When I came back to the United States, I really never pictured Africa as a lush green paradise. Growing up, I had always thought the whole continent of Africa was similar. Even as I learned more, I only heard about poverty and conflict in the news. The time I spent in East Africa completely blew away all of my expectations. Never once did I feel in danger or unwelcomed. The only dirty kids I saw were playing soccer in the dirt, not begging with hands open. Not to say this doesn’t exist, but I never pictured Africa has a lush green paradise with some of the nicest people I’d ever meet. When I came back to the United States, I really had to reevaluate how little it should take to wake up with a smile.

Why did you nominate Carter?

"Carter has always been so friendly to me and everyone I see him interact with. He is always genuinely interested in what you have to say and the perspective you bring to the table. Carter is very passionate about human rights and his work with the student rights organizations on campus has been wonderful. Carter continues to challenge himself, his peers, and the process. It is very motivating and Carter is someone I look up to day in and day out. As some would say, 'He's killing it.'"

-Wynn Tan