As an undergraduate, Jacqueline Ly ’17, who also goes by Jackie, excelled in her major of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. She also came to value her strong ties to the Yale community—so much so that this new alumna has stayed on as a Woodbridge Fellow in the Office of International Affairs and a resident affiliate in Pauli Murray College.

A native of Newton, Massachusetts, Jackie credits First-Year Scholars at Yale (FSY) as foundational to her success. A bridge program for low-income and first-generation students, FSY brings students to Yale during the summer before their first year for coursework and academic counseling. Equally important, the program connects students like Jackie to Yale’s best resources and traditions.

Five weeks as an FSY participant made Jackie feel at home at Yale. Later, as a rising sophomore, she became an FSY counselor for incoming students, and she has remained close to the program ever since. “Working with incoming first-years is like talking to younger versions of myself,” she said. “I cannot wait to see how their Yale careers and careers beyond Yale turn out.”

Jackie’s own career will unfold in healthcare. As a science major, she conducted hands-on research in the Yale School of Medicine, using mouse models to study neural pathways related to obesity and to elucidate molecular mechanisms related to body fat tissue mass. She also interned with the R&D team of a biomedical company near her hometown. Following her term as a Woodbridge Fellow, she hopes to attend nursing school to pursue her goal of becoming a family nurse practitioner.

“Scholarships made it possible for me to come to Yale, and FSY showed me how to excel here,” Jackie said. “My network of FSY friends was the foundation for my larger Yale family, and I am grateful to be part of it.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Jackie to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. Programs like First-Year Scholars at Yale help them thrive. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.