**Chancellor’s Scholars Program Newsletter**

Spring, 2018

**Research**

SIUC’s passion for the creation of knowledge is embodied in the Chancellor’s Scholars, the vast majority of whom participate in research within their fields as undergraduates. During the 2017-2018 academic year, Chancellor’s Scholars planned and worked on an amazing variety of research projects, including studies on everything from pollination to pregnancy, and everything in between. Second-year scholar **Luis Prado** has been busy all spring cataloging Southern Illinois’ pollinators and their floral associations. To do this, he and his team spend up to six hours per day hiking across areas such as the Shawnee National Forest collecting various species of pollinating organisms and flora. These are brought back to a laboratory where they are identified and preserved in an effort to better understand the pollination systems of the region. Luis will be staying in Carbondale over the summer to continue his very important work! In the field of physiology, second-year scholar and Carbondale-native **Yasmin Ibrahim** will be working over the summer with Dr. James MacLean of the SIUC Physiology Department studying how specific gene sets interact with the pregnancy cycle. Her research proposal won her acceptance into SIUC’s McNair Scholars Program, and the culmination of her work will be presented at the McNair’s conference at the end of the summer. In the social sciences, second-year scholar, and recipient of the National Science Foundation’s Cultural Anthropology Research Experience for Undergraduates Supplement grant **Grace Vargas** will be spending her summer doing anthropological fieldwork in Houston, Texas under the mentorship of SIUCs own Dr. Roberto Barrios. While partnering with Dr. Barrios, Grace will also be working on her own research project which focuses on mental health in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

**Travel**

Just as the Chancellor’s Scholars’ passions aren’t constrained by the academic year, they can’t be contained by the borders of the United States of America! Many scholars take advantage of the program’s support for study abroad opportunities. First-year scholar **Kelsey Odom** followed her love of exploration to Costa Rica this spring where she saw volcanoes, rivers, landslides, and the after effects of earthquakes. She was also able to see exotic wildlife up close including sloths, toucans, frogs, and monkeys. Her favorite memory from the trip was seeing a monkey jump onto a picnic table to steal someone's food. Next spring, second-year scholar, and future famous filmmaker, **Tomas Cortez** will be traveling to Mexico to continue working on his documentary *I, too, Dream American*, which addresses the impact of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals act (DACA) at SIU. By traveling to Mexico, Tomas will be able to continue his film and document the Mexican view of DACA and immigration in the United States. His documentary is currently available to watch on YouTube.

**SUMMER TRAVEL, WORK. AND INTERNSHIPS**

As evidenced above, the Chancellor’s Scholars don’t hang up their curiosity and their passion for learning when the academic year comes to an end; many of the scholars find ambitious and impressive ways to keep forwarding their goals, interests, and passions over the summer. Second-year scholar **Riley Wagner** will be interning over the summer for Cummins Inc., a Fortune 500 corporation that designs, manufacturers, and distributes engines, filtration systems, and power generation products. His internship will take him to Columbus, Indiana where he will be jumpstarting his career in Cummins’ global headquarters as an electronics engineer working on power controls systems. Third-year scholar, and recipient of the Warshawsky Fellowship **Jordan Bonadurer** will be spending her summer interning at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Specifically, her internship will see her working in the Department of Education Interpretation where she hopes to share her love of art history and archaeology with visitors to the museum. Third-year scholar **Rowen Harder** will be spending her summer in Europe studying how theatre is and was performed in various cultures. This mission will see her traveling all across the continent, from France, to Spain, to Iceland, visiting various theaters and ruins. Her voyage will culminate in a paper which will detail how theatre is and has been performed in the various spaces she will visit. Rowen isn’t the only Chancellor’s Scholar whose passions are taking her abroad this summer. Third-year scholar **Clair Bamman** and first-year scholar **Jessica Kurpius** will be traveling to Janco Marca, Bolivia with Engineers Without Borders. Janco Marca is a community in central Bolivia that lacks a clean, sufficient, reliable water source. Engineers Without Borders is working to help the people of Janco Marca have access to clean water year-round.

**SCHOLARS CLASS OF ‘18**

Armed with their SIU baccalaureate degrees, Chancellor’s Scholar graduates are prepared to follow their passions wherever they may lead. **Mason Higgins** will be headed back to his beloved home state of Wisconsin to begin the police academy in Madison in late May. He will graduate early this winter. He is very excited to begin his career as a public servant, and for all of the incredible mentorship and professional development opportunities the Madison Police Department offers. After graduating from the police academy, Mason will head to Fort Benning, Georgia to attend the Infantry Basic Officers Leadership Course as part of his service through the Wisconsin Army National Guard. After graduating from Fort Benning, he will head back to Wisconsin to resume his service as a police officer and to start his studies at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Mason couldn’t be more excited about the challenges his next few years will bring. And he feels “absaluki” ready for them thanks to the education he’s received from SIUC and the mentorship he’s received from the Chancellor’s Scholars Program. **Grace Horman** will be interning this summer with KPMG, a Big Four Accounting firm, in their tax department. She will also be working as an online teaching assistant for the SIU College of Business remotely. Once her internship concludes, Grace will head back to SIU where she will begin working towards her Master of Accounting and start studying for her CPA exam. After two incredible summer internships at the Boeing Company in St. Louis, Missouri, **Courtney Kinnard** has landed a full-time job with the company! She will join Boeing’s Information Technology Career Foundation Program, a highly-selective rotational program with many opportunities for leadership (in Courtney’s words, the program is “kind of like the Chancellor’s Scholars Program of Boeing”). She is excited to be able to use the skills she’s gained from both her computer science degree and her focus in management, and she’s very excited for the next chapter of her life! **Alyssa Meyers** will be heading to Chicago after graduation to pursue her Ph.D. in Industrial Organizational Psychology at DePaul University. Chicago will be the biggest city she has ever lived in, and she is very excited to see what life in a city one-hundred times the size of Carbondale will be like. After obtaining her PhD, Alyssa plans on doing applied work, such as consulting, for businesses. But her mind is open, and she has not discounted the possibility that she may fall in love with research or teaching while at DePaul. **Anna Spoerre** is heading to Portland, Oregon where she will begin her career in journalism with an internship with the *Oregonian*. She won’t be in the Beaver State long though, as she’ll be moving to Chicago this fall to intern at the *Chicago Tribune’s* breaking news desk.

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

Alumna **Annamarie Beckmeyer** (2017) has been very busy since she graduated last May from SIUC. She is currently attending medical school at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. There, on top of her studies, Annamarie is the vice president of her school’s chapter of the American Medical Association, a member of the board of directors of the Columbus Medical Association, and the secretary/treasurer of the medical student section of the Ohio State Medical Association. She is also a leader in her school’s a cappella group and is working on breast cancer research. Annamarie ultimately plans on earning both an MD and a JD from Ohio State. She finds great joy in explaining to her classmates what a Saluki is when they see her in her SIUC gear.

**KEEP IN TOUCH!!**

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