

INSPIRING EMERGING LEADERS TO ADDRESS GLOBAL CHALLENGES
PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

PROGRAM MOMENTUM

Attracting outstanding graduate students to WashU

As an innovative program that promotes new ideas and develops emerging leaders, the McDonnell International Scholars Academy continues to evolve to meet the needs of its Scholars by preparing them to be culturally competent, collaborative, committed global citizens who address the world's most complex challenges. Nearly 100 graduate and professional students are participating in the program's interdisciplinary and intercultural experiences. Furthermore, our network of over 200 international alumni is driving positive change in the world, leveraging the skills and experiences gained through our program to make a meaningful impact in their respective fields. A university-wide initiative that serves all seven schools at Washington University in St. Louis, the McDonnell Academy attracts the most talented graduate students from around the world seeking advanced education at a top-tier institution. By cultivating a community of diverse and dynamic leaders, the Academy amplifies the graduate student experience at WashU.

The world needs solutions, and strong partnerships are key to delivering them. The McDonnell Academy's collaborations with leading international universities have laid the framework for revolutionary, groundbreaking research, and continues to advance cross-disciplinary exchanges among faculty in environmental research, global health, social welfare, and digital transformation.

McDonnell Academy welcomes new leadership in 2022

In August 2022, the McDonnell Academy welcomed a new executive management team. Laura Benoist, formerly associate director, assumed the role of director of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy. Vijay Ramani, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and International Affairs assumed the role of executive director.

THE NUMBERS 2022 - 2023

97 IN-RESIDENCE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

50+ INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED







Spring cohort trip builds connections, magnifies impact

This spring, **McDonnell Scholars from two cohorts visited New York City** to experience its lively atmosphere and multi-cultural environment, enhance their leadership skills, and grow their professional network. Joining them on the trip was the Academy's founding benefactor, John McDonnell, whose vision continues to shape the program in important ways.

During their 3-day visit, Scholars met with leaders at the United Nations, former U.S. Missouri senator, Claire McCaskill, and philanthropists giving back to the NYC community through their support of emerging artists. They also had engaging conversations with executives in finance and notable creatives in media, and connected with a prolific entrepreneur, restauranteur and WashU Olin Business School alumnus.

The intercultural, interdisciplinary, and unique perspectives of our Scholars enrich the McDonnell Academy community, and we continue to cultivate an inclusive culture in which different points of view are valued and respected. Cohort trips are another vehicle for Scholars to create personal connections through their shared experience in the McDonnell Academy. Although the weather was cold, the camaraderie and conversations were warm and frequent. I enjoyed seeing our Scholars engage across cultures, cohorts, and disciplines to build our very special community.

- Laura Benoist Director

Visiting the United Nations headquarters was a lifechanging experience, as it offered me the opportunity to witness the inner workings of one of the world's most influential organizations, particularly the office of legal affairs. I also thought about how important it is to preserve and defend international peace.

> - Larry Atakora-Amaniampong, PhD Candidate McKelvey School of Engineering

One speaker who particularly inspired me was former Missouri State Senator Claire McCaskill. Her words left me feeling motivated to work hard, believe in myself, take calculated risks, and seek out new opportunities for growth.

> - Judith Sokei PhD Candidate Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences

SCHOLAR VOICES

Amplifying the McDonnell Scholar experience

We understand the importance of creating a space for our Scholars to share their research findings, academic achievements, and personal experiences, which establishes a robust community that fosters intellectual curiosity, academic collaboration, and cross-cultural exchange. Excerpts are from the *McDonnell Minute*, the Academy's weekly newsletter.



McDonnell Academy Alumna's research featured in NPR article

Why do some people get UTIs over and over? **Seongmi Russell**, 2014 cohort, PhD in Molecular Microbiology & Microbial Pathogenesis, is the microbiologist and lead author of a paper recently published in *Nature Microbiology*. The report may finally provide some clues to this question.

Seongmi is a graduate of McDonnell Academy partner institution, Seoul National University.

McDonnell Scholar travels to Israel for WashU-Reichman University program

Jorge Concha, 2022 cohort, MBA Candidate '24, recently traveled to McDonnell Academy partner institution Reichman University as part of the Olin Business School MBA degree global immersion programming, which included a 7-day onsite course in Tel-Aviv. The students engaged with Reichman University students and Israeli start-up leaders at site visits, during courses, and at networking events.

Jorge is a graduate of McDonnell Academy partner institution, University of Chile.



McDonnell Scholar wins Quad Fellowship

Ganesh Chelluboyina, 2020 cohort, PhD Candidate in Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering, received a 2023 Quad Fellowship. The fellowship is an initiative of the governments of Australia, India, Japan and the United States, and is operated by Schmidt Futures in consultation with a nongovernmental task force composed of academic, foreign policy and private sector leaders.

Ganesh is a graduate of McDonnell Academy partner, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.



SCHOLAR FEATURE

Excepts from Washington University Magazine Diane Toroian Keaggy, AB '90, August 11, 2022

Graduate affinity housing is an important way to recruit and support students

Scholar housing fosters community

WashU creates exceptional residential experiences for undergraduate and graduate students by building living and learning communities that cultivate a sense of family and fun — and that have been recognized as being second to none.

In 2014, Mary Campbell, associate vice chancellor for real estate asked architecture students in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts to work with **McDonnell Scholars** to transform two neighboring apartment buildings into affinity housing that would meet their unique needs. The results surprised her.

"We had imagined a giant gathering room with glass walls for programming. But what they wanted was a variety of spaces throughout the buildings, a community kitchen and big outdoor space. That's what we gave them, and it's been a success", says Campbell.

McDonnell Scholars come together in all sorts of ways in the building: they use the community kitchen to make dumplings and birthday cakes, the sunny courtyard to study, and the common rooms to host happy hours.

Designed with the Academy's mission in mind, we take tremendous pride in the complex and its ability to provide our Scholars with unique living, learning, and social experiences.

Celebrating the 2022 Cohort at McDonnell Academy Residences

The McDonnell Academy hosted its first-ever First-Year Fest at the McDonnell Academy residences. The event was a funfilled carnival-themed celebration, and all McDonnell Scholars, Ambassadors, family and friends participated. The Academy Residences offered the ideal venue for the festival to bring our community together to welcome the 2022 cohort and strengthen connections among everyone.



-- MARY CAMPBELL SAM FOX SCHOOL OF DESIGN & VISUAL ARTS

It's fun because we have MBA students, students studying literature, students studying medicine. I hear opinions different from mine, and that expands my vision as a student, as a person.

> -- WEIYI PAN, PHD'22 MCKELVEY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



SCHOLAR FEATURE

McDonnell Scholars create bonds on fall retreat

A McDonnell Academy tradition, the Fall Retreat at Trout Lodge in Potosi, Missouri, was a great way to spend some time away from the campus environment, and get to know one another in a relaxing, rustic setting while working to strengthen connections through team and communication skill-building activities. Surrounded by the picturesque scenery of hills filled with beautiful fall colors and a sparkling lake, this was a time to take a break from day-to-day graduate student life and share a fun experience with friends.

Fall Retreat provides students with an opportunity to build relationships and deepen bonds. In an improv comedy session led by Mama's Pot Roast, WashU's longest-running improv and sketch comedy group, Scholars were challenged to step out of their comfort zones to improve communication and learn more about each other in the process. Additional team-building activities focused on having fun while learning the strengths and weaknesses, communication styles, and personalities of each of their teammates. As the evening came to a close, the Scholars took part in a rousing dinner theatre production filled with intrigue, suspense, and whodunits. Teams at each table worked together using their powers of observation and deduction to solve the crime. They applied the improvisational skills they learned earlier in the day and uncovered more than just the perpetrator...the night revealed a few very talented actors among the Academy's cohorts. Also, if someone asks if there's a doctor in the house in a room full of McDonnell Scholars, an impressive number are equipped to answer the call!



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT Discovering the stories behind our Scholars' journeys



McDonnell Scholar receives 2022 Ideas Matter Fellowship

Enoch Azasu MSW '17, PhD in Social Work '23, received the Ideas Matter US-based Scholars Fellowship. Awarded by the West African Research Association (WARA) for West African PhD students based in the US, the fellowship provides access to funding for fieldwork abroad.

Enoch is a graduate of McDonnell Academy partner institution, University of Ghana.

What factors influenced your decision to attend WashU and join the McDonnell Academy?

WashU is one of the top ranked schools with excellent programs, resources as well as a diverse student body. On top of that, the McDonnell Academy provided me with the opportunity to network with other outstanding Scholars from around the world through educational and sometimes fun activities. The Academy was a way for me to constantly test my knowledge due to the cultural dynamism and diversity that we had among the Scholars. Finally the Academy is a supportive environment and community for an international student like me who is new to the US. I didn't hesitate to embrace the immense support the Academy offered to help people like me have a rich experience while studying at WashU.

What drives your passion and interest in addressing global challenges?

I am passionate about mental health among Black youth and adolescents. One mental health problem affecting Black youth is suicide. In 2019, youth accounted for more than 80% of all suicide deaths in poor countries. We are losing our future generations. I am hoping to contribute as a Scholar towards the understanding of what interpersonal and social factors precede suicide thoughts and behaviors among Black adolescents.

How will you use your McDonnell Academy and WashU education to make an impact in the world?

I want to contribute to research and scholarship that seeks to inform and provide evidence to the development of culturally mindful intervention as it pertains to suicide prevention. Being able to receive the education from WashU and the McDonnell Academy as a minority scholar obligates me to give back to my community as there are only a few people like me who have had this opportunity. I intend to run for political office in Ghana one day so I can provide quality leadership aimed at solving some of these problems. As a McDonnell Scholar, I have honed my skills in impactful leadership and have seen significant improvement in this area.

How significant is the McDonnell Academy fellowship to you?

The fellowship is like family to me. Different cultures but one people. Different perspectives but one goal. Different career paths but one passion. I have never felt any group so connected like the Academy. Despite being from a different country, I felt accepted and part of one family during my years in the Academy.

What has been the most memorable aspect of your McDonnell Scholar experience?

The McDonnell Academy 7th International Symposium in China was a major highlight for me. The trip created an opportunity for us to experience another part of the world. The Symposium convened presidents, faculty and graduate students from the Academy's partner institutions to discuss complex global issues, drawing on a diversity of perspectives from multiple countries and disciplines. It offered me a unique opportunity to engage and connect with leading scholars and experts from around the world.

MCDONNELL ALUMNI

Part of the McDonnell Academy's core mission is to foster close relationships among future global leaders.

As the numbers of alumni increase, we continue to organize opportunities for engagement and networking as reminders that they are *Scholars for Life.* McDonnell alumni are eager to connect, share their story, and their knowledge. Staying engaged with the McDonnell International Scholars Academy can **connect Scholars to a network of alumni from around the world**.



Wrighton Award winner shares insight on leadership and global impact

Gülcan Yayla, MBA/MSW'17 was the 2022 Mark S. Wrighton Award recipient. She was recently interviewed by Laura Benoist, director of the McDonnell Academy where she shared her experience as a McDonnell Scholar and WashU alum, and offered her insight on how current McDonnell Scholars can prepare to have impact as global leaders. Yayla is the co-founder and CEO of Patika, a web platform that bridges the job market and education gap for millions of under and unemployed people worldwide. As a member of the Academy's Mentorship Network, Yayla shares her professional and personal experience and insight with Scholars, helping to build and foster meaningful relationships among Scholars and McDonnell Academy alumni.

I've dedicated myself to solving the large-scale skills gap and unemployment problems affecting millions of people around the world. I'm often amazed to see how some obvious solutions are ignored just because we are so used to the status quo. Changing this is very hard, but with the support of the McDonnell Academy and amazing people around me, I'm confident that we'll make a permanent dent in this world.

The Wrighton Award for McDonnell Academy Alumni recognizes an alumnus having a significant impact on their communities or professional career, based directly on their experience in the program.

Keeping in touch: McDonnell Academy alumni stay connected

The McDonnell Academy hosted **Virtual Flash Mentorship Sessions** with our alumni, who provided insight to in-residence Scholars through Zoom rooms about their profession, leadership, and personal objectives.

Michael Ong, (MSW'10), was inspired by the connection made with fellow WashU alumni during a virtual mentorship session he co-hosted with Sherria Ayuandini (PhD '17) and Dor Kedem (ME '13), who had recently relocated to Singapore from the Netherlands. The trio planned to meet up when Michael visited Singapore in March, and were excited to catch up with each other, as well as another WashU alumnus, Clinton Shi (MSW '14), who returned to Singapore after graduating. We met up to connect after the recent speed mentoring session. Especially since I found out that Dor and Sherria recently moved to Singapore. Clinton and Lynn joined in the lunch gettogether. I knew of Clinton but had never met him in person. It was fun to connect as friends, just catching up with one another about our lives and careers.

-- MICHAEL ONG

COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION

McDonnell Academy lectures open doors for cross-disciplinary participation and conversation at WashU



Under the university strategic plan, **Here and Next**, the Assembly Series has been reimagined to showcase high-profile world-renowned speakers to discuss strategic areas of focus. Global icon Jane Goodall's Oct. 9 discussion about creating a more sustainable future for everybody drew the St. Louis community together to address an important issue.

Jonathan Losos, director of the Living Earth Collaborative, the William H. Danforth Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Biology in Arts & Sciences, and McDonnell Academy Ambassador for the University of Melbourne, introduced Goodall to a full house in Graham Chapel. The program was presented by the Office of the Provost, the Living Earth Collaborative and the **McDonnell International Scholars Academy**, in partnership with the Saint Louis Science Center.

Foreign policy expert delivers lecture on U.S.-Russia relations

The **2022-23 Seng Tee Lee Endowed Lecture** featured leading foreign policy expert, **Dr. Fiona Hill**, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and former deputy assistant to a U.S. president. Hill's visit to campus included additional meetings with students and faculty, as well as a meet-up and dinner discussion with approximately 60 McDonnell Scholars. Hill shared personal stories about her "improbable journey" from the North East of England to the White House and her reflections on leadership and public service.

The lecture took place under the auspices of the Assembly Series, Washington University's signature lectureship. The lecture, *The World Putin Wants*, drew over 500 participants.

Pulitzer Prize winner examines U.S.-China relations

The **2022-23 Cabot-Zhang Endowed Lecture** featured Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, **Bob Davis**, former editor of the Wall Street Journal. Davis met with several faculty and student groups while on campus, including a lunch discussion with McDonnell Scholars. He answered questions and provided insight about his non-linear career, his new book, *Superpower Showdown*, and his continuing passion to educate and inform.



The McDonnell Ambassadors are distinguished faculty who serve as mentors to the Scholars and are charged with strengthening collaboration with our partner universities. Collaborative efforts in education and research engage WashU faculty and students, and those of our partner universities, in activities that enhance scholarship and international understanding.

Exposing 'quiet quitting' impact

Recently, **Yongseok Shin**, Douglass C. North Distinguished Professor of Economics, in Arts & Sciences at Washington University and **McDonnell Ambassador to Korea University**, published a new working paper, *Where Are the Workers? From Great Resignation to Quiet Quitting*, through the National Bureau of Economic Research with graduate students **Dain Lee**, **McDonnell Scholar from Korea University and Peking University**, and Jinhyeok Park.

Offering hope and a way forward

Documentary producer Thomas Malkowicz traveled to Uganda with Fred Ssewamala, William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor and McDonnell Ambassador to Makerere University, to document the work Ssewamala and his research team are creating and implementing for poverty alleviation and public health interventions that are making a huge difference in the lives of children, families and communities in the African country. The work has changed the future for over 70,000 children and their families.

Extracting rare earth elements from waste

Researchers are extracting valuable rare earth elements from coal fly ash, a fine, powdery waste product from the combustion of coal. Young-Shin Jun, a professor of energy, environmental and chemical engineering at the McKelvey School of Engineering and McDonnell Ambassador to Seoul National University, and her team have created the proofof-concept solution. The process is ultimately a path toward reducing and remediating waste products.

Discovering the future of information storage

Mechanical metamaterials are materials that are designed to have specific properties, such as being able to bend or twist in certain ways. Guy Genin, Harold and Kathleen Faught Professor of Mechanical Engineering at McKelvey School of Engineering, along with collaborative researchers from Tsinghua University are studying how these materials can be used to store and process information. Genin continues collaboration efforts to improve academic research and international uderstanding.

RESEARCH

DRIVING RESEARCH THROUGH SEED GRANT INITIATIVES

Seed grants provide momentum for international collaboration

The **McDonnell International Scholars Academy** is a catalyst for collaborative research across countries and disciplines. Through its seed grant initiatives, in the last three years the McDonnell Academy, in partnership with the Africa Initiative, Global Health Center, Institute for Public Health, and the Social Policy Institute, launched more than **67 new research projects in 30 countries.**

The awards are in partnership with the Office of the Provost and aligned with "**Here and Next**", the Washington University in St. Louis strategic plan.



Symposium highlights forces reshaping the world

Get ready for an exceptional event! The **2023 McDonnell Academy Global Research Symposium at Washington University in St. Louis**, taking place from October 5-7, will showcase the promotion and funding of collaborative research projects on critical global issues. From the environment to social innovation, global health challenges, and digital transformation, the symposium will be a platform to share cutting-edge ideas and spark new collaborations. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity.

The Symposium will bring together WashU researchers and their international partners. The university-wide event will consist of four plenary sessions featuring outcomes of seed grant-funded collaborations, and focused, faculty-driven workshops, intended to advance future collaborative research.

Enhancing collaboration & impact with accelerator grant funding

A dedicated pool of limited funding is available to supplement seed grant collaborators. The goal of the funding is to help collaborators close the gap between their base seed grant and achieving external self-funding for their important research. Accelerator funding is competitive and not guaranteed, with a maximum top-up award of \$30,000. In this process, collaborators will have the opportunity to explain their financial need and demonstrate why these additional funds move this research to the next level. More information on applying for the grants will be available prior to 2023 Symposium.





Facilitating collaborative research yields substantive outcomes

The McDonnell Academy's seed grant initiative was first launched two years ago, thanks to a gift by the Millard family. The key objective is to facilitate collaborative research that yields substantial outcomes, including next-stage funding, publications, clinical interventions, policy impact, and deeper ties between WashU and our partners around the globe. The program has so far resulted in a six-fold return on the initial investment, as previous recipients have been successful in securing external funding in excess of \$4 million.

	Public Health		Environmental Research		Digital Transformation
Su-Hsin Chang Mark	School of Medicine Surgery Equitable cancer prevention and control: an evidence- based pilot study on multiple myeloma TAIWAN (ROC) National Taiwan University School of Medicine	Wyly Brown	Sam Fox School College of Architecture Bamboo poles as a sustainable structural material alternative for contemporary innovative mid-span design COSTA RICA Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica	Patrick Crowley	McKelvey School of Engineering Computer Science Energy Efficiency via the Sync Model of Communication FINLAND University to Helsinki
	Global Health Center ENhancing Intergenerational HeAlth in Nigeria: Peripartum as Critical Life StagE for CardioVascular Health (ENHANCE-CVH)			Nathan	McKelvey School of Engineering
Lori Markson	Arts & Sciences Psychological & Brain Sciences Thinking about the common good: A cross-cultural developmental study CHINA Tsinghua University	Jonathan Losos	Arts & Sciences Biology Stable Isotope Analyses of Diets in Native and Introduced Doves of New York City and Hong Kong HONG KONG (SAR, CHINA) University of Hong Kong	Jacobs	Computer Science Learning-Based Visual Event Demarcation BRAZIL University of Campinas
E.A. Quinn Lora Iannotti	Arts & Sciences; Brown School Anthropology; Public Health Testing an association between nutrition during pregnancy, human milk composition, and infant brain development during the first three months of life in a low resource community in El Quinche, Ecuador	Turner E		Zhao Ma Joan Wang	Arts & Sciences; Washington University Libraries East Asian Languages and Cultures The Sound of Mao's Last Revolution: Information Technology and Political Communication in Socialist China, 1966-1978 CHINA Fudan University; University of Macau
Dominic Reeds	ECUADOR Universidad San Francisco de Quito School of Medicine Geriatrics and Nutritional Science Assessment of metabolic phenotypes of adults with Type 2 Diabetes in Rwanda		McKelvey School of Engineering Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering Developing Conceptual Models for Air Quality in Uzbekistan UZBEKISTAN Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers-National Research University		
Ozge Sensoy Bahar	RWANDA University of Rwanda Rwamagana Provincial Hospital Brown School; Sam Fox School Social Work; College of Art			Margit Tavits	Arts & Sciences Political Science The Behavioral and Attitudinal Effects of Voter ID UNITED KINGDOM; UNITED STATES University of Oxford; Rice University
Penina Acayo Laker Proscovia Nabunya	Say No to Stigma-Round 2: Pilot testing the impact of visuals designed to reduce mental health stigma among primary school students in Uganda UGANDA Makerere University, College of Health Sciences	Yin In Im Ian Th Trivers _{HC} In	Sam Fox School InCEES; College of Architecture Improving Sustainability of Stormwater Management Through International Collaboration and Learning: How Can St. Louis Learn from China's Sponge City Initiative? CHINA Peking University		
Michael Sherraden	Brown School Center for Social Development Asset Building for Child Health: Pilot Test of Child Development Accounts (CDAs) for Children with Autism in China CHINA Peking University; Tsinghua University; Beijing City University; China Central University of Finance and Economics; NYU Shanghai			Renee Thompson	Arts & Sciences Psychological & Brain Sciences Social Media Use and Healthy Adolescent Development: A Multi-Method Investigation AUSTRALIA
Anna Wilke	Arts & Sciences Political Science How Does Girls' Empowerment Affect Boys? Two Field Experiments on Cross-gender Spillover Effects of Public Health	Joshua Yuan	McKelvey School of Engineering Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering Advancing Innovative Chem-Bio Interfaces for Efficient Carbon Capture and Utilization HONG KONG (SAR, CHINA) Chinese University of Hong Kong		University of Melbourne
	Campaigns MEXICO, UNITED KINGDOM, NIGERIA Tecnológico de Monterrey; University of Nigeria; Birkbeck, University of London			William Yeoh Chien-Ju Ho	McKelvey School of Engineering Computer Science Understanding and Accounting for Human Behavior and Beliefs in Human-AI Collaboration ISRAEL Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
Tianyu Zhao	School of Medicine Radiation Oncology Implementing a Customized and Expedited Workflow for Radiation Therapy Treatment in Uganda UGANDA Makerere University, Uganda Cancer Institute				

Washington University in St.Louis

McDonnell International Scholars Academy

Since its founding in 2005, the **McDonnell International Scholars Academy** has a dual mission. First, we recruit top scholars from partner universities—the U.S. and international universities across the globe—and mentor them as they pursue graduate and professional degrees at Washington University, preparing them to become future global leaders. Second, we leverage the Academy's international partnership network to incubate new ideas and foster collaborative research across countries and disciplines.

MCDONNELL SCHOLARS

McDonnell Scholars are students from across the globe and interdisciplinary academic programs, who come to Washington University in St. Louis for an **extraordinary educational experience as they pursue doctoral and professional master's degrees** in: architecture, business, engineering, law, medicine, neuroscience, social work, or any of the 120+ academic programs offered.

In addition to academic talent, Scholars are selected based on their ability to emerge as leaders who are experts in their fields with perspectives that reflect cultural competence. Graduates acquire a unique global outlook and develop the ability to generate positive change in their communities and around the world.

Contact Us! mcdonnell@wustl.edu Washington University in St. Louis



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