At the end of every summer we find ourselves saying, “This was the best summer ever!” Indeed, the summer of 2015 was amazing. We held two incredible Yunasa camps that served nearly 100 campers, all of whom reported high satisfaction with the programs. We interviewed 53 impressive Caroline D. Bradley Finalists and selected 29 new Scholars. We served 170 young people ages 4 to 14 in our Academy program and supported an additional 9 high school students in rigorous Apprenticeship settings. IEA’s inspiring staff has also grown to meet our expanding client base. The summer of 2015 was a robust season of exceptional experiences.

However, although we are celebrating the joy of impacting 360 students in 2015, we are daunted by the abundance of brilliant minds that remain languishing in environments where their potential cannot be recognized or understood. The United States is home to approximately 3.2 million gifted students, yet less than 20% of these children are being served. The school is the first place outside the home that molds a child’s behavior, values, and social skills. When we deny 80% of our gifted students access to rigorous content, discovery, and interesting coursework, we communicate to our children that learning at a stimulating pace is not important. We are running the risk of creating a generation that is working toward mediocrity. Each child deserves to be taught new material every day – to master and absorb delicious ideas and feed their brains until they are full. Human capital is our nation’s greatest resource, yet our schools are struggling to find appropriate educational environments that not only challenge intellectual curiosity but celebrate it, regardless of background.

The children IEA serves are seen, heard, challenged, and supported. It is our goal to continue nurturing young minds, fostering whole-child development, and providing a safe and accepting community for gifted students and their families. Looking forward, we plan to expand our outreach, tapping into populations of gifted students that are frequently overlooked; we intend to pursue accreditation for our exciting menu of offerings; and we seek even deeper relationships with schools to share our knowledge with educators. I am excited about the path IEA is taking. We are determined to enact further change amongst the brilliant children of our community and beyond. These precious minds need our support.

IEA MISSION STATEMENT:
The Institute for Educational Advancement (IEA) is dedicated to the intellectual, creative, and personal growth in our nation’s gifted and high potential youth. Central to the mission of IEA is a commitment to the development of the whole child through engaging learning experiences that promote optimal challenge, mentorship, exploration of ideas, and recognition of personal potential. IEA seeks to connect like-minded individuals and supports a diverse community that creates a sense of belonging and affirmation.
Some of our youngest students immersed themselves in French language and culture together over the summer.

were led by an engineer who works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and two Caltech researchers, one who has been an Apprenticeship Mentor for many years and is teaching a Fall Academy class, demonstrating the amazing connectedness of the IEA community.

In the most recent Genius Day, students worked with Dr. Meg Rosenberg, experts from the Carnegie Observatory, and a curator from The Huntington Library to explore the life and legacy of astronomer Annie Jump Cannon. This was the fifth day of deep learning we have offered since the program began in 2013.

With our last session of the year underway, we can take this opportunity to celebrate the success this program has had in recent years. IEA’s Academy continues to blossom, and we are excited to share what is in store for 2016 with you soon!

Thank you to our amazing teachers and volunteer mini-lecture presenters. Your passion and dedication take our offerings to new heights!

Students collaboratively tested the pH level of different substances in a summer chemistry class.

The IEA Academy program and community continue to grow and are stronger than ever. To start 2015 off with a flourish, we obtained a new teaching space. The space has already proven to be extremely useful, with 341 Academy seats filled in 2015!

While continuing to offer students’ favorite courses, Academy teachers are also constantly developing new and innovative courses for these bright young minds. Among the new classes offered this year were Robotics, Fractals, Adventures in Algebra, Rhetoric and Debate, Medieval Science and Machinery, Disease Detectives, and Strategic Thinking through Game Design.

We also held a student-led focus group to better understand the needs and desires of middle school aged students. Participants enjoyed spending time together, having their voices heard, and listening to a mini-lecture. Feedback gained from this session was used to help us design even more compelling classes for students in this age range.

Highly lauded field trips to engaging locales – including The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens; the Griffith Observatory; and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory – wrapped up several classes this year as well.

In addition to classes, families delighted in attending our popular mini-lecture events. This year’s engaging talks

“"The teachers are outstanding, the curriculum engaging and inspiring, and the teacher to student ratio can’t be beat!!""

— Parent of an Academy Student
The annual Bradley Seminar is the keystone of community for the Caroline D. Bradley Scholarship program, bringing together this geographically scattered group each year and providing a venue where they are able to connect and share ideas. More than 130 Scholars, Alumni, parents, educators, and IEA staff gathered in Washington, D.C. in April for the 2015 Bradley Seminar. The theme – “What does it mean to be a leader?” – invited the community to share stories and perspectives on leadership, learn together from intergenerational dialogue and conversation, and explore the historical richness of our nation’s capital.

The three-day event featured presentations from guest speakers: Helaine Klasky (Chief Communications Officer, G.E.), Dr. Deb Delisle (Assistant Secretary for Elementary & Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education), Colonel Bob “Nunndog” Nunnally (U.S. Air Force, Ret.), and Jim Davis (President and Co-Founder of The Davis Group Ltd. and Co-Founder of IEA). The breadth of professional experience represented by these individuals helped foster the consideration of multiple leadership perspectives, contributing to a vocational panorama of the complex demands of the leader in today’s world.

And of course, a trek to Washington, D.C. would not be complete without stops at some of our nation’s most interesting landmarks and museums. Seminar attendees explored the National Mall, from the Air & Space Museum to the Smithsonian Institution to the National Museum of Natural History. The weekend was capped off by a chilly but scenic evening walking tour of the D.C. monuments, including the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, with a final stop at the White House.

Thank you to all attendees for an enthusiastic time of learning and sharing; for asking questions that have real potential for change and growth, both in our personal lives and in our larger local and global communities; and for the continuing kindness and community demonstrated at this event each year.

“Every time I come to a Bradley Seminar, I am blown away by the enormous talent in the room and walk away with a sense of comfort that someone (IEA!) is empowering these bright young minds to do their best and actively shaping their value systems so that they can be agents of positive change.”

— Parent of a Caroline D. Bradley Scholar
IEA Snapshots 2015

Academy

Yunasa West

Caroline D. Bradley Scholars in Action
Yunasa

Bradley Seminar

Community Events
2015 was another exciting year for Yunasa and Yunasa West! Nearly 100 campers attended the two camps, learning to balance the intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, and physical aspects of their lives.

This year, campers were led through guided imagery sessions, learned about the emotional life of the brain, participated in energy healing workshops, and engaged in an enlightening group conversation with Newberry Award winner Stephanie Tolan on her novel, *Listen* (which was also the theme of camp). Many campers at Yunasa worked together all week to create a Rube Goldberg machine designed to move a chess piece and take a picture with a portable camera. Yunasa leadership campers organized a social with a fictional character theme, a variety show, and Olympics, with events that included human foosball, a water balloon toss, a spirit war, and an egg drop competition.

Campers at both camps also had the opportunity to kayak, soar on the zip-line, practice their archery skills, engage in some peaceful fishing, lounge in hammocks, go horseback riding, play soccer, and test their courage and teamwork on high and low ropes courses.

In addition to the skills campers learned and activities they participated in, Yunasa and Yunasa West campers built a strong community of peers. During the closing campfire on the final evening of Yunasa, a Gratitude Ceremony was held. Standing in a circle, every individual mentioned something pertaining to the Yunasa experience that he or she valued or was thankful for. Many of the returning campers thanked the new children for taking a chance and joining the tribe. Most of the campers tearfully mentioned their gratitude for the important friendships they had made, for the Fellows, for the counselors, and for IEA. There wasn’t one child who didn’t share, and many shared more than once.

As many campers return each year and new campers join in the experience, the Yunasa community continues to grow and support these bright young minds.

“I’m taking away so many valuable things, I can’t possibly narrow it down to just one: new friends, stronger old friendships, a newfound self-love, a stronger leadership ability, and so many unforgettable memories. It was definitely worth it; it always is.”

— 2015 Yunasa Camper
Thank You to Our Generous Supporters

Independent of government support, IEA relies on funding through grants and individual donations in order to provide our unique programs and services to children in need. We are truly grateful for every donation we receive, all of which help make IEA possible.

Thank you, also, to the Mentors who generously volunteered their time and workspaces to help IEA Apprentices, gifted high school students, learn through hands-on experiences in real-world settings.

2015 Caroline D. Bradley Scholars

Trisha Boonpongmanee, Washington
Amelie Buc, New York
Matthew Burke, California
Bernard Cassidy, Washington
Amy Cavet, California
Rishi Dange, California
Katherine Duan, New Hampshire
Iris Ducker, Colorado
Sanath Govindarajan, Texas
Isaac Hershenson, California
Arjun Jain, Oregon
Junah Jang, Washington
Sarah Jung, California
Malaina Kapoor, California
Jeremy Kim, New York

William Leggat, New York
Kaitlin Lim, California
Bennett Liu, California
Brian Liu, Indiana
Gavin McDonell, California
Billy Menken, Minnesota
Patrick Newcombe, Maryland
Nora Rodes, Pennsylvania
Sarah Smale, Washington
Ellie Surman, California
Kristian Walker, Illinois
Thomas Wang, New Jersey
Ethan Yan, California
Julia Zhu, South Carolina

Thank you to the CDB Selection Committee for helping us choose this amazing group of Scholars!

Connect with IEA Year-Round!

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Share your stories and successes with us: IEAgifted@educationaladvancement.org
Thank you for supporting IEA!

CONNECTING BRIGHT MINDS; NURTURING INTELLECTUAL AND PERSONAL GROWTH