



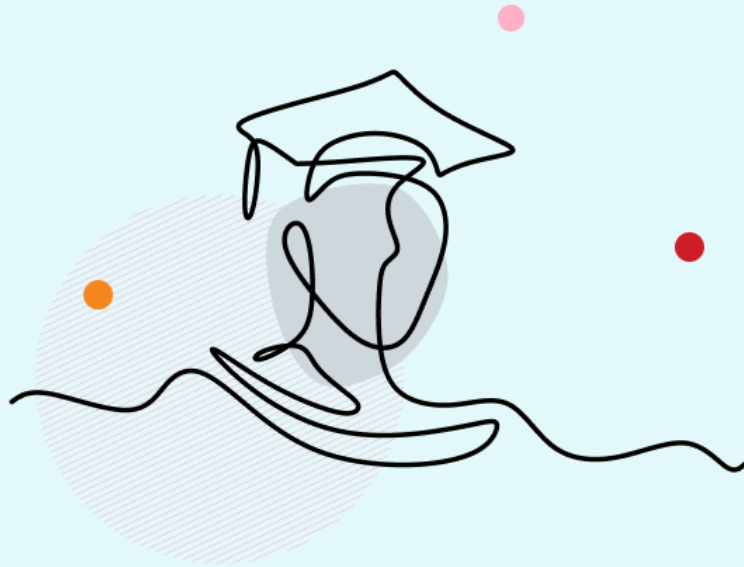
NEW SCHOLAR ORIENTATION

Your Story, Our Story

JULY 18 - 20

Orientation Guide

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Event Logistics

Orientation Location: Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Dr, Universal City, CA 91608

Hotel Check-in: Friday, July 18

- Hotel check-in begins at 4:00pm. If you arrive before check-in, please leave your luggage at the front desk.
- When you check in, you will be asked to provide a payment card for incidentals. This card will not be charged so long as there are no damages or additional costs made to the room during NSO.
- If you are a local scholar with a vehicle, inform the Front Desk when checking in that you are parking a vehicle. Guests will have in-and-out access for self-parking.

Orientation Check-In:

- Orientation check-in begins at 2:00pm. Please make your way downstairs to the Terrace area (refer to the map) to receive conference materials, including parking validation, if needed.
- Check-in will conclude at 5:45 pm as we prepare for the Welcome Dinner.

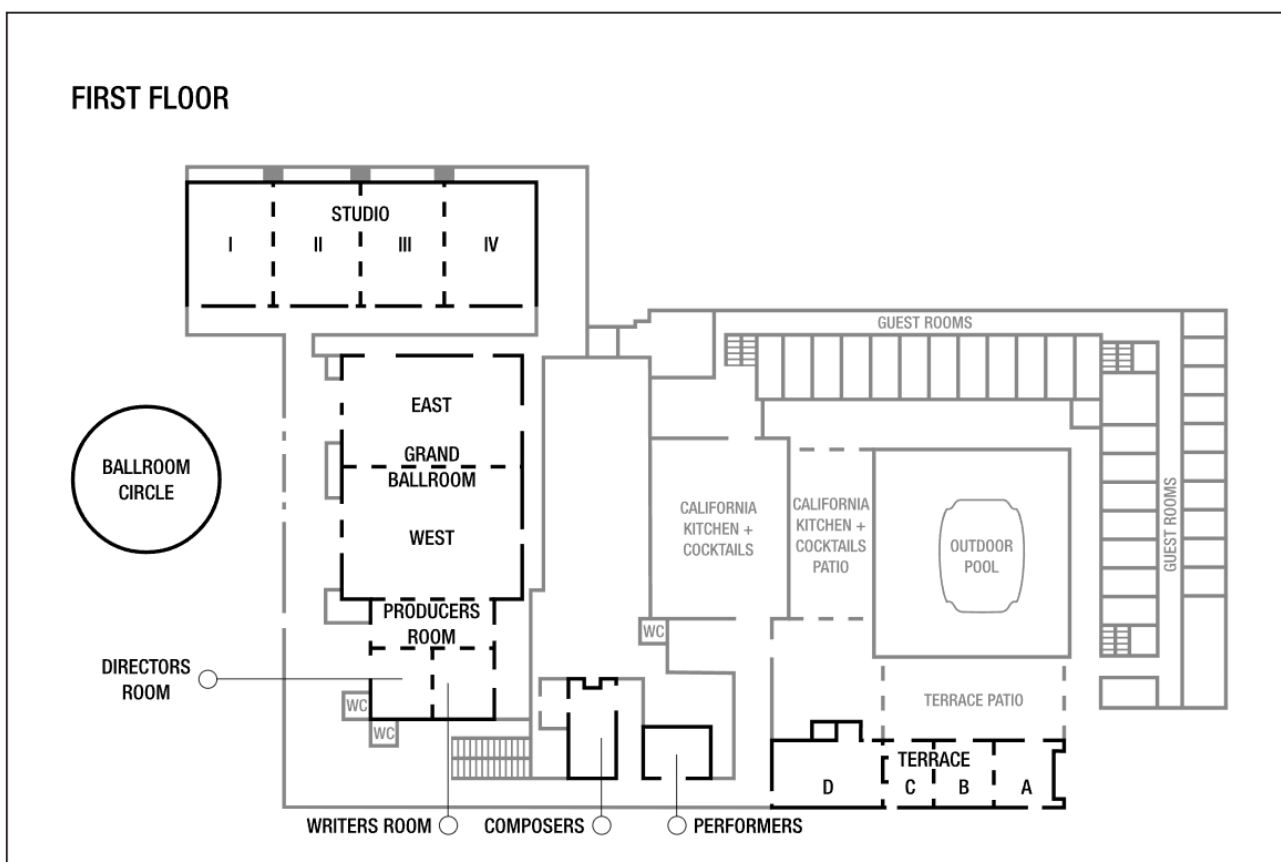
Conference Attire: Smart Casual

- A smart casual wardrobe should include comfortable and versatile clothing that will give you a professional appearance without wearing suits or other formal professional clothing.
- Informal smart casual options might include clean sneakers, dark-colored jeans and structured T-shirts. We do ask that you refrain from wearing shorts, tanks, or clothes with holes or tears.

Event Logistics

Emergency Contact: If you are experiencing an emergency, call **911**. Point staff can also be contacted at 323-580-5053. Staff may contact your emergency contact for additional support.

Meeting Spaces: We will primarily use the Terrace A/B/C/D, Composers, and Performers, which are highlighted on the map below. Some meals will take place outdoors on the patio.



Hotel Check-out: Sunday, July 20

- We recommend checking out before 9:00am on Sunday, July 20, and storing your luggage with the front desk.

Event Schedule

FRIDAY, JULY 18 (DAY 1)

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2:00pm	Orientation Check-In	Terrace Foyer
6:00pm	Welcome Dinner	Terrace D

SATURDAY, JULY 19 (DAY 2)

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00am	Breakfast	Terrace Patio
9:00am	Welcome and Overview	Terrace A/B/C
9:15am	Program Orientation	Terrace A/B/C
9:45am	"Your Story" Workshop	Terrace A/B/C
11:15am	Break	
11:30am	"Our Stories" Leadership Panel	Terrace A/B/C
12:45pm	Lunch + Networking	Terrace Patio
1:45pm	ONE Archives prep activity	Terrace A/B/C
2:15pm	Travel to ONE Archives	Bus
3:00pm	ONE Archives	ONE Archives
4:45pm	Close-out + Preview Day 3	ONE Archives
5:00pm	Travel to Sheraton Universal	Bus

SUNDAY, JULY 20 (DAY 3)

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:00am	Breakfast	Terrace Patio
9:45am	Marketing and Communications Orientation	Terrace A/B/C
10:05am	Finance Orientation	Terrace A/B/C
10:30am	Closing Activity	Terrace A/B/C
11:00am	End of Conference	

Board Members and Panelists

Brian Dent, Board Member

Glenn Evans, Board Member, Speaker

Jenna Gambaro, Board Member, Panelist

Chris Go, Board Member, Panelist

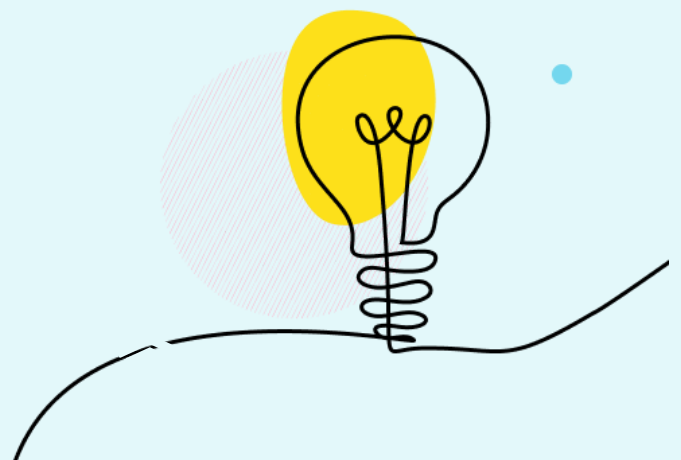
Ben Harman, Board Member, Speaker

Aaron Leifer, Board Member, Panel Moderator

Michael Matthews, Board Member, Panelist

Brooke Sebold, Point Alum, Panelist

James Williams, Emeritus Board Member





AARON P. LEIFER (HE/HIM)
San Francisco, CA
Board of Directors, Moderator

Aaron P. Leifer recently retired as the Associate Director of Technical Consulting at AT&T. Certified in both knowledge management and Knowledge-Centered Service (KCS) practices, he lead a team that designs, builds, and uses tools to author, capture, and standardize business process and reusable proposal content. He's also worked in roles supporting proposal management, executive communications, and human resources staffing and recruitment.

Aaron grew up in Fresno, California, and attended the University of California, Irvine, graduating cum laude with a degree in psychology. While in college, he was very active in student media and government, as well as campus LGBTQ and cultural organizations. These experiences sparked an interest in giving back that continues to this day through Aaron's support for Point Foundation and other charities. He also volunteers as Chair of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), an advisory body to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

A resident of San Francisco for more than 20 years, Aaron enjoys exploring the local restaurant scene, attending films and live cultural events, and traveling near and far to visit friends and family.



JENNA GAMBARO (SHE/HER)
Los Angeles, CA
Board of Directors, Panelist

Jenna Gambaro is a Commercial Endorsements Executive at leading entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Gambaro works in the Los Angeles office where she creates and negotiates opportunities for clients in on-camera commercials, print, and voice-over campaigns, both domestically and internationally.

Gambaro began her career at CAA in 2002.

Gambaro graduated from Portland State University with a degree in Business/Marketing and went on to receive her law degree from Southwestern Law School.

Gambaro currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Webb Schools of California.



CHRIS GO (HE/HIM)
Los Angeles, CA
Board of Directors, Panelist

Chris Go carries over a decade of experience in business development, events, and partnerships. As the Chief of Staff at equalpride, the parent company of renowned LGBTQ+ media brands Out and Advocate, Chris plays a pivotal role in shaping strategy and partnerships for tentpole initiatives, including the Advocate Channel and Out100. His diverse career journey has spanned industries from health to hospitality, and events to entertainment.

Previously, Chris served as the Corporate Relations Manager at Outfest and as the Events Manager at YPO, where he honed his skills in event management and corporate partnerships. Based in Los Angeles, Chris resides with his partner Mark and their beloved cat Margaux, named as a playful nod to their combined names.

When he's not immersed in the world of business, Chris enjoys exploring his passions, including listening to podcasts, attending Broadway shows in New York City, and practicing hot yoga. Passionate about fostering inclusivity and representation, Chris is dedicated to making a positive impact within the LGBTQ+ community and beyond.



MICHAEL MATTHEWS (HE/HIM)
Atlanta, GA
Board of Directors, Panelist

Michael Matthews is Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer of Synchrony, one of the nation's premier consumer financial services companies.

Since 2019, Michael has led strategy development and execution for Synchrony's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Citizenship team and has worked to prioritize recruiting, career development and advancement of diverse talent both inside and outside of the company. Synchrony's focus on diversity has been recognized with multiple external awards reflective of the impact of his leadership.

Under Michael's stewardship Synchrony has launched 'Advancing Diverse Talent,' a transparent data-driven methodology designed to enhance diverse representation at all levels of the company in partnership with leaders across the organization. His team also launched 'Education as an Equalizer.' A citizenship framework that expands access to higher education, skills training, and financial literacy to underserved communities as well as the 'Mosaic Leadership Institute,' a premier training platform focused on the development and promotion of diverse talent.

Michael has over 25 years of HR experience, 20+ being with Synchrony/General Electric where he has had HR-ownership of various parts of the company throughout his tenure.

Michael is a passionate advocate for creating a culture of inclusivity and authenticity. Synchrony's strong diverse culture is evidenced by the membership of more than fifty percent of its workforce in one of the company's eight Diversity Networks and the thousands of attendees at the annual Global Diversity Experience.

Michael is a graduate of the University of Michigan and resides in Atlanta, GA.



BROOKE SEBOLD (THEY/SHE)
Los Angeles, CA
Point Alum, Panelist

Brooke Sebold (they/she) is an award-winning filmmaker, editor, and educator whose work centers empathy, identity, and transformation. A Point Scholar from 2008–2012, they earned their B.A. from Brown University and their M.F.A. in Film Directing from Columbia University.

Their debut feature documentary, *Red Without Blue*, won the Audience Award at Slamdance and the Jury Award at Frameline before airing on the Sundance Channel, PBS, and Netflix. They later co-produced and edited *Framing Agnes*, which premiered at Sundance where it won both the NEXT Innovator and Audience Awards, and was named one of *The New Yorker's* Best Films of the Year. Brooke has directed numerous award-winning narrative shorts, with honors from festivals including Palm Springs ShortsFest and the Florida Film Festival. Brooke is the creator and host of *I Changed My Mind*, an interview series about intellectual humility and personal transformation. Produced in partnership with The Greater Good Science Center and PFLAG, the series has received both an Anthem Award for Social Impact and a Communicator Award of Excellence. Brooke has also edited over 200 episodes of the Emmy-nominated PBS series *Brief But Spectacular*. As a faculty member at the Archer School for Girls, they mentor the next generation of filmmakers while continuing to craft stories that bridge divides and spark dialogue.

Staff Members



Elizabeth Bedortha
Senior Manager,
Scholar Success



Susan Linn Ferris
Director of Human
Resources & Finance



Simone Grice
Development
Manager, Individual
Giving



Hope Harris
Manager, Marketing
& Communications



Tina Kim
Chief Program
Officer



Eddie Pelto
Chief Advancement
Officer



Alejandro Ruiz
Associate Manager,
Recruitment &
Selection



Cierra Russell
Director of Scholar
Success &
Enrichment



Nickolas Sanchez
Director of
Development,
Western Region



Nazara Scanlon Ali
Coordinator,
Programs



Charlie Smith
Coordinator, Finance
& Administration



Grant Stream-Gonzalez
Director of Scholar
Recruitment &
Selection



Jorge Valencia
Executive Director & CEO



Kevin Kim Wright
Chief of Staff

Point Scholars

**Hakki Orhun
Akengin**
he/him
Stanford University

Kris Berg
ask for pronouns
Harvard University

Ethan Bertrand
he/him
University of
California - Berkeley

Alexei Bullara
they/she
California State
University - Los
Angeles

Elliot Certain
he/him
University of
Chicago

Chenlu Gao
she/her
Brandeis University

Lillian Cheung
she/her
University of
California - Los
Angeles

**Lauren Chiemeka
Usonwa Ejiaga**
she/they
Louisiana State
University

Zelan Eroz Espanto
she/her
Case Western
Reserve University

Christian Espinoza
he/him
Claremont Graduate
University

**Kimber Gada-
Steinauer**
she/they
Warren Wilson
College

Bobby Gillespie
he/him
University of Georgia

Brady Hanshaw
he/they
Harvard University

Jordan Henry
she/they
Loyola University
Chicago

Jack Kemp
they/them
University of
California - Davis

Stacey Kim
she/her
New York University

Colin Kim
he/him
Yale University

Louis Lee
he/him
Northwestern
University

Cyrena Matingou
she/her
University of
Michigan

Kimberly Mendez
she/her
Barnard College of
Columbia University

Vidal Martinez
he/him
Georgia Institute of
Technology

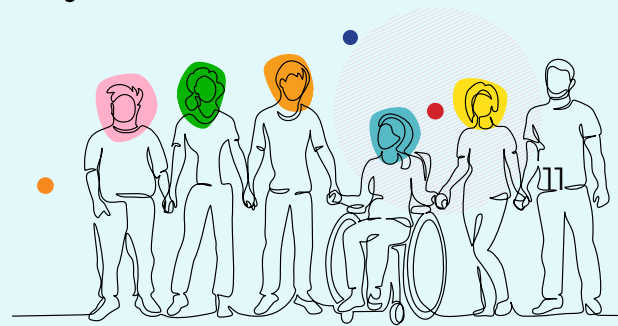
Lily Rood
she/her
Mount Holyoke
College

Maw Karly Simon
she/her
California State
Polytechnic
University - Pomona

Reniza Sookdeo
she/her
Trinity Washington
University

**Patrick Angelo
Sursano**
he/him
Macalester College

Isabella Zollner
she/her
DePauw University



Thank you!

Point would like to give a special thanks to those who supported the 2025 New Scholar Orientation!



Christine Carley
Elliott Mitchell and Clark West
ONE Archives
Sheraton Universal Hotel

