



# Samantha “Sam” Gray

Four-Year Scholarship Recipient

2017 Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics  
Minors in Cognitive Science & Psychology  
Swarthmore College



*“As a linguistics student at Swarthmore College, I have been able to apply my interest in spoken and written communication over a broad field – from the preservation of ancient languages, to the acquisition of language in children and the hearing or developmentally impaired, to the creation of a machine/language interface in the realm of artificial intelligence – and have supplemented my primary studies with courses in cognitive science, psychology and computer science. My activities as a research assistant have focused on the documentation and revitalization of endangered languages and the cultural knowledge they embrace. This summer I will continue my work with the Navajo Language Academy, which is committed to preserving the Navajo language and teaching it to younger generations. My Wings Over America scholarship will help me complete my undergraduate studies next year, and hopefully achieve my goal of continuing linguistics research at a graduate level. By analyzing morphology (the smallest units of meaning in a language) and the historical changes that have taken place in languages (both existing and extinct), I hope to further our understanding of how languages are related to each other, how we learn language, and what that tells us about human cognition. It is my aspiration as a linguist to use this knowledge to improve how we communicate with each other in the future – between cultures, between humans and computers, and ultimately, between worlds we may know nothing of yet.” (2016)*



*“I am so happy to tell you that this past weekend I received my BA with High Honors in Linguistics (with minors in Cognitive Science and Psychology) from Swarthmore College, and was also inducted as a Phi Beta Kappa member. I will begin a five-year PhD program in Linguistics at the University of Chicago in the fall as a recipient of a Beinecke Scholarship for graduate studies in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Once again, I want to thank you and the scholarship committee at WOASF for your confidence and support throughout all four years of my undergraduate education.” (2017)*