

Lewis & Clark



As our 16th Dallaire Scholar, Rene Pacifique Amani (who goes by Amani) returns to Rwanda after his year of study in the Academic English Studies program, he has been recognized as “an exceptional student innovator” and awarded a [\\$5,000 grant](#) from the [Nielson Social Change Innovation Grant](#). Amani will use this grant to implement *The Future Leader Program* in Rwanda this summer as part of his organization’s work in 2023. In addition, Amani was awarded a grant through [Projects for Peace](#) to partner with a local community partner, Kuganira Mental Health, to develop trust-based relational intervention workshops to address the generational trauma caused by the 1994 Rwandan genocide. To learn more about these two initiatives and Amani’s projects, please follow the links above.



*Photo at Portland International Airport, May 2023
courtesy Nancy Visenburg*

Amani is the founder of and program coordinator for the nonprofit organization [One Help One Direction Ihumure](#), which is committed to improving the lives of vulnerable children from hard places (homeless youth) in the Nyarugenge district, Rwezamenyo sector of Rwanda.

A bit more on the The Future Leader Program directly from Amani...

In 2016, I established the nonprofit “One Help One Direction Ihumure” organization, which focuses on the generational trauma transmitted and is based in Rwanda/Kigali.

The organization offers several kinds of programs, all of which are centered on a trauma-informed perspective. The Future Leader Program is the most effective endeavor the organization has ever undertaken to provide young people with a platform for developing their leadership and entrepreneurship skills.

The Future Leader Program offers a one-week boot camp to boys and girls between the ages of 17 and 20 who are from traumatic backgrounds. The goal of the program is to give them a secure space to express themselves while simultaneously preparing them for the future.

We picture them as the community’s newest game-changers and as individuals with successful stories of their own. I firmly believe that investing in youth by teaching them and providing them with resources is the best way to change the world. This is everything that we do in the organization, and all I want to see is for those children to develop into peacemakers.



Julissa Duran
3rd Graham Scholar
2022-23



Julissa moved to the United States from El Salvador in 2019 and attended Roosevelt High School where she thrived academically in an entirely new culture, language, and way of learning online.

She studied in Academic English Studies this year to bridge and prepare herself for college and professional success in the United States. As she departs after a successful year of study, she continues her studies in pursuit of a career in medicine.

Reflections from Julissa in May 2023

I want to thank you all for this amazing opportunity, which unfortunately gets to its end but I will always remember it.

When I started the year at L&C as an AES student, I was pretty nervous and used to think a lot about how the experience was going to be. Now that it's the end of this academic year, I can say that the experience was amazing, I got new skills, knowledge, people, and new experiences.

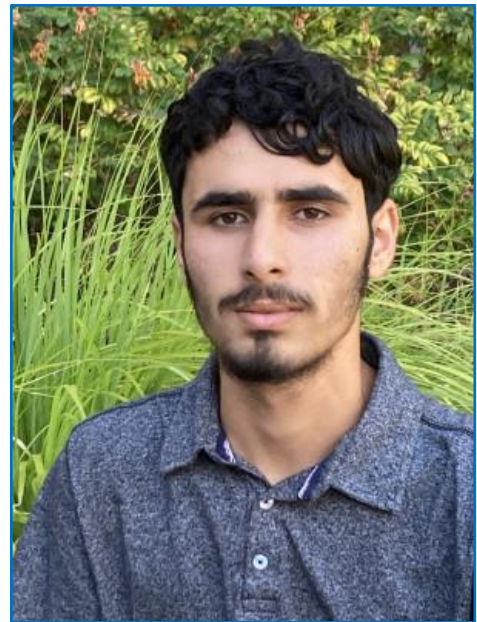
My next step will be to study Bioscience Technology at PCC but I'll have to take some classes to get into the Biotech program, and I hope to make it to the end. My reading, writing, and speaking skills in English have improved a lot.

Now I don't write, speak or read in English like I used to do [better!]. Besides getting a nice English proficiency, I got more confidence in myself.

Thank you so much to each of you for having built this opportunity that helped me to give one more step to achieve my goals, and to be who I want to be. I wish you all a nice summer, take care. Thank you for everything!

Nabi Gharib Dost,
1st Graham Scholar from Afghanistan 2022-23

Thanks to the generous support of the Office of the President of Lewis & Clark, an additional Michael Graham Scholarship was awarded for 2022-2023. **Nabi (Na-Bee') Gharib Dost** is the recipient of the Michael Graham Scholarship for an Afghan Refugee. Nabi emigrated from Afghanistan to Beaverton, Oregon with his family in 2018 and is a recent graduate of Beaverton High School.



Nabi is a serious and dedicated student. His hard work this year in his AES studies positions him to be very successful as he begins his studies at Portland Community College in the fall. He is interested in pursuing a degree in computer science and hopes to be able to return to Lewis & Clark to finish his degree. We hope he does!

Reflections from Nabi Gharib Dost on AES program and Lewis & Clark, May 2023

Can you believe it? It is already the last day of classes. It feels like we just got here yesterday. Even though we feel that it was a short period of time being here but we've gotten a lot from it. I am sure that we all had great experiences being in AES, I know I did. But somehow my experience was different from my first impression. When I first came here, I thought that I would only be able to improve my English skills and that would be it.

However, what I've experienced here at AES has been completely different and wonderful. Of course, I did accomplish what I was here for, but along with that I learned something that will stay with me forever, and that is the skills of working with other people, people from different backgrounds, and working with groups. I had a great time here, I made great relationships with classmates, instructors and other students. It was an honor for me to be here.

After I leave here I am going to study computer science here in Portland, and the English skills that I accomplished here would help me start my major. In the future I have to work with people, groups, and with people of different backgrounds. So, having the experience of working with people of other cultures will make me very successful in school and in workplaces.

I am grateful to have received the Michael Graham Scholarship, which provided me with an opportunity to have such a great experience in AES. I would like to thank all my instructors for being very flexible with us, and for doing their best to make the classes very enjoyable and convenient for us.

Lastly, I would like to thank my classmates and other students for working together very enthusiastically. I hope we all use the skills that we learned here at AES in our future studies and careers.



*AES Class Volunteers at Lift UP Food Pantry
April 2023*



Thoughts from Amani as he graduates from AES

I am so happy to be here, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Donors, Director, Teachers and all friends of the AES

program. Without you, I wouldn't be able to stand here to share my experiences at Lewis and Clark College.

But before going through my experiences, I want to share with you the story of how I found out about the Romeo Dallaire Scholarship, and what I was expecting to gain from it.

I learned about this scholarship in 2017. My friend, Patrick, introduced me to the program as he was a scholar at that time. He knew that this program was going to help me as someone who dedicated his life to change other people's lives because we do a similar job in Rwanda, helping kids in need.

The first time I applied, I wasn't accepted, but I kept applying after that, but let me tell you the truth: when I got accepted in 2022, I was happy because that was perhaps the best time because I now knew my strengths and weaknesses to run an organization. I was expecting to improve my English language but also exchange experiences with other students.

And guess what! It happened.

Today, I feel like I have achieved my goal here and ready to take all the skills and knowledge I gained back home with me. First of all, my English is very functional. Now I can communicate easily with it. Next, I learned about culture differences by actually experiencing them. Being in the same class and community with different backgrounds has changed my perspectives.

Last but not least, I made new friends and had fun as much as I could. In addition, English classes, mostly AES courses, have played a big part for me to fund my non-profit organization where my two projects will be funded by Lewis and Clark departments.

I won those grants because now I can write a good proposal. Moreover, back home, we have an English program for our kids every Saturday, when they come to our center to learn basic English and get support in their academic studies which are all taken in English.

I will be happy to facilitate that program now that my English is so much better and I will improve it by sharing the skills learned from the AES program.

Generally, the whole organization will benefit from it because as a founder, I am now so confident to approach other institutions for collaboration or funding our programs, and I also have skill to write good reports and newsletters to be shared with our donors, volunteers and organization members.

Thank you once again for this opportunity that you created for our Rwandan youth, and I know it's not for an individual but the community in general. I am not the only one happy, but this will definitely put a smile on the children's faces in our programs as big as mine. There's an African proverb that says "It takes the whole village to raise a child" and the village here has played and continues to play their part. This scholarship is a huge support.

Murakoze !

From AES Director Laura Shier

We have had a wonderful year in AES, and the experience would not be the same without our scholars. Their life experiences and world perspectives are unique and a great complement to the international students in our program and to the Lewis & Clark students they interact with every day. Thank you for your support of these scholars and our community. I can't say enough about how meaningful their presence is to the AES faculty and me.

Please consider making a gift at this time to support our scholars.

We invite you to make a gift to the Michael Graham Scholarship at this [link](#). Without your donations, this scholarship would not be possible.

Thanks to your support, the Dallaire Scholarship is now endowed!

Visit our [Scholarship Page](#)

Brief Introductions of the 2023-2024 Scholars

Our 17th Dallaire Scholar

The Dallaire Selection Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Josue Niyomutabazi as the recipient of the 2023-2024 Dallaire Scholarship.

Josue is a student at the University of Rwanda. He is completing his master's degree in Quantitative Economics. He is a community activist and has used his numerous volunteer roles as a journalist trainee to support community conversations and advocacy for peace initiatives and support for street children and low-income families. He currently volunteers at GAERG as a program manager for the Memory and Genocide Prevention initiatives.

Our 4th Michael Graham Scholar

We are pleased to be able to support another Michael Graham Scholar for 2023-24, Ana Bartolome. Ana is a recent Roosevelt High School graduate. She came to the U.S. from Guatemala in 2019 with her family. Her plan is to develop her English skills to a level which will allow her to pursue a business degree at an institution of higher education. She envisions this as a way to help others in her Latino community through support of small businesses.

We look forward to welcoming these amazing scholars in the fall and introducing them to our donors and supporters.

Thank you for your continuing support!