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CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM
1205 West Oregon Street
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 244-0922

Dr. Laurie R. Johnson
CHP Interim Director
Professor, Germanic Languages and Literatures

Elizabeth Rockman
CHP Associate Director

Amelia Price
CHP Associate Director

Tami Fazio
CHP Office Administrator

Amy Fitzjarrald
Director of the Honors Living-Learning Community

Please send all future updates to:
Annual Editor
Elizabeth Rockman
at rockman@illinois.edu

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CHP INTERIM DIRECTOR: LAURIE JOHNSON

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Laurie Johnson as CHP's new Interim Director as of May 16, 2021! A Professor in Germanic Languages and Literatures, she has most recently served as Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the Inaugural Interim Associate Director of the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics. Dr. Laurie Johnson is looking forward to teaching "Harry Potter and Western Culture" to Chancellor's Scholars this Fall, and she is excited to welcome all incoming and returning students to the Honors House this fall! Please stop in to see her when you get to campus!

The Campus Honors Program (CHP) at the University of Illinois is an exciting intellectual and social home for curious, engaged, and diverse students and faculty who are committed to expanding their knowledge and to changing the world for the better. I could not be happier to have the privilege of serving as Interim Director of this successful and lively program, and I can’t wait to get to know you all.

The University of Illinois is a big place, and it is a prestigious Research 1 institution as well, with thriving doctoral programs and internationally prominent research facilities and agendas. And yet, in my time here, I’ve also known this University to be devoted to undergraduate education and the undergraduate experience in ways that aren’t necessarily common at research institutions. Undergraduates are in fact central to this University’s mission: you are why we are here. Whether you are from Illinois, elsewhere in the U.S., or from another country, we are grateful you have chosen to join us here.

In the real world; had there been a pandemic then, I guess we all would have just gone home and started snail-mailing assignments typed on postcards, but the fact that we are so optimistic about that has everything to do with how hard you continuing students worked last year to keep each other and this community safe.

You are in good hands with this excellent team. Our alumni are also always welcome at the House and at events that we hope to again host in person this year. I look forward to learning more about you and your postgraduate lives, and I hope you’ll feel free to be in touch.

I’m so excited about the dynamite classes you will have the opportunity to take this year as part of our outstanding CHP curriculum. We have a fascinating lineup for you in 2021-2022. Associate Director Anne Price will assist you with all course and registration-related issues. If you have the opportunity, you also have the chance to interact with faculty members from another country, we are grateful you have chosen to join us here.

Whether you are from Illinois, elsewhere in the U.S., or from another country, we are grateful you have chosen to join us here in Urbana-Champaign, here in our Honors Program as Chancellor’s Scholars, and here at 1205 W. Oregon, the Honors House, a place I hope you’ll want to visit often.

Our alumni are also always welcome at the House and at events that we hope to again host in person this year. I look forward to learning more about you and your postgraduate lives, and I hope you’ll feel free to be in touch.

As Chancellor’s Scholars, you all are part of a special overlapping community on campus. CHP is not a “bubble” in which you only interact with one another. Honor Living-Learning Community in the newly renovated Illinois Street Residence Hall to organize events and opportunities for that community, which also includes James Scholars from the various colleges on campus.

And we’re fortunate to have Program Director Amy Fitzjarrald on board with the Honors Living-Learning Community in the newly renovated Illinois Street Residence Hall to organize events and opportunities for that community, which also includes James Scholars from the various colleges on campus.

I’m also grateful, already, to our Chancellor’s Scholars. You have just been through a year like no other, and I have so much admiration and respect for how hard you are working and changing the world; had there been a pandemic then, I guess we all would have just gone home and started snail-mailing assignments typed on postcards, but the simultaneously lifesaving and problematic existence of the internet has certainly not made a global pandemic any easier. True, Zoom and other platforms made it possible for classes and events to continue last year, and many hybrid options may be with us to stay. But we will never take the ability to see our students in person for granted again. At CHP, we’ll follow all University and State guidance on in-person events, and your safety will be our highest priority. But we do anticipate a much, much more normal year in 2021-2022, and the fact that we are so optimistic about that has everything to do with how hard you continuing students worked last year to keep each other and this community safe. This campus was a shining success and proved that with care, responsibility, and some very good science, we could continue. Thank you.
CHP WORKSPACE CONTEST

CHP was delighted to have the first-ever CHP Workspace Contest in Spring 2021, to celebrate students’ creativity in quarantining. Three students won top prizes: Nicole Vandervlugt (FAA Music) received 1st prize, Eric Roman (ENG Mechanical Engineering) 2nd prize, and Ellen Reckamp (LAS English) received 3rd prize. Of the remaining submissions, Habib Rehman (ENG Bioengineering), Jacob Roman (ENG Aerospace Engineering), and a joint submission by Gail Schneiderman (FAA Graphic Design) and Briana Sobecks (LAS Chemical Engineering) received Honorable Mentions. Thanks to all who submitted, giving us a glimpse into your worlds!

Ellen Reckamp (LAS English): “Top left is the picture of my workspace! This semester I have been student teaching at Urbana High School, so my workspace has been my classroom there! Due to COVID, my students haven’t been able to come into the building, so all of the pictured desks are always empty while I teach! Next to me is a chai tea latte from Starbucks, which is my go-to drink. In this picture, I am planning out my slides for next day’s class before teaching starts at 10:30. I usually get to the school at 7:30 and stay till around 3:00 p.m! I have been loving teaching and getting to know the students! I cannot wait to have a class of my own!”

Habib Rehman (ENG Bioengineering): “The best part about my workspace is undoubtedly my plants. I have always loved the outdoors, nature, and gardening. However, during the pandemic it was difficult to find time to go outside considering my hectic schedule.

"My plants (named Ivan and Yateem) have been my little oasis of nature in my otherwise inorganic dorm room.

Eric Roman (ENG Mechanical Engineering): “Featured in my study space are my favorite ‘cup brew’ coffee mug, a mini-Chicago recycling bin that reminds me of home, my 3D-printed fidget spinner, a perpetual motion machine, and a 3D model of a robot that I’m working on with U of I robotics. On my breaks, I like to cook something new, play video games online with friends back home, go to the ARC, or go on a Dunkin run with friends from SHPE, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.”

Jacob Roman (ENG Aerospace Engineering): “I spent most of my free time in high school on my computer. However, this past year has been a new experience in almost every aspect. Up until last semester, all of my work was done on the laptop that is on the left of the photo. I live in New York, so it didn’t make sense for me to bring my other computer with me to school. Working exclusively on a laptop is fine when I spent most of my time walking around campus and going to class, but it took a toll on me when it was all that I was doing. Over this past winter, I realized how much of a difference having a screen at eye level made for me. For this semester, I decided to bring my desktop to school with me. I built my desk myself when I was 13. I still remember meticulously picking out the parts after school. Though the computer is now quite old, it still serves me well and has made a substantial improvement to my working setup.”

Gail Schneiderman (FAA Graphic Design) and Briana Sobecks (LAS Chemical Engineering): “The two of us study and take classes in the kitchen, living room, our bedrooms, or on the balcony featured in the photo when the weather is nice. We have Illini-themed patio furniture, and we love using it! You can often see us wearing our CHP gear and spot us on the same computer for HSC meetings and Honors After Dark.

Nicole Vandervlugt (FAA Music): “Here is where I have been spending most of my time since August. My roommate and I have become somewhat obsessed with decorating our apartment, likely due to the amount of time we have been spending cloistered in here. Just as a few exceptions, the art in front of my desk was either made by me or given to me by friends and family. Many of the trinkets, knickknacks, and other objects of clutter sitting around were also gifts from friends, and thus hold sentimental significance to me.

“I always try to seek out joy in the little things, so I keep my spaces full of meaningful and pretty things.”

I have been keeping houseplants for years, and some are pictured here. I like to keep a few on my desk so I can watch them grow every day (disregard the unhappy dillenbachia in the corner). I almost always have candles or incense burning because I think it makes my room much cozier. Plus, homework stinks, after all. (Not pictured: My roommate’s cat who refused to cooperate for the photo.)

Despite the hardships caused by the pandemic, we are grateful that we have been able to grow closer!”

Creative IN QUARANTINE

1st Prize: Nicole Vandervlugt (FAA Music)

2nd prize: Eric Roman (ENG Aerospace Engineering)

Honorable Mention: Ellen Reckamp (LAS English)

Gail Schneiderman (FAA Graphic Design) and Briana Sobecks (LAS Chemical Engineering) received Honorable Mentions. The two of us met at the CHP freshman orientation [in 2018] and became fast friends. We have been roommates for the past two years. After COVID hit, our apartment turned into our main workspace.

~

The two of us study and take classes in the kitchen, living room, our bedrooms, or on the balcony featured in the photo when the weather is nice. We have Illini-themed patio furniture, and we love using it! You can often see us wearing our CHP gear and spot us on the same computer for HSC meetings and Honors After Dark.

Sophie Fursman's photo won Honorable Mention (ENG Aerospace Engineering), and Honors After Dark.

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Sophie Fursman's photo won Honorable Mention (ENG Aerospace Engineering), and Honors After Dark.
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.

Grace Maloney (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemistry and Spanish) was selected for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, and she will teach in Galicia, Spain. As excerpted from the official UI announcement, “Grace Maloney is among nine UIUC students and recent graduates offered an opportunity to pursue international education, research and teaching experiences via Fulbright grants. Grace graduated as a James Scholar, and studied abroad in Chile. She spent several years as a camp counselor and a bilingual elementary school tutor, as well as teaching college students in leadership and chemistry courses. She also served for two years as a reporter for the Daily Illini student newspaper. As an aspiring physician, Maloney said she hopes to investigate how minority languages are treated within Spain’s highly ranked health care system.”

Alexandra Schneeberger (LAS Germanic Studies) and Andrew Sima (LAS Germanic Studies) were also named Finalists for a Fulbright.

Chancellor’s First Endowed Scholarship

Grace Maloney (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemistry and Spanish) was selected for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, and she will teach in Galicia, Spain. As excerpted from the official UI announcement, “Grace Maloney is among nine UIUC students and recent graduates offered an opportunity to pursue international education, research and teaching experiences via Fulbright grants. Grace graduated as a James Scholar, and studied abroad in Chile. She spent several years as a camp counselor and a bilingual elementary school tutor, as well as teaching college students in leadership and chemistry courses. She also served for two years as a reporter for the Daily Illini student newspaper. As an aspiring physician, Maloney said she hopes to investigate how minority languages are treated within Spain’s highly ranked health care system.”

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Chancellor’s Scholars Receive NSF GRFP

Lauren Excell (2020 alumnus, ENG Civil Engineering), Hannah Holmes (2020 alumnus, LAS Chemical Engineering), Dennis Rich (2020 alumnus, ENG Electrical Engineering), and Lee Marie Adeline Savard (2020 alumnus, ENG Engineering Mechanics) were awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships providing three years of support toward advanced research-based degrees. Lauren Excell and Dennis Rich are studying at Stanford University, Hannah Holmes is at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Lee Savard is attending the University of Colorado, Boulder. Emma Erickson (2021 graduate, ENG Electrical Engineering), who will be pursuing a PhD in Robotics at the Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute, received an NSF GRF Honorable Mention.

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

Chancellor’s First Endowed Scholarship

As reported in past Annals, Matthew Rodriguez (5/99 alumnus, LAS Physics and Mathematics) endowed a scholarship for a Chancellor’s Scholar who is majoring in mathematics, the Physics and Mathematics) endowment a scholarship for a Chancellor’s Scholar who is majoring in mathematics, the Physics and Mathematics.

Grace Maloney, an ed-tech non-profit promoting literacy. He was previously a Managing Director at BlackRock in New York. (Please see page 30 for his alumni profile, and page 35 for the In Memoriam story on E. Graham Evans, Jr.)

The 4th recipient of the E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship is Garrett Credi (LAS Mathematics), who graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School, where he contested at the State level with the Math Team and served as Captain of the Cross-Country Team. Garrett participated in the STARTALK Summer Chinese Immersion Program as an Advanced Level Student, Planner and Emcee of Community Showcase. With Mathnasium, he was an Instructor and Developer, and he plans to pursue graduate study in mathematics. We were delighted to host Matthew and Garrett at a 5/25/21 Zoom with past recipients.

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 at honors.illinois.edu under Giving.

The Honors Living and Learning Community has moved! Designed exclusively for James Scholars and Chancellor’s Scholars, the Honors Living Learning Community is newly open at the Illinois Residence Halls in Urbana, having been in August Hall in Champaign for the first years of the program, and offers special interdisciplinary courses, providing Honors LLC residents substantial 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 Institutional and Interdisciplinary Relations, the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, and the Study Abroad Office. Amy Fitzjarrald has served as the Honors LLC Program Director since January 2020 and looks forward to exciting new in-person programming at the new location!

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 her 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.

Chancellor’s First Endowed Scholarship

E. Graham Evans, Jr.

The E. Graham Evans, Jr. Fund can be found at giving.illinois.edu under Giving.

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POST-GRADUATION PLANS
OF RECENT GRADUATES

Kevin Eduardo Acuna
FAA Music Education
“I will be a Public School Music Teacher!”

Aparajitha Adiraju
ENG Computer Engineering
Software Engineer at Stripe in San Francisco

Luis F. Aragon, Jr.
ENG Electrical Engineering
Master’s in electrical engineering at Stanford University

Maxwell Thomas Asselemeir
ENG Mechanical Engineering
“This upcoming fall I will be starting my PhD in Robotics at Georgia Tech.”

Stephen Thomas Bean
ENG Aerospace Engineering
Master’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University

Alex Michael Berowski
ENG Engineering Mechanics
Interning at SEDAC, an applied research group in Research Park

Gary Alexander Brzochniko
ENG Computer Science and LAS Statistics, December 2020
Study abroad gap semester followed by full time work at IIM

Natalie Broady
FAA Art Education, December 2021
“After graduation, I hope to work as an art educator in a grade or high school, community center, or museum.”

Rhea Hisako Bridgeland
ACES Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
“I have accepted an AmeriCorps position in Waterloo, Iowa and will be conducting community outreach and program development for the Watercock Coop that focuses on local food stability, sustainability, and equity. Next, I will attend graduate school to study environmental justice and the socioeconomic barriers between people, policy, and science.”

Michelle Kaley Broom
LAS Chemical Engineering, December 2020
Full-time employment as Manufacturing and Engineering Associate at General Motors

Iain Wilen Carpenter
LAS Physics and Mathematics
“I’ve applied to some internships.”

Shi-Yun (Stephanie) Chen
LAS Linguistics
“I was accepted into the MA in Language and Communication in Georgetown University, so I will be making my way there after graduation!”

James Christopher Doironurekas
ENG Mechanical Engineering
“I will go full-time with Hollard, where I will be doing mechanical product development, preparing for a professional engineering license, and possibly seeking more education.”

Kevin Michael Eberhardt
ENG Computer Science
“I will be working at Apple in Cupertino, California.”

Minowa Matthew Choi
AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
“I will be attending dental school at the UIC College of Dentistry.”

Olivia Grace Coleman
LAS Spanish and FAA Music
“I will be working as a Bilingual Venue Management Intern at the Urban-Champaign Independent Media Center this summer. After that, I plan to continue working in the C-U area for the next year or so, and hopefully begin a teaching assistantship in Spain or Latin America in Fall 2022.”

Savannah Maria Cornejo Garcia
LAS Political Science and Psychology
“I will be attending the Georgetown University Law Center for law school this Fall. I will miss Illinois and the Campus Honors Program very much!”

Lauren Elizabeth Gherna
LAS English and Creative Writing
“I will attend the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine to obtain my DVM degree, and I hope to pursue a career in small animal and exotic veterinary medicine in the future.”

Jacob Wesley Fritchko
LAS Physics
“I will be working as a research assistant during a gap year, then pursuing a PhD in physics. I got a job working with Dr. Perdikacopil, nuclear physics group on campus. I’m really enjoying it so far, such a good group of people to be working with.”

Iain Wilen Carpenter
LAS Physics and Mathematics
“I’ve applied to some internships.”

Shi-Yun (Stephanie) Chen
LAS Linguistics
“I was accepted into the MA in Language and Communication in Georgetown University, so I will be making my way there after graduation!”

Julia Eliese Chillon
BUS Marketing and Information Systems Technology Consulting at PwC

Kevin Michael Eberhardt
ENG Computer Science
“I will be working at Apple in Cupertino, California.”

Fionna Rose Ek
FAA Music
“I will be attending law school at the University of Minnesota, and I have been awarded a full-tuition scholarship for all three years of my studies.”

Emma Elizabeth Erickson
ENG Electrical Engineering
Pursuing PhD in Robotics at Carnegie Mellon University Robotics Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Nicole Hasan
ACES Animal Sciences, August 2021
Veterinary school at the University of Glasgow

Eric Ulusung Jung
AHS Kinesiology and LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
“I am currently working for the Lab on Alzheimer’s Research for my gap year before medical school!”

Megan Kimberly Kalinowski
AID Kinesiology
“I will be attending medical school, currently at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix but I am waiting to hear back from other medical schools as well.”

Rohan Vijay Kamat
ENG Electrical Engineering
Working as an electrical engineer for Mitre Co. in Boston, Massachusetts

Abhi Kambal
ENG Computer Engineering and Innovation, Leadership and Engineering Entrepreneurship Ph.D. at UIC in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Leah Haynes
LAS Mathematics and FAA Music
Georgetown Law School

Katelyn Rosalie Helmsold
LAS Statistics
Optometry School at the SUNY College of Optometry

Brianna Kimora Jordan
BUS Supply Chain Management and Marketing
“I will pursue my JD at Boston University.”

Randy D. Janson
ENG Mechanical Engineering
“I will work for Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin.”

Elisabeth Grace Jazska
BUS Accountancy
“After an internship with Ernst & Young for Summer 2021 in the Assurance Services Practice at EY’s Chicago office, I will return to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the Fall of 2021 to pursue my Master’s in Accounting Science degree and to study for the CPA exam.”

Maxwell Jung
ENG Computer Engineering
“I will be continuing on at the University of Illinois to pursue my Master’s in Computer Science.”

Brianna Ella Huff
ACES Animal Sciences
“I love my job here! I’m really enjoying it so far, such a good group of people to be working with.”

Andrew James (A.J.) Hood Ingram
LAS Statistics and Economics
“Pursuing PhD in Economics at the University of Chicago.”

Leah Haynes
LAS Mathematics and FAA Music
“Georgetown Law School”

Katelyn Rosalie Helmsold
LAS Statistics
“Optometry School at the SUNY College of Optometry”

Destiny N. Henning
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
“Attending medical school at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine”

Shi-Yun (Stephanie) Chen
LAS Linguistics
“I’ll be working in Minneapolis as a software engineer at Target!”

Lauren Elizabeth Gherna
LAS English, December 2020
“I will work for a year and a half. I plan to return to school to get an MS in Higher Education or Student Affairs and become an academic advisor.”

Abigail T. Hack
LAS Global Studies and History
“I plan to take a gap-year and work/travel before returning to school to work on my PhD in Linguistics.”

Chance Ackerman Hamblin
LAS Linguistics
“I am currently working at a human rights organization and will continue after graduation. Beyond that, I hope to continue working in the realm of human rights and development aid.”

Randy D. Janson
ENG Mechanical Engineering
“I will work for Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin.”

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“I will be continuing on at the University of Illinois to pursue my Master’s in Computer Science.”

Brianna Kimora Jordan
BUS Supply Chain Management and Marketing
“I will pursue my JD at Boston University.”
OF RECENT GRADUATES

POST-GRADUATION PLANS continued

Devin Anant Kasture
BUS Finance and Information Systems
“I am going to be working at a wealth management company as an Analyst.”

Nissa Jo Larson
ENG Agricultural and Biological Engineering
“Accepted graduate school offer at Purdue University to continue study of Agricultural & Biological Engineering.”

Austin G. Lindell
ENG Aerospace Engineering, December 2020
“I am looking for a spacecraft operations role in the space industry.”

Robert Lou
LAS Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science
Quantitative Trader at JPMorgan in Chicago

Michael John Mitchell
BUS Supply Chain Management and Marketing
Full-time Technology Consulting Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago

Lynnette E. Lu
LAS Actuarial Science and BUS Finance Actuarial Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers

Grace Nelson Maloney
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology, Chemistry, and Spanish
“Accepted into Chicago School of Osteopathic Medicine, but will take a gap year for a Fullbright ETA to teach in Spain.”

Aditya S. Manhasramani
ENG Computer Science
Enrolling in a Master’s of Computer Science program right here at Illinois!

Andrew (Brew) C. Miller
ENG Electrical Engineering, December 2020
“I am planning on hiking the Appalachian Trail for many months after I graduate. Next fall I am starting a job as an engineering consulting firm in Tennessee.”

Regina D. Miller
BUS Finance and Supply Chain Management
Business Analyst at Deloitte Consulting

Rahul Krishna Miriyala
ENG Computer Science
Software Engineer at Amazon in Seattle

Shreya Mohan
ENG Computer Engineering
Industry as a Software Engineer

Alexander James Horain
ENG Bioengineering
“I will be working as a Systems Engineer at an engineering consulting company in Lincoln Park called DMC.”

MaryRose Patricia O’Donnell
LAS Communication and Linguistics
Teaching English abroad in South Korea next spring

Grace Elizabeth Oberg
EDUC Special Education
“Got a teaching position at an elementary school working with students with emotional disabilities. I’m so excited!”

Benjamin Bard Panokw
LAS Mathematics
Joining Element in San Francisco as a Software Engineer

Joseph Park
LAS Economics, December 2020
“ буду работаю in a Technical position with AbbVie in their Solutions Engineering program at Epic Systems in Illinois.”

Claire Anne Penrose
ENG Bioengineering
“after graduation I will be hiking from New York City to San Francisco with Illini 4000 to raise money for cancer research and those affected by cancer! After that, I’ll be scrivening at a hospital and applying probably to PA school.”

Michael John Mitchell
BUS Supply Chain Management and Marketing
Full-time Technology Consulting Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago

Lynnette E. Lu
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**IN THE NEWS**

**Neha Arun** (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology) updated CHP that “I received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship at Nayo Clinic, and I will be working with Dr. Andrew Badley in Virology and Gene Therapy. Dr. Badley’s research focuses on virus-host interactions; in particular, how viral proteins modify the host-immune response and on cell survival.”

**Beth Born** (LAS Chemical Engineering) let us know she secured a Research & Development Internship at PepSci in Plano, Texas for the summer: “My internship will be virtual, but I am technically still placed with the PepSci team, and hope to travel down to visit at some point. I am super excited to get into the food and beverage industry, and am even more excited to get some more internship experience under my belt!”

**Sofia Ebel** (LAS Classics) has been volunteering at the Champaign County History Museum and she secured an internship with Richmond Family Gallery, “Caribbean Grill has been awarded a James Beard Foundation Grant,” “An interview with Mayo Clinic, El Oasis and La Mixteca,” “Talking about Cool Bliss Pop Bliss Popcorn Shop with co-owner Lisa Griffin,” and “An interview and walkthrough of Green Onion and Fresh International Market.”

**Ryan Ross** (LAS English) provided an SAS about the history of Alifold and a virtual tour of the Richmond Family Gallery in the Alice Campbell Alumni Center in Spring 2021. Sam Walder (2017 alumnus, ENG Engineering Physics) worked at a Chicago marathon-treadmill fundraiser. Diana Anghel (LAS Classics) was interviewed on his work in Revenge films and horror movies, featured at www.illinoisalumni-magazine.org/illinoisalumni/fall_2020/MobilePagedArticle.action?articleId=15838128&amp;pg=1&amp;articleId=158181 in October 2020.

**Daniel Cudzich** (ENG Materials Science and Engineering) worked at Argonne National Laboratories this summer in controlling nanoscale defects for quantum computing.

**Sophia Ebel** (LAS Comparative Literature) in September 2020: “I just wanted to thank you so much again for sending me the information about the LAS 101 internship this summer! I ended up getting the position and am loving facilitating the course and working with the new students; it’s been both a lot of fun and an incredible learning experience.”

**Keyleigh Excell** (ENG Engineering Physics) worked with the Aerospace Department this summer on a project for the Department of Defense and US Space Force developing a MOOC for aerospace outreach to high school students.

**Sydney Hoel** (FAA Theatre) performed in the Lyric Theatre production of “Tum of the Screw” in Fall 2020.

**Tara Leininger** (LAS Classics) has been volunteering at the Champaign County History Museum and she secured an internship with the Spurlock Museum.

**Dana Yun** (ENG Materials Science and Engineering) served as an Illinois Student Senator in 2020–2021.

**Matt Macmurer** (2014 alumus, LAS Atmospheric Sciences) served on the Selection Committee for the Illinois Club Scholarships in Fall 2020. Matt also continues to write for Smiley Pollely (www.smileypollely.com). This past year, his posts included “Five sweet eats to try in C.U.,” “Made-from-scratch Japanese desserts at Suzu’s Bakery” (for which he interviewed CHP Professor Jennifer Gunji-Ballard), “Caribbean Grill has been awarded a James Beard Foundation grant,” “An interview with Mayo Clinic, El Oasis and La Mixteca,” “Talking about Cool Bliss Pop Bliss Popcorn Shop with co-owner Lisa Griffin,” and “An interview and walkthrough of Green Onion and Fresh International Market.”

**Kimiko Gunji**, a longtime faculty member for CHP, former CHP Assistant Director, and the Emeritus Director of the Japan House, celebrated a big birthday in October 2020, and CHP Professor Jennifer Gunji-Ballard set up a tribute website at www.tribute.to/kimikogunjiballard.co.uk. CHP-related contributors to the videos include CHP alumni Itamar Allali, Erika Bengon, Lisa (Mazzocco) Chapello, David Grayson, Jean He and Michael Monie, Federico Hernandez Nater, Alan Hoover, Kichon Jiang, Paige Kordas, Michael Lama, Matt Macmurer, Daniel Majid, Lauren Michelle, Sandeep Navalgund, Alex Rodgers, Evan Ramos, CHP and Kimberly Redeker, Sarah (Vorreiter) Settani, Lindsey Stirek, Ruth Teckes, Mark Tice, Felix Wang, and Whitney Wychok. Former CHP staff and Directors contributed to the videos: Richard (Chip) Burhardt, Bruce Michelson, Nancy Lockmiller, Carol Malengren, Carolyn Allen, and Julie Higgs. Many friends to CHP provided videos, including Matt Wein, former UI Chancellor, and Stephanie Kovacs Cohen, daughter of late CHP Professor Tom Kovacs, and many local Champaigne Botains who help facilitate the Yanai Ambassadourship partnership.

**Jim Hansen** (CHP Professor, English) was interviewed on his work in revenge films and horror movies, featured at www.illinoisalumnimagazine.org/illinoisalumni/fall_2020/MobilePagedArticle.action?articleId=15838128

**Chad STEINER** (LAS Classics) has been writing and teaching about the history of Alifold and a virtual tour of the Richmond Family Gallery in the Alice Campbell Alumni Center in Spring 2021.

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Excerpted from the original announcement: “Through Sabo’s generosity and foresight in support of establishing this position, we are now able to expand our class offerings and programming as we also prepare to expand our facility with the addition of the Ogura/Sato Annex. Lindsey is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Japanese Language and Literature at The Ohio State University. Lindsey began studying the Way of Tea as a first-year with Professor Emeritus Kimiko Gunji, and she worked in the tea industry before attending the Urasenke College of Chado in Kyoto. She led a community tea group in Columbus, Ohio from 2014 to early 2020 and has also taught Japanese language and culture at Ohio State and in Cincinnati, respectively. In her new role, Lindsey will be working to bring classes to Japan House that we have not yet been able to offer. Her additional help to solidify Japan House is not only an important cultural and engagement facility on the campus, but also one that offers a wide range of quality opportunities to learn about Japanese Arts and Antiquities.”

**Japan House announced in October 2020 that the inaugural Professor Emeritus Shozo Sabo Assistant Director of Academic Programming would be Lindsey Stirek (LAS Classics, LAS East Asian Languages and Cultures). Lindsey first visited the Japan House as a first-year student, when she met Kimiko Gunji virtually prior to serving as that year’s Yanai Ambassador. Lindsey recalls, “I remember being intimidated by Gunji-sensei from the start — she was like a tornado, virtually prior to serving as that year’s Yanai Ambassador. Lindsey recalls, “I remember being intimidated by Gunji-sensei from the start — she was like a tornado, and when I got to Japan, I was in a jet-lagged haze just trying to keep up with her. Little did I know that a decade later I would still be running around in her wake trying to keep up!”

**Lindsey Stirek** (LAS Classics) has been writing and teaching about the history of Alifold and a virtual tour of the Richmond Family Gallery in the Alice Campbell Alumni Center in Spring 2021. Sam Walder (2017 alumnus, ENG Engineering Physics) worked at a Chicago marathon-treadmill fundraiser. Diana Anghel (LAS Classics) was interviewed on his work in Revenge films and horror movies, featured at www.illinoisalumni-magazine.org/illinoisalumni/fall_2020/MobilePagedArticle.action?articleId=15838128

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The 14th Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) and Illinois Scholars Undergraduate Research Symposium (ISUR) took place on Undergraduate Research Week from April 25 – May 1, 2021. Below are the Chancellor’s Scholars who presented or co-presented their research at these events.

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

Sophia Baer
ACES Animal Sciences

Simon Balisi
ENG Industrial Engineering

Marisa Ban
ENG Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Tyler Behme
LAS Mathematics

Maxwell Chan
FAA Industrial Design

Maya Chattoraj
LAS Chemistry

Stephanie Chen
LAS Linguistics

Eva Cornman
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Garrett Credi
LAS Mathematics

Ella Dennis
LAS Psychology

Abigail Greetis
ENG Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Destiny Haun
LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Ethan Lamons
ACES Crop Sciences

Nissa Larson
ENG Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Sophie Luijten
LAS Italian Studies and Spanish

Elisabeth Martin
ENG Bioengineering

Holly Panfil
AHS Speech and Hearing Science

Max Pckenek
LAS Chemical Engineering

Dale Robbenolt
LAS Sociology

Manushi Shah
LAS Chemistry

Amanda Simon
LAS Psychology

Valerie Smolyakov
LAS Geology

Andrew Yin
LAS Mathematics

Many Chancellor’s Scholars have participated in Illini 4000 (www.illini4000.org) over the years of the effort’s existence. This year, a record-breaking 6 Chancellor’s Scholars did the ride: Ellie Beck (ENG Electrical Engineering), Maya Korol (LAS Political Science), Jacob Minin (ENG Bioengineering), Claire Penrose (ENG Bioengineering), Rahul Ramkumar (ENG Mechanical Engineering), and Ryan Watkins (BUS Finance and Accountancy). Mike Rotter (EDU Special Education), who rode in 2018 and 2019, and had previously served as Vice President, was President this year.

Mike Rotter, who has been engaged in Illini 4000 all four years on campus notes that “When I came to the UI, I was just a suburban kid that lived a majority of my life in a relatively small comfort zone… and an 80-day, 4,500 mile cross-country bike trip sounded as far out of my comfort zone as I could get. I was immensely proud of myself. I had done something I had never dreamed of before and I made some really good friends along the way. We also made the types of memories that you can only make when you’re traveling together with a small group for three months. This first trip was unforgettable.”

After his two rides, Mike served as Vice President and President, and “was able to help the organization survive through the COVID pandemic and set them up for success in future years even after I graduate and can no longer lend my time and energy to the cause. Looking back, I have no regrets about my involvement in Illini 4000. I feel more cultured, more aware, and stronger than I was coming out of high school. But while personal growth was really important to me, my favorite part has been the impact of our organization. I have helped us donate a lot of money to different organizations that research cancer treatments and organizations that provide support services to those affected by cancer. I have listened to the stories of many survivors, fighters, family members, and caretakers and lent a shoulder to cry on when needed. I also could see how much all of this meant to my loved ones who I was doing the ride for.

I’m really glad I have been able to help other students have the opportunity to do this for their loved ones too.”

Illini 4000’s mission: “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.”
The Social Engagement committee kicked off the year with a socially distanced outdoor movie night featuring Duel to the Future. Throughout the year, the committee hosted several virtual game nights on Discord, where students played games such as Among Us, Codenames, and Skribbl.io. The committee also held several giveaways, with students stopping by the Honors House to pick up gift bags for Halloween, Valentine’s Day, midterm studying, and finals studying. At the end of the year, Social Engagement held another outdoor movie night, this time with The Muppets.

Publications once again did an amazing job editing Equinox, the CHP literary and arts magazine. They also hosted a virtual Murder Mystery Night around Halloween and game nights on the Discord server with Scattergories and Jeopardy. The Art Committee hosted several art events such as pumpkin painting and Bob Ross paint night where students picked up supplies from the Honors House, then worked on their projects together remotely. The Art Committee also provided students with supplies to create artwork to decorate the Honors House with.

Honors Student Council Year in Review
By Maya Chattoraj, LAS Physics

Throughout an extremely challenging year, the Honors Student Council has been very active. The five committees (Academic Engagement, Community Engagement, Social Engagement, Publications, and Art) have each held numerous events for Chancellor’s Scholars.

The Academic Engagement Committee held virtual Course Preview Nights both semesters, where students learned about new upcoming CHP courses from the professors. The committee also hosted virtual Lunch & Learn events with Kristina Wright (Business Career Services) and CHP Professors Marty Perry (economics), David Ruzic (NPE), and A. J. Wilderbrand (mathematics). Additionally, Academic Engagement ran a winter break book club, where students read and discussed the award-winning novel The Color Purple. The committee also held the first “Evening with the Alums” event with beloved graduates Justin and James Tian, both of whom served as president of HSC before graduating last year.

The Community Engagement Committee did in-person volunteer work with the Bucket Brigade, a Champaign-based organization that provides food to families in need within the local community, and the Urbana Free Library, where volunteers gardened and planted flowers. In addition to in-person work, Community Engagement also provided remote opportunities to participate, such as running a fundraiser in partnership with Charity: Water to aid in providing clean drinking water to residents of developing nations and hosting a game night on Discord where students played Freerice, a quiz game that rewards correct answers by donating rice to families in need.

The Halloween event used a creative tube system (created by the volunteer standing up on the front porch) to slide candies down a PVC pipe to the visitor down at the bottom of the stairs. The Valentine’s Day surprise featured cookies and chocolate for students to enjoy. The Honors House’s vivacity returned to bring smiles to students’ faces.

Honors Student Council President Maya Chattoraj, along with other members of the HSC, organized special giveaway days at the Honors House. On Halloween, Valentine’s Day, Spring semester midterms, and Finals week, students on or near campus could stop by the building’s front porch for a surprise treat. “We organized these events in order to increase the sense of community among Chancellor’s Scholars,” said HSC President Maya Chattoraj, one of the volunteers who handed out goodies. “Many freshmen have never had the opportunity to visit the Honors House, and we wanted to give them a reason to stop by!”

The Honors Student Council is a fantastic way to engage with the honors community, and I have been overjoyed to have so many active members. I would like to thank the Executive Board and all of HSC members. I would like to thank the Executive Board and all of HSC members. The Social Engagement committee kicked off the year with a socially distanced outdoor movie night featuring Duel to the Future. Throughout the year, the committee hosted several virtual game nights on Discord, where students played games such as Among Us, Codenames, and Skribbl.io. The committee also held several giveaways, with students stopping by the Honors House to pick up gift bags for Halloween, Valentine’s Day, midterm studying, and finals studying. At the end of the year, Social Engagement held another outdoor movie night, this time with The Muppets.

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**HSC/CHP Community Engagement**

By Briana Subecks, LAS Chemical Engineering

With the pandemic causing isolation from others, it would have been easy to spend this past year worrying only about myself. Thankfully, Honors Student Council went above and beyond to guarantee community outreach events for Chancellors’ Scholars. I participated in two such events: Bucket Brigade and flower planting at the Urbana Free Library. Bucket Brigade was run by the Channing-Murray Foundation and involved preparing and delivering food to mostly people around the community. Most of the food was donated or collected from stores, but the Channing-Murray Foundation and Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant have a garden to provide fresh produce as well. I had a wonderful time clearing weeds and spreading compost in the soil to prepare for planting. Though I didn’t get to plant on that date, I did plenty of planting at the other community outreach event. I frequently visit the Urbana Free Library and was eager for a chance to give back to such a great place. We planted beautiful flowers in boxes outside the front door, in planters on the side of the building, and in the children’s garden near the back.

**EQUINOX**

Equinox

By Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design

This year, we celebrated 9 years of the CHP Literary theme that highlighted this milestone and the crazy year of 2020, so we picked Pluto. Pluto is the 9th “planet” in our solar system (depending on who you ask — but we say yes). Pluto is isolated, small, cold, and lonely — feelings we could all relate to this past year. With the pandemic causing isolation from others, it would have been easy to spend this past year worrying only about myself. Thankfully, Honors Student Council went above and beyond to guarantee community outreach events for Chancellors’ Scholars. I participated in two such events: Bucket Brigade and flower planting at the Urbana Free Library. Bucket Brigade was run by the Channing-Murray Foundation and involved preparing and delivering food to mostly people around the community. Most of the food was donated or collected from stores, but the Channing-Murray Foundation and Red Herring Vegetarian Restaurant have a garden to provide fresh produce as well. I had a wonderful time clearing weeds and spreading compost in the soil to prepare for planting. Though I didn’t get to plant on that date, I did plenty of planting at the other community outreach event. I frequently visit the Urbana Free Library and was eager for a chance to give back to such a great place. We planted beautiful flowers in boxes outside the front door, in planters on the side of the building, and in the children’s garden near the back.

**Altgeld Hall Lecture SAS and Altgeld Bell-ringing**

By Annamaree Novack, LAS Physics

Students walking or sitting near the Quad during passing period will often hear music coming from the Altgeld Hall bell tower. This music is coming from the Senior Memorial Chime, which includes fifteen bells. What many students do not know is that real people play the Altgeld chiming!

Members of the Altgeld Ringers RSO play concerts on the chimes during passing periods and weekends. I joined the Altgeld Ringers at the start of spring semester, and I love being able to play music for the campus! Playing on such a loud and grand instrument is very exciting! A fun tradition is that every concert must include the song “Hail to the Orange.” Besides “Hail to the Orange,” my favorite pieces to play on the chime are an excerpt from “Jupiter” by Holst and “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” by Bach.

In March, I attended the CHP SAS “Altgeld Hall Lecture and Richmond Family Welcome Gallery Tour” given by Ryan Ross (2008 alumnus, LAS English). Due to my involvement with the Altgeld Ringers, I had been looking forward to the CHP SAS presentation. I enjoyed learning about Altgeld Hall’s construction, architecture, and history. Built in the late 1890’s, Altgeld Hall first served as the University’s library and then as the home for the College of Law. Today, it houses the Mathematics Department. My favorite part of the SAS was seeing old photos of Altgeld Hall, especially a photo of the bells all lined up on the ground before installation. I was also surprised that the building’s stones have not always been the dark color that they are now but were once a light pink color.

Altgeld Hall will be undergoing construction and restoration soon, and the chime will be silent for several years. However, the Altgeld Ringers are planning ways to keep providing students with music, so stay tuned! In the meantime, you can watch and listen to the Altgeld Ringers Spring Concert on the YouTube channel “Altgeld Bingers.” Playing the Altgeld chime has been one of the best parts of my freshman year, and I am looking forward to playing again soon.

**Review of “Personality and Birth Order” SAS with Brent Roberts**

By Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design

One of the SAS this year was a talk by Brent Roberts, a professor of psychology who focuses on personality. In his talk, he discussed how personality relates to birth order. (Spoiler alert: it doesn’t!) In fact, we still don’t know what factors influence our personality, which surprised me a lot.

Roberts said most people think of personality like bread. Just like bread, personality would have four main ingredients, or factors, and each factor largely affects our personality. Although we would think that the four big factors that affect our personality are our genes, birth order, our socioeconomic status, and the way our parents raise us, Roberts showed us studies that negate this widespread idea.

Roberts says that we don’t know what factors influence our personality, but he offered up a good analogy to explain it. Roberts explained that personality is like curry. It can have over seventeen different ingredients and each ingredient affects the outcome in a small but noteworthy way. There are many different and wide-ranging factors that may affect our personality significantly.

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

**CHP presented some returning favorite programs and several new and exciting ones in 2020–2021! Please see www.honors.illinois.edu and click on Students to scroll down for the Scholar Adventures Series programming. While graduating students were able to have substitutions approved for KDR Dress Rehearsals (including some KDR Center for the Performing Arts virtual programs), we look forward to KDRs returning this coming academic year!**

**SAS/KDR Updates**
ALUMNI RESPONSES TO WHY I GIVE

Sarah (Lash) Bakker (2009 alumna): “I loved my time at U of I and appreciate the financial support I received as a student.”

Steven Wiel (2007 alumna): “Now that I am involved in my professional career, I am looking to give back to the CHP program, and support the outstanding, multidisciplinary education experiences received through the Chancellor’s Scholar’s Program.”

Lisa (Mazzocco) Chapello (2010 alumna): “CHP was a special part of my undergraduate experience and I’d like to help give other students the same opportunity.”

Jordon C. Aslani (2020 alumna): “I am forever grateful for the CHP in fostering my personal growth and career development!”

Trenedy Kloczewski (2013 alumna): “The CHP granted me with so many opportunities during my college career and I would like to use my appreciation by giving back to the program and supporting its future growth.”

Brian Newman (1993 alumna): “Alumni wishing you well!”

Gennivie LaBella (2012 alumna): “CHP gave me the opportunity to challenge myself and learn about subjects unrelated to my field of study, which was more focused on discovery and experience than grades and busy work.”

“I want to give back to CHP because it was an essential part of my experience at U of I.”

Joseph Matusch (2010 alumna)

What you supported

Donors enable the Campus Honors Program to provide many special events and opportunities for students that might not otherwise be possible. This year we used funds to support student research experiences, the continuation of our student art project, and important in-person community-building events such as lunch and learn events, Scholar Adventurers Series programs, and field trips. 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 (2007 alumna, LAS Physics and Mathematics) for his continued pledge to support the creation of the E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship. This scholarship was awarded for the fourth time to Garrett Credi (LAS Mathematics).

While we were not able to meet in person with Matt as usual, we had a Zoom gathering on 5/25/21 with Matt, Laurie Johnson, Elizabeth Rockman, and all of the first four recipients of this scholarship, Kathelain Halmad, Quentin Watelin, Elia Choudhri, and Garrett Credi (in order of receiving the scholarship).

Thanks to these generous donors for their support to the CHP.

With these gifts we can continue to offer quality programming to Chancellor’s Scholars. ‘All donors marked with an asterisk have given previously.

$2,000–$999 DIRECTOR’S LEVEL

*Ms. Johanna M. Hampfer (2013 alumna)
*Dr. Bruce A. Georg (CHP faculty member) and Dr. Jeffrey M. Haas
*Professor Kim C. Gruber (CHP Director and CHP faculty member)
*Mr. David B. Grabchishin (2014 alumna)
*Professor Kombi Y. Bong (CHP faculty member)
*Mr. Tom E. Hirschi (2015 alumna)
*Mrs. Elizabeth Hirschi

$1,000–$2,999 HIGHEST HONORS LEVEL

*Mr. Paras B. Patel (2006 alumna, matching Goldman Sachs)
*Mr. Seth F. Mathew (2015 alumna and Mrs. Susan H. Katha Fanseeen)
*Ms. Jeannie M. Gatto (2006 alumna)
*Mr. Isaac Le – Cofound of Macro Fund
*Ms. Genevieve M. LaBelle (2011 alumna)
*Mr. Matthew W. Lack (1999 alumna)
*Ms. Glenna E. Weston (2004 alumna, matched by Foursquare U.S. Foundation)
*Dr. Michael A. Morin (2019 alumna) and Mrs. Jean Q. Morin (2006 alumna, matched by Lincoln Chalmers)

$500–$999 HONORS LEVEL

*Mr. Roderick B. Berghold and Mrs. Julie L. Jochumsen (1991 alumna, Berghold
matched by Ibbotson Chalmers)
*Mrs. Anne Marie Casey (2002 alumna) and Mr. Brian Dobrabcho
*Ms. Robin B. Dittrich and Mr. Samuel B. Connary (1990 alumna)
*Dr. A. J. Wiederhold (CHP faculty member)
*Mr. Thomas A. Jost (1990 alumna)
*Mr. David Klipsky (2013 alumna) and Mrs. Kristine Klinger (2012 alumna)
*Mr. Keith S. Latham (2002 alumna)
*Ms. Kathleen L. Luton (2008 alumna)
*Mr. J. Michael Moore and Mrs. Barbara Jane Moore
*Mr. David P. Connor (2011 alumna) and Ms. Caroline West
*Ms. Gwendolyn D. Ostsman (2003 alumna)
*Mr. David L. Parkert (1992 alumna) and Mrs. Shawn M. Pelka (matched by University of Illinois at Chicago)
*Dr. Gregory D. Beckamp and Mrs. Julie C. Beckamp
*Mr. Eliahu J. Rosen (1990 alumna) and Mrs. Kathleen Rost
*Mr. Benjamin N. Shrubsole (2001 alumna) and Mrs. Amanda K. Leonard, 2001 alumnus

$500–$999 HONORS LEVEL

*Mr. Dennis L. Anderson and Mr. Erik A. Anderson
*Mrs. Traci L. Claeys (2011 alumna) and Mr. Nick J. Arens
*Mr. Sarah E. Bakker (2019 alumna)
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*Mr. Eric A. Anderson
*Mrs. Traci L. Claeys (2011 alumna) and Mr. Nick J. Arens
*Mr. Jordan C. Aslani (2012 alumna)
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*Mr. Eric A. Anderson
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*Dr. Matthew J. Rodriguez (2007 alumna, LAS Physics and Mathematics)

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$100–$499 HONORS LEVEL

*Ms. Deanne L. Anderson and Mr. Eric A. Anderson
*Mrs. Traci L. Claeys (2011 alumna) and Mr. Nick J. Arens
*Mr. Jordan C. Aslani (2012 alumna)
*Mrs. Sarah E. Bakker (2019 alumna)
*Mr. Eric A. Anderson
*Mr. Jordan C. Aslani (2012 alumna)

How to help >> www.honors.illinois.edu

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

Top to bottom: CHP alumnus Chris Francisco and family. Chancellor’s Scholar Stella Zhao shows her artwork. CHP alumnus Trenedy Kloczewski.

DONORS TO THE CHP

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

$1–$999 SCHOLARS LEVEL

*Mr. Turkey B. Delar (2006 alumna)
*Mr. Stephen S. Bock (1999 alumna)
*Mr. Robert B. Wood
*Mrs. Katrina A. Breman (2006 alumna) and Mr. Anthony R. Nowland
*Mrs. Carrie L. Rodman (1999 alumna) and Mr. Robert K. Brodsky
*Mr. Michael Collins (2018 alumna)
*Mrs. Cara S. Stiles (2015 alumna) and Mr. Michael Collins
*Mr. Bob Brondyke (2012 alumna) and Mrs. Elizabeth Hirschi
*Mr. Joseph J. Matuch (2010 alumna) and Mrs. Rachel Matuch
*Mr. Donald E. Kountz (2007 alumna, LAS Physics and Mathematics)

Top to bottom: CHP alumnus Chris Francisco and family. Chancellor’s Scholar Stella Zhao shows her artwork. CHP alumnus Trenedy Kloczewski.
2020–2021 CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

STATE, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND HONORS

Fullbright Grant National, 3 years of support toward advanced research-based degrees.

Lauren Easter, 2016 alumna, ENG Engineering

Niraj Lawande, 2016 alumna, ENG Engineering

Dennis Mc, 2016 alumna, ENG Electrical Engineering

Lori Marie Adjimian Sarkar, 2016 alumna, ENG Manufacturing Science and Engineering

Peeti & Sports Class of 2016

Graduating seniors, ENG Electrical

Gabriel Pfister, 2016 alumna, LAS Psychology and Environmental Sciences

Nrees Lacs, 2016 alumna, ACS (Co-Vice President, Community Engagement)

Lauren Magna, 2016 alumna, ACS Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Brigid O’Shy, 2016 alumna, ACS Human Development and Family Studies

Gabriel Pfister, 2016 alumna, ACS Technology Systems Management

Aloise Pfister, 2016 alumna, ACS Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Niraj Lawande, 2016 alumna, ACS Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Kaya Vitte, 2016 alumna, ACS Crop Science

Alt-Cal Bio Science Scholarship

AHS (Co-Vice President, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences)

Molly Kocheril, 2016 alumna, LAS Anthropology

Marilyn Medrano, ACS Animal Sciences

Molly Kocheril, 2016 alumna, LAS Anthropology

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AHS (Co-Vice President, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences)
2020-2021 CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

GIES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Molli Walker Scholarships
- Victoria Palma, Gies College of Business
- Katrina Vasiljevic, Gies College of Business
- Devki Kasture, Gies College of Business
- Annie Wu, Gies College of Business

Elisabeth Jaszka, Gies College of Business
Caterpillar Excellence Scholarship

BUS Unassigned
Nick Rozmus, Gies College of Business

BUS Finance and Accountancy
Nina Mitchell, and Marketing

GIES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
August 2021  |  Campus Honors Program  |  University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Kaijing (Emily) Yan, Chain Management

Gies College of Business Scholarship

ENG Mechanical Engineering
Rahul Ramkumar,
Victoria Palma,

ENG Mechanical Engineering
Emma Erickson,

ENG Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering
Alayna McDermott,

ENG Mechanical Science and Engineering
Prithiv Kumar,

ENG Aerospace Engineering
Elliana Beck,

ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering
Elliana Beck,

ENG Electrical Engineering
Rohan Kamatar,

ENG Mechanical Science and Engineering
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Sarah (McKibben) Black

(2011 alumna, ENG Bioengineering) in November 2020: “I wanted to let you know that after receiving my acceptances, I’ve decided to attend Tulane’s MPH program in January! They have a strong program, and a focus on health equity that really sealed the deal for me.”

Champaign-Urbana on a sweltering hot July day. We hadn’t been back in many years, so we made strategic stops at some of the high points of our college days, including CHP! And in April 2021: “More exciting news — we are going to London for a year!” Jon has recently been approved for a sabbatical running from August 2021 through July 2022. He will be splitting time between Imperial College London and the University of Surrey, and we are narrowing down our options for housing between both locations.

Caroline Crekovic (2011 alumna, ENG Bioengineering) in June 2021: “Since 2013, I have been a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Neuro-regeneration at Houston Methodist Research Institute (in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas). As of 2021, I am also a member of the first cohort of the National Control of Organ Degeneration and Regeneration (NeuroCODR) Fellowship Program, in which I have been fortunate to enhance my research experience with clinical observation in neurosurgery in order to bridge the gap between bench research and translational medicine. Last year, I was honored to receive the Excellence in Mentoring Award at Houston Methodist Research Institute during National Postdoc Appreciation Week. I also serve as the Scholarship Chair for the University of Illinois Alumni Club of Houston.”

Eric Edwards (2001 alumna, LAS Political Science) let us know in September 2020 that he is currently Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the Illinois State Library in Springfield, where he has worked since 2013. Before that, he was Public Services Librarian at Benedictine University at Springfield, from 2008 to 2015. He is finishing four years on the Executive Board of the Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries, having served as the organization’s Secretary (2016-17), Vice President/President-Elect (2017-18), President (2019-20). He is currently serving a one-year term (2020-21) as Secretary of the Association of College & Research Libraries Chapters Council. He remains active in several other professional organizations, including the Illinois Library Association, for which he is a member of the Conference Program Committee and recently finished four years on the ILLA Reporter Advisory Committee (the last three as Co-Chair and Chair); and the Health Science Librarians of Illinois, for which he served as Secretary from 2013 to 2017 and remains Co-Chair of the Newsletter Committee and a member of the Conference Planning Committee.

Max Ellithorpe (2011 alumna, LAS Political Science) in June 2021: “I imagine it’s been a weird year for you all — hopefully things start to get back to normal for CHP this fall semester. I recently started my third year in medical school at the UIC College of Medicine after switching careers from the finance/public world. I spent my first two years on the Peoria campus and recently transferred to the Chicago campus to be closer to family. I’m enjoying my clinical rotations so far and have also gotten heavily involved in student government. I was recently elected student body president which I’m really enjoying — it’s been a great way to network and collaborate with administrators. I’m hoping to end up as a palliative care/cancer medicine. Last year, I was honored to receive the Excellence in Pediatrics or Psychiatry. As I always note, CHP was the highlight of my time at UICU.”

Every year I enjoy reading the CHP Annual, particularly the updates — I always look for updates from my CHP cohort.

Cristina (Nina) Hansen

(2003 alumna, LAS Political Science) in October 2020: “Every year I enjoy reading the CHP Annual, particularly the updates — I always look for updates from my CHP cohort. As a proud graduate of the CHP and the UI Bioengineering program, I was determined to find a job that utilized those skills. I was blessed to find Ingevity Corp. — a specialty chemicals manufacturer and innovation leader in pine chemistry and other sustainable chemistries. I spent two years in the resin labs, a year in general marketing, and then found my true home in technical sales and marketing over the last five years. I would never have thought I’d be managing sales, negotiating contracts, and talking endlessly about biochemistry, but I get to do it every day with people from around the world. The difficulty of study at the U of I taught me how to persevere and hustle. If there’s any advice I can offer new graduates going into the workforce, it would be to start out somewhere — anywhere — to get your feet wet and then fine tune, or “engineer” your next role closer and closer to what you want it to be. I started out as a lab girl in a lab who talked to a lot, and almost 10 years later I realized there’s a job for that and I just had to find it! In the future I hope to keep learning and growing in my role so I can support young women and men who are just starting out to find their paths too. In my free time, I still enjoy playing the piano, eating out in St. Louis with family and friends, and exploring all things unique, odd, and interesting.”

Ga Eun (Jackie) Lee

(2017 alumna, ARES Interdisciplinary Health Sciences) in June 2021: “I got accepted to Tufts and Boston University, but I’ll be applying to public health schools in Korea! I’ve started working at the National Medical Center and didn’t want to lose my opportunity here, and they thankfully offered me a chance to study here in Korea. Korean schools give out full scholarships, so that was another reason why I chose this track. If it wasn’t COVID, it wouldn’t have been too hard to visit America so I can go visit the Honors House but guess that could happen next year. (Korea’s vaccination rate is much slower than that of the U.S.)”

We hadn’t been back in many years, so we made strategic stops at some of the high points of our college days, including CHP!

Sarah (McKibben) Black

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We hadn’t been back in many years, so we made strategic stops at some of the high points of our college days, including CHP!
Matt Macomber (2014 alumnus, LAS Atmospheric Sciences) in April 2021: “Regarding my promotion (which is effective tomorrow), I’ll be a Senior QA Engineer here at AT&T US. Over the past year, I’ve run Vulnerability Tests on applications, automated other tests, and trained new employees on the sites we test and the tools we use to do testing. In my spare time, I’ve helped organize the IT Pro Forum Conference at UUC and the IT Accessibility Liaison Program at UECU. Some of bigger projects I’ve tested since starting at AT&T three years ago are: NetiCenter, U1 Ride, and myAccessCenter. Going forward, I plan to take a more active role in accessibility testing within our department.”

Pranjali Nandi (2020 alumnus, BUS Finance): “I started my new job at Livingstone Partners September 8, and I’ve had a great experience learning about the investment banking industry thus far. The work is tough, but the insights I’ve gained are tremendously rewarding, and I definitely can see myself working in Finance long-term.”

Hannah Rickey (2015 alumnus, LAS Spanish and Anthropology) in August 2020: “I’ve been reading about UI’s reopening plans and thinking of how my UI training has prepared me well! Being a part of reshaping HSC really helped me develop as a leader and shaped the person I am today. The CEP and everything it offered was truly the highlight of my experience at the University of Illinois. If you have any students interested in the FlexMed Program or Mount Sinai in general, please have them get in touch with me. I am happy to help in any way possible.”

Ruth Tokoka (2012 alumnus, LAS Psychology) in August 2020: “I got a job as a graduate residency advisor at National Louis University!”

Justin Tiao (2020 alumnus, ENG Bioengineering) in October 2020: “I’ve been working all summer as an Assistant Program Facilitator on the National Institutes of Health Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics Initiative which is a national defense initiative to rapidly scale-up national COVID-19 testing capacity. It’s like a shark tank for COVID-19 diagnostic device proposals so I’ve had the pleasure of evaluating different technologies/companies’ projects as well as help companies scale-up their own testing capabilities.”

“I’ve also started medical school at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai at home! I started back in August and am currently two months into learning anatomy (through Zoom! At Sinai), I’ve gotten involved in a few things (as a TA for the Diversity Innovation Hub, a first-year representative on the student council, as a Clinic Manager for the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership free clinic, and a research project in Orthopedics). It’s definitely been a lot, juggling medical school, working 20-25 hours/week, and being involved with so much, but I think my UI training has prepared me well! Being a part of reshaping HSC really helped me develop as a leader and shaped the person I am today. The CEP and everything it offered was truly the highlight of my experience at the University of Illinois. If you have any students interested in the FlexMed Program or Mount Sinai in general, please have them get in touch with me. I am happy to help in any way possible.”

Marissa Yanns (2020 alumna, LAS English) in June 2021: “In addition to the proofreading job I got while at UUC, I now work as a tutor for smaller children, from ages around 4 to 17. It is going well so far! Another note is that my younger sister is set to enter UIUC in the fall. I’ll use the opportunity to come visit!”

Soo Wang (1993 alumnus, LAS Chemical Engineering) in June 2021: “After graduating from UTEC and Stanford, I spent a few years in the pharmaceutical industry but was eventually drawn back to the world of academia. I’m currently a Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of California, Irvine. My research focuses on the development of biomaterials that are designed to improve the efficacy of vaccines and therapeutic drugs. While my education and career have been in engineering and very technically-focused, I will always be grateful to CEP for giving me a greater appreciation of the humanities through the program’s engaging classes and activities.”

Anne Rivas (2009 alumna, LAS Integrative Biology and ACEs Animal Science) in November 2020: “I am working at the Birmingham Zoo in Alabama. I just passed my specialty boards for the American College of Zoo Medicine, which involved two years of studying so quite relieved to be done with it. My sister (Janny Rivas, 2012 alumna, LAS Chemistry and History of Art) in doing well—she is completing her fellowship in emergency pediatric medicine up in Milwaukee. My parents are still in Chicago, so it has been hard being so far apart, especially during this challenging year. Hoping we can start transitioning back to normal soon!”

Sarah (Vorraiter) Sattani (2014 alumna, LAS History) in November 2020: “Professionally, my online businesses have grown a lot, so I have temporarily stepped away from the classroom to focus on them full time. I’m currently doing social studies and social justice curriculum development and have had over 13,000 teachers use my resources and lesson plans so far in 2020! I’m also still helping people simplify their homes and live more intentional lives with my YouTube channel!”

Lindsey Stirek (2008 alumna, LAS East Asian Languages and Cultures) in February 2021: “I am just emailing you to let you know about some of the classes I developed for Japan House. I recently created an ART 301: Intro to Manga and an ART 302: Intro to Anime course that will be running in the fall and spring, respectively, and will each fulfill a couple gen eds. They are under the new rubric I pushed through, which will house Japan House courses exclusively, which is a big development for us. We are also working on several other new courses, and I am running two experimental courses right now (Anime through the Works of Studio Ghibli and Queer Manga) that might eventually become regularly offered courses as well. Exciting times!”

“Tough, but the insights I’ve gained are tremendously rewarding, and I definitely can see myself working in Finance long-term.”

“My UI training has prepared me well! Being a part of reshaping HSC really helped me develop as a leader and shaped the person I am today.”

I am really enjoying it and am lucky to work with a great team.”

Emily Siner (2012 alumna, MED Journal-ism) in June 2021: “I’ve been working at the news director of Nashville Public Radio and led a 14-person newsroom through an incredibly stressful news year in Nashville, where we covered not only the pandemic and protests but also deadly tornadoes and a bombing on Christmas Day. But we did some of our best work under that pressure. My newsroom won seven regional Edward R. Murrow awards, and I was the editor on the podcast The Promise, which was a Pulitzer finalist.”

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

Sam Walsier (2017 alumna, ENG Computer Engineering) in May 2021: “We have some major news over at Trala. Joshua Bell, one of the world’s most acclaimed violinists, is joining Trala as a partner and advisor. We are co-authoring a new method of music instruction—in fact, the first major new method written since 1940!”

Nicholas Wissman (150th alumna, LAS Anthropology and History) in April 2021: “Witch in the White City is finally out! (This is my new dark historical fantasy/mystery set in Chicago’s 1893 World’s Fair. It’s available on Amazon and Kindle Unlimited.) Nick continues to write monthly science fiction and fantasy book and podcast reviews at www.nickwissman.com, which includes such diverse selections as Brandon Sanderson’s Mistborn, Zayn Jokhundar’s The Map of Gold and Stars, Mary Robinette Kowal’s The Calculating Stars, N. K. Jemisin’s The Fifth Season, Larry McMurtry’s Lonesome Dove, R. F. Kuang’s The Poppy War, Ken Follett’s The Evening and the Morning, Sofia Moreno-Garcia’s Gods of Jade and Shadow, John le Carré’s A Perfect Spy, Claire Lou’s The Dark Forest, and Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone’s This Is How You Lose the Time War.”

Kevin Wells (2013 alumna, ENG Civil Engineering and LAS Integrative Biology) remains busy with his company (Midwest Agroforestry Solutions) and non-profit (the Savannah Habitat), including running field days and conferences. See page 38 for his alumni profile.”

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SR. STEPHANIE BALIGA
2000 alumna, LAS Economics and Geography

While on campus you double majored, you were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and named to Bronze Tablet, and you received a CHP Outstanding Senior Award, among many other honors, and you were also very engaged in running through the Varsity Cross Country Team, where you also received many accolades. What led you to combine your love of running with your interest in making an impact in the world through your life of service?

What a great question! So, a little background. I’ve been blessed to use running to create a large fundraiser/support raiser through the Chicago Marathon for my religious community’s work at Mission of Our Lady of the Angels. At Mission OLAA, we work with those in need on Chicago’s west side. We’ve raised over a million dollars to support our material distribution outreach (food, clothing, household goods, furniture distributions). My economics background has always pushed me to make sure that benefactors can truly believe that their donation is a long-term investment in our cause. What other way to show your true investment and sacrifice the Big 10 athletic experience that I also desired. Ironically, I also think that CHP prepared me with excellent cross curricular critical thinking skills that not only gave me confidence to discern my vocation with courage and zeal, but also allowed me to apply academic skills to unexpected applications — such as running multi-million dollar construction projects and coordinating resources to feed 4000+ families a month during the pandemic. I am very grateful for the gifts the CHP gave me!

It was also a great gift to spread some joy and love to all during the pandemic when I ran a marathon on a treadmill in August 2020.

Creating Team Our Lady of the Angels to support our work here at Mission of Our Lady of the Angels has been an incredible gift to me and to the west side of Chicago. We have 103 runners for the 2021 marathon. I hope that the team continues to grow each and every year! Recently I haven’t had time to train much myself, so I have mostly set aside my personal goals in favor of growing the team so we can expand out outreach to the poor on the west side. If you’d like to learn more about our marathon team, please check out: missionola.com-marathon.html.

As an Advertising major you won national awards and mentored others on campus, and you currently are the Chief Strategy Officer at Translation LLC in NYC, and also study and teach yoga. How did your undergraduate education provide a framework for achieving your current goals?

As it relates to my undergraduate education and my subsequent career, I’ve walked a pretty straight and narrow path. I majored in Advertising and my first two internships also set me up for my first two full-time positions at advertising agencies after graduating. I also concentrated my focus on consumer insights and strategy, a concentration that I have not shifted from my entire career. I think this is mostly due to the fact that during my UIUC years, my initial declaration was pre-journalism. I’ve always had an interest in storytelling and synthesizing information that helps people see things in new ways. I received great training in honing my skills doing that during my undergraduate years. Also, the network of UIUC alumni in the field of marketing communications is wide and deep. Tapping into that network during my time as an undergrad was immensely helpful in setting me up to expand my wings post graduation.

What future direction/s do you expect advertising will take in the future, and how do you see yourself leading the way?

Advertising, being that it exists in the world of media, is always changing with and adapting to the zeitgeist. Brand leaders must prioritize a commitment to understanding the complex social, cultural, and market contexts we are living through. From the most distressing circumstances of racial and social injustice to the rate of change at which pop culture defines what’s “now” and what’s “next,” understanding these experiences, nuances, and shifts are a mandate for maintaining relevance. My role, particularly as a strategist, is to constantly apply an anthropological lens on what’s happening in our world and why. This understanding ensures I can help brands identify valid entry points for real connection and impact. In fact, it is my job to “future proof” the brands I work with by tapping this understanding as the guiding force of every aspect of their communications. I’m on a personal mission to forever strengthen the quality and resonance of the stories I create. Doing so demands that I stay in touch with the times. Achieving this first as a personal goal enables me to do the same for brands.

How did the CHP enhance your undergraduate experience (such as through your participation in the CHP’s co-sponsored Business Immersion course/tour in Brazil, and/or classes or cocurricular offerings), and what advice would you give to current and future Chancellor’s Scholars?

One of the greatest aspects of the undergraduate experience is the opportunity to explore — explore subjects you’ve never engaged with before, explore people and communities you’ve never interacted with before, and explore yourself in ways you never have before. CHP offered some of my favorite, explorative experiences, such as my ikebana course at Japan House and my business immersion trip to Brazil. The trip to Brazil represented a number of firsts for me. It was my first passport stamp, my first time visiting the ocean, and my first time traveling anywhere outside the state of Illinois without my family. In the process, life-long friendships were formed, I developed a near insatiable desire to travel, and I ultimately learned so much about the world by getting outside of the only world I’d ever known. My advice for current and future Chancellor’s Scholars, is to jump into the deep end of the unfamiliar. Use the diversity of coursework and co-curricular offerings of CHP to study and experience some things that are furthest from what you think you “like” and especially from what you think you “know.”
Several years ago you endowed CHP’s first scholarship in the name of recently deceased UI/CHP faculty member E. Graham Evans, which has now had its first recipient (Katelyn Helmold) graduate. How did your experiences at UI and CHP inform your career, and what inspired you to give back?

The CHP sold me on attending UIUC as a means of exploring a vast university within a small community. As a freshman I had a very narrow view of myself and my education (physics, math, some computing, ... not much else) and I credit my CHP courses for motivating me to a broader education, appreciating some computing, ... not much else) and I credit my CHP courses for motivating me toward a broader education, appreciating thinking can be applied powerfully across a variety of pursuits.

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

Be curious — take advantage of the plentiful extra-curricular program offerings, whether seminars, performances, or travel. Being within a large university can be daunting (isolating, ironically), but the CHP is offering a guided tour. The CHP offerings were most memorable among all my courses because they provided fulfilling ‘introductions’ to subjects such that they became of lasting interest. And spend time (in an ordinary year) at the HoHo getting to know your classmates — it’s rare to have such diversity of experience and talent in one place.

What have you found most rewarding about your continued engagement with the CHP through continuing to meet yearly with the first E. Graham Evans Scholarship, and what is your hope for this program in the future?

I am impressed with the quality of students that the CHP continues to attract. As much as I have enjoyed getting to know them (almost, just a little), I am hopeful that they will also build connections with one another. With just this first full stack of recipients, from graduated senior to incoming freshman, I am pleased to see how each is navigating a unique and successful path through their academic career. I think this is revealing of how mathematical thinking can be applied powerfully across a variety of pursuits. In that light, I will be focusing on expanding my application. We (as a society) spend a lot of time talking about how education provide a framework for achieving your current goals?

Your college years fly by so quickly, so take full advantage of everything that the UI/CHP has to offer, especially all the great CHP courses taught by amazing teaching staff that are all experts in their own fields. Be sure to go out of your comfort zone to learn new subjects, make new friends, try new clubs. And if you have an opportunity and might be interested, definitely take advantage of the study abroad opportunities that the CHP and the UI’ I have to offer. Have fun!

What advice would you give to current and future Chancellor’s Scholars?

Mike: College is about so much more than grades — even in classes that are important and that you enjoy. Try to think about your classes in a different way, it’s not about what you need to do to get that grade, but what you can learn. I’d also highly recommend studying abroad and taking classes in completely different fields than your major.
Hamedh Brubekri (Architecture) had his work on the positive effects of daylighting published in several journals, including the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Energy, Journal of Green Building, and Journal of Applied Psychology. He notes that he enjoys teaching Chancellor’s Scholars in the CHP. “My course being an elective one, I am always cognizant of the fact that I am dealing with very bright students who choose this course to genuinely learn the subject matter of this course. It is never about grades but truly about learning. It is the most rewarding experience a teacher can ever have.”

Christopher Freelsburg (English) let us know that in January he published his third book, Counterlife: Slavery after Resistance and Social Death (University Press, 2021). He was also awarded an endowed chair from LAS, and his new title is the John A. and Grace W. Professor of English (full story: illinois.edu/news/2021-01-09/english-professor-named-john-and-grace-w-chancellor). Shaun Gilmore (English) continued as editor of The Vault of Culture, a public scholarship site that regularly publishes a range of cultural criticism, and he served as conference organizer for the Flyover Comics Symposium, at which he also presented a paper on meta-narrative reader participation in some superhero comics. He presented on narrative containment after the Disney acquisition of the Star Wars franchise at the Realizing Resistance conference; published a few books reviews, e.g., on re-imagining the Graphic Novel in India; appeared on some podcasts, including an episode of “Oh Gosh, Oh Golly, Oh Wow!” and an upcoming episode of “Comics School”; and served as a sub-committee chair for the Comics Studies Society’s Gilbert Seldes Award for Public Scholarship.


Some reflections on her on her time teaching during the pandemic: “Since I live rural and there is virtually no traffic on my road, my three cats do not live in the house. Instead, they have their own house and always come in before dark. Living rural also means not having access to fast and reliable internet, so this fall when I had to teach via Zoom, the university sent me a very powerful hotspot that I could bring to the cat house! And I did this on many occasions so I could be with my cats on cold days — and share my cats with my students. Kolchak (16), Ananda-Pepper (11), and Comet-19 (kitten) hung out in class sending the students good luck on their assignments. I certainly will miss the Zoom teaching when we go back to the classroom, but I will always cherish spending time with my students and cats at the same time.”

Kim Graber (Kinesiology and Community Health and former CHP Director): “This year I assumed the position of Interim Head in Kinesiology and Community Health, which is my home unit. It was a difficult decision and very bittersweet leaving the position of Director of Campus Honors because I had developed so many meaningful relationships with students, faculty, and staff. Serving as Director will always be remembered as some of the best years of my life.” This year, Kim was invited to give the Raymond A. Weiss Lecture as part of the SHAPE America-Distinguished Lecture Series, which supports a scholar who is an outstanding leader in the field and has made contribution in the arts and sciences within the fields represented in the organization.

Laurie Johnson (Germanic Languages and Literatures and Interim CHP Director) has had her work published in Lessons from Hogwarts: Essays on the Pedagogy of Harry Potter, Palgrave Handbook of Germanic Philosophy and Aesthetics: Studies in Research. She has co-edited “German Fairy Tales and Folklore in a Global Context,” a special cross-over issue of The German Quarterly and Die Unterrichtspraxis, and she is editing a book for Bloomsbury Press called Germany from the Outside: Revisiting German Cultural History in an Age of Displacement that will appear in 2022. Laurie held the positions of Interim Associate Director of the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics, and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures until August 13, 2021. As of August 16, 2021, her role administrative position in Interim Director of the Campus Honors Program.

Brett Kaufman (Classics) was a Co-PI for a 2021 Bust Family Foundation Archaeology Grant, Mortuary Practices and Metallurgical Technologies during the late Iron (AD 1540-1584) and Spanish Colonial period (AD 1584-1622). He was named to the list of Teachers Ranked as Excellent for Spring 2020 for the CHP section of CLCV 133 Ancient Engineering. He has been published in Archimath and is a Founding Managing Editor for peer-reviewed journal Advances in Archaeomaterials (Volume 1, Issue 1: www.sciencedirect.com/journal/advances-in-archaeomaterials/vol/1/iss/1).

Brett reflected about his teaching this year that “Despite the challenges that COVID presented, CHP students remained engaged, thoughtful, and producing excellent work through the semester during our class CLCV 133 Archaeology of Israel (Spring 2021). It is refreshing to see how the students challenged themselves. Students had quite a bit of creativity, research skills, and application of ancient data to modern issues was very impressive.”

Bruce Michelis (English and former CHP Director) let us know that during this lockdown, he finished two additional one act comedies about the family life and activities of Mark Twain, completing a set of four. These “Waiting for Suzy,” was recently staged in Hartford Connecticut and “Elena, New Guardians, New Clamens family,” another is slated for the fall 2021 national conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of Roughing It. Bruce’s other achievement includes a long essay on Mark Twain’s Autobiography (forthcoming in the Mark Twain Journal) and shorter pieces in other journals.

J.W. Morrissette (Theatre) said he recently “learned (and was honored to receive) College of Fine and Applied Arts Specialized Faculty Award for Excellence 2020/2021.”

Helaine Silverman (Anthropology) was a keynote speaker at the inauguration of the Progressive Miners of America historical marker in Gilmore City, Iowa on May 1, 2021. The marker is the result of the collaboration between The Mystic Mississippi Project (which she co-directs), Illinois State Historical Society, Coal Museum at Gilmore, and the Town of Gilmore. Professor Silverman also gave guest lectures via Zoom this year at Yale University, Washington University in St. Louis, Stockholm University and Oxford University, in addition to conference presentations. She published papers in several edited volumes and a major article in International Journal of Heritage Studies covering research on Cavo Zoo (Pero), Durham (England) and Ground Zero (New York City).

Carol Spindel (English) let us know her new book, I Give You Half the Road (February 2021, University of Wisconsin Press), tells “the recent history of every Coast through the lives of five people she has known since they were children, and that is also the memoir of the long-term relationship between her family and the Ioworion community I continue to love and listen from times to times, as politicians urged division, the ordinary people in this book held fast to Ioworion cultural values such as tolerance for religious and ethnic differences, forgiveness, and a deep and abiding commitment to hospitality. The beautiful paintings on the cover by Ioworion painter Tamir Dye. More info at caroleispindel.com.” Carol spoke about her book at an online talk hosted by the University of Illinois Center for African Studies in February 2021 and at an online illustrated reading with the Urbana Free Library in April 2021.
An Interview with CHP Professor Chris Napolitano

By Teni Akin-Olugbemi, LAS English

TENI: How did you first become interested in adolescent psychology?

DR. NAPOLITANO: That’s a really good question. I did my research earlier in life at Boston College and when I started there, I was a second education history major, and I wanted to be a high school history teacher—I decided that that was not the right direction for me, and at the same time like a lot of college students, I was always hungry. I had this thing that I would do where I would go to events that had pizza, and there was one event with free pizza that I went to. I didn’t really know what the event was about, but I went and they talked about how you could get a PhD in developmental psychology and not only was it free, but they paid you to do it. I thought ‘Wow, that’s amazing.’ So I went up to the professor, and I say the talk and said, ‘Yeah, I’d love it.’ I changed my major and studied with her for the next three years. And then I ended up doing my PhD with her husband, Rich Lerner. So really part of it was serendipity and pizza. Part of it was being interested in young people and the way they live and develop.

TENI: Serendipity and Pizza sounds like a good middle-ground ideal.

DR. NAPOLITANO: Yeah, maybe I’ve read too many of those.

TENI: What did your coursework look like back then?

DR. NAPOLITANO: I did keep the history major, I finished with that, and I was also in an honors program at Boston College. And that program is a little bit different from the one here. You took courses in a really big seminar, and you spent a lot of time reading philosophy, history, learning about art, and I did a lot of classes with that, too.

TENI: That’s really cool. So, you’ve mentioned that you teach two different versions of this course, one with the middle-grade novels one without. Why did you decide to introduce the novels?

DR. NAPOLITANO: I mentioned Rich Lerner, who was my advisor for the PhD at Tufts University. His son was a year younger than me, and his name was Jared Lerner. Jared had wanted to be a lawyer and had done famous developmental psychologist. And the three of us were taking one day about how we would teach middle level students. It was a kind of mixed adolescent development, using great fiction, famous fiction novels of adolescence. And we ended up talking that, which was really fun and exciting. And then here at Illinois, I was teaching a standard adolescent development course, and Rich had taught to middle school teachers. I thought that that would really be fun to bring back that original course with Rich and Jared. So I contacted Jared one day and asked him, do you have any recommendations for books? I read some great books he recommended and applied to implement the course here. I was surprised they said yes, but they said we need to talk and I feel really lucky, because it’s not that one class is better than the other, they’re different, but it’s nice to be able to teach two different versions of the same course. They’re different speeds, one is covering a lot of material, and the honors course is covering selected, core topics. And then breathing life into them with the novels. Just like that, decision more than ten years ago, the three of us (Jared, Rich and I) know the science behind adolescence but knew that it was an incomplete picture of adolescence. We knew the novels had insights that the scientists didn’t, and we wanted to bring those insights to the classroom. It’s also a very good way to talk about issues that is not as emphasizing. The textbook material can’t be done. But these novels that are written for ten-year-olds, they’re accessible—and we can use them as a door to gain greater insight into the lives of adolescents.

TENI: It’s really interesting that creating this class started in college for you. And then you were able to bring it into your teaching experience.

DR. NAPOLITANO: Yes. It started along time ago.

TENI: And then how you’ve mentioned it’s kind of difficult to go from adolescence from just looking at scientific articles. That there’s this more relatable experience that you get from reading adolescent novels. I like the idea of merging the two.

DR. NAPOLITANO: Yeah, it’s been fun. I really have to say, honestly, that I thought the highlight of my career would be to be this, like I would be gray or bald before I’d be able to teach this course. I’m not gray or bald yet, and I’m really happy I was able to teach it really early on.

TENI: And how many students do you have this year?

DR. NAPOLITANO: It’s a big course, so there are a lot of students.

TENI: Why do you think that the novel that you’ve recommended is one that they will appreciate?

DR. NAPOLITANO: The novels that are written for ten-year-olds, they’re accessible—and we can use them as a door to gain greater insight into the lives of adolescents.

Several individuals noted Graham’s impact:

Chris Francisko (1999 alumnus, LAS Mathematics and Economics) I met Graham through the CHP soon after I arrived on campus in 1990. I remember timidly knocking on Sonia Carringer’s door to present my mentor request form, and she very kindly invited me in and talked to me about my academic interests. As I started to leave, Sonia asked me if I there were any activities in the school in which I was particularly interested, and I mentioned math, and she was looking for a mentor for a freshman math major interested in algebra who had been a debater in high school. George handed the phone to Graham, his officemate and an alumnus who had been a national champion in high school. It seemed like Sonia must have magical powers to create such perfect matches. From the day I met him, Graham was incredibly welcoming, and he and Kay treated me like a member of their family. I was astonished at (and very grateful for!) the number of times they invited me to dinner at their house; amazing meals that were always filled with great stories, laughter, and an interesting assortment of people. Graham and Kay were such good people and acted as second sets of parents for dozens of students. I have many great memories from their house, starting from the first time I walked up their steps with trepidation as a new freshman, to watching the 1998 NBA Finals with them, to a last big graduation dinner they held for Matt Rodriguez and me and our families. I am deeply grateful to both Graham and Kay and marvel at the impact they had on so many people.”

Oliveia (Cornell) Jobes (2012, ENG Biologi- ng) in June 2021, “My relationship with Graham was one of the most precious gifts I received at my time at the U of I, and I all started with the CHP. My first semester, I took his CHP class “Mathematics in Music and Art,” and it provided a special time every other day when I knew I was going to talk to people who understood me and my strange obsessions for these very different yet completely related areas of study. Graham created an atmosphere where each student could share their passions, and he helped us realize that math is all around us—constantly. Beyond that, he welcomed us into his home for class dinners, we met his lovely wife Kay and his family, and he loved Kranket, which CHP is also a huge supporter of. In my following years, I would go to additional Kranket performances with Graham; we enjoy a Timone’s dinner beforehand, and we made it an annual tradition to see the Mark Morris dance troupe which supports Parkinson’s research and therapy, which Graham did suffer from with tremendous tenacity throughout his later years. He introduced each class, including mine, to the wonders of the Allgaid chimas tower. Many of us (myself included) became chimas players during our time at U of I. The chimes are manually played by the chimas master and students each day, and the math involved is fascinat- ing, as Graham taught us. I miss him, and I know the CHP does as well. He embodied the life-long learning that the CHP supports every day in its unique students.”

Margaret Cupps (retired CHP staff) “I always enjoyed talking with him as I would set up the classroom. He would tell us (of him and Kay)’s dinner parties and what they were cooking. He did love the students. The torch has passed."

E. Graham Evans, Jr. passed away on March 20, 2021, with a celebration on March 26, 2021. As excerpted from the 3/24/21 Champaign-Gazette New Gazette-ordinary, “Graham had several great loves in his life. His first love was his high-school sweetheart, Kay Easer, who he married in 1966. They were happily married for 53 years before she passed away in January 2020. Graham also loved mathematics, education, students, travel, good food and his family. “Graham taught at the University of Illinois from 1977 until his retirement in 2004. Over the years, he and Kay taught, supported, and informally adopted many students. His love of food and students continued. It was not uncommon to see students at the dinner table—pizza parties for undergraduates. Several students and professors from around the world became lifelong friends. Toward the end of his career, Graham became director of undergraduate studies for the math department. “Graham is survived by his two sons, Carl (Graham Carl Evans) and Michael George (Michael Evans). Michael lives in California and is married to Cyndi Evans. Carl is married to Jennifer Roth and teaches computer science at the University of Illinois. Carl and Jen’s child, Nora Evans, brought much joy to Graham. Memorial contributions may be made in Graham’s honor to St. Patrick Catholic Church.”

Champaign-Courier/Courier News-Gazette Champaign-Courier/Courier News-Gazette from
Kristinina (Krista) Roth (ENG Chemical Engineering) passed away in Costa Rica on January 20, 2021. As excerpted from her obituary, “21-year-old Krista was with her parents Tom and Jenni Roth and her adopted Costa Rican brother Felix Fonseca at the time of her home-going. The family was vacationing in Costa Rica as an early graduation present to Krista.

“Krista was in her last semester as an honor student in Chemical Engineering at the University of Illinois. Krista, a trumpet player and singer, was a leader in the Marching Illini. She thoroughly loved the University of Illinois community. Krista enjoyed traveling. In addition to Africa and Eastern Europe, she loved her experiences in Costa Rica, Switzerland (L’Abri), Austria, Spain, Iceland, Ireland, Alaska, and Canada in addition to all over the continental US.

“Krista followed Jesus from a young age, and it showed in her words, actions and quiet strength. She had a deep desire for her friends and family to experience God’s love in the same way she had. Krista was grateful for those who helped her grow spiritually, especially her BSS leaders and her church, Community Bible Fellowship of El Paso.”

Krista’s celebration of life was held at Community Bible Fellowship of El Paso, Illinois on January 30, 2021, and was live-streamed on the church’s Facebook and YouTube pages. Contributions can be made to Can Do Kids International to bring clean, safe water to children in need in Africa. See www.candokidsinternational.org/krista for more information on Krista’s life and activities.

“Upon graduation her wish was to be able to work on CDK school water projects in Africa before starting her first engineering job. She also helped with CDK’s ministry in the US as a volunteer leader and video producer.

“In 2021 Krista was an engineering intern at Water Mission’s world headquarters in South Carolina. She also worked in Professor Xiao Su’s electrochemical separation lab as an undergraduate assistant. Krista began working part-time at age nine in her parents’ photography and videography business – Hazzelfilm. She was a great communicator and artistically creative.

“Krista followed Jesus from a young age, and it showed in her words, actions and quiet strength. She had a deep desire for her friends and family to experience God’s love in the same way she had. Krista was grateful for those who helped her grow spiritually, especially her BSS leaders and her church, Community Bible Fellowship of El Paso.”

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While CHP orientation could not take the same form as in past years, CHP enjoyed welcoming first-year students to the Campus Honors Program at an outdoor and socially distanced welcome giveaway on August 21, 2021. We look forward to welcoming students in person this August 2021 for incoming students, and we will plan community-building in-person events for all Chancellor’s Scholars this fall!

“Upon graduation her wish was to be able to work on CDK school water projects in Africa before starting her first engineering job. She also helped with CDK’s ministry in the US as a volunteer leader and video producer.

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 for a lovely tribute to our graduating seniors (watch the Spring 2021 CHP graduation video at homes.illinois.edu), and to Tami for her work on the graduation publication and certificates. Graduates were hosted to an afternoon CHP Graduation cords pickup and gifts giveaway on 5/7/21, where photos were taken. Mike Rotter (ENG Special Education) reflected: “I wanted to send a huge thank you to the Homes House staff for putting together the goodie bags. I had to check with one of my CHP friends to make sure they received the same items because I was in disbelief that I had received such nice gifts. These goodie bags are the nicest I have ever owned. Thank you again so much! … I did really enjoy my time working at the House and the CHP classes I took were really cool (I love telling people I took a class on rocket science)! The $1,000 scholarship every year also helped free up a lot of time and money for me to take advantage of other cool college experiences like Illini 4000 too. I really appreciate what the CHP has done for me.”

Although we were not able to celebrate in-person, awards were still announced. CHP Professor Grace Giorgio (LAS Communication) received the King Bredlock Allen Award for Excellence in Honors Teaching. Jacob Fritchie (LAS Physics), Ethan Frobish (LAS English and Creative Writing), Patrick Gallagher (ENG Computer Science), and Destiny Henning (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology) received the Calvin Ke Award, and awards were announced to each recipient during the 5/7/21 CHP Graduation cords pickup and gifts giveaway.

Jacob Fritchie was very engaged in the CHP through his contributions as Honors Student Council (HSC) Secretary. He also served as 4H-4 Secretary, was Elks National Foundation Scholar Advisory Board Vice President, and participated in the Physics Society. He minored in Mathematics, received the Leo Hening Scholarship, a Campbell Scholarship, and the James Scholar Legacy Scholarship. Jacob participated in research with Professors El-Khadra and Colla, and he will be working as a research assistant during a gap year, then will be pursuing a PhD in physics. Jacob says that his “favorite memories [of CHP] are staying late at the Honors House studying. It was always so nice to sit in the lounge and study, (and you never knew who would walk in and provide a study buddy with a chat”.

Ethan Frobish minored in Media and Cinema Studies, he graduated as a James Scholar, he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, and he received Highest Distinction for his Senior Thesis; he has been named to Dean’s List every semester, and he received the Cohn Memorial Scholarship and the James Newton Matthews Scholarship. Ethan served multiple years as the Vice President of Publications, for which he led many events such as Murder Mystery dinners and Oscar Movie Night for our Honors After Dark programming series, and he was the Editor of Equinox Literary and Creative Journal. Ethan received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, and he was a CHP student worker. Ethan studied abroad through the CHP Intercultural Study Tour to Peru in 2018. After graduation, Ethan plans to work for a year, and then pursue a PhD.

The class I’ll remember most, will be Professor Giorgio’s CMN220 Public Policy class because that was full of amazing people discussing important and interesting issues.

Graduating Chancellor’s Scholar reflecting

Patrick Gallagher worked for the CHP as a Student Computer Administrator all four years on campus, where he was responsible for managing all technical needs for our offices and house, managed processes such as admissions, and mentored other student workers; he was always enthusiastic and responded quickly to all student, staff, and faculty needs. He was also a member of the CHP Program Staff, for which he received the Outstanding Course Assistant Award in Fall 2019. He served as a Tournament Organizer for the Ethics Bowl team, and he was a Volunteer in Illini Strings. After graduation, Patrick will be working in Minneapolis as a Software Engineer for Target. Patrick notes that he “was really fortunate to spend so much time working with the CHP staff and tech admins, and I’m going to miss them all.”

Destiny Henning was very active in the Campus Honors Program through her enthusiastic participation in HSC events and many SAS programs, she was very engaged in the HSC’s Community Engagement Committee, and she served as a CHP Student Leader. Elsewhere on campus, she served as Social Director of the American Medical Student Association, and she volunteered at Newman Shares Food Pantry. Destiny was a Research Assistant in the Kuhf Fiz Laboratory, and a Carl R. Woese Undergraduate Research Scholar, and she mentored students in MCB. She graduated as a James Scholar, and was named to Dean’s List.

Destiny will be attending medical school at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Her favorite memory of CHP: “I have loved going to murder mystery dinners around Halloween. They are always extremely creative, and we won them both times.”

Dr. Grace A. Giorgio (Communication) is Course Director and Teaching Associate Professor. Her research, writing and teaching examine communication practices in interpersonal and public domains with the intention of bridging the personal and the political. She studies the experimental use of qualitative research methods to investigate the intersection of self, culture and the public sphere. Dr. Giorgio’s research interests branch into two directions: using writing as a method of inquiry to creatively and critically explore the cultural expectations and tensions in interpersonal and family communication contexts as well as writing, public speaking and debate as modes of civic engagement. She has taught classes for many years to our students and has hosted them to her home in rural Illinois.

2020 NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
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.

Clockwise from top left: HSC at Alma Mater on scavenger hunt; CHP graduate Fiona Ek at graduation giveaway; Halloween giveaway at Campus Honors House; Painting by Richard “Chip” Burkhardt, 2011; CHP graduates Stephen Bean and Jessica Salmi at graduation giveaway 2021