Molly Porcher, Class of 2013

For my thesis, I am researching the way African history has been taught in American public schools. In particular, I am looking at the way Africa and African history have been represented in the history curriculum over the past half century and how changes in these representations are related to the American political and social environment. In conducting my research, I wanted to analyze primary sources like textbooks and curriculum barometer of how the treatment of African history in schools has developed. I used my Small Nyhus Travel Grant to travel to the Cubberley Education Library at Stanford University, which has a collection of twentieth century textbooks (up until 1970) that allow me to survey change over time in American world history textbooks, specifically the treatment of African history in these texts.

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Faculty Mentor: David Gordon