Congratulations Incoming Sidney Frank Scholar!

On behalf of your fellow Sidney Frank Scholars, we would like to welcome you to our community here at Brown. We are excited that you will be joining us this year, and we look forward to meeting you during the Sidney Frank Scholars Welcome Reception on Friday September 18th.

The Sidney Frank Scholars Association is a departmental group under the Office of the Dean of the College coordinated by Sidney Frank Scholars in liaison with Dean Maitrayee Bhattacharyya. We work to improve resources, increase student support, and build community among the scholars.

For the school year, we have planned several events and Frank Chats for the Scholars. The first of these events, our Peer Orientation, will take place on Saturday September 19th. We encourage you to join us, as new scholars will get the chance to know each other and learn more about Brown. These events and Frank Chats are great spaces to connect with your peers, professors, and alumni. We will gather to discuss topics such as life at Brown, living in Providence, academic resources, career paths, networking, studying abroad, relationships with family and friends, and more.

In these next few years, you will take on many challenges as well as make lasting memories. We hope to offer you a source of support along the way with a Sidney Frank Buddy. Your Buddy will serve as an informal mentor and assist you as you navigate Brown. Feel free to ask them about their experiences at Brown and any questions you may have. In addition to your Buddy, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Sidney Frank Scholars Association Coordinators or Dean Bhattacharyya.

Once again, congratulations on becoming a Sidney Frank Scholar. We wish you the best as you embark on this new journey!

Sincerely,

Your SFSA Coordinators
Bianca, Erika, Monica, and Tin

bianca_duah@brown.edu
erika_banuelos@brown.edu
monica_yang@brown.edu
tin_dang@brown.edu
Erika Banuelos, Class of 2018

Hometown: Phoenix, AZ

Concentration: Human Biology, Women’s and Children’s Health Track

Also Familiar With: Pre-Medicine Track, New Scientist Program, volunteering at the Rhode Island Free Clinic, Minority Peer Counselor (MPC), and good running trails in Providence

Academic Interests:
I have been interested in health/medicine since high school. Growing up in a predominantly Hispanic community where access to health care services are limited, I feel it is my duty, goal, and passion to pursue a career in medicine that will one day allow me to provide assistance to communities that lack access to these services, and most importantly, become a more culturally competent physician. I chose to pursue the Health and Human Biology concentration because it offers a very interdisciplinary focus. Not only does it allow me to be well versed in the sciences, but it gives me exposure to anthropology, sociology, and public health courses as well.

About Me:
I was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. I am the first in my family to attend college. I found Brown University to have amazing and supportive communities for people of all backgrounds; whether you consider yourself a first-generation student or love to run and do yoga, you will find groups and clubs for any and all of your interests and affiliations. Do not be afraid to reach out for help; everyone here is very friendly and willing to guide you through any questions or concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact me or the other coordinators. Being a Sidney Frank Scholar means you will be arriving to Brown already having a family awaiting you with open arms!
Tin Dang, Class of 2018

Hometown: Clearwater, FL

Concentration: Health and Human Biology, Social Context of Health and Disease Track

Also Familiar With: Premed track, volunteering through the Swearer Center, looking for research opportunities, the Spanish department

Academic Interests: Growing up in an urban center in Vietnam, I was always a witness to the mass poverty intrinsic to developing countries. The memories I have of my childhood there in addition to recent visits have spurred my interests in medicine as a way to alleviate disparities in health attributed to socioeconomic inequality. In this pursuit, I have decided to concentrate in Health and Human Biology with an emphasis in medical anthropology, which I believe will enable me to not only understand the biological causes of disease but also the underlying basis of why people in a targeted subsection of society attain these diseases more, and often to a greater degree of malignancy, than others.

About Me: I was born in Da Lat, Vietnam and first moved to San Francisco, California at the age of 4 before settling in Florida. As a first-generation college student it was hard for me to even think about college until the time came for applications. Among the other colleges, Brown University stood out to me with respect to its philosophy on education and its commitment in the undergraduate experience. Although the community here is very supportive, I would be lying if I said the adjustment for me was easy. From my difficulty I learned that the solution was to simply reach out, to not hesitate in asking for help from friends, faculty, or any of the SFSA coordinators. Ultimately, I have no doubt that you will enjoy Brown with its diverse student body and all of the amazing opportunities that you will find. I am looking forward to meeting you all very soon!
Bianca Audrey Duah, Class of 2016

Hometown: Staten Island, NY

Concentration: Health and Human Biology

Also Familiar With: STEM, Research, Pre-Med, Swearer Center for Public Service Programs, CareerLAB/BrownConnect

Academic Interests: I am concentrating in Health and Human Biology on the Race and Ethnic Disparities in Health track and my dream is to become an Infectious Disease specialist for children in African nations specifically focusing in HIV/AIDS in children in Ghana. My family is originally from Ghana and the inequalities in health, gender and education in both Ghana and in the predominantly low socioeconomic area and simultaneously minority heavy area that I'm from in New York have driven both my academic and career pursuits. If you can't already deduce, I hope to attend medical school after Brown and help people through that!

About Me: I am a young who 21-year old, who is vivacious yet introverted. I was born in Staten Island, New York but raised simultaneously in the concrete jungle of New York City and in the even more bustling Accra, Ghana. I was raised by a disabled single mother and have a younger brother, in what's known as the "projects" of Staten Island, New York. Even before coming to Brown I was a self-proclaimed dreamer so being at this university has amplified these thoughts of the mind. When I first got to Brown, the pressure to complete pre-med requirements forced me to put my other talents on the back burner, yes, even at a place that encourages exploration. At Brown, I've found myself performing Modern African Dance, leading the African Students Association, taking really cool biology classes, and finding hidden/untapped study spaces!

College is difficult but it's worth it, so be excited to know that you have people in your corner, like Dean Bhattacharyya and your Sidney Frank Coordinators to help, encourage and pick you all up along the ride! Enjoy the rest of your summers and see you all soon!
Monica Yang, Class of 2018

**Hometown:** St. Paul, MN

**Intended Concentration:** Education Studies and English

**Also Familiar With:** Hispanics department, American Studies department, Swearer Center Programs, nifty study spots and restaurants throughout Brown and Providence

**Academic Interests:**
I am concentrating in Education Studies because I have always been interested in how early education has constructed and shaped a person’s way of thinking. I also want to create and improve the accessibility of resources among schools in underserved communities. I would like to work with a non-profit education organization, and potentially establish one in the future. I am also interested in linguistics and the way a language applies to a culture. I am currently learning Spanish and hope to study abroad in a Spanish-speaking country within my time at Brown.

**About Me:**
I come from a very large Hmong family of refugees from Laos. Until last year, Minnesota has always been the only home I knew of. I am happy to say that I have a community at Brown that supports and encourages me to strive for my best. I am a part of the First Generation College Student Initiative (or FirstGens@Brown), which is the student organization working to create substantial changes and resources for first generation college students at Brown. I am also a tutor for Brown Refugee Youth Tutoring and Enrichment (BRYTE) where I get to work with an elementary school student within Providence. Outside of Brown, I love trying out new restaurants and cafes and have learned the transit system quite well! My favorite study spot thus far is the second floor of the Rhode Island Hall. If you have any questions, whether it be academic-related or which dish to choose from a food truck, feel free to ask me!