

Dear Graham Family,

I want to begin by thanking you for your generosity, as it has allowed students like myself to pursue higher education. To tell you about myself, my sisters and I are the first in our family to pursue a bachelor's degree. I am a Psychology major with a concentration in Clinical Psychology and double minoring in Media Studies and Asian American studies.

At Hunter, I am a scholar peer leader for the Muse cohort. I advise Muses on various topics from registration for classes to how to deal with stress and being overwhelmed. During this period of online classes, have collaborated with one of my peers and Muse staff to plan "Muse Hour," a one-hour Blackboard Collaborate session every two weeks where Muses can chat and de-stress. Topics for Muse Hour have included a space to vent, quarantine meme reviews, and a virtual lunch gathering.

Outside of Muse, I recently joined the Mental Health Advocates program for the Asian American Studies program (HCAP). The program discusses issues concerning mental health for AAPIs at Hunter and plans events around the topic of mental health in the Asian American community.

Through Muse, I was able to take a one-year course exploring the arts in NYC. I attended concerts, plays, and dances which was an immersive experience I would never imagine could count for a class. Prior to this, I was only aware of art that I had participated in (e.g., fine art and digital media). I never thought that I would be interested in plays, but I found out I was! In addition to the Muse Honors Scholar Program, I am also a member of the Thomas Hunter Honors Program. Through the program, I was able to take unique interdisciplinary courses available only to students in the Thomas Hunter Program. Classes included the art and science of anatomy, poverty in the U.S., and a course on complexity science. In Fall 2020, I will be taking an internship course through the Psychology department.

Outside of school, I am a second-year intern at the Family Art Program at Wave Hill. I help children with art projects concerning ideas of environmental sustainability and community. I also work with a client and provides services to aid the client in the skills and goals they want to improve. Post-graduation, I am planning to apply to graduate school. I am looking into master's and Ph.D. programs in psychology and social work. Eventually, I want to pursue a career where I can provide direct assistance to others.

College is a time of trials and tribulations but also a time for adventure and exploration. I have been fortunate enough to have had such a unique college experience thus far. I know not many students have the opportunity I have. Many cannot afford to go to college, but I hope that can change. I think every student would benefit from such a unique college experience like mine. I have experienced both and can confidently say that I have grown and developed in many aspects of life as an academic and human being. It is through the kindness of individuals like you that make the college process easier to manage, for the student and their close ones. In the wake of current times, kindness is what we need to motivate ourselves and others to accomplish great things. Once again, thank you.

M.C., 2020 Olga Graham Scholar