

- From the Board President 02
- From the Executive Director 03
- Our Mission 04
- By the Numbers: 2016-2017 06 Scholar Statistics
- 08 Our Vision
- Congratulations to the Class
- Your Best Life: The Fourth Annual Pullman Scholar Symposium
- Gloeckler, University of
- Scholar Profile: Dejah Powell,
- Thomas Meagher and the John
- The 68th Class of Pullman Scholars

Letter from the Board President



When I sat down to write my President's Letter for this annual report, I first re-read my prior years' letters. What I found was striking. I saw how the Foundation has been constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of our scholar community.

From increasing the scholarship award to \$10,000, to hosting the annual Pullman Scholar Symposium where many of our alumni present workshops on such varied topics as financial management, interviewing, and networking, the Foundation has been working to develop and provide the assistance our scholars need to succeed, both in school and after.

As a result of our scholar support activities, we successfully applied to the IRS for a change in our tax status from a "private foundation" to a "private operating foundation." In short, what this means is that it will be easier for the Foundation to receive donations in new ways—through planned giving or donor advised funds, to name a few. Additionally, our donors will receive enhanced tax benefits.

Obviously, an increase in our annual revenue will not only increase the number of Pullman Foundation Scholarships granted each year, but it will also enable us to expand our educational support services for our scholars. For example, we are currently exploring ideas on how to encourage our scholars to gain practical experience during college through internships or similar positions, believing that such experiences will help them better transition into their chosen careers.

We are finding that this holistic approach to helping hard-working students achieve their dreams of a college education is paying off. Ninety-seven percent of the Class of 2017 earned their degrees in four years, which, by the way, is the whole point of giving scholarships.

As we continue to redefine what receiving a Pullman Foundation Scholarship means, we hope that you will stay in touch by volunteering and supporting the Foundation. Our alumni and friends are our most important partners in our mission of changing lives, one scholarship at a time.

Barbara Miller Kaufman Board President

Letter from the Executive Director

What a year! I hope you join me in celebrating the latest accomplishments of the Pullman Scholar Community.

Members of the class of 2017 are now launching productive, satisfying, and impressive careers in the sciences, arts, business, and other professions. Thank you for making such a profound difference in the lives of these incredible young people. You have given them the opportunity to build their own American dreams by earning college degrees—and by pursuing lives of service, honoring their passions, and making their way in the world without the burden of debilitating student debt.

Thanks to you, this year's senior class graduated with roughly \$17,000 in student loan debt, well below the national average of \$37,000. All of our scholars will tell you that their scholarship is incredibly important—but they will also say that the value of being a Pullman Scholar far exceeds the financial benefits. Our scholars treasure you and your fellow alumni as priceless sources of academic, professional, and personal support.

The late Tom Meagher (University of Illinois '67) was a shining example of this generosity of spirit. He embodied all the best characteristics of our alumni, and he acted as a true champion of our scholars. We were deeply saddened to lose him this year, but we are grateful that his generosity will ensure that future scholars continue to benefit from his legacy. (Learn more about Tom and his many contributions on page 24.)

On behalf of all our scholars, staff, and board members: Thank you for helping build an amazing community and for making this an amazing year!

Robin Redmond Executive Director







The George M. Pullman Educational Foundation supports the dreams and aspirations of outstanding graduating high school seniors with merit-based, needbased scholarships and continuing educational support as they pursue their bachelor's degree at the college or university of their choice.

2016-2017 Pullman Scholars

BY THE NUMBERS

132

students were awarded Pullman Foundation Scholarships

\$72,980*

the highest cost of attendance for Pullman Scholars in the 2016-2017 academic year

\$21,384**•**

the least expensive cost of attendance for Pullman Scholars in the 2016-2017 academic year

\$6,018

average Pullman Scholarship award

\$2,002

average Expected Family Contribution (EFC) for Pullman Scholars in 2016-2017

\$49,697

average cost to attend college for Pullman Scholars in the 2016-2017 academic year

\$36,572

average family income of Pullman Scholars

average GPA for Pullman Scholars

of the 2016-2017 scholars were the first in their family to attend college.



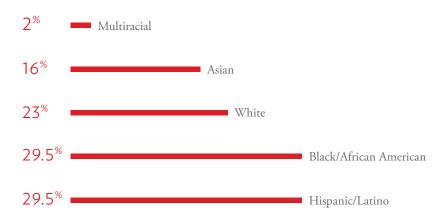




Male

Race

33%





their scholarships in 2016

of the class of 2017 retained their scholarship for four years



the graduation rate of the class of 2017



We believe education is an essential component of an individual's success regardless of a person's origin or economic background. We aspire to provide our scholars with tangible and intangible assets to help them achieve their American Dream.



Congratulations Graduates: The 2017 Class of Pullman Scholars

Crystal Bahena

Parsons The New School for Design

Shaliyah Brown

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Daniel Buss

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Angelica Cabrera

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Charlotte Carroll

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Maritza Chavez

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Lisa Cheung

Carleton College

Xiomara Contreras

Northwestern University

Jennifer Escobar

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Michael Glynn

Marquette University

Maribell Heredia

University of Illinois at Chicago

Loren Hou

Loyola University Chicago

Nancy Huynh

DePauw University

Brendan Johnson Valparaiso University

Adam Kiolbassa

Illinois Institute of Technology

Erica Lee

DePaul University

Sarah Lin

DePaul University

Casey Luc

The George Washington University

Agona Lutolli

Lake Forest College

Shajaya Martinez

DePauw University

Lorena Munoz Ledezma

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Armani Nightengale

Loyola University Chicago

Kelsey O'Donnell

Northwestern University

Anthony Onyeaghala

Illinois State University

Elisabet Ortiz

University of Colorado-Boulder

Erika Reyes

University of San Francisco

Marco Rodriguez
Northwestern University

Josue Salgado

University of Illinois at Chicago

Maya Stewart

University of Missouri-Columbia

Bukky Tabiti

Loyola University Chicago

Juan Velazquez

University of Notre Dame

Ariana Vidana

Northwestern University

Maurice Westbrooks

DePaul University







The 4th Annual Pullman Scholar Symposium

LEARNING HOW TO LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE

You did it again! For the fourth year in a row, our dedicated Pullman Foundation alumni, scholars, and friends gave our current scholars an experience they will never forget. On behalf of all our scholars, thank you.

More than 100 scholars gathered at the University of Chicago's Gleacher Center for the annual Pullman Scholar Symposium on May 19, 2017. Their mission: To learn how to make the most of their college experience—and put it into action through a fulfilling career and a balanced life.

The afternoon kicked off with a luncheon keynote presentation by Kelly Suzanne Saulsberry, director of policy and outreach at the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. Saulsberry shared the story of her life, which has been shaped by her passion for racial equity, social justice, and civic engagement. Noting that her own career path has been far from straightforward, she encouraged scholars to let their passion and ethical grounding be their guides during times of uncertainty. She also urged them to stay open to the power of connections—especially through the Pullman Foundation family.

Scholars then jumped into sessions that focused on vitally important skills that aren't typically taught in classrooms. In the session designed by scholar alumna and Foundation board member Susie Turk, scholars honed professional skills such as interviewing with the help of Salesforce volunteers.

After receiving the Pullman Foundation's Most Valuable Alumna Award, Pamela Bloomquist, (Rockford College, '74) assistant dean of admissions and financial aid at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, delivered the evening's keynote speech. After noting that she has been "tremendously impressed with the tenacity, with the commitment, [and] with the fortitude" of Pullman Scholars, she discussed her experience of attending college when Chicago - and the country at large - was experiencing great civil unrest. She described how that time influenced her life and recounted several of her own "best life moments." Her advice for today's scholars? "Be naïve, be aware, be assertive, be considerate, be inquisitive, be persistent, and be lucky."

Thank you to everyone who made this a day to remember!













Meet the Scholars: 2016-2017 Pullman Scholars

THIS YEAR, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, 132 SCHOLARS ATTENDED THE BEST COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

Elsadig Abdalla University of Illinois at Chicago

Ibrahim Abubakar University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Sofia Ali Loyola University Chicago

Nermin Aly
DePaul University

Juan Angulo

Massachusetts Institute
of Technology

Lynda Arredondo Valparaiso University

Lauren Auyeung
Princeton University

Amel Baker
Loyola University Chicago

Jasmine Baker

Agnes Scott College

Dziedzom Bansah University of Illinois at Chicago

Megan Barnes

Howard University

Martin Bellido University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Rukayat Bello Illinois Institute of Technology

Sheldon Bolden

DePauw University

Uriah Brown

DePauw University

McHugh Carroll University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Muzammil Chaudhry University of Wisconsin-Madison

Adelaide Curry University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Christina Curtis

Marquette University

Joel De Leon *Yale University*

Sarah Dickey Elmhurst College

Zakiyah Dillard University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Tyler Dixon *Hampton University*

Melissa Drab Augustana College Jeanette Eldridge University of Illinois at Chicago

Justin Ellison

Georgetown University

Linus Erkenswick

Loyola University Chicago

Henry Espinoza

Loyola University Chicago

Daisy Evariz

Harvard University

Olivia Fritz
Stanford University

Andrew Gacek University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Matthew Gallagher

Loyola University Chicago

Julissa Garcia
University of Illinois at Chicago

Selina Garcia Robert Morris University

Jane Go
University of Illinois at Chicago

Tierra Goldston Howard University Adrianna Gorniak *University of Illinois at Chicago*

Alexis Gutierrez

Vanderbilt University

John Haboush

Marquette University

Ana Hernandez Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Paulena Hopson MacMurray College

Natalia Hornik

Marquette University

Lauren Hucko Washington University in St. Louis

Yara Ismail

DePaul University

Daniel Jackson *Illinois State University*

Emmanuel Kwaning University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Trinette Lopez

Purdue University-West Lafayette

Bria Louden

Howard University

Autumn Macklin California State University, Long Beach

Kameron Marshbanks University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Selvyn Martinez Barahona Middlebury College

Tamiya Matlock Howard University

Tyler Maxie

Colgate University

Nina Mercado Denison University

Daniel Mielnik University of Pennsylvania

Montoria Miller *Illinois State University*

Sana Moqeet

Loyola University Chicago

Mia Morgan
Saint Xavier University

Jennifer Munoz

Case Western Reserve University

Rebecca Nelson Northwestern University

Alanphong Nguyen
Purdue University-West Lafayette

Jimmy Nguyen Drake University Tiffany Nieves University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Anne Noonan

Carnegie Mellon University

Agata Oborka University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chidinma Ohia
Northwestern University

Stephanie Orozco Smith College

Hiral Parikh University of Illinois at Chicago

Sweety Patel University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Alexander Pei
Boston University

Kostadin Pendev Valparaiso University

Hilary Pham University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Tamara Popovska University of Miami

Dejah Powell

Cornell University

Giovanni Santiago Brown University

Michelle Santos Yale University Anastasiya Sapatynska University of Wisconsin-Madison

Naomi Sopt University of Illinois at Chicago

Beatrize Stephen-Pons University of Pennsylvania

Ahmed Syed Yale University

Mahnoor Syed *University of Illinois at Chicago*

Cheyenne Syring
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Brenda Tang
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Bryan Taylor University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ashley Terrell

Northern Illinois University

Nebeyu Tibebu Duke University

Mayra Torres
Saint Xavier University

Daniel Tryba University of Wisconsin-Madison

Javier Uruchima
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Juanita Vargas University of Illinois at Chicago

Viridiana Villalva Connecticut College Darius Vinesar University of Illinois at Chicago

Marquis Watson United States Military Academy

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Andrea Weiss-Tracy DePaul University

Alexus Williams *University of Illinois at Chicago*

YingYi Wu University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Stanley Yang University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ivy Zhu

Loyola University Chicago



We believe in hard work, individual effort, and personal responsibility. We believe that integrity, commitment, and perseverance are the cornerstones to achieving any goal. We believe every person has the capacity to achieve the American Dream and to contribute to the common good though education and opportunity.

Alumni Profile: Dr. George Gloeckler, University of Chicago, 1960



Today, scholar alumnus Dr. George Gloeckler (University of Chicago '60) is one of the most renowned physicists on the planet. Decades ago, a Pullman Foundation Scholarship helped launch his career when he entered the University of Chicago to earn an engineering degree.

There was just one problem: the University of Chicago didn't offer an engineering degree. "So I decided physics would be okay instead," he recalls.

Now he looks back on an awe-inspiring career filled with profoundly important contributions to physics. Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1997, Gloeckler designed instrumentation for the *Voyager* and *Ulysses* missions. He has earned numerous awards, including an Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal from NASA and the prestigious Space Science Award from the international COSPAR.

Gloeckler's inspiring story began during World War II in Odessa, Ukraine. By age seven, he was fleeing the Soviet Union with his family. When Gloeckler was 14, sponsored by a Chicago church, his family found their way to the U.S.

To this day Gloeckler remembers his interview at the Pullman Foundation, and he treasures the letter notifying him that he won the scholarship.

He also recalls the moment he met Christine Jumbalo '60, a fellow Pullman Scholar and University of Chicago mathematics student. The couple soon wed and as they planned their future, would often seek the advice of the Foundation staff, who they revered as family. "The Pullman Foundation was like a rich uncle to me – a hand held out to help me pull through rough times, not only financially but personally as well," Chris recalls.

"Now I'm here, and I'm able to give back," George continues. "It makes us feel good to contribute to the society that has made all of this beautiful life possible for us."

The Gloecklers were among the first alumni to contribute when the Foundation began accepting donations, and they remain loyal and generous friends of the Foundation. "If not for the Pullman Foundation and my loving relationship with Chris, I would not be leading the life I have today," says Gloeckler. "They have both made a monumental impact."

Scholar Profile: Dejah Powell, Cornell University, 2018

Dejah Powell (Cornell University '18) is a college senior, but she's already made a difference in the world that people twice her age only dream of. She credits the Pullman Foundation for much of her success. "My Pullman Foundation Scholarship is transformative," she says. "It's given me the freedom to focus on my academics and do what I need to do."

Powell will graduate from Cornell University this spring with a major in environmental and sustainability science. Over the past four years, in addition to managing a heavy course load, she has studied abroad and worked in the prestigious Hunter R. Rawlings Presidential Research Scholar Program (her current research focuses on Chicago food deserts).

For most students, those projects would be more than enough to juggle. But in March 2016, Powell also established her own non-profit, Get Them to the Green, to bring environmental education to children on the south side of Chicago. Powell organized a one-week camp for elementary school students. She planned the entire curriculum; invited and scheduled

speakers; and arranged field trips so that campers could better understand issues like environmental justice and climate change. "It was a lot of work," she admits. "Now I respect my teachers even more!"

This past summer, she and fellow scholar Ana Hernandez (Southern Illinois University-Carbondale '18) presented a session to their fellow Pullman Scholars about change-making at this year's symposium. "I wanted to help other students be the change they want to see in the world," she explains. "It can be pretty daunting to figure out how to move from having an idea and feeling strongly about something, to knowing what to do about it."

After college Powell hopes to volunteer as a garden educator while working with a political consultancy in Chicago. "Whatever I do, I know I'll be socially engaged," she says.

"That's one reason I'm so grateful to the Pullman Foundation," she continues. "My scholarship has given me the freedom to follow my passion. I know I can pursue the work I love without worrying about paying off a massive

student debt. I feel incredibly blessed and honored to be a Pullman Scholar and a part of the Pullman Foundation family."





and we are profoundly grateful.

Thank you!





REMEMBERING TOM MEAGHER 1944-2017

The late Tom Meagher (University of Illinois '67) embodied the very best qualities of Pullman Scholars. We celebrate his life even as we mourn his passing.

Meagher earned an engineering degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign thanks to a Pullman Foundation Scholarship. He also met Joan Buchanan (University of Illinois '67) on a blind date. She became a Pullman Scholar—and eventually his wife.

After retiring, Tom became a mainstay of the Foundation. He generously shared his financial resources and he was always the first to volunteer for whatever was needed. As he once said, "We alums have experience that's invaluable if we can transfer it to kids and help them get up the ladder."

And he did it all with a smile. His optimism and enthusiasm seemed limitless.

Meagher once described the value of his Pullman Scholarship as "incalculable. No Pullman Scholarship, no U of I. No U of I, no Caterpillar. It was fortuitous that I got that scholarship!"

As an inaugural member of the John H. Munger Planned Giving Society, Tom continues to provide scholars with the greatest gift one can offer another—a chance to succeed. But in reality, it is the Pullman Scholar family that is fortunate to have known this deeply generous and gracious man.



THE JOHN H. MUNGER
PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY

For more than 35 years, John H. Munger served Pullman Scholars and the George M. Pullman Education Foundation with steadfast dedication. As educational director from 1958 to 1961, and executive director from 1961 to 1993, during Mr. Munger's tenure, thousands of Pullman Scholars benefited from his leadership and support. Mr. Munger is often described by scholar alumni as a "friend and confidant" who successfully guided many Pullman Scholars through their college careers to successfully earn degrees.

In 2016, the Foundation established the John H. Munger Planned Giving Society to honor John Munger and his many contributions to Pullman Scholars. Like Mr. Munger, members of the Munger Society demonstrate their commitment to supporting the Foundation and the dreams and aspirations of Pullman Scholars by making meaningful estate gifts.

We are deeply grateful to the inaugural members of the John H. Munger Planned Giving Society for their outstanding support and generosity.

Dirk Hacker In memory of Herbert Hacker, Illinois Institute of Technology '60

Margaret Callaghan Jackisch, Ph.D., Saint Mary College '59

Gundega Korsts, Beloit College '66, and James E. Holden

Stephanie Kromelis, *Illinois State University '71*, and Jack Treadman

Thomas Meagher+, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign '67

New Ways to Make a Difference

Now you can structure your Pullman Foundation gifts in ways that work best for you and your family. We recently changed our IRS status from "private foundation" to "private operating foundation," which means you can choose from a much broader range of giving vehicles.

Giving options now include:

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

If you hold a donor-advised fund at a charitable trust (e.g., Fidelity, United Way, Schwab Charitable), you can recommend that the Pullman Foundation receives distributions.

RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

If you are older than 70 1/2, you can use the IRA charitable gift rollover. This allows you to donate directly from your retirement account without claiming the distribution as taxable income. To qualify, distributions must go directly to the Foundation from your retirement account.

FAMILY PHILANTHROPY

You can now include all contributions to the Foundation as part of your private foundation's minimum distribution requirements.

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

More employers are able to match gifts to the Foundation. Some will double or triple your gift... even if you are retired! (Ask your employer for more information.) We also welcome planned gifts and donations of stock and appreciated securities. And as always, you may make a cash gift by simply returning the enclosed envelope or visiting our secure site at www.pullmanfoundation.org/support.

Thank you for keeping the American Dream within reach for so many hard-working young people every year. The Foundation's audited financial statements and 990-PFs will be posted to our website as they become available. For more information, please contact Patrick Murphy, development and alumni relations director (and Pullman Scholar '09), at pmurphy@pullmanfoundation.org or 312.422.0444.

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"I am grateful for the financial assistance that I received years ago as a Pullman Scholar. I am happy to give back so that future scholars may receive a benefit from the Foundation, too."

LAUREN HENZEL, SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE, NOTRE DAME, 1991

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"Receiving so much love and support is what it means to be a Pullman Scholar to me."

Marcia Hammerstrand

DEJAH POWELL, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, 2018

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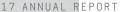
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33





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36

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