

News Release

2017 Chapel Hill/Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship Awarded

Chapel Hill/Carrboro Peacemaking Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 each have been awarded to **Halleluya Alemayehu**, **Kayla Merriweather**, and **Kenneth Xu**. Since 2009 these scholarships have been awarded annually to graduating seniors who live or go to school in Chapel Hill or Carrboro, who are intending to pursue a college education, and who meet certain criteria. The criteria include activism, academic study, and career goals that relate to non-violent conflict resolution, global community, social justice, ecology, and/or population. Halleluya, Kayla, and Kenneth received peacemaking scholarships because of their excellent qualifications, record of study and achievement, strong letters of recommendation, and their desire to pursue careers as peacemakers.



While a student at Carrboro High School, **Halleluya Alemayehu** volunteered with ESL and Youth Forward. She was president of the Red Cross club, a steering committee member of the Global Health club, and co-president of the Yoga club. Her academic studies included Honors Global Issues and Systems and Honors Global Cultures and Minorities.

This fall Halleluya plans to attend Durham Technical Community College. She plans to pursue a Nursing degree and aspires to help women and families access health care, improve lives and see a fairer world where people care for each other.



While a student at East Chapel Hill High School, **Kayla Merriweather** created the Diverse Student Alliance, was regional secretary for Jack and Jill of America, a member of the National Honor Society Leadership team, editor-in-chief of the East Chapel Hill Observer, member of superintendent's student advisory council, a Teaming for Tech volunteer, and was secretary of Tobacco Reality Unfiltered and Students Against Violence Everywhere. Her academic studies included AP Spanish Literature, AP Spanish Language, and AP Psychology.

This fall Kayla plans to attend New York University, majoring in International Relations and Studies, with minors in Spanish and Psychology. She aspires to a career helping the global community and achieving social justice.



While a student at Chapel Hill High School and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, **Kenneth Xu** served as Executive Director of the Student Environmental Education Coalition, a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that he founded to promote environmental literacy through k-12 educational programs. He has also worked as a research intern at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment as well as a counselor for the American School of Asian Culture. His academic studies included twelve environmental science courses (one honors and five college-level). Kenneth is also an accomplished pianist and clarinetist, having served as first chair in high school All-State and All-National Concert Bands.

This fall Kenneth plans to attend Yale University. He plans to major in environmental science and public policy and aspires to a career tackling ecological and population issues.

Over the past nine years, 20 peacemaking scholarships have been awarded. Individuals and organizations who wish to support future peacemaking scholarships can make a financial contribution. Please make a check payable to Peacemaking Scholarship Fund and send it to United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514. The scholarship application form and bios of previous scholarship recipients are available at <http://unitedchurch.org/peacemaking>.

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