

2020

CHP ANNUAL

CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM



I ILLINOIS
Campus Honors Program

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CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM

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Please send all future updates to Annual Editor
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NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2019

CHP enjoyed welcoming first-year students to the Campus Honors Program on August 23, 2019! The Orientation began at a breakfast at the Illini Union with icebreakers, Steve Petruzzello was the Keynote Speaker, Antoinette Burton informed students about the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, and the program concluded with CHP orientation info provided by staff and HSC Executive Board students.

Students attended a picnic at the Honors House later that afternoon, complete with a wonderful barbecue and desserts! It was a fun and informative start to the CHP year.

Above: Chancellor's Scholars at Orientation BBQ
Cover: Honors Student Council members

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Unlike previous years as Director of the Campus Honors Program, my first thought while writing the Director's Message this year is to wonder how many of our students, faculty, friends, and alumni, have been seriously impacted by COVID-19. Although all of us have experienced the need to socially distance, and many of us continue to work remotely, I hope very few have experienced the physical or financial wrath of the virus. For me, it has been a lesson in appreciation. I am reminded daily how much it means to visit family without worrying about infecting them, to hear the students climb the stairs to their classes in the Honors House, to interact with students and faculty about their daily activities, to plan events with our dedicated staff, to celebrate with our students their successes through events like graduation, and to welcome alumni back to campus whenever they are kind enough to visit. Our lives have been impacted, but we will overcome this challenge and be stronger because of the many valuable lessons we have learned.

This fall, many of our courses will meet in a synchronous format, in which faculty can engage with students in real time. Although it will be more challenging to develop community in the way that in-person instruction more easily enables, our faculty, staff, and Honors Student Council members have been working hard over the summer months to find unique and creative ways to engage students virtually. Ultimately, the outcome will be a stronger program because we have learned how in the future to successfully engage students even when they may be studying abroad or engaging in remote internship experiences. We have also acquired the skills and technology to invite our alumni to present guest lectures to students in a virtual format.

Prior to moving to online instruction after spring break, we had many achievements of which we are proud. We welcomed new students to campus during our annual Orientation breakfast at the Illini Union and evening picnic at the Honors House. Nafissa Thompson-Spires, acclaimed author of *Heads of the Colored People*, presented the Keith Kelroy Convocation Lecture and spoke with students during an elegant dinner. Our Honors Student Council hosted a series of lunch lectures presented by deans from across campus, and facilitated fun evening events that included pumpkin carving, painting sessions, card making for children in hospitals, a murder mystery dinner, and game and movie nights. Our Scholar Adventurers Series events included a trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, campus tours of various facilities and exhibits, and sessions that sparked student interest like Vampire Tales from the Ancient World, the Fourth State of Matter, Social and Moral Cognition, *Acts of Faith* by author Eboo Patel, The American Heartland Myths and Connections, Food of the Gods, and many more. We also honored long-time faculty member Helaine Silverman with the King-Broadrick Allen Award for Outstanding Teaching, and Spenser



Bailey, Trennedey Kleczewski, James Tiao, and Justin Tiao, with the Calvin Ke Award for outstanding student leadership and contributions.

For me, the end of this year is particularly bittersweet because it is my last year as Director of the Campus Honors Program. I have accepted a position as Interim Department Head in my home academic unit of Kinesiology and Community Health. Given the challenging time in which we currently live, I felt the need to step up to the plate to help lead our faculty and students through the coming year. Directing the Campus Honors Program over the past seven years has been the greatest honor of my professional career, and I intend to remain in touch with the countless number of students who have impacted my

“
Directing the Campus Honors Program over the past 7 years has been the greatest honor of my professional career.”

life. They are the reason we work so hard and challenge ourselves to achieve at an even higher level. Until an Interim Director is appointed, which should happen in the coming weeks, I have agreed to continue in my role as Director.

Martin Luther King, Jr. eloquently stated, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.” As I leave the position of Director, my wish is that each of you will use the education you received at Illinois to help end the systemic racism that continues in our nation and throughout the world. We have incredible power to speak against racism and to lend our voices in demanding change, especially in the spaces we occupy.

I extend my deepest thanks to our alumni for their generous support of the program, the faculty who commit themselves to educational excellence, the staff who have become lifelong and trusted friends, and our exceptional students who make this pandemic more difficult because we miss seeing them so much. I hope you and your family remain safe, healthy, and in good spirits in the coming year. Please stay in touch and remain connected.

Best wishes,

Kim C. Graber, Ed.D.
Director, Campus Honors Program
Professor and Interim Department Head,
Kinesiology and Community Health

REFLECTIONS ON COVID-19

COVID-19 Reflection

By Neha Arun, Biology

As every email and news article says, in this “unprecedented time,” I think I’m taking the current situation as a break from the busy life I usually have at college to create my “new normal.” Of course, I’m thankful that I am safe enough to be able to do this, and I definitely miss my friends and college life. Life is definitely different without my frequent bubble tea trips, and I’m constantly reminded that the world around my home bubble is in a crisis. (For example, the grocery store restricts my six-person family to a single banana per week due to shortages.) I’m glad that I was able to accept the situation relatively quickly, so I could tell myself to make the best of it since I can’t change what’s happening. I decided to take this time to focus on things I pushed to the back burner during the regular school year.

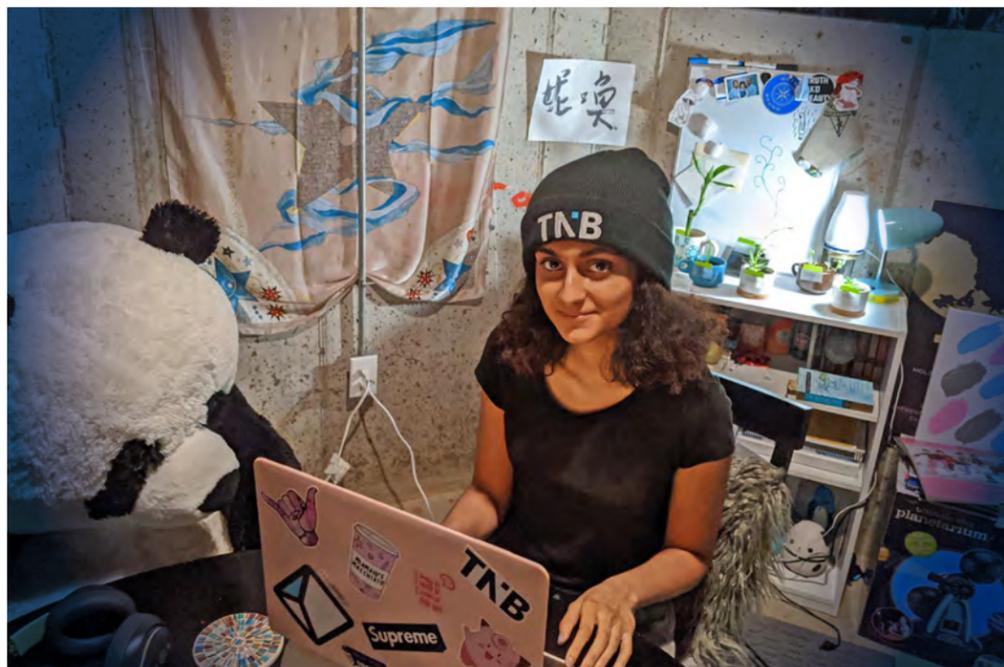
I’ve restructured my week so that I do most of my work the first three to four days, so I can have an extended weekend for the rest of the week. I was always too busy to do much with my family in high school, so I’m glad I’ve been given some time back to spend with them. During these “relaxation” days, my activities range from watching nature documentaries to cooking and baking things I never thought I could make without burning.

Since I’ve been able to look at things with a positive attitude, I also wanted to make myself useful because I know most of the world isn’t having a fun “break.” On a personal level, I like to talk to my friends quite often with apps like Zoom or Houseparty, because not seeing my friends is the one aspect of my life that isn’t the same and I feel the worst about. On a global scale, since I can’t conduct HIV research anymore, I’ve signed up for opportunities like “Crowdfight Covid-19” and “RapidRona,” so I can at least attempt to make a difference by helping people.

Though I definitely miss things like relaxing in the Campus Honors House with a hot cup of tea, I’m glad that I was able to take advantage of my comfortable situation at home to give myself a break before my upcoming busy semesters and hopefully make myself useful through volunteering activities in this unpredictable time.

“I decided to take this time to focus on things I pushed to the back burner during the regular school year.”

Chancellor’s Scholar Neha Arun in her home environment



A CHP’s Alum’s Experience

Thanks to **J.P. Gerdt** (2008 alumnus, *LAS Chemistry*), who passed along a 4/29/20 story entitled “A Day in the Life of an ER Doctor” from *The Harvard Gazette* about **Anita Chary** (2008 alumna, *LAS Chemistry and Anthropology*) about her work fighting COVID as a 3rd year ER Resident at a Harvard Medical School hospital.

The article, which is located at <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/04/third-year-resident-describes-a-day-in-the-life-of-an-er-doctor>, details a ‘normal’ day in the Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency Program, from her early morning walk from her apartment

“I actually feel very privileged and lucky that I can be among the physicians who are serving patients in this time.”

to the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in the Longwood Medical Area, where she works with many patients who “arrive with complications related to the novel coronavirus, requiring more involved, sometimes intensive treatment,” and who she must divide “into three categories: those who are well enough to leave and recover at home; those who must be admitted because they need oxygen to help them breathe; and those who need intensive care and a ventilator.” Anita notes that “I think there is a weight that you feel when you sense that you are going to be the last person to talk to someone or spend any time with that person when they are awake and alert,” with the context that “at the urging of the hospital’s palliative-care team, Chary and her colleagues are having patients requiring a ventilator record messages to loved ones on their phones before they are sedated.” There are notes of hope and optimism, with Anita, who is also a clinical fellow in emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School, confirming that

“careful planning has been the key to the Brigham’s response to the pandemic” since she “has access to the gowns, gloves, masks, face shields, and head coverings she needs, along with a reduced work schedule — an effort by administrators to keep the workforce as safe and healthy as possible.” Anita says, “I actually feel very privileged and lucky that I can be among the physicians who are serving patients in this time, when they truly need us to take care of them. I think many people go into medicine with this desire to heal the sick, and I feel like I’ve never been prouder to be a physician.”

COVID-19 Response

By Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design

In response to COVID-19, I created positivity posters. These posters aim to spread some motivation, inspiration, validation, and happiness during these tough times. The color scheme was chosen due to its calming, simple, and welcoming atmosphere. The quotes were selected based on their relevance and ability to spark motivation, inspiration, or validation.

In this project, I explored using type as image and creating balance and movement within a piece. I also experimented with creating a cohesive set of designs that are strong on their own and work well together as a group. I really enjoyed creating these posters since they combined two of my favorite activities: art and collecting inspirational quotes.

Chancellor’s Scholar Gail Schneiderman’s artwork



Alice Foreman (2010 alumna, *LAS Earth Systems, Environment, and Society*) in March 2020: “What a crazy time to be alive, huh? I’m surviving here, teaching remotely through video conferencing and recording myself. It’s hard being so isolated though.”

Carley Peldiak (*BUS Accounting and Finance*) was studying abroad in Italy when the COVID-19 pandemic began, and is featured in the 2/25/20 story “‘It’s Terrifying’: Coronavirus Impacts Suburban Students Studying Abroad In Italy” at <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/its-terrifying-coronavirus-impacts-suburban-students-studying-abroad-in-italy/2226278/>. Carley, who was studying at Bocconi University in Milan, was able to get to Vienna, Austria with another U.S. student, and later, back to the U.S.

Sophia Ebel (*LAS Comparative Literature*): “I had been planning to study abroad this fall semester in Vienna, Austria. Since fall study abroad was canceled I’ve been in touch with the program director in Vienna about other ways to connect with programs and opportunities there, and am about to start volunteering virtually with Station Wien, an organization in Vienna aimed at fostering intercultural communication and exchange, building connections between refugees/migrants to Austria and the general population, and providing academic and language support to recently arrived migrants. I’m really excited to still be able to get involved with their projects from Illinois since I had been hoping to connect with them while in Vienna, and will be tutoring three middle school-aged siblings whose family recently arrived in Austria from Syria

in English, German and math using virtual platforms. That this is even a possibility has really emphasized for me how interconnected we are able to be today globally thanks to technology, and made me realize that while I still hope to study abroad in a future semester there are a multitude of ways that I can connect with others around the world in its absence and regardless of where I live. My perspective on what an ‘international experience’ can look like has thus been broadened immeasurably by this.”

Sam Walder (2017 alumnus, *ENG Computer Engineering*) in March 2020: “It’d be wonderful to walk through Urbana these days. Peaceful. You miss the most what you can’t have :)”



CHP alum Blake Banks

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to build international relations to solve global challenges, and the Office of National and International Scholarships administers the Fulbright Program at Illinois.

Alexander Bryk (2020 graduate, *LAS Teaching of Spanish*), **Henry Li** (2017 alumnus, *BUS Accountancy*), and **Parth Patel** (2019 alumnus, *LAS Economics and Mathematics and BUS Finance*) were selected for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award (Alexander in Spain, Henry in Taiwan, and Parth in South Korea). [Alexander chose to accept a teaching position in the U.S., based on the uncertainty of his Fulbright taking place; Parth declined as well.] Henry, who worked at the Illinois Leadership Center while on campus and studied abroad in Hong Kong, is currently employed by



Chancellor's Scholar Melanie Rohla

NSEP BOREN SCHOLAR

NSEP awards Boren Scholarships to undergraduate students committed to long-term, overseas immersive language study and to public service. Boren Scholars receive funding to study the languages and cultures most critical to our nation's security. In exchange, they agree to utilize those skills within the government by seeking and securing federal employment for at least one year.

Melanie Rohla (*LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; and Global Studies*) has been awarded a David L. Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program, and she plans to "spend an academic year in Tanzania studying Swahili and doing an internship. The Boren Scholarship requires awardees to remain matriculated in their undergraduate university, so I actually will not be graduating this year. Instead, I will graduate in May 2021."

Melanie studied abroad in Kenya one semester, and in Tanzania over a summer, for which she was supported by a Critical Language Scholarship. She was Co-Founder and President of Project Connect, a Student Minister and Council President at St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center, and Study Abroad Student Ambassador. Melanie earned a Certificate in International Development Studies and a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems.

PricewaterhouseCoopers as a technology consultant; he regularly mentors high school students in career exploration and readiness through nonprofit organizations in Chicago. **Hannah Manetsch** (2020 graduate, *ENG Engineering Physics*) was also named an Alternate for a Fulbright.

As an update, last year's Fulbright awardee **Jordan Blake Banks** (2019 alumna, *ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering*) returned home from her graduate studies in Finland during the COVID-19 outbreak, but she hopes to return soon.

The 3rd recipient of the E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship is **Elia Chudov** (*LAS Mathematics*), who graduated from Lisle High School, served as a math tutor for four years, and was a Lederman Scholar at North Central College. He currently is active as Philanthropy Chair of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, and is Historian Coordinator of the Illinois Business Council. Elia "aspires to create insightful mathematical models to describe the world of finance" after he graduates from Illinois. We were delighted to host Matthew, Graham, and Elia to meet at an 11/15/19 lunch.

Matthew Rodriguez hopes others will be moved to contribute to this fund, so that future students can be supported in their mathematics studies. The E. Graham Evans, Jr. Fund can be found in the drop-down menu at www.honors.illinois.edu under **Giving**.

UI/CHP'S FIRST ASTRONAUT SCHOLAR

Created in 1984 by the Mercury 7 Astronauts, Astronaut Scholarships are awarded to students in their junior and senior year of college studying science, technology, engineering, or mathematics with the intent to pursue research or advance their field upon completion of their final degree. Astronaut Scholars are among the best and brightest minds in STEM who show initiative, creativity, and excellence in their chosen field.

Philip Kocheril (*LAS Chemistry*) let us know: "I'm happy to share that I was named a 2020 Astronaut Scholar! The Astronaut (astronaut-scholarship.org) is another nationally competitive STEM scholarship, similar to the Goldwater, and I am actually the first recipient of this scholarship at UIUC."



Philip is currently also a Goldwater Scholar. Philip first engaged in research with Professor Benjamin McCall while still in high school, and later received a CHP Summer Research Grant and started his own experiment, which ultimately led to the publication of a first-author paper and the presentation of his own work at an international conference. He later joined Professor Steven Zimmerman's research group. He is a Matthews Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, and plays with the Carrillo Trumpet Studio.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS RECEIVE NSF GRF'S

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) provides three years of support toward advanced research-based degrees.

Sarah Ackenhusen (2018 alumna, *LAS Chemistry*), **Kellie Halloran** (2020 graduate, *ENG Mechanical Engineering*), and **Alayna Johnson** (2020 graduate, *LAS Chemistry*) were awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships providing three years of support toward advanced research-based degrees. Sarah Ackenhusen is attending the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Kellie Halloran will be staying at the University of Illinois for her PhD, and Alayna Johnson is heading to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. **Viraat Goel** (2019 alumnus, *ENG Bioengineering*), who is currently attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received an NSF GRF Honorable Mention.

CALVIN KE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Calvin Ke was an outstanding student leader in the Campus Honors Program, who passed away unexpectedly from an acute asthma attack in May 1991. Calvin was a former President of the Honors Student Council, played the clarinet in the orchestra and marching band, and was a member of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity. In May 1991, his family established a memorial fund to honor high-achieving students in the program who demonstrate future promise, encouragement of others, and leadership abilities. This year, his mother, **Hsiang Ke**, announced her plans to gift part of her estate to the Campus Honors Program to provide scholarships to our most promising students. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Ke family and pleased that Calvin will be honored through future scholarships to other students.



Elia Chudov, Matt Rodriguez, Graham Evans, and Kim Graber

CHP'S FIRST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

As reported in past *Annuals*, **Matthew Rodriguez** (5/99 alumnus, *LAS Physics and Mathematics*) endowed a scholarship for a Chancellor's Scholar who is majoring in mathematics, the **E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship**, in honor of a beloved retired faculty member in the CHP. In addition to his degrees at Illinois, he earned an M.A. in Mathematics and M.F.E. in Financial Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley in 2002 and 2004, respectively. Matt is currently a Portfolio Manager at Millennium in Santa Monica and a Board Member of Quill.org, an ed-tech non-profit promoting literacy. He was previously a Managing Director at BlackRock in New York and recently finished his term serving on the Advisory Board for the Department of Mathematics at Illinois.



CHP WINS NEWSLETTER AWARD

CHP's 2018 *Annual* (located at honors.illinois.edu under **Resources**) received 3rd place in the Faculty Print category in the 2019 NCHC Publications Board Newsletter Contest! The award was presented in November 2019 at the 2019 NCHC National Conference Awards Ceremony.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS OF RECENT GRADUATES

Alp Aktuna
ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering
Design Engineer at ASML in San Diego

Jacob E. Anderson
ENG Engineering Physics
Software Developer at Epic near Madison, WI

Fernando Adrian Arias
LAS Political Science and Economics
“I will be attending law school in the fall at the University of Chicago School of Law.”

Raajesh Arunachalam
ENG Computer Science
Working at Facebook as a Software Engineer



Audrey Lynn Ashburn
LAS Psychology
“I have decided to attend Florida State University for their Higher Education administration and policy program!”

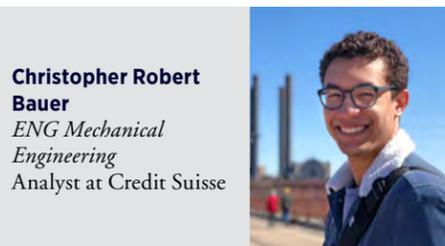
Connor Aubry
ENG Computer Engineering
Working at Sandia National Laboratories

Meral Aycicek
LAS Global Studies
“I will take a gap year before applying to graduate programs in public policy and law. In my gap year, I will explore service opportunities and new hobbies.”

Spenser Bailey
LAS History
“I’ll be attending the iSchool at Illinois, as a master’s student in Library and Information Science.”

Jenna Rae Baker
ACES Agricultural Leadership & Science Education
Agriculture Teacher & FFA Advisor at Tri-Point High School in Cullom, IL

Elizabeth Rose Barbeau
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
“I will work as a medical assistant at Derick Dermatology during my gap year before medical school. Additionally, I will be volunteering at a children’s transitional hospital, Almost Home Kids.”



Christopher Robert Bauer
ENG Mechanical Engineering
Analyst at Credit Suisse

Melissa Anne Bayer
ENG Civil Engineering
“My plan after graduation is to get my master’s degree in structural engineering, here at UIUC.”

Anna Caroline Benoit
FAA Lyric Theatre
“I will be performing as Miss Honey in *Matilda the Musical* at Ozark Actors Theatre. I will then move to Chicago to pursue a career in the performing arts.

Olivia Mary Bievenue
LAS English and Psychology
“I have accepted a job with Visa, Inc., as a Technical Writer. I will move to Denver, Colorado, this summer to begin my job.”

John Michael Born
ENG Computer Engineering
“I started working as a software developer on the Data Engineering team at the Groupon HQ in Chicago. The Data Engineering team creates and maintains data pipelines taking raw data from all over the business and transforming it into curated data sets for analysts. I’m excited to be starting my career despite the troubling times.”



Julia Elizabeth Brodecki
ENG Materials Science and Engineering
“I have accepted a full time position at 3M as a Product Development Engineer in their Automotive Aftermarket Division.”

Kate Bruns
FAA Instrumental Music
“I will be pursuing a Masters in Oboe Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music.”

Alexander Matthew Bryk
LAS Teaching of Spanish
“I received word that I have been selected as a Fulbright Scholar for the Galicia program in 2020-2021. However, due to COVID-19, the program’s start date has been pushed back to January and it may be canceled altogether. Therefore, I have decided to accept an offer to teach Spanish full time at Lincoln Way Central High School!”

Sakina Dawood Burhani
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
“I plan to attend Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School in Fall 2020. I am working as a clinical research coordinator although the pandemic has put our studies on hold.”

Douglas Sam Chan
LAS Chemistry
“I will be pursuing a PhD in chemical biology at Purdue University.”

Deborah Chang
BUS Accountancy and Information Systems and Information Technology
Pass the CPA exam, begin in full time audit with Crowe in October 2020.

Emily Elizabeth Condic
LAS Chemical Engineering
“I will be working as an R&D Engineer for P&G in Cincinnati, OH.”

Tanner Corum
LAS Actuarial Science
Actuarial Analyst at State Farm

Benjamin Misael David
ENG Bioengineering
“I will be pursuing a PhD in Bioengineering here at UIUC.”

Giovanni Concepcion Diaz
ENG Engineering Physics
“I plan to take a year and work. Then, go to graduate school.”



John W. Diffor
ENG Computer Science
Thru-hike the Appalachian Trail, then start working as a software developer for Epic Systems in Madison, WI

Katherine Douglas
ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition and LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
“I will be doing a 3 year rotational program with Abbott Labs working in regulatory affairs for medical devices. My first rotation is in Plano, TX (not sure when I’ll be moving).”

Thomas Franklin Driscoll
ENG Computer Engineering
Software Engineer at Arity

Claudia Anna Dudzik
LAS Mathematics and Statistics
Find a job dealing with statistics and data management

Kerri Marie Elson
BUS Accountancy
“I will continue at UIUC to complete a Master of Accounting Science degree with a concentration in data analytics.”

Lauren Excell
ENG Civil Engineering
“I have decided to enter a PhD program in Civil Engineering at Stanford University.”



Lotanna Ezenekwe
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
“I will attend Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.”

Colin Lee Flavin
ENG Electrical Engineering
“I have a job working in Radar Technologies with the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, Indiana.”

Michael Eric Gale
ENG Industrial Engineering
“I have accepted a full-time job at Epic in Verona, WI.”

Christiana Helena Gray
ENG Mechanical Engineering
“I have officially accepted a seven-year commitment with the Air Force Civilian Service as an Engineer, as a part of the PALACE Acquire program, working in Virginia.”

Allen Xiyuan Guo
ENG Materials Science and Engineering
“I’ll be pursuing a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern University.”

Kayla Guo
BUS Accountancy and Finance
Full-time employment in New York with ING

Katherine (Kate) Hacker
BUS Accountancy and Finance
“I will be working as a financial specialist at McDonald’s Corporate.”

Kellie Halloran
ENG Mechanical Engineering
“I will be pursuing a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Illinois.”



Anvita Hariharan
AHS Community Health
“I am going to be a consultant at Claro Healthcare!”

Elizabeth Michelle Heffernan
BUS Accountancy and Information Systems and Information Technology
“I’ll be spending the summer with my family before starting as an Assurance Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in St. Louis this coming fall.”

Federico Andres Hernandez Nater
FAA Music
“I hope to find a job in Sound Design.”

Lily Corinne Holmes
FAA Architectural Studies
Attending UIUC’s Graduate program for Architectural Studies in Fall of 2020

Abigail Marie Iuorio
ENG Civil Engineering
Working at Ernst and Young as a Climate Change and Sustainability Services Consultant



Dohun Jeong
ENG Electrical Engineering
“I will be pursuing an M.S. degree in ECE here at Illinois.”

Alayna Marie Johnson
LAS Chemistry
“I’ll be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) department of chemistry, program in polymers and soft matter.”

Andrew Scott Johnson
ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics
“I have accepted a full-time job as an Associate at Verdant Partners LLC, an M&A Advisory Firm located in Champaign, IL.”

Kundan Ashok Joshi
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
“I will be working as a data assistant for clinical trials at Lurie Cancer Center in Chicago while taking a gap year before medical school.”

Kieran Nicholas Charles Kaempfen
LAS Mathematics and Computer Science
Coming back to UIUC for a master’s degree in computer science

Ziv Benjamin Kaputa
ENG Computer Science
“In August I will be moving to Seattle and starting as a software engineer at Amazon on the Amazon Business team.”

Nicholas Aron Kasner
ENG Systems Engineering and Design
Full-time work as a management consultant in supply chain and procurement at KPMG in Chicago, IL

Madison Loraine Kaufman
AHS Interdisciplinary Health Science
“I will be attending Rosalind Franklin Chicago School of Medicine this fall.”

Aidan Michael Kelly
LAS Biochemistry
“I am currently applying to work as a research assistant for two years before pursuing admission to MD/PhD programs.”

POST-GRADUATION PLANS OF RECENT GRADUATES *continued*

Trennedy Kleczewski

BUS Marketing and Business Process Management

"I will be starting a full-time marketing position at Discover Financial Services."

Lukas R. Kulbis

ENG Computer Science

"I am working on a start-up through UIUC's iVenture accelerator to create a smart alarm clock that wakes you in a new way, inspiring an energized morning."

Jennifer Jingyu Kuo

BUS Finance and LAS Philosophy

Accenture Management Consulting Analyst, Chicago

Sarah Lee

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Psychology

Applying to medical school



Chen Lin

ENG Computer Science and LAS Economics

Software Engineer at Amazon Seattle

Bryan Lu

ENG Computer Science

Software Engineer at Publicis Sapient in Chicago

Zachary James Mabry

ENG Computer Science

Software Engineering at USPS in St. Louis

Lucas Connor McDonald

ENG Computer Engineering

Moving to Seattle to work as a Software Development Engineer for Amazon

Samarth Makhija

ENG Computer Engineering

Software Engineering at Wayfair, Boston

Hannah Jean Manetsch

ENG Engineering Physics

"I decided to attend California Institute of Technology (Caltech) to study Atomic Molecular and Optical Physics."



Carly Marchal

BUS Marketing and Finance

Starting full time job at National Futures Association (NFA) in June

Emily Ann Martin

ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics

"I am attending graduate school at Illinois in the Masters of Science in Accountancy Program. I will also be working this summer as an Audit & Assurance Intern for Deloitte in St. Louis."

Robert William Mitchell

BUS Finance

Private Equity Analyst at GTCR in Chicago, IL

Nikhil D. Modak

ENG Computer Science

"I'll be moving to San Francisco to work at Lyft as a Software Engineer."

Mukhil Murugasamy

ENG Computer Science

JP Morgan

Pranjali Nandi

BUS Finance

"I will be working as an investment banking analyst at Livingstone Partners in Chicago, where I will cover mergers & acquisitions, restructuring, and debt advisory."

Allison Neggers

LAS Psychology

TBD

Jacklyn Elina Ovassapian

FAA Theatre and LAS Psychology

"I am hoping to work in arts administration/ theatre management. I have also been applying to graduate business programs."

Vibha Venkatesh Pandurangi

ENG Computer Science

Software Engineer at NVIDIA

Dario Giovanni Panici

ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering

"I will be going to Princeton University to pursue a PhD in the Mechanical and Aerospace department."

Victor Manuel Pastrana-Gomez

ENG Bioengineering

Starting a job, but got pushed back due to Coronavirus

Palak Patel

LAS Psychology

"I plan on attending the University of Indianapolis to pursue my doctorate in Psychology (Psy.D)."

Haley Nicole Penkala

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Attend graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for a PhD in biochemistry

Natalie Christine Pfister

ENG Aerospace Engineering

"I will be working at the Northrop Grumman Corporation in Dulles, Virginia as a Spacecraft Guidance, Navigation, and Control Associate Engineer."



Broderick Tre Portell

LAS Economics

Working for William Blair's Investment Banking team in Chicago

Mingfang David Qi

LAS Chemistry and Integrative Biology

"I will be attending the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria!"

Varshini Ramanathan

LAS Statistics

"I'll be working at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as a Director's Financial Analyst."

Paul Robert Reckamp

ENG Computer Engineering

"I will be pursuing a Master's in computer engineering at the University of Illinois."

Lyle Regenwetter

ENG Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering

ME graduate program at MIT and expecting to attain PhD

Jensen Ashleigh Rehn

LAS History

"Most likely, I will attend Notre Dame Law School this fall."

Jake Ribich

ENG Engineering Physics

"I will be attending Yale University to pursue a PhD in Biophysics."



Jose Rafael Ridao

ENG Mechanical Engineering

"Currently I'm working as an Applications Engineer at NTN Bearing in Mount Prospect, IL."

Grace Rigney

MED Advertising

Currently unsure

Melanie Ann Rohla

LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; and Global Studies

"I plan to return to Tanzania through either the Boren Scholarship program or the Princeton in Africa Fellowship Program. (Please check back in with me later for more concrete plans!)"

Zachary Scheffel

LAS Physics

Will start work as a Client Systems Administrator at Epic Systems Corporation

Catherine Teresa Seebauer

ENG Civil Engineering

"I recently accepted a full time position as a transportation design engineer with the Arlington, Virginia, county government."

Noah David Sellars

LAS History and Political Science

"I will be attending law school for a Juris Doctor degree, and perhaps a concurrent Master's degree. I do not yet know where."

Nicholas Craig Shapland

LAS Geography and GIS, Political Science, History

Interning as a remote sensing intern with the MTRI (Michigan Tech Research Institute), still interviewing and applying to jobs/paid internships

Aditya Bhaskar Shedge

ENG Mechanical Engineering

"I will be working as a semiconductor packaging engineer at Texas Instruments."

Luie Siegel

ENG Bioengineering

Take a gap year or two to work then go to medical school

Madeline Mette Smith

LAS Integrative Biology

Attend University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a Masters in Environmental Conservation

Claudia Evyn Handler Sovo

LAS Sociology

"Working for a nonprofit/social justice organization in Chicago. I want to apply my sociology and gender & women's studies education towards fighting inequality in the city."

Holly Rose Stallard

ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

Graduate school at the University of Illinois Master's degree in Human Nutrition

Robert Stavins

ENG Mechanical Engineering

Pursuing a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at UIUC

Daniel Mead Stelzer

LAS Linguistics and ENG Computer Science

Pursuing a PhD in Linguistics at the U of I



Amy Elizabeth Strauch

ENG Aerospace Engineering

Accepted a Software Engineering position with Collins Aerospace in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Blandon Su

LAS Econometrics and Quantitative Economics

Pursuing PhD at Indiana University Bloomington

Christina Jean Su

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

"I will embark on my journey into medicine at Washington University in St. Louis Medical School this fall to pursue my M.D. and ultimately my dreams of becoming a physician!"

Santosh Sudhakar

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Chemistry

"Starting in August, I will be attending the Saint Louis University School of Medicine."

James Tiao

BUS Accountancy and Finance

Accenture – Consulting Development Program Analyst

Justin Tiao

ENG Bioengineering

"I am pursuing an MD at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City."

Lucas Trojanowski

LAS Mathematics

Pursuing a master's degree in applied mathematics at UIUC, then a PhD in physics thereafter



Chantal Andrea Vaca

MED Journalism

"I am pursuing my master's in journalism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign."

Abishek Sreeraman Venkit

ENG Electrical Engineering

ECE Master's Program at UIUC

Megan Frances Voris

ENG Mechanical Engineering

Management Consulting Associate at PwC

Gabrielle DeAnne Walker

ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

Begin working as an Associate Research Scientist in Product Development for PepsiCo

Diane L. Wei

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

"I will be attending medical school in the fall, and I committed to the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences!"

Thomas Jordan Weller

LAS History

"I am attending Law School at the University of Illinois."

Mackenzie Grace Wells

ACES Animal Sciences

"I will be attending the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine this fall."

Christian Williams

ENG Mechanical Engineering

"I will pursue a PhD in Mechanical Engineering at UIUC."



Elena Marie Wilson

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Germanic Studies

Post Baccalaureate Research Position at the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD

Marissa Yanez

LAS English and Creative Writing

Pursuing a career as a writer or going into publishing

Franklin Ye

ENG Computer Science

Software Engineer at Plaid in San Francisco

Leah Marie Ziolkowski

LAS Chemistry and ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

Attend University of Chicago for a PhD in Molecular Metabolism and Nutrition

IN THE NEWS



CHP graduate Anna Benoit as Sally Bowles in Cabaret

Anna Benoit (FAA Lyric Theatre) played Sally Bowles in the February/March 2020 KCPA production of **Cabaret**.

Beth Born (LAS Chemical Engineering) is interning at **Asahi Kasei Bioprocess America** in Glenview, IL in Summer 2020. She wrote, “I am extremely grateful to be working for such a relevant and essential business during these unprecedented times, and I am eager to start my work for the company!”

Kayla Vittore (ACES Crop Sciences) worked in Summer 2020 as an Intern with the **Integrated Pennycress Research Enabling Farm & Energy Resilience** (IPREFER) team, at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus site. This is a project to investigate and improve Pennycress’s potential as a biofuel crop, and Kayla did greenhouse work investigating the viability of SCN eggs over time, and investigating the pathogenicity of SCN on pennycress.

Maxwell Chan (FAA Industrial Design), **Kathleen Culligan** (FAA Industrial Design), **Arthur Hall** (FAA New Media), and **Ally Merrett** (FAA Urban Studies and Planning and Landscape Architecture) were 2020 Summer Design Interns for the new **Siebel Center for Design**.

Sophie Luijten (LAS Global Studies and Spanish) will have a paper published in the *IPRH Environmental Humanities Undergraduate Research Journal*.

Zoe Replinger (FAA Theatre and MED Advertising) was in the February 2020 KCPA production of *The Wolves*.

Ethan Simmons (MED Journalism) has interned with the *Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette* and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and continues to serve as News Editor and write for the *Daily Illini*. **Jada Fulcher** (MED Journalism) serves as Editorial Staff for the *Daily Illini*.

Emily Martin (ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics) and **Cathie Seebauer** (ENG Civil Engineering), who were named to the 2019 **Homecoming Court**, are profiled at <https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/6143/803265>.



CHP graduates Emily Martin and Cathie Seebauer

On 11/15/19, *LAS News* reported that **Elena Wilson** (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Germanic Studies) received the **Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award** at <https://las.illinois.edu/news/2019-11-15/student-receives-lincoln-academy-student-laureate-award>. The article notes: “The Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Awards are presented each year to one student from each four-year degree-granting institution of higher learning in Illinois. This year’s ceremony is Saturday, November 16, 2019.

“While earning dual degrees, Elena Wilson is involved in a number of different service organizations, including Young Life and Illini Screening Society. She has also been a student volunteer at Carle Hospital, Champaign County Christian Health Center, and the HeRMES Multicultural Clinic. Despite her busy class schedule, Wilson spends almost as much time volunteering as she does in class. ...Everything she’s done, Wilson added, has motivated her to continue helping people — in whatever path she chooses after graduation.”

The **UI YouTube** admissions channel features **Zoe Replinger** (FAA Theatre and MED Advertising) in several videos (including Day in My Life) at www.youtube.com/user/IllinoisAdmissions, www.youtube.com/watch?v=rf3SmJaH89U, and www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5ZKc9bdXIE.

Jacques Anderson (2011 alumna, LAS Political Science) was featured in <https://storied.illinois.edu/filler/>, a story which notes “Raised in East St. Louis by a single mother who was a police officer, Jacques was one of the first recipients of a **Filler Scholarship**. She is quick to emphasize that while she appreciated the scholarship, it was [Ron Filler’s] willingness to mentor her that really changed her life. He now regards her as his ‘second daughter’ and beamed alongside Jacques’s parents at her graduation from Harvard Law School in 2014. ‘I think Ron, specifically, showed me how you can really make a difference in someone’s life by not only giving money, but giving time and incorporating people into your life,’ she said. She has carried that kindness forward creating her own scholarships and mentoring programs everywhere she’s lived: East St. Louis, Cambridge, and New York City.”

Many Chancellor’s Scholars have participated in **Illini 4000** in the past. This year, **Evan Armstrong** (ENG Computer Engineering), **Maria Maring** (LAS Astronomy), and **Jacob Minin** (ENG Bioengineering), were training for the 4000 mile ride when COVID-19 derailed their journey. **Christina Su** (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology), who did the ride in 2017, was President of Illini 4000, and **Mike Rotter** (EDU Special Education), who rode in 2018 and 2019, served as Vice President.

Illini 4000’s mission is: “The Illini 4000 is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting the American cancer experience through The Portraits Project, raising funds for cancer research and patient support services, as well as spreading awareness for the fight against cancer through annual cross-country bike rides.”

Sr. Stephanie Baliga (2010 alumna, LAS Economics and Geography) was featured in a 10/10/19 WTTW TV story “**Local Nun Leads Chicago Marathon Team**,” which details her running career at Illinois as well as her continuing to run to raise funds for the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels. More info on her interview is at <https://news.wttw.com/2019/10/10/local-nun-leads-chicago-marathon-team>.

Jon Horek (2002 alumnus, ENG Mechanical Engineering) was named an **Emerging Leader of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs**. Each year, the Council selects a cohort of approximately 20 high potential mid-career Chicago professionals, who train together for one year on key leadership skills needed to tackle today’s global challenges.

Students served in the following **Illinois Student Government (ISG)** roles: **Fernando Arias** (LAS Political Science and Economics) served as Chief Justice of the ISG Judiciary; **Rhea Bridgeland** (ACES Natural Resources and Environmental Science) was State House Legislative Aide; and **Roland Kim** (LAS Political Science) was City of Urbana Liaison.



CHP graduate Fernando Arias

Matt Macomber (2014 alumnus, LAS Atmospheric Sciences) continues to write for **Smile Politely** (www.smilepolitely.com). This past year, his posts included “A trip to Top Food Restaurant,” “Satisfy your thirst at Bearology,” “Expect grand portions at El Rancho Grande II,” “Enjoy a hearty brunch at Maize,” “Finding chicken burritos in Champaign-Urbana,” and “Find a sweet treat at Tasty Tart.”

Neena Tripathy (1994 alumna, LAS Biology) was profiled in the **Champaign Women Outdoors** series as a marathon runner with a goal of running the race on all seven continents. At the time of the 2019 interview, Neena, who is currently a Pediatrician in the Carle Physician Group, had completed marathons in the U.S., Australia, China, South Africa, and Antarctica. For more info, go to: www.champaignoutdoors.com/post/neena-tripathy.

Rob Chappell (ACES) hosted a **Walking Tour of Historic Campus Places** on 10/25/20 which included the CHP’s Honors House, which served as an early locale for the James Scholars Honors Program. **Ryan Ross** (2008 alumnus, LAS English) provided a talk on the tour at the Richmond Family Gallery in the Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

LINCOLN SCHOLARS

LAS News profiled graduating seniors **Lotanna Ezenekwe** (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology) on 5/27/20 at <https://las.illinois.edu/news/2020-05-27/meet-scholars-lincoln-scholars-graduate-unique-illinois-experiences>.

Spenser Bailey (LAS History) and **Claudia Dudzik** (LAS Mathematics and Statistics) also graduated as **Lincoln Scholars**. On 8/29/19, LAS provided an earlier update on the program: “With support from friends and alumni, the College of LAS launched the Lincoln Scholars Initiative seven years ago to support promising LAS students with financial need. We caught up with a few of the earliest Lincoln Scholars to see how your gifts have paved the way for successful careers after college. ...**Max Colon** (2016 alumnus, LAS Psychology and Spanish) is one of the inaugural Lincoln Scholars. Since arriving at Illinois as a freshman seven years ago, he’s earned bachelor’s degrees in psychology and Spanish, a master’s degree in human resources and industrial relations, and a new job in human resources at Grainger.”



CHP graduate Claudia Dudzik



2020 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



Top: CHP graduate Elena Wilson.
Bottom: CHP graduate Sarah Lee.

The 13th **Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS)** and **Illinois Scholars Undergraduate Research Symposium (ISUR)** took place on Undergraduate Research Week from April 27–May 2, 2020. Below are the Chancellor’s Scholars who presented or co-presented their research at these events.

For more information on student presentations, go to <http://undergradresearch.illinois.edu/researchweek.html>.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM (URS) OR URS WEEK PRESENTERS:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rhea Bridgeland
<i>ACES Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences</i> | Yan Luo
<i>ENG Bioengineering</i> |
| Amber Dorn
<i>AHS Speech and Hearing Science</i> | Aditya Mansharamani
<i>ENG Computer Science</i> |
| Akshay Dugar
<i>ENG Industrial Engineering</i> | Nicole Park
<i>ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition</i> |
| Karina Herrera
<i>ENG Mechanical Engineering</i> | Haley Penkala
<i>LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology</i> |
| Carolyn Janick
<i>LAS Mathematics</i> | Maxwell Polanek
<i>LAS Chemical Engineering</i> |
| Philip Kocheril
<i>LAS Chemistry</i> | Chahna Saraiya
<i>LAS Statistics</i> |
| Michael Kokkines
<i>ENG Computer Science</i> | Elena Wilson
<i>LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Germanic Studies</i> |
| Sarah Lee
<i>LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Psychology</i> | |

IN THE NEWS *continued*

Helaine Silverman (*CHP faculty, Anthropology*) and her efforts to promote heritage tourism, as well as the socioeconomic development, of downstate Illinois were featured in the 6/13/19 *LAS News* story “**The Mythic Mississippi**.” The article is located at <https://las.illinois.edu/news/2019-06-13/mythic-mississippi>, and details the project “The Mythic Mississippi: I-Heritage as Public Engagement and Economic and Social Development,” which was awarded \$180,000 in funding as part of a UI initiative earlier this year to increase funding in the arts and humanities. “The project seeks to develop themed tourism trails such as coal heritage, African American heritage, French Colonial heritage, and Mormon heritage. The project organizers hope that these themed trails will motivate tourists to explore downstate Illinois and thus contribute to town economies.”

Warren Lavey (*Earth, Society, and the Environment; Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences; and Law*) welcomed four experts in policy advocacy to his Fall 2019 CHP class: **State Senator Scott Bennett**; **State Representative Carol Ammons**; **Andrew Armstrong** (*CHP alum* and Chief, Environmental Bureau – Springfield, Illinois Attorney General’s Office); and **Cindy Shepard** (Director of Central Illinois Outreach Programs).

David Ruzic (*CHP faculty, NPRE*) joined local talent Larry Kanfer in Champaign West Rotary’s **CU’s Got Talent**, on 2/1/20 in “Dueling Reality: Energy Prof vs. The Artist by David Ruzic and Larry Kanfer.” According to the promotional information, “Larry and David decided to participate in this event with a magic act to raise money for area charities. CU’s Got Talent! is a fundraiser presented by Champaign West Rotary in East Central Illinois, which features a talent show including a reception and silent auction.”

The National Association of Manufacturers announced the **2020 Step Ahead Awards** on 3/2/20, and PHOENIX Director of Quality and Food Safety, **Meena (Babu) Banasiak** (*2006 alumna, ENG Materials Science and Engineering*) was selected as a national honoree. The press release notes that “the 8th Annual Step Ahead Awards recognize women in science, technology, engineering and production careers who exemplify leadership within their companies.” There is more info about Meena at the Manufacturing Institute’s 2020 Step Ahead Website (<https://tinyurl.com/sw6hy9y>), detailing her professional leadership, mentoring of other women, and her service engagement in Naperville and beyond.



Left: Representative Scott Bennett speaks with CHP faculty Warren Lavey’s class

Above: CHP alum Meena Babu Banasiak

Dana Yun (*ENG Materials Science and Engineering*) served on the Research and Scholarship Committee of the COVID-19 Committee appointed by the Chancellor in May 2020.

James Kaler (*CHP emeritus faculty, Astronomy*) wrote the 1/24/20 item “Why Your Zodiac Sign is Probably Wrong” at The Conversation website <https://theconversation.com/why-your-zodiac-sign-is-probably-wrong-128818>.



Chancellor's Scholars at Pumpkin Carving event

HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL

Honors Student Council Year in Review

By Maya Chatteraj, LAS Physics

Honors Student Council, or HSC, had a fantastic year filled with many events and new memories. HSC was composed of five individual committees this year: Academic Engagement, Social Engagement, Community Engagement, Art, and Publications. The Academic Engagement Committee organizes events that introduce students to novel topics in academia, often through lunches with professors and deans from colleges across campus. The Social Engagement Committee arranges fun events where students can socialize and bond while engaged in cool activities. The Community Engagement Committee works to help those in need in the Champaign-Urbana area, providing students with the opportunity to give back to the community around them. This was the **inaugural year of the Community Engagement Committee**, and we're looking forward to the great work that the committee will continue to do in the future. The Art Committee does several creative projects throughout the year, giving students a creative

outlet. Finally, the Publications Committee writes pieces for CHP's various newsletters and arranges literature-based events for students. These five committees bring Chancellor's Scholars together, creating strong bonds between students.

Despite an early end to on-campus activities due to the coronavirus pandemic, HSC worked hard to remain active throughout the stay-at-home order. The committees met via Zoom to plan virtual events, such as a virtual surprise party to say goodbye to Director Kim Graber. Members also met just to stay in touch during such a difficult time!

Participating in HSC is a great way to meet other Chancellor's Scholars and engage with the Honors community. I'd like to thank the Executive Board and all of HSC for a fantastic year, and I look forward to seeing you at the first HSC meeting in September!

“Despite an early end to on-campus activities due to the coronavirus pandemic, HSC worked hard to remain active throughout the stay-at-home order.”

CHP Murder Mystery

By Kayla Vittore, ACES Crop Sciences

What's more terrifyingly unpleasant than a high school reunion? A high school reunion involving murder! For Halloween, the Publications Committee once again designed a dastardly Murder Mystery dinner of devious deception. This year's theme was high school reunion stereotypes, boasting characters such as the jock that never made pro, the BFF's turned mortal enemies, and the ridiculously redeemed former bully. The star of the night was, of course, the universally beloved class clown, Schmitt. Or at least everyone thought Schmitt was beloved, up until he dropped dead in the middle of the union!

What followed Schmitt's dramatic demise was a series of surprising reveals, emotional accusations, and the sudden realization that Schmitt's haphazard pranking had landed him more animosity than admiration. When everyone has a motive for murder, how do you determine which little grudge was the one to grow into vengeance? Through the wit and grit characteristic of Chancellor's Scholars, the group narrowed their suspicions down to three individuals. On the chopping block was the school mascot turned sleazy politician, the religious fanatic with suspicious knowledge of poisons, and the only kid Schmitt never thought important enough to be pranked. The last of the three was a red herring specially developed by the Publications

Committee to confound and divide the Murder Mystery participants, and two-thirds of the group fell for the trap. To the clever ones who uncovered that the politician was the night's merry murderer went the prizes — though the real prize was the night of laughter everyone shared on that spookiest of holidays.



Chancellor's Scholars at Murder Mystery Dinner

HSC Academic Engagement Committee: Dean Lunch & Learns

By Maya Chatteraj, LAS Physics

The Academic Engagement Committee hosted two Lunch & Learns with college deans this year, where a dean comes to the Honors House to engage with Chancellor's Scholars and share their career experiences over delicious catered lunches.

Our first guest was **Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell**, dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences. Dean Hanley-Maxwell discussed her experiences as a special education teacher and how she found her way to her current position. She discussed the current state of special education in the state of Illinois, impressing upon attendees the importance of strong programs of this type. Dean Hanley-Maxwell also gave students the reassuring message that it's okay to not have every step of your career planned out. She encouraged students to study a subject that they are passionate about, saying that the next career step would always present itself.

James Anderson, dean of the College of Education, was the guest of our second Lunch & Learn (pictured on page 18). He shared influential experiences from his undergraduate and graduate school years that helped shape his career and his interest in researching the history of African American education. Dean Anderson also discussed modern education techniques with students who are in the College of Education, offering his personal opinions and inviting students to share theirs. Dean Anderson advised students to never be afraid of asking questions or debating experts in any field, and shared the story of how he questioned a prestigious guest speaker who then offered him a research position because of how inquisitive he was.

The committee also scheduled a Lunch & Learn with Dean Kevin Hamilton from the College of Fine and Applied Arts. Unfortunately, this event was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. We look forward to next year, when we will continue introducing Chancellor's Scholars to prominent Illinois faculty!

Chancellor's Scholars at Lunch & Learn with Dean Hanley-Maxwell



SAS/KDR UPDATES



Chancellor's Scholars enjoy Apple Lab SAS with the Skirvins



Chancellor's Scholars at Gem of the Ocean KDR

Titus Andronicus KDR Reflections

By Lauren Gherna, LAS English

After reading *Titus Andronicus* by William Shakespeare in my English seminar, I was excited to see that this early Shakespeare play was being offered as a Krannert Dress Rehearsal (KDR). I hadn't heard of this play until a few months before the performance, but reading it in class taught me that the play is gruesome and has a lot to unpack in terms of character motives. The talk before the KDR was presented by Andrea Stevens, a CHP professor who adapted the play, and Robert G. Anderson, who directed the play. Professor Stevens noted that she cut some of the play for clarity and conciseness as some scenes from this play can confuse the viewer. They warned the attendees that this performance of *Titus Andronicus* was going to be different than others because *Titus Andronicus* was double-cast. This means that two actors were on stage at all times playing the main character, so they had to be absolutely in sync with one another. Even more uniquely, *Titus Andronicus* was not double-cast as the typical actor many would expect to see playing a war hero; one of the *Titus Andronicus* actors playing this role was a hearing-impaired male and the other was a hearing female. I can't imagine the shock of going into the theatre without this piece of information.

After the KDR presentation, we moved over to the Studio Theatre in Krannert where the set up puts the audience members into the action. For *Titus Andronicus*, there was seating on three sides of the performance area and one side led to the backstage area and featured a balcony. This mimics Shakespearean "original practices." Throughout the play, I found myself in awe of the synchronization of the two *Titus Andronicus* actors and in shock of the gruesome portrayals of key scenes in the play, such as the rape and mutilation of Lavinia. I never knew what to expect next, even though I had read and studied the play, because each scene was more captivating than the one just before. Overall, I enjoyed the performance and felt that it helped me understand the strange and complicated play just a little bit better.

Please see www.honors.illinois.edu and click on **Students** to scroll down for the **Krannert Dress Rehearsal** listings and the **Scholar Adventurers Series** programming.

Gem of the Ocean Krannert Dress Rehearsal Review

By Kayla Vittore, ACES Crop Sciences

October 16th at Krannert Center was a night of clashing moralities, violent brushes with the law, and a water-logged City of Bones. Chancellor's Scholars had the chance to become immersed in one of playwright August Wilson's famous pieces, *Gem of the Ocean*. Directed by Chuck Smith, a previous collaborator of the late Wilson, this performance had the additional layer of new choreography. Smith had enlisted Dance at Illinois, Kemal Nance, and Endalyn Taylor to develop an entirely new dance performance to be included in the show as a complement to one of Wilson's original scenes. The lucky Chancellor's Scholars who signed up to attend this Krannert Dress Rehearsal had front row seats to the exciting first night of the brand new interplay between modern dance and historical theater.

In the lecture preceding the performance Smith, Nance, and Taylor provided context and insight into the development of *Gem of the Ocean* and their new choreographical addition. Smith offered his personal experiences with August Wilson during the original play's creation, along with valuable explanation into the significance of the City of Bones as a representation of African people who did not or would not complete the slave-trade sailing across the Atlantic. Nance and Taylor expanded on Smith's insights with discussion about key choices in the unique dance number they created. The choreography was developed with the intent of adding visuals and intensity to a hallucinatory scene in the play. It utilized creative lighting, indigenous African peoples' dance styles, and the always impressive skill of the Dance at Illinois performers to fully realize what Smith believed August Wilson had intended for the City of Bones.

While the unique choreography will not be implemented into the official script of *Gem of the Ocean*, its ephemeral quality made attending this performance that much more valuable to the students on our campus. Some things can only be experienced once, and that's what makes it all that much more treasured in our memories.

Elizabeth Rockman (rockman@illinois.edu) coordinates these events, and welcomes ideas for new programs.

EQUINOX

Equinox Cover

By Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design

This year, we celebrated 8 years of the CHP literary and arts magazine *Equinox*. We wanted to pick a theme that highlighted this milestone. We picked the eight planets to refer to the 8th edition of *Equinox* and to refer to outer space. We also chose infinity since an infinity sign is just an eight sideways. I created a cover that combined these two themes. The image used is a pastel art piece I created of our solar system. I also wrote the tagline "dream beyond infinity." I really enjoy creating *Equinox* magazine. I love seeing all of CHP's literary and artistic talent and laying it out in a fun and engaging way that highlights all of the talents.

Equinox: Finding Our Balance

By Ethan Frobish, LAS English and Creative Writing

With a magazine centered on and celebrating the balance of academics and the arts in the lives of Chancellor's Scholars, it would be no small calamity that could knock *Equinox* out of its equilibrium. Unfortunately, the COVID epidemic is no small calamity, and as a result, our magazine staff has been thoroughly decentered. Were we post-structuralists, this would be revelatory, but our editorial machine worked just fine before a wrench was hurled in our gears.

I seem to recall thinking with confidence at our final in-person meeting that it would only take one more meeting to wrap up this year's issue and get it out the door — "more on time than ever before" as I wrote in a draft of my Letter from the Editor. With hindsight, it is easy to see my confidence as the arrogance of someone who thought his structures invincible and his plans impermeable. Oh, how young we were.

Things with *Equinox* are not so dour, however. After collectively working through our shelter-in-place slump, the team has begun to work again on the book. Though not as regular as our biweekly meeting schedule, we've switched to digital meetings and are once again progressing, albeit with the lag inherent to Zoom.

“ This sort of devotion is inherent to Chancellor's Scholars – balancing work, school, and hobbies and applying passion to all. ”

I am thankful, even more so than in previous years, for the staff for taking time out of their busy schedules to work on our magazine. It is one thing to dedicate time to an extra-curricular while school is in session, but something else entirely to sacrifice time that could be spent at summer jobs, researching graduate school, or lounging poolside on a school club activity.

Equinox cover by Gail Schneiderman





ALUMNI RESPONSES TO WHY I GIVE

Caroline E. Cvetkovic (2011 alumna)
 "Both Bioengineering and CHP were instrumental in shaping who I became as a student and alumna. I will forever be indebted to these programs for setting me on the path forward. I want to pay it forward to support current and future students!"

Allison C. Dehnel (2010 alumna)
 "The Campus Honors Program provided me with many wonderful opportunities and my college experience would not have been as good without it!"

Richard O. Excell (1990 alumnus)
 "I believe the Campus Honors Program is an important part of the UIUC community."

David G. Goese (2011 alumnus)
 "The Campus Honors Program is the best!"

Seema P. Kini (2005 alumna)
 "I benefited from the CHP tremendously. I hope to support other students with this gift!"

Roxanne A. Moore (2007 alumna)
 "Illinois gave me great education and lifelong friends, colleagues, and mentors."

Seth W. Orr (2012 alumnus)
 "I want to help CHP students have the same great experience I did!"

Deborah Plager (1995 alumna)
 "I'm a strong believer in giving back. I was honored to be part of the CHP."

Erica M. (Knieval) Songer (2003 alumna)
 "I am grateful for my experience in the Campus Honors Program."



WHAT YOU SUPPORTED

Donors enable the Campus Honors Program to provide many special events and opportunities for students that might not otherwise be possible. We use funds to support student research and travel abroad, power lunches, the continuation of our student art project, and other activities that positively facilitate the honors student experience. This year we were able to purchase a cookie oven, and support a Lincoln Park Zoo field trip, several class field trips, and the Holiday Open House. **We thank all our donors for this significant help to the Campus Honors Program!**

APPRECIATION OF CONTINUING ENDOWMENT/SCHOLARSHIP

Special thanks are extended to **Matthew J. Rodriguez** (5/99 alumnus, *LAS Physics and Mathematics*) for his continued pledge to support the creation of the E. Graham Evans Scholarship, that was awarded for the third time to **Elia Chudov** (*LAS Mathematics*). We were delighted that Matthew, Quentin, and E. Graham Evans were able to meet at an 11/15/19 lunch.

HOW TO HELP >>> WWW.HONORS.ILLINOIS.EDU

If you are interested in supporting the Campus Honors Program in our mission to support undergraduate students, please see www.honors.illinois.edu and click on **GIVING** for giving opportunities. We appreciate any help that furthers innovation and learning.

Top Left: Chancellor's Scholars at Abbott Power Plant Field Trip. Top Right: Chancellor's Scholars at Bob Ross painting night. Below: Chancellor's Scholars at Lunch & Learn with Dean James Anderson. Right: Author Nafissa Thompson-Spires at Fall Convocation book signing.

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July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

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- *Professor Kimiko Y. Gunji (CHP faculty member)
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- *Dr. Christine E. Heitsch (1994 alumna) and Mr. Stephen Chenney
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With these gifts we can continue to offer quality programming to Chancellor's Scholars. *All donors marked with an asterisk have given previously.

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- *Ms. Erin S. Leighty (2005 alumna)
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- *Mr. Matthew K. Macomber (2014 alumnus)
- *Mr. Daniel J. Malsom (2014 alumnus)
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- *Ms. Roxanne A. Moore (2007 alumna)
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- *Mrs. Katrina A. Bromann (2006 alumna) and Mr. Artillery G. Riewaldt
- Mrs. Carrie L. (Rodman, 1999 alumna) Brondyke and Mr. Robert K. Brondyke
- *Ms. Katherine L. Castree (2010 alumna)
- *Ms. Jessica Chen (2014 alumna)
- *Ms. Cheryl A. (Stevenson, 2004 alumna) Connelley and Phillip T. Connelley
- Ms. Kamitra Curtis
- *Ms. Kimberly A. Daul (2012 alumna)
- *Ms. Allison C. Dehnel (2010 alumna)
- *Dr. Carl L. Dohrman (2002 alumnus)
- *Dr. Matthew C. Ehrlich (CHP faculty member)
- Dr. David G. Goese (2011 alumnus)
- *Mrs. Whitney J. (Werich, 2001 alumna) Heard and Mr. Christopher D. Heard
- *Mr. Edward R. (1991 alumnus) and Mrs. Amy S. Hulina
- *Mr. Harold A. Kallal and Mrs. Terrie J. Kallal
- *Dr. Darrel J. Kesler (Emeritus CHP faculty member) and Cheryl Kesler
- *Mr. David V. McGuire (1991 alumnus)
- *Mr. Seth W. Orr (2012 alumnus) and Mr. Harrison A. Hakes
- *Ms. Deborah Plager (1995 alumna) and Mr. Alexander Kamilewicz
- *Mrs. Heather A. Pleune and Dr. Thomas T. Pleune (1995 alumnus)
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- *Ms. Jessica N. Sweet (2009 alumna)
- Ms. Ruth D. Tekeste (2012 alumna)
- Dr. Kyne M. Wang (1992 alumnus)
- *Ms. Xiaorong J. Wu (2007 alumna)

If there are any errors, please inform Elizabeth Rockman (rockman@illinois.edu) immediately so a correction can be made. In order to adequately acknowledge the generosity of our donors, we plan to begin including a list of donors' names on our website. If you would prefer not to have your name included on the list, please inform Elizabeth Rockman.

2019-2020 CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

STATE, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND HONORS

Astronaut Scholarship

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, created in 1984 by the Mercury 7 Astronauts
Philip Kocheril, LAS Chemistry

Fulbright Grant

National, all expenses for one year of graduate study or research abroad
Alexander Bryk, LAS Teaching of Spanish
Henry Li, 2017 alumnus, BUS Accountancy
Parth Patel, 2019 alumnus, LAS Economics and Mathematics and BUS Finance

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship

Three years of support toward advanced

research-based degrees

Sarah Ackenhusen, 2018 alumna, LAS Chemistry
Kellie Halloran, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Alayna Johnson, LAS Chemistry

National Security Education Program (NSEP)/ David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship

National, study in nonwestern regions, including language component
Melanie Rohla, LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; and Global Studies

Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Fellowship

National, for graduate study; one nominee per campus
Erica Hackett, BUS Management and Marketing

Poets & Quants Class of 2020 "Best and Brightest"
100 top U.S. business students in top 50 programs
Robert Mitchell, BUS Finance



CHP graduate Robert Mitchell

FINALIST STATUS IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Fulbright Grant (alternate)

Hannah Manetsch, ENG Engineering Physics

IASA Scholarship

Insurance Accounting and Statistical Association
Lynnette Lu, BUS Finance and LAS Actuarial Science

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (finalist)

Viraat Goel, 2019 alumnus, ENG Bioengineering

REGIONAL, STATE, AND ALL-CAMPUS AWARDS

Bronze Tablet

University Honors, earned by the top 3% of each college's graduating class

Fernando Adrian Arias, LAS Political Science and Economics

Raajesh Arunachalam, ENG Computer Science

Anna Benoit, FAA Lyric Theatre

Sakina Burhani, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Deborah Chang, BUS Accountancy and Information Systems and Information Technology

Tanner Corum, LAS Actuarial Science

Benjamin David, ENG Bioengineering

Kerri Elson, BUS Accountancy

Ziv Kaputa, ENG Computer Science

Madison Kaufman, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Science

Chen Lin, ENG Computer Science and LAS Economics

Emily Martin, ACES

Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Allison Neggiers, LAS Psychology

Jacklyn Ovassapian, FAA

Theatre and LAS Psychology

Palak Prakash Patel, LAS Psychology

Jensen Rehn, LAS History

Melanie Ann Rohla, LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; and Global Studies

Holly Rose Stallard, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

Daniel Stelzer, LAS Linguistics and ENG Computer Science

Christina Jean Su, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Santosh Sudhakar, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Chemistry

Chantal Vaca, MED Journalism

Franklin Ye, ENG Computer Science

Fred S. Bailey Scholarship for Cause-Driven Leaders

University YMCA

Sophie Luijten, LAS Global Studies and Spanish

FLAS Fellowship

Foreign Language and Area Studies, all-campus

Sophia Ebel, LAS Comparative Literature

Hoelt Technology and Management Program

Graduating seniors, minor for engineering and business students

Lauren Excell, ENG Civil Engineering

Abigail Iuorio, ENG Civil Engineering

Pranjal Nandi, BUS Finance

Robert Stavins, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Franklin Ye, ENG Computer Science

Homecoming Court

All-campus, comprised of 10 top male and female leaders

Emily Ann Martin, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Catherine Seebauer, ENG Civil Engineering

Stamps Scholarship

Graduating seniors, Stamps Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Meral Aycecek, LAS Global Studies

Kayla Guo, BUS Accountancy and Finance

Robert Mitchell, BUS Finance

Christian Williams, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Undergraduate Research Certificate

Office of Undergraduate Research

Elena Wilson, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Germanic Studies

2020 Undergraduate Research Symposium Award

Office of Undergraduate Research

Carolyn Janick, LAS Mathematics

U of I Community Credit Union Scholarship

Bridget Rubins, FAA Art Foundation

University Library Outstanding Student Employee

Jensen Rehn, LAS History

Illinois Broadcasters Association Award

Chantal Vaca, MED Journalism

Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award

State-level award for a single outstanding senior from each four-year college and university in Illinois

Elena Wilson, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Germanic Studies

Moms Association Merit Scholarship

Sophie Luijten, LAS Global Studies and Spanish

James Newton Matthews Scholarship

A four-year renewable campus-level award, graduating seniors

Lily Holmes, FAA Architectural Studies

Kundan Joshi, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Sarah Lee, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Psychology

Nicholas Shapland, LAS Geography and GIS, Political Science, History

Blandon Su, LAS Econometrics and Quantitative Economics

John L. Rainey Prize

UIUC Undergraduate Literary Competition

Emily Pasetes, ENG Engineering Physics

Senior 100 Honorary

Campus, top seniors based on academic standing and involvement, initiative, and leadership

Audrey Ashburn, LAS Psychology

Kerri Elson, BUS Accountancy

Lauren Excell, ENG Civil Engineering

Kayla Guo, BUS Accountancy and Finance

Alayna Johnson, LAS Chemistry

Aidan Kelly, LAS Biochemistry

Jennifer Kuo, BUS Finance and LAS Philosophy

Jacklyn Ovassapian, FAA Theatre and LAS Psychology

Christina Su, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Stamps Scholarship

Graduating seniors, Stamps Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Meral Aycecek, LAS Global Studies

Kayla Guo, BUS Accountancy and Finance

Robert Mitchell, BUS Finance

Christian Williams, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Undergraduate Research Certificate

Office of Undergraduate Research

Elena Wilson, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Germanic Studies

2020 Undergraduate Research Symposium Award

Office of Undergraduate Research

Carolyn Janick, LAS Mathematics

U of I Community Credit Union Scholarship

Bridget Rubins, FAA Art Foundation

University Library Outstanding Student Employee

Jensen Rehn, LAS History



CHP graduate Kundan Joshi



CHP graduate Kayla Guo



CHP graduate Jensen Rehn

HSC Exec Board
2019-20



CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

King Broadrick-Allen Award for Excellence in Honors Teaching

Campus Honors Program

Helaine Silverman, Anthropology

CHP Honors Student Council Executive Board for 2019-20

Maya Chatteraj, LAS Physics (Co-Vice President, Academic Engagement)

Jacob Fritchie, LAS Physics (Secretary and Social Media Chair)

Ethan Frobish, LAS English and Creative Writing (Vice President, Publications)

Ashley Hornig, EDU Elementary Education (Co-Vice President of Social Engagement)

Trennedy Kleczewski, BUS Marketing and Business Process Management (Vice President, Art)

Niraj Lawande, LAS Biology (Co-Vice President, Community Engagement)

Pradyot (Rony) Midya, LAS Computer Science and Linguistics (Co-Vice President of Social Engagement)

Andrew Schollmeier, ENG Bioengineering (Co-Vice President, Community Engagement)

James Tiao, BUS Accountancy (President through December 2019)

Justin Tiao, ENG Bioengineering (Co-Vice President, Academic Engagement, and President at January 2020)

CHP Honors Student Council Executive Board for 2020-21

Maya Chatteraj, LAS Physics (President)

Jacob Fritchie, LAS Physics (Secretary and Social Media Chair)

Ethan Frobish, LAS English and Creative Writing (Co-Vice President, Publications)

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Ashley Hornig, EDU Elementary Education (Co-Vice President of Social Engagement)

Niraj Lawande, LAS Biology (Co-Vice President, Community Engagement)

Pradyot (Rony) Midya, LAS Computer Science and Linguistics (Co-Vice President of Social Engagement)

MaryRose O'Donnell, LAS Communications (Co-Vice President, Publications)

Micah Rubel, ENG Materials Science and Engineering (Vice President, Academic Engagement)

Andrew Schollmeier, ENG Bioengineering (Co-Vice President, Community Engagement)

Calvin Ke Memorial Student Leadership Award

Campus Honors Program, graduating seniors

Spenser Bailey, LAS History

Trennedy Kleczewski, BUS Marketing and Business Process Management

James Tiao, BUS Accountancy and Finance

Justin Tiao, ENG Bioengineering

CHP Merit Scholarship

Graduating seniors, awarded to two entering Chancellor's Scholars annually

Olivia Bievenue, LAS English and Psychology

Holly Stallard, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

2020 CHP Summer Research Awards

Maya Chatteraj, LAS Chemistry, Design of Bimetallic Nanoparticle Catalysts for Visible-Light-Driven CO₂ Reduction*

Fiona Ek, FAA Music Education, Rethinking Punishment and Prisons: A Modern Overview of Prison Abolitionism Through a Philosophical Lens

Destiny Henning, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology, Evaluating the evolutionary relationship of SodM and SodA in *Staphylococcus aureus**

Sam Li, LAS Economics, Seasonal Prediction of Winter Energy Demand Over Northeastern United States and Western Europe

Sophie Luijten, LAS Global Studies, Women's Empowerment Strategies by International Women's Organizations

*Awarded but not able to disburse due to Summer 2020 UI lab protocols related to COVID-19

E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship

Endowed scholarship for one first-year Chancellor's Scholar in Mathematics

Elia Chudov, LAS Mathematics

CHP Outstanding Senior Awards

-20 seniors, for academic excellence and CHP participation

Fernando Arias, LAS Political Science

Raajesh Arunachalam, ENG Computer Science

Sakina Burhani, LAS Chemistry

Deborah Chang, BUS Accountancy

Tanner Corum, LAS Actuarial Science

Benjamin David, ENG Bioengineering

Kerri Elson, BUS Accountancy

Lotanna Ezenekwe, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Ziv Kaputa, ENG Computer Science

Trennedy Kleczewski, BUS Marketing and Business Process Management

Philip Kocheril, LAS Chemistry

Chen Lin, ENG Computer Science and LAS Economics

Bryan Lu, ENG Computer Science

Emily Martin, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Jacklyn Ovassapian, FAA Theatre and LAS Psychology

Paul Reckamp, ENG Computer Engineering

Holly Stallard, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

Christina Su, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Chemistry

Santosh Sudhakar, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Chemistry

Megan Frances Voris, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Franklin Ye, ENG Computer Science

COLLEGE AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND RECOGNITIONS

COLLEGE AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND RECOGNITIONS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Carol Andreae Haynes Sophomore Award

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences

Kayla Vittore, ACES Crop Sciences

Jonathan Baldwin Turner (JBT) Scholars

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences, graduating seniors

Jenna Baker, ACES Agricultural Leadership & Science Education

Andrew Johnson, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Emily Martin, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Mackenzie Wells, ACES Animal Sciences

COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Carol L. Chittenden Scholarship

Department of Kinesiology and Community Health

Minwoo Choi, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

Helga M. Deutsch Scholarship

Department of Kinesiology and Community Health

Megan Kallnowski, AHS Kinesiology

Iri H. Marshal Scholarship

Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services

Sophie Luijten, LAS Global Studies and Spanish

David C. and Ruth K. Mieber Scholarship

Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services

Arielle Weiss, LAS Gender and Women's Studies

Roger Winfield Morse Memorial Scholarship

Department of Kinesiology and Community Health

Jamie Kahn, AHS Kinesiology



CHP graduate Jenna Baker



CHP graduate Holly Stallard



CHP graduate Olivia Bievenue

2019-2020 CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

GIES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Mary Sparks Alley Scholarship

Gies College of Business
Julia Gwozdz, BUS Unassigned
Katherine Krupicka, BUS Unassigned



CHP graduate
 Jennifer Kuo

James R. Cantalupo Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Jennifer Kuo, BUS Finance and LAS
 Philosophy

Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Kristina Nelson, BUS Finance and
 Accountancy

Ernsteen Family Centennial Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Margaret Hines, BUS Accountancy
Alex Kogen, BUS Accountancy

**Gies College of Business Alumni Association Board
 Scholarship**
Anita Gugulski, BUS Finance and Accountancy

Gies Business Honors Program
*Graduating seniors, 40 students per year in the
 Gies College of Business*

Kerri Elson, BUS Accountancy
Elizabeth Heffernan, BUS Accountancy and
 Information Systems and Information Technology
Jennifer Kuo, BUS Finance and LAS Philosophy
Robert Mitchell, BUS Finance

Gies Business Honors Program Scholarship
Wilson Ciecko, BUS Unassigned
Wenjie Song, BUS Unassigned

Gies College of Business Loyalty Scholarship
Manushi Shah, BUS Unassigned



CHP graduate Elizabeth Heffernan

Gies College of Business Scholarship
Elizabeth Heffernan, BUS Accountancy and
 Information Systems and Information Technology
Annie Wu, BUS Information Systems and
 Information Technology

Golder Academies Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Emma Connelly, BUS Unassigned

Leiby S. Hall Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Brianna Jordan, BUS Marketing
Trennedy Kleczewski, BUS Marketing and Business
 Process Management
Lynnette Lu, BUS Finance and LAS Actuarial Science

Izenman Business Scholarship

Gies College of Business
Carly Marchal, BUS Marketing and Finance

Ronald Jeffris Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Jasmine Robinson, BUS Accountancy

Lowell N. Johnson Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Mason Kaiser, BUS Unassigned

Gerald M. Marks Scholarship
*Gies College of Business, for students concentrating in
 international studies*
Rachel Rosa, BUS Operations Management

**Herbert H. and Regina
 Krantz Moede Scholarship**
Gies College of Business
Rachel Rosa, BUS Operations
 Management



CHP graduate Kerri Elson

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Gies College of Business
Kerri Elson,
 BUS Accountancy

**Randall and Elizabeth
 Rochman Scholarship**
Gies College of Business
Julia Chillon, BUS Finance

Anna Lou Johnston Roth Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Devki Kasture, BUS Finance

Anne Marie Rudo Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Katherine Krupicka, BUS Unassigned

Peter and Susan Schaeffer Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Elisabeth Jaszka, BUS Unassigned

George H. and Gertrude J. Schiff Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Emily Antonnacci, BUS Unassigned

John A. Schoen Entrepreneurial Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Patrick Driscoll, BUS Unassigned
Michael Mitchell, BUS Unassigned

Shebik Scholarship Fund
Gies College of Business
Regina Miller, BUS Unassigned

Weisman Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Victoria Heredia-Ferran, BUS Management

Edward L. Whitaker Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Devki Kasture, BUS Finance

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Sheila A. Grone Roehlk Scholarship
College of Education
Ellen Reckamp, EDU Middle Grades Education

Robert L. and Rena M. Williams Scholarship
College of Education
Ellen Reckamp, EDU Middle Grades Education

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

A. I. Andrews Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Tejal Bajaj, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

Axford, Roy A., Undergraduate Scholarship
*Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological
 Engineering*
Anthony Evans, ENG Nuclear, Plasma,
 and Radiological Engineering

Ira O. Baker Prize
*Department of Civil and Environmental
 Engineering*
Lauren Excell, ENG Civil Engineering,
 1st prize



CHP graduate
 Lauren Excell

Robert Bohl Scholarship
*Department of Materials Science and
 Engineering*
Tiffany Duong, ENG Materials Science
 and Engineering

Bei Tse and May Chao Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Kellie Halloran, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Robert Stavins, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Richard K. Cook Scholarship
*Department of Physics, for an outstanding sophomore
 physics major*
Max Shepherd, ENG Engineering Physics

Engineering Visionary Scholarship
College of Engineering
Kenneth Tochihara, ENG Aerospace Engineering

Donald W. Hamer Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Charlotte Holas, ENG Materials Science and
 Engineering

**Daniel F. Hang Outstanding
 Senior Design Award**
*Department of Nuclear, Plasma,
 and Radiological Engineering*
Alp Aktuna, ENG Nuclear, Plasma,
 and Radiological Engineering
Dario Panici, ENG Nuclear, Plasma,
 and Radiological Engineering



CHP graduate
 Alp Aktuna

**Illinois Engineering Achievement
 Scholarship**
Audrey Godsell, ENG Aerospace
 Engineering



Chancellor's Scholar Ellen Reckamp and
 CHP graduate Paul Reckamp

Illinois Engineering Freshman Scholarship
Jack Joshi, ENG Aerospace Engineering

**Jacobs Engineering Transportation Endowed
 Scholarship**
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Robert Wiggins, ENG Civil Engineering

Daniel P. Krueger Scholarship
*Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems
 Engineering*
Nicholas Aron Kasner,
 ENG Systems Engineering
 and Design



CHP graduate
 Hannah Manetsch

Ernest M. Lyman Prize
*Department of Physics,
 for outstanding senior*
Hannah Manetsch,
 ENG Engineering Physics

**Mildred Mattux and Lisle
 Abbott Rose Scholarship**
*Industrial and Enterprise
 Systems Engineering*
Simon Balisi, ENG Industrial Engineering

Bernard Delbert Murphy Scholarship
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dale Robbenolt, ENG Civil Engineering

**NPRE Outstanding Academic Achievement Award
 to a Graduating Senior**
*Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological
 Engineering*
Dario Panici, ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological
 Engineering

Outstanding Course Assistant
Computer Science
Patrick Gallagher, ENG Computer Science, Fall 2019

Norman L. Peterson Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Matthew Larson, ENG Materials Science and
 Engineering

Larry D. and Carol Rakers Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Meghan Oh, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

**Sandra L. and John P. Rankin Engineering
 Scholarship**
Department of Computer Science
Annie Li, ENG Computer Science

Daniel L. Slotnick Scholarship
Department of Computer Science
Melissa Chen, ENG Computer Science

Robert A. Stein Scholarship
Department of Physics
Antonio Gonzalez, ENG Engineering Physics

Kenneth J. Trigger Award
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Lyle Regenwetter, ENG Mechanical Engineering



CHP graduate
 Lyle Regenwetter

Charles and Lucille Wert Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Samuel Feathers, ENG Materials Science and
 Engineering

C. M. Wayman Memorial Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Micah Rubel, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS

Division Achievement Award in Music Education
School of Music
Lydia Walsh-Rock, FAA Music Education

Division Achievement Award in Woodwinds
School of Music
Kate Bruns,
 FAA Instrumental Music



CHP graduate Kate Bruns

Mark H. Hindsley Award
School of Music
Kate Bruns,
 FAA Instrumental Music

**Illinois Opera Theatre
 Enthusiasts Award for
 Excellence**
School of Music
Anna Benoit, FAA Lyric
 Theatre

Theodore Presser Undergraduate Music Award
School of Music
Matthew Reeder, FAA Music Composition

Susan Starrett Violin Scholarship
School of Music
Leah Haynes, FAA Instrumental Music

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Oliver J. Bell Merit Scholarship in Chemical Sciences
School of Chemical Sciences
Austin Huang, LAS Chemistry

**Martha Belle Barrett Prize
 for Outstanding Academic
 Achievement in History**
Department of History
Spenser Bailey, LAS History
Jensen Rehn, LAS History
Thomas Weller, LAS History



CHP graduate
 Thomas Weller

**Homer J. and Edith M. Birch
 Scholarship**
School of Chemical Sciences
Austin Huang, LAS Chemistry

Christina A. Brodbeck Digital Humanities Scholarship
Department of History
Spenser Bailey, LAS History

**Jean Weagant and William G. Crist Memorial
 Scholarship**
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Sophie Luijten, LAS Global Studies and Spanish

Edward and Paula Fichtner Scholarship
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures
Sophia Ebel, LAS Comparative Literature

**Robert A. and Elanor A. Flinn Award for
 Undergraduate Research**
Germanic Languages and Literatures
Elena Wilson, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
 and Germanic Studies

Elsie Thomas Fraser Scholarship
Department of Mathematics
Elia Chudov, LAS Mathematics

Chester W. Hannum Scholarship
School of Chemical Sciences
Beth Born, LAS Chemical Engineering

ESES Outstanding Senior Award
*Department of Earth, Society, and
 Environmental Sustainability*
Melanie Rohla, LAS Earth, Society,
 and Environmental Sustainability

**Friends of History Distinguished
 Service Award**
Department of History
Jensen Rehn, LAS History

**J.J. Lagowski Undergraduate
 Scholarship in Chemistry**
School of Chemical Sciences
Douglas Chan, LAS Chemistry

Lincoln Scholars
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, graduating seniors
Spenser Bailey, LAS History
Claudia Dudzik, LAS Mathematics and Statistics
Lotanna Ezenekwe, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Lubrizol Scholarship
School of Chemical Sciences
Leah Ziolkowski, LAS Chemistry

MCB Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology
Neha Arun, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Linguistics
Department of Linguistics
Daniel Stelzer, LAS Linguistics and ENG
 Computer Science

Phi Beta Kappa
*Liberal Arts and Sciences Honorary, top 1% of junior
 class or top 3% of senior class*

Fernando Arias, LAS Political Science
Spenser Bailey, LAS History
Tanner Corum, LAS Actuarial Science
Madison Kaufman, AHS Interdisciplinary
 Health Sciences

Philip Kocheril, LAS Chemistry
Robert Lou, LAS Mathematics
Hannah Manetsch, ENG Engineering Physics
Allison Neggers, LAS Psychology
Jacklyn Ovassapian, FAA Theatre and
 LAS Psychology

Haley Penkala, LAS Molecular and
 Cellular Biology
Jensen Rehn, LAS History
Melanie Rohla, LAS Earth, Society,
 and Environmental Sustainability
Rachel Spencer, LAS English
Christina Su, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Justin Tiao, ENG Bioengineering
Girija Vaidya, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

UI Freshman Math Contest
Department of Mathematics
Alexander Ristich, LAS Mathematics, 1st place

UI Undergraduate Math Contest
Department of Mathematics
Kieran Kaempfen, LAS Mathematics and Computer
 Science, 1st place
Alexander Ristich, LAS Mathematics, 2nd place

Bruno J. Wojcik Memorial Scholarship Award
School of Chemical Sciences
Leah Ziolkowski, LAS Chemistry

COLLEGE OF MEDIA

Cardiss Collins Scholarship
College of Media
William Morrow, MED Computer Science
 and Advertising

Calvin Hugy Scholarship
College of Media
Lincoln Rogers, MED Advertising



CHP graduate
 Leah Ziolkowski



CHP graduate
 Tanner Corum



CHP graduate
 Kieran Kaempfen

ALUMNI NEWS

Kaushik Andra (2014 alumnus, BUS Finance) in January 2020: “I’m currently the Founder and CEO of Memento — a mobile app that allows families to curate their best audio memories. Think Apple or Google Photos but for audio.”

Andrew Armstrong (1999 alumnus, LAS English) was a guest speaker in Warren Lavey’s CHP class “Climate Change, Law and Health” on October 3, 2019. Andrew is Chief, Environmental Bureau at the Illinois Attorney General’s Office.

Sr. Stephanie Baliga (2010 alumna, LAS Economics and Geography) in June 2020: “So, I’ve been a religious sister for 10 years at this point. I work at a place called Mission of Our Lady of the Angels that serves the materially poor on the west side of Chicago. Our food pantry has been three times the size as normal during COVID-19; we’ve been serving up to 729 families per week with car loads of food. So, I’m super ripped from moving 100,000 lbs. of food a month in and out of our building. I also teach religion to 1st-8th graders at a local elementary school, run large construction projects, raise money and spend money, run marathons, and most importantly pray that our broken and divided world can be brought together by the love of God. I aspired to get my forklift driver certification this year so we don’t have to lift as much food. In the meantime, I like my pallet jack, as shown in the picture. I continue to give thanks to God for the amazing time I had in CHP during my amazing time at U of I.”



CHP alum Sr Stephanie Baliga uses a forklift

Jordan Barry (2019 alumna, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology) in June 2020: “I have chosen to attend Midwestern University for medical school this fall. I learned a great deal from my time in CHP, and I am so thankful for your mentorship and confidence in me. I hope the students starting this fall take full advantage of the wonderful resources CHP has to offer.”

Jordan Blake Banks (2019 alumna, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering) in May 2020: “I came home [from my Fulbright in Finland] about 2 months ago but plan to return. Hopefully I can get back this summer since I have a job at the university, but I’ve gotten confirmation that it can also be done remotely. I am almost finished with classes for

this semester, which were converted to online classes back in mid-March before I left. I have a full year left in my master’s program. Overall things are going well. I’m just itching to get back to Finland.”

Katrina Bromann (2006 alumna, BUS Finance): “I’m still living in Ottawa, Illinois with my husband and 2 girls (ages 7 and 3). For the past two years I’ve been working as a part-time librarian at Illinois Valley Community College, filling in as a substitute when they were short staffed. It is the perfect job that allows me to keep up with librarianship professionally but still be mainly at home with my kids during their younger years. ...We all miss campus so much! We agreed it was some of the most wonderful times of our lives. I don’t know how long it will be before I feel safe to travel again, but I cannot wait to take my kids back to Champaign for a long weekend getaway!”

Jim Bruce (2014 alumnus, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology) in June 2020: “Life is great. I have, in my opinion, the coolest job in the world. Beginning my 3rd year (PGY-3) of residency with SIU Institute for Plastic Surgery. Staying active in our departments Lab for Microsurgery and Regenerative Medicine. This past year I was a part of reattaching a number of body parts including entire hands, reconstructing patients after breast cancer, using free tissue transfers including bones from the leg and hip to reconstruct patient’s faces after cancer or trauma, fixing cleft palates and congenital hand defects, treating and reconstructing patients with burn injuries like my own, and stitching up just about everyone in town as they pass through our emergency department.

“In the lab I have worked on projects collaborating with tattoo artists for reconstruction of breast cancer defects, a prosthetist to study mechanisms by which peripheral nerves regenerate and ways to interface with upper extremity prosthetics, and an international company to use Cold Atmospheric Plasma technology to sterilize infected burn wounds. I am so incredibly lucky to have found a field where I can operate every day, be at the intersection of cutting edge research and exciting patient care, and at the same time be part of the team that every parent wants to call in when their little ones’ get cuts on their face that need fixing up.

“As always, happy to have anyone interested in medical school, surgery, or medical research reach out! I am so thankful to have been a part of the CHP and would be nowhere near where I am today without it. Thank you for your mentorship, friendship, the opportunities you created and the connections you made.”

Katie Castree (2010 alumna, AHS Community Health) in August 2019: “I live in St. Louis and am an Operations Excellence Manager at Accumen, a healthcare transformation company, doing process improvement for hospital laboratories. In April 2019 I was humbled to be honored among the 2019 Women of Distinction as the Rising Star (under 35). This award honors women who have been revolutionary in business, civic engagement, philanthropic programs, and mentorship.”

Amanda Cowfer (2018 alumna, LAS Chemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology) in August 2019: “I joined the Pentelute Group at MIT and now I work on synthesizing complex proteins and peptides. I have transitioned from being a full-on synthetic organic chemist to now having more a chemical biological approach to science. I also have become a bit of an engineer since we use these custom made and designed peptides synthesizers to do our work and they involve a lot of

maintenance. I became the coding expert despite not having any coding experience. We are wrapping up a project right now and should be submitting a publication soon! [My dog Stella and I] walk around Cambridge and in Boston a lot, and while housing is difficult with a dog, the rest of the Greater Boston area is really pet-friendly with lots of parks and restaurants having outdoor seating. She also gets to come to work with me since our office and lab spaces are separate. The new school year starts soon, it’s crazy how time flies. ...I think I miss CHP the most when I think about UIUC. I hope that the new group of students enjoy the program as much as I did!”

Greg Crimmins (2002 alumnus, LAS Cellular and Structural Biology) has been busy ramping up Remedy Plan, and let us know in August 2019: “On top of moving forward with our drug development, we also moved to a new lab and welcomed a new employee to the RP team.” Remedy Plan had an open house in October 2019 in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and expect 2020 will be focused on growth of the company, preparation for FDA approval to begin clinical trials, development of other drugs in our pipeline, and an exploration of partnerships that will advance their business development strategy.



CHP alum Tyler Edmonds

Tyler R. Edmonds (2003 alumnus, LAS Political Science) in August 2019: “I am a 2003 CHP graduate and wanted to let you know that I have been appointed as an Associate Judge in the First Judicial Circuit in Southern Illinois. [Information at www.annanews.com/news/edmonds-appointed-associate-judge and <https://courts.illinois.gov/Media/PressRel/2019/072219.pdf>.] I will always be grateful for the opportunities as a part of CHP! Thank you!”

Max Ellithorpe (2011 alumnus, LAS Political Science) in June 2020: “I just finished my first year of medical school at the University of Illinois in Peoria. It’s been quite an adjustment learning how to be a student again. I’m hoping to go into psychiatry but know things may change after I do my rotations third year. This year will be full of flashcards and practice questions as I prepare for Step 1 of the licensing exam.”

Christina Ernst (2019 alumna, ENG Computer Engineering?) in June 2020: “All you folks at CHP have been on my mind a lot as I listen to news about universities reopening. I hope you can do so safely when the time comes. I’m coming up on my one year anniversary of working at the Google Chicago office. The picture below is from my orientation in Mountain View back when it was normal to fly places! I’m very grateful to be able to hunker down in my apartment and work from home for the past few months.”

Richard Excell (1990 alumnus, BUS Finance) in August 2019: “It’s been a few years since I was at the CHP 30th Anniversary event. It is hard to believe my daughter is also a senior at UIUC as well. I wanted to send a note to say that I am now on the Gies College of Business Finance faculty as of this Fall.”

Top: CHP alum Amanda Cowfer
Middle: CHP alum Katrina Bromann and family
Bottom: CHP alum Christina Ernst



Dana Fager (2012 alumna, *LAS International Studies*) in June 2020: “I started a new job last fall as an international trade specialist at the International Trade Administration in the Department of Commerce, and I’m really enjoying it. I cover medical devices and pharmaceuticals/biotech (which I’ve never worked on before!) and I focus on the Middle East and Africa (which, as I’m sure you can surmise from my Japan-related experience are new regions for me!), so I have a lot to learn. But I’m enjoying the work and learning so much!”

Rachel Jacoby (2018 alumna, *BUS Accountancy*) had her work with Feed the Front Line Chicago featured in “U of I Grad Working To ‘Feed The Frontline’ In Fight Against COVID” in Chicago CBS News at <https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/04/22/u-of-i-grad-working-to-feed-the-frontline-in-fight-against-covid-19/>, and in “Food donations support both frontline workers and local restaurants impacted by coronavirus” at WGN-TV at <https://wgntv.com/news/coronavirus/groups-food-donations-support-both-frontline-workers-local-restaurants-impacted-by-coronavirus/>. More information is at www.ftfchicago.org/about-us, and see page 29 for a profile of Rachel.

Brittany Koteles (2011 alumna, *LAS Individual Plans of Study*) in December 2019: “This year, I have stepped into a new chapter as the Co-Director of Nuns & Nones, an alliance of Catholic sisters and spiritually diverse millennials, to build community and work for peace and justice together. This April, I quit my day job of 5+ years, to focus full-time on Nuns & Nones.

“Nuns & Nones started as simple dialogues and gatherings between sisters and seekers, usually on a topic or theme. Slowly, things began to grow and evolve. Now, there are ongoing Nuns & Nones communities in ten cities across the U.S., including one that I run here in DC. We got more creative, experimenting with things like a six-month residency for activists in a convent, participating in shared actions, and creating a toolkit for new groups to start.



“Along the way, I have learned things. I have been burned out, built up, encouraged, driven bonkers. Stepping into this position of leadership has been beautiful, challenging, and humbling. I am learning to create boundaries and budgets. I am learning how to advocate for myself and my team. I’ve learned that keeping people happy can actually be more selfish, than saying the difficult-but-right thing that might upset someone. I’ve learned just how important it is to work with people who are different than you.

“Where will we go from here? In 2020, we’ll go to the election cycle. N&N is springing into action. We’ll be walking streets, knocking on doors, and getting people registered to vote. We’ll support our neighbors and friends to have deeper, braver conversations about their values.”

Anjana Krishnan (2017 alumna, *ENG Civil Engineering and ACES Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences*) in July 2019: “I wanted to give you a quick update on grad school — I’ve decided that I’m going to Imperial College London for sure. Big change moving from small-town Uganda to a major world city! I’m actually in the last couple weeks of my job here as well, which is bittersweet — I’ll be in India for a little bit before starting university though, so I’m glad to be able to spend some time with my family first.” And an update in June 2020: “I’m back in India with my family, as my university has switched to remote learning for the present. I’m still on track for graduation in September [2020], though, for which I’m very grateful. ...I’m lucky enough to have signed a job contract before this whole situation started, so I should be all set to start work once I’m done with school! I’ll be working with a flood risk management company in London. It’s a small firm with a pretty diverse staff — both my interviewers were female engineers, which was very refreshing — so I’m excited to begin work!”

Ga Eun (Jackie) Lee (2017 alumna, *AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences*) in August 2019: “For next two months, I’ll be applying to other med schools and grad schools at the same time while working at the National Institute of Forest Science.”

Kevin Homann (2012 alumnus, *LAS Chemical Engineering*) in June 2020: “From a professional perspective, I’m still working for Lyondell-Basell up in Clinton, Iowa. We completed our big 2 month turnaround last year, where I worked 13 hour days for 13 days in a row then took one day off. It was a lot of work, but we got it done safely and made a lot of improvements. After that, I moved positions to work in the Low Density Polyethylene side of the business. Now, I’m taking the ethylene I used to make and turning it into low density polyethylene. Lots of what I make is used for things like food packaging, storage bags, and other thin film applications. I plan on working in Clinton for the foreseeable future, so I should be in this role for a couple of years. I’ll probably be pulled back in to help with the next turnaround 6 years from now.

“On a more personal note, I’ve gone on some pretty cool vacations during the last couple of years. My most recent trip was to Antarctica. During my trip, I also spent some time in Chile and Argentina. I was gone for about 4 weeks, which is the longest trip I’ve ever gone on. The year before, I went to Africa for a photo safari and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. At this point, I think I’m done with my big trips for a couple of years. I’ll probably plan some smaller 1-2 week trips closer to home.”

Samuel LeRoy (2018 alumnus, *BUS Marketing and Management*) in May 2020: “In 2018, I began attending the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy. I am now an MPP graduate. Over the last two years, I concentrated in Public Policy Analysis Methods, studying public finance, public management, and econometrics. Along the way



Chancellor Robert Jones with CHP alum Sam LeRoy at 2018 Graduation

I conducted research on transitional justice in Mexico, served on my school’s Student Affairs Committee, enjoyed living in Ann Arbor and cheering for the Wolverines, and made lifelong friends. Later this summer, I will move to Washington D.C. to start work as a Management and Program Analyst with the Department of Justice in an internal consulting unit. With projects focusing on organizational design, business processes, and diversity and inclusion, the skills I learned at Michigan and Illinois will prove helpful daily. No matter where my career takes me, my experiences in CHP, and Ford have prepared me well to pursue my passion for public management.”

Megan Lindgren (2015 alumna, *LAS Economics and Statistics*) in March 2020: “Like every university, University of Chicago is going remote for the rest of the year. I was supposed to travel to Israel for spring break with a student group from Booth, but that was of course canceled. Instead I ordered a book from one of my favorite female Instagram bloggers Dame Travelers. I’m focusing on finishing my mounting pile of research papers, learning how to play new pieces on piano, and eating all of the delicious recipes my boyfriend is cooking since he’s an MBA at Booth and stuck home with me. Graduation is still a TBD since we’re on the quarter system and don’t end until mid-June. So far the bar exam in July and starting as a first-year associate at Cleary Gottlieb in September are on track... crossing my fingers that things are better by then.”

Sara (Gibbs) Mehta (2008 alumna, *LAS International Studies*) and **Prashant Mehta** (2007 alumnus, *LAS Chemical Engineering*) in September 2019: “Our September/October weekends have gotten pretty hectic because.... baby boy Mehta is due in December!” And in March 2020: “We are just hanging out at home. Dev is keeping us busy. He was born 12/9/20 and is now one energetic little guy.”

Rajasi Rastogi (2017 alumna, *FAA Industrial Design*) in April 2020: “I moved back to India in 2018 have been doing a lot of wandering and traveling around since then — experimenting with projects in the areas of disability, innovation and design. My experiences and time in the U.S. were such a great learning process! and have been so helpful in my journey. Life is still a work in progress, but I am so happy to have finally found a sense of ‘home’, a better understanding of my culture and a regained respect for my family and community.”



CHP graduate Rajasi Rastogi (seated) and sister

Maureen Reagan (1991 alumna, *FAA Instrumental Music*) in July 2019: “I received my Doctor of Musical Arts degree in May 2019. I pursued this part-time; I work at Krannert Center full-time. My dissertation title is ‘A History of the University of Illinois British Brass Band, 1981 to the Present.’ It was a great experience!”

Kimberly Redeker (2009 alumna, *LAS Communication*) in October 2019: “I’ve moved back to Illinois (from Florida — permanently — this time. I’m happy to be back in the Midwest, and have seasons again.” And an update in December 2019: “I am thrilled to say I am soon to be a full-time employee of Illinois [as the Coordinator of Stewardship and Donor Relations in the Grainger College of Engineering]. I will be starting sometime in early January — once all the paperwork goes through, and after break. I am very much looking forward to this new adventure. The HoHo won’t be too far away, either :-).”

Sam Walder (2017 alumnus, *ENG Computer Engineering*) in December 2019: “We have kept our heads down and Trala quietly became the #1 rated violin app with 150,000 downloads and a global 4.6 star rating. Now, I’m proud to announce our biggest updates ever. Trala lessons are now designed by and feature famous violinists such as Mark O’Connor (national fiddling champion), Rob Landes (YouTube superstar with over 2M subscribers), Nuné Melik (classical player and world expert in Armenian classical music), and Katie Jacoby (electric violinist for The Who). We were so excited about these new lessons that we figured we needed more people to pick up the violin to experience them! So we just launched a bundle deal (1 year of Trala plus a brand-new beginner violin), so if you know anyone who might be interested in learning the violin, please help create a new artist in this world (www.trala.com/bundle).”

Nicholas Wisseman (5/03 alumnus, *LAS Anthropology and History*) in May 2019: “Today’s the day! *The Black Resurrection*, the second book in my *Red Wraith* historical-fantasy series, is available on Amazon. (You can also read it on Kindle Unlimited.) *The Black Resurrection* is a standalone sequel, so you can start it without having read the first book.” An update in December 2019: “My novella *Magic in the Mud Show* will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Colored Lens*, in early 2020. *Magic in the White City*, the book the novella feeds into, will hopefully be ready soon thereafter. Both are historical fantasies set in the 1890s, one in the Barnum & Bailey Circus and the other in the Columbian Exposition.” Nick continues to write monthly science fiction and fantasy book and podcast reviews at www.nickwisseman.com.

Kevin Wolz (2013 alumnus, *ENG Civil Engineering and LAS Integrative Biology*) remains busy with his company (Midwest Agroforestry Solutions) and non-profit (the Savannah Institute). His company has been successfully marketing black currants, American plums, elderberry — and even decorative willow stems. In addition to providing many agroforestry events, farm tours, and related conferences, the non-profit Savannah Institute has released COVID-19 resources for farmers, as well as new “Understanding Agroforestry” infographics; these resources and free one-page descriptions of these five common agroforestry practices can be downloaded at the Savannah Institute website: www.savannainstitute.org. Savannah Institute has received a \$200,000 grant from the USDA SARE program in Illinois, enabling the Savannah Institute to establish a network of large-scale agroforestry research and demonstration farms across Illinois over the next two years. They also received \$250,000 (to provide support to participating farmers to plant tree crops on their land through alley cropping) from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through The Natural Conservancy’s Natural Climate Solutions Accelerator Program.

Please continue to forward updates to rockman@illinois.edu so your news can be included in future newsletters.

ALUMNI PROFILES

3 QUESTIONS WITH REBECCA HARRIS

2005 alumna, LAS Biology and Biochemistry

1 You did your MD/PhD at Northwestern, and are currently a Clinical Fellow at Children's Hospital in Boston and at Harvard Medical School. How did your experiences at UI inform your career in medicine?

I had two formative experiences at U of I, which continue to impact the ways in which I pursue my career as a physician-scientist. The first was my coursework in Honors Biology. Honors Biology was a unique major as it combined both macro and micro biology. It was a small group, very close knit, and the coursework was hands on and engaging. The second experience was working in the laboratory of Dr. David Shapiro, investigating the functionality of the estrogen receptor. My experiences in Honors Biology and in the Shapiro Lab solidified my desire to pursue research. Interestingly, I write this the day after my graduation from the Pediatric Endocrinology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. By my calculations, it is my 30th grade graduation and I have enjoyed every decade of training!

2 How has COVID-19 changed your day-to-day work-life, and how do you think this pandemic will impact the future of medicine?

With the onset of the pandemic, my clinics were quickly converted to virtual visits. I now see my patients and their families on the computer. I am grateful that I am still able to engage with them and support them through this difficult time. My research has also been impacted. I am currently recruiting research subjects for a project that explores the impacts of sex hormones (estrogen and testosterone) and sex chromosomes (X and Y) on differences in health and disease between men and women. Human subjects research has been shut down since March and is slowly starting to re-open in a safe and thoughtful manner. I am hopeful that as the pandemic improves we will transition back to in-person clinic visits and research visits but I

“...I hope that what we have learned about the benefits of virtual medicine continues. There are many patients who deserve full access to care and telemedicine has made that possible.”

also hope that what we have learned about the benefits of virtual medicine continues. There are many patients who deserve full access to care and telemedicine has made that possible. We must think about the silver lining of the pandemic and continue to make positive changes in medicine.

3 As past-President of Honors Student Council, you were very active in the Campus Honors Program. How did the CHP enhance your undergraduate experience, and what advice would you give to current and future Chancellor's Scholars?

I still think back upon my time as a Chancellor's Scholar with immense fondness and gratitude. CHP taught me to explore and engage my curiosity. While I was a science major, I was not restricted to taking science courses. I still recall the course I took in architecture, building models of treehouses. I remember my trip to Japan with CHP, the first time I went abroad, we were dressed in kimonos, made Japanese sweets, and visited Hiroshima. Even small events, like the apple tasting lab or our inaugural coffee crawl, made me realize how diverse interests and experiences can enrich your life. My advice would be to have those experiences. Be open to new things. Engage yourself and others. Surround yourself with bright, energetic peers and mentors, like those found in the Campus Honors Program. Say yes to new opportunities now and as you continue in your careers and lives.



CHP alum Rebecca Harris and family celebrate graduation



CHP alum Rachel Jacoby, delivering supplies

3 QUESTIONS WITH RACHEL JACOBY

2018 alumna, BUS Accountancy

1 In addition to working full-time remotely for Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization, you are the Co-Founder of the Chicago Chapter of Feed the Front Line (for more info, see page 26 or www.ftfchicago.org), which is helping frontline workers during the COVID-19 crisis, and while on campus, you were a leader through serving as President of ActGreen and your engagement in Panama and Honduras with Global Business Brigades. How do you feel your experiences at UI inspired your current accomplishments?

The University of Illinois exposed me to a wide variety of students and professors that challenged me, encouraged me, and pushed me to be a better student and a better person. I had the opportunity to try a lot of different things and was actively encouraged to fail. This may seem counterintuitive, but being able to fail built my confidence as a leader and allowed me to become a person with the determination and conviction to launch a nonprofit in the middle of a pandemic. Attending the University of Illinois puts you in an environment where you are surrounded by high achieving, intelligent, thoughtful peers who are committed to building a better world with you.

2 After graduation, you spent a year in Malaysia on an English Teaching Fulbright Scholarship. How did this opportunity expand your understanding of intercultural issues, and how has it impacted you since you have returned to the U.S.?

Spending a year teaching English in a rural fishing village in Northern Malaysia was a challenging and rewarding experience. Part of my role as a cultural ambassador was to embrace learning as a two-way street.

Although I was in Malaysia to share American culture with my students and community members, I learned so much about Malaysian culture, Islam, and what it means to be an American. I'm a firm believer that having an international experience like the Fulbright does not change you, it reveals you. Some bright moments of my time in Malaysia include making Deep Dish pizza with my students, celebrating Hari Raya (Ramadan) at a student's house, teaching students on my female soccer team how to dribble, and befriending the food vendors at the night market. Since returning to the United States, I have done my best to honestly and accurately convey my experience of living overseas in Malaysia as well as sharing portions of Malaysian culture with my American friends and family.

3 How did the Campus Honors Program impact your experience at UI, and what advice would you give to current and future Chancellor's Scholars?

The Campus Honors Program gave me an opportunity to take classes in a variety of subjects that were outside my major. This breadth of classes challenged me intellectually, forcing me to think and learn in different ways. The experience of taking classes in disciplines ranging from Gender Studies to Labor and Employment Relations to World Literature improved my critical thinking skills and pushed me out of my comfort zone. I would recommend taking advantage of all the resources available through CHP, particularly the classes not at all related to your major.

...continued on next page



CHP alum Ruth Tekeste

3 QUESTIONS WITH RUTH TEKESTE

2012 alumna, LAS Psychology

1 As an undergraduate, you were heavily engaged with service through Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity and as a leader with Habitat for Humanity. How did your UI experiences inform your professional goals?

I was very fulfilled giving back to the community through Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity and Habitat for Humanity. I knew I wanted to continue having a positive impact with my career, so I decided to fight educational inequity as a teacher. I have taught high school English in low income schools of color for most of my career since college and have truly loved it! I hope to continue serving this demographic for the entirety of my career.

2 After graduation, you taught in Miami for two years through Teach for America, and recently earned a Master's in Education at UIC. What do you see as the future direction/s of education, and what do you want your role to be in that big picture?

Unfortunately, I think it has become harder for teachers to do their already very difficult jobs well due to a host of factors including a lack of equitable resources and true understanding of the very different needs of schools. I hope that education will continue making strides

towards preparing all students to succeed in the future, but I'm not sure that teachers and schools (depending on the school) are given the resources to fully do so. I want to continue serving youth of color in a role outside of the classroom and to stay connected with and support previous students.

3 How did the CHP impact your undergraduate experience, and what advice would you give to current and future Chancellor's Scholars?

CHP was a wonderful part of my undergraduate experience. It allowed me to have small, unique, interesting classes not offered to the entire school body ("History of Chicago" led to my career as an educator); go on an AMAZING intercultural study tour of Japan that was heavily subsidized by CHP and fueled my love of travel; attend Krannert dress rehearsals for free; and secure a thoughtful recommendation letter! These things would have been very difficult to do at such a large university otherwise. My advice to current and future Chancellor's Scholars would be to take advantage of all that CHP has to offer, especially study abroad!

3 QUESTIONS WITH RYAN WESTROM

2001 alumnus, ENG Civil Engineering and FAA Urban and Regional Planning

1 After working for a few years as a civil engineer, you attended MIT with the support of an Eisenhower Fellowship, working later for the District Department of Transportation in DC, and now serving as Head of Mobility Engagements—East Coast for City Solutions at Ford Smart Mobility. How did UI help prepare you for your career in human-centered design in mobility?

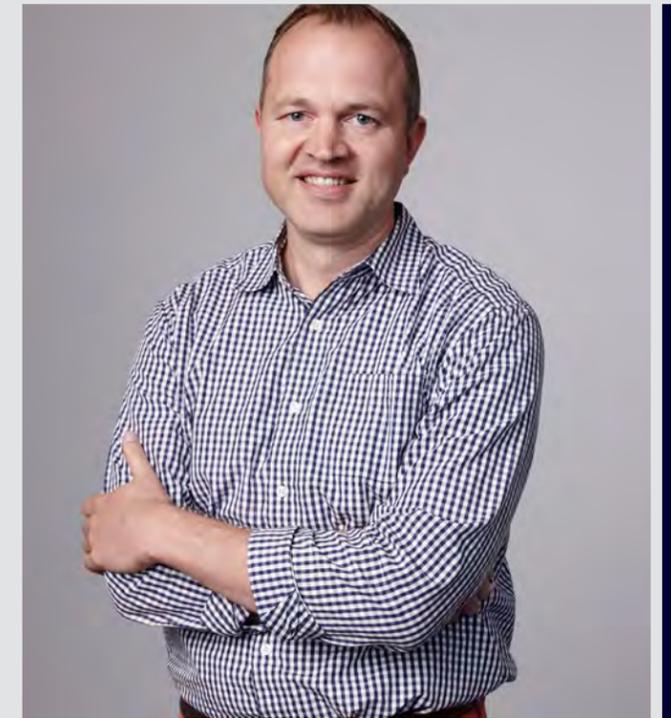
I chose to attend the University of Illinois due to the unique educational opportunity it offered for what I wanted to do. As an undergraduate, I double-majored in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Urban and Regional Planning, both focused on transportation. My interests and my career have always existed at this nexus between planning and engineering. There were literally no other schools in the country that could match the top-ranked engineering experience with a matching undergraduate planning program. This unique combination provided an incredible foundation for the pursuit of a career focused on building the future of transportation. The engineering rigor alongside the planning creativity allow me to take an innovative perspective towards the design of mobility.

Now at Ford, I've been able to apply this towards a plethora of design challenges as a 'plangineer'. I've loved transportation since I was in junior high and count it a privilege to work in this field. Imparting that passion, which was cultivated at the U of I, and helping build an understanding of the importance of transportation design in cities across the country through my role is a joy. I'm extremely appreciative of the experience I had and for the preparation I was given that set me up for this role.

2 What do you see as the future of transportation, and how do you hope to contribute to that?

It's actually pretty stunning to sit back and observe the moment our industry is in. In this time, it's helpful to remember past moments of industry inflection. It appears that we're essentially still in the third great Industrial Revolution (some separate the arrival of computers and the ubiquity of digital access, while others consider it one). The transformations that have already come are tremendous, and more are on the way. Our careers in mobility will broadly be spent working out these impacts as every such Revolution has transportation outcomes. Past Industrial Revolutions were the same. In the early 19th century, steam and steel combined to allow the possibility of railroads. This allowed human communication to move faster than ever before in history. In the early 20th century, electricity and the ability to mass produce changed access to mobility — democratizing it to the masses — and transformed the way we move again. This Revolution will be just as transformational and I find the possibility of shaping these new outcomes for good to be thrilling.

Everyone is eager to leap to autonomy, and when it occurs, it will be incredible. But just as monumental, I believe, will be the advent of connectivity (and this is likely necessary to fully realize the promises of autonomy). The ability for all users to communicate with each other as well as their surrounding setting offers incredible



CHP alum Ryan Westrom

opportunity. Congestion mitigation, environmental benefits, and most importantly improved safety are all likely and this is an area Ford is leading in. There are risks too, however. We need a clear federal regulatory picture for technologies in this realm and digital privacy must be codified. Further, deploying this technology at scale will require significant resources. But I'm excited at the incredible potential. My aim at Ford is to help create this future in a human-centered fashion, putting people first with an interest towards using mobility to increase access to opportunity.

3 How did the Campus Honors Program impact your experience at UI, and what advice would you give to current and future Chancellor's Scholars?

The opportunity to be a Chancellor's Scholar solidified my decision to come to the University of Illinois. And it turned out to be a critical part of my time there. I loved various aspects of it. I met fellow students with similar interests and passion for their academic pursuits. I partook in fascinating classes, many of which still stand out in my memories. And I was able to find a home in the CHP house. The leadership and staff (in those days CHP was led by Professor Bruce Michelson with the able assistance of Sonia Carringer) quickly grew to recognize you and were friendly, supportive faces from Day 1. Truly, the CHP experience elevates your entire undergraduate career. And it keeps giving even after that, as Elizabeth Rockman was integral to helping me prepare to transition to graduate school. My advice to current and future Scholars would be to take advantage of all the amenities offered by the program. Use the resources offered. Don't consider the program one more thing to be checked off; but make it something you invest in. And be assured, the CHP will give back as much as you give.

FACULTY NEWS

Mohamed Boubekri (*Architecture*) is P.I. for two grants received for his **health and wellbeing studies of daylighting**. He has articles in print or accepted in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, *Sustainability*, and *Innovation in Aging*, with several other papers currently under review.

Glen Davies (*Art and Design*) had his second work (a painting titled *Nocturne*) accepted to the **Illinois State Museum** for their permanent collection. It was shown in the exhibition “Sing Muses” at the Illinois State Museum Galleries in Lockport, Illinois from November 14, 2019–February 16, 2020.

Matthew Ehrlich (*Journalism*) let us know the University of Illinois Press published his new book, ***Kansas City vs. Oakland: The Bitter Sports Rivalry That Defined an Era***, in September 2019.

Kevin Hinders (*Architecture*) had two exhibits included in the **Chicago Architectural Biennial 2019**, and brought these exhibits back to the Chicago Studio and then to Temple Buell Hall in Spring 2020. [A monograph called *Nolli Map of Chicago* was created to go along with one of these exhibits of the same title. The other exhibit was *Affordable Housing Design Guidelines for the City of Chicago*.] He has a book chapter to be published with Oro Publications and is completing his book *Design of the Built Environment* with UI Press. He became a member of the Discovery Partners Institute. His biggest service accomplishment for the School of Architecture has been the procurement of a new space for the **Chicago Studio** and the fitting out of this space; this carries a new 5 year lease with an option for the following 5 years.

Brett Kaufman (*Classics*) noted: “I enjoyed teaching a course with the CHP singularly because of the students. I found my students to be extremely insightful in both their assigned discussion questions as well as their research papers. It is clear that they are constantly trying to think of the curriculum in new ways and in ways that challenge even their own perceptions. I was greatly looking forward to the second half of the class which was our laboratory component, but of course because of COVID I could not work with the students directly in the lab. Instead, I ran a virtual lab with GoPro recordings. The students were still extremely engaged in our weekly Zoom discussion questions.” He has received the **2021 Getty Research Institute Scholars Program** residential grant at the Getty Villa.



Chancellor's Scholars in Brett Kaufman's CHP class



Warren Lavey (*Earth, Society, and the Environment; Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences; and Law*) shared that the development and teaching of the CHP course **Climate Change, Law and Health** offered in Fall 2019 was supported by two grants: through UIUC's Levenick iSEE Teaching Sustainability Fellows Program and through the UIUC-University of Birmingham (UK) BRIDGE partnership. Additionally, four experts in policy advocacy generously shared their time and experiences with the CHP students: State Senator Scott Bennett; State Representative Carol Ammons; Andrew Armstrong (*CHP alum* and Chief, Environmental Bureau – Springfield, Illinois Attorney General's Office); and Cindy Shepard (Director of Central Illinois Outreach Programs, Faith in Place). Four other experts spoke with the students on aspects of the climate/health nexus: Rachel Switzky (Executive Director, UIUC's Siebel Center for Design); Dr. Janet Lin (Director – Health Systems Development, UIC's Center for Global Health); and Robert Lee and Aleksandra Cavoski (professors of environmental law, University of Birmingham).

Tom Mitchell (*Theatre*) edited and introduced the previously unpublished story, “Why Did Desdemona Love the Moor?” by **Tennessee Williams** for the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. He has also been commissioned to perform an adaptation of the same story for the Provincetown Tennessee Williams Festival in September 2020. Another adaption of Williams's unpublished stories, “Amor Perdido/Lost Love” was performed at the Station Theatre in March, though subsequent performances in New Orleans and St. Louis were canceled due to the pandemic. Tom writes, “I enjoy teaching in the Chancellor's Scholars in the Campus Honors Program because students bring curiosity and willingness to try their hands at work that is very different from their individual disciplines. This semester each of the students is adapting their own short story by Tennessee Williams.”

Helaine Silverman (*Anthropology*) let us know “It was a joy — as it always is — to teach such bright, engaged, articulate, interested, interesting students.” As co-recipient of a major **Presidential Initiative Award for the Celebration of the Humanities and Arts**, she is working on the 2nd year of this two-year grant for the project “The Mythic Mississippi: I-Heritage as Public Engagement and Economic and Social Development.” She received the Broadrick-Allen Excellence in Teaching Award from CHP in May 2020.

Erik Hemingway (*Architecture*) notes that Chancellor's Scholars in his CHP class “are a highlight in my teaching as our conversations are so far-reaching due to their work in their home units. Always a joy for me.” *Perpetual Motion* by student Alexander Brosh, sponsored by Associate Professor Erik Hemingway, won Honorable Mention in the **2019 Steel Competition** organized by ACSA; located at Chicago O'Hare Airport, the project uses steel in an innovative way to rehabilitate and shift existing travel constraints, and this is the second consecutive year in a row students from Hemingway's studio class have been recognized in the top awards in this prestigious architectural event. He continues to serve as the ACSA (Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture) Representative on NAAB (National Architecture Accrediting Board) Visiting Teams.

COURSES

Chancellor's Scholar reflections on Steve Helle's CHP 395 Free Speech class

By Ethan Frobish, LAS English and Creative Writing

I first met Professor Helle during a meeting regarding the editorial policy of *Equinox*, CHP's literature and arts magazine. As the program's preeminent expert on freedom of speech, he was the obvious choice to help craft a balanced policy that brought the best out in the magazine as both a publication of the university and as a vessel for the students'



CHP faculty Steve Helle

artistic expression. Thanks to his contribution, I believe that *Equinox* is a much better magazine and will be in the future thanks to the standards he inspired us to set. I am reluctant to say “he set” or “he helped set,” because really, Professor Helle never told us to do anything. He provided us with history and legal precedents relevant to the issue we were facing and left us to make up our own minds. This, I think, is one of his greatest strengths as an educator.

After such an impactful meeting, I decided that I absolutely needed to take his class. To my knowledge, “You Can't Say That...Or Can You?” is one of the more popular classes that CHP offers, and its reputation is well deserved. Every former student of his that I had the chance to speak to spoke highly of Professor Helle, and perhaps even more highly about the way his course challenged their way of thinking.

Chancellor's Scholar reflections on Andrea Stevens' CHP ENGL 199 class

By Lauren Gherna, LAS English

As a rising senior English major, there are sadly just a few things left on my University of Illinois bucket list. This past semester, I got to cross a big item off that list: taking a class with Professor Andrea Stevens. She has an incredible reputation in the English department, and while many English majors took a required course with her, I took that course with a professor she alternates with. I knew though that I would regret it if I graduated without being her student. So even though I had just taken a Shakespeare course in the fall, I signed up for Professor Stevens' ENGL 199 “Shakespeare and His Audiences” CHP class for Spring 2020.



CHP faculty Andrea Stevens

I had concerns that Professor Stevens' course would be too similar to the Shakespeare seminar I had taken the previous semester. Turns out, I couldn't have been more wrong. Professor Stevens teaches Shakespeare differently from most professors. She prefers

That's what I liked best about the course, and I think that's why it's so special. Every session tackled a facet of the issues surrounding the First Amendment and its accompanying case law, and Professor Helle guided us through its nuances with a relative lack of bias. I say “relative” because he was quick to point out flawed or circumlocutory arguments in the briefs we studied — as well he should! — but once again, he never told us what to think about any given issue. We were encouraged to form our own opinions, but his challenges and probing questions forced us to think deeper and search for evidence and precedents with which to strengthen our arguments.

I may not have radically changed my political opinions after experiencing this class, but I learned that it takes time and effort to have a well-founded position on an issue. I learned to see things from the other side, to understand their arguments and how to exploit their weaknesses. I was reminded of the importance of the Supreme Court, but most of all, I was taught the value of our Freedom of Speech and how to spot and challenge dangers that threaten it.

“His challenges...forced us to think deeper and search for evidence and precedents with which to strengthen our arguments.”

to focus on the way Shakespeare is performed both onstage (which was the main focus of our class) and on film. While in class, we would often watch clips from various performances and read sections aloud from the plays on top of basic play analysis. This is very unique for a Shakespeare class as most courses just talk about the plays on paper rather than in performance. We worked our way through the more common plays — including, but not limited to, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet* — while also introducing many of us to plays we had never even heard of, such as *Measure for Measure*.

Once COVID-19 hit, Professor Stevens adapted the course very effectively. We continued to meet “in person” via Zoom and even still read scenes from time-to-time. Assignments allowed us to watch stage and film performances of the plays we were reading and even let us stage a scene of our choice on video. Through the ups and downs of the semester, the students enrolled in the course became a tight-knit group, much like many CHP groups do, but something about this class was extra special. I don't know if it was Shakespeare, the students, or some of Professor Stevens' magic, but ENGL 199 makes crossing this item off my bucket list even more worth it than I planned.

...continued

IN MEMORIAM



Sandra Broadrick-Allen, who was a stalwart supporter of the Campus Honors Program for many years through her and her family's support of the King Broadrick-Allen Award for Excellence in Honors Teaching, passed away March 1, 2020. We will always be grateful for her contributions to the CHP, and her steadfast attendance at many CHP graduation ceremonies. She inspired everyone who met her, and cared deeply about the CHP.

As excerpted from the 3/8/20 *News-Gazette* obituary, "Sandra Broadrick-Allen died March 1, 2020. After [graduating] from Lindenwood College in 1962, she [earned] a Master of Arts degree in 1965 from the University of Denver, and a Ph.D. in 1975 from the University of Illinois in higher education administration. While pursuing her graduate work at the UI, Sandra studied the lives of honor students. She met King Broadrick, associate director of the honors program, and they

were married July 4, 1975 in Boston, where Sandra [was] dean of students at Garland College and was later promoted to president of the college. Sandra returned to Champaign in 1976, and [after King's death in 1981] Sandra took a position at the UI Office of Arms Control and Disarmament and International Security. She also became campaign manager for state Rep. Helen Satterthwaite in 1982 and 1984. She continued her hobbies of gardening and preserving garden produce, making wine, crocheting, studying archaeology and traveling. From 1985 to 1991, Sandra served as the first city manager for the village of Savoy.

"Among her many civic activities, she helped found the Rotary Club of Savoy and became its first president, serving in 1989-91. She later served as the first woman district governor for District 6490 in 2001-02. Rotary became a very important part of Sandra's life, giving her contacts in virtually every country as she circled the globe on numerous cruises. She was also very active in Champaign County Cooperative Extension Services, the University YWCA and McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date at McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church."

REFLECTIONS FROM BROADRICK-ALLEN EXCELLENT IN TEACHING AWARD WINNERS:

Robin Douglas (*CHP emeritus faculty, Art and Design*): "I remember Sandra as elegant and well spoken, responsive and generous. I could tell that she was very proud of her husband and his contribution to the [James Scholar] Honors Program. It was certainly an honor for me to receive such an award and the plaque sits prominently on my desk here in California. ...I am reminded often of my Honors students because I have several photographs of their work and our field trips to Chicago! Which I use in my lectures out here, of them in front of iconic paintings at the Art Institute and more."

Jennifer Gunji-Ballsrud (*CHP faculty, Art and Design*): "I am very saddened to hear of this. I didn't know Sandra Broadrick-Allen well. However, she was a friend and a fellow Rotarian of my father and mother [**Ken Gunji** and **Kimiko Gunji**, *CHP emeritus faculty*]. With my mother being honored with this award prior to me, it was so overwhelming to also be a recipient years later. Having my mother and many of my former students in attendance at the awards ceremony and having had the great opportunity to meet Mrs. Broadrick-Allen that day was a heartwarming memory. To be recognized by the program under her name was and will always be an incredible honor for me."

“**She cared about the basics: imaginative and conscientious teaching; faculty with decency and generosity as well as brains and scholarly expertise; students with real curiosity and a spirit of adventure.**”

Bruce Michelson (*CHP emeritus faculty and Director*): "Sandra was 'Old School' in the best ways. Growing from a different and more modest unit headed by her late husband many years ago, her dedication to the CHP was vigorous and steady. She cared about basics: imaginative and conscientious teaching; faculty with decency and generosity as well as brains and scholarly expertise; students with real curiosity and a spirit of adventure. Sandra's visits to us were classy. She always brought her best self — not to put on airs, but to represent her respect for what the CHP is and tries to do. With a mess of challenges facing higher education now, we can count on seasons of experiment, reorganization, and lively debate about what undergraduate colleges and honors programs are really about. To find a good way forward, any successful program would do well to remember the best of where it has been — and Sandra is very much a part of that legacy."

B. Joseph White (*CHP faculty and former UI President*): "Sandra and I sat together last year when I received the award. She was a fascinating person — accomplished, opinionated, and passionate about education and CHP. It was an honor — now even more than I realized then."

COURSES *continued*

“**Happiness is about being an optimistic realist: understanding what is possible, and then aiming a bit higher.**”

Chancellor's Scholar reflections on Sandra Goss Lucas's PSYCH 199 class

By Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design

For my Spring 2020 CHP class, I took PSYC 199: Is Humanity Doomed or Thriving? with Professor Sandra Goss Lucas. This was my favorite CHP class and I would highly recommend it for all CHP students. This course revolved around the central question: "Is Humanity Doomed or Thriving?" (Spoiler alert: it's thriving). For the first part of the course, we focused on how humanity is doomed by studying five famous psychology studies. The class was divided into five groups and we each researched and presented on one of the five studies. This was an enjoyable way to engage with the material. For the second part of the course we focused on how humanity is thriving by studying positive psychology and happiness by reading *The Happiness Hypothesis* by Jonathan Haidt. We learned about the 24 character strengths and analyzed our own. We learned the impact of kindness and gratitude on both the giver and the receiver. We also explored how happiness is affected by our health, workload, relationships, and adversities we face. This course had extreme relevance to our daily lives. Many of the concepts we discuss are skills that we can practice and I learned many practical ways to improve my happiness.



CHP faculty Sandra Goss-Lucas

One, we learned about three different paths of life: the pleasant life, the engagement life, and the meaningful life. The pleasant life is the path of seeking as many pleasures as possible. It is the life where you are constantly seeking out, engaging, and prioritizing your favorite things. Although these activities give you a spark of happiness and euphoria, these feelings are often fleeting and leave feelings of dissatisfaction and emptiness in their wake. The path of engagement is when you discover your highest strengths and engage in activities that use that strength and help you to improve your strength. A meaningful life is when you use your strengths to contribute to something greater than yourself. This life leads to feelings of belonging and purpose. However, you can't just follow one path to achieve the highest level of happiness; instead, you must strike a balance between the three.

Another concept that we learned is how happiness is related to work. There are three work orientations that are categorized based on your mindset towards work: job, career, and a calling. A job is where your motivation for working is money. A calling outlook is where you are doing the work for the sake of the work. You are motivated since you enjoy it and you feel that you are contributing to something greater.

At the end of the course, we had to sum up everything that we learned and write our own definition of happiness. I wrote that happiness is about having the right balance of getting and giving. It's accepting love and kindness and giving love and kindness to others. It's being egoistic so you can get what you need to succeed, and also being humble. It's being proud of how far you have come and striving to grow even more. It's being an optimistic realist: understanding what is possible and then aiming a bit higher. It's about using your time well: to do things for you and for others. It's about being productive but also taking time to rest and recharge. It's about balancing your job, your family, your social life, and your "me" time. It's about staying healthy physically, emotionally, and mentally. It's about having new experiences and taking adventures but allowing yourself to recharge within your comfort zone.

Because I took this course, I felt that I grew as a person. By learning about all these theories and writing reflection papers, I feel like I know myself a bit better. I have more awareness of my strengths and better understand how I can be happier and more fulfilled in life. The amazingness of the course went beyond the content. Professor Lucas is extremely passionate about the material and her excitement was contagious among the class. She cares deeply about each of her students and helps each student to achieve their best. Professor Lucas made an impact on my life, and I am so grateful that I was able to have her as a teacher.



HLLC Program Director Amy Fitzjarrald

TRANSITIONS

We are delighted that **Amy Fitzjarrald** joined the Campus Honors Program as the **Program Director for the Honors Living Learning Community** in Nugent Hall in January 2020. Before returning to the University of Illinois, she was a Program Coordinator at the University of Houston and Residence Hall Coordinator at Illinois State University. Originally from Canton, IL, Amy received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She then earned her Master's in Higher Education-Student Affairs at Iowa State University. Amy loves traveling and her favorite professional adventure was working as a Resident Director for the Semester at Sea study abroad program. Amy is a member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Kappa Delta Pi, Lambda Pi Eta, and Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity. She is excited to return to the Urbana-Champaign area, and looks forward to working with you.

Brian Moffitt was the inaugural **Director of the Living Learning Community**, and left the University of Illinois in July 2019 to accept a role of Associate Director of Residential Learning at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. We wish him all the best in his new position.

Ankita Chadha was **Office Support Associate** for over a year with the CHP, and she and her family moved to Dallas in January 2020 for a new professional opportunity for her husband. We send good wishes to Ankita as she and her family settle in to their new community.



HONORS LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY

Designed exclusively for James Scholars and Chancellor's Scholars, the Honors Living Learning Community is housed in Nugent Residence Hall and offers special interdisciplinary courses, allowing Honors LLC residents greater interaction with Honors faculty. Curricular and co-curricular aspects of the LLC are designed around the LLC's three pillars: Inquiry, Civic Engagement, and Leadership. For more information about this community, please visit: housing.illinois.edu/honors.

The Honors LLC has established solid partnerships on campus to create a well-rounded experience for residents, including collaborations with the Campus Honors Program, the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, and the Study Abroad Office. UI Honors Deans have been engaged with Honors LLC residents through a series of "A Night with the Deans" programs.

We welcomed **Amy Fitzjarrald** as the new Program Director for the Honors LLC in January 2020, and extended our best wishes to former Program Director **Brian Moffitt** as he accepted a new position in July 2019 (for more information, see Transitions on page 35). Thanks to **Dan Hale**, who served as Interim Program Director in Fall 2019.

Top: HLLC students at Intermural Soccer
Left: HLLC students celebrate Halloween



CONVOCATION FALL 2019

By Lauren Gherna, LAS English

On October 3, 2019, I had the pleasure of attending the Campus Honors Program Convocation ceremony. This year's book was a collection of short stories entitled *Heads of the Colored People* by **Nafissa Thompson-Spires**. Prior to the publishing of this short story collection, Thompson-Spires was a professor of creative writing in our English department (she has since moved on to Cornell University) and holds an MFA in creative writing from our university. As an English major, I was very excited to hear from someone who worked in my department on campus as these opportunities do not arise often. Convocation took place in the Student Dining and Residential Programs Building, and attendees were served a three-course plated dinner during the event. It was a full house.

Thompson-Spires talked about her motives for writing her book: she wanted to tell the stories of what it means to be a Black woman in today's world and what it means to live with chronic pain. In other words, her main inspiration for *Heads of the Colored People* was her own lived experience. Thompson-Spires even revealed that one of the characters that appears in multiple stories, Fatima, is a semi-autobiographical version of herself. She opened up the floor for questions after providing some insight and reading from her book, and students asked questions ranging from how to get inspiration for writing to more information on the details of her stories to what it's like to be a Black woman in America. As a group I think we were able to open up a dialogue that left most, if not all, attendees with changed mindsets after the presentation. Thompson-Spires signed books at the end of the event, and I cherish my copy. Especially considering the context of late May/early June 2020, I believe this is an essential read and I am grateful that CHP gave me the chance to hear from the author.

This annual Keith Kelroy Convocation Lecture and Dinner is in honor of Keith Kelroy, a Chancellor's Scholar who passed away shortly after graduating from the university. It is made possible by the generosity of his parents and other donors, many of whom are former honors students or faculty. Without their contributions, this event would not be possible.

Chancellor's Scholars at Convocation



CHP graduate
Christina Su



CHP graduate
Spenser Bailey



CHP graduate
Trennedey Kleczewski

While we were not able to host the usual CHP Graduation Reception and Ceremony due to COVID-19, we are so proud of our graduates! Thanks to Tami Fazio and Anne Price for putting together a lovely tribute to our graduating seniors (watch the Spring 2020 CHP graduation slideshow at honors.illinois.edu), and to Tami for her work on the graduation publication and certificates.

Although we were not able to celebrate in-person, awards were still announced, and we look forward to honoring individuals publicly when possible. **Helaine Silverman** (*Anthropology*) received the **King Broadrick-Allen Award for Excellence in Honors Teaching**. **Spenser Bailey** (*LAS History*), **Trennedey Kleczewski** (*BUS Marketing and Business Process Management*), **James Tiao** (*BUS Accountancy and Finance*), and **Justin Tiao** (*ENG Bioengineering*) received the **Calvin Ke Award**, and awards were announced during a 5/7/20 Zoom session.

Spenser Bailey worked as an Intern for Special Collections at the Chicago Public Library and the National Archives at Chicago. He also served as an Undergraduate Assistant for the UI Archives Research Center. He participated in several History organizations and is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, Epsilon Chapter. Spenser received the Robert H. Bierma Scholarship for Superior Academic Merit in History and a Friends of History Undergraduate Research Grant from Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Spenser was an active and engaged resident of the Honors Living Learning Community, and was always tremendously helpful in the Honors House Community, including serving as a CHP Student Mentor.

Trennedey Kleczewski was a Consultant for Illinois Business Consulting and Education Chair for Global Business Brigades. Trennedey conducted research in organizational behavior with Professor Denise Loyd. She studied abroad in Panama with Global Business Brigades, in Italy and in South Africa with the Gies Study Abroad Program, and in New Zealand with the Business Ethics Academy. Trennedey was awarded the Leiby S. Hall Scholarship, the President's Award, and an OMSA Scholastic Award. With the Campus Honors Program, she was the Vice President of the Art Committee. After graduation, Trennedey will be working in marketing at Discover Financial Services.

James Tiao graduated as a James Scholar and a member of Beta Alpha Psi Honor Society. He was a Senior Manager of Illinois Business Consulting, Coordinator of the Business Peer Tutoring Center, and an Analyst for the Investment Management Academy. James studied abroad in Costa Rica with the Honors Living Learning Community in 2017. He was a Deal Advisory Intern for Financial Due Diligence and Accounting Advisory Services at KPMG, an Accounting and Finance Intern at Jump Trading LLC, and an Accounting Analyst Intern at

CHP GRADUATION 2020

Fulcrum Global Technologies. James was President of the Honors Student Council for two years. He is joining Accenture as a Consulting Development Program Analyst.

Justin Tiao is a member of Tau Beta Pi and Phi Beta Kappa Honor Societies. He served as the President of the Bioengineering Undergraduate Advisory Board, Fundraising Director of the American Medical Students Association, Mentor Program Lead for the Biomedical Engineering Society, and was a member of the Provost's Undergraduate Advisory Board. Justin did research in the Laboratory of Integrated Bio Medical Micro/Nanotechnology Laboratory, and he studied abroad in Costa Rica with the Honors Living Learning Community. Justin was President of the Honors Student Council, after serving in multiple roles on the HSC Executive Board. Justin will be pursuing an MD at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

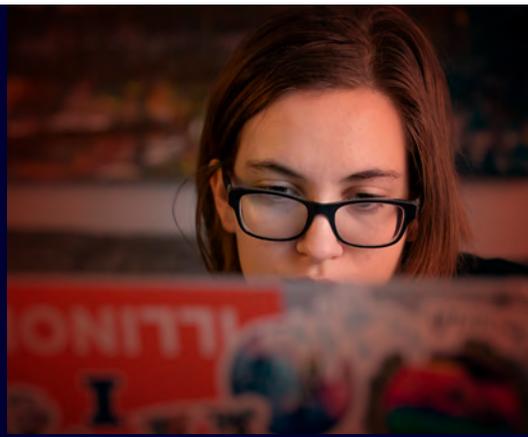


CHP graduates James Tiao and Justin Tiao

Dr. Helaine Silverman is Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Director of CHAMP/Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy at the University of Illinois. For almost thirty years her research focused on the archaeology of the south coast of Peru, and her current research is related to critical heritage studies and intersections with the global tourism industry. She is an Expert Member of ICOMOS' International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) and ICOMOS's International Scientific Committee on Cultural Tourism (ICTC), and she consults for UNESCO on World Heritage nominations and has been involved with the nomination of several U.S. archaeological sites to World Heritage List. In addition to her own publications she is the co-editor of two book series, and she currently serves on the editorial boards of *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, *Heritage & Society*, *World Art*, *Thema*, and *Built Heritage*. Helaine Silverman has led three CHP Intercultural Study Tours to Peru (in 2005, 2015, and 2018), and has taught for the CHP for 15 years.



CHP faculty
Helaine Silverman



Visit www.honors.illinois.edu often to see what our amazing students are doing!

Please send all student and alumni updates to Annual Editor Elizabeth Rockman at rockman@illinois.edu.

Top Right: Painting by Richard "Chip" Burkhardt, 2011

I ILLINOIS Campus Honors Program

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