Tarek Ziad DC ’20 can be found all around Yale. When not in class, the dual major in theater studies and ecology works in a lab, appears in productions on the university’s various stages, performs and travels with the Heritage Theater Ensemble, and serves as co-director of the Yale Exit Players, the oldest improv group on campus. To many first-year students, however, Tarek is immediately recognizable as one of the first faces they meet at Yale.

“I starred in the first-year orientation videos for the dean’s office,” Tarek says with a laugh. “Pretty much the whole new class this year watched it. I get a lot of looks during the day, and sometimes students around campus will call out my name.”

It is easy to see why the dean’s office cast him in a starring role: Tarek’s love and enthusiasm for Yale are abundant. “I looked at a couple of colleges,” he said “but the people at Yale stood out. I could tell this was a special school. We collaborate with each other here, and there’s a team spirit that makes Yale a very welcoming place.”

A participant in the QuestBridge program, which links low-income students with educational opportunities, Tarek can attend Yale thanks to the university’s financial aid program and the generosity of donors. The scholarship he receives was funded by a bequest from a Yale College alumnus.

“It is profound to know that someone who graduated years ago has helped to make Yale possible for me,” Tarek says. “I am so thankful for this chance.”

Donors make it possible for exceptional students like Tarek to attend 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.