James Volz ’15 was first attracted to Yale by its music programs. “Aside from Yale's superb academics, what caught my attention was the vibrant music performance scene,” he said. “As an avid tuba player, I was thrilled by the prospect of going to school with people who were passionate about music.”

A trip to campus confirmed that the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, native had made the right decision. “I got a feeling at Yale that I didn’t anyplace else,” James said. “I experienced the people, the campus, the city, the food, the history—it felt like I had made a great friend, and I wanted to stick around.”

James soon discovered that Yale also posed worthy intellectual challenges, from building a car with the Bulldogs Racing Team to exploring the wide-ranging blue book. “My favorite course was Paul Bloom’s Moralities of Everyday Life. No other class caused me to rethink so much of what I thought I understood,” he said.

A double major in psychology and philosophy, James hopes one day to be an entrepreneur. “I’m curious about how the environment we inhabit and our interactions with others influence our decisions,” he said. “In my psychology classes, we learn how people act, but in philosophy, you examine how people should act. In the future, I hope to answer questions about how the world should be and design solutions that help individuals in daily life.

“None of this would be possible for me without financial aid,” he added. “I am so grateful for this experience.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like James to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.