

# 2017 SPRING RECOGNITION CEREMONY



Saturday, April 1, 2017  
2:00 – 4:00pm in the Old Capitol Senate Chamber  
on the University of Iowa Campus

# 2017 HONORS AT IOWA RECOGNITION CEREMONY

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS** | Art Spisak, Director, University of Iowa Honors Program

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS** | Kelly Thornburg, Director of Scholar Development

- Rhodes Dunlap First Year Scholarships
- Dewey Stuit Award for Excellence in the Second Year
- Rhodes Dunlap Second Year Scholarships
- The Fellows Project
- James D. Robertson Scholarships
- Kay Keeshan Hamod Award

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS** | Richard Tyner & Brett Williams

- Richard Tyner Scholarship
- Guy D. and Betty J. Williams Awards

**PRESENTATION OF RHODES DUNLAP COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

**TIPPIE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS** | Kenneth Brown, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING** | Jon Kuhl, Interim Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES** | Helena Dettmer, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs & Curriculum

**PRESENTATION OF FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS** | Holly Yoder, Kelly Thornburg, Bob Kirby, Art Spisak

**HONORS ADVISING AWARD** | John Solow, Tippie College of Business

**HONORS SCHOLAR ADVOCATE AWARD** | Martha Kirby, Department of Political Science

**HONORS AWARD FOR CAMPUS SUPPORT** | Laura Goddard, Undergraduate Admissions

**LANE DAVIS AWARD FOR TEAM TEACHING** | Tori Forbes, Dept. of Chemistry & Andrew Forbes, Dept. of Biology

**PRESENTATION OF HONORS AT IOWA AWARDS** | Kelly Thornburg, Director of Scholar Development

**NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS** | Kelly Thornburg, Director of Scholar Development

**STUDENT REMARKS** | Jacob Isbell, Class of 2018

**CLOSE OF CEREMONY** | Art Spisak, Director, University of Iowa Honors Program

**RECEPTION | ALL ARE WELCOME!**

# 2017 HONORS AT IOWA RECOGNITION CEREMONY

*Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, faculty and community supporters, Honors is able to offer a range of merit-based scholarships and awards to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our undergraduate scholars as well as faculty, staff, and alumni.*

## RHODES DUNLAP FIRST YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

*An award established at the bequest of our program's founder to recognize the most promising scholars in their first year of undergraduate study.*

**Melissa Adrian**, *Statistics, Mathematics, Chicago, IL*

Melissa will graduate in the spring of 2020 with degrees in Statistics and Mathematics, as well as a certificate in Large Data Analysis. She is currently involved in the student organization UI PAWS as a new member and in the WiSE Mentoring Program as a mentee. Next year, she will be a WiSE mentor for first-year STEM women. She is actively looking for ways to enhance her learning experience through undergraduate research in Mathematics.

**Maya Altemeier**, *Public Health, Cedar Rapids, IA*

Maya will graduate in May of 2020 with a major in Public Health. Her current research interest is based around how environmental factors, including social interactions and the built environment, affect health-related behaviors of people. She is involved in an A Capella group on campus and when she isn't studying she spends her weekends volunteering with the University of Iowa Mobile Clinic.

**Rikki Laser**, *Biology, Psychology, Vernon Hills, IL*

Rikki Serafina Laser will graduate in 2020 with Bachelor's degrees in neurobiology and psychology. Her favorite parts of the day are those spent in the Blumberg lab learning about how twitching helps develop babies' sensorimotor cortex through rats and mice. She is also a Student Ambassador for the Department of Biology and works for The Daily Iowan as a copy editor. Rikki also loves writing fantasy, enjoys crochet, and is part of the Honors and Iowa Bioscience Academy programs.

**Clara Reynen**, *Theatre Arts, Cinema, Mitchell, SD*

Clara is a first-year student at the University of Iowa, and she is currently studying Theatre Arts and Religious Studies. She is fascinated by the role of the arts in society, and believes they play an integral part in the world. Her nephew Emmett has inspired much of her most recent work and has encouraged her to explore the world of theatre's relationship with children, play, and the way they learn.

**Isabella Senno**, *Anthropology, Journalism and Mass Communication, Evanston, IL*

Isabella will graduate in May 2020 with bachelor degrees in Anthropology and Journalism. Committed to seeking new knowledge Isabella currently moves as a news reporter for the Daily Iowan and as section editor for Verve magazine. For her work in journalism over the past three years she has received multiple commendations at state and national levels. Currently, she is searching for ways to spend her summer exploring cultures both within and beyond the U.S..

**Devyn Stewart**, *Biochemistry, Le Grand, IA*

Devyn will graduate in May of 2020 with a degree in biochemistry, hoping to move on to medical school. His interest in chemistry drove him to do research with Dr. Chris Cheatum in his chemistry laboratory, where they study the use and applications of femtosecond lasers. He engages in activities through the Bucksbaum Early Entrance Academy, of which he is a part, Medicus, and the Cafecito Cervantes, a Spanish conversation club.

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**Joshua Yem**, *Human Physiology, Music Performance, Marion, IA*

Joshua plans to graduate from the University of Iowa in May 2020 with a double major in Human Physiology on the Pre-Medical Track and Music Performance on Oboe. He is currently a member of the UI Symphony Band. Joshua enjoys volunteering at UIHC in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit as well as playing piano in public areas of the hospital. He also works as a pharmacy technician at a hospital in his hometown.

**Tia Zimmerman**, *Biochemistry, Dubuque, IA*

Tia will graduate in May of 2020 with a BS in Biochemistry. Her research interests primarily include those involving avian creatures. She plans on travelling to Japan within the next few years where she hopes to meet some Japanese birds, as well as expand her fluency in the culture and language.

## DEWEY B. STUIT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE SECOND YEAR

*An honor created by Emeritus Dean Stuit, the long-serving University of Iowa Dean of Liberal Arts to recognize one superlative second-year student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.*

**Cassidy Shubatt**, *Economics, Mathematics, Arabic, Dubuque, IA*

Cassidy is a second year student majoring in Economics and Mathematics, with minors in Arabic and Computer Science. Next year, Cassidy will be taking her studies to Mansfield College at the University of Oxford before returning to Iowa to graduate in 2019. Eventually, she'd like to work conducting her own Economic research in order to find policy solutions for reducing income inequality and extreme poverty in the United States.

## RHODES DUNLAP SECOND YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

*An award established at the bequest of our program's founder to recognize the most promising scholars in their second year of undergraduate study.*

**Marc Beer**, *Biology, West Chicago, IL*

Marc will graduate in May of 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Environmental Science. He recently joined Dr. Forbes' lab in the Department of Biology, where he investigates speciation in a genus of fruit fly. Post-graduation, Marc intends to pursue a PhD in a specialized area of ecology before seeking employment with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Aside from academics, Marc is an artist, aquarist, and film aficionado.

**Madhuri Belkale**, *Political Science, Psychology, Cedar Rapids, IA*

Madhuri is a Pre-Law student pursuing a bachelor's degree with majors in Psychology and Political Science and a minor in Spanish. She serves as a research assistant in the Denburg neurology lab and is currently working with data concerning aging and decision making. Madhuri also works as a copy editor for The Daily Iowan and enjoys membership in Alpha Phi Omega and Phi Alpha Delta. She plans on studying in Santiago, Chile, this summer.

**Aaron Buelow**, *Biomedical Engineering, West Des Moines, IA*

Aaron is a Sophomore majoring in Biomedical Engineering. He is also following the Pre-Physical Therapy track as he plans to acquire a Doctorate of Physical Therapy after he graduates in May of 2019. Beginning his freshman year Aaron began research under Professor James Ankrum and his sophomore year he also joined Professor Shields lab. He also volunteers in the RSCCU unit at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

**Jordan Hansen**, *Open Major, Spencer, IA*

Jordan is a sophomore currently considering majors in Psychology and Communication Studies. Jordan is a Resident Assistant and Vice President of the National Residence Hall Honorary. Her genuine concern for

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supporting and advocating for students motivated her to leave engineering and pursue her interests in Higher Education. Jordan recently studied abroad in India, giving her numerous opportunities to realize all these changes don't mean her life is falling apart; it's simply falling into place.

**Michaela Mallin**, *Dance, Biomedical Engineering, Waterloo, IA*

Mikaela is a Biomedical Science and Dance double major who performs investigative and creative research in both fields. As an Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates Ambassador, she works in Robert Cornell's Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology research lab, and does dance research with Dance Department Chair Rebekah Kowal. Mikaela also volunteers at the Cleft Lip and Palate Clinic at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She spent Winter Break 2016 studying abroad in Madurai, Tamil-Nadu, India, at Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Center.

**Danielle Marvin**, *Psychology, DeWitt, IA*

Danielle is in her second year at the University of Iowa and is working towards her BA in Psychology. She has been involved in the True@theU campaign, worked as a psychology lab research assistant, and through the Camp Adventure program, has spent summer 2016 in South Korea and will spend summer 2017 in Bahrain. She is currently studying abroad in Rwanda for spring 2017.

**Eduard Popa**, *Chemistry, Biochemistry, Mount Prospect, IL*

Eduard, having immigrated from Romania in 1999, was taught the value of education as a tool to pave one's future at an early age. Graduating in 2019 with a double major in Chemistry and Biochemistry, Eduard will pursue a career in dentistry, a profession that has fascinated him since the second grade. In addition to being on the executive board of Students for Service, he has also become involved at the University of Iowa through the Mobile Clinic, Personal Genome Learning Center, and Shelter House of Iowa City. In his free time, Eduard also enjoys traveling, biking, skiing, and rock climbing.

**Kelsey Schumitt**, *Marketing, Economics, Coralville, IA*

Kelsey is a Sophomore double majoring in Marketing and Economics at the University of Iowa. Currently, she works as a marketing representative at Student Life Marketing + Design. She is also the Corporate Relations Chair for the University of Iowa's Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity. To progress towards her goal of working internationally as a marketer for a public health company, Kelsey will be interning abroad this summer in Dublin, Ireland.

## THE FELLOWS PROJECT

*The Fellows Project was established to identify exceptionally thoughtful, curious and motivated Honors students early on in their education and to create a space where each Fellow is challenged to develop a knowledge of the self and community that will deepen their intellectual life, strengthen their engagement with their academic community and foster authenticity and confidence in their personal and professional relationships.*

## FIRST YEAR FELLOWS

**Denise Cheeseman**, *English, Creative Writing, Minnetonka, MN*

Denise is pursuing an English Creative Writing major and Sustainability certificate. Currently, she serves on the Homecoming 2017 Executive Council as the Sustainability Director, works at the UI Center for Conferences, and manages communications for the Environmental Coalition as secretary. Her future goals include studying abroad

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in Dublin next summer, completing a series of essays on female farmers in Iowa for her thesis, working for an environmental nonprofit, and seeing/saving the world.

**Daniel Kelly**, *Undeclared Engineering, Iowa City, IA*

Daniel is a first year student at the University of Iowa's College of Engineering and is a member of the Stem Scholars Living Learning Community. He is majoring in mechanical engineering, and is interested in sustainable energy. Outside the classroom, he was a team member of a Creative Kickstart team that built a drone. He hopes to spend a semester studying abroad in the near future.

**Riley Lewers**, *Political Science, Economics, Iowa City, IA*

Riley plans to graduate in May 2020 with majors in Economics and Political Science, as well as a minor in Statistics. Beyond the classroom, Riley works with Professor Rene Rocha on Political Science Research focusing on immigration, and serves as Secretary of University Democrats. Riley is also an intern for the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, and works as a fellow for Dave Loebsack's congressional campaign. In her free time Riley enjoys running, reading, and playing piano.

**Caleb Mann**, *Biomedical Engineering, Marion, IA*

Caleb Mann will graduate in May 2020 with a bachelor degree in Biomedical Engineering. Caleb has received the award Freshman of the Month from NRHH on the campus, regional, and national level for showing a passion to engage in the community and being supportive of his peers. Caleb is also engaged in an engineering organization called IMARC and is filling the leadership role of secretary.

**Russell Martin**, *Biomedical Engineering, West Branch, IA*

Russell is a part of Iowa's Class of 2020, and is studying Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Computer Science. Russell is involved in a wide range of activities on campus, including singing in choir, volunteering with Alternative Spring Break, and researching genetic diseases with the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. This summer, Russell plans to run his first marathon and to study abroad at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

**Abigail Simon**, *Speech and Hearing Science, Ann Arbor, MI*

Abigail is a first year student at the University of Iowa pursuing a degree in Speech and Hearing Science and a minor in Global Health Studies. Abigail currently serves as a Freshman Senator for the University of Iowa Student Government (UISG). Within UISG, she serves on the Student Life and Sustainability committees and is most interested in encouraging students to make more sustainable decisions. Additionally, Abigail is a member of the University Lecture Committee, works as a campus tour guide, and volunteers at Table to Table.

## SECOND YEAR FELLOWS

**Noah Anderson**, *Classical Languages, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Albion, IA*

Noah is working on bachelor degrees in classical languages, philosophy, and religious studies and will graduate in 2019. Though he had the opportunity to do research in radiology at the University of Kansas hospitals in 2016, he opted instead to pursue research in Latin and the digital humanities. In doing so, he helped compile and research the biographical information of the authors of a collection of nearly 6000 Latin texts.

**Elijah Bratsch-Prince**, *Political Science, Arabic, Ames, IA*

Eli is a sophomore at the University of Iowa studying Political Science with a minor in Arabic and a certificate in sustainability. Last summer Eli spent two months studying the Arabic language and culture in Fez, Morocco. He is currently an intern with the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council where he helps facilitate events for weekly

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speakers addressing international issues. This summer he will be working as an intern with the Iowa City Recycling Center.

**Alex Marti**, *Biology, Asian Languages and Literature, Waukon, IA*

Alex is currently a freshman at the University of Iowa and is majoring in Biology and Chinese. Interested in the medical field, she currently contributes to research regarding the molecular mechanisms behind cardiac failure in diabetes patients. As the first in her family to attend college, Alex enjoys sharing her experiences with others and helping new students adjust to the changes that come with college life, and fulfills this by serving as an ambassador for both the Honors Program and the Department of Biology. In her free time, she participates as a member of the University of Iowa Taekwondo club and enjoys running or hiking. Having always loved culture and diversity, she is currently exploring opportunities abroad and hopes to travel in the near future - and perhaps even practice her Spanish or Chinese language skills!

**Alexandria Yakes**, *Ethics & Public Policy, Omaha, NE*

Alexandria is a second year student studying Ethics & Public Policy and Human Rights. As a student activist, she has spent much of her time working to engage her peers in the political world. Alexandria has been a campus organizer for NARAL Pro-Choice America and the Hillary Clinton campaign. In graduate school, she plans to study education policy.

## KAY KEESHAN HAMOD AWARD

*Contributed by Honors Alumnus David Hamod in honor of his mother, this scholarship applauds a history major for designing a distinguished Honors Thesis or Project in that discipline. This award is meant to support work on that project, so recipients must be full-time students in History and members of the Honors Program in the semester they apply for the Hamod Scholarship and in the year when they hold it. They must also be members of the University of Iowa Honors Program.*

**Katelyn Zingg**, *English, History, Ottumwa, IA*

Katelyn is currently a senior studying English and History, and I plan to graduate in May 2017 with both Honors in History and University Honors. She grew up in Ottumwa, Iowa, where she played tennis and violin as the first chair violinist and sang in both choir and show choir. At the University of Iowa, she has been involved in the Campus Activities Board since freshman year, in which she helped plan and execute campus events like Amy Schumer's comedy show last year. She currently has an editorial internship at the University of Iowa Press (a scholarly publishing house on the west side of Iowa City), which she loves, and she plans to pursue book publishing, ideally in the editorial field, after she graduates.

## JAMES D. ROBERTSON AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Recognizes superlative academic and practical accomplishments in the social sciences. The recipient of the Robertson Scholarship must have come to the University of Iowa as a graduate of an Iowa high school*

**Valerie Drake**, *International Studies, Russian, Korean Studies, Solon, IA*

Valerie is a third year pre-law student majoring in International Studies and Russian, with minors in Korean Studies and Rhetoric and Persuasion. Valerie is driven to learn foreign languages and immerse herself in cultures from around the world. This summer, Valerie will study abroad in South Korea, and next summer in Russia. She currently serves as an Honors Outreach Ambassador, undergraduate teaching assistant, and student researcher for the Russian department. When she is not reading, Valerie enjoys teaching flute lessons, practicing archery, distance running, and horseback riding.

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**Maria Mertzzenich**, *Psychology, Decorah, IA*

Maria is a third-year majoring in psychology with a minor in human relations, on the pre-occupational therapy track. She plans on attending graduate school to achieve her dream of becoming an occupational therapist. Maria works in the Health, Brain, & Cognition Lab at Iowa and enjoys learning about the brain and its many intricacies and abilities. She also works as an Honors student staff member and volunteers at Mercy Hospital in her free time.

## RICHARD TYNER SCHOLARSHIP

*Established in the fall of 2015 by University of Iowa alumnus, Richard Tyner, the intent of the Tyner Scholarship is to offer financial support and recognition to current in-state University of Iowa students who were able to qualify for and enter the Honors Program by becoming more engaged and academically successful during their first year at the university.*

**Kylie Gava**, *Art, Portuguese, Grinnell, IA*

Kylie is a Brazilian-American transfer student from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), currently double majoring in Portuguese and sculpture. After her time at SAIC, she lived abroad in both Brazil and France, traveling extensively. At the University of Iowa, she has been able to combine both her interests in art and Portuguese. Last summer, she worked as an ICRU Research Fellow with Professor Armando Duarte, translating interviews revolving around the topic of carnival in Brazil from Portuguese to English.

**Grace Morrison**, *Psychology, Grinnell, IA*

## GUY D. AND BETTY J WILLIAMS AWARDS

*The Williams Award recognizes students of physics or the natural sciences who are applying the knowledge and skills gleaned from their education in the Liberal Arts and Sciences to environmental challenges.*

**William Fuelberth**, *Physics, Astronomy, Mathematics, Spirit Lake, IA*

William will graduate from the University of Iowa in 2019 with bachelor degrees in Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics. He has been a part of the Hawkeye Marching Band, the Iowa Pep Band, the University Choir, and a campus ministry, 24:7. Will has been conducting research in the physics department for the past year as he is working with a team to design and build a satellite that will be launched in 2018.

**Jacob Isbell**, *Physics, Astronomy, Computer Science, Garrison, IA*

Jacob is a junior pursuing majors in Astronomy and Physics, as well as minors in Computer Science, Mathematics, and Geology.

## FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS

### HONORS AWARD FOR CAMPUS SUPPORT

*The Honors Program professional staff recognizes the particular efforts of an individual whose steadfast and wholehearted support for the Honors Program looms especially large in the lives of honors educators and students at Iowa.*

**Laura Goddard**, *Assistant Director for High Ability Student Recruitment, Undergraduate Admissions*

Laura Goddard is the Assistant Director for High Ability Student Recruitment in the Office of Admissions at the University of Iowa. She is the liaison to the Honors Program from the admissions office and creates communication, events, and outreach all designed to help future students make their college decision and "make their connection" with the UI Honors community. This feeds her need both for macro-level philosophical

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discussions about the future of higher education and for creating lists and action plans. Laura enjoys working with Honors students because together they can “geek out” on any number of topics. Her life-long love of learning is sustained by Honors staff meeting conversations and FURF/SURF poster presentations. Laura trained as a musician, earning a degree in Piano Performance and a minor in German from The University of Iowa. She keeps an office stocked with tunes, gummi candy, and plants. If you give her a book, you won't see her until she's finished reading it.

## STUDENT AND STAFF AWARD FOR HONORS ADVISING

*Advisors who distinguish themselves in advising honors students are valuable assets to both departments and to our program. This recognition is given each year to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of a committed academic advisor on campus.*

**John Solow**, *Professor of Economics, Tippie College of Business*

John L. Solow is a Professor of Economics in the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa. Professor Solow received the B.A. from Yale University and the M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University and joined the Iowa faculty in 1981. He has published articles in the areas of industrial organization, sports economics, and energy economics, and his research interests include antitrust law and economics, sports economics and public policy. He has worked at the Federal Energy Administration and the Electric Power Research Institute, served as a consultant to the U.S. Departments of Energy and Justice, Mid-American Energy, Qwest Telecommunications and numerous law firms, and has been a visiting scholar at Stanford University, the University of Auckland in New Zealand, and Monash University in Australia. Professor Solow teaches Principles of Microeconomics, Sports Economics, Antitrust Economics, and Managerial Economics for MBAs.

## HONORS AT IOWA SCHOLAR ADVOCATE AWARD

*Awarded to faculty and staff by the Associate Provost's Undergraduate Fellowships Committee and the Honors Program in recognition of extraordinary commitment to the recruitment and support of national fellowship applicants at the undergraduate level.*

**Martha Kirby**, *Senior Academic Advisor, Department of Political Science*

Martha Kirby is the academic advisor for the Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She has an M.A. in College Student Development and has worked in undergraduate education—orientation, advising, and academic program management—for over twenty years. Beyond the University of Iowa, Martha serves on the Boards of Directors for the Council on International Visitors to Iowa Cities and the Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors. When not working, Martha loves to bring people together around a table of full of good food, and spend as much time as possible outdoors.

## LANE DAVIS AWARD FOR HONORS TEAM-TEACHING

*Team-teaching is a crucial dynamic of intellectual community. A great way for honors students to pursue inquiry and learn constructive argument is to witness and join lively conversations between professors who bring different educations and interests to important questions. Among many, Professor Lane Davis excelled at team teaching and this award, named in his honor, recognizes and encourages faculty to team teach honors students. Awardees receive a memento and certificate signed by the Honors Director and University President.*

**Tori Z. Forbes**, *Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry*

Tori joined the Department of Chemistry faculty in 2010, having earned a B.S. in Chemistry at Beloit College in 2001 and her doctorate in environmental mineralogy from the University of Notre Dame in 2007. She is a core member of the UI's interdisciplinary [Water Sustainability Initiative](#) and a recipient in 2013 of the National Science

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Foundation CAREER Award, a 2015 recipient of a Department of Energy Early Career Research Program award, and a 2016 University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean's Scholar. With research interests in actinide chemistry, the development of metal organic nanotubes, and the transport of nuclear waste and heavy metals, Forbes has authored many peer-reviewed journal articles and delivered numerous invited lectures and presentations. She teaches introductory chemistry (Principles of Chemistry I), inorganic chemistry, and radiochemistry courses in addition to the Honors Primetime course (with Dr. Andrew Forbes in Biology).

**Andrew Forbes**, Associate Professor, Department of Biology

Andrew A. Forbes is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and the Academic Coordinator of the UI Environmental Sciences Program. Professor Forbes has a B.A. in Biology from Colgate University and a Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Forbes studies the diversity and evolution of insects, with an emphasis on the role of ecology in the origin of species. His research has been featured in the journals *Science*, *Evolution*, *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, among others, and the National Science Foundation currently funds his lab. Dr. Forbes has taught several courses at the University of Iowa, including small seminars, lab courses, large lecture courses, and an honors primetime course (with Dr. Tori Forbes in Chemistry). In 2013-2014, Dr. Forbes participated in the development and implementation of two active learning courses titled *Origins of Life in the Universe I and II*. Taught by a team of seven different professors from five different departments across the span of a full year, these courses became the first of several "Big Ideas" courses on campus, and Dr. Forbes remains active in the "Big Ideas" teaching community.

## RHODES DUNLAP COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIPS

*An award established at the bequest of our program's founder to recognize the most promising scholars in their third year of undergraduate study.*

**Eleanor Burke**, Psychology, Cedar Rapids, IA

Eleanor is a third-year Psychology major and Human Relations minor, who plans to earn a PsyD and become a licensed clinical psychologist. She is currently researching with Gary Gaeth and Irwin Levin to study decision-making in adults with Autism Spectrum disorders, and their work has been published in a major journal. She founded, and is the current President of the Cosplay Club at Iowa, a student organization for hobbyist costume-makers to improve their skills.

**Asa Crow**, Studio Art, Charleston, IA

Asa will graduate with a major in Studio Art focusing in Intermedia, as well as a minor in Geology, and a certificate in Sustainability. Outside of class, she works as Programming Director at KRUI 89.7FM and is a monitor for the School of Art and Art History's Photo Lab. Her late night music show Crowe's Nest airs from midnight to 1am Friday mornings. She volunteers at the Paleontology Repository because fossils are cool.

**Laura Fischer**, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Cedar Rapids, IA

Laura aims to earn a Ph.D. in Developmental, Regenerative and Stem Cell Biology. She is currently pursuing degrees in Biochemistry and Chemistry as well as minors in Mathematics and Biology. Under Dr. Marc Wold, she is researching Replication Protein A, which is a protein that helps stabilize DNA and protect against genetic mutations. Laura has also conducted cancer research under Dr. JoAnn Sekiguchi at the University of Michigan.

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**Callie Ginapp**, *Biology, Mason City, IA*

Callie is a third year majoring in neurobiology and is part of the clinical and translational science certificate program. She studies CO<sub>2</sub> induced arousal from sleep under Dr. Buchanan in the Neurology Department. As a Student Ambassador and vice president of UIBIO, Callie engages both prospective and current biology students with academic and career opportunities. Callie also volunteers as a patient advocate at the Emma Goldman Clinic.

**Lance Heady**, *Biochemistry, Biology, Quincy, IL*

Lance is majoring in Biochemistry and Neurobiology while also pursuing a Certificate in Clinical and Translational Science. Lance is an RA for the STEM Scholars LLC. He competes on the competitive ballroom dance team at the open level and just returned from the national ranking competition. Lance investigates Huntington's disease and potential therapeutics which alter the proteomic causes of the disease. He is currently deciding between pursuing medical scientist training or professional ballroom dancing.

**Elizabeth Helfenberger**, *Physics, Mathematics, Ottumwa, IA*

**Kara Hoving**, *Environmental Sciences, Mountain Lakes, NJ*

Kara is a junior majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Biology and a Certificate in Sustainability. Kara has spent the last three years committed to spreading environmental awareness on campus, serving as co-president of the UI Environmental Coalition and as a Spring 2016 Fellow in the Climate Narrative Project. She works as the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council Liaison on the Honors Student Staff, and spends her free time training for marathons.

**Anya Kim**, *Biology, Spanish, Indianola, IA*

Anya is a third year with majors in Biology and Spanish. She does research in the Dailey Lab studying ways to protect the immune cells of the brain during stroke. Last summer she studied abroad in Scotland as part of the Fulbright Summer Institutes, and on campus she is the Teaching Assistant for the Latham Science Engagement Initiative, the Vice-President of the Presidential Scholars Program, and a player for the university's Ultimate Frisbee team.

**Evan Kramer**, *Philosophy, Marion, IA*

Evan will graduate in the spring semester of 2018 with a bachelor degree in Philosophy. He has been greatly involved in his local church, serving as both head usher and church librarian. His research interests, thoroughly eclectic, include classical and medieval philosophy, philosophical theology, and patristics. Evan hopes in the coming year to apply to various graduate programs in theology and patristics.

**Alora Kraus**, *Biochemistry, Iowa City, IA*

Alora is a third year student earning a degree in biochemistry and a certificate in writing. She is currently participating in a year-long study abroad program at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. At the University of Iowa, she works as an honors peer advisor and as an honors writing fellow. She also works in a research lab studying disease mechanisms and cell metabolism with Eric Taylor.

**Michael Mahanna**, *Psychology, Grimes, IA*

Mike is a transfer student from the University of Denver. As a psychology major, he is very passionate about psychological research. He is involved as a research assistant in both a social psychology and behavioral neuroscience lab here at Iowa. In his free time, Mike is an avid weightlifter and fitness enthusiast, and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

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**Maria Fernan Larraga Martinez**, *Biomedical Engineering, Monroe, WI*

Maria is a junior studying Biomedical Engineering and minoring in Math. She was born in Mexico and moved to Monroe, WI with her family in 2008. She's involved in the Society of Women Engineers, the Newman Catholic Student Center, and is an engineering tutor. She studied abroad in Newcastle, Australia during the fall semester, which was an incredible learning experience. She plans on attending grad school to become an Orthotics and Prosthetics Practitioner.

**Poojah Patel**, *Biomedical Sciences, Human Physiology, Dubuque, IA*

Pooja is enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Iowa. She is studying Biomedical Sciences and Human Physiology on the pre-medicine track. She is currently doing undergraduate research with Dr. Sarit Smolikove in the Biology Department to obtain her Honors in the Major. This summer, she plans to study abroad through the SIT Program in India: Traditional Medicine and Healthcare Practices. This past summer, she was a Resident Mentor for the Upward Bound Program, where she mentored low-income and first-generation students. She has been a tutor for TRIO Student Support Services for the past year, was an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for General Chemistry last semester, and is a Supplemental Instruction Leader for the Academic Resource Center this semester. Pooja currently serves as the Communications Coordinator for the National Residence Hall Honorary, and she is also an active member of the South Asian Student Alliance Executive Board. After completing her undergraduate education, she plans on attending medical school.

**Anna Seydel**, *Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science, Iowa City, IA*

Anna will graduate with majors in biomedical engineering and computer science. Through her position at the Center for Computer-Aided Design, she strives to incorporate knowledge from both fields while working on the Virtual Soldier Research Project. Anna aims to continually expand her leadership skills, apparent by her position as Vice Regent for the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity, Director of Student Relations for the Engineering Student Council, and Lead Tutor at the Engineering Tutorial Center.

**Spencer Van Dorn**, *Biomedical Engineering, Cedar Falls, IA*

Spencer will graduate in 2018 from the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering and a minor in Spanish. Spencer has conducted cellular engineering research and has also helped develop a device to improve the spacial awareness of people with tunnel vision, The L.E.O. Belt. He is currently a trauma research engineering co-op at Zimmer Biomet. Spencer enjoys working with the BAJA car team and flying drones on weekends.

**Nathaniel Weger**, *Mechanical Engineering, Cedar Rapids, IA*

Nate is a junior in Mechanical Engineering. He is currently conducting research in biomass gasification, and plans to further research clean energy solutions as a graduate student. Nate is the president of Continental Crossings, with whom he travelled to Nicaragua to help construct a footbridge for a rurality isolated community. He is also a senator in the University of Iowa Student Government, where he is on the Sustainability and Governmental Relations committees.

## BRIGGS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THIRD YEAR STUDENTS

**Jacob Isbell**, *Physics, Astronomy, Computer Science, Garrison, IA*

Jacob is a junior studying astronomy, physics, mathematics, computer science, and geology. He studied abroad in southern Sweden last semester, och han talar lite svenksa nu. He has participated in astronomy research for 3 years, and now works with Dr. Hai Fu to study galactic evolution, specifically the effects of galactic collisions in the early universe. He is also an active member of the JKO Iowa karate club and of the Society of Physics Students.

# 2017 HONORS AT IOWA RECOGNITION CEREMONY

**Kathleen Kieseewetter**, *English, Art, Gender, Women's & Sexuality Studies, Farmington, IL*

Katie Kieseewetter is an English and Graphic Design major with a minor in GWSS. She works as the outreach & design admin for the UI Honors Program and as a bartender at Big Grove Brewery & Taproom. Because forty hour weeks can get boring, of course, Katie also likes to pick up freelance design work on the side. Her foreseeable goal is to graduate with her BA / BFA and become a professional graphic designer, focusing on advertising, branding, and food & beverage packaging.

## HONORS AT IOWA SCHOLAR AWARDS

*Each year, Honors identifies extraordinary graduating seniors across the University of Iowa for celebration as Honors at Iowa Scholars. This high recognition acclaims student work in and beyond the classroom, with an emphasis on the applicant's knowledge, skill, and experience as well as outstanding academic performance, excellence within their chosen discipline(s), and any contributions made to the University community through performance, research, organizational leadership, volunteer service and intellectual or creative engagement.*

## TIPPIE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Taylor Palensky**, *Finance, Accounting, Ames, IA*

During her time at Iowa Taylor was deeply involved within the Honors Department, University of Iowa Foundation's Student Philanthropy Group. In addition, Taylor helped co-found Moneythink, an organization at providing financial literacy education to at-risk youth in the community. She hopes to continue service work with at-risk kids in her future communities. Following graduation, Taylor will be joining the Capital Markets and Accounting Advisory Services team at PriceWaterhouseCoopers in New York City.

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**Alexandra Bartlett**, *Chemical Engineering, Accounting, Clive, IA*

Alexandra majored in finance and chemical engineering. She was active in the Presidential Scholars Program, Omega Chi Epsilon, and the sailing club. Alexandra will be working as a financial analyst in Barclays' Investment Banking division.

**Rae Corrigan**, *Biomedical Engineering, Norwalk, IA*

Rae will graduate in May with a major in biomedical engineering, and has been involved in biomedical research since her first year at Iowa. Projects include computational molecular parameterization of chemotherapy drugs, protein structural optimization, and translational oncology. She is a mentor for first year students with Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), and is an undergraduate teaching assistant for the College of Engineering. Rae is also corresponding secretary of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honors fraternity, and has been involved with Honors at Iowa as an ambassador.

**Anastasia Hertz**, *Biomedical Engineering, Buckingham, IL*

Ana is an avid Hawkeye sports fan and loves being involved in student organizations. As an executive board member of the Society of Women Engineers, she has organized and hosted a High School Conference promoting more women in STEM fields for the past two years. She currently serves as the BME Peer Advisor and Vice President of The Engineering Honors Society. In her free time, Ana enjoys exploring Iowa City restaurants and playing sand volleyball. After graduation, Anastasia will be working in the medical device industry, at a company specializing in cardiovascular devices. She is currently debating job offers in both Iowa and Indiana at medical device companies. She is very excited to enter the workforce, buy a puppy, and travel. Ana also plans to pursue her MBA with a goal of becoming a Product Manager for a medical device company in the future.

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**Mallory Tollefson**, *Biomedical Engineering, Indianola, Iowa*

Mallory Tollefson graduated in December of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering and a minor in Computer Science. Her involvement in the University of Iowa Honors program allowed her to graduate with High Distinction, University Honors, and Honors from the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Upon her graduation, Mallory was presented with the Outstanding Senior Award from the College of Engineering and is now pursuing a Master's Degree in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Patrick Adrian**, *Physics, Mathematics, Chicago, IL*

Patrick will graduate in May with degrees in Physics and Mathematics with an emphasis in plasma physics. He has been fascinated by how research in basic plasma physics have made impacts in our technology, energy, and defense sectors and desires to be a scientist leading the next wave of advances. He was able to pursue these passions researching with Dr. Scott Baalrud funded through a combination of the Honors Program, the Iowa Center for Undergraduate Research (ICRU) and the Guy and Betty Williams Scholarship and has given back to the ICRU program by being an ambassador advocating for a student research culture. Patrick discovered a passion for travel somewhat unexpectedly through pursuing research that has led him to meetings and jobs around the country and hopes to continue and venture outside the US one day.

**Maya Amjadi**, *Biology, Spanish, Cedar Fall, IA*

Maya has studied biology, Spanish, writing and clinical and translational science at the University of Iowa. For several years she has been conducting research in the Nauseef Lab, investigating how white blood cells respond to bacteria. She studied abroad in Spain, has served as a Teaching Assistant, and volunteered at the Free Medical Clinic in Iowa City. She wants to thank everyone who has contributed to her amazing experience, especially Bob Kirby and Art Spisak.

**Courtney Bright**, *Communication Studies, English, Radnor, OH*

**Madison Creery**, *Political Science, International Relations*

Madison is a senior majoring in Political Science (B.A.) and International Relations (B.S.). As she finishes off her senior year, Madison is finishing her research with Professor Brian Lai, analyzing the public's reaction to terrorist attacks. Madison is also finishing her Honors Thesis, researching the trends of conflict between U.S. and Russia. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies and reading the Game of Thrones series. Actually, just kidding, she has no free time.

**Nadia Fayoumi**, *Human Physiology, Naperville, IL*

Nadia Fayoumi will graduate in May from The University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in Human Physiology and a minor in Arabic. Nadia is a pediatric diabetes research assistant at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Over her college career she has been actively involved in Chi Omega, UI Wishmakers, Honors Ambassadors, and Dance Marathon. Additionally, she is a companionship volunteer for Iowa City Hospice. Nadia will be attending medical school in the fall at The University of Illinois.

**Sydney Hofferber**, *Health & Human Physiology, Engaged Social Innovation, Cedar Rapids, IA*

Sydney Hofferber is a Health and Human Physiology: Health Promotion and Engaged Social Innovation major with a certificate in Nonprofit Management. She has held internships with Hawkeye Area Community Action Program and Girls on the Run of Eastern Iowa. Over a summer, she worked at a military base in Ansbach, Germany, through Camp Adventure. Sydney has been working for two years in the Behavioral Medicine Laboratory headed by Dr.

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Lucas Carr, working on obesity interventions and her own research study on breastfeeding acceptability. She has worked for the Honors Program for three years now, creating the annual fall party and developing the Engaged Social Innovation major. Her current passion project is serving as one of four executive team members for Food Pantry at Iowa, taking the lead in volunteer coordination and pantry management.

**Casey Inman**, *Human Physiology, Boone, IA*

Casey Inman will graduate in May with a degree in Human Physiology and a Psychology Minor. Highly involved with research at Iowa, Casey received a fellowship to fund a project on neurodegenerative diseases during her junior year. Outside of lab, she has enjoyed serving on the Indian Student Alliance and Student Philanthropy Group executive boards. Her favorite experience over the past four years has been tutoring grade school students through the Iowa City Public Library.

**Sophie Katz**, *English & Creative Writing, Psychology, Peoria, IL*

Sophie Katz has majors in English & Creative Writing and Psychology and a minor in Theatre Arts. She has been President of the University of Iowa Feminist Union since sophomore year, has stage managed two University of Iowa Theatre productions, and has spent her summers teaching drum lessons to eight-year-olds with Girls Rock! Iowa City. Her favorite college experience was participating in the Disney College Program, where she pursued her dream of writing for Disney.

**Danny Linggonegoro**, *Human Physiology, Sheldon, OH*

Danny graduated with a degree in Human Physiology and a minor in Spanish. In the lab, he studied preeclampsia, a disorder during pregnancy. Specifically, he was interested in a protein called vasopressin and its role in the development of preeclampsia. Danny also enjoyed serving as a Student Leader Board Member for the Volunteer Services program at the UIHC.

**Erin Maier**, *Astronomy, Physics, Hudson, OH*

Erin Maier will graduate in May from the University of Iowa with bachelor's degrees in Astronomy and Physics. Her research interests lie primarily in the areas of astronomical instrumentation, evolution of stars, and astronomy education. She has previously worked on research projects with University of Iowa faculty Dr. Cornelia Lang and Dr. Robert Mutel, focusing on radio data analysis of stars and our Galaxy, telescope commissioning, and instrument design. She has also participated in two NSF Research Experience for Undergraduate programs at Northern Arizona University and Texas A&M University. She studied star formation in spiral galaxies and designed an instrument for observations of stellar clusters. Erin is a 2016 Goldwater Scholar and a 2015 Latham Science Engagement Fellow. She will be pursuing her Ph.D. in astrophysics beginning this fall, where in addition to research she hopes to focus on developing significant public outreach and engagement programs, especially for underrepresented communities in STEM fields.

**Nicholas McCarty**, *Biochemistry, Microbiology, Geneva, IL*

Nicholas McCarty will graduate in May with a bachelor degree in Biochemistry. Nicholas has conducted research on diabetes, metabolism, and cardiovascular pathology for the last four years with Professor E. Dale Abel. His focus has been on dissecting the molecular mechanisms that regulate the activity of glucose transporters within heart cells in an effort to expand therapies for diabetic patients with glucose intolerance. Nicholas spent a semester writing for Phi Beta Kappa's monthly journal and is a Latham Fellow in Science Communication.

**Monisa Saravanan**, *Human Physiology, Coralville, IA*

Monisa Saravanan will graduate with a BS degree in Human Physiology and minors in Global Health and Psychology. Monisa's early exposure to disparities in medicine between countries influenced her interest in

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medicine and global health. This past summer, Monisa interned with SVYM in Kenchanahalli, Karnataka, India creating educational materials for Rheumatoid Arthritis patients. Monisa has been actively involved with the Honors Program since freshman year and has now worked for the program in various capacities.

**Tom Werner**, *Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Cedar Rapids, IA*

Tom Werner will graduate in May with bachelor degrees in computer science, math, and statistics. Tom has been very active with the computer science organization on campus, ACM, helping to organize conferences, high school outreach events, and tech talks. He has also been involved with research throughout his time at Iowa, working on a cyberbullying project as well as various machine learning problems. In September he will begin working at Google.

**Angela Zhang**, *Statistics, Biochemistry, Ames, IA*

This May, Angela Zhang will graduate with degrees in Biochemistry and Statistics and minors in Mathematics and Chemistry. From analyzing wild tomato genomes at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research to slicing mice brains for autism research at the Scripps Research Institute, Angela has pursued a variety of experiences that encompass her two fields of study. Next fall, Angela plans on pursuing a doctorate in Biostatistics (i.e. statistics but biological) at the University of Washington in Seattle where plans on gaining an appreciation for both theoretical statistics and hiking. As a child of international students, Angela hopes to bridge the gap between international and domestic students by promoting multiculturalism at the University of Iowa. She served on the executive board of OASIS (Organization for the Active Support of International Students) and gained new perspectives on how international students assimilate to what they see as a foreign environment. Angela is grateful for all the support she has gotten from the University of Iowa and hopes to take these skills with her to graduate school and beyond.

**Rachel Zuckerman**, *Journalism & Mass Communication, Political Science, Livonia, MI*

Rachel will graduate from the University of Iowa in May with degrees in Political Science and Journalism, as well as a certificate in Cultural Competence. Rachel has been highly involved during her time as a Hawkeye. She worked as Resident Assistant for two years, was an undergraduate teaching assistant, enjoyed membership in a sorority, participated in two Alternative Spring Break trips, and served four years in University of Iowa Student Government, among other things. This year she represented over 20,000 undergraduate students as Student Body President. Rachel's research for her honors senior thesis focused on parental leave policy at higher education institutions. She is hopeful that her research will encourage the University of Iowa to update its current policies regarding paid parental leave.