

2022 | CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM

CHP ANNUAL



Campus Honors Program

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

INSIDE

- 1 Director's Message
- 3 CHP Goes to London
- 13 Honors Student Council Updates
- 24 Alumni News

CONTENTS

- 1 Director's Message
- 2 CHP Honors House Contest
- 3 2022 Intercultural Study Tour to London
- 4 CHP's First Endowed Scholarship
- 4 Calvin Ke Award
- 5 Goldwater Scholarship
- 5 Boren and Gilman Scholarships
- 5 Fulbright Scholarship
- 6 Post-Graduation Plans of Recent Graduates
- 10 In the News
- 12 Undergraduate Research Symposium
- 13 Honors Student Council
- 13 Convocation
- 16 SAS and KDR Updates
- 19 Donors to the CHP
- 20 Campus Honors Program Selected Award Winners 2021-2022
- 24 Alumni News
- 27 Illini 4000: Engaging and Giving Back
- 27 Honors Living-Learning Community
- 28 Alumni Profiles
- 30 In Memoriam
- 31 An Interview with SAS Presenter Robert Chappell
- 31 *Equinox* Literary and Arts magazine
- 32 Faculty News and Reflections
- 36 CHP Graduation 2022

CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM

1205 West Oregon Street
Urbana, IL 61801
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Dr. Laurie R. Johnson
CHP Director
Professor, Germanic Languages
and Literatures

Kelly Edwards
CHP Office Manager
(effective February 2022)

Abby Hager
CHP Office Support Specialist
(effective October 2021)

Anne Price
CHP Associate Director

Elizabeth Rockman
CHP Associate Director

Amy Fitzjarrald
Director of the Honors Living-Learning
Community

Please send all future updates to
Annual Editor

Elizabeth Rockman
at rockman@illinois.edu

STAFFING TRANSITIONS

Office Support Specialist **Abby Hager** joined our staff in October 2021. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Eastern Illinois University in 2021. Abby came to the CHP from the College of Education where she worked in Teacher Licensure and Clinical Experiences. At the CHP, Abby serves as the first point of contact for visitors and assists with events, programs, and daily operations. She enjoys interacting with students and staff and learning about all the facets that make the CHP unique.

We welcomed **Kelly Edwards** as our new Office Manager in February 2022, as **Tami Fazio** resigned after four years with the CHP to spend more time with her family. Kelly has worked at the UIUC for fourteen years,

receiving the Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Award in 2016; she also earned a Master's degree in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership from the UIUC. Kelly's responsibilities include administrative coordination and support for faculty, staff, and students. She enjoys interaction with students and staff, and the ability to serve where needed.

We are also delighted to announce that **Dr. Laurie Johnson** was named Director of the Campus Honors Program in January 2022, after serving as Interim since May 2021! As a Professor in Germanic Languages and Literatures, she has already taught "Harry Potter and Western Culture" in our curriculum, and she has connected to Chancellor's Scholars at of our events and programming. See the following page for her Director's Message, and page 35 for her interview with Margot Pierce!

Please stop in to meet our new staff and catch up with our wonderful Chancellor's Scholars when you get a chance!

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

“
The CHP is a social as well as an intellectual home for our students, but the curriculum really is at its core.”

Warm greetings from the Campus Honors Program at the University of Illinois, a welcoming home and community on a big, exciting campus. After serving the CHP for a year, first as Interim Director and now as Director, I am more convinced than ever that 1205 West Oregon Street is the best place to be at UIUC! It has been a privilege and a joy to work with our phenomenal Chancellor's Scholars, to meet many of our wonderful alums, and to interact with faculty and staff across campus who are deeply committed to enriching our amazing undergraduates' college experiences.

After nearly a year of mostly virtual programming in 2020-2021, the CHP came back safe and strong in 2021-2022. Our intellectually supercharged seminar-style classes were again held almost exclusively in person, as were the compelling co-curricular lecture-discussions in our Scholar Adventurers Series (presented by faculty doing some of the most cutting-edge work on campus) and the exciting Krannert Dress Rehearsals. Chancellor's Scholars were out in the community participating in activities including invasive plant removal at a local park and a Habitat for Humanity home build. Author and English Department faculty member Janice Harrington spoke about her poetry at our restarted Keith L. Kelroy Convocation, and got the students involved in some call-and-response creativity. We also were thrilled to welcome the students back to a fun CHP Semi-Formal in the spring (run by our highly engaged Honors Student Council), as well as to a wonderful Graduation Recognition ceremony, where Chancellor Robert Jones congratulated each graduate personally.

Members of the Class of 2022 had an extremely disrupted college experience, but they rose to every challenge, including helping keep themselves and others safe during the worst pandemic months.

We welcomed two outstanding new staff members to the CHP in 2021-2022: Kelly Edwards, winner of a Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award, is our Office Manager, and Abby Hager recently



was promoted to Office Support Specialist. Together with Associate Directors Elizabeth Rockman and Anne Price, they deliver excellent support and guidance to our Chancellor's Scholars and our broader community every day. Amy Fitzjarrald continues to bring inspiring programming to students in the Honors Living-Learning Community (now at the Illinois Street Residence Hall).

As I write this, a group of Chancellor's Scholars has just returned from the first travel course we've been able to offer since before the pandemic: "Immersive London" was a very successful foray into the past and present of British theater, and included several West End shows and other excursions. In July, another group will travel to Yellowstone for a course on "Politics of the National Parks." In 2022-2023 we plan to offer a course in Peru, and possibly some field trips closer to home.

The CHP is a social as well as an intellectual home for our students, but the curriculum really is at its core. In 2022-2023, we'll be bringing back some historically very popular CHP courses such as "Chado: The Way of Tea" and "Extraterrestrial Life." And we're thrilled to introduce new courses including "The Intelligent Life of Plants," "Documentary and Social Change," and "History of Pandemics," among others. You can see much more about our courses and all our exciting programming on our website at honors.illinois.edu. We welcome you to stop by the Campus Honors House for a visit!

Laurie Johnson
Director, Campus Honors Program
Professor, Germanic Languages and Literatures;
and affiliated with Comparative and World Literature
and the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory
laurieruthjohnson.weebly.com



2021 NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

By Elizabeth Scherschel, DGS Undeclared

Bright and early on August 20, 2021, the incoming freshman class joined our new director, Laurie Johnson, and current Chancellor's Scholars in the Illini Union Ballroom, where we had the chance to get to know one another, meet CHP staff and Honors Student Council members, ask questions about the program, and enjoy a wonderful breakfast before attending convocation and the college orientations. Many of us were able to spend

much of the day with others we met at the brunch, which was a great way to get to know other honors students on campus.

Later that evening, after the excitement of the day, Chancellor's Scholars of all classes met at the Honors House for a barbeque, where they had the chance to meet older students, talk to some CHP professors, and get to know the Honors House.

Above: Chancellor's Scholars enjoy CHP Orientation Picnic
Cover: HSC Exec Board bonds at an Escape Room

CHP HONORS HOUSE CONTEST

CHP was delighted to again hold the 2nd CHP Contest in Spring 2022, to celebrate students' enjoyment of the Honors House (last year's contest was about creative workspaces, since most were studying remotely). Three students won top prizes: **Anna Vanisko** (AHS Community Health) received 1st prize, **Neeha Kakuturu** (LAS Biology) 2nd prize, and **Michael Jacobson** (LAS Psychology) received 3rd prize. Thanks to all who submitted!

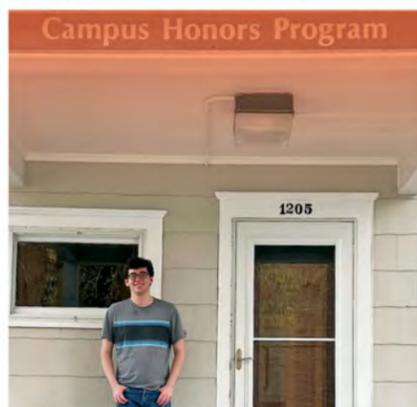
Anna Vanisko (AHS Community Health) wrote: "My favorite memory of the Honors House is the CHP Barbeque last August. It was the first time my new CHP friends (**Margot Pierce**, LAS Mathematics, and **Hannah Grace Marti**, LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability) and I visited the Honors House after meeting each other earlier that day. We enjoyed great food and memories and explored the house, excited

for what was to come this year. We all thought it was a such a nice house and could not wait to spend time at our new home as honors students. Nowadays, we meet up every two weeks at the house for Honors Student Council!"

Michael Jacobson (LAS Psychology): "What I enjoy most about the Honors House is the people inside. The community that is fostered and the friends that I've made have only been possible due to this space where we are able to see people from different majors, paths, and interests. The Honors House allows us to converge, if only for a class, until one day we see each other again, whether at an event, an SAS, or a club meet-up, as a friendly face, someone to sit next to and talk to. I don't really have a good picture to represent the reaction I had when I realized that my friend at crochet club was also in CHP, someone I could wave hi to at an SAS and walk home with. These are experiences that aren't captured with

photos but can only be captured by the Honors House. In providing a tangible home, the Honors House allows for these candid meetups and natural friendships to form; the Honors House provides the earth, the sun, and the rain for us to grow, but, most importantly, it also provides the space. That's what separates CHP from other honors programs — family is formed."

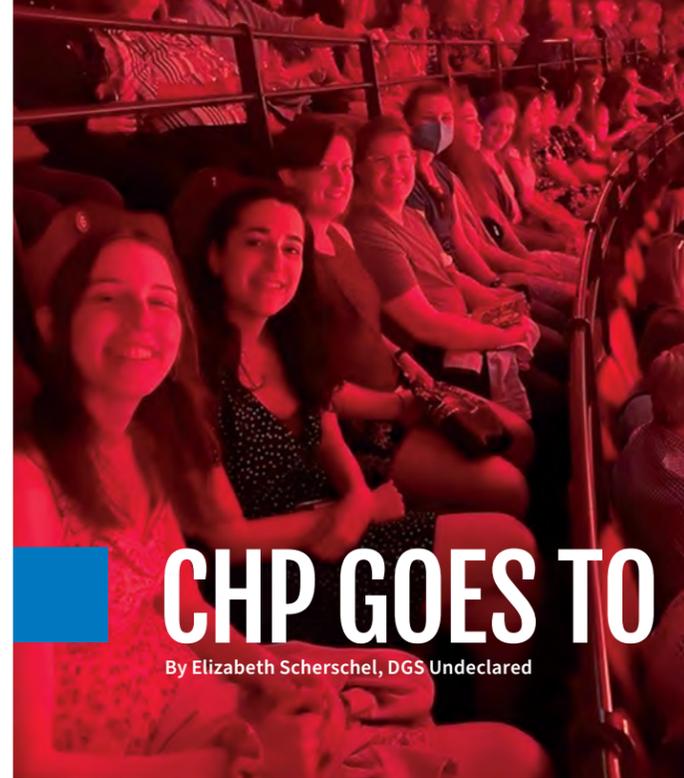
Neeha Kakuturu (LAS Biology): "My favorite space in the Honors House is the big study room on the 3rd floor because it helped me feel a sense of home during the first month of moving in. As a freshman, the adjustment to a university was difficult, but every time I came to the room on the 3rd floor, I felt a sense of comfort and my stress slowly faded. My vision of comfort is my home, which the picture embodies through the warm lit lamp, the comfy couch, and unique wall art. This room is a place I can consistently go back to feel a sense of home, regardless of how long I have spent on campus."



This year, students had the option to pick one of the following 3 questions:

- 1 What do you enjoy most about the Honors House?
- 2 What is your favorite space in the Honors House, and why?
- 3 What is your favorite memory of and/or event in the Honors House?

Far left: Chancellor's Scholar Neeha Kakuturu. Top Left: Chancellor's Scholars Margot Pierce, Hannah Grace Marti, and Anna Vanisko. Bottom: Chancellor's Scholar Michael Jacobson.



CHP GOES TO

By Elizabeth Scherschel, DGS Undeclared



Left: Chancellor's Scholars at Moulin Rouge. Above: Andrea Stevens talks to Chancellor's Scholars in London.

This past May, fifteen CHP students, CHP Associate Director **Anne Price**, and PhD student **Meg Cole** traveled to London with Professor **Andrea Stevens** (LAS English) for the Spring 2022 course, Immersive London. As part of our exploration, we attended shows, visited museums, took in iconic sights, and embraced adventure in the city. The itinerary — thanks to Meg Cole, who organized the schedule! — included *Moulin Rouge*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*; the Victoria and Albert and British Museums; a day trip to Canterbury (students also took advantage of the designated "free day" to explore Cambridge, Brighton, and Oxford); a tour of and an acting workshop at the Globe Theater; and a visit to the Tower of London, spread across ten days.

"It was my first time visiting another continent, and I was very satisfied with the experience. Even though we were only there for a short period of time, I was still able to see so much and attend so many plays/musicals. It also helped that I was with a great group of people who became my friends over the trip. 10/10 would recommend," says **Grace Smith** (ENG Mechanical Engineering). (I second this — CHP put together an excellent group.)

"I was really excited about exploring London, and doing that and seeing shows with friends made it such a fun experience," says **Madison Rosenberger** (ENG Aerospace Engineering).

With a home base in the heart of London's theater district, we students embraced the opportunity to see shows — Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cinderella*; *Six! The Musical*; *Frozen: The Musical*; *Mamma Mia*; *Heathers*; *Book of Mormon*; and *Back to the Future: The Musical* were among the favorites — and attractions such as Big Ben, The London Eye, Buckingham Palace, St. James Park, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and the Millennium Bridge.

"My favorite show was definitely *Moulin Rouge*! I had no idea what to expect at all, but the dance and musical numbers left me speechless the entire time. I also really enjoyed the opportunity to go to the

British Museum — I spent hours in there taking notes on all the exhibits and it was so cool seeing so many artifacts in person... even if they were stolen," **Anna Wheeler** (LAS History) comments.

The overlap of our trip with the preparations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee — unfortunately, we departed London before the celebrations — and the opening of the Elizabeth underground line provided us the opportunity to watch practice parades, see the Union Jacks hanging above major streets, and enjoy the growing excitement.

Part of the enrichment value of this trip lay in the free time: students had time to follow their interests by visiting the Mithraeum (an ancient Roman temple), taking high tea in central London, making pilgrimages to the iconic Harry Potter sites, exploring other cuisines in the food stall markets, and shopping. Between the Arsenal football celebrations in Trafalgar Square (down the street from the hotel), Jubilee preparations, and high tea, students had ample opportunities to soak in British culture. The trip "was a super fun time to try different things (food, shows) and experience a different culture without learning a different language," according to **Alice Gao** (ENG Materials Science and Engineering).

"My favorite part of the trip was how many shows I was able to see and how we were given the free time to take advantage of those opportunities. I am very glad I went because it allowed me to explore a new city while also being given guidance on what places to explore to make the most of my time," says **Julia Clavadetscher** (FAA Theatre).

Amber Dorn (AHS Speech and Hearing Science) sums it well: "I'm so thankful for the opportunity to travel with the Campus Honors Program to London! We were able to experience so many new things, see the sights of London, and view many shows! All of the students in the group were incredible, as were Professor Stevens, Anne, and Meg. This is an experience I'll never forget!"



CHP'S FIRST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Wetzel, Jobi, Rodriguez, Chudhov, and Johnson after E. Graham Evans Scholarship Lunch



As reported in past *Annuals*, **Matthew Rodriguez** (5/99 alumnus, *LAS Physics and Mathematics*) endowed a scholarship for a Chancellor's Scholar who is majoring in mathematics, the **E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship**, in honor of a beloved retired

faculty member in the CHP. In addition to his degrees at Illinois, Matt earned an M.A. in Mathematics and an M.F.E. in Financial Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley in 2002 and 2004, respectively. Matt is currently a Portfolio Manager at Millennium in Santa Monica and a board member of Quill.org, an ed-tech non-profit promoting literacy. He was previously a Managing Director at BlackRock in New York. The 5th recipient of the E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship is **Serena Jobi** (*LAS Mathematics*), who graduated from York Community High School, where she was engaged in music, Speech Team, and service, and served as Math Team Co-Captain. We were happy to meet in-person again with Matthew, Serena and past scholarship recipients **Elia Chudhov** (*LAS Mathematics*) and **Quentin Wetzel** (*LAS Mathematics*) on February 25, 2022.

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

GOLDWATER WINNER

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Goldwater, who served 30 years in the U.S. Senate. The program encourages the continued development of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers by awarding scholarships to sophomores and juniors from the U.S. who intend to pursue doctorates.

Braden Moore (*ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering*) was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship for Academic Year 2022-2023. The following is excerpted from a press release by the UI National and International Scholarships Program:

"Moore, from Downers Grove, Illinois, and a graduate of Downers Grove North High School, aspires to work at a national laboratory developing the components necessary to make nuclear fusion a viable energy source. Moore has earned a 4.0 GPA as a member of both the James Scholar Honors Program and the Campus Honors Program. Moore spent the past two years

conducting research at the Center for Plasma-Material Interactions under the direction of Illinois engineering professor David Ruzic. Moore performs lithium wetting experiments on a variety of fusion-relevant substrates to assist in the development of liquid lithium plasma facing components. In summer 2021, Moore participated in a virtual internship at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, working on the design of a steady-state linear plasma device."

Below: Chancellor's Scholar Braden Moore
Right: CHP graduate Jasmine Robinson



BOREN AND GILMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to several students who won national scholarships for study abroad! **Ella Dennis** (*LAS Psychology and Global Studies*) and **Jake Gulick** (*LAS Political Science*) received the National Security Education Program (NSEP)/David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship for study in Non-Western regions, and **Jasmine Robinson** (*BUS Accountancy*) was awarded a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



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. Four years ago, his mother, **Mrs. Hsiang Ke**, announced her plans to gift part of her estate

to the Campus Honors Program to provide scholarships to our most promising students. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Ke family and pleased that Calvin will be honored through future scholarships to other students.

Richard (Chip) Burkhardt (Former CHP Director and Emeritus Professor of History) notes: "I remember very well what a wonderful young man Calvin Ke was, and I have always felt it was cosmically unfair for his family to lose him as they did. I can still picture him popping his head in the office and what a delight it was to have a chat with him. Please give Mrs. Ke and Victoria my very best wishes. Mrs. Ke has always written me nice notes when I have donated to the fund in Calvin's memory, and I'm afraid I haven't properly told her how much she and her family remain in my thoughts."

Left: Calvin Ke.
Right: Mrs. Hsiang Ke and Victoria Ke
Bonney in Topeka in June 2022.



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. The Office of National and International Scholarships administers the Fulbright Program at Illinois.

Sophia Ebel (*LAS Comparative and World Literature and Germanic Studies*) was awarded a Fulbright combined award to Austria, where she will teach English at a teacher training college while also conducting research on the representation of refugee narratives within Austrian secondary school classrooms. Sophia graduated in May as a Bronze Tablet Scholar and James Scholar with minors in French and Arabic studies. While in Austria, she plans to host English-language cooking classes and expand a local library collection through book drives and fundraisers. After her Fulbright year, Sophia said she plans to stay in Austria to pursue a master's degree before attaining a PhD in the U.S.

Hamed Kadiani (2018 alumnus, *BUS Accountancy*) has earned a Fulbright to teach English in Germany. He previously spent four weeks as a high school exchange student in Germany and continued his studies of German as an undergraduate. Kadiani graduated in May 2019 with an MAS in accountancy. He graduated as a member of the Dean's Scroll, a Top 10 business student, and as a James Scholar. Additionally, he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching in secondary mathematics, and has been teaching math at Taft High School, a public school in Chicago. After the Fulbright, Hamed plans to pursue his administrative license and provide equitable education access to all students.

Emily Siner (2013 alumna, *MED Journalism*) received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to research and teach in Ireland this fall; she will be based at Maynooth University, researching the media coverage of the abortion debate in Ireland. Emily was a Provost Scholar, was named to Bronze Tablet, and was a member of the 2012 Homecoming Court. Emily worked for WILL Illinois

Public Media, Scripps Howard Foundation Wire, *Buzz Magazine*, *Southtown Star* newspaper, and WCIA News, and she interned at the *Los Angeles Times* after she graduated. Emily most recently was a journalist at Nashville Public Radio, and her reporting has appeared on NPR, Marketplace and in *The Washington Post*.



CHP graduate Sophia Ebel

POST-GRADUATION PLANS OF RECENT GRADUATES

Emily Anne Albert-Stauning

LAS Psychology and FAA Acting
I'm pursuing my PhD in Neuroscience at Vanderbilt University. I will also pursue a singer/songwriter artist development contract with Sony records, and I recently signed with an acting talent agency.

Nicole Angell

EDU Elementary Education
I'll be a 5th and 6th grade ELA teacher at St. Matthew's School in Champaign.



Nicholas Bahr

ENG Mechanical Engineering
I have accepted an offer at Iron Ox, a sustainable ag-tech startup in the Bay Area.

Simon Dietrich Balisi

ENG Industrial Engineering
I'll be a Risk and Strategy analyst at Fifth Third Bank in Chicago.

Anna Balla

ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering
I work as an Associate Reactor Engineer for Constellation at Dresden Generating Station in Morris, Illinois.

Pavan Niranjana Baloo

ENG Computer Engineering
Associate Product Manager at Reddit

Giulia Pearl Barbieri

ENG Civil and Environmental Engineering
I plan on getting a Master's degree in environmental engineering, hopefully at the Technical University of Munich, starting in October.

Emma Baunach

LAS Chemical Engineering
I'll be working full time as an Associate Engineer at Cargill.

Eric Joseph Bayer

LAS Actuarial Science and Statistics
Actuarial consultant at Oliver Wyman

Corey David Beccue

ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering
I plan to work as a Process Engineer with ADM in Decatur, Illinois.

Beth Allison Born

LAS Chemical Engineering
Research & Development Associate Engineer at PepsiCo in Plano, TX

Paige Victoria Borrowman

BUS Finance and Information Systems
Business Solutions Consultant at Crowe

Sydney Marie Butikofer

LAS Chemical Engineering
I work for Eli Lilly as a Drug Product Development Engineer.



Ryan Cabildo

FAA Music Education
I was hired as Director of Bands at McHenry Community High School in McHenry, IL.

Zachary Andrew Chalmers

LAS Atmospheric Sciences
I will be heading to graduate school at North Carolina State University.

Maxwell Chan

FAA Industrial Design
I'm looking for a design position in the Chicago area.

Adithya Sudarshan Chari

ENG Computer Science
I'll be working at DRW, a proprietary electronic trading firm in Chicago.

Maya Chattoraj

LAS Chemistry
I will attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue a PhD in chemistry.

David Y. Chen

LAS MCB
I am taking a gap year to work at Carle while applying to medical school.



Melissa Yun-Yu Chen

ENG Computer Science
I'll be starting a PhD in Computer Science at Northwestern University!

Eva Grace Cornman

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Lab sample manager at the Nutrition and Human Microbiome Laboratory

Kathleen Rose Culligan

FAA Industrial Design
I will be working on the Devices UX team with Motorola in Chicago.

Tara Alyssa D'Souza

ENG Electrical Engineering
This summer, I will be serving as the Race Team Captain for the 2022 American Solar Challenge. This fall, I will start work as a Product Test and Validation Engineer for Texas Instruments in Santa Clara, CA.

Jacob Paul Dalen

ACES Animal Sciences
I'll be attending veterinary school at the University of Illinois.

Ranya Majdi Darwish

LAS Spanish
Applying to Medical School and building my application during my gap year



Julian Delgado

ENG Engineering Mechanics
Master's in Mechanical Engineering

Daniella Di Stefano

LAS Psychology
I will be attending Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in the fall. I intend to pursue a career in immigration law.

Lauren Grace Dubravec

LAS English and Global Studies
I will be working as a technical writer at Cisco Systems/Duo Security.

Rebecca Lynn Ducay

LAS Integrative Biology
I plan on taking a gap year and working as a field technician with Dr. Mike Ward before applying to graduate school.

Lukas Dumasius

ENG Computer Engineering
Working at a startup on campus!

Sophia Rose Ebel

LAS Comparative and World Literature and Germanic Studies
I have received a Combined Fulbright Award to conduct research and teach English in Graz, Austria.

Chime Ogechi Ezenekwe

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
I will be attending Medical School at the University of Chicago.



Henry Feldhaus

ENG Mechanical Engineering
Second Lieutenant in the US Army, Field Artillery. Going to Ft. Sill, OK for training and then to Ft. Stewart, GA for duty.

Jack Fletcher

LAS Statistics and Mathematics
Attend the UI Statistics Graduate Program

Ian Flueck

ENG Materials Science and Engineering
Research & Development Packaging Scientist with the Clorox Company

Julie Renee Freund

BUS Supply Chain Management
Account Executive at Echo Global Logistics in Chicago, IL

Paola Aylin Garcia

ACES Natural Resources and Env. Sciences
Pursuing a Master of Public Administration at Northern Illinois University for a career in sustainability and local government



Shreya Gargya

ENG Bioengineering
I will be working in healthcare consulting.

Nicholas Joseph Geoppo

ENG Mechanical Engineering
Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering

Timothy Robert Green

ENG Electrical Engineering
I am working at Epic Systems as a Technical Solutions Engineer in Madison, WI.

Matthew Jon Haak

FAA Architectural Studies
Working for Studio 222 Architects in Chicago

Maggie Hines

BUS Accountancy
Strategy Consultant at KPMG

Sydney Rose Hoel

FAA Vocal Performance
I will be attending NYU to pursue a dual master's degree in Vocal Performance: Music Theatre and Vocal Pedagogy.

Jennifer Hong

AHS Food Science and Human Nutrition
Going to Rush University Medical Center to complete my dietetic internship and master's in Clinical Nutrition

Ashley Elizabeth Hornig

LAS History, Secondary Education
Teaching English at Plainfield North High School

Austin Huang

LAS Chemistry
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine



Tyler Douglas Hull

LAS Psychology, Spanish
I am going to Lake Erie College of Medicine in Bradenton, Florida!

Emily Jaszka

LAS Mathematics, Secondary Education
I am teaching math at Oak Park and River Forest High School! I am very thankful to the CHP for the support along the way.

Jamie Lauren Kahn

AHS Kinesiology
I plan on attending the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine Physician Assistant Program to pursue my dream of becoming a Physician's Assistant!

Mason Kaiser

BUS Finance
Chicago Venture Capital

Alok Vijay Kamatar

ENG Computer Science
Computer Science PhD program

Jonathan Kim

ENG Computer Science
I am planning on working as a software engineer for TikTok.

Megan Elisabeth Klode

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Moving to St. Louis and work as a CNA during my gap year before medical school

Alex Paul Kogen

BUS Accountancy
I will remain at the University of Illinois for an additional year to pursue a master's degree in accounting (MAS).

Prithiv Kumar

ENG Mechanical Engineering
Precision Castparts Corporation

Taylor M. LaFayette

EDU Elementary Education
My plans are to work as an elementary teacher in the northern suburbs of Chicago!

Sara Lagvankar

LAS Actuarial Science and Communication
I will be working at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Chicago as an Actuarial Associate.



Niraj Vinayak Lawande

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
I will spend my gap year as a clinical research coordinator at Midwest Orthopedics at Rush University in Chicago while I apply to medical school.

Erin Lenschow

AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
I will attend graduate school at the University of Illinois for a Master of Science in Accountancy.



Theodor Tongqi Li

ENG Computer Science
Working as a software development engineer in Seattle at Amazon

Sophie Isolde Luijten

LAS Global Studies and Spanish
Master's degree in Sustainable Development in the Netherlands

Maria Maring

LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability and Spanish
Move to Nashville, TN and work in a grassroots environmental or social justice organization

Abigail Jean Martin

ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics
I will be attending law school at the University of Missouri.

Elisabeth Marie Martin

ENG Bioengineering and LAS Spanish
My plans are to go to University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.



POST-GRADUATION PLANS OF RECENT GRADUATES continued

Sarah Nikolai Matatov

LAS Biochemistry and Psychology
MSTP (MD/PhD) program at Northwestern
Feinberg School of Medicine

Shruthi Mekala

AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
I'll attend the Global Medicine Program at
the UI College of Medicine at Chicago.

Alastair Gordon Merrett

*FAA Urban and Regional Planning and
Sustainable Design*
Working in the UX industry for a few years
before grad school

Katherine Jean Miles

LAS Statistics
I will be attending Colorado State University
to pursue a graduate degree in Statistics.



Justin Patrick Miner

ENG Mechanical Engineering
I am attending Carnegie Mellon
University for a PhD in
Mechanical Engineering.

Casey Joey Mutka

LAS History
Engaging in community service work

Jacob Nagle

BUS Supply Chain Management and Marketing
Will be starting as a management trainee at
McMaster-Carr in Elmhurst, IL.

Kristina Renee Nelson

BUS Accountancy and Finance
Tax Associate at Ernst and Young in Chicago

Zhujun Nie

BUS Accountancy
Work in BCG Chicago Office as an associate

Alex Nobbe

ENG Engineering Physics
Intending to pursue a PhD in physics
or electrical engineering (focus on
condensed matter and/or photonics).



Ryan Scott O'Neill

ENG Computer Science
Working as an Associate Engineer at
Chicago Trading Company

Jacqueline Ortiz

LAS Mathematics and Statistics
Attend the University of Illinois to pursue
my MS in Statistics

Daniel William Owen

ENG Bioengineering
I'll be going to the Case Western Reserve
School of Medicine!

Omolabake Oyetayo

LAS Integrative Biology
I will be a clinical
research assistant at
Midwest Orthopedics
at Rush Hospital then
plan to attend Medical
School to become a
neurosurgeon.



Jason Pan

ENG Electrical Engineering
Work in software engineering

Emily Pasetes

ENG Engineering Physics and LAS Philosophy
PhD in Philosophy from Carnegie Mellon
University

Brett Patterson

ENG Computer Science
I will be working for Meta at Menlo Park!

Carley Peldiak

BUS Accounting and Finance
Starting at Zebra Technologies in their
Financial Development Rotational Program

Livia Tomassini Pereira

FAA Architectural Studies
I will be attending Texas Christian
University in Fort Worth, Texas for a
fully-funded MA in Art History.

Elizabeth Perez

LAS Physics
Graduate school

Matthew Pettineo

LAS History and Psychology
Working, details TBD

Jennifer Alice Pochly

ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition
I will be working for Epic in Madison,
Wisconsin and applying to physician
assistant programs.

Daniela Diaz Pope

ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering
I will be attending UIUC to start my
graduate program in NRES studying
ecosystem soil services.

Logan M. Power

ENG Electrical Engineering
Graduate school at UIUC in Electrical and
Computer Engineering

Ryan Prendergast

ENG Computer Science
I plan to move to New York City.

Rithva Ramesh

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
I will be attending Albert
Einstein College of Medicine
in NYC!



Amrith N. Ravikumar

BUS Marketing and Information Systems
Master's in Business Analytics at UIUC

Arjun Reddy Reddigari

ENG Bioengineering
Working at Bain & Company
consulting firm

Matthew Bishop Reeder

*FAA Instrumental Performance and Music
Composition; LAS Comparative Literature*
Master of Music at Carnegie Mellon

Dale Robbenolt

LAS Sociology and ENG Civil Engineering
I will attend UT Austin in the fall to pursue
a PhD in Civil Engineering in transportation.

Jasmine Lyvie Robinson

BUS Accountancy
I will be pursuing my Master's in
accountancy at the Gies College of Business.

Lincoln McCrae Rogers

MED Advertising
Advertising job in video production

Pablo Sanchez, Jr.

ENG Electrical Engineering
Relocating to Austin as an IBM Hardware
and Chip Design Engineer, will eventually
attend grad school at UT-Austin



Chahna Saraiya

LAS Statistics
I will be working at Discover Financial
Services as a data analyst.

Bianca Savant

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
I am taking a gap year and I will be working
at CDW, before I attend medical school.

Jordan Schnack

LAS Psychology
I will be attending
Wheaton College for my
Master's in Clinical Mental
Health Counseling.



Gail Rose Schneiderman

FAA Graphic Design
I am looking for a graphic design job in the
Chicagoland area.

Andrew Schollmeier

LAS Statistics and Computer Science
I will be working as a Risk Management
Analyst at GCM Grosvenor in Chicago.

Alayna Scranton

ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics
I will pursue a Master's in Accountancy
Science at UIUC.

Manushi Shah

LAS Chemistry
I plan to take courses, continue with my
research, and work as a scribe for an ENT
surgeon until I attend medical school.

Angela Chou Shaw

Social Work
I plan to earn my Master's in Social Welfare
at UCLA with a concentration in Health and
Mental Health Across the Lifespan.

Shon Shtern

*ENG Engineering Physics and
LAS Mathematics*
Graduate school/research

Amanda Simon

LAS Psychology
Rush University's Occupational Therapy
Doctorate Program

Kieran Sloan

ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Work at Caterpillar Inc. as an Engine
Testing/Validation Associate Engineer

Briana Lottie Sobecks

LAS Chemical Engineering
Chemical Engineering PhD Program at
Stanford University



Jacob Reuben Spangler

ENG Computer Science
Accepted a software development job in
Madison, Wisconsin

Carina Su

LAS Actuarial Science
Full-time Actuarial Analyst at Chubb

Jeffrey Tang

ENG Computer Science
Founding Engineer at Lassie in
San Francisco

Gabe Tavas

FAA Sustainable Design
Grad school and/or develop my own
company. The graduate program I am
most likely to enroll in is the Master's
in Design for Distributed Innovation
(centered in Barcelona).

Vongai Tizora

ENG Bioengineering
I will be studying medicine at the Icahn
School of Medicine.

Kenneth Tatsuya Tochihiro

ENG Aerospace Engineering
Working in Boca Chica, Texas as an
Avionics Build Engineer at SpaceX

Jack Twohig

LAS Actuarial Science
Actuarial analyst at COUNTRY Financial

Kayla Marie Vittore

ACES Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program in the
Crop Sciences Department at UIUC
developing perennial grasses as a
sustainable source of 3D printer ink

Alexander Zhengde Wang

LAS MCB, Chemistry
Attend the University of Chicago Pritzker
School of Medicine

Julia Celeste Ng Wapner

LAS Statistics and Spanish
Analytics Fellow for the
Baltimore Orioles



Matthew Wattleit

LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
I will be attending the UI College of
Medicine.

Quentin Thomas Wetzel

LAS Mathematics and Statistics
I will be a Sports Trader for Deck Prism
Sports in Henderson, Nevada.

Robert Joseph Wiggins

ENG Civil Engineering
Enrolled in the CEE Graduate Program at
UIUC; planning to study highway and
pavement engineering and work in
transportation research at the ATREL.

Emily Willard

LAS Actuarial Science
Consulting at Ernst & Young in Chicago

Ellyce Yuen-Hang Wong

AHS Kinesiology
I am attending physical therapy school
(DPT program) at Northwestern University
in downtown Chicago in the fall!

Madison Diane Wray

*BUS Marketing and Supply Chain
Management*
I'm working as an Account
Coordinator at Equator Design
in Chicago.



Aaron Jacob Yoakum

LAS Mathematics
Enter the workforce full-time

Dana Yun

ENG Materials Science and Engineering
Working at Sonoco in the Research &
Development team!

Sarah Zhou

LAS Statistics and Computer Science
Software Engineer at JP Morgan & Chase

Wilson Chen Zhu

*ENG Electrical Engineering and
Engineering Physics*
Working at Analog Devices in Arizona

IN THE NEWS

Emily Albert-Stauning (LAS Psychology and FAA Acting) performed in the Lyric Theatre productions of “**The Neverland**” in Spring 2022 (see page 17 for her write-up on this production, also a Krannert Dress Rehearsal opportunity for other Chancellor’s Scholars).

Neha Arun (LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology) will be continuing her work with Dr. Collin Kieffer, **researching the latent HIV reservoir**, which remains a knowledge barrier to obtaining a cure to HIV.

Maria Brockamp (ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics) served as a Student Advisor for **Agriculture Future of America (AFA)** and in November 2021 she went to Kansas City to facilitate their Annual Leaders Conference.

Melissa Chen (ENG Computer Science) served as Senior Staff of **HackIllinois 2021**.

Ella Dennis (LAS Psychology and Global Studies) updated us in May 2022: “Two of my policy briefs entitled ‘Gender Equality in West Africa: Legislation Versus Lived Experience’ and ‘Building from the Bottom-up: Grassroots Development in Sub-Saharan Africa’ were published on the **Alliance for Citizen Engagement (ACE)** website this semester.



CHP graduate
Melissa Chen

I was also the editor-in-chief for a joint report with students at King’s College London that was published on their website and is soon to be published by ACE. I have an upcoming article in *The World Today Magazine* that will be published over the summer. This year, I was lucky enough to help organize the world’s first youth-led conference on climate migration. During the conference, I hosted a panel discussion on climate migration with prominent youth activists and scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.”

Daniella Di Stefano (LAS Psychology) was a Co-Panelist at La Casa Cultural Latina on 11/11/21 for a presentation entitled “**Study Abroad for Blk and Brown Folx & Gilman Scholarship**”. The publicity noted that Daniella is a Gilman Scholar alum and that she spent the previous summer participating in a virtual internship with a legal team of an entrepreneurship consulting firm based in Barcelona, Spain.



CHP graduate
Daniella Di Stefano

Jack Joshi (ENG Aerospace Engineering) was a co-creator of 2/7/22 **The New York Times**

Crossword Puzzle. He and his friends Adam Aaronson and Jackson Janes started creating the crossword in 2020, submitting it in November of that year.

Tara Leininger (LAS Classics and History) was featured in an 8/13/21 Spurlock Museum blog post (entitled “**Meet Spurlock’s New Intern**”)

about her behind the scenes work at www.spurlock.illinois.edu/blog/p/meet-spurlocks-new/393. Through a gift to the Kimberly S. Freund Memorial Fund, Tara learned how to handle, clean, and care for the Museum’s Fred A. Freund Collection of Chinese and Japanese Woodcarvings, approximately 750 intricately carved wooden objects that range from the highly functional to the purely decorative, spanning three centuries of craftsmanship and depicting human, animal, mythical, or abstract forms in incredible detail. Tara’s previous museum experience was at the Rochelle Flagg Township Museum and Champaign County History Museum.



CHP graduate Shruthi Mekala

Shruthi Mekala (AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences) served on the 2021-2022 Applied Health Sciences **James Scholar Advisory Board**.

Tayo Oriade (LAS Psychology) authored “How to be a Leader in a Virtual Setting” in April 2022 for the **Illinois Leadership Center®** at blogs.illinois.edu/view/8605/1617089000. As a We CU Scholar, she also wrote “From Conceptualization to Actualization: A Look Inside We CU’s Racism in Service

Learning Workshop” in September 2021, located at wecu.illinois.edu/news/From-Conceptualization-to-Actualization-A-Look-Inside-We-CU-Anti-Racism-in-Service-Learning-Workshop.

Elisabeth Sandoval (LAS Political Science) was a candidate for **Miss Illinois**, which is affiliated with the Miss America competition. Previously having won Miss Marigold 2021, as chosen by the Pekin Marigold Festival Committee, she was the 2021-2022 queen for Pekin’s annual community celebration festival. Candidates for the title were evaluated on six areas of competition: interview, talent, onstage question, evening gown, community service, and academic achievement. The 2022 Miss Illinois competition concluded on 6/11/22, and while she was not selected, Elisabeth noted “I had a wonderful experience overall; I learned so much, caught up with old friends, and made many wonderful new friends. I am proud of how I performed, I was very proud to represent my hometown of Pekin, Illinois, and my university, and I’m excited to return to the competition sometime in the future.”

Liz Soellner (LAS Biology) in February 2022: “I just wanted to update you and, most importantly, thank you. Today marks one week since I started working as an undergraduate research assistant in the Auerbach Group (a neurobiology research lab!) and I’ve really been enjoying it. I wanted to thank you for your assistance and advice over

break — it was incredibly helpful, and it definitely simplified the process.” Liz also founded an organization named the **Rural Area Student Initiative (RASI)**, a new RSO focused on providing support and resources to UIUC students from rural areas as they navigate the transition to higher education. Additionally, RASI strives to mentor, advise, and advocate for rural high school students interested in pursuing higher education.

Diana Anghel (MED Journalism) served a second year as Editor-in-Chief of the **Daily Illini** in 2021–2022, and **Angelina Chan** (DGS Undeclared) will serve a second year as **Assistant Graphics Editor** in 2022–2023.

Nicholas Lenz (FAA Architectural Studies) and **Dana Yun** (ENG Materials Science and Engineering) served as **2021–2022 Student Senators** on the UIUC Senate.

Ally Merrett (FAA Urban Studies and Planning; Sustainable Design), **Shruthi Mekala** (AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences), and **Vongai Tizora** (ENG Bioengineering), were named to the **2021 Homecoming Court**, and were profiled at homecoming.illinois.edu/homecoming-court.



CHP graduate Dana Yun

Neha Arun (LAS Molecular & Cellular Biology) and **Isaiah Lopez** (LAS Biochemistry) were both featured in the 9/23/21 **LAS blog post** at las.illinois.edu/news/blog/las-insider/2021-09-23/students-recap-their-favorite-moments-first-month-semester.

Student Alumni Ambassadors Executive Board members in 2021-2022 included several Chancellor’s Scholars: **Alayna Scranton** (ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics) was Vice President of Student Engagement, **Rylee Sjuts** (LAS Communication) served as Vice

Gabriel Tavas (FAA Sustainable Design) won the U.S. National James Dyson Award in September 2021 for his work related to Symmetry Wood. Media coverage included an article from Fast Company (www.fastcompany.com/90666859/this-wood-alternative-is-made-from-kombucha-brewing-waste) and social media features from the World Economic Forum.



CHP graduate Alayna Scranton

President of Alumni Relations, and **Abby Schlueter** (ACES Agricultural Leadership) was Vice President of Communications.

Matt Macomber (2014 alumnus, LAS Atmospheric Sciences) continues to write for *Smile Politely* (www.smilepolitely.com). This past year, his posts included “Incredible sweet and savory crepes at Paris Super Crepes,” “Baked goods at Lucky Moon Pies and More make for a good treat,” “Tasting the variety of Pekara Bakery and Bistro,” “A donut run to Carmella’s Crème Donuts,” “Satisfy your sweet tooth at The New Sweet Indulgence,” “Jarling’s Custard Cup is a classic spot for cool treats,” and “The sweets to taste at The Cake Artist’s Studio.”

Morgan Polikoff (2006 alumnus, LAS Mathematics) was interviewed by *The Signal* in January 2022 regarding public education during the pandemic, including learning loss, widening inequality, and their consequences for democratic life. See page 29 for his alumni profile.

Sam Walder (2017 alumnus, ENG Computer Engineering) was interviewed by The Violin Channel in October 2021: “Co-Founder Sam Walder Discusses the Trala App — Taking the Violin World by Storm” at theviolinchannel.com/vc-interview-sam-walder-on-the-trala-application-to-learn-how-to-play-the-violin/. In March 2022, Trala was named to the **2022 list of Fast Company’s Most Innovative Companies**.

Sydney Hoel (FAA Voice) performed in the Lyric Theatre productions of “Marvelous Wonderettes” and “Carnaval!” in Spring 2022.

Ben Macke (FAA Music) has been selected to be a Japan House Intern in Fall 2022.

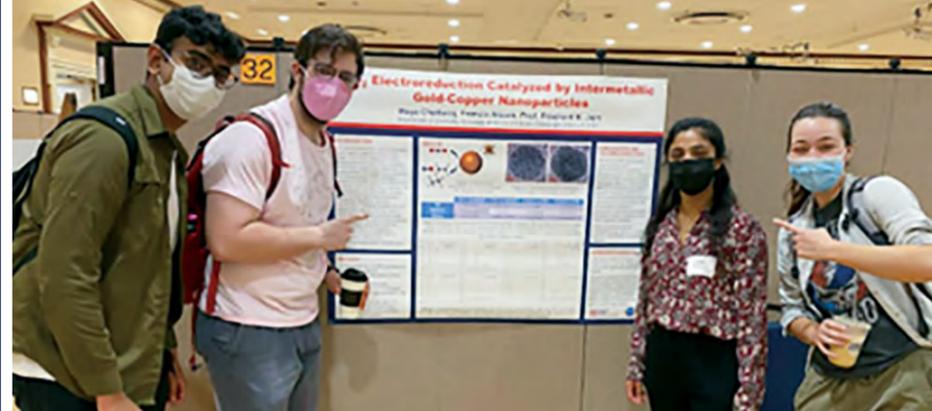
Katherine Bokenkamp (2016 alumna, FAA Voice) co-starred in the July 2022 Red Mask Players’ production of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” in Danville, Illinois.

Natalia Rzepa (AHS Speech and Hearing Science) was the Treasurer of the 2021-2022 National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association Executive Board.

Eve Rubovits (AHS Community Health) and **Rachel Sun** (LAS Psychology) are serving as 2022 Community-Academic Scholars in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute.

Mutmaina Adebayo (LAS Computer Science and Philosophy), **Vasu Chalasani** (ENG Computer Science), and **Melissa Chen** (ENG Computer Science) are 2022 CS Student Ambassador/Research Scholars (STARS).

Chris Wurl (AHS Recreation, Sports, and Tourism) served on the 2021-2022 RST (Recreation, Sports and Tourism) Student Advisory Council.



Left: Chancellor's Scholars cheer on Maya Chatteraj at URS. Right: Chancellor's Scholar Daniel Cudzich presents his research.



2022 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM Student Perspectives on the Undergraduate Research Symposium

By Kayla Vittore, ACES Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy

April on campus — the tulips have timidly arisen, robins sing in blooming redbud trees, and anxious undergraduates with formal clothes and unwieldy posters are scampering towards the Illini Student Union. Spring semester is when the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) is held, providing students from all colleges the chance to present their work. The 2022 URS is the first year since 2019 the symposium was back in-person, so there was extra excitement for this event.

Illini Rooms ABC were packed with presenters and attendees eager to participate in science communication. The day was split into four sections, allowing students of each section an hour and fifteen minutes to display their research poster and engage with audiences. There were also oral presentations on the second floor, for more formal and in-depth reports. Many people came to these poster and oral presentations to support the undergraduate researchers. "I was very happy that many people came to see my presentation — my friends, research group, coursework TAs, and the CHP staff," said **Maya Chatteraj** (LAS Chemistry).

The symposium also challenges students' communication skills. Science communication is a vital skill — new knowledge can't be disseminated if it isn't comprehensible. Since the previous several years there have been few opportunities for in-person presentations, the 2022 URS was an important opportunity for students to shake off the dust from their oration skills. "...after the blackout in activities that COVID-19 caused, it felt invigorating to finally swing back into presentation season," said **Daniel Cudzich** (ENG Materials Science and Engineering). "I spoke practically nonstop as people kept coming up to the poster to ask questions and show interest, and it felt wonderful to naturally talk and answer questions about my project."

Jennifer Zhao (AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences) agreed, stating "It was so gratifying to be able to talk about all the work I had put into research the past year, and everyone who came up to me was so kind as well.... I'm glad to have had this opportunity to better my speaking and presenting skills, particularly when it comes to research!"

"The symposium was an excellent opportunity to present the work I've been doing to a broader audience. I feel that experiences such as this have increased my fluency in speaking about technical subjects..." remarked **Max Polanek** (LAS Chemical Engineering). That broader audience at 2022 URS is made of people with different specialties and backgrounds. Interaction between different fields is what inspires future interdisciplinary work and looking at a problem from another perspective can provide unexpected solutions. As Chatteraj shared, "The most challenging aspect for me was figuring out how to present my work to an audience that has no background in my field of research. I overcame this challenge by practicing my presentation with friends outside of my major and asking them whether they could follow it well. I also found it useful to ask individuals what their background is when they approached my poster, which allowed me to adjust the level of detail I present based on the audience's areas of expertise. My favorite aspect of the event was receiving questions and hearing others' thoughts about my work. Their perspectives often included new ideas or perspectives that I hadn't considered previously."

The 2022 URS was a positive experience for many, as well as tiring. "While definitely a high-intensity and exhausting event, [the 2022 URS] was a deeply rewarding experience that I hope to repeat next year with even more progress. It's rare that I get to dump magnificent quantities of information about batteries!" said Cudzich. Poster and oral presentations represent work performed over several semesters or years. Each student represents a research team laboring toward new discoveries, inventions, and solutions. The URS is a wonderful event for celebrating student work, strengthening the research communities, and developing science communication skills. "The Undergraduate Research Symposium was an incredible learning experience, and it was a great way to share the research projects my lab has been working on this year. I enjoyed presenting to all the spectators and valued the opportunity to share my work!" said **Amber Dorn** (AHS Speech and Hearing Science). We are so glad to have had many Chancellor's Scholars participate in this year's URS and look forward to seeing what exciting presentations appear next year.

The 15th Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) and Illinois Scholars Undergraduate Research Symposium (ISUR) took place on Undergraduate Research Week from April 24–April 30, 2022. For more information on student presentations, go to undergradresearch.illinois.edu/researchweek.html

HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL

Honors Student Council Year in Review

By Niraj Lawande, Molecular and Cellular Biology

The Honors Student Council (HSC) had an amazing year full of many firsts. Many CHP students came into this year with limited opportunities to meet new people due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, it was especially important to give students a place to call home. The entire HSC quickly began planning events designed to help Chancellor's Scholars connect. With the goal of creating a welcoming environment, we had one of our strongest starts.

Ashley Hornig (LAS History) and **Gina Jagminas** (LAS History) led the Social Committee to a strong ice cream social, followed by several fun Honors After Dark Tuesday nights throughout the entire year. Students enjoyed ice cream while enjoying games upstairs. **Matthew Haak** (FAA Architectural Studies) and the rest of the Art Committee started off the semester with a jewelry making event, followed by a Tea and Tee-Shirt Embroidery event. **Andrew Schollmeier** (LAS Statistics and Computer Science) and **Amanda Finn's** (ACES Animal Sciences) Civic Engagement committee were quick to plan opportunities for Chancellor's scholars to help out in the community. By volunteering to help build a home with Habitat for Humanity and volunteering at the Books to Prisoners book sale, Chancellor's Scholars came out and helped make a difference early in the year. Continuing with the new tradition, **Gail Schneiderman** (FAA Graphic Design) and **Briana Sobecks** (LAS Chemical Engineering) led the Publications Committee to write an original and intriguing Murder Mystery Night. The event was such a hit they repeated in the spring, months after Halloween had passed. **Nic Davis** (ENG Aerospace Engineering) and **Brady Moore's** (ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering) Academic Engagement Committee continued tradition with some excellent Lunch and Learns along with planning two amazing Course Preview Nights. In addition to having some of our highest turnouts, we also had two firsts this year. **Emily Yan** (BUS Accountancy and Finance) coordinated the Chancellor's Scholar Mentor Program to introduce freshmen to upperclassmen mentors. **Adam Dziaba** (FAA Graphic Design) increased our social media outreach and we started advertising all our events.

With so many changes, I am so proud of the accomplishments of this Honors Student Council, and I am sure the next group will not only continue our success, but also build upon our work. Navigating a new world with the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to plan events under unique circumstances to keep everyone safe and that is exactly what we did. For any underclassmen who did not get a chance to come to meetings this year, I encourage you to come to just a few meetings next year. I promise you will find a home right away. Thank you to everyone who participated in HSC this year and I wish the next committee my best!

Academic Engagement Committee

By Nic Davis, ENG Aerospace Engineering

Being a part of the Honors Student Council gives you the opportunity to meet lots of new people, and after you join a committee, you can start planning events with students who have similar interests. The meetings aren't just about the free pizza! HSC members come up with great ideas to put on fun events for fellow Chancellor's Scholars. This year, the academic engagement committee hosted a range of events including Course Preview Nights, Lunch & Learns, and Convocation Book Clubs.

At **Lunch & Learns**, professors come to the Honors House to speak about interesting topics in their fields, and students get to enjoy a free lunch while listening to the presentation. In November Dr. Marcia Pool, the Assistant Director for Education at the Cancer Center at Illinois, met with students for a Lunch & Learn at the Honors House to talk about her work with the Cancer Center. Students learned about the past accomplishments as well as future goals for the center while enjoying Subway in the classroom! Just before winter break, we also had a Lunch & Learn with Professor Leslie Looney, the Director for Astronomical Imaging. Looney taught about the complexities of astronomical imaging and where the field is headed, including the huge potential for future discoveries with the James Webb Space Telescope.

The Keith L. Kelroy Memorial Convocation is an annual event put on by the Campus Honors Program, and this year the guest speaker was UIUC English professor and author **Janice N. Harrington**, who spoke about her collection of poems titled *The Hands of Strangers: Poems from the Nursing Home*. The academic engagement committee hosted a book club to discuss the poems one night each week in the three weeks leading up to the event. At the book clubs, small groups of students were able to discuss their interpretations of the poems in depth to gain a new understanding and perspective on the writings. They were able to bring these ideas to the Convocation event to help them have a better discussion and ask better thought-out questions when they were with the author face-to-face.



The Academic Engagement Committee is not the only one putting on fun events for all Chancellor's Scholars. There are four other committees in addition coming up with new ideas and great events through the whole year. Overall, the HSC had a great year with lots of fun at both their meetings and their events!

Left: 2021-22 HSC Executive Board members speak at CHP Orientation. Right: Janice Harrington speaks to Chancellor's Scholars at 2022 Convocation.



HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL continued



Invasive Honeysuckle Clean-up

By Flor Quiroz, DGS Undeclared

On February 26, 2022, some of our students took a trip to help remove and clean up an invasive species of honeysuckle at the Kickapoo Rail Trail in St. Joseph, Illinois. Our students teamed up with other members of the Champaign-Urbana communities to help Champaign County Forest Preserve saw, trim, and cut down trees to the stump. The removal of this invasive species will help other plants in the area grow and not be shaded out by the honeysuckle. The Champaign County Forest Preserve (CCFP) seeks to help with turning the area where the honeysuckle was located into a baseball field. They rely on volunteer hours for grants that will allow them to do so. Our students were more than happy to give their time to CCFP and help by getting their hands busy and dirty!



Course Preview Nights

By Nick Wilson, LAS Integrative Biology

Planned and hosted by the HSC's Academic Engagement Committee, CHP Course Preview Nights in both semesters enabled our wonderful new additions to the CHP faculty to provide students with brief overviews of their upcoming courses. As a member of the Academic Engagement Committee, I was involved in preparation for each event, and I was consistently interested in learning about the new courses. A total of 10 new courses were added to the CHP curriculum during this school year, half of which were added to each semester's course offerings. The courses are both diverse and specific, falling into many areas of interest while also covering topics that would intrigue virtually anyone.

Interested in discussions about artificial life? How about the ins and outs of social media? Does learning about black holes and the end of the universe sound fascinating? These and several other interesting courses have been added to the CHP course curriculum this year and were revealed to large gatherings of Chancellor's Scholars at our Course Preview Nights. As the curriculum expands to new horizons, Course Preview Night continues to be an important way to attract interest for the fantastic new classes offered each semester.

CHP Helps Habitat for Humanity Build a Home

By Flor Quiroz, DGS Undeclared

On Saturday November 13, 2021, Chancellor's Scholars met the day bright and early for a morning of work and community involvement. CHP was pleased to partner with Habitat for Humanity and help with building a new home in the Urbana community. Chancellor's Scholars added siding to the exterior walls of the home. Although only one member of the group had worked on such tasks before, Chancellor's Scholars quickly learned to cut and then nail in siding. Great progress was made to the house as more than half of the siding was finished. Another student worked on the front railing of the home, attaching wood bars to the frame.

Despite the wind, snow showers and lack of experience, Chancellor's Scholars felt fulfillment as they saw the progressed house and enjoyed homemade soup served by other volunteers concluding the morning shift. We thank everyone who participated and are especially thankful for UIUC's Habitat for Humanity for giving CHP this opportunity to help build a home!

*Habitat for Humanity
HSC service project*



Far left: Chancellor's Scholars at Course Preview night. Middle: HSC Art Committee meets outside. Right: Chancellor's Scholars at CHP Semi-formal.

CHP Art Committee

By Flor Quiroz, DGS Undeclared

In hopes of returning to normalcy post covid pandemic, HSC has put in high efforts to bring Chancellor's Scholars feelings of togetherness and enjoyment. Perhaps one of our most active committees in said efforts has been the HSC Art Committee led by our graduating Vice President, Matthew Haak. The Art Committee held wonderfully creative and successful events this year, including new events such as jewelry making, embroidery, mug painting, and plant potting. The HSC Art Committee also held their usual paint night which continues to be extremely popular. All events had great turn out and allowed our students to de-stress during long busy weeks and before final exams. Chancellor's Scholars continue to excel and show their creative abilities in these events that provided the opportunity for everyone to create something beautiful.



CHP Friendsgiving

By Flor Quiroz, DGS Undeclared

The HSC Social Engagement Committee threw a "Friendsgiving" event at the Honors House to celebrate the ending of the fall semester and one another. All Chancellor's Scholars were welcome to enjoy each other's company and some tasty treats! They gathered around the tables in our main classroom as a fire and background music presented by a YouTube ambiance video warmed the air. Students drank warm tea and apple cider and ate delicious apple and pumpkin pie, doughnuts, and cookies! While they enjoyed pleasing their taste buds, board games such as Banana-grams, Scrabble, and Monopoly were played bringing about competitive energy. We are happy this event allowed our students to unwind and enjoy their last days before the upcoming fall break and the end of the semester.

CHP Semi-Formal

By Maya Chattoraj, LAS Chemistry

One of the largest and most anticipated CHP events of the year is the spring Semi-formal. This year, our theme was "A Night in Paris", chosen by HSC. The event was held at the iHotel. Upon arriving, attendees were greeted by a beautiful painting of the Eiffel Tower by Matthew Haak. Students and staff enjoyed delectable hors d'oeuvres in the lobby before proceeding into the main hall.

After enjoying a delicious entrée and dessert, attendees participated in a spirited trivia game hosted by the HSC executive board members, with question topics ranging from facts about UIUC and CHP to knowledge of France in keeping with the theme of the event. The winning team was given engraved CHP champagne glasses with goodies inside. After trivia, the dance floor opened up and Chancellor's Scholars showed off their best dance moves for the rest of the night. Semi-formal was truly a night to remember!

Murder Mystery Night

By Briana Sobecks, LAS Chemical Engineering

In keeping up a popular HSC tradition, the Publications Committee hosted our annual Murder Mystery Night during the week of Halloween. Our mystery followed a grand party hosted by the Bus Lovers Society, a group of fanatic bus fans who rented out an entire MTD bus for the journey of a lifetime. Little did they know, there would also be the end of a life... specifically, the life of the Bus Lovers Society President, aka the #1 Bus Lover. While there were many compelling suspects, such as a disgruntled bus mechanic and a spy who was revealed to prefer trains to buses, the real murderer turned out to be a bus-iness manager who sought increased fares rather than the Bus Lovers Society's demands for free bus rides. Both our participants and committee members had such a blast, we decided to hold a second Murder Mystery Night in the spring. This mystery involved several literary figures in the UIUC library coming to life, only to discover with a shock that Detective Sherlock Holmes had been murdered! The culprit, as anyone would guess, turned out to be the Very Hungry Caterpillar, who's insatiable need for food turned bloody... We had a great time running the Murder Mystery Nights this year, and we are very grateful to the CHP staff for helping us host these events.

“
In hopes of returning to normalcy post covid pandemic, HSC has put in high efforts to bring Chancellor's Scholars feelings of togetherness and enjoyment.”

SAS/KDR UPDATES



Fun Home KDR

CHP presented some returning favorite Scholar Adventurers Series (SAS) co-curricular programs and several new and exciting ones in 2021–2022! And Chancellor's Scholars were able to attend Krannert Dress Rehearsals (KDR) again in person this academic year. For more information, see honors.illinois.edu/scholar-adventurers-series and honors.illinois.edu/krannert-dress-rehearsals!

“Fun Home” KDR on 11/2/21

By Kayla Vittore, ACES Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy

A jarring realization is that our parents have lives and identities completely independent of their children. Understanding who your parents were and how that shapes the people they are now can lead to important insights into our relationships, family dynamics, and our own personal growth. In the theatrical production of *Fun Home*, cartoonist and playwright Alison Bechdel reflects on her childhood.

Grappling with being lesbian during the homophobic 1970s, and the eventual revelation that her father is a closeted gay man, questions arise for Bechdel about how her father's identity and past may connect to her identity and present. Bechdel is left to analyze her fallible memories of the past in hopes of finding answers or closure. *Fun Home* jumps between her childhood experiences at the family-run funeral home, her coming-of-age in college, and her middle-aged self acting as narrator over the collage of memories.

Chancellor's Scholars attended a performance of *Fun Home* as part of CHP's Krannert Dress Rehearsal program. The production team fully utilized Krannert's Tryon Festival Theatre for this musical. A rotating ring embedded in the stage floor was incorporated into musical segments, adding a unique sense of movement to the scenes. There was also a subtle projection screen incorporated in the background, on which images of cartoon sketches representing Bechdel's work would appear and disappear. Bechdel's *Fun Home* was originally a graphic novel before being adapted into a musical, which inspired this innovative inclusion.

Fun Home is an excellent story, especially for anyone exploring their identity or reflecting on their formative years. The musical is well written, balancing dark humor and happy nostalgia with moments of tragedy or shocking realization. While questions proposed in the musical are never fully resolved, they open dialogue for young adults to consider who they are in connection to and independent of their

parent(s). Most people can relate to the confusion of re-interpreting your childhood from an adult perspective, and the chaotic journey through Bechdel's memories captures the experience. *Fun Home* is an important experience for challenging one's perception of self and others, and Chancellor's Scholars were fortunate to witness this excellent production.

“1619 Project” SAS on 10/6/21

By Nick Wilson, LAS Integrative Biology

“What was the name of the ship that brought a group of English settlers to the Americas in 1620?” Professor and Associate Chancellor Christopher Span asked to a lecture hall filled with curious Chancellor's Scholars. *Oh, I actually remember this from high school history*, I thought to myself as I raised my hand with confidence. Judging from the numerous other hands raised in the room, I assumed that this was a common piece of information taught in history classes. Unsurprisingly, the correct answer of “Mayflower” was soon given by a student. Professor Span then asked a follow-up question: “What was the name of the ship that brought the first slaves to the Americas?” *Ok, this is a similar question. I remember the name being... No, I actually don't remember this. Wait, did I ever even learn this?*

I was unsure if my memory was clouded or if I had truly never heard the name before, and I was not alone in my uncertainty. The assured hands that rose after the first question were now nowhere to be found. After a long moment of silence and a few incorrect guesses, Professor Span supplied us with the name: *White Lion*. Despite its arrival to the Americas in 1619, prior to the arrival of *Mayflower*, *White Lion* was not as familiar a name to me. Only a small minority of the students in attendance recognized the name, yet our apparent ignorance did not surprise Professor Span whatsoever. In fact, our lack of knowledge regarding such an impactful topic, the transatlantic slave trade and its introduction of slavery to the Americas, was exactly what his presentation was about.

“The 1619 Project — Contextualizing Its Place in Curriculum, and U.S. History” was an eye-opening experience for me. Through Professor Span's presentation, I was exposed to one of current journalism's most intriguing initiatives, the 1619 Project, and its goal of placing American slavery and its repercussions at the forefront of historical analysis. Professor Span also discussed responses to and criticisms of the 1619

The 1619 Project

Project, as well as the directions where the project may be headed. This SAS provided me with valuable information about a topic that has not yet been exposed to many people throughout the United States.

“Baseball Lockout” SAS on 2/22/22: A Nostalgic American Pastime and Labor Unions

By Elizabeth Scherschel, DGS Undeclared

By now, most of us had likely figured out *something* is going on in the world of baseball — maybe it was the lack of spring training, or the headlines, or the lack thereof. Professor Michael H. LeRoy, of UIUC's School of Labor & Employment Relations, took an evening to briefly explain the history, causes, and possible legal outcomes of the lockout in this SAS.

Informative, detailed, and thought-provoking throughout his presentation, Prof. LeRoy traced the situation in 2022 back to the National League's contracts' reserve clauses in 1879, which said the top fourteen players from each team could not be poached by any other team in the league — and the top players could not seek better opportunities and pay at another team in the league. The real issue for the players, LeRoy says, is that the league's revenue has grown, but the average pay for the players has not kept pace, and that the younger players are not paid well from the start (though there are obviously other factors involved, including the dissolution of numerous minor league teams).

LeRoy pointed to the case *Nostalgic Partners, et al. v. The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball*, in which forty minor league teams are suing under the Sherman Antitrust Act, as one to watch for those who want to stay informed on the matter.

Learning about “White Nationalist Terrorism” SAS on 11/10/21

By Michael Jacobson, LAS Psychology

White nationalism is a poison. One which some people view as detached and separate from them. As Professor Nick Grossman lectured on the intricacies of what fuels white nationalist terrorism, many felt the words hit their heart.

As in the January 6th insurrection, Grossman discussed how some terrorists *see themselves as the good guys*, buying into replacement narratives and fearmongering by a veritable media cult. The copycats and the ones who circulate sick manifestos online only serve to encourage others as they get tangled into a web of hatred.

He traced anti-Semitic, anti-Sikh, Islamophobic, racist, and *anti-American* behavior as all pieces of the same pie, highlighting how U.S. counter-terrorism efforts have chronically overlooked White nationalism, despite their threat to our country and our citizens.

I felt pain that night, but you better believe it was bittersweet. These are the topics that *must* be discussed *because* they bring pain. They bring pain because they hurt to hear about and hurt to *experience*. There is no way to sugarcoat death. And I believe that we shouldn't.



“What's The Point of Banning Books?” SAS on 2/28/22

By Elizabeth Scherschel, DGS Undeclared

“A book can change your life,” Dr. Emily Knox told students at an SAS event this spring, which is part of why there is an ongoing battle to ban books. She explained her background as a librarian and advocate, and as a scholar in religious studies and information sciences.

Having seen many “requests for consideration” (which is part of the book-banning process) in her time as a librarian and researcher, Dr. Knox outlined common reasons for book bans including “protecting children.” Many requests for consideration come from concerned parents, but many organizations also publish detailed documents about controversial materials to help file requests for consideration. Furthermore, going beyond the obvious places like schools and public libraries, Dr. Knox highlighted books that are banned in prisons for various reasons.

Engaging, relevant, and insightful, Dr. Knox's presentation highlighted some of the deeper controversies in our world, from teaching young children history to queer stories to racial justice and incarceration, and their relationships with intellectual freedom and access to literature.

“The Neverland” KDR on 4/6/22

By Emily Albert-Stauning, LAS Psychology and FAA Acting

The Neverland by Madeline Sayet debuted at The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in April 2022. The production featured University of Illinois Theatre students and professional guest actors. *The Neverland* follows a Mohegan teen's encounter with Peter Pan and Tinkerbell. Ultimately, the characters come together to rediscover indigenous identities and celebrate individuality. I played Tink in this production of *The Neverland*. Sayet's new interpretation of Tink still pays homage to JM Barrie's original character, while adding new elements of humanity and power. Tink's character is one of many examples of how Sayet questioned and re-examined the characters in JM Barrie's original work. *The Neverland* explores complex themes while incorporating heavy elements of childhood imagination. Elements of childhood magic appeared in *The Neverland* featuring moving trees, image projections, and stage flying. The colorful and creative set clearly defined *The Neverland* as a children's play with a deeper meaning. *The Neverland* serves as a reminder that we are never too young or too old to appreciate all types of identities.



Left: Nick Grossman speaks at White Nationalist Terrorism SAS. Above: CHP graduate Emily Albert-Stauning in The Neverland.

ALUMNI RESPONSES TO WHY I GIVE

Katrina Bromann (2006 alumna): “I greatly enjoyed my time in the CHP, and it makes me so happy to hear of students now enjoying those same deeply impactful experiences.”

Lisa (Mazzocco) Chapello (2010 alumna): “CHP was a highlight and a home during my four years at U of I. It nudged me into experiences and learnings that I wouldn’t have otherwise sought out.”

Seth Gammon (2000 alumnus): “CHP coursework and community is exceptional and should be supported.”

Kim Graber (former CHP Director and CHP faculty member): “To support the outstanding activities and opportunities provided to students through the CHP.”

Matthew Lucas (2008 alumnus): “I remember my CHP experience very fondly and gratefully.”

Benjamin Montet and Laura Klein (2011 alumni): “CHP gave us so many wonderful memories and opportunities; we want to ensure these continue for the next generation.”

Carl Press (2007 alumnus): “CHP meant so much to me during my time at Illinois. It is truly one of the most special programs on campus!”

Vikram Reddy (2015 alumnus): “The CHP was at the heart of my fondest memories at Illinois. I’m donating to provide students the opportunity to engage with this strong program.”

Tom Ulen (Emeritus CHP faculty member): “I love the Campus Honors Program. The work it does to foster excellence is crucial for all of us.”

Hwanjun Yoo (2018 alumnus): “CHP gave me some of the best experiences during my college years.”

“CHP was one of the best parts of my undergraduate experience at U of I. I am so grateful for the experiences I had: traveling to Japan, exciting classes, and hot chocolate at the Honors House, to name a few.”

Rhiannon Ardisana-Cleveland (2009 alumna)



Top: Chancellor’s Scholars making Gingerbread Houses.
Bottom: 2022-2023 HSC Executive Board.

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 other activities that positively facilitate the honors student experience. This coming year, we are looking forward to continuing the travel grants program, 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 your significant help to the Campus Honors Program!**

Appreciation of continuing endowment/scholarship

Special thanks are extended to **Matthew J. Rodriguez** (5/99 alumnus, LAS Physics and Mathematics) for his continued pledge to support the creation of the E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship, which was awarded for the 5th time to **Serena Jobi** (LAS Mathematics). We were able to meet on 2/25/22 with Matt, Laurie Johnson, Elizabeth Rockman, and two other recipients of this scholarship, **Quentin Wetzell** and **Elia Chudhov**.

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 furthers innovation and learning, and that supports our wonderful students who will help build the future.

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.

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STATE, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND HONORS

National Security Education Program (NSEP)/David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship
National, for study in Non-Western regions
Ella Dennis, LAS Psychology and Global Studies
Jake Gutlick, LAS Political Science

James Dyson Award
International Design Competition
Gabriel Tavas, FAA Sustainable Design

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Program
National, all expenses for a year of teaching English abroad
Hamed Kadiani, 5/18 alumnus, BUS Accountancy

Fulbright Grant
National, all expenses for one year of graduate study or research abroad
Sophia Ebel, LAS Comparative Literature and Germanic Studies
Emily Siner, 5/13 alumna, MED Journalism

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Jasmine Robinson, BUS Accountancy

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship
For outstanding research potential in mathematics, science, & engineering
Braden Moore, ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering

J.M. Kaplan Innovation Prize
J.M. Kaplan Fund, to support early stage projects benefiting social justice, the environment, and heritage conservation
Brittany Koteles, 2011 alumna, LAS Individual Plans of Study

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship
Three years of support toward advanced research-based degrees
Philip Kocheril, 2021 graduate, LAS Chemistry
Hannah Manetsch, 2020 graduate, LAS Physics

Poets & Quants Class of 2022 "Best and Brightest"
100 top U.S. business students in top 50 programs
Alex Kogen, BUS Accountancy

FINALIST STATUS IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (finalist)
Lyle Regenwetter, 2020 alumnus, ENG Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering

REGIONAL, STATE, AND ALL-CAMPUS AWARDS

Bronze Tablet
University Honors, earned by the top 3% of each college's graduating class
Natalie Bready, FAA Art Education and Painting
Zachary Chalmers, LAS Atmospheric Sciences
Maxwell Chan, FAA Industrial Design
David Chen, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Eva Cornman, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Kathleen Culligan, FAA Industrial Design
Jacob Dalen, ACES Animal Sciences
Daniella Di Stefano, LAS Psychology
Rebecca Duacy, LAS Integrative Biology
Sophia Ebel, LAS Comparative Literature and Germanic Studies
Chime Ezenekwe, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Matthew Haak, LAS Architectural Studies
Sydney Hoel, FAA Music
Jennifer Hong, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition
Austin Huang, LAS Chemistry
Tyler Hull, LAS Psychology and Spanish

Jamie Kahn, AHS Kinesiology
Niraj Lawande, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Erin Lenschow, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Sophie Luijten, LAS Global Studies and Spanish
Elisabeth Martin, ENG Bioengineering and LAS Spanish
Shruthi Mekala, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Zhujun Nie, BUS Accountancy
Emily Pasetes, ENG Engineering Physics and LAS Philosophy
Carley Peldiak, BUS Accountancy
Jennifer Pochly, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition
Arjun Reddigari, ENG Bioengineering
Jordan Schnack, LAS Psychology
Andrew Schollmeier, LAS Statistics and Computer Science
Alayna Scranton, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Gabriel Tavas, FAA Sustainable Design
Lydia Katherine Walsh-Rock, LAS Spanish and FAA Music Education
Julia Wapner, LAS Statistics and Spanish
Matthew Wattelet, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Elyce Wong, AHS Kinesiology
Madison Wray, BUS Marketing and Supply Chain Management

Patricia E. Askew Leadership Award
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Maria Maring, LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; Spanish

Edith and Harry Darby Leadership Scholarship
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Tara Leininger, LAS Classics and History

Hoefl Technology and Management Program
Graduating seniors, engineering and business students
Ian Flueck, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

Homecoming Court
All-campus, comprised of 10 top male and female leaders
Alastair Merrett, FAA Urban Studies and Planning; Sustainable Design
Shruthi Mekala, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Vongai Tizora, ENG Bioengineering

Illinois Athletic and Academic Strive Scholarship
Division of Intercollegiate Athletics
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Office of the Provost, graduating seniors
Megan Klode, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
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CHP graduate Manushi Shah



Senior 100 Honorary
Campus, top seniors based on academic standing and involvement, initiative, and leadership
Beth Born, LAS Chemical Engineering
Paige Borrowman, BUS Finance and Information Systems
Zachary Chalmers, LAS Atmospheric Sciences
Kathleen Culligan, FAA Industrial Design
Jacob Dalen, ACES Animal Sciences

Maria Maring, LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; Spanish
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Alexander Wang, LAS Molecular & Cellular Biology; Chemistry
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CHP graduate Pablo Sanchez

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Ian Flueck, ENG Materials Science and Engineering
Dale Robbenolt, LAS Sociology and ENG Civil Engineering
Kayla Vittore, ACES Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy

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Office of Undergraduate Research
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Kayla Vittore, ACES Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy
Alexander Wang, LAS Molecular & Cellular Biology; Chemistry

2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium "Image of Research" Award
Office of Undergraduate Research
Neha Arun, LAS Molecular & Cellular Biology, honorable mention

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Campus Honors Program
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E. Graham Evans, Jr. Scholarship
Endowed scholarship for one first-year Chancellor's Scholar in Mathematics
Serena Jobi, LAS Mathematics

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Melissa Chen, ENG Computer Science
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Ashley Hornig, LAS History
Jamie Kahn, AHS Kinesiology
Niraj Lawande, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

CHP graduate Matthew Haak



Dale Robbenolt, LAS Sociology and ENG Civil Engineering
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Rosie Martinez, FAA Graphic Design (Vice President, Art)
Margot Pierce, LAS Mathematics (Vice President, Publications)
Alejandro Pulido, FAA Instrumental Music (Vice President, Academic Engagement)
Flor Quiroz, DGS Undeclared (Secretary, Social Media Chair)

CHP Honors Student Council Executive Board for 2021-22
Maya Chatteraj, LAS Chemistry (At Large)
Nic Davis, ENG Aerospace Engineering (Co-Vice President of Academic Engagement)
Adam Dziaba, FAA Graphic Design (Chair of Communications and Social Media)
Amanda Finn, ACES Animal Sciences (Co-Vice President, Community Engagement)
Matthew Haak, FAA Architectural Studies (Vice President, Art)
Ashley Hornig, LAS History (Co-Vice President of Social Engagement)
Gina Jagminas, LAS History (Co-Vice President of Social Engagement)
Niraj Lawande, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology (President)
Brady Moore, ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering (Co-Vice President of Academic Engagement)
Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design (Vice President of Publications)
Andrew Schollmeier, ENG Bioengineering (Co-Vice President, Community Engagement)
Brian Sobecks, LAS Chemical Engineering (Secretary)
Emily Yan, BUS Accountancy and Finance (Chair of Student Mentorship)

2022 Intercultural Study and Theatre Tour of London
Led by Professor Andrea Stevens and Megan Cole
Anna Bogdanski, ENG Civil Engineering
Julia Clavadetscher, FAA Acting
Kathleen Culligan, FAA Industrial Design
Amber Dorn, AHS Speech and Hearing Science
Kayleigh Excell, ENG Engineering Physics
Alice Gao, ENG Materials Science and Engineering
Gina Jagminas, LAS History
Izzy Mata, ENG Aerospace Engineering
Jasmine Robinson, BUS Accountancy
Madison Rosenberger, ENG Aerospace Engineering
Eve Rubovits, AHS Community Health
Elizabeth Scherschel, DGS Undeclared
Abby Schlueter, ACES Agricultural Leadership
Grace Smith, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Anna Wheeler, EDU Elementary Education

Calvin Ke Memorial Student Leadership Award
Campus Honors Program
Adithya Chari, ENG Computer Science
Maya Chatteraj, LAS Chemistry
Ashley Hornig, LAS History
Niraj Lawande, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

CHP graduate Maria Maring



CHP Merit Scholarship
Graduating seniors, awarded to two entering Chancellor's Scholars annually
Maria Maring, LAS Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability; Spanish

CHP Outstanding Senior Awards
~20 seniors, for academic excellence and CHP participation
Zachary Chalmers, LAS Atmospheric Sciences
Eva Cornman, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Kathleen Culligan, FAA Industrial Design
Jacob Dalen, ACES Animal Sciences
Sophia Ebel, LAS Comparative Literature and German Studies
Chime Ezenekwe, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Matthew Haak, FAA Architectural Studies
Jamie Kahn, AHS Kinesiology
Alok Kamatar, ENG Computer Science



CHP graduate Alok Kamatar

Niraj Lawande, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Sophie Luijten, LAS Global Studies and Spanish
Elisabeth Martin, ENG Bioengineering and LAS Spanish
Shruthi Mekala, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Zhujun Nie, BUS Accountancy
Emily Pasetes, ENG Engineering Physics and LAS Philosophy
Arjun Reddigari, ENG Bioengineering
Jordan Schnack, LAS Psychology
Andrew Schollmeier, ENG Bioengineering
Julia Wapner, LAS Statistics and Spanish
Matthew Wattelet, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Madison Wray, BUS Marketing and Supply Chain Management

2022 CHP Summer Research Awards
Jonah Doppelt, ENG Engineering Physics, *Theoretical Astrophysics and General Relativity* with Professor Stuart Shapiro
Sam Li, LAS Math and Computer Science, *Subseasonal Prediction of Energy Demand using Machine Learning Models* with Professor Ryan Sriver
Katy Miles, LAS Statistics, *Visualizing Temperature Data on Local to National Scales* with Professors Wade Fagen-Ulmschneider and Karle Flanagan
Roy Zhou, ENG Bioengineering, *Neurotransmitter Detection in Rodents on the Nanoscale using Electrochemical Methods* with Professor Mei Shen

2022 CHP Summer Travel Awards
Kayleigh Excell, ENG Engineering Physics, study abroad in Florence, Italy
Norma Grabauskaitė, LAS Sociology, study abroad in Granada, Spain
Olivia Hunsberger, ENG Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering, study abroad in Pisa, Italy
Jack Joshi, ENG Aerospace Engineering, conference travel in Houston, Utah, and North Carolina
Fernando Limon, DGS Undeclared, internship in Minneapolis
Greta Olson, ENG Engineering Physics, study abroad in Sweden
Lauren Penick, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, study abroad in Beauvais, France
Luke Robert, ENG Aerospace Engineering, study abroad in Madrid, Spain
Eric Roman, ENG Mechanical Engineering, internship in Golden, Colorado
Sara Striepling, EDU Special Education, study abroad in Verona, Italy
Jennifer Zhao, AHS Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, conference in San Diego

COLLEGE AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND RECOGNITIONS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (ACES)

Dennis and Mildred Boyd Scholarship
College of ACES
Jacob Dalen, ACES Animal Sciences
Paola Garcia, ACES Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

E.M. and Martha Chandler Scholarship
College of ACES
Alayna Scranton, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Corbett Scholarship
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
Summer Goodwin, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

J.E. Hackett Scholarship
College of ACES
Hayden Gaskins, ACES Public Policy and Law
Allison Place, ACES Crop Sciences
Abigail Schlueter, ACES Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications

Ralph O. and Mabel F. Hunter Scholarship
College of ACES
Maria Brockamp, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Margaret Dudley, ACES Animal Sciences
Amanda Finn, ACES Animal Sciences
Rosemary Mascarenhas, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Marilyn Medina, ACES Animal Sciences
Kate Miller, ACES Agribusiness Markets and Management
Nicole Park, ACES Undeclared
Jennifer Pochly, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition
Abigail Schlueter, ACES Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communications

Jackson and Roos Scholarship
College of ACES
Jacob Dalen, ACES Animal Sciences
E.W. Lehmann Outstanding Freshman Award
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Jamie Abbott, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Logeman Leadership Scholarship
College of ACES
Brenna Freeman, ACES Animal Sciences
Hayden Gaskins, ACES Public Policy and Law
William Hensley, ACES Agribusiness Markets and Management
Kate Miller, ACES Agribusiness Markets and Management

H. and M. Mitchell Scholarship
College of ACES
Summer Goodwin, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition
Samantha Henry, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Phillips Farm Scholarship
College of ACES
Takya Means, ACES Animal Sciences
Allison Place, ACES Crop Sciences

Orion Samuelson Scholarship
College of ACES
Corey Beccue, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Jennifer Pochly, ACES Food Science and Human Nutrition

Robert Spillman Scholarship
College of ACES
William Hensley, ACES Agribusiness Markets and Management
Ricardo Herrera, ACES Animal Sciences
Dayja Johnson, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering



CHP graduate Paola Garcia



CHP graduate Jacob Dalen



CHP graduate Jennifer Pochly

2021-2022 CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS



CHP graduate Corey Beccue

Stahl Agricultural Scholarship
College of ACES
Corey Beccue, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Teel Family Scholarship
College of ACES
Madeline Rathbun, ACES Crop Sciences

Tuckey Scholarship
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
Jennifer Hong, AHS Food Science and Human Nutrition

Jonathan Baldwin Turner (JBT) Scholars
College of ACES, graduating seniors
Jacob Dalen, ACES Animal Sciences
Abigail Martin, ACES Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Kieran Sloan, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering



CHP graduate Kieran Sloan

JBT Undergraduate Research Fellowship
College of ACES
Kayla Vittore, ACES Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy

J.A. Weber Outstanding Freshman Award
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Marisa Ban, ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering

J.E. White Scholarship
College of ACES
Marilyn Medina, ACES Animal Sciences

COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Reginald J. Alston Award for Excellence in Community Health and Rehabilitation
Department of Kinesiology and Community Health
Eve Rubovits, AHS Community Health



CHP graduate Jamie Kahn

Nanine S. Breon Scholarship
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
Amber Dorn, AHS Speech and Hearing Science

Carol L. Chittenden Scholarship
Department of Kinesiology and Community Health
Jamie Kahn, AHS Kinesiology

Barbara Williams Hodson Scholarship
Department of Speech and Hearing Science
Natalia Rzepa, AHS Speech and Hearing Science

RST Domestic Site Tour Scholarship
Department of Recreation, Sports, and Tourism
James Cuevas, AHS Recreation, Sports, and Tourism
Chris Wurl, AHS Recreation, Sports, and Tourism



CHP graduate Elyce Wong

Doris Strickland-Collins and Edward W. Collins Award
Department of Kinesiology and Community Health
Elyce Wong, AHS Kinesiology

GIES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Mary Sparks Alley Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Julia Gwozdz, BUS Accounting and Finance
Katherine Krupicka, BUS Finance and Information Systems

Donald and Anne Edwards Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Samuel Maya, BUS Unassigned

Hugh W. Frey Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Minji Choi, BUS Marketing

Gies College of Business Scholarship
Lauren Cerbin, BUS Finance
Angela Jing, BUS Finance and Information Systems
Jacob Nagle, BUS Supply Chain Management and Marketing
Adele Pelzer, BUS Unassigned
Wenjie Song, BUS Accounting and Information Systems



CHP graduate Jacob Nagle

Gies Business Honors Program
Graduating senior
Amrith Ravikumar, BUS Marketing and Information Systems

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

Anthony J. Petullo Leaders in Business Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Samaia Jones, BUS Marketing

Russo Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Chitraneeth Guntupalli, BUS Accounting and Finance

Peter and Susan Schaeffer Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Patrick Driscoll, BUS Marketing and Information Systems

John A. Schoen Entrepreneurial Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Margaret Hines, BUS Accountancy

Shebik Scholarship Fund
Gies College of Business
Emma Connelly, BUS Accounting and Finance
Katherine Krupicka, BUS Finance and Information Systems
Kristina Nelson, BUS Accountancy and Finance



CHP graduate Kristina Nelson

Warren and Dawn Stippich Scholarship
Gies College of Business
Alex Kogen, BUS Accountancy

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dohm Ed Recruitment Scholarship
College of Education
Bethany Johnson, EDU Elementary Education

Kephart Education Scholarship
College of Education
Alyssa Anastasi, EDU Elementary Education

Stanley J. and Catherine M. Roszkowski Scholarship
College of Education
Allison Feder, EDU Elementary Education

GRAINGER COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

William C. Ackermann, Sr. Scholarship
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Jack Reicherts, ENG Civil Engineering

Ira O. Baker Award
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dale Robbenolt, LAS Sociology and ENG Civil Engineering, 1st Prize

Gerson B. Bilow Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Daniel Cudzich, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

Robert Bohl Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Alice Gao, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

Class of 1943 Award
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Anna Bogdanski, ENG Civil and Environmental Engineering

Guy Richard Collins Engineering Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Nicholas Geoppo, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Crowe Horwath LLP Outstanding Computer Science Student
Department of Computer Science
Vasu Chalasani, ENG Computer Science

Engineering Visionary Scholarship
College of Engineering
Sohyun Lee, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Rahul Ramkumar, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Grace Smith, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Smruthi Srinivasan, ENG Electrical Engineering

Jules D. Falzer Scholarship
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Annabelle Epplin, ENG Electrical Engineering

Ford Foundation Scholarship
Department of Bioengineering
Arjun Reddigari, ENG Bioengineering

Mok Wing Ho Scholarship
Department of Physics
Elizabeth Zhang, ENG Engineering Physics

Illinois Association of County Engineers Award
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dale Robbenolt, LAS Sociology and ENG Civil Engineering
Robert Wiggins, ENG Civil and Environmental Engineering

Kaiser Aluminum Scholarship
College of Engineering
Karina Herrera, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Daniel Matatov, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

CHP graduate Robert Wiggins



CHP graduate Dale Robbenolt



CHP graduate Vasu Chalasani



CHP graduate Vongai Tizora

Knights of St. Patrick
Grainger College of Engineering, highest honor for leadership, character, and contribution to the College
Vongai Tizora, ENG Bioengineering

Karl W. Kolb and Arden M. Kolb-Debolt Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Nicholas Bahr, ENG Mechanical Engineering

John H. and Billie Jean Marsh Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Emilia Carlson, ENG Mechanical Engineering



CHP graduate Ian Flueck

MatSE Alumni Board Award
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Ian Flueck, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

Robert E. Miller Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Lara Keim, ENG Mechanical Engineering
Joshua Koch, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Ellery B. Paine Award
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Alice Getmanchuk, ENG Computer Engineering
Tejas Satpalkar, ENG Computer Engineering

David A. Payne Scholarship
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Hayden Gantt, ENG Materials Science and Engineering
Kira Martin, ENG Materials Science and Engineering

L. C. Pigage Award
Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering
Brett Meyers, ENG Industrial Engineering

Prasse Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Brooke Mickey, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Sam Sachs Memorial Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Victoria Palma, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Mark A. Shannon Scholarship
Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering
Mary Pelzer, ENG Mechanical Engineering

Robert A. Stein Scholarship
Department of Physics
Kayleigh Excell, ENG Engineering Physics



Chancellor's Scholar Kayleigh Excell

John and Sheila Woythal Scholarship
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Timothy Green, ENG Electrical Engineering
Matthew Jin, ENG Computer Engineering
Jason Pan, ENG Electrical Engineering

COLLEGE OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS

Geraldine B. Cooke Scholarship
School of Music
Caitlin Towell, FAA Lyric Theatre

Division Achievement Award in Music
School of Music
Nicole Vandervlugt, FAA Music

Drumline Scholarship
Marching Illini
Benjamin Macke, FAA Music Education

Franz Joseph Haydn Scholarship in Music Performance
School of Music
Matthew Reeder, FAA Instrumental Performance and Music Composition; LAS Comparative Literature

Gertrude Weber Gassman Piano Award
School of Music
George Siegle, FAA Instrumental Music



CHP graduate Sydney Hoel

Illinois Opera Theatre Enthusiasts Award for Excellence
School of Music
Sydney Hoel, FAA Voice

Susan Starrett Violin Scholarship
School of Music
Ayumu Seiya, FAA Instrumental Music

Talented Student Award
College of Fine and Applied Arts
Jonathan Boudreaux, FAA Music Composition

Ethan Dymit, FAA Music Composition
Connor Friedman, FAA Music Education
Abigail Grace, FAA Instrumental Music
Joel Hoo, FAA Music Composition
Andrew Orals, FAA Computer Science and Music
Kathryn Pierce, FAA Music Education
Alexander Winkel, FAA Computer Science and Music
Cale Wolf, FAA Computer Science and Music

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Actuarial Science Club Scholarship
Daniel Polites, LAS Actuarial Science

Elizabeth R. Bennett Scholarship in Mathematics
Department of Mathematics
Katrina Schideman, LAS Mathematics

Josephine M. Bresee Memorial Award for Undergraduate Fiction
Emily Pasetes, ENG Engineering Physics and LAS Philosophy

Josephine Chanler Scholarship
Department of Mathematics
Garrett Credi, LAS Mathematics

Richard K. Cook Scholarship
Department of Physics, for an outstanding sophomore physics major
Nicolas Patino, LAS Physics



CHP graduate Emily Pasetes

Howard S. Ducoff Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis
School of Molecular and Cellular Biology
Niraj Lawande, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Wilmer E. Hellenthal Scholarship
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for pre-med students
Julie Mathews, LAS Biology

Dr. John L. "Jack" Hudson Legacy Scholarship
School of Chemical Sciences
Kathryn Southon, LAS Chemical Engineering

Jackson Merit Award for Outstanding Thesis
Sarah Matatov, LAS Biochemistry and Psychology

Jenner Family Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
School of Chemical Sciences
Isaiah Lopez, LAS Biochemistry

J.J. Lagowski Undergraduate Scholarship in Chemistry
School of Chemical Sciences
Maya Chatteraj, LAS Chemistry

Raymond M. Pasteris Scholarship
School of Chemical Sciences
Beth Born, LAS Chemical Engineering

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

Hannah Caraway, LAS Integrative Biology
Zachary Chalmers, LAS Atmospheric Sciences
Eva Cornman, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Lauren Dubravec, LAS English



CHP graduate Lauren Dubravec

Sophia Ebel, LAS Comparative Literature and German Studies
Chime Ezenekwe, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Maya Korol, LAS Psychology
Niraj Lawande, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Kathleen Manzke, LAS Psychology
Grace Mies, LAS Economics
Adetayo Oriade, LAS Psychology
Matthew Reeder, LAS Comparative Literature and FAA Instrumental Performance and Music Composition

Jordan Schnack, LAS Psychology
Julia Wapner, LAS Statistics and Spanish
Matthew Wattelet, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology
Quentin Wetzel, LAS Mathematics

State Farm Actuarial Scholarship
Department of Mathematics
Eric Bayer, LAS Actuarial Science and Statistics

Leah Trelease Award
Department of English, short story writing competition
Eva Cornman, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology

Wirt Family Scholarship
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Ben Kelleher, LAS Physics

COLLEGE OF MEDIA

Annual Fund Scholarship
College of Media
Ryan Cue, MED Media and Cinema Studies

Calvin Hugy Scholarship
College of Media
Lincoln Rogers, MED Advertising

Marilyn Miller Kaytor Scholarship
College of Media
Talia Duffy, MED Journalism
Nour Longi, MED Journalism



CHP graduate Sarah Matatov



CHP graduate Eric Bayer



CHP graduate Eric Bayer



CHP graduate Lincoln Rogers

ALUMNI NEWS

“
Sometimes the way forward involves
many twists and turns...”

Kimberly Redeker
2009 alumna, LAS Communication



Left: CHP alum Matt Czapar and family. Above: CHP alums Viraat Goel and Erin Tevonian.

Jacques Anderson (2011 alumna, LAS Political Science) is the Co-founder and Chief of Staff at DUOS, a healthcare innovation platform, and her latest blog post in April 2022 is at www.getduos.com/blog-post/my-story-jacques-anderson-co-founder-chief-of-staff-duos.

Jordan Axelson (2010 alumna, LAS Chemistry) was promoted to Director of Undergraduate Study in the School of Chemistry in January 2022. After completing her PhD in inorganic synthetic chemistry at the University of California Berkeley in 2016, she returned to Urbana to join the University of Illinois as the lead instructor for first semester organic chemistry (CHEM 232). You can follow her on Twitter @J2theAether.

Caroline Cvetkovic (2011 alumna, ENG Bioengineering) “As of August 2021, after completing a four-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Houston Methodist Research Institute, I am back on campus [at Illinois] as a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Bioengineering! Please let me know if there are any ways I can become involved with CHP again in the future!”

Matt Czapar (2009 alumnus, ENG Computer Engineering) sent an update in November 2021: “Sydney just turned six months old today!!! I had to go back to work after a 7-week stretch of parental leave and our nanny just started. Besides that, our house renovation (phase 2 of who knows how many) is almost done. We moved just outside (San Francisco) to Larkspur in May, after buying a giant fixer-upper in December of last year. Living through renovation with a baby has not been as hard as we thought, but the end being in sight is pretty awesome.”

Ethan Frobish (2021 alumnus, LAS English) updated in May 2022: “It’s officially Syracuse for the doctoral program! I’ve already signed a lease and gotten my living situation squared away, so now all I have to do is prep for the move in August. Very exciting. Already made

good friends with one person in my cohort — they’re now my housemate — so I’ll at least know one person when I get there :)”

Viraat Goel (2019 alumnus, ENG Bioengineering) and **Erin Tevonian** (2019 alumnus, ENG Bioengineering) became engaged in March 2022 at Bryce Canyon in Utah; they just completed their 3rd year of their respective PhD programs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Anna (Gormley) McCarter (2011 alumna, LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology and Chemistry) completed her Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD program) at the University of Michigan in May 2022. As excerpted from the news sent via the Director of Anna’s program: “Anna did her PhD under the mentorship of Dr. Mark Chiang in our Cellular and Molecular Biology Graduate Program. Her PhD thesis is entitled, ‘Ets1 promotes context-dependent activation of Notch1 signals in T-cell leukemia.’ Her research examined the role of Notch1 signaling in T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia, focusing on Ets1, a transcription factor that appears to be a critical co-factor for Notch1 in driving expression of T cell developmental genes that are hijacked in leukemia. She received a prestigious NIH Individual NRSA F30 fellowship award to fund her research. This was an outstanding body of work that resulted in a first author publication in *Blood Cancer Discovery* along with co-authorship on two additional publications, including one in *Blood*. Anna also made many significant contributions to the MSTP, that include serving as chair of our program activities committee as well as Co-Instructor for the MSTP Return to Clerkship Course. Anna’s skills and accomplishments as a graduate student were matched by her accomplishments in the medical school portion of her training. Anna was one of small number of students elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) national medical honor society, which recognizes excellence in the medical profession. Anna will be undertaking residency training in Anesthesiology at Stanford Health Care.”



CHP alum Jon Horek

Jon Horek (2002 alumnus, ENG Mechanical Engineering) updated in May 2022 that he recently started as Director of Hydrogen Project Development at Invenergy LLC.

Philip Kocheril (2021 alumnus, LAS Chemistry): After completing his gap year working at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Philip reports: “I’ll be attending Caltech in the fall, pursuing a PhD in chemistry.”

Brittany Koteles (2011 alumna, LAS Individual Plans of Study) let us know in December 2021: “I was a recent recipient of the JM Kaplan Innovation Prize (www.jmkfund.org/innovation-prize/2021/), which is awarded to 10 early-stage social innovators in the United States.

“The last few years have been a mysterious, beautiful emergence into the role I now hold as the co-founder and director of the Nuns & Nones Land Justice Project. Starting with Catholic sisters, we hope to change the patterns of religious land planning and reinvest vacant religious lands into local efforts for climate justice, food sovereignty, and ecological regeneration — especially ones that are led by people from whom land has been historically stolen or denied. If you know of any people or alumni who would be interested in learning more or supporting our work directly, please let me know or connect with us (our EOY announcement is at nunsandnones.salsalabs.org/dec2021.)

“On a personal note, I live in the Midwest again!! Made the move to Milwaukee mid-pandemic and couldn’t be happier to live again in the realm of expansive horizons and friendly strangers — and of course, to be closer to my family, including four nieces who are in pre-K and Kindergarten. :)” Please see page 28 for Brittany’s alumni profile.

Allison Lale (2007 alumna, LAS Integrative Biology) was in touch in August 2021: “Things are good but crazy busy — in the Spring, I started working remote full-time as a medical officer for the CDC’s immunization safety office. Historically, this office would include other vaccines, but it’s probably been 95% COVID since I started and very busy. My fiancée (Brad) and I are also trying to plan a small wedding :)”

Kimberly Redeker (2009 alumna, LAS Communication) in November 2021: “I received an offer from an external company, Syndigo, doing what I did in my previous role at Gartner — client services (as a Customer Success Manager). My last day with the University is December 3. I have LOVED aspects of this job and learned so much, but I am looking forward to a role that allows me to focus more on what I’m good at — talking with clients, in an exciting industry like IT. Syndigo has many software products, supporting data management and e-commerce, and it is fascinating learning about this world. Sometimes the way forward involves many twists and turns....

“So for the more “fun” stuff.... Mom and Dad’s 40th anniversary is this Sunday, and our Dad’s 83rd birthday, so to celebrate **Cliff (Redeker, 2004 alumnus, LAS French, History, and Psychology)** and I are meeting them in Salt Lake City for the weekend, and then down to Florida for Thanksgiving. It’ll be nice to see Cliff again as he’s been back in California since June, and just saw him briefly in August for his Wharton graduation.”

Anne Rivas (2009 alumna, LAS Integrative Biology and ACES Animal Sciences) let us know in September 2021 that she currently works at the Minnesota Zoo in Minneapolis, after serving as a veterinarian at the Birmingham Zoo in Alabama.



CHP alum Lindsey Stirek presenting at Manga SAS

Ryan Ross (2008 alumnus, LAS English) was in touch in April 2022 to let us know that he is “the editor of a new column in *Illinois Alumni* magazine (www.illinoisalumnimagazine.org/illinoisalumni/library), “My Alma Mater,” that features 500-word, first-person narratives by alumni about their experiences on campus and the impact that the U of I has had on their lives. I welcome submissions from CHP alumni.” Ryan can be reached at ross2@illinois.edu.

Mike Rotter (2021 alumnus, EDU Special Education) ran the Kentucky Derby Marathon on 4/30/22.

Emily Siner (2013 alumna, MED Journalism) let us know in May 2022: “This year, I was one of the editors of a Pulitzer finalist story, co-published by ProPublica and Nashville Public Radio, on the harmful practices of a juvenile court in Tennessee (www.propublica.org/article/black-children-were-jailed-for-a-crime-that-doesnt-exist). I also have received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to research and teach in Ireland this fall! I will be based at Maynooth University, researching the media coverage of the abortion debate in Ireland. I’m very excited about that.”

Lindsey Stirek (2012 alumna, LAS East Asian Languages and Cultures) in June 2022: “We (at the Japan House at UIUC) ran two new classes this spring, Japanese Design and Zen, Tea, and Power; we are currently working on a new Japanese fashion course as well to run in spring 2023. This fall, we are finally launching our Japanese Arts and Aesthetics Minor, which we are very excited to get off the ground. Lots going on!”

Nicholas Wisseman (5/03 alumnus, LAS Anthropology and History) announced in July 2021 that *Magic in the Mud Show*, his new novella, was out, and that it serves as a prequel to *Witch in the White City*. In February 2022, he released *The Amber Revenant*, the third entry in his Red Wraith series, a historical fantasy (loosely) set in the 17th century.



Carl Press (2007 alumnus, ENG Electrical Engineering) in April 2022: “My wife and I welcomed our third boy — Carter — this past January, and he’s slowly ingratiating himself with his brothers Clayton (4) and Cameron (2.5). Our house is chaos, and we love it. Professionally, I’ve spent the last seven years in San Francisco at the technology focused private equity firm Thoma Bravo, where I’m a Partner and lead our \$1.1 billion growth and middle market investment platform (“Explore”). I’m privileged to partner with some amazing founders and companies; any CHP grads who are interested in careers in software (technical or not) should reach out to me (cpress@thomabravo.com)!”

Nick continues to write monthly science fiction and fantasy book and podcast reviews at www.nickwiseman.com, which include such diverse selections as Martha Wells’ *All Systems Red*, Robert J. Harris’ *A Study in Crimson*, Helene Wecker’s *The Hidden Palace*, P. Djèlí Clark’s *Ring Shout*, Conn Iggulden’s *Protector*, Dan Wells’ *Ghost Station*, Django Wexler’s *The Thousand Names*, Tarnsyn Muir’s *Gideon the Ninth*, and Cixin Liu’s *Death’s End*.

Kevin Wolz (2013 alumnus, ENG Civil Engineering and LAS Integrative Biology) remains busy with his company (Midwest Agroforestry Solutions) and non-profit (the Savannah Institute), including continuing their 10 week intensive on-farm training Apprenticeships, promulgating many educational videos and podcasts, and running programs such as “Learning Circle for Women Farmland Owners,” “Cambridge Winery Tour and Vineyard Management,” and their Perennial Farm Gathering.

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

ILLINI 4000 Engaging and Giving Back

The Illini 4000, or I4K, 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.

Many Chancellor’s Scholars have participated in Illini 4000 over the years of the effort’s existence. This year, three Chancellor’s Scholars did the ride: **Zona Hrnjak** (LAS Geography), **Angela Jing** (BUS Finance and Information Systems), **Rose Mascarenhas** (ACES Agricultural and Biological Engineering). Additionally, three students who did the ride last year have served in Executive Board roles this year: **Maya Korol** (LAS Psychology and Political Science) has served as Director of Fundraising, **Jacob Minin** (ENG Bioengineering) is the Director of the Portraits Project, and **Ellie Beck** (ENG Electrical Engineering) has been Director of Logistics. When the race passed through Urbana in June 2022,



Illini 4000 riders Rose Mascarenhas, Zona Hrnjak, and Angela Jing

Illini 4000 and CHP alums **Viraat Goel** (2019 alumnus, ENG Bioengineering), **Mike Rotter** (2021 alumnus, EDU Special Education), and **Erin Tevonian** (2019 alumna, ENG Bioengineering) were there to greet and cheer along riders.

Maya described the impact of Illini 4000 on her college experience: “Illini 4000 was such a wonderful way to give back to the community, engage with campus, and travel the country. The friends I have made in Illini 4000 are some of the most passionate, motivated, bright students I met while at University of Illinois, and I am so grateful for an organization that has allowed me to do good in such a tangible way. Raising thousands of dollars

every year and spreading our message from NYC to San Francisco is such a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience. The ride helps you grow not only as an athlete, but as a teammate and person in general. I could not imagine my college experience without I4K.”

“ I am so grateful for an organization that has allowed me to do good in such a tangible way. ”

www.illini4000.org

The Honors Living-Learning Community has moved!

Designed for James Scholars and Chancellor’s Scholars, the Honors Living-Learning Community now is located in **Wardall Hall at the Illinois Street Residence Halls** in Urbana. The Honors Living-Learning Community 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 Honors LLC’s

three pillars: Inquiry, Civic Engagement, and Leadership. For more information about this community, please visit housing.illinois.edu and look for **honors-llc** under **living options**.

The Honors LLC has established solid partnerships on campus to create a well-rounded experience for residents, including collaborations with the Campus

- ★ **New Honors LLC Lounge in the basement of Wardall Hall**
- ★ **Return of an Honors LLC study abroad course with travel to Jamaica in 2022**

Honors Program, the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, International Programs in Engineering, the Office of Undergraduate Research, The Career Center, and the National and International Scholarships Program. Amy Fitzjarrald has served as the Honors LLC Program Director since January 2020 and looks forward to continuing campus partnerships and welcoming new residents to the community.

ALUMNI PROFILES

3 QUESTIONS WITH BRITTANY KOTELES

2011 alumna, LAS Individual Plans of Study

- 1 As an undergraduate, you were heavily engaged with service through the Office of Volunteer Programs and the Learning in Communities (LINC) service learning program, and as a leader with Student Alumni Ambassadors (SAA). How did your UIUC experiences inform your professional goals?**

Discovering service learning classes — which blend classroom instruction with community service opportunities — changed everything for me. My first SL class was ‘Spanish in the Community’ with Professor Ann Abbott, which combined coursework on conversational Spanish with volunteer opportunities with the Latinx immigrant community. For one of my placements, I remember sitting at the kitchen table of an undocumented couple, translating government documents while their kindergarten-aged daughter played on the floor. This experience and others like it gave my college education a context within a broader community. More than a student, I saw myself as a member of an interconnected community and world.

I ended up building my entire undergraduate experience around finding and taking these types of classes, but they tended to “hide” in the course catalog as “199” classes, and they rarely counted toward major requirements. Most of my peers had no idea what they were or how to seek them out. Wanting to change this, I sought opportunities to promote, visibilize, and even help to start and teach service-learning courses across the UI community. It really was my first experience working toward change on a larger institutional level — with no shortage of complexities, bureaucratic dead-ends, and power dynamics. While frustrating at times, this transformative learning would prepare me for social change work in the “real world,” which takes so much time, investment, and relationship-building.

More than any other college experience, SAA prepared me for the professional world. Working with accomplished alumni gave me a deep sense of creativity and possibility about my future. From handshakes to email signatures to hosting events, the SAA community really walked me step-by-step through the gold standard of professional conduct, which it left me feeling empowered and confident. And it was FUN! These people were adventurous, funny, and whip smart. We had a blast together.



3 QUESTIONS WITH MORGAN POLIKOFF

2006 alumnus, LAS Mathematics

- 1 While on campus, you were a Matthews Scholar and Bagley Scholar, you were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, you were named to Bronze Tablet and Senior 100, and you received a CHP Outstanding Senior Award, among many honors; you were also a leader in your fraternity and were President of Pride, and you engaged in several summer research experiences ranging from photonics, law, and materials science. How did your experiences at UIUC and/or with CHP inform your personal and professional directions?**

Well, now you’re making me blush. When I started at UIUC, I thought I was going to be an engineer, but it became clear to me pretty quickly that engineering was not for me. I just couldn’t really get excited about some of the science classes I was taking that first year, and I could see that I needed something different. I had always enjoyed mathematics, and the very first semester at UIUC I took a CHP course called “The Art and Practice of Mathematics” with Professor Grayson. My enjoyment of that class really convinced me I should do mathematics instead of engineering, and I chose a secondary education minor thinking that would be a safe career option for a math major. From there it was a series of serendipitous events that led me to where I am today, nothing I really planned. I became fascinated by education policy and the ways that policy did and did not influence the classroom, and I ultimately wound up in a PhD program. For me, UIUC in general (and CHP in particular) offered me the opportunity to explore things and people I would not otherwise have done. So, socializing and leading with both the LGBT community and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, for instance, exposed me to a wide range of ideas. CHP courses, especially those in the arts and humanities, broadened my horizons outside my math-focused education. And this was all enabled by the size of the university, the breadth of its strengths, and my own desire to push myself a bit outside my comfort zone.

- 2 After graduation, you earned your PhD in Education Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, and you have been faculty at the University of Southern California Rosser School of Education for 12 years. What do you see as the future direction/s of K-12 and/or higher education, and what do you want your role to be in that big picture?**

I think higher education — especially elite higher education — is not changing much, though I do think impending court rulings may have a substantial impact on the ways higher education can contribute to solving social inequality. I think K-12, which is what I study, is indeed undergoing a period of tremendous change caused by things like a) the pandemic and pandemic-related school closures, b) growth in partisanship and its effects on a range of k-12 policy issues (most notably, curriculum), c) issues related to data and technology and their role in educational improvement. I think there is increasing appetite for evidence-informed education policy, and there is more quality educational research being done than ever before. I think my skills and experiences best position me to support these changes in two ways. First, I have been leading a range of survey research on parents’ and families’ educational experiences and attitudes, both before and during the pandemic,

and this research is essential because parent attitudes and beliefs clearly affect their educational choices and the kinds of policies that can be created and that can succeed. Second, I have positioned myself as something of a communicator — someone who translates both my research and others’ for public-facing audiences — and I hope to be able to bring this public-facing communication to bear on important policy questions of the day.

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

As I said above, I think CHP was great because it gave me exposure to fascinating course opportunities outside my main content areas of mathematics and secondary education. I recall courses on topics ranging from anthropology of death to creating museum exhibits to the varieties of power sources and their benefits/drawbacks. I also recall attending seminars (of course the most memorable being the apple tasting seminar) and gaining further exposure to diverse fields, backgrounds, and interests. One challenge of modern society is that the internet allows us to narrow our social circles and interests so dramatically, and university education can contribute to that if it does not push us toward a diversity of experiences. For me, CHP at UIUC served just that purpose. So, I would just recommend to Chancellor’s Scholars that you a) consciously try to broaden your set of experiences by choosing CHP activities and courses that are new and different for you and b) use the CHP to build relationships with fellow students and faculty who are outside your area — for utilitarian purposes but also because college is really one of the last times you’ll find yourself potentially exposed to people who are quite different from you.

“There is increasing appetite for evidence-informed education policy, and there is more quality educational research being done than ever before.”



3 QUESTIONS WITH HEATH MORBER

2002 alumnus, FAA Music Education

1 What were your undergrad experiences on campus and how did they get you to where you are today?

As a Choral Music Education major at UIUC, I was involved with many music groups. I was in the Men's Glee Club, the Xtension Chords a cappella group, and the University Concert Choir. I also sang with the jazz band and was a student choir director at St. John's Catholic Newman Center. Growing up in a small town with a very small music program, there were few music opportunities. After coming to UIUC, I discovered how wonderful it was to make music with others. But even more satisfying was the opportunity to stand at the podium and direct others. Three years after graduating from UIUC, I was hired by St. John's and had the opportunity to combine my love of music with my Catholic faith. I'm still here sixteen years later.



2 What is your proudest achievement and what are your future goals?

It has been a joy and an honor to work with college students during my time at St. John's. Not only do my students grow musically, but they grow as people. It's very rewarding to work with college students in particular because they enter as little more than kids and leave as young adults. I want to grow my mentor role in this COVID era and help students mature both inside and outside the choir loft. In terms of music itself, I've taken steps to make Medieval and Renaissance Latin church music more accessible. I run a website called englishmotets.com where I adapt Renaissance pieces into the vernacular for wider use in the modern English-speaking church. I also compose my own music.

3 How did CHP enhance your undergrad experience and what advice do you have for Chancellor's Scholars?

When I first started at UIUC, I was a pre-med psychology major. I took the "Introduction to the Arts" CHP class my first semester on campus because of my interest in music. I enjoyed going to performances every week and doing behind-the-scenes tours of the music buildings. In that class, I met a senior in CHP. She gave me a piece of advice that stuck with me to this day: "Find your own identity on this campus before you have one imposed upon you." Through my CHP class and my participation in ensembles on campus, I realized I loved choral music more than psychology and changed majors to follow my passion. I would tell Chancellor's Scholars to explore what this campus has to offer and find their own path.

CHP graduate Briana Sobecks and CHP alum Heath Morber

An Interview with SAS Presenter Robert Chappell

By Kayla Vittore, ACES Plant Biotechnology and Agronomy

Robert Chappell has been a part of the UIUC community, as both student and administrative professional. Chappell started his journey as a Bronze Tablet undergraduate in Classics, before proceeding to a Master's program in Germanic Languages and Literatures. Since then, he has held a number of positions at the university, from editorial and publishing work in the Classics Department and German Department, to helping guide the James Scholars Program in ACES. What Chancellor's Scholars likely recognize Chappell for, however, is his series of SAS, which has included in-depth presentations on the literary history of vampires, dragons, phoenixes, and even Alexander the Great's submarine.

"I like to focus on uncommon topics... to spark people's interest in something," Chappell said about his somewhat unusual curriculum. When asked how he develops his SAS presentations, he said he spends a good amount of time doing research. This includes both traditional work in the library, as well as accessing online public domain archives like Project Gutenberg. Any

student who has attended Chappell's SAS will agree that the final product reflects the extensive work put into it, with striking images of monsters and beautiful verses of poetry bringing these ancient topics to life. "I must confess, I'm a bit of a perfectionist," Chappell laughed.

On the list of SAS programs for a semester, Chappell's seminars usually appear with amusing titles like "Here There Be Dragons!" Chappell's thorough research and affinity for oration provide a deeper meditation on these ancient ideas. Besides realizing a connection between our present and the past, Chappell says he also aims to help students construct a three-dimensional, or even fourth-dimensional, view of humanity's experiences and interpretations of the world. "There are many different perspectives on things, and I try to help people appreciate perspectives that are different from their own," Chappell said.

Rob Chappell is a lifelong learner, reader, and storyteller, which he credits to engagement with literature from an



Rob Chappell and Chancellor's Scholar Kayla Vittore

early age. His passion for the humanities continues today, and outside his administrative work he continues pursuing personal projects investigating Norse myth, fantastic creatures, ancient sci-fi, and more. He describes his interests as a sort of "Liminal Studies," at the margins and uncharted regions of human knowledge. "I want to know what lies beyond the edge of the map." CHP is grateful to have such a talented storyteller willing to share his knowledge, and students look forward to what mysterious SAS expedition Rob Chappell will guide us through next.

IN MEMORIAM

Eric Jakobsson Sr., who taught for CHP several semesters, passed away on October 28, 2021. A celebration of his life was held on June 4, 2022. As excerpted from the Champaign-Urbana *News-Gazette* obituary:

"Eric was born in New York City. He graduated from Columbia University (1960) with a degree in engineering and received his Ph.D. in physics from Dartmouth College (1969). He settled in Urbana and began his research and teaching career at the University of Illinois, working in molecular and integrative physiology and in biophysics, neuroscience and bioengineering. He developed a strong

interest in big history and taught an honors class on that topic.

"Eric adored his wife, Naomi, whom he married in 1963. They had two children by birth and adopted six. They also opened their home to several foster children, [several of] whom still refer to Naomi and Eric as Mom and Dad. The family enjoyed camping and traveling together. In his free time, Eric was an avid actor, voracious reader and exercise enthusiast.

"Eric was appointed to the city council as alderman in Urbana in 2010, a position he held until 2020. No stranger to politics, his

political forays included running for Congress and serving as Naomi's campaign manager on multiple occasions.

"In lieu of flowers, consider one of the following in memory of Eric: A donation to McKinley Church's Garden Hill Food Pantry; the Union of Concerned Scientists; or read a book or watch a movie and share the joy."

“Charismatic, extraordinary, curious, problem solver, kind, gracious, welcoming.”

Equinox Literary and Arts Magazine

By Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design, and Briana Sobecks, LAS Chemical Engineering

When the two of us met as little freshmen during CHP orientation, neither of us could predict what the future held. Four years later, we are writing to you as co-editors, roommates, birthday buddies, and most importantly, great friends. We are excited to bring you the 10th issue of *Equinox*, published in Summer 2022. Both of us have been on staff for the magazine since we were freshmen, and we are thrilled to be in charge of this extraordinary issue.

The theme of this issue is "**Exploring New Horizons.**" The editors and committee members were seniors, freshmen, and one honorary freshman (aka a sophomore whose freshman year was affected by Covid). All of us are starting a new phase in our lives — whether that be college, grad school, or the workplace — and all of us are learning how to navigate these changes and create our own spaces in the world. Even those not entering a "defined" new phase are learning new things, both with our changing world after Covid and about their own lives. The pieces included in this issue show our constant growth. We hope you check out this year's issue on the CHP website at honors.illinois.edu/equinox-literary-and-arts-magazine.

EQUINOX



FACULTY NEWS & REFLECTIONS



Erik Hemingway (*Architecture*) noted he enjoyed another great CHP class, as the students are always a joy and have interesting perspectives. Work by his graduate students was recognized with an Earl Prize, a Graduate Design Award, and an Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Award.

Left: Chancellor's Scholars in CHP Professor Erik Hemingway's class

Far left: Chancellor's Scholars in CHP Professor Jennifer Gunji-Ballsrud's class

Mohamed Boubekri (*Architecture*) will be completing Grant #2 from the Jim H. McClung Lighting Research Foundation by August 2022, exploring the impacts of **Tunable White Lighting Technology on Adults' Sleep Quality and Quality of Life**. He had articles published in the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* and the *Journal of Green Building*, and he presented at the IIER International Conference in Madrid, Spain in 2022.

Jane Desmond (*Anthropology and Gender and Women's Studies*): "I'm happy that after teaching in CHP in the fall, I have finally made it to Germany where I am starting a long delayed Fulbright Professorship for a term at the University of Goettingen in their North American Studies program. They are just returning to in-person classes after COVID. I'm excited to continue to teach human/animal studies courses after having such a good time working on those topics in my first CHP class last fall on **'Humans and Animals: Friends or Food?'** Looking forward to returning to teach again for CHP next spring!"



Matthew Ehrlich (*Emeritus, Journalism*) had his new book, ***Dangerous Ideas on Campus: Sex, Conspiracy, and Academic Freedom in the Age of JFK***, published in December 2021 by the University of Illinois Press. The book tells of two high-profile academic freedom cases at UIUC: Leo Koch, who was fired in 1960 for condoning premarital sex; and Revilo Oliver, who was not fired in 1964 after he charged that the recently assassinated John F. Kennedy had been a loathsome traitor liquidated by an international communist conspiracy. The book shows how the two cases marked a stark divide over beliefs and values that persists to this day.

Richard Excell (*Finance, and CHP alumnus, 1990 alumnus, BUS Finance*): "Based on my first semester teaching in CHP, the level of intellectual curiosity among Chancellor's Scholars was amazing. Last week, I was teaching on the subject of cryptocurrency. There is no test on this material. Really, it is just for their knowledge and edification. The students were there, and engaged, because they want to learn more about a subject that most don't really know about. I think this is the type of student I am glad to see at CHP.

"I currently write two blogs: 'Stay Vigilant' on Substack (weekly) and 'Excell with Options' for the CME Group (bi-weekly). I also do two podcasts, one called 'Investment Exchange Forum' (weekly) and the other called 'Macro Matters' (bi-weekly). Finally, I write a daily piece on LinkedIn called **'Chart of the Day'**, initially designed for my students, which has taken on a life of its own and got me invited to speak at conferences, to corporations and on other podcasts. The goal of each of these pieces is to demystify finance. I feel there is too much jargon and too much obfuscation on a subject that is important for all of us regardless of our career."

Christopher Freeburg (*English*) was presented with the **University Scholar Award in Fall 2021**, and he was recognized for this year as a Fellow at the University of Illinois Center for Advanced Study.

Grace Giorgio (*Communication*) received a Provost's Strategic Innovative Support for Student Learning grant to develop *Speaking Fundamentals* an interactive program to help students successfully return to the classroom after a year of online classes. Grace and her **SPEAK (Skills for Presenting Engineering and Applied Knowledge)** team received a KEEN: The Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network grant. Grace published "Mother's Eyes" in *Cultural Studies/Cultural Methodologies*, presented "Owning the Lies" at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry this May, and is editing a special issue on Reproductive Justice in *Dangerous Times for Cultural Studies/Cultural Methodologies*.

She notes: "It was so exciting to be back in the classroom with my CHP gender communication students this fall! We even got to go on a few field trips including seeing *Bad Feminist* author Roxanne Gay and poet Jericho Brown at Krannert. I enjoyed getting to know each student, some who would come to my office hours just to write. I am really looking forward to teaching gender communication for CHP next year."

Kim Graber (*Kinesiology and Community Health and former CHP Director*): "It's been pretty much a whirlwind year. I was selected as **permanent Department Head**, so we've been working on implementing our five-year strategic plan. It's been busy but very rewarding because our faculty have worked so hard. This summer, I'm going on my annual family trip to Las Vegas, visiting my sister on Lake George in New York for a few days, and taking a cruise around Alaska. I'll also be in town a lot, but it's nice to finally resume summer trips again."

Jennifer Gunji-Ballsrud (*Art and Design and Japan House Director*): "As always, it was a great pleasure and honor to teach the students of CHP this past fall. To be in person again was so rewarding on a number of levels. As you are aware, being at **Japan House** physically — smelling the incense, taking off your shoes, sitting on the tatami, engaging in tea... all of it is so immersive and to do it in person is necessary and is the core of why we do what we do and share. Is it easy to prepare for such a class? Not necessarily... but it is worth it... absolutely! I think that not teaching in person during the pandemic helped me re-recognize the importance of what we do and share. Japan House is about immersive learning. It is the opportunity to expose students to experiences that are often not found outside of Japan. I don't want to state that it took a pandemic to help me realize this, but it did remind me the importance of what we do and how we do it."

Laurie Johnson (*Germanic Languages and Literatures and CHP Director*) served as Interim Director for the Campus Honors Program beginning in May 2021 and was named **Director in January 2022**. She co-edited a special issue of *The German Quarterly* on "German Fairy Tales and Folklore in a Global Context," and she edited the book *Germany from the Outside: Rethinking German Cultural History in an Age of Displacement* (Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming October 2022). Laurie taught in person in the 2020-2021 "pandemic year," but she hugely enjoyed the much livelier campus atmosphere in 2021-2022, as well as getting to know the Chancellor's Scholars in the re-opened Honors House. Teaching "*Harry Potter* and Western Culture" for CHP was a joy and privilege.

Brad Mehrtens (*Molecular and Cellular Biology*): "My teaching partner (**J.W. Morrisette**, *Theatre*) and I adjusted to remote instruction and are proud of the version of the course we created, but I didn't fully appreciate how much better it is to be in a room with students until we were once again in a room with students! **Teaching in CHP** has become one of the most enjoyable parts of my job and returning to in-person learning has recharged my battery. I'm very much looking forward to the fall and beyond."

Bruce Michelson (*Former CHP Director and Emeritus Professor of English*) let us know that though he retired in 2013, he remains 'in the game' as a scholar and teacher. On the Editorial Boards of two journals, he writes essays, publishes book reviews, and gives talks, while working on bigger projects. Two one-act comedies he's written about Mark Twain and his family have been performed recently at famous Twain haunts in Hartford and Elmira, NY. For OLLI at Illinois (an adult education program), he recently taught a scaled-down version of "**Mind Science and Cultural Response**," a former popular CHP capstone seminar. This summer, Professor Michelson teamed up with **John Hedeman** (*former Dean of the College of Business Honors Program*) to do the "Coast to Coast Walk" — 200 miles through three British National Parks.

Chris Napolitano (*Educational Psychology*): "I'm happy to share the news that I earned tenure! My appointment as an **associate professor in Educational Psychology** will begin in August. So glad to remain here and engaging with our wonderful Chancellor's Scholars."

Steven Petruzzello (*Kinesiology*): "I was honored this past Spring with the College of Applied Health Sciences **Phyllis J. Hill James Scholar Award for Exemplary Mentoring**. As for why I enjoy teaching in the Campus Honors Program — as much as I enjoy teaching in general, I especially enjoy working with the Chancellor's Scholars. First, they are bright, motivated students who really care a great deal about their education. Second, these classes tend to be small, with rarely

more than 15-20 students. I routinely teach class sizes of 130+, so being able to engage with students in a much smaller group allows me to get to know the students much better. Third, because it is rare when there is a Kinesiology major in my CHP class, I have to present information without taking for granted any background knowledge of the subject matter. While challenging, this also helps keep me on my toes and continuously thinking of how to present the information in an accessible manner. It really is a privilege to teach at this University, and to teach in the CHP specifically. I hope the students get as much out of it as I do!"

Carol Tilley (*Information Science*): "My friend **Shing Yin Khor**, a cartoonist, artist, and National Book Award finalist, was on campus at Allen Hall for a residency. Shing graciously agreed to come spend an afternoon with my students. They brought a box of their comics to give to students and helped them understand some of the political economies and creative aspects of working as a literary/indie cartoonist. Shing's visit inspired one student to change her final project and the result was an extraordinarily beautiful comic."



Chancellor's Scholars in CHP Professor Carol Tilley's class

Nikki Usher (*Journalism*) adjusted her teaching for Chancellor's Scholars by taking "opportunities to go beyond the classroom (such as our visit to Yummy Future Robot Café) but also to use newer technologies in class, including an asynchronous assignment to do and reflect on a meditation/mindfulness exercise with local therapist Kim Greenlee."

Nikki received the **2022 Mellon Foundation New Directions** award for \$273,000 to learn new tools to study the local news crisis at scale. Her book *News for the Rich, White, and Blue: How Place and Power Distort American Journalism* was reviewed in popular press in addition to academic journals. The book won the *International Journal of Press Politics* Book of the Year Award.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

“Immigration and Race: Inequality of Labor” An Interview with Professor Michael LeRoy

By Elizabeth Scherschel, DGS Undeclared

Many high school history classes touch on the topics of race and immigration — including, perhaps, a brief conversation about the Chinese Exclusion Act. Most do not go as far in depth as Professor Michael H. LeRoy’s class for CHP, “Immigration and Race: Inequality of Labor” (LER 199). Readings for this class varied in type from court documents to newspaper reports to law review articles, and perhaps more importantly, provided various points of view: students had the opportunity to understand Japanese internment during World War II, for example, through a military officer’s report, a geographer’s research, the public responses from prominent Black and Jewish organizations, and the personal stories of interned Japanese Americans.

Professor LeRoy’s class and the discussions he fosters provoke thought and discussion, connections and consideration. LER199 provided me the chance to understand more than the facts: Professor LeRoy reminded me that history is not dates to memorize, nor isolated events, but dynamic, impactful, and in most cases, connected narratives. Hate and bias often come from fear of some sort: many feared the loss of a western-European “American identity” and pushed against eastern-European immigration; some perceived a threat in the freedom of Black Americans from slavery and found solace in the tactics of the KKK and Jim Crow legislation; some feared that those of different races could never peacefully coexist and promoted deporting freedmen.

Professor LeRoy’s readings provided deeper insight into familiar concepts: the KKK, for example, included a secondary money-making operation — a pyramid scheme of sorts; when Japanese Americans were forcefully interned, Black and Jewish organizations were hesitant to speak out in part because they feared being labeled “anti-American” and harming their own causes; some leading voices from the abolitionist movement were also prominent in the women’s suffrage movement, taking the fight for equal rights further.

This course reminded me that history matters, and it helped me draw connections between issues America faced a century ago and those we face today. It helps me better understand the white supremacy movement, nativist sentiments,

identity politics, the complicated role of faith in politics and hate, and current/recent events, like the Black Lives Matter protests. It reminded me of the divisions we’ve yet to heal in our society, and the responsibility of our generation to help heal those divides.

I’m an undecided student; my classmates were engineers, theater majors, photographers, and linguists. For our final projects (done individually or in pairs), we expanded from the syllabus into other fields. Professor LeRoy told us to take what we’d learned and run with it, and we did — we explored the gender gap in STEM, racial bias in AI, English language dialects in the US, implicit bias, the effects of birth control on women in the workforce, and personal connections to events from the course material.



Left: CHP Professor Michael LeRoy. Above: CHP Professor Laurie Johnson

“Harry Potter and Western Culture” An Interview with Professor Laurie Johnson

By Margot Pierce, LAS Mathematics

When I saw the listing for “Harry Potter and Western Culture” on the page of CHP courses for Fall 2021, I immediately knew one of the classes I would be taking during my first semester of college. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The class is taught by CHP director Laurie Johnson, and I recently talked with her about the class and the impact it had on my freshman experience.

The structure of the *Harry Potter* class is discussion based; as a CHP course, enrollment is limited to 20 students, which makes for a small, seminar style course. Laurie told me that while textbooks for teaching *Harry Potter* exist, she didn’t want to use them. “The course is set up so the only text is the *Potter* canon [the original seven books]. We do consider the films, but the main focus is really on the books,” she said. During the course, we read all seven books. From a student’s perspective, this allowed us to dig deep into our own understanding of and feelings on the series. Most of the class is centered around discussion of the text, and with seven books totaling over 4,000 pages, there is a lot to discuss. The class doesn’t just cover plot points and character analysis, though; it also fulfills the general education requirement for Western Cultures. “*Harry Potter* is a part of Western culture, but it also incorporates and looks at ideas from Western philosophy and religion,” Laurie said. “It’s all in the books.” The class delves into the way that J.K. Rowling works with history of the 19th century to craft a setting and style fitting for the story. The *Potter* series, I learned, draws on ideas from the Judeo-Christian tradition and classic Western archetypes, but also differs from the patriarchal tradition with ideas of maternal sacrifice.

Laurie started as director of the Campus Honors Program in May 2021, and she decided to teach a course in the program in order to get to know students and the program better. She told me, “I wanted to teach *Harry Potter* because it’s deeply meaningful to me, but also just because I can. We have a generation of students who have read the books and the books are deeply meaningful to them.” This wasn’t the first time that she had taught the class, though; she previously taught the class as a general elective, developing it because she read *Harry Potter* with her own kids. She noted that in the class, students who take it really want to be there because they are passionate about the series.

“Something I would really like students to have as an outcome of the class, particularly in CHP where we have a lot of STEM majors, is that students develop their critical skills, especially in close reading. Whether you’re in material engineering or an English major, I want students to have those skills of reading and understanding a text,” Laurie said when I asked her what she hopes students will get out of the class. Her initial response to the question, though, was to ask me what I got out of it. What did I take away from “*Harry Potter* and Western Culture”? During my first semester of college, the class offered me a familiar and close-knit class environment that I missed coming out of high school. I revisited books that I read in childhood, with strong memories of my family attached to them. I explored and experienced firsthand the power of storytelling. Laurie explained to me that the impact that she intends the class to prompt students to ask questions of themselves: why is *Harry Potter* so meaningful to me? Why do I have these positive memories of *Harry Potter*? These questions are meant help us better understand ourselves as people, and I can say firsthand that they have a lasting impact.

“*Harry Potter* gives us the chance to dig into some of the main ideas and material history of Western culture.”

CHP GRADUATION 2022



We were delighted to be able to celebrate our graduates in person once again in May 2022. The event was fun and celebrated our students' accomplishments. Several awards were announced: CHP Professor **Michael LeRoy** (*Labor and Employee Relations and Law*) received the **King Broadrick-Allen Award for Excellence in Honors Teaching**. **Adithya Chari** (*ENG Computer Science*), **Maya Chatteraj** (*LAS Chemistry*), **Ashley Hornig** (*LAS History*), and **Niraj Lawande** (*LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology*) received the **Calvin Ke Award**.



CHP graduate Adithya Chari

Adithya Chari (*ENG Computer Science*) was a CHP Computer Administrator all four years on campus, and as a senior, he ensured that documentation was done for very important process and procedures, including for admissions and our CHP website. Adithya earned a combined B.S./M.S. in Computer Science, while balancing serving as a Teaching Assistant for three Computer Science classes. He gained professional internship experiences at Akuna Capital and Cloudflare, and he has developed a Poker Equity Calculator and a Stock Price Tool. Adithya will be working at DRW, a proprietary electronic trading firm in Chicago.

Maya Chatteraj (*LAS Chemistry*) was extremely engaged in the CHP through Honors Student Council all four years, including serving as President and Vice President of Academic Engagement. Maya served as President during the pandemic, and she consistently came up with



CHP graduate Maya Chatteraj

creative ways to engage students virtually. She participated in research at the Jain Laboratory and at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; she also was selected as a Clare Boothe Luce Research Scholar. Maya was active with the Illinois Space Society and the American Chemical Society Student Chapter. Maya will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a PhD in Chemistry.

Ashley Hornig (*LAS History*) was Social Chair of the Honors Student Council, welcoming all, even virtually. While on campus, Ashley served as Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority Chapter President, Order of Omega Chapter President, and on the Illinithon Leadership Committee. She was a Life and Career Design Lab Intern, and she participated in research with the Illinois Early Learning Project at the Children's Research Center. Ashley graduates as a James Scholar, was named to the Dean's List, and received an LAS Impact Award. After her current semester of student teaching, Ashley plans to teach high school social studies after graduation.



CHP graduate Ashley Hornig

Niraj Lawande (*LAS Molecular and Cellular Biology*) was very active in the Honors Student Council all four years, creating and leading the Civic Engagement Committee and serving as HSC President. He served as Illini Emergency Medical Services Director of CPR Education and as an EMT. He participated



CHP graduate Niraj Lawande

in research with the Christian-Hinman Laboratory, and he was a Beckman Institute Undergraduate Fellow and a Jenner Family Research Fellow. Niraj received an LAS COVID-19 Impact Award, and he is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. He will be conducting clinical research at Rush University Medical Center while he applies to medical school.

Dr. Michael LeRoy (*Labor and Employee Relations and Law*) is the LER Alumni Professor of Labor and Employment Relations, and an affiliated member of the College of Law faculty. His current research program examines immigration and employment; the professionalization of college athletics, including unionization; updated uses of the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871 as a legal tool to combat racial extremism in the workplace; and the legal implications of gig work, for example, "Uberized" forms of work. Michael was nominated by students whose carefully and

thoughtfully written arguments reflect the care and thought that he puts into his teaching; he demonstrated exceptional commitment to the students during an extremely challenging time; and his course helped demonstrate that a global pandemic cannot stop intellectual opportunity and growth.

“My greatest memory of CHP is taking LER 199 with Professor Leroy during my first semester of freshman year. This class completely changed the trajectory of my academic and career path. It convinced me that I wanted to pursue law and it introduced me to a wonderful mentor.”

Graduating Chancellor's Scholar reflecting on LeRoy's teaching

Graduation Reflections

By Gail Schneiderman, FAA Graphic Design, and Briana Sobeks, LAS Chemical Engineering

Friday the 13th was — ironically — a happy day for us: the day of CHP graduation. The two of us arrived in the Illini Union in our Illini blue caps and gowns, where we got to sit with all the friends and peers we met over the past four years. We internalized Chancellor Jones' inspirational words, cheered for our peers who deservedly won awards, and may have shed a few tears. One by one, we walked across the stage where we received our CHP graduation cords and medals and shook hands with the Chancellor. After the ceremony, we celebrated with our friends, families, and the phenomenal CHP staff and took photos upon photos.

That was it. The culmination of four incredible years that we wouldn't change for the world. CHP has been the best part of our college experience. From informative and unique classes, diverse SAS's, and fantastic KDR's, we gained so much knowledge. But more than academics, we found awesome friendships and created treasured memories. Honors After Dark's were the highlights of our weeks and we loved everything from game nights to cookie decorating to arts and crafts. They were a great way to de-stress from a crazy week and grow closer to our CHP peers. But even better than attending, being part of HSC allowed us to help plan these events. Since our freshman year, we were on the Publications Committee, and then became heads of it our senior year. Our progression from active members to Executive Board allowed us to give back and create a welcoming environment for other honors students.

Four years ago, when we met as little freshmen at the CHP orientation breakfast, neither of us could predict how CHP would change our lives or how our friendship would grow. Upon learning that we were in the same dorm, we started hanging out together. The two of us became close through our shared classes, co-curricular activities, and HSC participation. Later, we would go on to be roommates for the next three years and only grow closer. Between helping each

other through difficult times, watching movies on our couch, or celebrating our shared birthday, we formed a lifelong friendship. Even though we won't be living together or participating in CHP next year, we will always look back on our memories and smile.

We are so grateful to CHP for everything. The incredible staff who would make our days when we chatted with them in the house. The free food that kept us physically full and the classes that kept us mentally stimulated. And, of course, the amazing friendships we formed with diverse and amazing people. Because of CHP, we had an outstanding college experience and built a strong foundation for the rest of our lives.



CHP graduates (left) Gail Schneiderman and (right) Briana Sobeks



The Honors House: The Literal Home of CHP

By Margot Pierce, LAS Mathematics

The heart of the Campus Honors Program is found in a (somewhat unassuming) white house just steps from the quad. For many Chancellor's Scholars, the Honors House feels like home, including for me. During my freshman year, the house has become a place of comfort, which, just like CHP, makes the big university campus feel a bit smaller. For students, the house is a place to study, relax, and connect with other Chancellor's Scholars. Sometimes for me, the house is a place to sit and take a breath between classes. However students choose to use the house, it is always a warm and welcoming environment. The lounge is always stocked with snacks and hot drinks, and the staff members are some of the friendliest people I have met on campus. After a long day of classes, being able to stop at the Honors House for a cup of tea or hot cocoa is the perfect reward. The house is also used for a variety of activities for students. Honors Student Council meetings and Honors After Dark events are hosted at the house, and several CHP courses are held in the 2nd floor classroom. Whether I'm attending an HSC meeting, meeting friends to study in the library, or just stopping by for a quick snack, the Honors House is a great resource for Chancellor's Scholars and a home on campus for me!

Clockwise from top left: Chancellor's Scholars in Nikki Ushers Spring 2022 class at VR lab; Chancellor's Scholars Anna Vanisko and Margot Pierce; Chancellor's Scholars following Hillel event; Painting by Richard "Chip" Burkhardt, 2011.

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.

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