

# CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2017

In 2016-17 the CSP visited St. Louis, and Seniors toured Scratch Brewery. We welcomed 100s of prospective students during Scholars' Weekend, saw performances of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" and "A Nightingale for WEB DuBois," attended basketball games with the Chancellor, and had "Pie w/a Professor" monthly events with faculty and deans, the provost and the chancellor.

Many thanks to departing Graduate Assistant Matt Wickey and to Scholars Advisory Committee members Jori Bonadurer, Mason Higgins, Emma Johns, and Zach Myers for their work on this newsletter.

Holly S. Hurlburt, Director.

## RESEARCH

As a nationally ranked research university, Southern Illinois University is very concerned with, as Neil Armstrong would say, "creating new knowledge." The Chancellor's Scholars take this mission very seriously, and, during the 2016-2017 academic year, worked passionately to do just that. Chancellor's Scholars exist in a great number of academic programs at SIU. For example, second-year scholar, and Classics, Art History, and English triple-major **Jordan Bonadurer** spent her year as an Undergraduate Research Assistant for Dr. Mont Allen studying the motifs on Roman sarcophagi. She presented her project, *The Many Masks of Melpomene: Repetition of Theatrical Masks on Roman Sarcophagi* at the Missouri Classical Association's Spring Conference, at the SIU Undergraduate Research Forum, and at the St. Louis Area Undergraduate Research Forum, where it was awarded Top Poster in Humanities. Third-year Forestry scholar **Andrew Foy** spent his year as a research assistant taking inventory of the many landholdings and natural resources which belong to SIU's Touch of Nature Environmental Center. Additionally, he has been mapping potential trails, and conducting species surveys to better understand what the forest might look like in the future, and how it might best be managed in the present. In the world of Chemistry, third-year scholar **Austin Weigle** has been making waves working for the Gagnon Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Austin participated in a multitude of projects including research on how to better determine how CRISPR cleaves guide RNAs, which will aid in CRISPR's future implementation as a gene editing technology. He also performed a structure-based ligand query for a small molecule capable of treating repeat-expansion disorders, such as ALS.

## SERVICE

Chancellor's Scholars take pride in being leaders in their communities as well as their disciplines, striving to leave a positive impact on our campus, in Carbondale, and beyond. Fourth-year scholar **Rachel Edgar** followed her passion for service halfway around the globe, where she spent six weeks as a volunteer English teacher in Mongolia. Her service perfectly highlights the growing interconnectivity of the modern world, and the importance of cross-cultural understanding and compassion. **Allison Kellerman** volunteered once a week at Giant City Stables, where she supported a therapeutic horse riding program which helps local children and adults with disabilities. Her service further extended



Senior Scholar Rachel Edgar in Mongolia

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her zoological education beyond the classroom, while providing her with the opportunity to combine her love of animals, and her compassion for her human peers in a remarkable and meaningful way. Third-year scholar **Maritza Martinez** completed an externship through the SIU Alumni Association during Spring Break with the Beacon Therapeutic Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Chicago, IL. Her service expanded the purview of the Alumni Association, and contributed to Beacon's efforts to serve at-risk populations in the greater Chicago community.

## TRAVEL

Chancellor's Scholars know that opportunities for learning and personal development exist far beyond the walls of the classroom: in their pursuit of knowledge and growth, our scholars travel around the world. **Miller Eaton**, a graduating senior, finished his undergraduate career at the Italian National Research Council's Institute for Nanoscience in Modena, working on a collaborative research project studying vanadium dioxide (VO<sub>2</sub>). He is looking at how light interacts with the material from a fundamental point of view, and is attempting to model how a mixed metallic/insulating phase metamaterial might be formed to leverage novel properties, such as near-perfect absorption. He plans to draft a paper on this research for eventual publication. This semester, third-year scholar **Grace Horman** has been studying in Perth, Australia. She contends that her experiences have made her a more well-rounded person, and have granted her a new understanding of, and appreciation for, Australian and Indigenous Australian culture.

During her time "down under," she has explored the Outback, and has gotten

to see a diversity of unique, native wildlife. One of her favorite experiences so far was traveling to an island off the coast where she got the chance to take selfie with a Quokka, a small marsupial often described as the world's happiest animal. Grace highly recommends studying abroad, and said that studying 11,000 miles away from home is life-changing. **Ellen Lechman**, also a third-year scholar, spent her Spring semester studying abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. There, she enjoyed learning about the country's history, and picking up a few words in Czech. She also gained international work experience interning for both the National Technical Library, and the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry. Most of all, however, Ellen loved the opportunity to explore Europe on the weekends.

## SUMMER TRAVEL, WORK, AND INTERNSHIPS

For Chancellor's Scholars, the Summers aren't necessarily breaks. Accordingly, Many Chancellor's Scholars are finding unique and exciting ways to continue pursuing their passions, and furthering their careers, through the Summer. For example, **Mason Higgins**, a third-year scholar and Criminology/Criminal Justice, Spanish Language, and Music triple major, will complete 4 weeks of R.O.T.C. training at Fort Knox, KY, followed by Cadet Troop Leader training at Fort Polk, LA. This experience will give him a great view of life as an Army Officer, and help prepare him to assume command of a platoon of his own in the near future. **Kevin Jenkins**, a third-year Engineering major, will spend his summer as an engineering intern at Sundt Construction, in Dallas TX. He will be working in Sundt's transportation department, learning the complexities of project scheduling, cost estimation and planning, and bid closeouts. Third-year scholar **Cody Johnson** will be returning to Advanced Technology Services, Inc. this summer to work as an intern. ATS is a factory maintenance company that works to improve the efficiency of manufacturing businesses around the globe. First-year scholar **Emma Johns** will be spending her summer in Chontapunta, Ecuador, with Timmy Global Health, a national non-profit organization. In the Amazon Basin, staying in cabins made of local materials, she will work closely with a medical brigade, setting up a clinic in a remote, rural, and medically under-served area. Through this travel, she hopes to improve her Spanish, gain valuable experience interacting with patients, and develop a greater understanding of Ecuadorian culture. **Anna Spoerre**, a third-year scholar, and the current editor-in-chief of the *Daily Egyptian*, will

spend her summer sharpening her journalistic skills as an intern metro reporter for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. This experience will help her towards her goal of being a professional journalist, and professor of Journalism. **Emma Wallander**, a third-year English Education major will be spending her summer in Wisconsin working as a behavioral technician, collaborating with behavioral therapists to provide in-home behavioral therapy for autistic children. She will also be a camp counselor at SIU's Challenge to Excellence Camp, which is a summer camp for advanced middle and high school students.

## SCHOLARS CLASS OF '17

In December and May we said goodbye to an amazing class of Chancellor's Scholars. Their energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed in the scholars program, on campus, and in all of the communities they touched during their years at SIU. We look forward to following their accomplishments! **Franchesca Alejo** graduated in December, and will attend graduate school in Aviation Management at SIU. **Gage Barrows** will begin at the St. Louis University School of Law where he was named an "1843 Scholar." **Annamarie Beckmeyer** will be staying in Carbondale, as she will soon begin working towards both a J.D. from SIU's School of Law, and a M.D. from SIU's School of Medicine. **Allison Campbell Dartt** graduated in December and began work at Keysight Technologies in Colorado Springs, CO as a Digital Marketing Engineer. **Miller Eaton** landed a prestigious internship at the Naval Research Lab in Washington D.C. and will spend his summer conducting research there. In the fall, he will begin a graduate program in Physics at the University of Virginia. **Rachel Edgar** will be working as a Staff Intern for the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship here on campus. **Nicole Hanke** will be moving to Portland, TN, where she will begin her career as a structural engineer working with Kirby Building Systems. **Mandi Jourdan** will begin pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing at SIU in the Fall. As part of her graduate assistantship, she will be teaching classes in the English department. Graduate **Jake Ludlow**, featured in a recent *Southern Illinoisan* article on this year's graduates, will begin working for Deloitte & Touche, LLP in St. Louis, in August, as a full-time advisor in the Technology Risk department. **Gabrielle Nelson** will begin her work in a graduate program focusing on Communication Disorders and Sciences this Fall at SIU. **George Nimmer** graduated in December with a degree in Aviation. In January he completed an internship with United Airlines. **Carissa Ray** will be moving to the Chicagoland area, where she accepted a job with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. **Austin Sherman** graduated in December, and began the M.S. program in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Kentucky. **Meredith Stamberger** will begin working towards a master's degree in Plant and Soil Science with an emphasis on Horticulture. Her graduate assistantship will allow her to continue her work at the SIU Farm. **Trevor Stanley** will be teaching high school mathematics at Sesser-Valier High School. He also plans on earning a master's in Mathematics at Texas A&M, one of the only Universities to offer a Masters Mathematics online. **Austin Weigle** will begin a graduate program in Chemistry at the University of Illinois this fall. **Kyle Whittington** will enter SIU's School of Medicine in the Fall.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**MJ Abdallah** (2016) is pursuing a Master's Degree in Higher Education at the University of Illinois. **Lacey Gibson** graduated this spring with an MS in Global Health and Population from the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University. She is living in Myanmar this summer, teaching yoga and working as an intern at a vegan café. **Cecily Haase** (2015) completed her Masters of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics at St. Louis University in Summer, 2016 and became a registered dietitian. She works in the WIC program at Coordinated Youth and Human Services in Granite City, IL. **Kelsey Jarrett (2011, BS 2013)** is close to completing her Ph.D. in Molecular and Biological Sciences at Baylor University. Her research studies genes linked to cardiovascular disease. **Holden Jones** (2015) moved to Los Angeles after graduation for an internship with the Television Academy Foundation. He recently took a position as videographer for they charter school company Options for Youth. **David Lynch** (2015) is a Community Economic Development Volunteer in the Peace Core, currently stationed in Villarrica, Paraguay. **Meagan Rottman** (2016) will complete her Masters in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois in December, 2017. **Rachel Slick** (2016) completed her Masters in Advanced Clinical Social Work at the University of Illinois in May, 2017. She currently has an internship as a Behavioral Health Consultant at a primary care clinic in Colorado.