



THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE-ACADEMY SUMMER ASSOCIATES

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF
DIVERSE LEADERS AND ADVOCATES

CLASS OF 2014 ACADEMY SUMMER ASSOCIATES



Left to Right: Diana Ortiz, Joshua Alegado, Rodney Nickens, Yanni Lin, Brian Li-A-Ping, Fhanysha Clark, Tevah El Emmet, Wazi Maret Davis, Terry Allen, and Lauren Valdez





Joshua Alegado

Joshua is originally from Saipan, an island in the Northern Marianas Islands, and immigrated to Burbank, CA. He graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles with a BA in Political Science and a minor in Public Affairs. Joshua served the community through his work in Samahang Pilipino, a cultural organization in UCLA as a board member, peer advisor, and peer tutor. Additionally, he has worked in various political campaigns and as an intern on Capitol Hill. As a Summer Associate, he hopes to develop by working in a think-tank and will enjoy living in the Bay Area for the first time. Joshua hopes to utilize these experiences to eventually serve as an elected official for the Los Angeles area. If Joshua were a superhero he would be named Casio, and his super power would be to control time.



Terry Allen

Terry Allen is a Bay Area native and holds a BA in Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley. This fall, Terry will be attending Columbia University, Teachers College to pursue a Masters in Arts degree in Education Policy. Most recently, he interned with the Department of Scheduling and Advance at The White House. When he's not delivering talks with students about financial literacy and the importance of higher education, he enjoys storytelling through writing, photography and film. He is looking forward to working with Greenlining Institute's Communication team to ensure that communities of color are informed through the different areas of media. His strong disagreements with persisting educational inequalities inform his commitment to pursue advanced research and policymaking. Terry is an active member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and a Gates Millennium Scholar. If he was a superhero, he would be Professor X with the power to influence and most importantly, educate human minds.





Fhanysha Clark

Fhanysha Clark is from Rancho Cucamonga, California and is currently pursuing her Master in Public Policy, specializing in state and local policy, at Pepperdine University. She holds a BA in Afro-American Studies and Sociology, with a minor in Public Policy from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has worked extensively as a policy analyst in municipalities throughout Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley counties, as well as throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Through these experiences, Fhanysha influenced and shaped opportunities for women and minorities to own businesses through policy advocacy, strategic planning, and negotiation. As a Summer Associate, Fhanysha looks forward to learning new progressive strategies to policy reform and ways to empower communities of color. Fhanysha's super heroine alter ego is Foxy Lady Justice and her powers of telekinesis and strength would fight injustice and rid the world of discrimination and hopelessness.



Wazi Maret Davis

Wazi is from Hyattsville, Maryland and holds a BA in Communication and a Major Certificate in LGBT studies from the University of Maryland, College Park. Wazi is currently enrolled in the MA program in Human Sexuality Studies at San Francisco State University. At SFSU, Wazi works part-time as a graduate research assistant with the Beyond Bullying Project--a digital storytelling project about LGBTQ sexuality in high school. They have also volunteered and interned with organizations such as the Mautner Project: National Lesbian Health Organization, Bois of Baltimore, Inc., MarylandCAN (Campaign for Achievement Now), and the National Black Justice Coalition, all of which also organize differently across those intersections to address issues of inequity. Wazi already believes in themselves as a magickal/musical/genderbending wizard boii with the superpower to reproduce through the process of mitosis to make the world a better place.





Tevah El Emmet

Tevah El Emmet is originally from Oakland, California and holds a BA in Marketing and a minor in Entrepreneurship Studies from George Mason University. While there he founded his own multimedia and marketing company. He has interned with The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Sodexo Corp, and Genesis an affiliate of the Gamaliel foundation, the same organization President Obama worked with as a community organizer in Chicago. He is a champion for social justice, and a contender in the battle against injustice. He looks forward to the conditioning he will receive from the Greenlining mentors and is committed to giving every bit of his training to bring the success back to the side of equality.



Brian Li-A-Ping

Brian is a native New Yorker currently attending UCLA School of Law, where he specializes in Critical Race Studies. He received his undergraduate degree in Economics from Princeton University. Before attending law school, Brian worked for several years in Chicago at the law firm of Despres, Schwartz & Geoghegan, where he researched legal issues pertaining to civil and voting rights as well as consumer fraud litigation. As a Summer Associate, Brian hopes to further develop his advocacy skills in order to bring about institutional change benefitting both low-income consumers and communities of color. If he was a superhero, Brian would be called Movado X and his power would be to freeze time.





Yanni Lin

Yanni is originally from Xiamen, China. She holds a BA in Political Science from UCSD and is currently attending UC Hastings College of the Law. From helping self-represented litigants gain access to the justice system, to working on juvenile restorative justice practices in Los Angeles, to serving as the former president of UC Hastings APALSA, Yanni feels very fortunate to have had incredible opportunities to serve and empower marginalized communities. She is passionate about making sure that these communities are not left behind in this new digital age and that technology serves as a catalyst for social and racial equality. Yanni looks forward to working on these goals as part of Greenlining's Telecommunications and Energy Team. As a superhero, her name would be Agent Unicorn and her superpower(s) would be the ability to fly, ensure double rainbows are ever-present, and always make people smile.



Rodney Nickens

Rodney is originally from Portsmouth, VA. Rodney holds a BA in History from UC Merced and a MA in African American Studies at UCLA. He is currently a first year law student at UC Hastings where he is active in the Legal Education Opportunity Program, the Hastings Haiti Partnership, and the Black Law Students Association. Rodney lived in the D.C. Metro Area, where he was instrumental in the Marylanders for Marriage Equality campaign, which won the freedom to marry at the ballot in the November 2012 election. Rodney is passionate about racial justice, LGBT equality, and ending income inequity and mass incarceration. He is looking forward to working at the Greenlining Institute this summer and having the opportunity to grow as a leader, advocate, and scholar. As a super hero Rodney would be the Warrior Prince and he would have super strength, the ability to fly, and be able to travel through space and time.





Diana Ortiz

Diana is originally from Tijuana, Mexico and was raised in Southern California. She holds a BA in History with a minor in Chicano/a Latino/a Studies from Pomona College. In college, she co-created an organization called Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success in effort to provide a space for undocumented students in which they could support each other and bring about awareness of immigrant rights issues. While she developed into a student leader and activist, she also worked in the Draper Center for Community Partnerships where she co-coordinated the English as a Second Language Tutoring Program and the Spring Break Service Project to Los Angeles. Her passion for migrant rights, economic justice, and educational equity stems from her experiences as a working-class undocumented student. As a Summer Associate, she aspires to create positive social change via the expertise leadership training and professional development she will receive. Her superhero name would be Moonlight Butterfly, her super powers are give or take away sleep--depending on whether or not the person is in need of rest or energy.



Lauren Valdez

Lauren is from Southern California and is currently pursuing a dual master's degree in city planning and public health at UC Berkeley. Lauren received a BA in Architecture with a minor in Global Poverty and Practice from UC Berkeley and was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in Brazil. Coming from an environmentally burdened community in Los Angeles, Lauren's work focuses on improving health outcomes in low-income communities of color. She believes in using the power of multimedia and online tools for community storytelling, education, and advocacy. As a Summer Associate, Lauren brings her years of experience producing online media and coordinating nonprofit projects internationally to the organization and looks forward to diving into the policy realm. If Lauren were a superhero, her power would be to have limitless energy.

