



Oregon State
University



This fall term, we welcomed students, faculty and staff back to campus for a new academic year that looked markedly different than the previous 18 months. As much as our entire community was able to accomplish and overcome last year, the return to primarily in-person classes and programming has been very exciting, heightening the usual buzz of a new beginning with the rediscovery of everything that makes the campus experience so rewarding and invigorating. I am struck more than ever by the ingenuity and enthusiasm of honors students and by the vibrancy of the honors community. This spirit is evident throughout this year's Honors Link, which includes stories that both look back at all that we have learned and accomplished and look forward to exciting new horizons. Within the pages that follow, you will gain insight into how students persevered through the pandemic to continue the Honors College legacy of building strong and welcoming communities, learn about the development and impact of our National and Global Scholarships Advising Office, peer into the promising futures of some of our 2021 graduates and learn how the life trajectory of one of OSU's first honors program graduates was changed by the counsel he received from a university advisor. You'll also read about the outstanding teaching, research and mentorship of dedicated honors faculty members and the overwhelming support we continue to receive from donors and alumni. These stories give me a sense of deep gratitude for the resilience and commitment of our staff, faculty, alumni, donors, friends and — above all — students. As I reflect on the challenges we have overcome, the strength of the honors community is a constant source of inspiration. Thank you for your contributions. I am excited for the future we can build together.

Toni L. Doolen

Toni Doolen
Dean, Honors College

Table of Contents

- 2 Realizing potential**
2020-25 Strategic Plan challenges perceptions and expands opportunities.
- 4 Keeping community strong in the pandemic**
Students found new ways to make connections, even through a screen.
- 6 A life-changing encounter**
For Ray North, '63, an advising appointment changed the trajectory of his life.
- 8 A gateway to new opportunities**
National and Global Scholarships Advising Office propels students forward.
- 10 No parent left behind**
Esther Vega helps prepare second-grade parents for remote school.
- 12 Hendricks Scholarship**
Recognizing outstanding academics, research and engagement.
- 14 The truth is out there**
Rob Drummond's honors colloquia takes a critical look at conspiracy theories.
- 16 Faculty excellence:**
 - 16 Christopher McKnight Nichols, Nancy Squires named 2021 Honors College Eminent Professors.
 - 18 Michelle Kutzler named 2021 Margaret and Thomas Meehan Eminent Mentor.
- 20 Leveling the playing field**
Honors College Champions Carol and Rich Pickard are committed to the mission of the Honors College.
- 21 A day to be Dam Proud**
Honors College makes the top 10 again in OSU's 24-hour fundraising event.
- 22 Celebrating Honors College graduates:**
 - 22 The class of 2021 gets ready for what's next.
 - 24 Congratulations to our newest alumni.

HONORS COLLEGE DEAN
Toni Doolen

EDITORS
Gary Dulude, Kevin Stoller

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Gildha Cumming

WRITERS
Gary Dulude, Ashley Locke, Christopher McCracken, Cara Nixon, Kevin Stoller

DESIGN
Teresa Hall

PHOTOGRAPHY
Antonio Becerra, Montsie Garrido, Kim Kenny, Kaylei Lewis, Karl Maasdam, Marcus Schwab, D'Artagnan Stubbs

HONORS LINK is published by
the Honors College
at Oregon State University.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS
Honors College
Learning Innovation Center 450
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331
honors.college@oregonstate.edu



Oregon State University
Honors College



REALIZING POTENTIAL:

2020-25 Honors College Strategic Plan challenges perceptions and expands opportunities.

A common perception of any honors program is that it's an exclusive group of privileged students from elite high schools with high GPAs and stellar test scores.

But that's not the reality of the Honors College at Oregon State. It never has been. What the Honors College is about, says Dean Toni Doolen, is much broader and more inclusive.

"For us, it's how do we include a wide swath of students at OSU, who have this amazing capacity and potential, and help them navigate the university, to be able to fully utilize that potential," she says.

Inclusive excellence is foundational

With its second strategic plan, the Honors College is focused on access, inclusion and impact. Created in 2020 with input from students and faculty, along with partners who provided a valuable external perspective, the strategic plan sets out priorities and specific, measurable goals to be achieved by 2025.

Doolen says the Honors College **2020-25 Strategic Plan** was informed by Oregon State's **Strategic Plan 4.0** as well as the university's first **Diversity Strategic Plan**. It wasn't hard to find alignment and make connections to broader university goals and values, particularly the emphasis on inclusive excellence.

Access has long been a priority for the Honors College. This is reflected in its **holistic admissions process** and differential tuition scholarships, which help cover the additional cost of Honors College enrollment for some students who have financial need. Since last year, the Honors College Student Leadership Circle, a group of current students who advise

college leadership, has focused on diversity, equity and inclusion challenges in the honors community. A subgroup of the leadership circle is writing a new inclusive excellence plan for the Honors College that will supplement the 2020-25 Strategic Plan.

"This is more than just a conversation around diversity," Doolen says. "It's really a conversation around social justice, equity, inclusivity and belonging. And it's coming from the students, so that's super powerful."

Another Student Leadership Circle subgroup is working with Associate Dean Susan Rodgers to develop a new learning outcome. "Students are hungry for an Honors College learning outcome that wrestles with what their role and the college's role is around social justice, equity and inclusivity," Doolen says. This new learning outcome will define how — from both curriculum and programmatic perspectives — every honors student can develop the capacity to consider these issues in meaningful ways.

Telling prospective students, "You belong here"

Growth had been part of the first Honors College strategic plan, and with 1,549 students this fall term, the Honors College is well on its way to enrolling 7% of all Oregon State undergraduates. That percentage, however, is not evenly distributed across all populations. Doolen says more work is being done to recruit students from colleges that are underrepresented in honors, as well as current Oregon State students and transfers from community colleges and other schools.

High school students using the Common App to apply to Oregon State can apply to the Honors College at the same time, but many opt out, even when they meet the GPA minimum. Doolen identifies these prospects as the college's toughest challenge, and they share some common demographics: students from underserved and underrepresented populations and Pell Grant-eligible and first-generation students.

"For those students, even though the Honors College could be a way to enhance and transform their experience at OSU, they don't apply, and they absolutely would be accepted," Doolen says. She adds that the college has some anecdotal understanding for why these students don't see themselves in honors. The next step is determining how to reach those students and tell them, "You belong here. The Honors College will be a valuable experience for you."

The Honors College works with Oregon State recruiting staff to help encourage underrepresented students to apply. University recruiters also connect prospects with Honors College student ambassadors, some of whom are bilingual, to answer questions and explain the honors essay. Doolen says the college looks for high schools where there are underserved populations, especially where counselors have to focus on getting students to graduate and don't have the bandwidth to assist students who have the potential to do well in honors. During the pandemic,

the Honors College introduced virtual visits for prospective students and found they expanded its ability to interact with hard-to-reach populations. Doolen says those remote sessions will continue moving forward.

Honors in 2025: more capacity, greater impact

A year into the strategic plan, Doolen says the Honors College has made measurable progress on multiple goals. That includes fundraising, which is focused on scholarships and other financial support to ensure qualified students have access to the Honors College. The college is also making progress toward creating a more inclusive student community by building its population of diverse students and students representing all academic colleges at OSU.

Doolen also sees progress toward greater impact through the role of the Honors College as an incubator of ideas and an innovator in higher education. This includes hosting cross-disciplinary programs that take new approaches to curriculum and student support. Many of these programs, like engineering and design for society, are open to all students at Oregon State.

Among its values, the Honors College believes "this journey takes you further." With its second strategic plan underway, the Honors College is implementing that value — and redefining what an honors education can and should be.

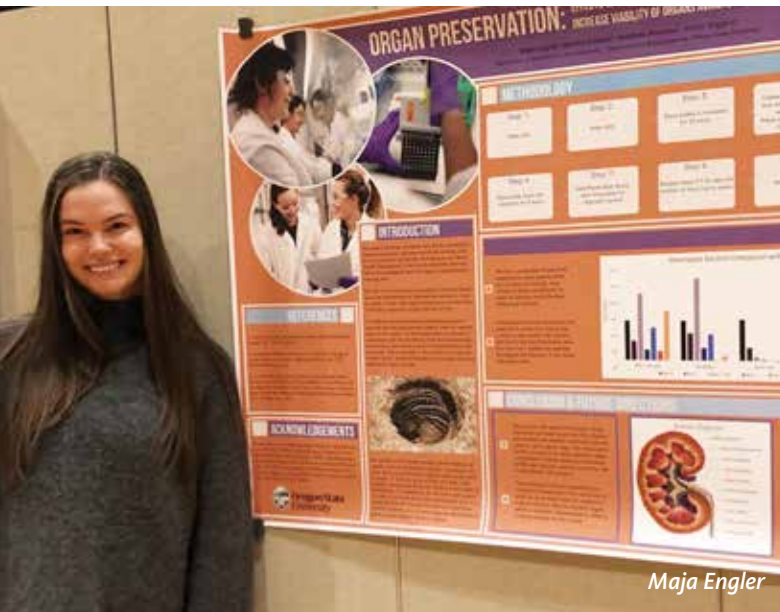
Values, priorities and goals: Read all about them.

You can download the Honors College 2020-25 Strategic Plan, which outlines the college's values, mission, strategic priorities and goals, at honors.oregonstate.edu.

Keeping community strong in the pandemic.



Sukhjot Sal



Maja Engler



Patrick Callagy

Photos courtesy of students.

How do you build community over Zoom?

For the Honors College, community is the foundation of the student experience. All the academic, research and creative work students do builds on finding a home in honors and creating connections with peers, faculty and staff.

For more than a year — from the start of the spring term in 2020 through summer 2021 — almost all community building had to be done through a screen. While not ideal, the remote experience and its resulting innovations have proven it can be done — successfully.

Remote events offered some benefits

Some activities, including trivia nights, Bob Ross paint nights, video game tournaments and a talent show over social media, transitioned smoothly to a remote format. Annual events like the Honors College's Faculty/Student Winter Book Clubs drew more participants than ever before in the remote setting.

Even programs that typically depend on in-person events were adapted, such as the month-long OSU Food Drive in February. Unable to do their traditional bake sale, honors students set up an online fundraiser and raffle, raising more than \$1,600.

PATRICK CALLAGY, '21, a biology major from Foster City, California, organized multiple remote events as the professional development chair of the Honors College Student Association. The remote format brought in alumni from across the country and allowed honors students from OSU-Cascades in Bend to join in.

"I was able to get a lot of alumni that couldn't always come to campus," Patrick says.

Students also found benefits from remote mixers with faculty looking for students to join their labs or research projects, says LeeAnn Baker, who was director of student success and engagement at the time. The mixers are easier for faculty to join and can be less intimidating for students, she says. The format has been so successful that at least some mixers will continue to be hosted on Zoom.

Conversation Clusters filled a gap

Baker estimates that about 65 to 70% of Honors College students stayed in Corvallis over the 2020-21 academic year. The SLUG, the honors lounge in the Learning Innovation Center, remained open, but students still missed seeing their friends.

"All of those small interactions that you didn't think about that much before, those are the ones that I missed the most," says **MAJA ENGLER**, '21, a biochemistry and molecular biology major from Sandy.

To fill in for those missing interactions, the Honors College created Conversation Clusters, groups of eight students who met on Zoom for at least 30 minutes a week. Baker says the sessions were especially important for first-year students who didn't have the usual opportunities to make friends in the honors community.

There were about 200 clusters, many with specific themes. For Maja, it was an opportunity to reconnect with some old friends and make new ones, "getting to meet people who I otherwise would not normally be able to meet," she says.

At OSU-Cascades, **KIRA CORBETT**, '21, a computer science major from Portland, was in a cluster with students mostly from her major. She found the conversations helped her make connections with students in Bend and Corvallis.

"It's just nice to have that interaction with each other," she says. "I met some new students I didn't even know were in the Honors College."

Creating community, making connections

Although the delivery methods may have been different last year, creating community has remained essential to the honors experience.

"We see the research that a sense of belonging is so important to students. It affects their grades, their mental health, physical health, all of that," says Honors College Student Engagement Coordinator Emily Garcia. "Students are craving community, a sense of belonging, a place to feel at home."

English major **SUKHJOT SAL** was in her first year when everything went remote. Attending classes and events from her home in Beaverton, she continued to maintain friendships and make new connections.

"There were a lot of people making an effort to make everyone feel included and not forgotten," Sukhjot says. "It's really heartwarming to see how much effort was put into keeping the community the same way. And I don't take it for granted."



A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER: One of the original OSU honors students looks back.

Ray North never expected an advising appointment to change the trajectory of his life.

A first-generation, first-year student at Oregon State College in 1959, North worked summers on a farm, at lumber or paper mills and as a longshoreman on the Oregon Coast. It was those jobs, as well as scholarships and national defense loans, that made college possible.

He began as a math major, and when an advisor asked him to join the new College of Science Honors Program, North excitedly agreed.

The program included honors courses, small group seminars and a senior thesis. By 1969, it would evolve into a university-wide honors program, with over 2,000 students participating until it ended in 1991. The current Honors College, which opened in 1995, built on that legacy.

North's favorite honors activity by far was the seminars, which covered topics like extrasensory perception and Boolean algebra. But there were other benefits.

"The honors program provided additional learning opportunities and mitigated the feelings of being somewhat lost in a large university," he recalls.

The greatest impact of North's honors experience came at the end of his second year, when he began to question his career path.

North recalls many sleepless nights, and as the year went on, his trepidation grew. In the fall, he began to fear boredom in his projected career. In the winter, he wondered if he would feel isolated in the math field. By spring term, "it was apparent that mathematics was not ideal," he says.

Then North remembered the advisor who had helped him so much in his first year. The advisor calmed North's nerves, telling him students changed majors all the time and offered an aptitude test to help him consider other options.

The test showed North had strong aptitudes for teaching math, for architecture and for medicine. North was both shocked and thrilled. His advisor helped him change his course load from math classes to pre-med ones.

"I left his office feeling jubilant," North says. "My advisor had just inspired and motivated me with hope. I would take this new fork in the road leading to the unthinkable career of medicine."

After graduating from Oregon State in 1963, North went on to earn his medical degree from the University of Oregon Medical School, now Oregon Health & Science University, in 1967. For 25 years, he was an orthopedic surgeon, becoming a pioneer in arthroscopic surgery. After a wrist injury, he continued with nonsurgical work for 17 years. Now 79, North works as a knee consultant for the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

North wrote an essay on his life-changing experience at Oregon State as part of a compilation of stories to leave for his 6-year-old grandson. North hopes the essays will serve as important lessons, even after he is no longer around. He also hopes to reach current college students.

"You're really trying to find yourself, and it's an important time for young people to find themselves and be the best self they can be," he says.

North's son, his late first wife and many other relatives are all Oregon State graduates. As an alumnus and donor, North continues spreading the word to support Oregon State University and the Honors College.

"I think trying to support the program is important, and I'm always willing to pitch in as much as I can," he says.

That advisor's personal attention was life-changing, leaving North happier and more fulfilled. Over 60 years later, today's Honors College continues to emphasize individualized support and community.

"I better understand and appreciate the significance of my sage advisor's assistance," North writes in the essay. "We only met four times. Regrettably, I did not remember his name or his face. Nor did I stay in touch with him. But his influence was profound. I'll never forget his advice and encouragement."



Ray North, '63, wrote about his experience in the College of Science Honors Program at Oregon State as part of a series of essays to leave for his 6-year-old grandson. Photo courtesy of Ray North.

A gateway to new opportunities:

For students, applying for competitive scholarships is as much about the journey as it is the destination.

Earning a national or global scholarship is no ordinary feat — and the benefits that follow can be life-changing. From expanding cultural knowledge abroad to being recognized as a top undergraduate researcher and making professional connections near and far, these highly competitive scholarships propel students forward both personally and academically. Oregon State’s National and Global Scholarships Advising Office helps students get there — and make the most of the experience along the way.



Established in 2013 and led by LeAnn Adam, the scholarships advising office helps students assess, plan and apply for scholarships like the Fulbright, Rhodes, Marshall and Goldwater. Although many scholarship applicants come from the Honors College, advising is available to all Oregon State students and eligible alumni.

Because the application process can be very intensive, students work directly with a mentor from the beginning, honing skills like essay writing, reference etiquette and interview prep. Mentors also help students through goal and milestone setting, deadline accountability and other guidance.

These notable scholarships can make a great impact on students’ career goals by funding research opportunities around the world, connecting them with like-minded leaders in their field and more. But the application process itself is beneficial, too. Students develop new skills, build relationships with faculty and other scholars, and often come up with new ideas they had never considered pursuing — all of which can give them an advantage in applying for other scholarships, graduate school and jobs.

Adam, who has cherished memories studying abroad in Italy and working for a study abroad program in Cuba, is determined to open the same opportunities for Oregon State students. Her extensive career includes several international education positions in the U.S. and abroad.

In the National and Global Scholarships Advising Office, Adam set up scholarship application processes, created the office’s website, and recruited and advised many students with the help of graduate assistants and volunteer faculty members. She plans to extend the office’s outreach to serve even more students and add more scholarship options to its growing portfolio.

“I truly thrive doing this work because I’m constantly learning while working with students to shape their proposals,” Adam says. “For most students, this is a journey — and it is an incredible privilege to go on that journey with them.”

Scholarships fuel unique experiences.



Third-year Honors College student Alyssa Pratt was chosen for a 2021 Goldwater Scholarship.

She is double majoring in computer science and biochemistry and molecular biology. Working in the lab of faculty mentor David Hendrix, Alyssa studies RNA secondary structural features called hairpin loops, which have the potential to arrest disease-associated genes. Alyssa hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in computational biology after graduation.



Isabella Karabinas, a 2020 Honors College graduate, recently completed a Fulbright U.S.

Student Program research grant in Madrid, Spain. Working closely with two neuroscience researchers, she studied how the immune system produces neuroinflammation after a stroke. This research has since contributed to developing novel treatments to help stroke patients recover.



Emily Newton, a 2012 Honors College graduate, was selected for a 2021-22 Fulbright Open

Study/Research Award in New Zealand. She will work alongside Ceridwen Fraser and Miles Lamare, world-class Antarctic marine scientists, studying kelp rafting invertebrates and their effect on warming ecosystems. Emily plans to use this experience to become a marine polar researcher.

Photos courtesy of students.

To see more student and graduate stories, visit topscholars.oregonstate.edu.

No parent left behind.

Honors College student helps prep second-grade parents for remote school.

When Esther Vega, '21, saw her mother Evelia, a second-grade teacher, struggling to get her students connected for remote learning in spring 2020, the Honors College industrial engineering major also saw an opportunity: to get parents involved.

Although the Forest Grove school district had supplied students with Chromebooks, it was the first time many students had a computer at home, and there was a steep learning curve just teaching the basics of logging into a remote classroom. But nobody was teaching the parents, most of whom were equally unfamiliar with the technology.

So Vega set out to help her mother prepare parents before remote school resumed in the fall. Drawing from consultations with Oregon State professors in industrial engineering and education, and with support from Echo Shaw Elementary School Principal Perla Rodriguez, Vega created a workshop to teach remote learning basics for parents whose children would be in Mrs. Vega's class that fall. The Vegas would hold eight in-person sessions, all but one in Spanish, over two days in September.

The district agreed to three parents per session, all masked, all six feet apart and all outside. Then 2020 struck again.

Like much of Oregon, Forest Grove was smothered in wildfire smoke in September. After enduring two outdoor sessions, the Vegas successfully petitioned the district to move the remaining workshops to the school cafeteria.

In all, 17 parents received training. "We were exhausted, but so happy we did it," Vega says. They had met their goals to give parents basic proficiency with Canvas, Zoom and email.

More importantly, they had made a connection. The parents now felt they knew their children's teacher and could feel comfortable contacting her — and they have.

Vega has also taken lessons from the experience, seeing opportunities to merge the problem-solving focus of industrial engineering with K-12 education as a potential career path.

"I want to figure out how to minimize inequity in the education system, and with this project, I was in my element," she says. "Now I'm noticing the other possibilities I can take on with this."



HENDRICKS SCHOLARSHIP

recognizes outstanding academics, research and engagement.

Julia Zavala, '21, who majored in biology on a pre-medical track, was selected as the 2021 recipient of the Joe Hendricks Honors College Scholarship for Academic Excellence. Ashley Francis, Madeleine Seifert and Shrida Sharma were named runners-up for this prestigious award.

Named for Joe Hendricks, the founding dean of the Honors College, the \$2,500 scholarship recognizes students for their academic accomplishments, research and campus engagement. Students are nominated by faculty and selected by an Honors College committee. The award was created by alumni and friends to acknowledge Hendricks upon his retirement.



Photos courtesy of students.

Julia Zavala, '21

Julia was president of the OSU Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students, co-chair of the OSU chapter of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán and a student assistant in Oregon State's Office of Institutional Diversity.

Julia says her favorite thing about the Honors College was the chance to conduct research. Her thesis examined disparities in seeking help for depression among college students of color. Julia's thesis mentor, David Kerr in the College of Liberal Arts, nominated her for the scholarship.

While the cash prize is welcome, Julia says she feels particularly grateful "to be recognized for all the hard work I'm doing, especially since it's my last term here. It's kind of like ending with a bang."



Ashley Francis, '21

Ashley majored in biohealth sciences and public health. She was a peer advisor and learning assistant in the College of Science, a co-founder of the College of Science student group for people of color, a University Legislative Scholar, a Core Values Committee member for the Department of Microbiology and a medical scribe for the Oregon Clinic.

For her honors thesis, Ashley studied the differences in maternal characteristics for transfers to the hospital before childbirth with mentor Marit Bovbjerg in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

Being in the Honors College, she says, "provided me with an opportunity to experience undergrad in a way that I wouldn't anywhere else."



Madeleine Seifert

Madeleine, a second-year biochemistry and molecular biology student, helps conduct research in labs in the College of Public Health and Human Sciences and the College of Pharmacy. She is also certified as a mental health first aid instructor, holds offices in the Sigma Delta Omega sorority and the Associated Students of Oregon State University, participates in the Pre-Medicine Club and recently began hospice volunteering.

Madeleine says her favorite part of the Honors College has been the connections it has helped her make. She is currently in the brainstorming phase of her thesis and hopes to pursue a project concerning empathy in health care settings.

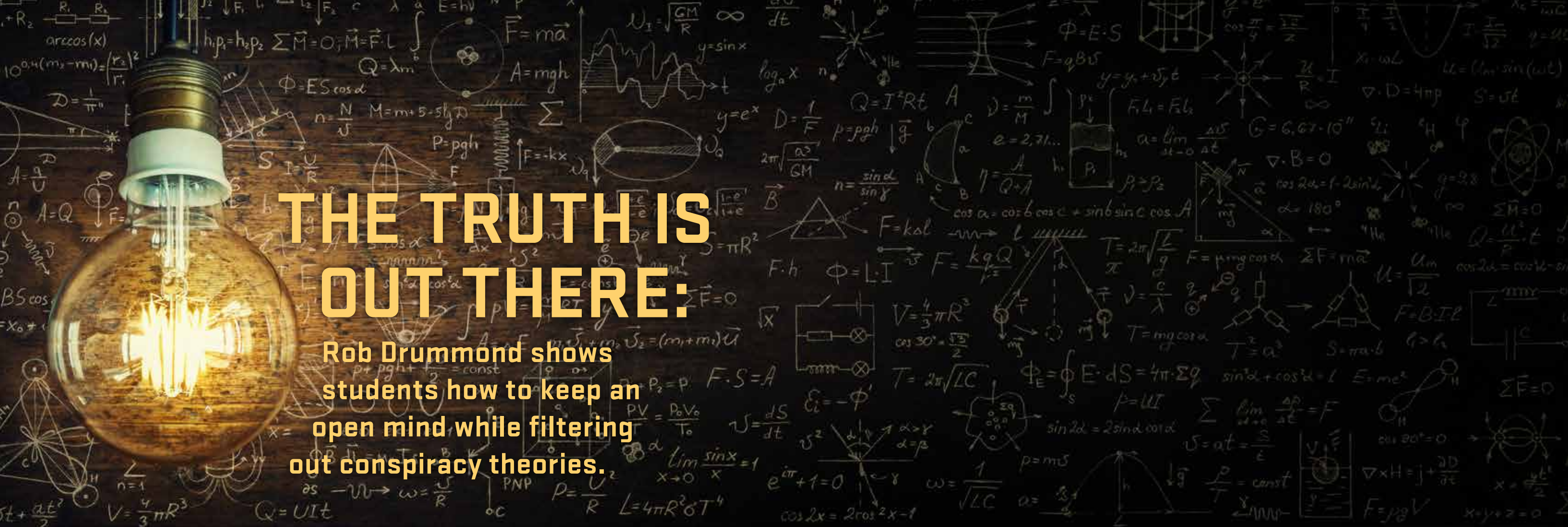


Shrida Sharma, '21

Shrida majored in psychology and pre-medicine. She was a cartoonist for the Daily Barometer newspaper, a media assistant and ambassador for the Honors College, a Zumba instructor at Dixon Recreation Center, a research assistant in the Interpersonal Sensitivity Lab and a volunteer at the Community Outreach free medical clinic.

Shrida was inspired by an honors colloquium course, One Small Ladleful: Poetry of Hunger, to create a chalk walk to raise awareness about food insecurity on campus. Her colloquium professors, Stella Coakley and Hiram Larew, nominated Shrida for the scholarship.

Shrida says her favorite part about the Honors College was the community and "having so many people there to support [me]. It really pushed me to do everything I can and make my experience in college worth it."



THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE:

Rob Drummond shows students how to keep an open mind while filtering out conspiracy theories.



Photo courtesy of Rob Drummond.

Senior Instructor Rob Drummond has been teaching in the College of Liberal Arts and the Honors College for about a decade — and honors colloquia are his favorite courses to teach.

“All the colloquia I teach are my favorite. I know that sounds dumb, but I love them all,” Drummond says.

And Drummond has taught a lot of these one- to

two-credit seminar courses. They include Folly’s Mirror: The Power and Reach of Contemporary Satire; Because It’s There (And Looks Fun): Survival as Entertainment; From Preppers to Zombies: America’s Apocalypse Addiction; and an extremely topical student favorite, The Truth Is Out There: The Rise of Conspiracy Theories.

Drummond enjoys teaching the conspiracy theories class because it’s consistently relevant in today’s world and generates incredible discussions with students. He first came up with the idea four years ago, thinking the class would be something fun and lighthearted. But as alarming conspiracy theories such as QAnon began to gain traction, the class was suddenly engaging with more serious and timely topics, like when and how conspiracy theories become dangerous.

“I’m always interested in how our own biases are built in, how the internet filters our information, especially for [the younger] generation,” Drummond says. “How do you navigate the world of research and find good sources, not just for academia, but for how you consume information?”

Drummond runs the class like a graduate school seminar. It’s engaging and discussion-based, and students work on their own independent projects while exploring a driving question together.

“We’re not spending our time investigating conspiracy theories to find out if they’re true or untrue; we’re [acting] as analysts,” Drummond says.

Drummond wants students to leave his class with the tools to identify conspiracy theories, as well as the ability to keep their minds open. Each time he teaches the class, Drummond and students investigate a conspiracy theory that at first seems believable. For example, the last time he taught the course, Drummond and his students analyzed the theory that the circumstances of Jeffrey Epstein’s death were not consistent with what was reported in the media.

While teaching the course, Drummond says he learns from his students as well. For instance, when students make lists of conspiracy theories during class, he discovers dozens that he’s never heard of before.

Drummond says there are “many parts that I love” about his involvement in the Honors College, which extends beyond teaching. He has twice co-led the short-term Honors

College study abroad trip to France, teaching a trip-specific course, Outsiders to Insiders: Exploring Myth vs. Reality in Modern-Day France.

Other favorite parts include the smaller honors community and the opportunity to encourage students to branch outside of their major. Colloquia and thesis research in particular offer students the chance to sample a subject or explore a perspective they might not otherwise encounter.

“I would encourage honors students to really step out of their comfort zone when they’re selecting colloquia. That’s the reason they’re there,” Drummond says. He also recommends sometimes deviating from the carefully laid plans that honors students tend to have, which he believes can be limiting.

“I think some of the best things in your life can happen when you shake that up a little bit,” Drummond says, “even though it’s a little bit panic-inducing.”

And that’s the truth.

2021

HONORS COLLEGE EMINENT PROFESSORS

Each year, the Honors College recognizes two faculty for outstanding teaching, research and service to the college community. For 2021, the honorees are **Christopher McKnight Nichols** from the School of History, Philosophy and Religion in the College of Liberal Arts and **Nancy Squires** from the School of Mechanical, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering in the College of Engineering.



An associate professor of history, Christopher McKnight Nichols joined the Oregon State faculty in 2012 and became director of OSU's Center for the Humanities in 2017. His research focuses on the cultural, intellectual and political history of the United States from 1880 to the present, particularly the relationship between the U.S. and the rest of the world. Nichols has shared insights on contemporary political and diplomatic events in the Washington Post, the Oregonian and Politico, as well as on radio and television programs, podcasts and in public speaking appearances. He is the author, editor or co-editor of five books, with two more in progress, and he was named an Andrew Carnegie Fellow in 2016.

Nichols has mentored five honors students in their thesis research and served on many more thesis and scholarship committees. He has taught or co-taught two honors courses, most recently a seminar on citizenship. He was also instrumental in establishing the Oregon State chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 2016 and has served as chapter president for the last three years.

"This is a wonderful surprise," Nichols says. "I have loved my time teaching honors students in the classroom, as well as overseeing and participating in an array of internships and professionalization efforts that have helped to pave the way for successful law and graduate school applications and fantastic early career opportunities. I am honored and delighted to receive the Sandy and Elva Sanders Eminent Professor Award."



Nancy Squires, who died in June 2020, was a senior instructor of mechanical engineering for 15 years. She led development of Oregon State's aerospace engineering program and helped establish several student clubs, including a branch of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Her abilities in the classroom and as a mentor were renowned throughout the College of Engineering, and she shaped the lives and professional trajectories of hundreds of students during her career.

For a decade, Squires taught in the Honors College almost every year, leading a variety of introductory and advanced engineering courses, seminars on satellite missions and a class on solar eclipses in advance of the 2017 total eclipse visible in Corvallis. She served as a mentor for six thesis projects and was a frequent committee member as well. Her work as an advocate for the Honors College and the university's engineering programs influenced many students' decisions to attend Oregon State. The award associated with the eminent professor recognition was contributed to the Nancy Squires Memorial Aerospace Engineering Endowment Fund.

"Dr. Squires was a transformative mentor and teacher for countless students, both in the Honors College and across campus," says Honors College Associate Dean Susan Rodgers. "We are pleased to honor her memory with this recognition."

The Honors College Eminent Professor awards are made possible through generous support from the Margaret and Thomas Meehan Estate, Ruth Beyer and Joseph (Sandy) and Cheryl Sanders. A list of past eminent professors and mentors can be found at honors.oregonstate.edu/faculty-awards.

THE EXPERIENCE OF DISCOVERY.



Photo courtesy of Michelle Kutzler.

Michelle Kutzler named 2021 Margaret and Thomas Meehan Eminent Mentor.

Research is a process of discovery, and for Michelle Kutzler, mentoring students in research is her favorite kind of teaching. A professor of animal and rangeland sciences in the College of Agricultural Sciences, Kutzler is the 2021 Margaret and Thomas Meehan Honors College Eminent Mentor. Kutzler was nominated by students and recent alumni and selected by a panel of Honors College faculty.

"I'm so honored, and it's hard to put words to it," Kutzler says. "I know that there are amazing faculty mentors. Reading through the list of previous awardees, I'm just so honored to be included in this group."

Kutzler is from Kent, Washington, and earned her Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees at Washington State University. After working as a veterinarian, she attended Cornell University for a residency in theriogenology, the study of animal reproduction, physiology and pathology, earning a Ph.D. in physiology. She also earned an MBA in organizational leadership from Oregon State after joining the faculty in 2002.

Kutzler mentors as many as nine students at a time and has been the primary thesis mentor for 17 honors graduates. She also serves as an academic advisor, leads the theriogenology research program and teaches honors colloquia. In spring 2021, she taught a course on The Story of Dogs.

Students say Kutzler gives her best to everyone, helping advance their academic and professional experience while also overcoming obstacles.

"No matter what the research is, she makes sure to work with her mentees to help us get the best data we can," says Patrick Callagy, '21, who nominated Kutzler. "Through her guidance, I have learned much about the research process that I will take with me into my future studies, and I owe all of that to her."

Brynley Cozzi, an animal sciences major and another nominator, credits Kutzler with "formative and irreplaceable support. I have been able to develop research and laboratory techniques that I will be able to apply to my future career as a veterinarian," she says.

Kutzler encouraged Brynley to submit an abstract to the Society of Theriogenology, which was awarded fourth place out of eight abstracts presented and 84 submitted. Kutzler also helped Brynley compose a research article that was published in the Clinical Theriogenology Journal in June 2021.

Kutzler "is efficient, proactive and effortlessly thoughtful, synthesizing expertise with compassion for the undergraduate experience," wrote Ann Ramsey, an animal sciences major, in her nomination. Kutzler helped Ann win best poster and presentation in her division at the College of Agricultural Sciences Showcase and Career Fair in October 2020.

"I love mentoring students in research, because it's such an experience of discovering," Kutzler says, "You're not only [involved] in the discovery of what they're finding through their research, but the discovery of their own confidence in themselves. It gives me so much personal satisfaction to see that growth."

The Honors College Eminent Mentor award was established by a gift from the Margaret and Thomas Meehan Estate. The Meehans came to Oregon State in 1962. Thomas was a history professor who was well-known for teaching and mentorship before retiring in 1987. Margaret worked in the library as well as the history department and later helped establish the University Honors Program — a predecessor to today's Honors College — serving as its director from 1974 until her retirement in 1986. A list of past eminent mentors can be found at honors.oregonstate.edu/faculty-awards.

Leveling the playing field:

Honors College Champions Carol and Rich Pickard.

The Honors College Champions are leading an unprecedented fundraising effort in the college by making gifts of \$100,000 or more. “The Honors College Champions are completely reshaping our future as a college and expanding our sense of what is possible,” says Dean Toni Doolen. “Never before have we seen giving at this level — and the leadership, commitment and vision of our champions are setting the college up to be a true model of innovative and inclusive excellence in honors education at public universities.”

For Carol and Rich Pickard, experience with the Honors College has only increased their commitment.

“We believe in the mission of the Honors College to educate talented young people to the highest degree possible,” Carol and Rich explain. “Our good friend, Zachary Pinard, [H.B.S. environmental sciences ’20] recently graduated from OSU and went through all four years in the Honors College. His experience kept us very current on how well the Honors College is doing under Dean Toni Doolen to provide a superb small-college feel in a big university for extremely talented students.”

Carol is an Oregon State alumna and well understands the value of the degree. She graduated in 1976 with a B.S. in clothing textiles and related arts and was involved in numerous extra-curricular opportunities, including time as a member of Mortar Board, working as a resident assistant in Buxton Hall, serving as a Memorial Union Program Council board member and playing the flute in the marching and symphonic bands.

Rich attended Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and he has been an active alumnus. He served terms as vice president and president on the Williams College Executive Committee for the Society of Alumni and was a member of the Board of Trustees.



Photo courtesy of Carol and Rich Pickard.

Carol and Rich met at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where they both attended law school. Following graduation, Carol spent time in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of captain before turning to civil litigation as an insurance defense attorney. She served on the Honors College Board of Regents for 11 years and was named an Honors College Alumni Fellow by the Oregon State University Alumni Association in 2013. She is also a member of the OSU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Carol and Rich’s Honors College Champions gift has created a new differential tuition scholarship that will support access to honors education for all admitted students.

“We decided to be Honors College Champions because we understand there is a [differential tuition] to participate in the Honors College,” Rich says. “We feel strongly that money should not be a deciding factor in whether or not a student can attend the Honors College and wanted to level the playing field as much as possible so that any student who otherwise qualifies could participate in the Honors College.”

“We want the Honors College to have the resources it needs to educate young people as well as possible, providing research opportunities, small classes and other attributes of a first-rate education.”

To learn more about supporting the Honors College, visit honors.oregonstate.edu/giving, or contact Kellie Parker with the OSU Foundation at kellie.parker@osufoundation.org or 541-207-6182.



Honors College makes the top 10 again on second Dam Proud Day.

After ranking in the top 10 for dollars raised and number of donors two years ago in the first Dam Proud Day, Oregon State’s 24-hour fundraising event, the Honors College did even better the second time around.

Surpassing previous giving totals, the Honors College raised \$38,987.50 on the 2021 Dam Proud Day* on April 28. This was the eighth-highest total among the 58 participating units from across the university. The Honors College received gifts from 98 donors, the 12th largest group overall.

All funds raised support differential tuition scholarships for Honors College students. Differential tuition is the cost of enrollment in the Honors College and supports curricular and co-curricular offerings. Students can apply for a differential tuition scholarship every year to help offset this cost.

“What a great day for the Honors College,” says Dean Toni Doolen. “For the second time, our entire community, including current students, alumni, faculty, family and friends, came together to do something that will have a significant impact and advance our goals of inclusive excellence.”

The Honors College had set a goal of 60 donations for the day, a number passed by mid-afternoon. Every 10 gifts, up to 60, unlocked a new challenge gift created by a diverse group of Honors College community leaders:

- » Tom and Angie Beer, Rahul and Samantha Shah, Joachim Strenk, Jill and Randy Thomas, and Janette and Scott Townsend created the Honors College Parent and Family Challenge.
- » Susan Lair and Doug Trobough and Dan and Margaret Porth created the Legacy Parent Challenge.
- » Karen Bolin, Jaimee and Adam King, and the Masters family created the Legacy Alumni Challenge.
- » Kerry Ahearn, Kevin Ahern and Indira Rajagopal, the Cynipid Fund, and Jim and Bonnie Krueger created the Honors College Faculty Challenge.
- » Dan and Wanda Arp, Toni and Erick Doolen, Joe Hendricks and Hazel Reeves, and Susan and Larry Rodgers created the Deans Challenge.
- » Eric and Heather MacKender and Tristan Wagner created the Honors College Alumni Challenge.

“I am inspired and overwhelmed by the support of everyone who stepped forward,” Doolen says. “We talk a great deal about the importance of community in the Honors College, and this year, we showed exactly what being a part of a strong community means.”

Dam Proud Day 2022 is scheduled for April 27.

*Dam Proud Day was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The class of 2021 gets ready for **WHAT'S NEXT.**

The Honors College is excited to share the degrees earned, future plans and thesis projects for a small selection of this year's graduating class. We're proud of all honors graduates and are confident they will accomplish great things in their lives and careers.

OBSIDIAN HALL

Jade Warner

Degree: H.B.A., Social Science

Minor: Political Science

Jade is currently enjoying a gap year (or two) while deciding what she'd like to accomplish in graduate school. Jade is contemplating law school, and based on her thesis research, she is also considering pursuing a Ph.D. in an anthropology- or communications-related field.

Thesis: College Students' Perceptions of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccinations



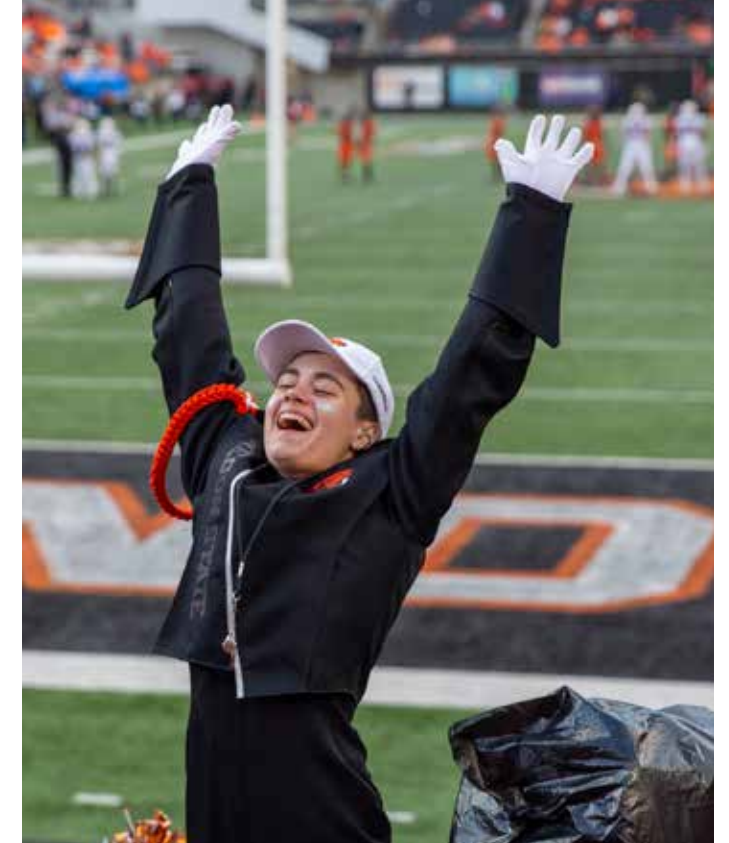
Alexandria Herrera

Degree: H.B.S., Mechanical Engineering

Minor: Medical Humanities

Alexandria is attending the University of Western States in Portland with the goal to become a chiropractor. She is excited to dive into the realm of alternative and integrative medicine.

Thesis: Post-Preservation Maintenance of Cadavers to Prevent Tissue-Dehydration in Educational Environments



Linus Unitan

Degree: H.B.S., Chemistry

Minor: Biology

Linus is working as a scribe in the Corvallis, Albany and Lebanon emergency departments while applying for medical school.

Thesis: Janus-Type Wicking Microfluidic Devices for Separation and Collection of Plasma from Blood



Kyle Patubo

Degrees: H.B.S., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Kyle wants to be a physician and is studying for the MCAT and working in two positions during a gap year. His primary job is clinical research coordinator at OHSU/Doernbecher in the department of pediatric nephrology, where he manages multiple research studies. He is also interim ASOSU SafeRide Coordinator at Oregon State, working toward returning the service to full force in the near future.

Thesis: Parenting While Being a University Student During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Oral History Project

Meet more graduates from the class of 2021 and see where they're headed next at
honors.oregonstate.edu/hc-graduates.

2021 HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATES







Allan Aguirre-Burk	Isabel Brinck	Arthur Finstad	Tucker Holstun	Drew Kutcher	Julianne Morreale	Shrida Sharma	Jacob Van de Lindt
Jonathan Alexander	Jessica Brown	Camryn Flint	Yulin Hu	Bryn Landrus	Sophia Newman	Indigo Sherck	Meghan Van Der Hyde
Emi Ampo	Jacob Buckner	Julian Fortune	Riley Humbert	Alexander Laub	Prema Nissinen	Zeyad Shureih	Rohan Varma
Janie Anderson	Timothy Bui	Amanda Fox	Maia Insinga	David Le	Jacob North	Arden Smith	Esteban Vega
Elizabeth Andreyka	Simone Burton	Rebecca France	John Jablonski	Samantha Lesch	Olivia Ozguc	Richard Smith	Esther Vega
Aarushi Arora	Galo Bustamante	Ashley Francis	Michelle Jayawickrama	Yi Li	Mihir Palan	Sierra Smith	Kimberly Vele
Alena Arounpradith	Patrick Callagy	Sara Fun	Sam Jensen	Vicki Liang	Cassidy Parker	Maksim Sorkin	Seth Walton
Joshua Bamberger	Hilary Chaimov	Rosalinda Garcia	Brandon Jeong	Lauren Lippman	Elizabeth Parker	Alden Sova	Jade Warner*
McKenzie Barker	Lilian Chan	Gabrielle Gibbon	Junhyeok Jeong	Jaelyn Litzinger	Zachary Parsons	Kiersten Sparks	Thomas Weathers
Alice Bayly	Evietta Chapman	Simone Gibson	Nathaniel Jewell	Aidan Long	Kian Patel	Lindsey Spencer	Derek Webb
Sofia Beer	Danny Chen	Mylene Gorzynski	Benjamin Johnson	Benjamin Mabrey	Shalvi Patel	Zachary Steinberg	Claire Williams
Kendrea Beers	Jesse Chick	Emma Gottfried	Michael Jolibois	Alyssa MacKenzie	Kyle Patubo	Samantha Stone	Gillian Williams
Nicole Bell	Genevieve Connolly	Ilana Gottfried-Lee	Andrew Joseph	Noelle Mannen	Seth Pinckney	Wyatt Stottlemire	Hannah Williams
David Bemis	Madison Cowles	Kennedy Grant	Matthew Jou	Benjamin Martin	Darryl Ray	Jessie Strenk	Rosemary Williams
Marley Bennett	Cambria Cross	Oliver Graumann	Savannah Justen	Ethan Mason	Logan Reck	Chuan Hao Tan	Daniel Wisnewski
Maya Bergmann	Sean Davis	Alex Grejuc	Kyra Kadhim	Rachel McAfee	Trevor Reid	Yi Peng Teo	Ryan Wong
Abigail Bernasconi	Addison DeBoer	Matthew Guo	Mackenzie Karnstein	Madeleine McArthur	Kai Roberts	Tiffany Tep	Xingqi Yan
Renuka Bhatt	Paige Dingman Manela	Tarah Gustafson	Charles Kawasaki	John McCarthy	Dana Robertson	Ian Thompson-Hernandez	Arthur York
Arnav Bhutani	Renee Doran	Michael Haffner	Avalon Kelly	Patrick McGrath	Kimbert Robinson	Danil Thorstensson	Julia Zavala
Joseph Bieber	Claire Dowd	Taylor Hamby	Bryan Kelly	Jackson Miller	David Rockow	Rylie Tiffin	
Paige Bishman	Catherine Du	Quinn Handley	Mikaela Kerr	Saylor Miller	Anna Roth	Kristen Travers	*OSU-Cascades graduate
Keeley Blackie	Matthew Easdale	Stephen Harger	Mira Khare	Tristan Mitchell	Michaela Rybolt	Ezmie Trevarrow	
Alexa Blaskowsky	Jordan Eaton	Hunter Hartman	Sharon Kim	Adina Mollusky	Alyssa Santisteven	Kyle Trevis	Includes students who
Madeline Bloom	Alexa Elliot	Sarra Hawash	Sydney Klupar	Alexander Molotkov	Reed Sattizahn	Natsumi Tsuchihashi	graduated in fall term,
Kylie Boenisch	Maja Engler	Claire Hekkala	Alexis Knight	Ammara Molvi	Katie Sawtelle	Linus Unitan	2020 and winter, spring and
Kendra Braun	Meagan Fabbi	Alexandria Herrera	Gabriel Kulp	Cailin Moore	Zale Schwarz	Teresa Valdez	summer terms, 2021.
Anna Breen	Caprial Farrington	Trevor Hisanaga	Allison Kurtz				



Oregon State University Honors College

Learning Innovation Center 450
Corvallis, OR 97331
honors.oregonstate.edu

FOLLOW THE HONORS COLLEGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

-  facebook.com/osuhonors
-  instagram.com/osuhonors
-  linkedin.com/school/osuhonors
-  twitter.com/osuhonors

