In 2015-16 the CSP visited Nashville, welcomed hundreds of prospective students during Scholars’ Weekend, saw a performance of “Hansel and Gretel,” visited the Blue Sky Vineyards, and had several “Pie w/a Professor” monthly events with faculty and deans, the provost and the chancellor. Our newsletter highlights some of the many achievements by scholars in the core areas of research, service, and travel.

Many thanks to departing Graduate Assistant Michelle Ford, and welcome to new assistant Matt Wickey.

Best of luck to scholars Class of 2016!!

Holly S. Hurlburt, Director.

RESEARCH

As SIU is ranked among the top 5% of all U.S. higher education institutions for research (the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching), it is no surprise that Chancellor’s Scholars from every college are engaged in wide range of research projects. Lizabeth Engelmeier, a junior majoring in English and Creative writing, worked under Professor Pinckney Benedict to turn the Anglo-Saxon poem Beowulf into a full-fledged contemporary YA fantasy novel. Lizabeth presented her work at English Day on April 15th in the Student Services Building. Gabrielle Nelson, a junior majoring in communication disorders and sciences, researches various voice disorders and the factors that influence vocal hygiene with Dr. Maria Claudia Franca. More specifically, she focuses on factors that improve or worsen vocal hygiene and management and analysis of these specific factors through working with programs such as Excel and SPSS. Kelsey Smith, a freshman majoring in biological sciences, works with Dr. Stella Kantarzi in the soybean breeding and genetics lab. The goal of their project is to figure out which genes code for nodulation, and in turn, fix nitrogen in soybeans. The data they collect will be used to create a new hybrid species of soybean that is extremely efficient in fixing nitrogen. Ben Westrich, a sophomore majoring in agribusiness economics and crop science, focuses his research on the improvement of fertilizer management practices to increase profitability for farmers and decrease the environmental impacts caused by fertilizer usage. Westrich works alongside Dr. Rachel Cook in the Soil Science Lab. Westrich presented his work in April at Purdue University.

SERVICE

Scholars have a passion for volunteering, serving various charitable organizations and giving back to the Carbondale community and communities all over the world. This year, Elizabeth Biever, a senior in agribusiness economics, led a group of third through twelfth graders in a 4-H Tech Club. They learned how to make extension cords with the guidance of an electrical engineer. Many of the students will have the opportunity to exhibit their finished work at a local county fair. Denali Carpenter, a freshman studying civil engineering, worked with the Carbondale Community High School Speech Team, helping students write and prepare speeches. He further assisted in co-directing a short play for the speech team, which they went on to perform at the state level. Emma Wallander, a sophomore studying English education, spent her semester studying abroad at the National University of Ireland-Galway, helping out at an afterschool homework club. There, she had the opportunity to serve children from lower-income communities in an environment that fosters educational excellence and reading comprehension.
TRAVEL

Scholars have made positive contributions in their own backyard of Carbondale, Illinois; however, many scholars also go beyond our nation’s borders to study abroad. From watching a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Galway, Ireland, to teaching underserved youth on the island of Fiji, the University’s “top dawgs” are making a global impact. Annamarie Beckmeyer, a third year student of physiology, will be studying in Cuba this summer, focusing on the history of U.S.-Cuban relations, the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba, foreign investment in Cuba, and the development of private business in Cuba. Holden Jones, a fourth year student double majoring in Mathematics and minor in Economics, will embark on a career in pediatric nutrition in August. She will take the Registered Dietician exam shortly thereafter and will be in Fiji teaching English, refurbishing needy schools, assisting in Marine Turtle conservation, and helping with coral conservation.

Our Chancellor Scholars provide the university with intelligence and leadership in the classroom and beyond. They also do so when they leave the university for the summer. Because there are so many different majors represented in the Chancellor’s Scholar Program, the scholars find themselves involved in a wide variety of summer internships and programs. Rachel Edgar, a junior majoring in workforce education and development, will teach English in Mongolia. The 6 week program will allow her to both gain experience teaching English, and to have a chance to explore both the capital city of Ulaanbaatar and its vast countryside. This experience will contribute to her plan to a master’s degree in TESOL, after graduation next spring. Grace Horman, a sophomore majoring in accounting, will be interning with TD Bank in Greenville, South Carolina, gaining valuable experience as a credit analyst. Kevin Jenkins, a sophomore civil engineering major, will intern with the Missouri Department of Transportation, St. Louis Division, working within the Bridge Construction and Materials department. Anastasia Maranto, a freshman majoring in zoology, will be an intern at the St. Louis Zoo in their Jungle of the Apes exhibit. She will be working with great apes of all kinds, including chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans. Taniah Paden, a junior Scholar majoring in Pre-Med, will be a summer resident assistant for Upward Bound, a year round program on campus that helps prepare first generation students to attend college. She will also be an intern at ATI Physical Therapy, in Red Bud, Illinois.

ALUMNI NEWS

The class of 15 is taking the world by storm! Sarah Gardner was a photojournalism intern at the Peoria Journal Star for six months photographing breaking news, sports and long term projects. More recently she accepted a contract position with National Geographic as a social media producer, developing strategies and managing social media accounts in Washington DC. Lacey Gibson is enrolled the Master’s of Public Health program at Harvard University. This year she published her undergraduate research on wine consumption in the Journal of Wine Research. This summer she will have a research internship in Paris working on Roma communities in France. Cecily Haase will complete her graduate degree at St. Louis University in pediatric nutrition in August. She will take the Registered Dietician exam shortly thereafter and will embark on a career as a pediatric dietitian in the clinical or education setting. David Lynch is serving in the Peace Corps in Paraguay with the Community Economic Development Sector, learning Spanish and Guarani. He hopes to be working with children and young people. Nicole Staples relocated to Madison, Wisconsin, after graduating with a major in Mathematics and minor in Economics. She is a Technical Services Analyst at Epic, a privately owned Electronic Health Record company considered by most as the top EHR system available to healthcare organizations.