



ANNUAL REPORT: 2021–22

THE CHANCELLOR'S GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

VISION

The Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program seeks to be the preeminent program in the nation providing support for increased diversity in graduate education for students interested in joining the professoriate.

MISSION

Established in 1991, the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program provides academic, professional, and personal support for outstanding graduate students interested in enhancing diversity at Washington University and in the professoriate.



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Vijay K. Ramani

Vice Provost for Graduate Education and International Affairs
Roma B. and Raymond H. Wittcoff Distinguished University Professor

Jessica Klingler Cissell

Director, Academic Initiatives
Interim Director of the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program

Steve Pini

Assistant Provost, Finance

Karen Bland

Marketing and Communications Specialist

PAST LEADERSHIP, 2020–21

Laurie F. Maffly-Kipp

Interim Vice Provost for Graduate Education
Archer Alexander Distinguished Professor of Religion and Politics

Janna Schmitt

Finance Director



Message from the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and International Affairs

I was thrilled to step into the role of vice provost for graduate education and international affairs and to join Provost Beverly Wendland's cabinet. Graduate education is one of WashU's highest priorities. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to be involved with the group of scholars that make up our Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship and am impressed with their commitment and work ethic. It has been a pleasure to watch them blossom into accomplished leaders in their respective fields of study. They represent diverse backgrounds, research areas, and ideas, but they are able to come together in their very unified and singular goal of serving as effective leaders of a diverse and socially engaged community of scholars. The other commonality that exists within this group is their focus on community. They serve as exemplars of true interdisciplinary collaboration, which is quite impressive given their demanding schedules.

I have every confidence that our fellows will contribute to our university and to the world at large. I want to personally thank our supporters and dedicated alumni for the confidence they have placed in the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program. It truly has been a privilege to be able to lead this program.

From all of us, thank you.

— Vijay K. Ramani

Vice Provost for Graduate Education and International Affairs

Roma B. and Raymond H. Wittcoff Distinguished University Professor

THE CHANCELLOR’S GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A Community of Scholars

The Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship Program cultivates a sense of community and service among our fellows, within Washington University, and in the St. Louis community. By leveraging relationships and resources, the fellowship is uniquely positioned to foster networking and interdisciplinary collaborations among current fellows and alumni. Here you will find a remarkable, close-knit community of scholars, brought together not by their specific disciplines, but by their shared commitment to becoming academic leaders and enhancing diversity in academia and beyond.

The Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship Program has supported over 150 graduate students since 1991. Our alumni have carried their leadership skills into prominent roles as professors, researchers, authors, artists, policymakers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders. The dedication from each of our fellows has been instrumental in making the Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship one of the nation’s elite fellowships for graduate study.



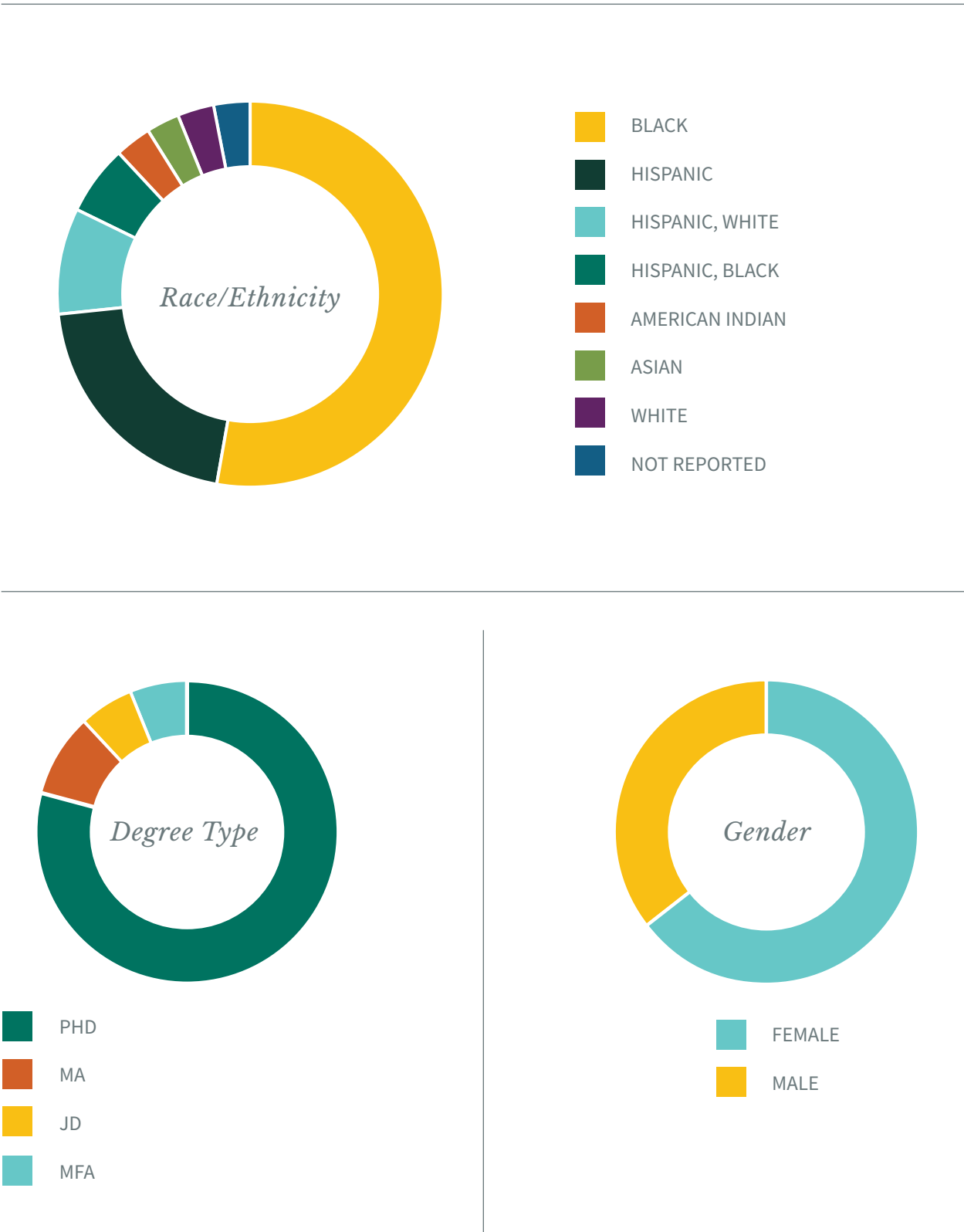
PROGRAM BENEFITS (ACADEMIC YEAR 2022–23)

<i>Annual stipend</i>	<i>Educational allowance</i>	<i>Relocation award</i>
<i>up to</i> \$38,000	\$1,500	\$600

- » Full tuition remission
- » Access to preferred housing (through Quadrangle Housing) adjacent to both the Danforth and Medical campuses
- » Leadership and professional development workshops, speaker events, and community-building programming
- » Interdisciplinary networking with fellow students, faculty, and alumni



2022–23 FELLOW DEMOGRAPHICS



As of August 2022



ADMISSIONS AT A GLANCE: FALL 2022

12 offers made

5 accepted (**42%** yield)



OUR 2022 COHORT

We welcome these five talented scholars into the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship Program.



EMILY DUGGINS EHLING

Dance, MFA | Washington University in St. Louis, BA

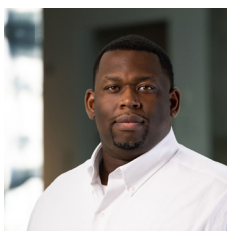
Emily Duggins is a St. Louis-based freelance choreographer. She has premiered four evening-length works and created pieces for several local dance companies. Her choreographic processes strive to prioritize the humans involved over the art being created, seeking to build genuine care and empathy among the collaborators that might be felt by the viewer and shared beyond the stage. In her time as an undergraduate at Washington University, she developed CityDance, a program that brings free dance education to youth in the community. Following her time in graduate school, she hopes to continue choreographing in St. Louis and beyond, and to teach dance at the collegiate level.



GERSON MORENO ROMERO

Biomedical Engineering, PhD | Florida International University, BS

Gerson Moreno Romero was born in El Salvador and was raised in the Miami-Broward area. He is an alumnus from Florida International University where he earned his BS in biomedical engineering with a minor in chemistry. He is also an alumnus of TheDream.US Scholarship network where he has been able to connect with the unDACAmented community to provide support and resources. His research interests were sparked as an undergraduate when he began working to understand spinal cord injury plasticity, and he has been motivated by his curiosity to explore different techniques to address neurodegeneration. Outside of academics, Gerson enjoys spending quality time with friends, planning adventures, and exploring creative mediums.



ANTHONY J. NIXON JR.

Public Health Sciences, PhD | Morehouse College, BS; Ohio State University, MPH

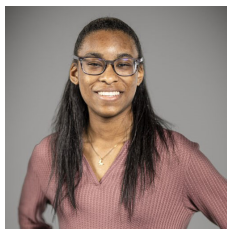
Anthony J. Nixon Jr. was born in Staten Island, New York, and raised in Canal Winchester, Ohio. He is a doctoral student within the Public Health Sciences program. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Morehouse College and his master's in public health (epidemiology) from Ohio State University. Throughout his career, he has worked in multiple roles on public health opportunities at the local, state, and federal level. Anthony completed a two-year fellowship with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a public health adviser within the Public Health Associate Program. Most recently, he served as a senior maternal and child health epidemiologist managing data initiatives for Cradle Cincinnati at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. His work intersects epidemiology, social structures, and societal conditions impacting maternal and child health. Anthony's research interests focus on data decision-making, reproductive justice, family planning, and reducing infant mortality by centering Black mothers, fathers, and families utilizing social theory, mixed methods, and community-based participatory research.



JAKE PAWLUSH

Classics, MA | State University of New York at Buffalo, BA

Jake Pawlush is a native of Rensselaerville, New York, and a master's student in the classics graduate program. While studying ancient and modern languages at the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB), he also conducted research on ancient Mediterranean history and volunteered on the UB Classics Department's Tesserae Project, which exposed him to the field of digital humanities. Jake's interests lie in conducting interdisciplinary research involving ancient Mediterranean history and the fields of economics, numismatics, and data sciences. The WashU classics graduate program offers Jake not only further training in core classics subjects, but also opportunities to conduct the type of interdisciplinary research in which he is interested. He expects to leave WashU with the skills necessary to excel in a classics doctoral program aligned with his interests and to engagingly contribute to the education of the next generation of classics students.



ALEXIS SIMMONS

Biomedical Engineering, PhD | Baylor University, BS

Alexis Simmons is a doctoral student in the biomedical engineering (BME) program. She graduated from Baylor University with a BS in physics and mathematics. Her undergraduate research gave her the opportunity to explore how principles of physics support and predict biological processes and how technology can be improved to enhance medicine. These experiences led her to apply to the BME program, where her research interests include medical imaging technology and neuroengineering.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR FELLOWS, 2021–22



MERRIAH CROSTON

Merriah presented “What’s in a jab?: The spread of COVID-19 vaccine misinformation versus fact-checks on Twitter” at the useR! Conference in June 2022.



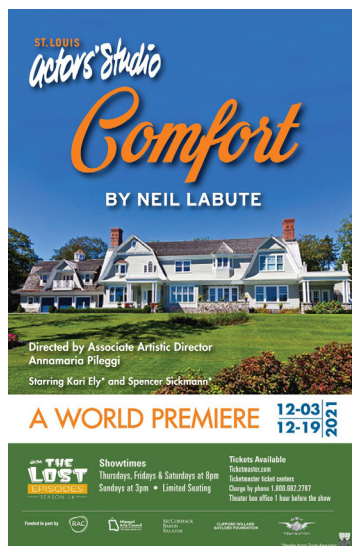
RICHARD OMONIYI-SHOYoola

Richard had multiple articles published in the *ABA Student Lawyer Magazine* and finished a manuscript for an Afro-fantasy novel. In fall of 2022, he will serve as a law clerk for the Senate Judiciary Committee, working in the office of Senator Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the committee chair.



RYAN HUNG

Ryan was assistant director for the world premiere of *Comfort*, written by Tony Award-nominated playwright Neil LaBute. It was produced by the St. Louis Actors’ Studio and ran at the Gaslight Theater in December 2021.



JORGE RIOS

Jorge was selected for the NADA (New Art Dealers Association) exhibition “Reduction to Absurd.”



MIRANDA JAGELS

Miranda was assistant director for *She Kills Monsters* presented by Washington University’s Performing Arts Department.

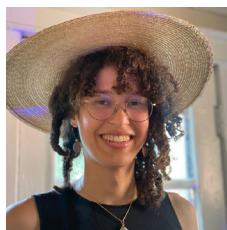


MAEGAN RUIZ

Maegan won first place at WashU’s Spring 2022 Graduate Research Symposium for her academic presentation: “Conceptualizations of Resilience: Adolescent Coping During COVID-19.” Ruiz, M., Haim, M., Hanrahan, J., Doom, J. & Rozek, C. April 2022.

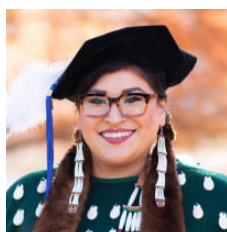
RECENT ALUMNI

We are excited to follow the paths of these outstanding Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship graduates in their careers and include them in our community of impressive alumni.



EDEN ATTAR
Musicology, MA

Eden Attar completed her master's degree in musicology, where she researched the forms of listening taught on the children's television program *Sesame Street*. Her thesis, a piece of experimental nonfiction titled "Three Stories of Listening: The Bird, the Worm, The Mushroom," analyzes the way that *Sesame Street* teaches non-dualistic and collective listening. It touches on themes of class, race, anarchist education, and media ecology. Eden has also seen success as a network and infrastructure artist and is currently working on the St. Louis Smolnet, a series of wifi-based art installations around the city of St. Louis. She enjoyed serving as a teaching assistant and undergraduate writing tutor for the music department. Eden would like to continue her research on *Sesame Street* and experimental infrastructures and continue working in pedagogy and education. Eden would like to thank the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship for the generously provided funding which made space for her research.



AUTUMN ASHER BLACKDEER
Social Work, PhD

Autumn Asher BlackDeer completed her PhD in social work with a focus on structural violence against American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Autumn is a queer decolonial scholar from the Southern Cheyenne Nation and serves as an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. Autumn centers Indigenous voices throughout her research by using quantitative approaches and big data as tools for responsible storytelling. She is a racial equity scholar with an emphasis on Indigenous tribal sovereignty and is deeply committed to decolonizing the academy. During her time at WashU, Autumn was a doctoral fellow for the Council on Social Work Education's Minority Fellowship Program, a Buder Fellow for the Buder Center for American Indian Studies, as well as a Chancellor's Graduate Fellow. She was the lead research assistant at the Center for Innovation in Child Maltreatment Policy, Research, and Training at the Brown School where she worked on the LEAD Predoctoral Summer Institute to recruit underrepresented minority child welfare professionals to return to the academy for their doctoral degrees and diversify the professoriate. Autumn also co-founded the BIPOC PhD Collective with fellow Chancellor's Graduate Fellow María Gandarilla-Ocampo to hold a sacred space for fellow colleagues of color across social work doctoral institutions. She plans to continue this work throughout her career to decolonize the academy and help clear the path for future generations of scholars.



ALEXIS CARR

Art History and Archaeology, MA

Alexis Carr completed her master's in art history and archaeology in the spring of 2022. She is interested in the convergence of art history and issues of access and critical interpretation within the museum context. Her academic research focuses on 19th-century American art and museum studies. During her time at Washington University, she was able to further develop these interests through internship experiences at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum. She worked in the museum's education department to develop a virtual tour for the exhibition "Stacking Traumas" by Christine Sun Kim. This exhibition explored the relationship between sound and its visual representations, as well as how it is valued in society from Kim's perspective as part of the Deaf community. In this position, Alexis also conducted research on a painting within the Kemper's 19th-century American art collection entitled *Daniel Boone Escorting Settlers Through the Cumberland Gap* (ca. 1851) by George Caleb Bingham. Her research on this work culminated in a New Perspective talk, "Mythologizing the West: A Conversation about American Identity, National Heroes, and Their Representations," where she considered how constructions of American identity and national memory are presented within the gallery space, and how 19th-century American art can inform and contribute to the current conversation about representation and diversity within art museums. Alexis also completed an internship within the Kemper's registrar department, where she worked on cataloging a collection of 19th-century travel photographs of the Middle East.



JOSEPH CANIZALES

Visual Art, MFA

Joseph Antonio Canizales, was born in Miami, Florida. In 2020, he graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a BFA in sculpture. He is a recipient of the 2018 McKeown Grant, allowing him to travel to Utah's national parks to study the topography and geology to further his studio practice. He attended the Yale Norfolk Summer School of Art, a prestigious program for juniors going into their senior year. He received his MFA from Washington University in 2022. His artwork is influenced by natural and geological formations. His goal is to reveal a new perspective on our natural world through emerging technologies and analytical thinking. He wants to compare the natural elements that he didn't create and unveil a new structural understanding of them.



MIRANDA JAGELS FÉLIX

Theater and Performance Studies, MA

Miranda Jagels Félix graduated from Saint Louis University with a bachelor's degree in theater and recently completed a master's degree in theater and performance studies at Washington University. As a theater artist, she believes in the intersection between theory and practice, as well as the necessity to produce scholarly work that is born from such intersection. Her research is based on her own experience with Prison Performing Arts, a St. Louis nonprofit that aims to improve, through the arts, the lives of individuals who are or have been incarcerated.



JOSEPH RYAN KRAMBS

Molecular Genetics and Genomics, PhD

Joseph Ryan Krambs completed his PhD in molecular genetics and genomics with a focus on precision medicine and hematopoietic development and malignancy. He is a first-generation American, first-generation high school/college graduate. Joseph grew up in an itinerant impoverished household. He is the 2022 Phase One class president at Washington University School of Medicine. In addition to his studies in medicine, Joseph volunteers at unhoused encampments around St. Louis and at St. Louis Children's Hospital as a NICU cuddler and Friends & Family CPR instructor. During his time in the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at WashU, Joseph was a doctoral fellow for the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health with the Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award Fellowship Program, a research scholar for the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development, as well as a Chancellor's Graduate Fellow.



CEZAREO RODRIGUEZ

Cezareo Rodriguez Statistics, PhD

Cezareo Rodriguez completed his PhD in statistics, with his research focusing on screening and testing in high-dimensional mediation analysis. Cezareo is a St. Louis local and continues his career as an algorithm engineer for SimpleRose's optimization platform. Using his experience in statistics, machine learning, and mathematics, he aims to expand the horizons of problems humanity is able to solve.



ALUMNI NOTES

Alumni listed by cohort year

1995

Kimberly (Duke) Hutson, JD '98, practiced law for seven years in St. Louis and East St. Louis, then moved to Virginia and became an assistant college professor at Norfolk State University (HBCU college). For the past seven years, Kimberly has been a magistrate for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2006

Andris Alexander, JD '09, has practiced law as a corporate attorney in various fields, including finance, corporate governance, and technology. Andris recently moved to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and currently works in e-commerce/travel with Booking.com.

Shak James, PhD '12 (computer engineering), has worked in academia and industry. Over the past 10 years, he held three job positions: senior engineer, assistant professor, and chief technology officer. Shak joined Amazon Web Services as a software development manager in 2021.

2008

Sha-Lai Williams, PhD '13 (social work), is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

2013

Pablo Zavala, PhD '19 (Hispanic studies), is an assistant professor of Spanish and Latin American studies at Loyola University New Orleans.

2015

Joey Krambs, PhD '22 (molecular genetics and genomics), has begun medical school at Washington University. Joey was selected as class president at the School of Medicine for the entering class of 2022.



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Share

Inspire others through your own story. Update fellows and alumni on recent accomplishments, positions, and career moves. Have your work featured on our website and in our annual report.

Engage

Are there calls for funding proposals, internship opportunities, or open positions in your organization? Keep us in the know. Meet a promising individual? Encourage prospective students to apply.

Participate

We encourage you to attend Washington University events to interact with fellows and alumni.

Mentor

Imparting knowledge and experience to those just emerging in their fields is such a rewarding experience. Help guide the next generation of fellows in reaching their full potential.

Connect

To share, connect, mentor, or participate, please contact us at cgfp@wustl.edu or visit us on our website at cgfp.wustl.edu.



Washington University in St. Louis
THE CHANCELLOR'S GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

CGFP.WUSTL.EDU

As of Fall 2023, the Chancellor's Graduate Fellowship will be merged with the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Fellowship for Women in Graduate Study, another distinguished university-wide fellowship program for outstanding scholars. The inaugural cohort of the Ann W. and Spencer T. Olin-Chancellor's Fellowship (OCF) will enter in Fall 2023.