Honors Student Academic Achievements 2016-2017

2017 Graduates with Distinction in their major and University Honors

This year several of our honors students were nominated by their thesis advisor for entrance in the national NCHC Portz Scholar Thesis Contest in recognition of their outstanding work. These are: Sam Bloomfield, Estee Hamo, Alena Hoover, Ryan MacDonald, Malea McGimsey, Ronan McIntosh, Rachel Murphy, Andrew Nixon, Allison Nguyen, Scarlett Jimenez, Katherine Roselius, and Ashlyn Stewart.

Ashlyn Stewart was named one of four national winners of the 2017 NCHC Portz Scholar Award for her interdisciplinary History/English thesis, “Creating a National Readership for Harper’s Weekly in a Time of sectional Crisis.” She will accept her award and present a talk on her thesis at the annual NCHC Conference in Atlanta in November.

Sam Alperin
Advisor: Mark Siemens

Bryce Anderson-Gregson
Advisor: Lisa Conant

Malia Bacig
Hospitality Management thesis: “Why Restaurants Should Source Food Locally”
Advisor: Cheri A. Young

Maren Blair
Advisor: Mark Siemens

Kayla Bloomquist
International Studies thesis: “Internal Regulation Norms in China and Southeast Asia”
Advisor: Keith Gehring

Sam Bloomfield
Advisor: Don Bacon
David Chan
Advisor: Mohammad Mahoor

Sophia Duncan
Geography thesis: “An Ecosystem Service Valuation of the National Parks”
Advisor: Paul Sutton

Justus Gibson
Physics and Astronomy thesis: “Structure in the Disk of Epsilon
Advisor: Professor Robert Stencel

Estee Hamo
Psychology thesis: “The Role of Negative Emotionality and Supportive Parenting on Stress B--- Cortisol among Toddlers with High Risk”
Advisor: Sarah Watamura

Alena Hoover
English Creative Writing thesis: “Fault Line”
Advisor: Brian Kiteley

Scarlett Jimenez
Advisor: Seth Masket

Alexandra Kahney
Biology thesis: “Biomechanics of Babywearing”
Advisors: Erin Mannen and Nancy Lorenzon

Christine Krenz
Advisor: J. Alex Huffman

Lauren Lustig
Biochemistry thesis: “Synthesis of Quinoline Analysis for the Inhibition of Class Ila Aldolases”
Advisor: Bryan Cowen

Ryan MacDonald
Advisor: John Christopher Hughen

Malea McGimsey
Biology thesis: “Characterization of Vps54/Scattered Subcellular Localization of Function in Drosophia Melanogaster Lavae Motor Neurons”
Advisor: Scott A. Barbee

Ronan McIntosh
Finance Thesis: “What Has Been the Impact of Accountable Care Organizations (ACAs) on the Healthcare services Industry?”
Advisor: John Christopher Hughen
Brendan Monogue  
Biochemistry thesis: “Mechanisms of MAP2 Blockage of Tau Fibril Growth”  
Advisor: Martin Margittai

Rachel Murphy  
Biochemistry thesis: “Effect of Single-Point Disease Mutation on Tau Aggregation Behavior”  
Advisor: Martin Margittai

Allison Nguyen  
Biology thesis: “The Effects of CDC42 Inhibitors on Neuronal Survival”  
Advisor: Daniel Linseman

Andrew Nixon  
English Creative Writing thesis: “Business of Mystics”  
Advisor: Laird Hunt

Andrew Pham  
Biology thesis: “Does trisomy 21 Cause a Cilia Defect?”  
Advisor: Scott A. Nichols

Steven Phenna  
Advisor: Don Bacon

Jenna Powell  
Advisor: Nancy Lorenzon

Katherine Roselius  
Advisor: Erika N. Trigoso Rubio

Todd Savolt  
Biology thesis: “Nueroprotective Properties of Betanin against Various Cell Stressors”  
Advisor: Daniel Linseman

Darreon Schwartz  
Physics thesis: “An Image Analysis of Protein OR64 Forming a Three-Dimensional Structure Enclosing Polar Body DNA”  
Advisor: Dinah Loerke

Sofia Simina  
Bichemistry thesis: “The Effect of Metal on Modulating Tau Fibril Formation”  
Advisor: Martin Margittai

Celia Smits  
Biology thesis: “Intercellular Adhesive Dynamics in Epithelial Morphogenesis”  
Advisor: James Todd Blankenship

Ashlyn Stewart  
Advisor: Susan Schulten and Tayana Hardin

Stella Swartz

Advisor: Douglas Hesse

Haley Umans

Psychology thesis: ---
Advisor: Sarah Watamura

Kylie Van Hoesen

Advisor: Nancy Lorenzon

Kendall Weistroffer

Computer Science thesis: “Developing an Educational Hebrew Game”
Advisor: Chris Gauthier Dickey

Emily Wolverton

Biology thesis: “Do Gar Melanocortin Receptor Interact with the Accessory Proteins, MRAP1 and MRAP2?”
Advisor: Robert Dores

Michael Wright

Chemistry thesis: “The Use and Behavior of AxyL Samarium Bromide as a Grignard Reagent for a One-Pot Derivitization of N-Substituted Oxindole and Isatin”
Advisor: Bryan Cowen

Audrey Zurcher

Advisor: Frederique Chevillot

Pioneer Award Nominees

Sarina Phu
Ashlyn Stewart

Pioneer Award Winner

Ashlyn Stewart

Named Awards and Prizes and Departmental Awards

Director’s Award for Achievement in First Year Writing: Madi Laird

Dr. Thomas M. Griffiths Memorial Award: Katherine Roselius and Sophia Duncan

Driscoll Award in Biology: Emily Wolverton

Elzi Award in Biology: Sheila Pahlavan

Excellence in French: Scarlett Jimenez and Audrey Zurcher

Excellence in Italian: Sophia Duncan
Herbert J. Greenberg Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics:  David Chan

J. Fagg Foster Award in Political Science: Bryce Anderson-Gregson

Mary Cass Award in English and Literary Arts:  Ashlyn Stewart

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award in Computer Science:  David Chan

Outstanding Senior in Biochemistry:  Brendan Monogue

Outstanding Chemistry Major:  Lauren Lustig

Outstanding Senior Communication Studies Award:  Maren Blair

Outstanding Senior in Physics:  Sam Alperin, Maren Blair, Justus Gibson, Darreon Schwartz

Outstanding Senior in Public Policy:  Kayla Blomquist

Special Award for Outstanding Citizenship in Computer Science:  David Chan

Thomas M. Stephen Memorial Award:  Sam Alperin

Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry:  Christine Krentz

Vandergrift Undergraduate Scholarship in Psychology:  Bryn Babbit

Virginia Case Scholarship in English and Literary Arts:  Jessica Garland

William Herschel Womble Award for Outstanding Senior Thesis in Astronomy:  Justus Gibson

Zeiner Award in Biology:  Austin Johnson

Honors Student Inductees into the Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa

Kayla Blomquist
    David Chan
    Molly Gummersheimer
        Alena Hoover
        Scarlett Jimenez
        Lauren Lustig
        Alena Makarova
        Malea McGimsey
        Brendan Monogue
        Allisen Nguyen
        Elizaveta Orysheva
        Andrew Pham
        Katherine Roselius
        Celia Smits
        Ashlyn Stewart
Kylie Van Hoessen
Emily Wolverton
Michael Wright
Bryce Anderson-Gregson
Estee Hamo
Christine Krentz
Sofia Simina