deep introspection, selfunderstanding, and, when combined with graduate school, prepares scholars to address the most challenging issues facing our world.
- Leadership development: All programming is built upon the KHS Leadership Model, designed to promote and develop the traits and behaviors of leaders who possess a strong multidisciplinary and multicultural perspective, as well as a commitment to the greater good, and the tools to drive meaningful change.
- **Transformation:** Exposing scholars to new people, ideas, and ways of thinking serves as a catalyst for personal growth and transformation inspiring scholars to dream bigger.
- **Impact:** KHS scholars complement their field of study with the essential skills and perspective to scale their contribution. KHS's unique environment fosters deeper and broader thinking about pressing issues and solutions. When scholars bring that learning and perspective to their chosen field, they are equipped to make a significant impact in the world.

Admission

In May, KHS announced its 2023 cohort of 85 new scholars, the largest to date. The new cohort comprises students from 29 countries who will pursue degrees in 38 graduate programs across all seven graduate schools at Stanford. For the first time, KHS admitted PhD students who were already in their first year of study at Stanford, welcoming 14 additional scholars into the community. The sixth cohort brings the total scholar count to 425, beginning with the inaugural cohort enrolled in 2018.

The data on these pages is accurate as of August 2023.

ALL SCHOLARS: 2018-2023 COHORTS



2023 SCHOLARS





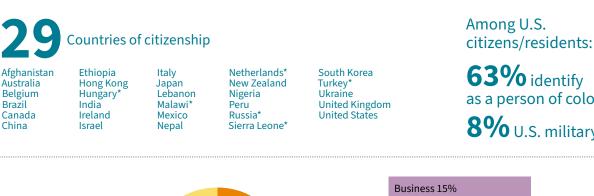
Hold a non-U.S. passport



International undergraduate location



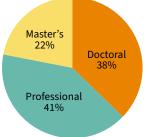
First-generation college graduate



Stanford degree

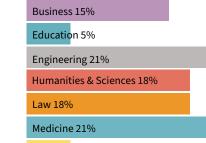
programs

China



Degree totals unequal to 100% due to dual degrees

as a person of color 8% U.S. military



Sustainability 5%

U.S. undergraduate institutions

Brown University Bucknell University* California Institute of Technology College of the Holy Cross Dartmouth College Drexel University* Duke University George Washington University* Georgetown University Harvard University Johns Hopkins University Kansas State University* Louisiana State University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Muhlenberg College* North Carolina State University Northeastern University Ohio State University Smith College'

Stanford University United States Air Force Academy United States Military Academy United States Naval Academy University of Alabama* University of California, Los Angeles University of Delaware University of Michigan University of Minnesota University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of Pennsylvania* University of Texas at Austin Vanderbilt University Vassar College* Villanova University Washington University in St. Louis* Wellesley College* Williams College Yale University



Federal University Oye-Ekiti* Hebrew University of Jerusalem Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay* Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México Kea Ulaiversita.* Koc University* McGill University New York University Abu Dhabi New York University Shanghai Peking University Queen's University* Seoul National University* Tel Aviv University Trinity College Dublin Universidad del Pacífico* Universidade de Brasília* University of British Columbia University of Cambridge

*Indicates new in 2023

King Global Leadership Program

The King Global Leadership Program (KGLP) is central to the KHS experience. Scholars participate in a wide range of workshops, lectures, projects, and other opportunities designed around the Knight-Hennessy Scholars **Leadership Model**, which describes the traits, behaviors, and goals for scholars. These offerings complement scholars' graduate school education, helping prepare them to address the most challenging issues facing our world.

Each autumn quarter, scholars pitch ideas for a **KHeystone Project** at the annual Ideas Festival and then form multidisciplinary teams around shared interests. Throughout the year, the KHS team supports scholars with coaching and mentors and provides workshops to help teams develop their ideas. In the spring, teams share what they learned and accomplished at the KHeystone Project Showcase. Projects may continue for multiple years, and some develop into nonprofits or companies once scholars graduate. This year, projects addressed such issues as education inequity, mental health, healthcare access, and identity representation.



The Autumn Ideas Festival brings scholars together for KHeystone Project signups.

The KHS Global Travel/Study

Program is a highlight for many scholars, immersing them in different cultures around the world. Led and curated by Stanford faculty, these one-week trips have included Israel and Palestine with Judy Goldstein, Chile with Rob Dunbar, Jordan with Buzz Thompson, India with Anurag Mairal, and South Africa with James Campbell.

Retreats are a highly prized experience for the community, providing scholars with the opportunity to form new friendships, deepen existing ones, and explore new skills and ideas in a relaxed environment. The academic year began with a retreat at Asilomar in Pacific Grove for the new cohort. In January, scholars retreated to Chaminade in Soquel for a series of workshops focused on the theme of power and presence. And in a new spring tradition, scholars journeyed to Stanford Sierra Camp at Fallen Leaf Lake, where they heard an inspiring talk on leadership from Adrian Ballinger, a renowned mountain climber who has been professionally guiding groups on the world's tallest peaks for 25 years.



Scholars on Global Travel Study in India



Scholars making s'mores at Sierra Camp

Each Wednesday during the academic year, scholars are invited to attend **"Curiosity Corner."** These gatherings feature a Stanford professor or expert guest addressing a topic related to the quarterly theme and are designed to spark discussion and debate. This year's themes were Environment/Climate Change, Government/Policy, and Society/Ethics.



Professor Mildred Cho joins Curiosity Corner to talk about the ethics of AI development and use in medicine



Scholars gather to celebrate Africa Day during a Scholar-Driven Event

Quarterly **McMurtry Leadership** Lectures invite distinguished guest speakers to engage with scholars throughout their talks. This past year, speakers included artist Nick Cave, whose <u>Arm Peace sculpture</u> is installed in the lobby of Denning House; former U.S. Vice President and climate change activist Al Gore; and Google SVP for Technology and Society James Manyika,

who discussed the impact of AI.

This year the KHS team managed more than 100 core and elective events for scholars, while scholars led 135 events of their own design. The team also piloted a new type of programming called KHollaborative Events, which allows scholars to tap into KHS program management resources to produce high-quality leadership development opportunities. In May, scholars Olivia Martin and Summer Shaw organized an all-day trip to the Sacramento State Capitol with Joe Nation, professor of the practice of public policy at Stanford. Scholars met with senators, assembly members, lobbyists, members of the media, and others, while touring the State Assembly and Senate floors. Attendees returned from the trip with a more robust understanding of what it means to have a civic mindset.

In June, the extended Knight-Hennessy community of scholars, faculty, and supporters held a **fifth anniversary** celebration at Denning House that included <u>reflections</u> from John Hennessy, Tina Seelig, and Jason Khoo, from the inaugural 2018 cohort.



Ragav Manimaran with KHS supporters Bob and Dottie King



Steve and Roberta Denning with John and Andrea Hennessy

In KHommon Ground: Storytelling, first-year scholars learn and practice important public speaking skills while learning about each other. Second- and third-year scholars work with facilitators to explore additional leadership topics salient to their leadership journey.



Scholar Nikhil Gupta talks about table setting, literally and figuratively

Scholar Close-Up

Janelle Chavez

MD in Medicine 2019 Cohort Port Isabel, Texas, United States

Living in a rural community in South Texas with limited access to medical care, Janelle Chavez experienced firsthand the inequities and systemic problems of the U.S. approach to health care. Now in her fourth year at Stanford, Janelle is studying medicine and journalism, and she hopes to combine these two disciplines in ways that will empower underserved populations through improved access to care and better health literacy and communication.

What led you to apply to Knight-Hennessy Scholars?

Coming from the border region, I've always had an international mindset, and I saw the value of using interdisciplinary ways of thinking to address important issues. It seemed like a special program that would give me an experience that was different from any other medical school.

What impact do you aspire to have on the world?

As a physician, I hope to address the root cause of problems—such as lack of access to providers and limited knowledge of health issues—and to promote health literacy in underserved regions.

I want to make a difference not only for individual patients but also on the societal level. I also see myself continuing to be involved with international efforts in places that are even more medically underserved than the U.S.

How is Knight-Hennessy Scholars shaping your experience at Stanford?

Knight-Hennessy Scholars has given me a truly unique medical school experience. In my first year, I would go to anatomy lab during the day and then I would join the Knight-Hennessy scholars in the evening and do something like listen to an astronaut talking about leadership.

I have also enjoyed the collaboration with scholars across disciplines. It's been so meaningful to work on various projects and develop strong relationships with brilliant scholars I wouldn't have met outside of the school of medicine. Knight-Hennessy has expanded my perspective while also giving me a supportive, loving community. "I know that my medical school experience and my life have been enhanced by Knight-Hennessy Scholars. I am extremely grateful for the funding, but it's these other qualities of the program that are invaluable and cannot be replicated anywhere else."



Hear What Our Scholars Have To Say

"Knight-Hennessy was an incredible opportunity for me to bring intersecting interests together, and to think about problem-solving in the field of education in a much more interdisciplinary way." —<u>Aditya Vishwanath</u>, *PhD in Learning Sciences and Technology Design*

"KHS has exposed me to different ways of thinking, fostered connections with individuals from diverse backgrounds, provided opportunities for personal growth and leadership development, and offered collaborative experiences across disciplines. These invaluable experiences within KHS have not only shaped my aspirations but have also equipped me with the skills and perspectives necessary to navigate a dynamic and interconnected world." —<u>Courtney Smith, MD in Medicine, PhD in Genetics</u>

"I deeply appreciate the intellectual kinship here and the ability to take each other's thoughts as a gift, build upon them, and explore together." —Syamantak Payra, PhD in Electrical Engineering



"Knight-Hennessy is truly the best part of my graduate school experience. People in this community are so inspiring and so driven. We discuss how to practically overcome ethical challenges in really tangible ways, and being at Denning House allows me to focus on what matters to me." —<u>Bruno Morato Faria, MBA in Business</u>

"Being a Knight-Hennessy scholar has added a layer of depth to my degree program that I'm not sure I could find many other places, if at all. The opportunity to speak with other like-minded people who are intent on tackling the world's toughest problems has added so much richness to the PhD program for me." —<u>Andrew Lee, PhD in Materials Science and</u>

Engineering

"The Global Travel Study trip to Jordan was the highlight of my KHS experience. From an educational perspective, I learned so much more than I could have imagined, and I am grateful for the opportunity to hear and learn from experts and leaders who are working tirelessly to help people and communities they care deeply about. Personally, it was also an unmatched opportunity to connect with other scholars and have thoughtful conversations and unique, incredible experiences that are shaping how I think about my future, my leadership, and my work." -<u>Sydney Jordan</u>, JD in Law, PhD in Philosophy

Scholar Close-Up

Ayo Dada PhD in Psychology 2019 Cohort Lagos, Nigeria

Ayo Dada's research focuses on gender disparities in education across the global south. Because he's seen how women and girls face stark disadvantages accessing education, staying in the academic pipeline, and completing their academic journeys, Ayo aims to apply concepts from social psychology to boost completion rates for women at all levels of academics. Ultimately, he believes this initiative will improve access to employment opportunities, participation in politics, and many of the downstream outcomes that affect gender parity and opportunity.

How has being a Knight-Hennessy scholar shaped your experience at Stanford?

Knight-Hennessy Scholars became my first community at Stanford. I quickly formed strong connections with peers in the program. They came to pick me up at the airport, showed me where to get groceries, and even cooked for me sometimes. When I first arrived, I didn't know anyone and my fellow Knight-Hennessy scholars were the people who showed up for me. That immediacy and responsiveness of support created a strong emotional connection to the community.

I also have learned a lot from interacting with mentors in the program and from discussing case studies of real-world problems. The global trips have been another highlight. Last summer, I went on a group trip to Norway, and we learned about how that country is approaching the question of sustainability.

How important is the interdisciplinary nature of the program to your experience?

I've learned so much about fields outside of psychology because of Knight-Hennessy Scholars. All seven Stanford schools are represented, and we have scholars from almost every discipline. The problems of the world are multifaceted so, to make a difference, you need to have familiarity with all kinds of domains. The Knight-Hennessy Scholars community exemplifies the interdisciplinarity that Stanford is known for, and I've benefited greatly from that.

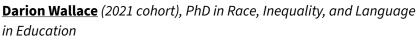
It's been so powerful for me to have regular conversations with well-known leaders and to see how it's possible to be the one who leads change. I came away believing that when an opportunity presents itself, and if your values are clearly aligned with the good you wish to see, something will beckon you and you should heed that call when it comes. "Knight-Hennessy Scholars is a great model for solving real-world challenges because the problems do not care what discipline you've studied."



Highlights of Scholar Achievements







Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne presented Darion with the Award for Excellence Through Diversity, honoring those who have made exceptional contributions to supporting diversity within the university community. Darion has served as president of the Stanford Black Graduate Student Association, a teaching assistant supporting Black frosh in their transition to Stanford, a graduate fellow in African & African American Studies, a graduate student representative on the Black Community Council, and much more.

<u>Jill Ferguson</u> (2021 cohort), PhD in Environment and Resources Jill's idea to create a one-stop application portal for California's energy incentive programs won California State Senator Josh Becker's "Ought To Be A Law" contest. The law Jill proposed was introduced in the legislature as Senate Bill 755. If passed, it could improve access to such programs for millions of residents, lower energy costs statewide, and help California and the nation move closer to meeting urgent climate goals. Jill's proposal also secured her an Innovation Grant from Microsoft, as well as a pilot with the state of Nevada.



Suhani Jalota (2018 cohort), MBA in Business, PhD in Health Policy Since volunteering in the slum communities of Mumbai as a teen, Suhani has been on a mission to help women gain agency and decision-making power to boost their financial independence and improve their health. Today, she runs the 80-person <u>Myna Mahila Foundation</u>, which has served more than two million women across India. A member of the first Knight-Hennessy cohort of scholars, Suhani recently started a smartphonebased micro-tasking employment platform called <u>Rani</u> that helps women and girls learn new skills, earn income, and connect with their peers. She also co-founded <u>Papaya</u>, a sustainable menstrual wear company for women in India. Meanwhile, Suhani is completing her education at Stanford and will graduate in 2024.

Global Impact Fund

In June 2023, KHS launched the Global Impact Fund, offering one-time grants of up to \$100,000 to scholars who have demonstrated a compelling commitment to the greater good by launching a nonprofit designed to improve lives and drive meaningful change. These inaugural grant recipients are now alumni pursuing their projects full time.

Briana Mullen, MA in Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies, MA in Public Policy

Briana originally pitched her idea for the <u>Education Justice Academy</u> (EJA) in 2021 during the annual KHeystone Project Ideas Festival. EJA promotes education justice by recruiting and training local leaders so they have the skills necessary to run for school boards at the district level. Its ultimate goal is to ensure that every district has knowledgeable and capable board members who reflect the diversity of their community and can create sustainable change and improve student outcomes.

Sebastián Espinoza, MBA in Business, MPP in Public Policy

Together with his wife, Magdalena, Sebastián co-founded <u>Mi Tribu Foundation</u>, a digital platform that began as a KHeystone Project. The platform supports low- and middle-income Latin American women during their first 1,000 days of motherhood—from fertility through pregnancy, postpartum, and early parenthood. With an eye toward improving the health and well-being of new mothers, the Mi Tribu Foundation organizes cohorts of women to support one another while also matching them with health care specialists who provide professional care and guidance.



John Hennessy with Briana and Sebastian at the KHompletion Celebration

The Denning House Art Collection



Solomon Oyakhire, Netra Rajesh, and Ashwyn Sam admire Red Leaves

The art program at the Denning House engages scholars with artworks by significant global artists who are poised to make an impact in the arts, in the same way that the scholars will be making an impact in their respective fields. The <u>Denning House Art Collection</u> is at the center of the arts at KHS and is an integral part of the scholars' daily experiences. It invites introspection while bringing beauty into the everyday lives of scholars. The arts expose scholars to creative and unique perspectives that are essential to the development of leaders.

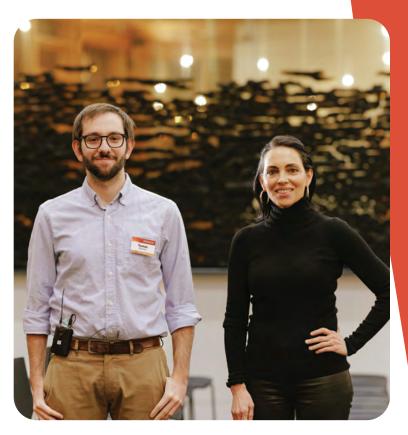
In January, KHS <u>installed</u> its latest acquisition, <u>Red</u> <u>Leaves</u>, by the artist Elias Sime. In his wall sculptures, Sime transforms the technological detritus of daily life into lyrical abstract compositions that evoke topographies, figuration, and color fields. Using salvaged electronic components, Sime's process is inspired by the ancient weaving practices and building rituals of his native Ethiopia. By combining the traditional



Wolf 359 c/M+M by Tomas Saraceno

and the technological, he explores the tenuousness of our interconnected world and alludes to the frictions between tradition and progress, human contact and social networks, nature and machinemade, and the physical and the virtual. In December, artist Teresita Hernandez visited Denning House to speak about her work, which questions power, visibility, and erasure in ways that prompt reflective engagement for individual viewers. She also shared insights into her piece <u>Apparition</u> <u>(Golden)</u>, which is installed in the Denning House dining room: an imagined scene that unravels landscape, history, place, and the fluctuation of power that surrounds natural resources.

Teresita Fernandez with scholar Tomás Guarna, who introduced her at the event



With a goal of welcoming the community into Denning House, KHS held an "Art KHnight" in March, inviting guests to enjoy the space, the collection, and music performed by scholars. We also <u>began offering</u> <u>weekly tours</u> to the public.

Taylor Goss and David Jiang set the mood with an interpretation of a James Taylor and Yo-Yo Ma collaboration





Congratulations to the completing Knight-Hennessy scholars!

Shirin Abrishami Kashani International Policy (MA), Political Science (PhD)

Jude Alawa Medicine (MD)

Anela Arifi

Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (PhD)

Yesenia Ayala Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies (MA), Public Policy (MA)

Siranush Babakhanova **Biophysics** (PhD) **Henry Bair**

Medicine (MD), Business Administration (MBA)

Misha Baitemirova **Biomedical Informatics** (MS), Business Administration (MBA)

Dulguun Batmunkh International Policy (MA)

Keller Blackwell Computer Science (PhD)

Theodora Bruun Medicine (MD) Biochemistry (PhD)

Cyrus Buckman Medicine (MD)

Nina Chen Business Administration (MBA), Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (MS)

Alex Chow Sociology (PhD)

Robert Chun Law (JD), Business Administration (MBA)

Savannah Cofer Mechanical Engineering (PhD)

Ross Dahlke Communication (PhD)

Jenni Depew History (PhD), Law (JD) Mava Durvasula Economics (PhD), Law (JD) Mohamed Elzarka Medicine (MD)

Tania Fabo Medicine (MD) Cancer Biology (PhD)

Jierui Fang Design Impact (MS), Public Policy (MA) Arden Farr International Policy (MA)

Dakota Foster Law (JD)

Daniel Gajardo International Policy (MA), Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (MS)

Michal Gala Chemical Engineering (PhD)

Christopher Giles Communication (MA Tom Handley Health Policy (MS)

Public Policy (MPP) Gracie Hornsby **Civil and Environmental** Engineering (PhD)

Huzaafa Anthropology (PhD)

Nadine Jawad Medicine (MD)

Jenny Jiao Law (JD)

Sydney Jordan Law (JD), Philosophy (PhD) Yannai Kashtan

Earth System Scienc (PhD), Chemistry (MS)

Nikita Kozak Mechanical Engineering (PhD)

Nicholas Lui Statistics (MS) Irfan Mahmud

Business Administration (MBA)

Ali Malik Computer Science (PhD)

Fauzan Reza Maulana **Civil and Environmental** Engineering (MS), **Civil and Environmental** Engineering (Eng)

Killian McDonald Law (JD)

Kat Medill **Electrical Engineering (MS)**

Aya Mouallem Electrical Engineering (PhD) Briana Mullen

Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies (MA), Public Policy (MA)

Garrett Muscatel Law (JD)

Rahul Nagvekar Genetics (PhD)

Hamed Nilforoshan-Dardashti Computer Science (PhD)

Jeremy Pathmanabhan **Business Administration** (MBA)

Netra Unni Rajesh Bioengineering (PhD)

Hari Ramachandran Materials Science and Engineering (PhD)

Daniel Reyes Elizondo **Business** Administration (MBA)

Elizabeth Rosenblatt Business Administration (MBA)

Emily Russell Political Science (PhD) Ashwyn Sam

Aeronautics and Astronautics (PhD)

Tal Sarig Business Administration

(MBA), Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in Environment and Resources (MS)

Kalista Schauer Applied Physics (MS)

Kara Schechtman

Natalie Schieuer Materials Science Aaron Spikol Law (JD), Political Science (PhD)

Camila Strassle Law (JD) Eric Sun

Biomedica Informatics (PhD)

Maya Varma Computer Science (PhD)

Darion Wallace Education (PhD)

Law (JD), Busines Administration (MBA)

Benj Wollant Electrical Engineering (PhD)

Nancy Xu

Computer Science (PhD), Business

Eyal Zilberman

Public Policy (MPP)

Administration (MBA)

International Policy (MA),

George Wilson

Symbolic Systems (MS)

and Engineering (MS)

Celebrating five years of visionary, courageous, and collaborative leaders

Knight-Hennessy Scholars is the largest endowed graduate fellowship in the world, providing three years of funding and leadership development to a global, multidisciplinary community of students across all seven schools at Stanford.

Knight-Hennessy Scholars Stanford University

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More ways to learn about Knight-Hennessy Scholars

In this <u>short video</u>, scholars share what makes their Knight-Hennessy experience so special.

Visit us online: kh.stanford.edu

Visit us at Denning House by signing up for a tour

Follow us on social media: @KnightHennessy

Send us an email

Give us a call: 650.721.0771

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