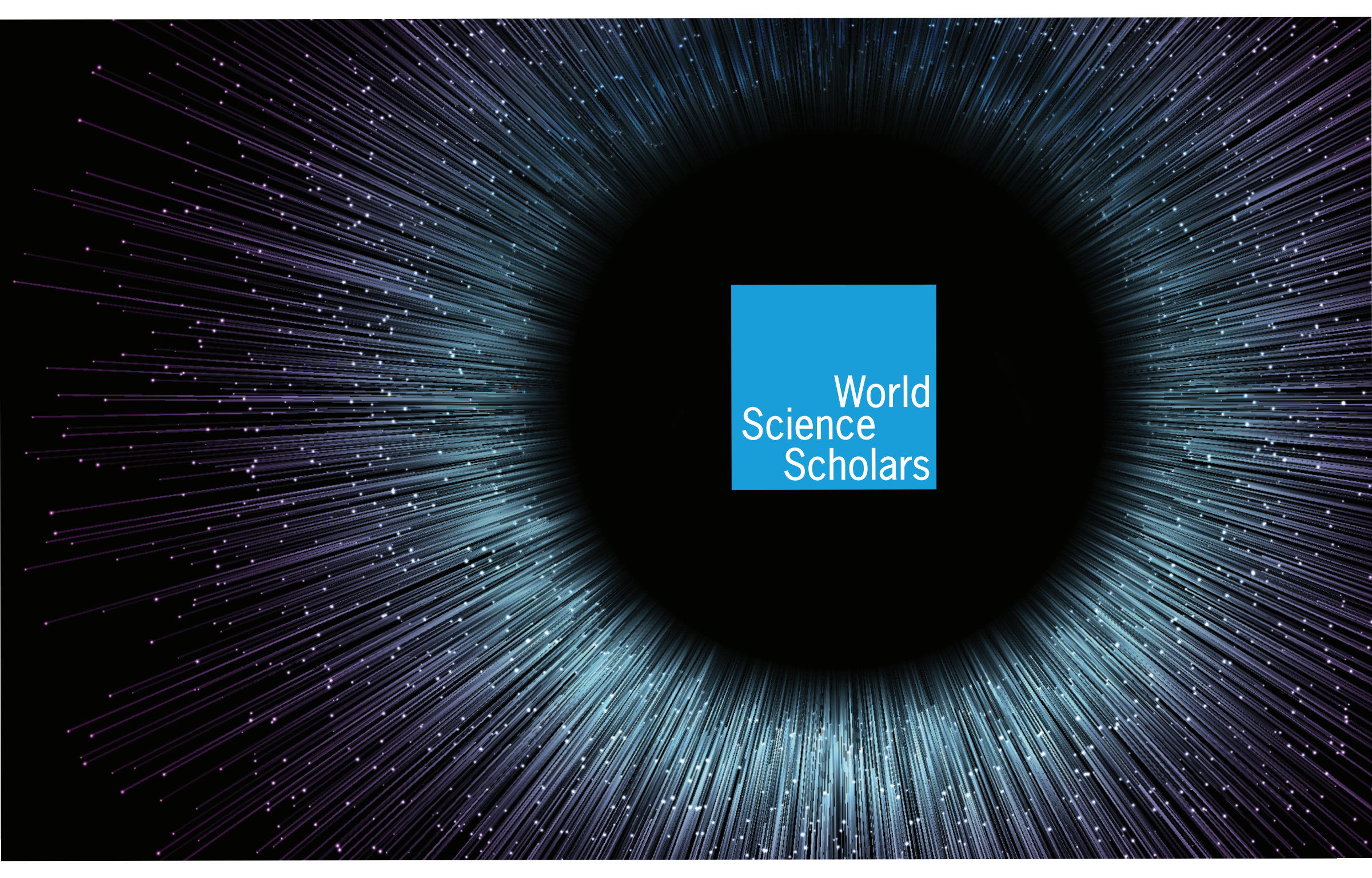

World
Science
Scholars

Mission

The World Science Scholars is an innovative interdisciplinary program that inspires young one-in-a-million mathematical minds to use their exceptional skills to tackle the world's most complex issues.

A Unique Program

From decoding the human genome to mapping the brain, mathematics has been employed in diverse multidisciplinary collaborations to unravel some of life's greatest mysteries. World Science Scholars identifies and selects a small group of national and international high school students with extraordinary mathematical talent and provides them with an unparalleled opportunity to apply their abilities to disciplines outside of pure math. Guided by world-renowned experts, Scholars examine the ways that advanced mathematics skills can be applied to solve complex challenges in a wide range of fields, such as physics, biology, genetics, computer science, neuroscience, robotics, artificial intelligence, and economics. In the process, students expand their perspectives and deepen their knowledge by grappling with mathematical ideas in new and unfamiliar contexts. Many of the program's features, including its emphasis on creating a vibrant and enduring community of Scholars, cannot be found elsewhere.

- **Rare opportunity to interact with Nobel Laureates, Breakthrough Prize recipients, and other cutting-edge researchers who serve as WSS Professors**
- **A culture of collaboration, not competition, within a supportive community of Scholars from around the world**
- **Interdisciplinary courses that emphasize open-ended questions and independent problem-solving**
- **Rigorous college-level curriculum**
- **State-of-the-art interactive online learning platform**
- **Opportunity for "real-world" meetups at the World Science Festival**

Scholars in the World

Scholars hail from across the United States and 25 other countries across six continents.

Australia
Bangladesh
Belgium
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Cambodia
China
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Japan
Korea
Mexico
Nepal
New Zealand
Nigeria
Poland
Qatar
Spain
Saudi Arabia
Taiwan
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States

“It’s a great privilege for me. I wish this program had existed when I was in high school. The subjects explored in WSS courses aren’t part of any standard high-school science curricula — and not part of many undergraduate level classes either.” – WSS Teaching Fellow

World-Class Faculty

The caliber of the WSS faculty is unmatched. Scholars have the rare chance to engage with Nobel Laureate Barry Barish, Breakthrough Prize Laureate Cumrun Vafa, and a host of other internationally prestigious experts from top universities and at the cutting edge of their fields.

Scholars can learn about recent discoveries from the very scientists responsible for the research. For instance, Scholars studied black holes with Prof. Shep Doeleman, Founding Director of the Event Horizon Telescope project that captured the first image of a black hole in 2019. In another course, UCLA Professor of Medicine and evolutionary biologist Barbara Natterson-Horowitz taught Scholars emerging science on a cross-species approach to medicine.

Faculty are recruited from a broad range of disciplines, including physics, computer science, biology, chemistry, medicine, nanoscience, and more. Visionary thinkers and extraordinary teachers, WSS faculty are passionate about engaging with the Scholars and mentoring the next generation of talented youth. Some also began life as math prodigies and have gone on to careers in other fields.

Brian Greene, Beyond the Cloud of Everyday Experience

“The professors’ accomplishments are pretty insane. A lot of them are world-renowned scientists, and it’s pretty cool to be able to learn from them and to have their insight into their particular topic.”

– 2018 Scholar

Sara Walker, Life as the Next Frontier in Physics

WSS Course Offerings

With topics ranging from particle physics, computational thinking, and neuroscience to climate change, astrobiology, and string theory, these college-level courses challenge and inspire. Past courses include:

Vulnerable by Nature: A Species-Spanning Approach to Medicine
with Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, *Harvard University and UCLA*

Accelerate, Collide, Detect: The Future of Particle Accelerators for Pushing the Limits of Physics
with Barry Barish, *Nobel Laureate, Caltech*

Beyond the Cloud of Everyday Experience: Physics and Reality
with Brian Greene, *Columbia University*

A Beautiful Universe: Black Holes, String Theory, and the Laws of Nature as Mathematical Puzzles
with Cumrun Vafa, *Breakthrough Prize recipient, Harvard University*

Chaos in the Ocean: Mathematics of Ocean Boundary Layers
with David Holland, *NYU*

Einstein's Astrophysical Messengers: The Theory and Discovery of Gravitational Waves
with Gabriela González *former LIGO spokesperson, Louisiana State University*

The Universe's Hierarchy: The Emergence of Macro-Properties in Physics and Biology
with George F.R. Ellis, *University of Cape Town, South Africa Medal (awarded by President Mandela), Templeton Prize Laureate*

A Galactic Mystery: Making the Case for Dark Matter
with Justin Khoury, *University of Pennsylvania*

Venom Kill or Cure? The Transformative Power of Venom in Evolutionary and Biomedical Research
with Mandë Holford, *Hunter College*

From Chemistry to Living Materials: What's the Matter with Life?
with Markus Buehler, *MIT*

The Early Universe: Using Cosmological "Fossils" and Other Perturbations to Probe Origins
with Matias Zaldarriaga, *MacArthur Fellow, Princeton University*

Brain Machine Interfaces: From Basic Science to Neurobiological Rehabilitation
with Miguel Nicolelis, *Duke School of Medicine*

Hacking Biology for Nanotechnology: Exploring Biochemical Space in Search of New Molecular Functions
with Rein Ulijn, *Advanced Science Research Center at the Graduate Center, CUNY*

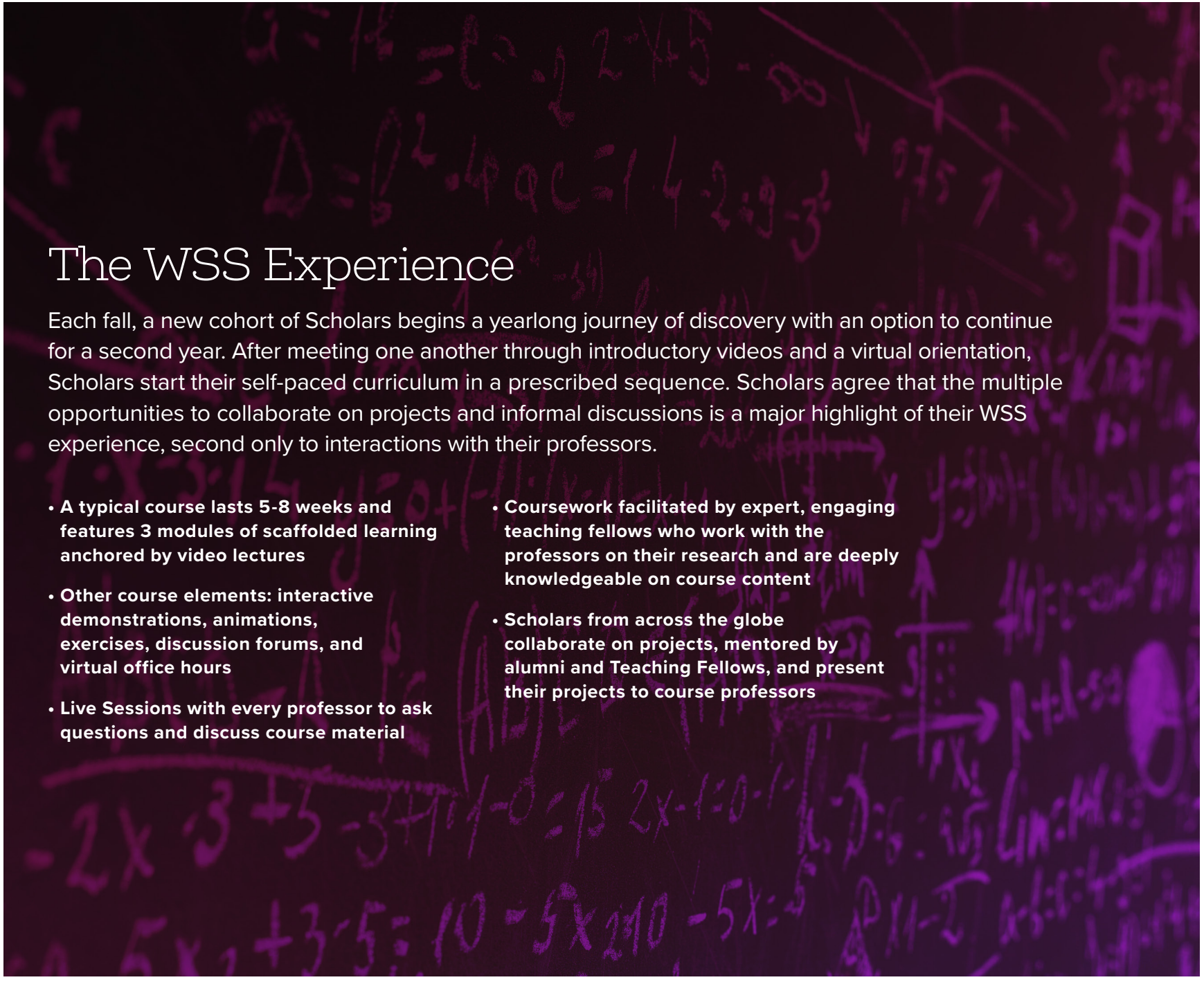
Rewriting the Code of Life with CRISPR: How Studies of Bacteria Transformed Genetic Engineering
with Sam Sternberg, *Columbia University*

Life as the Next Frontier in Physics: Exploring the New Science of Astrobiology
with Sara Walker, *Arizona State University*

Illuminating the Mysteries of Black Holes: Probing and Imaging the Extremes of Spacetime
with Shep Doeleman, *Founding Director, Event Horizon Telescope Project*

A New Kind of Science: The Importance of Language
with Stephen Wolfram, *Wolfram Research*

Big Brains, Small Brains: The Conundrum of Comparing Brains and Intelligence
with Suzana Herculano-Houzel, *Vanderbilt University*



The WSS Experience

Each fall, a new cohort of Scholars begins a yearlong journey of discovery with an option to continue for a second year. After meeting one another through introductory videos and a virtual orientation, Scholars start their self-paced curriculum in a prescribed sequence. Scholars agree that the multiple opportunities to collaborate on projects and informal discussions is a major highlight of their WSS experience, second only to interactions with their professors.

- **A typical course lasts 5-8 weeks and features 3 modules of scaffolded learning anchored by video lectures**
- **Other course elements: interactive demonstrations, animations, exercises, discussion forums, and virtual office hours**
- **Live Sessions with every professor to ask questions and discuss course material**
- **Coursework facilitated by expert, engaging teaching fellows who work with the professors on their research and are deeply knowledgeable on course content**
- **Scholars from across the globe collaborate on projects, mentored by alumni and Teaching Fellows, and present their projects to course professors**

"Learning how scientists worked through and how they approached the problem, and then having a problem handed to us to actually do it by ourselves... that is what the program is all about. I don't really feel that I could get this kind of knowledge on the forefront of research in any other format."

– 2018 Scholar

Interdisciplinary Coursework

DEEP THINKING AND COLLABORATION

Scholars tackle big questions and open-ended problems in all courses.

“What is life? How can we measure it?”

“Through the astrobiology course we learned about mathematical ways that you can actually quantify life or ways to describe life through math....I thought biology would be the most removed from math, but the course showed that there was almost a direct connection.”

“How can species-spanning and evolutionary perspectives on illness make us more compassionate and medicine more humanistic?”

“The most interesting moments were working on group projects and collaborating with other scholars on emerging ideas within the different scientific disciplines. It was great to hear others’ thoughts on science and learn more from each other in the process.”

“How can we design materials from the bottom up, and how can we cross boundaries of science and art?”

“Sometimes, there is no answer yet, which I really enjoyed, because we always learn the stuff that we do know, but we never learn stuff that we don’t know.”

Recruitment and Selection

WSS seeks applicants who demonstrate exceptional mathematical ability; are highly motivated and interested in learning outside a formal school setting; and can understand and communicate complex mathematical and scientific concepts in English. WSS targets high school students.

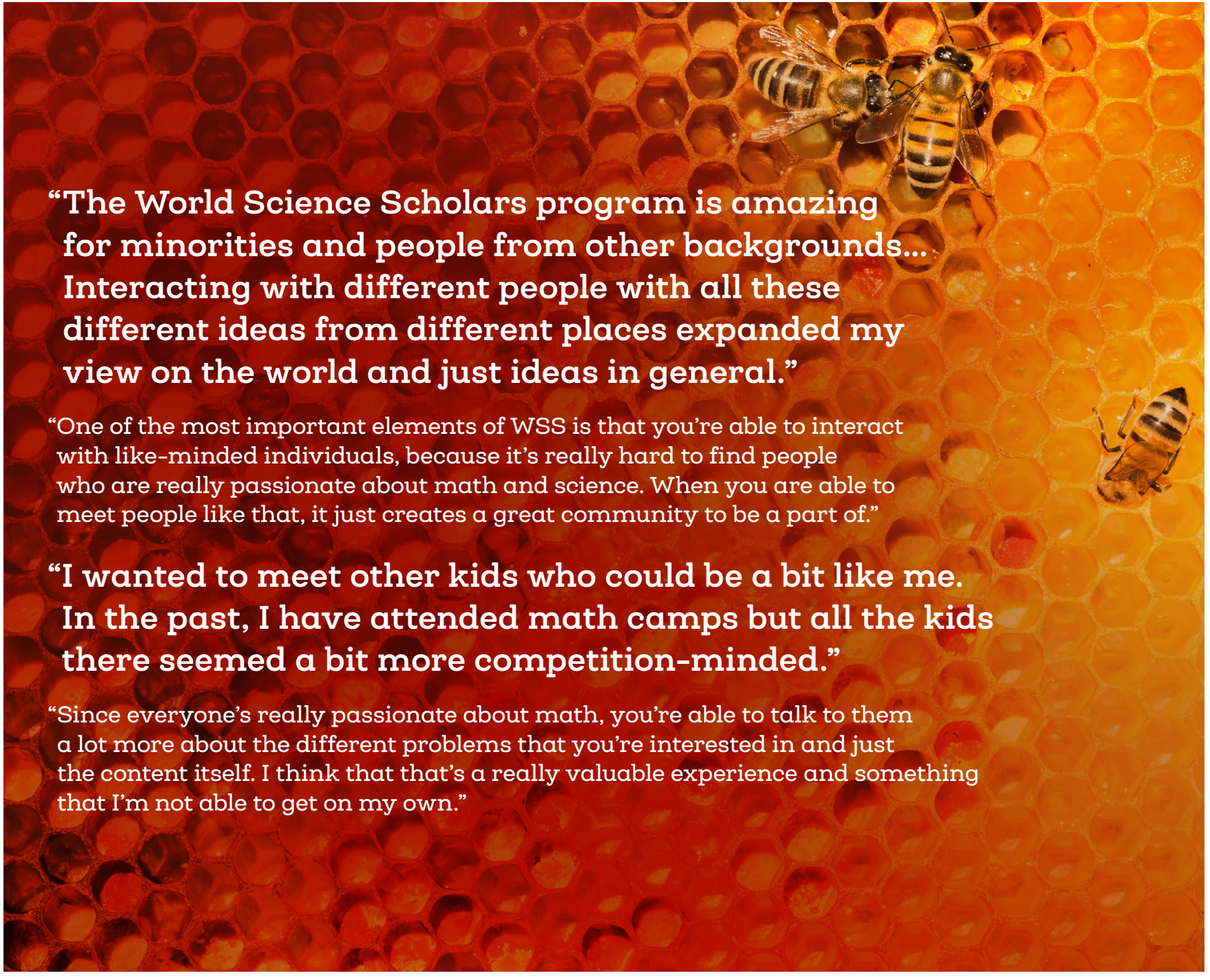
The WSS program takes a creative, holistic approach to the highly selective process. Instead of test scores and academic transcripts, WSS requires letters of recommendation and asks applicants to provide personal statements, videos, coding, or other materials that best represent their intellectual and personal interests.

WSS identifies potential Scholars through a number of different channels, including an extensive international network of over 250 recruitment partners. These include Mathematical Sciences Research Institute; MathCamp USA/Canada; Math for America; Society for Science and the Public; The Davidson Academy of Nevada; and Advantage Testing Foundation's Math Prize for Girls.

WSS is particularly committed to expanding outreach to mathematically-gifted students in under-resourced and underrepresented communities. The Visiola Foundation: STEM Education for African Girls, for example, recently helped identify several female candidates from Nigeria, one of whom was selected as a 2020 Scholar.

Making Meaningful Connections

Forming relationships with peers who share deep intellectual fervour for math and science is an invaluable part of the WSS experience. Scholars feel included and safe in the program's non-competitive environment.



"The World Science Scholars program is amazing for minorities and people from other backgrounds... Interacting with different people with all these different ideas from different places expanded my view on the world and just ideas in general."

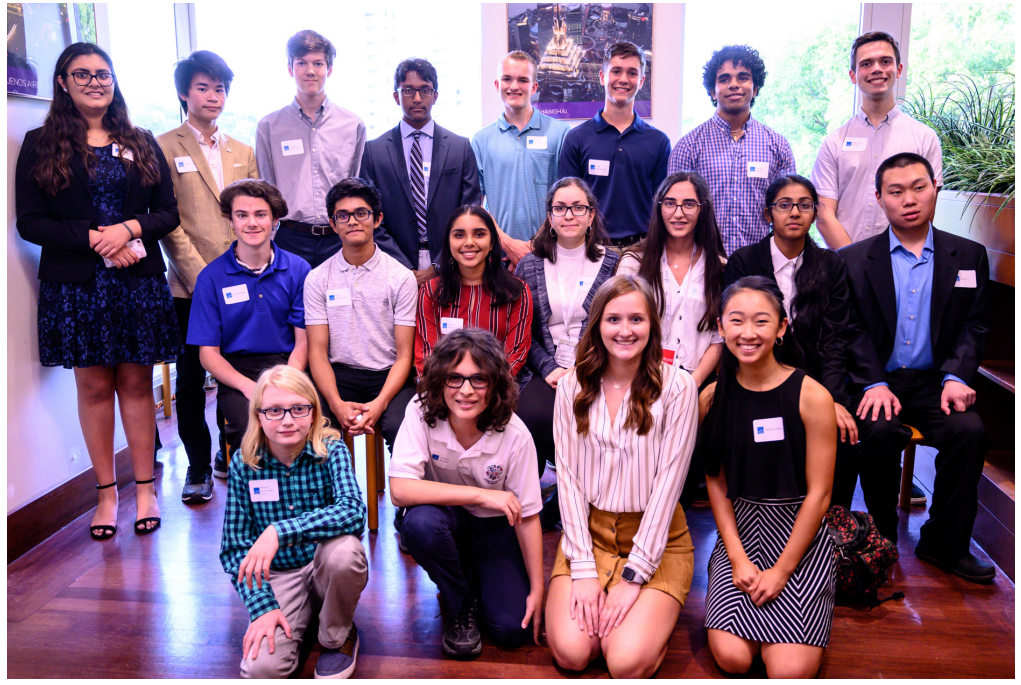
"One of the most important elements of WSS is that you're able to interact with like-minded individuals, because it's really hard to find people who are really passionate about math and science. When you are able to meet people like that, it just creates a great community to be a part of."

"I wanted to meet other kids who could be a bit like me. In the past, I have attended math camps but all the kids there seemed a bit more competition-minded."

"Since everyone's really passionate about math, you're able to talk to them a lot more about the different problems that you're interested in and just the content itself. I think that that's a really valuable experience and something that I'm not able to get on my own."

Real Life Connections

An exciting part of the Scholar experience is the chance to meet with fellow Scholars and professors in person at the annual World Science Festival (WSF) in New York City. Each spring the WSF gathers great minds in science and the arts to present live and digital programming designed to cultivate a general public informed by science, inspired by its wonder, convinced of its value and prepared to engage with its implications for the future.



"The World Science Festival has been really good. No matter what type of learning you prefer, there's a way for a person to learn here and have fun."

– 2018 Scholar

Impact

Through an increasingly diverse array of WSS courses, Scholars have expanded their horizons by combining their math talent with collaboration and creative problem-solving to tackle some of the world's most challenging issues.

80%

Professors believe Scholars have the potential for significant future impact in scientific fields

90%

Scholars say courses reinforced their long-term goals, made them more likely to investigate new disciplines, and deepened or challenged their thinking

87%

Scholars report increased confidence in communicating complex ideas in science and mathematics

"Now instead of just going into pure mathematics, I think it would be really cool to take whatever I know and find ways to implement it into all these other fields."

— 2018 Scholar

Multiplying the Impact

The WSS program has created a community of scholars who support each other in multiple ways. Upon completion of the WSS program, Scholars become members of a growing alumni network and in turn support future cohorts by mentoring their younger peers on course content and projects and serving as informal college advisors. WSS's growing alumni involvement includes the opportunity for ongoing access to future courses, networking events, and special access to the annual World Science Festival.

- **Mentorship opportunities**
- **Alumni Networking for future academic and professional pursuits**
- **Potential for future research collaborations**
- **Enduring relationships**

Join Us

- **Click here** to apply to the World Science Scholars program or nominate a student.
- **Learn more** about becoming a recruiting partner.

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World Science Festival
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 950
New York, NY 10115
Phone: 212-348-1400 | Fax: 212-280-1601
Scholars@WorldScienceFestival.com
WorldScienceFestival.com

World Science Scholars