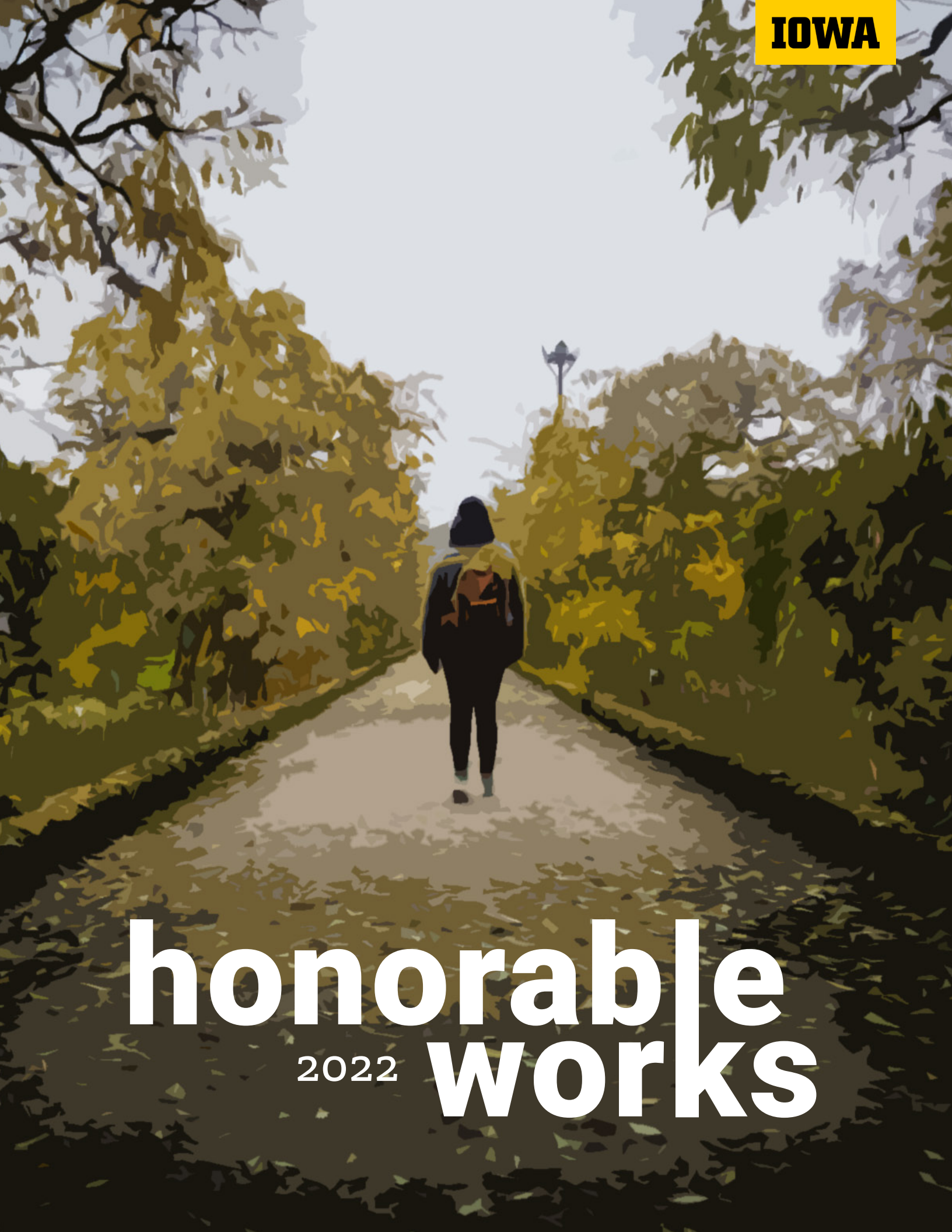


**IOWA**

A person with a backpack is walking away on a path through autumn foliage. The path is lined with trees and bushes with yellow and orange leaves. A street lamp is visible in the distance. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**honorable**  
2022 **works**

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# letter from the editors

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By Julia Fout, Airiana Mohr & Jacob Sammon



The University of Iowa Honors Program strives to cultivate intellectual curiosity and skill through coursework, creative engagement, and experiential learning; this brand new publication exemplifies that mission and shines a light on the students who lend their voices, talents, and perspectives to our community. As honors students, we all know how demanding, yet rewarding, it can be to pursue a deeper education within our respective majors; many of us put in extra work through additional projects to earn honors credit. Unfortunately, those such projects might slip away over time. This new project from our group aptly titled *Honorable Works* is an opportunity for honors students of any year classification or discipline to share their work with the community. Whether it be a poem or short story, a research paper or thesis, art or photography, the *Honorable Works* can be a platform for anyone. We hope that this publication will provide a spotlight on the resolute efforts of our honors students and perhaps inspire those looking to engage in similar projects in the near future.

Julia Fout, Airiana Mohr, and Jacob Sammon, the three Teaching Assistants (TAs) for the Honors Publications course (HONR:2900), collaborated to create a classroom initiative to supervise the creation of this publication. Typically, the TAs are

responsible for editing and organizing the production of Honors Publications, including the Spring and Fall Newsletters, the Summer Orientation Guide, and others. However, we intended to offer the students of this class the opportunity for an inside view into our roles by creating the *Honorable Works*. We would like to express our gratitude and admiration to the following students-turned-editors who made this publication possible: Jayli Carmichael, Dalton Elwood, Seth Foster, Samm Harris, Molly Kilker, Katie Michalski, Maddy Padgett, and Gwen Peters. Without them, this project would not exist. We would also like to thank our honors staff advisor, Holly Yoder, for supporting our idea and our students from pitch to print.

Each week, the students were offered guidance on how publications were created, and then they were given the autonomy to turn this into what they wanted it to be. Before our very eyes, this publication evolved from a small, eclectic pile of student work into the project before you. Every student connected with another honors student and asked them to share their work with this publication. The Honors Publications students then became editors on behalf of those works, helping to refine and uplift various elements of their academic, creative, or visual art pieces. As you will see in

the following pages, this publication contains various student works ranging from rhetoric essays to novel excerpts and photography. *Honorable Works* features a unique range of multidisciplinary pieces that is not typically found in campus publications.

As you immerse yourself into the first of what we hope to be many volumes of *Honorable Works*, we invite you to celebrate not only the work of the contributing authors but the work of the writers-turned-editors. It is our hope that this publication will inspire our honors community and give every student a new platform to share their work, regardless of discipline. Additionally, we hope that each spring, the new cohort of publications writers will continue to engage with our community. As the founders, Julia, Jacob, and Airiana hope that this project, serving as their legacy to the Honors Publications course, grows its wings and evolves into the showcase we envisioned it to be.

We could not be more delighted to show you the work our students have put together and created. Please join us in celebrating just how amazing the students in our community are.

— Julia Fout (BA23), Airiana Mohr (BS23), and Jacob Sammon (BA22)  
*2021-2022 Honors Publications Editing Team*

# *practice makes perfect*

Featured Honors Student: Evalyn Harper

By Molly Kilker



Evalyn Harper

*Practice Makes Perfect* is a young adult contemporary novel following two former friends who reconnect during their senior year over a series of “practice dates.” Dorothy is an aspiring costume designer with a huge crush on the star of the upcoming school musical, but her struggle with social anxiety has made it impossible for her to make a move. During a disastrous first attempt at partying, Dorothy accidentally walks in on golden boy James crying over his recent break up. In an attempt to comfort him, she admits to feeling as if she missed some key life lessons about dating. What should be an awkward one-off encounter between former friends in a stranger’s bathroom turns into a mess of a scheme when James proposes a trade: He’ll teach Dorothy everything he knows about dating if she can help him figure out why all his girlfriends keep dumping him.

James picks me up for our second practice date in his mother’s minivan. Technically it’s his now, even if the bumper stickers still say things like “proud track mom.”

The last time I can remember being in the minivan I was crammed in the back seat, the middle of a James and Lydia sandwich, as we rode home from his thirteenth birthday party. We’d spent the evening in this old-fashioned roller rink and arcade. Lydia had become obsessed with maximizing her tickets to win a giant stuffed panda with anatomically questionable purple spots. Meanwhile, James and I goofed around, trying to beat each other at air hockey and Skee ball and only ended up with a handful of tickets each. I scored some cute food shaped erasers.

James got two ring pops, one of which ended up on my finger. Its overly sweet cherry taste still coated my tongue as we rode quietly back towards home that evening. While Lydia dozed off on Professor Plum the Panda, James and I whispered about nothing, our heads hung close together so we could listen to songs on his brand-new iPod through a shared pair of earbuds.

Sliding into the passenger seat earlier today felt wrong. My eyes keep getting drawn to the spot where a conifer-shaped air freshener used to swing from the rearview mirror. Instead, there’s only awkward silence and, for some inexplicable reason, a plastic dinosaur mounted to the dashboard.

It’s some sort of raptor, one of those toys with a head that bobs gently with

the motion of the van, and it has a tiny lei draped around its neck.

“That’s HeiHei,” James says, lifting two fingers from the wheel to indicate the colorful carnivore.

I tear my gaze away, oddly ashamed to have been caught staring. “Like the chicken from Moana?”

“Exactly like HeiHei.” He grins, showing off so many teeth that I wonder if most people don’t get the reference.

“Why’d you name your dinosaur after the chicken in Moana?”

“I wanted a pacific island inspired name, to go with the lei, ya know? Since birds are technically dinosaurs it just made sense.”

“How’d you end up with a Polynesian dinosaur in the first place?”

“Gabe gave it to me for my sixteenth

birthday. Same year my mom gave me the van as an excuse to upgrade her car."

Gabriel, his little brother who I haven't seen since he was an adorably chubby toddler. The weight of those lost years slams back down between us, as I try to do mental math to figure out how old the kid would be now. It feels wrong to just ask, even if we're both equally at fault for me not knowing.

I try to refocus my anxiety back towards this practice date, which I am decidedly not looking forward to, even if I am the one who planned it. James's suggestion that I pick somewhere I feel totally comfortable really narrowed down my options. My bedroom and the costume shop probably aren't great first date spots, so that just left us with the used bookstore downtown. The lady who runs the place went to school with my parents, just like pretty much every adult in this black hole of a town, so I've been going there for as long as I can remember. I'm not sure what kind of date-like activity we'll be able to do, but at least I'll be in my element.

James parks about a block away and we walk in awkward silence down the sidewalk. If we were a real couple, I imagine we'd already be chattering away. Maybe I'd even grab his hand to lead him down the sidewalk, excited to show him one of my favorite places. Instead, I put as much pavement as possible between us without stepping into the street.

I'm nervous as I pull the door open, the familiar tinkling of the bell sends shivers down my spine. The smell of old books greets me, followed quickly by Baxter, the big friendly dog who can usually be found sleeping in a patch of sunlight behind the front window. He nudges his cold, wet nose against my hand until I give him a scratch behind the ears. "Hello, friend."

Baxter notices James standing behind me and bounds over to him. He's a good boy, so he doesn't put his paws up on him. He does roll over on top of his feet, trapping him and begging for a belly rub at the same time. Baxter is some sort of poodle mix, which means he's about 50% white fluff, and when James bends down to pet him, his

hand disappears up to the wrist.

After we've properly greeted the best boy, I lead James into the store proper.

The college-aged girl behind the register glances up from her book to nod at us as we walk past. Her long, blonde hair is dyed blue at the ends and her septum is pierced. She's wearing all black, but in the sort of stylish way that makes me wonder if I've spotted a fellow queer person in the wild. I've seen her around here a few times, but we've never spoken. I do not have the constitution to interact with pretty strangers.

I steer us towards the back of the store. There's a big green velvet couch back there where you can sit and read for hours, which I may have done more than once. I practiced the whole sit-and-talk thing last week, so I figure I'll survive round two. James, however, gravitates towards the fantasy section. He may be Mr. Popular now, but it seems he hasn't outgrown his love of dragons.

"Look at this!" He holds up an orange hardcover nearly the size of his head. There's a blue dragon serpentine across the cover. "You could kill somebody with this."

I roll my eyes as he pantomimes knocking the book into his own head, sticking his tongue out to demonstrate how easily it killed him. Then his nose crinkles and he sneezes so hard that he nearly drops the book on his own foot.

"It's dusty in here," he observes, louder than is probably polite.

"That's part of the charm." I run my finger along the admittedly slightly dusty spines of the books in front of me, looking for the feel of paper beneath my fingers to settle my nerves. My stomach is all twisted up in a knot. James asked to come somewhere important to me, and I want him to like it. If he's judging this place, then what could he possibly think of me?

James slides his book back onto the shelf. "So, are we just browsing silently, or did you have a plan?"

"The plan was to get here without having a panic attack," I admit. "We've reached uncharted territory."

"Congrats." He pulls another book from the shelf and snorts at the image

on the cover, then turns it around so I can see an illustration that is probably supposed to be a terrifying monster but looks more like some sort of pathetic alien mud frog.

I chuckle and the nervous churning in my stomach subsides just a little bit.

"So, the girl at the register. She's cute, right?"

Never mind. The stomach churning is back tenfold under his meddling gaze. "James, please." Please drop it. Please don't make me embarrass myself by admitting I find this girl very attractive.

"Come on! Don't pretend you weren't checking her out just now. You should go talk to her."

"Absolutely not."

"Weren't you the one who was complaining about not knowing how to flirt? You've gotta try stuff out before you figure out what works for you. This is a perfect practice opportunity."

"You said this was going to be like a date! Do you normally encourage the girls you go on dates with to flirt with other people?"

"No offense, Dottie, but you're nothing like the girls I usually date. Now, go flirt with that hot book nerd."

"She's way out of my league. And at work!" I hiss.

"Goooooo!" Without warning, James reaches out and shoves me into the aisle, out of the safety of the shelf, and straight into the pretty girl's line of sight.

She glances up from her book, placing a finger on the page so she won't lose her place. "Can I help you?"

My mouth isn't working. I can't move my feet either. I glance helplessly at James, who is leaning very unsubtly around the corner of the bookshelf to watch. He just mouths "talk to her."

I suck in a lungful of air and turn back to face my fears. "Um, yeah. I was wondering where you keep your Shakespeare. My friend is a total theatre geek, and her birthday is coming up, so I thought it would be cute to buy her a play." It's only sort of completely made up. In my defense, I do not usually need assistance in bookstores.

"Oh, of course. Shakespeare is over there." She points towards a section on the other side of the store.

**My heart is still beating so hard. I'm not sure if it's from embarrassment or elation that a pretty girl smiled at me. I'm also not sure which would make me more pathetic.**

My heart is hammering against my ribcage, as if it wants to escape just as much as I do. I haven't done anything remotely close to flirting though, which means James probably won't let me leave. "Do you have any suggestions for which one I should get?"

"I'm more of a novel girl myself," she gestures to the paperback she's reading. It's some romance with two boys glaring at each other across the cover. "But Hamlet is pretty good."

"That's the one everyone says is gay, right?" The words just fall out of my mouth, a desperately obvious are you really like me? I regret them immediately.

"I think most Shakespeare is at least a little gay." She chuckles, and I smile as if I'm in on the joke too. "If you want the

really queer stuff, you should probably go for the sonnets."

"Oh, really?" It's taking a concerning amount of effort to keep my voice from pitching into a squeak.

"Yeah, I'm in this class about queer writers throughout history. Apparently, he wrote several of them about a male lover." She wiggles her eyebrows to emphasize the scandal of this statement.

"Oh. Shakespeare, queer icon."

"Totally." Then she grins at me. Like, actually grins at me with teeth and everything. My heart feels like it's going to fall out of my chest. I need to get out of here. I laugh awkwardly, mutter something about being in a hurry, and then scamper away. I don't head to the section where she indicated the plays

would be, but back towards fantasy. James is waiting for me there, a shit-eating grin plastered across his stupid face.

"You did good," he tells me as I slump against a bookshelf, safely out of sight. "A little on the nose with the gay Shakespeare stuff, but not bad instincts for a beginner."

"Shut up." I bury my face in my hands with a huge groan. I never want to talk to another human being again. My heart is still beating so hard. I'm not sure if it's from embarrassment or elation that a pretty girl smiled at me. I'm also not sure which would make me more pathetic.

James claps a hand on my shoulder. "You know what you need now? Ice cream. Let's get you some ice cream."

# analysis of krause fund research

Featured Honors Students: Adam Burghduff & Ryan Long  
By Katie Michalski



Adam Burghduff



Ryan Long

Honors student Adam Burghduff and his classmate Ryan Long were students in one of the “real-world” courses available to undergraduate students, Applied Equity Valuation. They worked on a semester-long project, which required in-depth analysis and research of a technology company to add to the student-managed Krause fund portfolio. The Krause fund is a portfolio originally made up of donations, and is now managed by finance students who meticulously select companies that should belong in the portfolio, which serves as scholarship money for business majors. In their project, Burghduff and Long first looked at the economic outlook of Check Point Software, in which they examined the impacts of COVID-19, government policy, GDP, exchange rates and capital markets outlook. Next, they looked at the industry outlook which consisted of an industry introduction, recent developments in trends, markets and competition, expenses as a percentage of sales, revenue and net income per employee, revenue segments, catalysts for growth and change, and key investment positives and negatives. Then, they looked at the company outlook which consisted of corporate strategy, revenues, recent financial statements, current product lines, new product lines, market strategy and customer support, distribution channels, suppliers of raw materials, and the competitive environment. Finally, they concluded with an evaluation analysis which consisted of a discounted cash flow analysis, a relative valuation analysis, a dividend discount model, a revenue decomposition, and in-depth looks at the weighted cost of capital, cost of equity, cost of debt, and multiple in-depth analyses of revenues and expenses. These four analyses were supported by a sensitivity analysis and 18 pages of advanced financial modeling.

# Krause Fund Research Spring 2020

## Check Point Software Technologies LTD. (NASDAQ: CHKP) Technology – Software & Services

Analysts: Adam Burghduff, Ryan Long

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### *Investment Thesis*

We recommend a buy rating for Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. Check Point will continue to see growth during the economic downturn and is positioned well with its high cash reserves. Check Point's strategy of switching customers from products and licenses to subscription-based solutions will drive this growth. The stock offers between a 32% and 36% upside for investors.

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#### *Drivers of Thesis:*

- Security subscription revenue will continue to rise as companies look to consolidate their security solutions under one main platform, paving the way for Check Point's Infinity Architecture. We believe subscription services revenue will grow at a rate of 7.00% in 2020 peaking at 15.00% in 2023 due to most customers moving over to subscriptions by 2023. We believe it will take 4 years to convert most product and license customers over because CheckPoint will need to reeducate customers on the perks of a subscription, and this will require 14.00% of revenues peaking at 17.00% for research and development costs.
- Research and Development Expense will determine Check Point's future market share as increases to subscription customers necessitate higher research and development due to the correlation with customer retention. R&D Expense will continue to rise and rise at a rate of 14.00% until 2023 when it will be increased to 17.00% to ensure retention of subscription customers. This rise will happen due to increased competition in this industry and the need to always be at the top or the product is worthless.

#### *Risks of Thesis:*

- The outbreak of COVID-19 has resulted in volatility in the markets and business closures around the globe. Supply chains have been disrupted and it is possible Check Point's operations will be adversely affected as they may not be able to distribute products or receive the required inputs from third parties. We made our projections assuming current distribution and supply interruptions, thus operating expenses could be greater and sales lower than forecasted.
- Check Point may continue to lose more market share and as a result need greater increases to selling and marketing and research and development expenses. Due to the competitive nature of the industry, innovation and marketing strategy is of critical importance. Therefore, costs could be greater than our forecasted average selling and marketing expense of 24.50% of revenues and research and development of 14.83% of revenues.



# awaken, wander, wither

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Featured Honors Student: Kyler Johnson

By Gwen Peters

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Kyler Johnson

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Within his photography work, Kyler Johnson focuses on themes of travel, language, imagination, the natural world in various global settings, and the vision of re-imagining and romanticizing the everyday. In this series, using three different models taken in Brussels and Ghent, Belgium, he tells the story of the rise and fall of humankind in the face of all-consuming nature. Yet, with the ending image of a girl looking out to the corner of blue, his work hints at the notion that every end holds the corner of a new beginning.

awaken  
wander  
wither

# awaken





wander

A photograph of a person walking on a path through a forest. The trees have vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The person is partially visible on the right side of the frame, wearing a dark jacket. The path is a light-colored dirt or gravel path that curves through the trees. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.



**wither**



# argument for a work- from-home option

Featured Honors Student: Nikitha Nallure

By Jayli Carmichael



Nikitha Nallure

For Honors Rhetoric last fall, Nikitha Nallure wrote an essay, speech, and presentation on how to persuade employers to allow their employees to work remotely. Nallure created this essay as an analysis of different research studies about the benefits of allowing employees to work from home. Nallure was able to take many of the points from the research papers to show how someone can convince their employer to implement a work-from-home option.

## How to Convince Your Employer to Let You Work From Home

“P andemic” used to just be a word that we learned in history class but never actually gave much thought to. Who knew that we would be stuck living through one? Covid-19 changed many people’s lives and livelihood for the better or worse. The freedoms we had were suddenly taken away, but we all went through it together: elderly people, young people, men, and women. It was as if overnight we were all barred.

Although it took a while, most people got used to their strange new routines. With the United States starting to go back to normal, most people were forced back into old schedules that they once lived by. However, those are no longer used. Companies should give employees the choice of either working from home or going back in person because individuals know what works best for them. Businesses should not just assume that all their employees work the same, and especially after experiencing working



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Figure out if it is  
even a **possibility**  
for your field/  
company

Figure out if  
you would be  
**successful**  
working from  
home

from home, they should be given the choice of their working location. According to the Elsevier Public Health Emergency Collection, maintaining work-from-home options post COVID-19 “may help reduce burnout long term.” [2] Without the commute, workplace disturbances, atmosphere, and many other factors, employees may feel less exhausted and stressed by working from home rather than the office. If employees were allowed to work in an environment that they choose and feel comfortable in, they could potentially be more productive without burning out.

Some say companies are requiring their employees to go back in person because they believe that employees aren’t as productive as they should be at home. This could be because of a lot of different situations such as lack of communication, or receiving too much work. While that may be true for some people, the individuals that are more productive at home shouldn’t be forced to go back in person as well. The University of Chicago analyzed data collected from their monthly survey and discovered “...that nearly six out of 10 workers reported being more productive working from home...” [3] In the article, they talked about saving time from not having to commute to and back from work, and having a flexible work schedule. At the same time, if an individual notices it is harder for them to get their tasks done at home because of their work environment they should decide on going in person. The individuals that are less incentivized to work may be due to them being overworked, their family situations, and/or mental health, etc., and ignoring the employees’ say in the matter won’t help with any of it.

Another argument people make is that giving employees work from home options creates stress and a feeling of captivity. A survey conducted by the Elsevier Public Health Emergency Collection disclosed, “burnout was not increased during the emerging COVID-19 period compared with pre-COVID data. The shift to working from home was positive for most of the workforce and a potential benefit in reducing burnout for many staff groups.” [2] This shows how, for the average individual, working from home helped people feel less stressed and overwhelmed by all their work, and gave them a chance to figure out an effective individual work-life balance for them. However, this isn’t true for everyone, employers should not jump to conclusions and make a decision that would affect everyone differently.

In the article Working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic: Impact on office worker productivity and work

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Make a list of your responsibilities/tasks and make sure they are **attainable** to do from home

Have a **work-friendly** environment set up at home

experience, the authors discuss the main factors that affect worker productivity and experience; they conducted a study to conclude productivity/experience increasing or decreasing among workers. Although the impact factor is 1.32, an average score from credible sources shows that there is substantial bias throughout the article. Starting with the authors, three of the four authors are in association with the engineering departments in their respective schools, all from the University of Southern California. Since they all live in California and a majority are from the same department, all of these individuals tend to think alike. Author Shawn C. Roll, with a B.S. in Occupational Therapy, researches ergonomics, while the other authors' fields of study do not have anything to do with the topic they are writing about. The three engineering authors' mindset swayed their argument since engineers and individuals who have completed higher studies tend to know how to get their tasks accomplished on time and have more experience with how to maintain a good balance without getting too stressed. Additionally, Shawn C. Roll, the only author that is not associated with the engineering department, has written more than one article. The three authors with an engineering background have only written this one article, because they are passionate about the topic, which would usually tend to cause bias.

Besides potential author bias, there is bias in the data they collected. In the article, the authors reveal, "Following initial email and public posts to social media pages, 1,409 respondents completed the survey voluntarily without any compensation." [1] Since all the authors were from the University of Southern California, it would be responsible to conclude that the emails they sent out and posts they made on social media pages would, for the most part, be sent to or seen by students, alumni, faculty, and/or organizations and individuals that are associated with the University of Southern California in some way. They also stated in the article that a majority of the respondents were from California. [1] Having a large proportion of the sample size associated with a specific state and a specific university and department will likely skew the results from the data they collected, making the study/experiment they conducted biased. The fact that the surveys were taken voluntarily without any compensation makes it seem like the responders could be individuals that are productive, efficient, and passionate/interested in the topic of working from home. Another possibility could be because they were somehow associated with the university, authors, or the survey itself. Not many people do things for no

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Ask your  
employer for a  
trial run at home  
to build **trust**

Prove that remote  
working is the  
best for you **AND**  
**THE COMPANY**

reason, especially if it is not benefiting them in any way. In the study, a majority of the responses were also from students that had completed higher education and got paid more. On top of that, California also has a higher minimum wage, so the group that was surveyed made more than the average American. Individuals getting paid more would tend to have more motivation to finish their assigned tasks, therefore they would maintain their levels of productivity even while working from home. In the article, they also mention that the study was conducted before the pandemic even started, which means the results have a high possibility of changing since individual and family circumstances completely changed from a normal shift to working from home because they want to, to being forced to stay and work from home with no other options. The audience this article is intended for is employees working from home because they talk about ways that helped individuals maintain productivity, hoping that it could help struggling individuals find ways to increase their productivity at home. The intended audience is also businesses because one of the most important concerns for businesses having employees work from home is that they won't be as productive. This article could help reassure them that productivity wouldn't go down for everyone. Whilst there was a bias, the authors made the formatting very clear by starting with identifying factors that could affect workplace productivity. They also wisely ended it off with their survey and conclusions from that survey proving their stance that workplace productivity would be maintained rather than go down.

Companies saw the benefits and disadvantages of their employees working from home during the pandemic. Now each company is doing what they have always done, looking out for the best interest of their company more than what is best for their employees. "Working from home," why shouldn't it work "at" home? It is almost as if employees aren't meant to be doing it. The word "from" sounds temporary, like the employee switched from working in person to home for the time being. Whereas "at" makes it seem like they have always been doing it, and it's permanent. There are many different viewpoints on working from home, some biased, and some factual, so it is important to analyze every source before choosing a stance. To conclude, companies should have a little faith in their employees and let them choose what's best for them because no one will win if the employee just feels barred again.

# i watch

# her mix

# the batter

Featured Honors Student: Olivia Tonelli

By Maddy Padgett

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Olivia Tonelli

Olivia Tonelli is studying English and creative writing on the publishing track. Through her academic pursuits and collaboration among her peers, she hopes to refine her artistic voice as a writer.

**i.**

She grips the bowl with her left hand,  
pressing it to her side,  
like a toddler who's grown  
drowsy,  
tired of walking.

"Morning."

This is a small dose,  
non-lethal.

The recipe she has taped  
to the inner pantry door calls  
for two overripe bananas.

She has left them on the counter  
all week waiting  
for them to turn,  
for spots to spread.  
There are fruit  
flies circling the yellowed kitchen.

We know there is something sweet  
and rotting here, ready  
to be made into mush, buzzing  
swatted away at,  
limp and drowned and muddled.

The dial turns to 350 and no more—  
I know how to prepare.  
I know this scent and how the room fills  
with oven heat.  
I know this is what she has taught me.

With her right hand, she twirls  
the whisk about the batter. Now,  
I cannot discern its reality  
without opening  
the pantry postered with written instructions—  
does my hand write with loops like hers?

**ii.**

Our tongues are dense  
with bread sat atop them.  
Only I seem to know  
how to swallow mine, how to build  
an endurance. We are  
tired of talking.

Her head is turned away,  
looking through the window and  
looking at that sun and  
how it must be noon already.  
I see the TV screen reflected in the glass and  
I know it is nearly evening. Hanging

on the wall,  
there is a clock she  
has not bothered to set forward.  
The hands are too small  
for her to read, and she doesn't mind  
not knowing.

I am sat across from her,  
tense against my chair,  
newspapers stacked  
between us, and I am staring  
At the back of her head.  
Her yellow hair is greying.

At this table, I've noticed pain  
in my stomach. There are many churning  
attempts. I can't hide the concern from my eyes, clearly  
it isn't noon. Time is running out to flee  
to the woods as Mithridates had.

### **iii.**

i hav givin upp on ahgreemint / knot a dae goes bye /  
withoutt knews winkin att us width eech i / knot evin mye  
gayz cann i truste ehnyomor / as i cee darkniss att mye  
rouths / ov here / i will knot beleaf mye eares / wen shee  
loocks out the whindow / loocks out att this wourld /  
ande descrybes wat shee ceese / allways ten degrease  
ahway phrom cirkling aroun too cee eechother i too i / tho  
mye phace loocks justt lyk hurs / wen i sckuint att the  
clok / howe lounng untel mye mind / soffens too thees  
blindead, turnning beleafs / lyk a livir sokeing inn poisen?

# the eugenics movement and racial stereotypes today

Featured Honors Student: Dana Egan

By Seth Foster



Dana Egan

For her first semester rhetoric class, Dana Egan researched the misconceptions perpetuated by a scientific practice that gained traction in the early 1900s and its harmful developments across a more than a century of American history.

Eugenics, defined as a “scientific practice in the early 20th century that sought to find the differences between human races,” was considered a valuable form of science used in the United States between the years 1905-1945. However, towards the end of World War II, the practice was proved to be illegitimate and viewed as morally unethical after the Nazis regimes used eugenics to enable mass genocide and forced sterilization. Despite the United States dropping the practice almost a century ago, some remnants

of eugenics still linger in medical fields today. Unspoken biases in the medical field stem from its history, and in turn heavily affects how people of color properly obtain medical care almost 100 years later.

As stated previously, eugenics is the practice of finding biological differences between races. Looking back at American history, it appears as if the study of eugenics has always been frowned upon by the American people, and even more so after it was discovered Nazis were using the

practice in concentration camps in World War II. Contrary to this belief, the eugenics movement did exist in the United States, with the practice first appearing around the year 1905. The United States’ study of eugenics had been mostly pulled from Charles Darwin’s theory of the “Origin of Species,” which states that there is “a natural system by which the strongest and most intelligent specimen of each race survives to produce offspring and so on while the rest die out.” This theory was originally used to prove the



hierarchy of the animal kingdom, but when it was introduced into eugenics, it sought to prove some kind of racial hierarchy among humans as well. In the early 20th century when eugenics was just beginning as a scientific practice, some Americans already believed that some humans were just better fit to survive than others thanks to their intellectual and biological advantages. During this time, a progressive era was also in full swing, with the US government taking more control over various practices for the good of the American people (i.e.: The Food and Drug Act of 1906 and The Federal Trade Commission of 1914). With the United States government already in control of healthcare, housing, and food, many thought they should also take care of reproduction and ensure only the “highest-quality” genes would move on to the next generations.

During the 20th century, the only race that was considered to have superior, coveted genes was the Caucasian race. This came from both pre-existing ideas that white people were the superior race, and from the refusal of many white people to integrate after slavery was abolished. Many people who were opposed to integration strived to preserve the white race by preventing mixing with other races. This is where eugenics began to play a major role in American society. Many books came out attempting to prove

the legitimacy and need for eugenics, such as Madison Grant’s *The Passing of the Great Race or the Racial Basis of European History*. Two of the book’s primary arguments “proving” the differences between races was the visual differences in skin tone, and the white race’s superior academics and literacy. Grant even goes so far as to say, “Whether we like to admit it or not, the result of the mixture of the two [black and white] races in the long run gives us a race reverting to the more ancient, generalized, and lower type” –essentially, that the mixing of races would decrease the overall intellectual quality of humankind.

Books like *The Passing of the Great Race or the Racial Basis of European History* spurred on pre-existing anger from white people towards integration and scientists’ new “proof” (backed by eugenics) that differences between the races were more than just visual. However, books like these and eugenics failed to recognize pre-existing conditions that made it appear as if the Caucasian race was intellectually superior (ie: the lack of education black people received in the 20th century led to lower literacy rates and test scores versus well educated white people). The surface-level data does show that white people were intellectually superior in comparison, but it does not go in depth as to *why*. Regardless of the underlying setbacks, eugenics became

a widely popular explanation for racial differences in the beginning of the 20th century. At its core, the study of eugenics was made to “let people with *good genes* keep breeding and those with *bad genes* would be encouraged to stop,” in order to assist the next generation in being stronger than the last to survive. If one completely ignores the *humanity* behind these people, the practice sounds like a reasonable way to build a utopia with its citizens containing the strongest genes to pass on for survival. In reality, the practice falsely proved that the white race was the most intellectually competent race, and it gave doctors a scientific reason to deny people of color medicine. This also let doctors prioritize distributing lifesaving treatments to white people in hospitals over people of color for *decades*. Because the science of eugenics “proved” people of color were an outdated, inferior form of humanity, many doctors refused to give them quality care, and systematically prioritized the health of the white race for years.

The practice of eugenics continued in the United States for over four decades, and halted *only after* the Nazis began to use it over the course of World War II. The American public saw the extreme ways the Nazis used eugenics in concentration camps and demanded the United States government stop the official use of the practice. Eventually,

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# eu·gen·ics

[yü-'je-niks] *noun*

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Scientific practice in the early 20th century that sought to find the differences between human races

to avoid association with Nazis, the entire process of eugenics went extinct in the US shortly after the conclusion of World War II.

Today, many Americans believe that eugenics was a purely Nazi-made tragedy. Others that know the history of eugenics in the United States believe that because it ended in the 1940s, there are no repercussions today. This is demonstrably not the case, as the study of eugenics has produced many misconceptions about race that are still held within the general public today. Many people today believe that because there is an outward difference in skin tone between races, there are performance-related biological differences as well. This includes the

perception that there are differences in intelligence, athletics, and critical thinking skills. It has been proven multiple times in recent studies that there are no such race-based biological differences. In fact, studies show people living on the same continent actually have more in common than people of the same race. Due to the eugenics studies of the early-to-mid 20th century, these misconceptions of racial differences are still very prominent—and very harmful—to this day.

The 20th century eugenics movement helped perpetuate stereotypes about racial differences many people still hold today. In knowing the history of eugenics, work can be done to

counter the negative effects that eugenics has put in our society today. With time and proper education, the detrimental effects that eugenics studies have had on society can be reversed. The first step in reversing these effects is acknowledging how these discredited studies continue to have a negative impact on society today. Effort must then be put forth towards a future that deconstructs the misconceptions about race-based biological differences. When this is done, movements toward equality in medical spheres and peoples' everyday lives can be furthered.

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# shuffle

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Featured Honors Student: Jacob Sammon

By Dalton Elwood

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Jacob Sammon

*Shuffle* tells the story of John, a man living with dementia, who is attending a music therapy session and reliving his memories. However, in Jacob Sammon's original text, every line of dialogue had no assigned characters, and every scene could be played out in any order. This means that an audience member could attend the play and watch it unfold in almost an infinite number of possibilities, with characters being totally different from other versions and timelines being skewed. Dalton Elwood, the editor of this piece, excerpted Sammon's text and organized it as if Elwood was the director. Sammon's mission is to prove that there is no correct or incorrect method of performing this piece, and anyone's interpretation should be celebrated.

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## Shuffle

### NOTE:

*This piece comprises eighteen separate scenes, each of which corresponds to a different theme or trope present in various musical genres. As the title suggests, these scenes may be performed in any order (with the exception of "Prelude" and "Finale," which should remain at the beginning and end, respectively). There should be no music or score heard (except at the beginning and end) throughout the production. Instead, performers, directors, and designers should allow the scenes to become reflective of the musical genre they belong to through any theatrical device they see fit. Transitions should consist of fading in and out of blackout. Any line of dialogue may be assigned to any character on the following list.*

## CHARACTERS:

*This is a list of potential characters to place in any given scene. Any character, except for JOHN, may appear more than once or not at all. JOHN is at the heart of this play and should be present in every scene; however, his body may be represented by different actors.*

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| JOHN:      | <i>An unforgettable man diagnosed with dementia.</i>         |
| ALEXIS:    | <i>Persistently loyal to those who aren't.</i>               |
| ELLIOT:    | <i>Confidently welcomes fights he cannot win.</i>            |
| JADA:      | <i>Beloved and struggling with self-worth.</i>               |
| KASSANDRA: | <i>Lost in profound questions that are already answered.</i> |
| LEO:       | <i>A cunning perfectionist engulfed in guilt.</i>            |
| MAKAYLA:   | <i>Always attentive to the subject of least importance.</i>  |
| MIKEY:     | <i>Exceptionally comical and lacks appropriate timing.</i>   |
| ROBERT:    | <i>A quick-to-anger anti-confrontationalist.</i>             |
| SUZANNE:   | <i>Avid conversationalist who never knows what to say.</i>   |
| THEO:      | <i>An optimist who doesn't recognize personal limits.</i>    |
| TYRESE:    | <i>A prestigious scholar stuck in his books.</i>             |
| WILL:      | <i>Unforgivingly self-obsessed and unacknowledged.</i>       |
| VERONICA:  | <i>Widely-adored and ill-mannered.</i>                       |
| WESLEY:    | <i>Careless and consumed by self-doubt and paranoia.</i>     |

---

### Love Country

THEO:  
You're absolutely stunning.

SUZANNE:  
Please.

THEO:  
I mean, look at you.

SUZANNE:  
Stop.

THEO:  
Your eyes, your hair, your outfit.

SUZANNE:  
It's nothing.

THEO:  
Waiter, what do you think?

SUZANNE:

Let that poor man do his job.

THEO:

Come on, it's not hard to recognize that being here makes me feel freer than I've ever felt before. Look, he's smiling. He agrees with me. Thank you, we'll each have a glass of water to start, oh, and maybe give us a few more minutes to look over the menu.

SUZANNE:

This is a nice place.

*(A completely SEPARATE conversation FADES IN)*

JOHN:

My mom used to take me here when I was little. I would hop up on that stage over there and dance like an absolute buffoon until a staff member asked me to get down.

JADA:

You're kidding.

JOHN:

No, my mom loved it. It was all in the hips, too.

JADA:

Really.

JOHN:

Well, of course, you've just gotta let yourself forget about who's watching and shake the hell out of your body.

JADA:

I don't think I can picture you doing this.

JOHN:

I've still got it. Watch me.

JADA:

No.

JOHN:

I'm going.

JADA:

We're going to be kicked out.

JOHN:

Look! The steps are important, too. One-two-three, one-two-three, one-two-three. Come on up here!

JADA:

No!

JADA:

We need to ask you to get off the stage and return to your table.

JOHN:

Understood.

JADA:

You're going to get us kicked out and all we've had to order is water.

JOHN:

What'd you think?

JADA:

I think you traumatized Table 7.

JOHN:

Yes, but that's always true. What about you?

*(JUMP to ORIGINAL conversation)*

SUZANNE:

I loved it.

THEO:

Me?

SUZANNE:

Well, yes, you.

THEO:

I love you, too.

*(Spotlight moves back to JOHN)*

JOHN:

Do you want to split a Number 13?

---

## **Patriotism**

### *Country*

JADA:

What are you troublemakers doing?

LEO:

Chalk.

ROBERT:

Drawing a huge American flag.

JOHN:

It's almost time for fireworks.

LEO:  
Help us!

JADA:  
You know it's hard to get down on my knees.

ROBERT:  
Please!

LEO:  
Yes, please!

JOHN:  
Okay, incoming grandparents, three-two-one.

ROBERT & LEO:  
Yay!

JOHN:  
Do you know how many stars are on the American flag?

LEO:  
One million.

JADA:  
Close. Fifty.

LEO:  
How many is that?

JADA:  
Lots. But, there's a pattern. It goes: five-four-five-four-five-four-five-four-five-four-five. You can count to five, can't you?

LEO:  
Duh!

ROBERT:  
How many lines are on the flag?

JOHN:  
Thirteen. Seven red and six white. Red-white-red-white-red-white-red-white-red-white-red.

LEO:  
That's so cool.

ROBERT:  
Do you like America?

JOHN:  
Tonight, yes. But ask me again tomorrow.

# adaption to adoption

Featured Honors Student: Lily Dosedel

By Samm Harris



Lily Dosedel

After fully accepting her journey to “understanding what it means to be a Chinese adoptee,” Lily Dosedel turned toward art to express her experiences. With the majority of these pieces created during her senior year of high school, Dosedel explores various aspects of life as an adoptee that are often ignored by others. Deliberate strokes of acrylic paint and careful lines of pen emulate her feelings of alienation, uncertainty, and grief. Some works criticize the adoption system itself, focusing on the corrupt commodification of babies. While she has very specific meanings behind her art, Dosedel hopes “to inspire reflection and consideration in the viewer” while encouraging audiences to develop their own interpretations.

## Life

Being one of Dosedel’s most detailed pieces yet, this painting depicts hands holding water while being chained by DNA strands. With the water representing life, she wanted to display “how we are all constrained by our genetics, yet we can’t do anything about it without sacrificing our lives.” Though this is universally true, Dosedel highlights how adoptees are uniquely challenged by their DNA and knowing their place of origin. In short, an unknown biological force takes control over adoptees’ entire lives. Furthermore, she emphasized “transracial adoptees often have no idea about their medical history, creating an invisible danger that can attack at any time.”







# 寻人启事

## ***Stolen Goods***

◀ A huge turning point in Dosedel's adoptee experience was learning about child trafficking within the Chinese adoption industry. By physically ripping the paper and layering it on top of another, the double imagery of this drawing strives to expose this obscure issue. Coincidentally, this problem peaked during the time of Dosedel's adoption. Using ballpoint pen, she "wanted to emulate a printed poster; the words 'missing person' are written below a portrait of [her] as a baby." She drew Chinese money underneath the poster to symbolize the greed and corruption that lies beneath these tragedies. This piece aims to open people's eyes to a factor of adoption they may have disregarded previously.

## ***Pampered***

Created during the height of the pandemic, this piece focuses on people, blinded by their ignorance, who chose not to wear a mask. Despite the daily negative effects of their actions, Dosedel asserts the prioritization of one's own comfort harms others' wellbeing. Additionally, she highlights an exponential increase in the number of hate crimes against Asians in the past year. Due to the propagated idea that this virus is a specific group's fault, this piece represents ignorance and alludes to the fear Asian Americans experience in the wake of the pandemic.

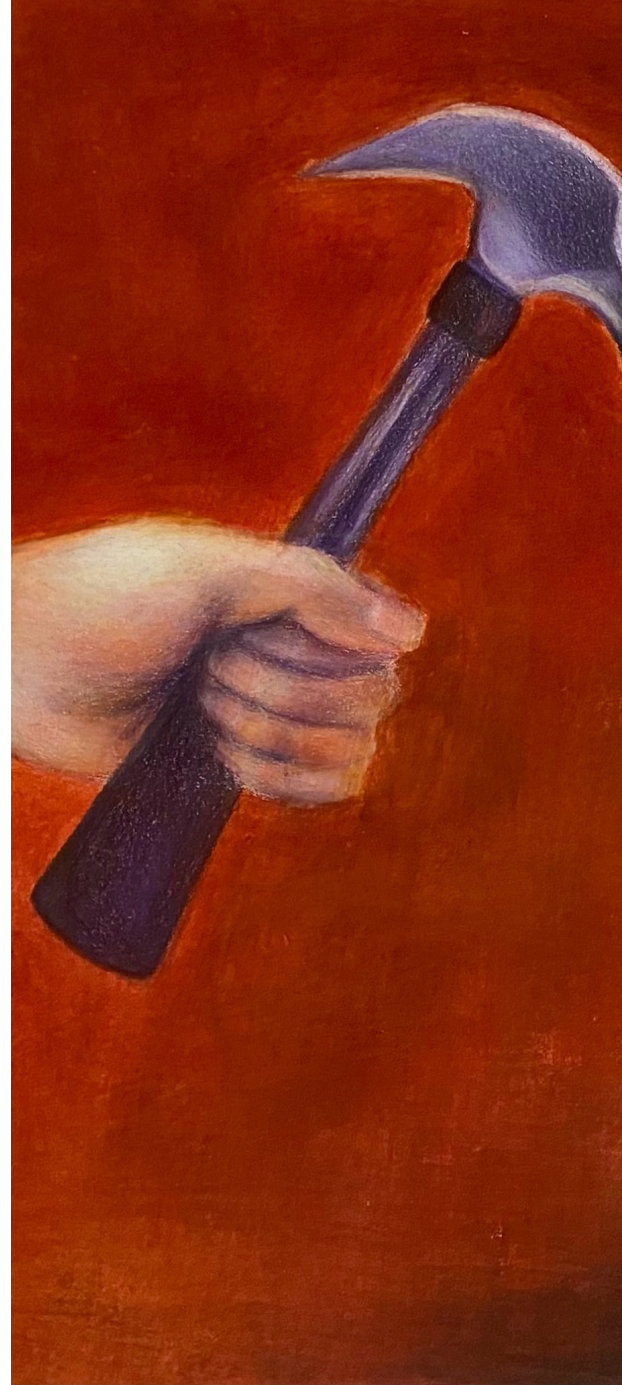






## ***Estimated***

The tone of this painting embodies the overall unknown that comes with being adopted. In particular, one thing that bothers Dosedel about her adoptee status is “the fact that [she doesn’t] know [her] real birthday.” Though this has little impact on her life overall, she states, “It’s frustrating to not know even the most fundamental fact about myself.” This piece demonstrates Dosedel’s pain when “wondering about my biological parents and my past on a day that I should be celebrating.”



## ***The Transaction***



This piece echoes Dosedel's focus on the corruption in the adoption industry. Here, she references the two sides of the adoption process or the "transaction." The right hand symbolizes an adoptive family, who must contribute large amounts of money. The left hand represents people who benefit from this money, focusing criticism on traffickers and dishonorable orphanages. Dosedel expresses frustration over these dishonorable groups, arguing they "care more about personal gain than the wellbeing of the children." Finally, she observes that some "people are willing to do anything to acquire money, regardless of any damage done to the child."







## ***Consequences of Ignorance***

◀ This piece demonstrates the harm of people's actions and words on a person's own perception of themselves. Dosedel specifically refers to her experience growing up and being asked why her eyes look like "this." Under these conditions, she could have easily developed a hatred towards her appearance. Luckily, Dosedel "quickly learned that these comments are usually only made out of ignorance or insecurity, allowing [her] to grow past them."

# meet the team

## Honors student writers and editors



**Thomas Duong**

Thomas is a student from Iowa City, Iowa, with microbiology and biomedical sciences majors on the pre-medical track. Besides his studies, Thomas plays the snare drum for the Hawkeye Marching Band, is an undergraduate researcher, and served as president of UNICEF Iowa. He enjoys sports, biking, and traveling.



**Julia Fout**

Julia is majoring in French and minoring in English. She is living in Paris for her senior year and continuing her passion for writing and editing. She hopes to pass on her passion for writing and the inherently collaborative process that it relies on.



**Lydia Guo**

Lydia is a student studying biomedical sciences and is a design editor for Honors Publications. She serves as an undergraduate research assistant, honors student administrative assistant, and unit mentor volunteer at the UIHC. In her free time, Lydia enjoys oil painting at her local art studio.



**Airiana Mohr**

Airiana is a student from Machesney Park, Illinois, studying neuroscience with minors in Spanish, chemistry, and psychology. Aside from her studies, Airiana is a member of numerous groups on campus including USG and Homecoming Executive Council.



**Jacob Sammon**

Jacob is a spring 2022 graduate from Urbandale, Iowa. He studied English and creative writing on the publishing track with a minor in communication studies. During his time at Iowa, he enjoyed developing his skills as a writer by learning from his dedicated peers and the City of Literature's culture.



**Holly Blosser-Yoder**

Holly serves as the advisor to Honors Publications, the student editors and writers who produce the Honors Newsletter, Alumni Connection and many articles on the Honors Program blog. A writer with an interest in history and culture, Holly is the author of *The Same Spirit: History of Iowa-Nebraska Mennonites*.



### Jayli Carmichael

Jayli is a student from Boston, Massachusetts, majoring in English on the publishing track, and business on the market-management track. While at the University of Iowa, she hopes to further develop her creative skills in writing and editing.



### Dalton Elwood

Dalton is a student from the small town of Mount Ayr, Iowa. He is majoring in English and creative writing, with a minor in business, as well as being on the pre-law track. In his free time, Dalton enjoys lifting, watching and playing sports, video games, and a variety of other things that aren't doing his homework.



### Seth Alan Foster

Seth is a student from Mason City, Iowa. He is majoring in computer science and minoring in mathematics and is hoping to put his acquired computer science skills to use designing video games after he graduates.



### Samm Harris

Samm is a student from the Des Moines, Iowa majoring in psychology. While at the University of Iowa, she hopes to develop her skills as a poet and photographer.



### Molly Kilker

Molly is double majoring in political science and international relations with minors in Spanish and history. Post graduation she hopes to attend law school. When she is not studying or working, she enjoys knitting and hanging out with her cat, Graham.



### Katie Michalski

Katie is student from Des Moines, Iowa. She is a computer science and mathematics double major who is also pursuing a writing certificate and Spanish minor. Katie enjoys reading, creative writing, and drinking coffee in her free time.



### Maddy Padgett

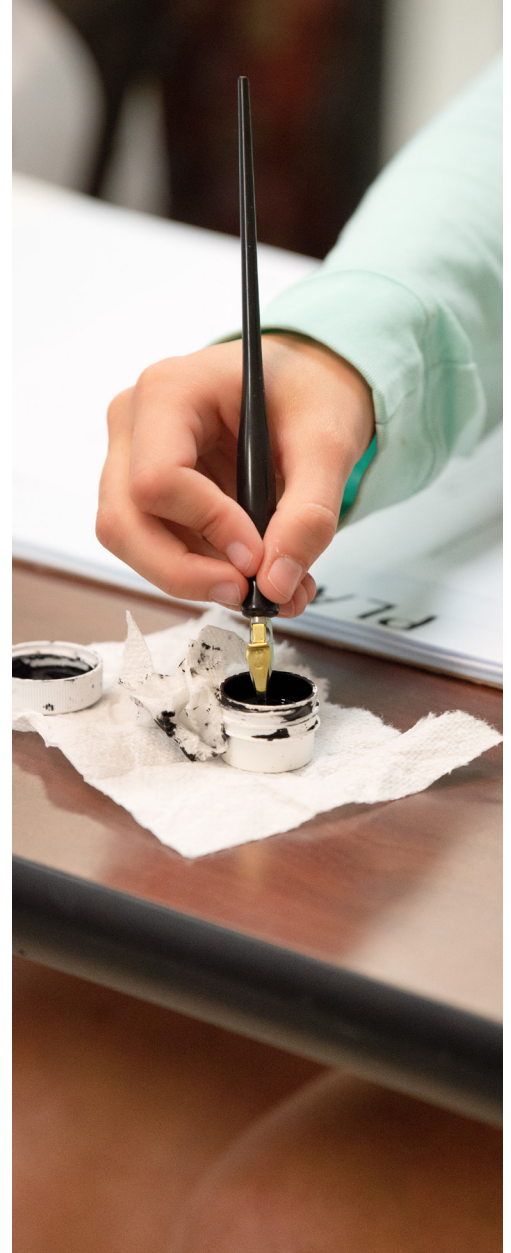
Maddy is a student from Des Moines, Iowa, area majoring in journalism and mass communications with a minor in media literacy. While at the University of Iowa she hopes to develop her skills as a writer.



### Gwen Peters

Gwen is a student from the Omaha, Nebraska, area majoring in political science with a minor in mass communication and gender, women's, and sexuality studies. While at the University of Iowa, she hopes to develop her skills as an aspiring actor in the political world.

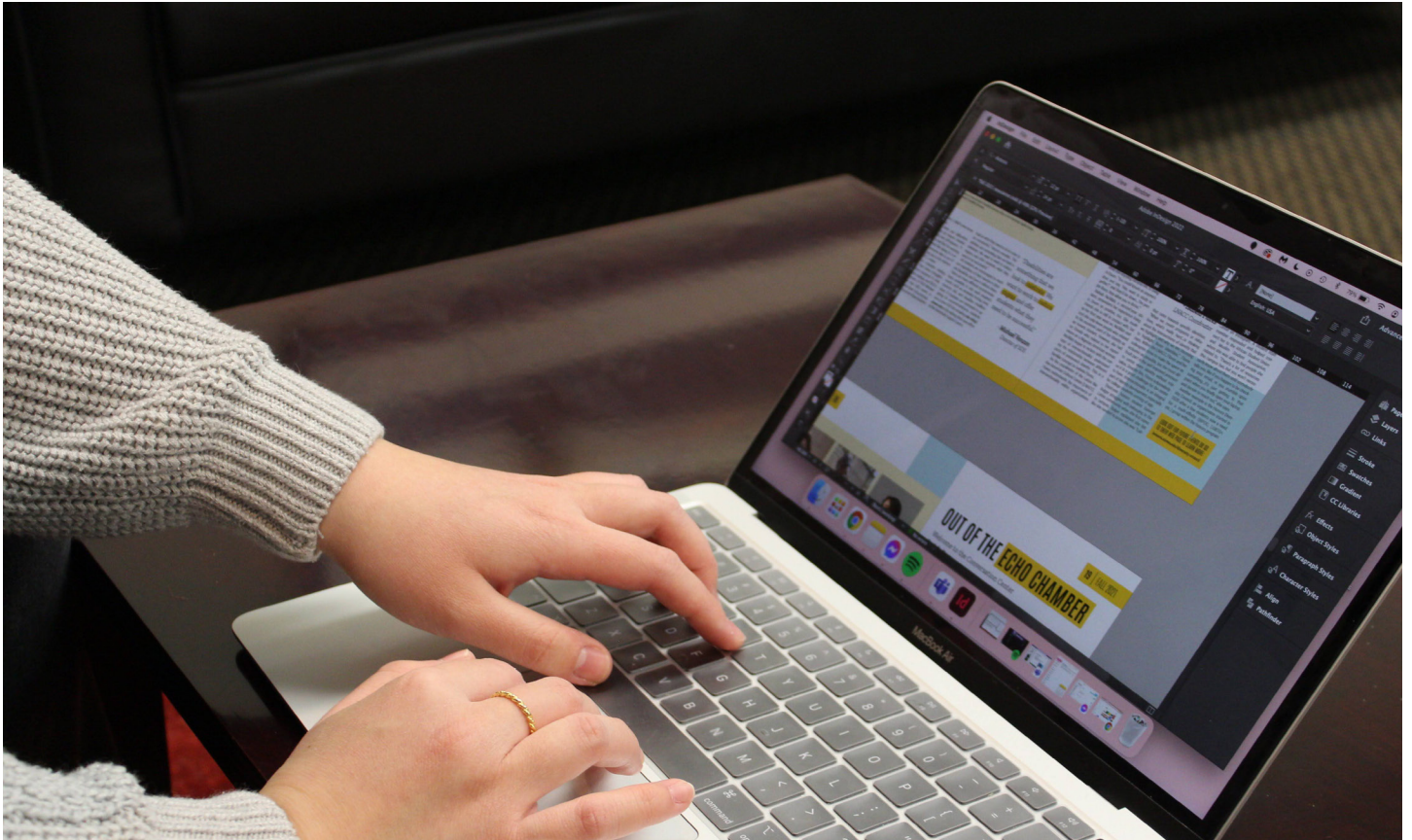
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