



PennState
Schreyer Honors College

ANNUAL REPORT
2014 | 2015



**Shaping People Who
Shape the World**



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

⬆ Scholar William Okrafo-Smart, second from the left, leads a discussion as a teaching assistant for the Sociology of Race and Ethnic Relations course.

As I enter into my tenth year as dean of the Schreyer Honors College I am proud of what we have accomplished together and eager to share with you our plans for the future.

The Schreyer Honors College continues to be one of the most sought after honors programs in the nation. This year we had a 14% increase in applications over last year's all-time high. In all, 3,721 students applied for just 300 spots in our incoming first-year class. While the number of applicants has increased, so too has the quality. We are also very proud of the fact that of the more than 3,000 students to whom we were unable to offer admissions, over 33% chose to enroll in Penn State anyway. Students have told us that the process of engaging with the Schreyer Honors College for admissions convinced them of the overall value of Penn State; the result is a stronger Penn State community.

Over the past 18 months, the University and the college have undergone extensive review and reflection as we prepared our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Our draft plan can be found on the SHC site and I encourage you to review it. I am very grateful for the help of the alumni, board members, and friends of the college in drafting this plan.

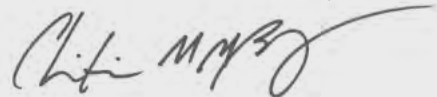
While we continue to grow, two areas of particular emphasis are our efforts to build upon the diversity of our college and expand the global experience of our students.

Our second strategic objective is to "expand the overall diversity of the college to create and maintain an environment where students are a part of a community that is vibrant and varied." We will be tackling this in a variety of ways, incorporating admissions, academics, and student programs. Our goal is not only to recruit a diverse applicant pool, but to build a community that is engaged with, and embracing of, the challenges facing our society.

Mr. Schreyer believed firmly that everyone needed to gain a larger perspective on the world and established the Schreyer Ambassador Travel grants program to provide a foundation for our Scholars to have the opportunity to have an international experience. We are continuing to build upon that experience and although an impressive 45% of Scholars have some sort of international experience while at Penn State, we hope to increase that figure beyond 60% in the next five years.

I invite you now to read our annual report to see what our Scholars have done in the past year. As you read through, I encourage you to dig deeper into the exceptional stories of our Scholars by visiting our website and social media pages. Thank you again for being a part of our vibrant and growing community.

For the future and for the honor,



CHRISTIAN M. M. BRADY, D.PHIL.
DEAN, SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

⬆ Marcy Herr traveled to India as part of the Schreyer Honors College Signature Travel Program. She is now teaching English to children in Malaysia on a Fulbright Scholarship.



Our mission states that we seek to achieve academic excellence with integrity, build a global perspective, and be engaged in civic leadership. Because "honor" is not just about academic accolades—it is about knowing what is right and doing it.

YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Award Winning Year

The 2014-15 academic year saw unprecedented national and international accolades for both Schreyer Honors College Scholars, as well as college initiatives.

In November, the Schreyer Honors College was ranked among the nation's elite by *Public University Honors Press* by scoring five out of five mortarboards for program excellence, along with only six other programs in the country. The sentiment was echoed a few months later in the *New York Times* article, *A Prudent College Path*, as SHC was given "highest praise."

Our Scholars received attention both on campus and around the world. First-year Scholar **Neha Gupta** became the first American to win the International Children's Peace Prize for founding *Empower Orphans*, an organization that helps underprivileged children. She received the award from Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu (pictured on cover).

Ryan Henrici earned a prestigious Marshall Scholarship, one of only 35 American college students selected by the program to pursue a degree in the United Kingdom. Gateway Scholar **Christopher Rae** will complete his doctoral studies at Cambridge after winning a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, which places a unique emphasis on social leadership as well as outstanding academic ability.

Reflecting the high standards of the college, our website refresh was recognized with a gold award in the microsite category in the Education Digital Marketing Awards. Our site showcases the college and provides clear information for various audiences.



What's a Nittany Lion really made of? PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER | 5.15.15

"Maya Evanitsky, 21, a student at the Schreyer Honors College, has extracted a sample from the hind leg of the taxidermied 19th century puma to analyze its DNA."

Scholars again led in the classroom as well as student organizations:

Chris Siegiej
Blue Band Drum Major

Kevin Montminy
Captain of Men's Basketball

Kate Rodden
Captain of Women's Cross Country

Abby Renko
Panhellenic President

Luke Metaxas
First Student-selected Student Trustee on the Board of Trustees

Laura Gebhart
Field Hockey Captain and Eco Action President

Matt Flournoy
Penn State Storm Chase Team Founder



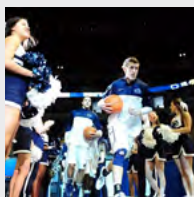
↑ Penn State field hockey captain and member of the 2013-14 U.S. Women's National Team, Laura Gebhart, is now a 2016 Olympic hopeful.



↑ THON Apollo team member Jenny Dobson showed solidarity by shaving her head with cancer patient, Noah Mummert, who lost his hair through medical treatment.



↑ More than 100,000 fans each home football game watched drum major Chris Siegiej lead the 300-plus members of the Blue Band.



↑ Big Ten Distinguished Scholar and Academic All-Conference pick Kevin Montminy was named captain for Penn State men's basketball.

SHC in the News

A Prudent College Path
NEW YORK TIMES | 8.8.15
"The honors colleges that received highest praise include ... Schreyer Honors College at Penn State."

Pulsar with Widest Orbit Ever Detected
ASTRONOMY MAGAZINE | 5.4.15
"A team of highly determined high school students, which included current Schreyer Honors College Scholar Cecilia McGough, has discovered a never-before-seen pulsar."

American Wins International Children's Peace Prize
TIMES OF INDIA | 11.18.14
"Penn State student and first-year Schreyer Honors College scholar Neha Gupta is the first American to win the International Children's Peace Prize Award."



↻ In April, Earvin "Magic" Johnson dispensed advice and life experiences to students at the Shaping the Future Summit: The Power of Money lecture.

↻ Scholar alumna, Leslie Hayes '04 Lib, speaks with a Scholar at *Connect*. The event brings current and past Scholars together to network and discuss career strategies.

Facts & Figures

BY THE NUMBERS:

As of 6/1/2015

- 376 Honors courses
- 398 Honors teaching faculty
- 598 Honors advisers and coordinators
- 26 Schreyer Honors College staff
- 1,845 Schreyer Honors College students (1,033 female, 812 male)
- 1,433 Pennsylvania residents (77%)
- 345 Out-of-state residents (19%)
- 67 International students (4%)
- 230 First-year students from PA (76%)
- 61 First-year students from out-of-state (20%)



Schreyer Scholars hail from thirty-three states, one U.S. territory, & twenty-three countries

From information provided by students through the Student Records Systems

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS:

	Fall 2014	Fall 2013	Fall 2012
SHC mid-50% range High School GPA	4.00–4.33	4.28–4.33	4.00–4.33
PSU mid-50% range High School GPA	3.55–3.97	3.52–3.97	3.52–3.97
SHC mid-50% range SAT	1950–2153	2080–2180	1980–2180
PSU mid-50% range SAT	1750–2000	1730–1980	1750–1990

Note: PSU scores are for University Park only

POINTS OF ENTRANCE:

Campus Location:	Total	First Year	* Gateway Sophomore	* Gateway Junior
Abington	17	1	5	11
Altoona	9	3	1	5
Behrend	40	13	14	13
Berks	17	4	4	9
Brandywine	5	1	1	3
Capital	24	2	8	14
University Park	1,727	1,099	290	338
Other locations	6	4	2	0
TOTAL 2014-15	1,845	1,127	325	393



First Year
1,127

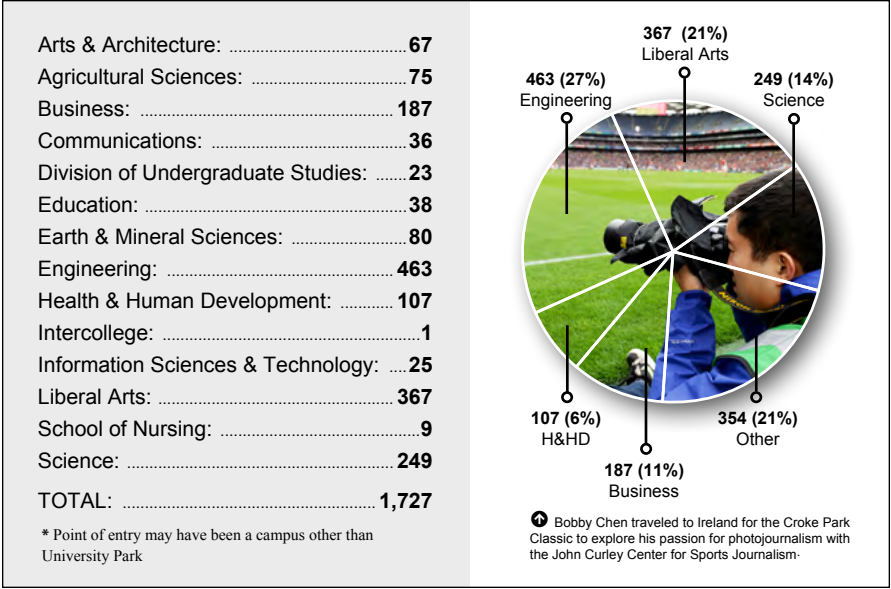
Gateway
Sophomore
325

Gateway
Junior
393

* Gateway Scholars are offered admission to the Schreyer Honors College upon the conclusion of at least one semester at Penn State having demonstrated a record of academic achievement and having merited a recommendation in support of their application from their academic department.


📍 Melissa Aguilar is a Scholar from Penn State Abington and was the 2015 THON Executive Director for the campus
📍 Maria Narodetsky

SCHOLARS AT UNIVERSITY PARK BY COLLEGE*:



ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Inaugural Honors Advising and Teaching (HAT) Conference





80+ faculty and advisers attended to learn about the Schreyer Honors College and resources available to help faculty and staff aid Scholar success.

New Academic Affairs initiatives included:

- ➔ **Lunch and Learn Sessions** for Honors Advisers and Faculty to provide constant training and support
- ➔ **Thesis Boot Camps** where Scholars can do focused work in a quiet space and ask SHC staff thesis questions

Visit shc.psu.edu/events for more information.

BUILDING A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE:

	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
Study Abroad: <i>(service, research, internships)</i>	335*	308*	372
Number of Countries Represented:	53	58	51
<div> 53 countries Australia Brazil China Fiji Hungary Jordan Russia Senegal Sri Lanka United Kingdom</div>	<div> 335 Scholars studied abroad</div>		

*Many students take advantage of multiple experiences.

HOW GRADUATING SCHOLARS PERFORM:

	Summer†	Fall†	Spring†	Total	Avg. GPA	IUG^
2014–15	27	51	438	516	3.83	43
2013–14	31	55	465	551	3.85	53
2012–13	32	35	390	457	3.81	38

†Number of Graduating Scholars

^IUG is the Integrated Undergraduate-Graduate Program in which Scholars simultaneously complete requirements for bachelor's and master's degrees in selected disciplines.

Achievement

2014–15 Scholarships and Fellowships:



Ryan Henrici
Marshall Scholarship



Christopher Rae
Gates Cambridge Scholarship



Stephanie Brown and Melissa Quinnan
Undergraduate research fellowship
at CERN, the European Organization for
Nuclear Research

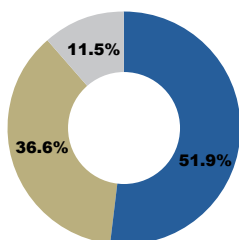


Additional notable scholarships awarded to Scholars:

Astronaut, Barry M. Goldwater, Benjamin A. Gilman International, Critical Language, DAAD Rise (2), Foreign Language and Areas Studies Program (5), Fulbright (6), National Science Foundation Fellowship, NIH Oxford-Cambridge

2014-15 Graduate Outcomes

■ Workforce
■ Graduate
■ Other



(Other includes completing internships, fellowships, research positions, travel, volunteering, post-bac programs and more.)

Five- and Ten-Year Outcomes

The Schreyer Honors College tradition of academic excellence follows our Scholars well into their futures. Review the breakdown of post-baccalaureate degrees obtained by Scholars five and ten years after they've graduated from the honors college online at <https://www.shc.psu.edu/admissions/why/graduates.cfm>.

Sample of Graduate and Professional Programs Enrolling 2014–15 Graduates:

Cambridge University Ph.D., biological science

Carnegie Mellon University M.A., entertainment technology

Columbia University Ph.D., astronomy

Harvard University Ph.D., biomedical engineering

Johns Hopkins University Ph.D., pure mathematics

Medical College of Georgia M.D.

MIT Ph.D., materials science and engineering

Oklahoma M.S., meteorology

Stanford University J.D., law

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Ph.D., condensed matter physics

University of Pennsylvania D.V.M., veterinary medicine

University of Virginia Ph.D., political science

Sample of Employers and Positions Accepted by 2014-15 Graduates:

Apple, Inc. senior business analyst

Bank of America Merrill Lynch global markets sales and trading

Booz Allen Hamilton strategic human capital consultant

Bristol-Myers Squibb research scientist

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia clinical research assistant

Deloitte business technology analyst

Ernst & Young financial services office auditor

General Motors vehicle design engineer

Goldman Sachs financial analyst

Google software engineer

IBM enterprise applications consultant

L'Oreal management development program

Lockheed Martin Corp. associate software engineer

Microsoft program manager

NASA Johnson Space Center trajectory analyst

National Geographic channel researcher

PNC Financial Services investment banking analyst

Pricewaterhouse Coopers associate management consultant

Teach for America corps member

U.S. Department of Defense intelligence analyst

Investment

Enhancing Honors Education:

In the last twelve months, the Schreyer Honors College Development Office has seen significant change and growth. The team not only welcomed new staff members, but embraced new roles to support our Scholars in their pursuit of excellence.

We invite you to get to know our team and look forward to working with you in the future to enhance honors education at Penn State.



Sean Miller
Director of Development
and Alumni Relations



Morgan Delaware
Associate Director of
Development



Jessica Hoffman
Coordinator of Stewardship



Samantha Benz
Coordinator of Alumni
Relations and Annual Giving



Cheryl Vonada
Administrative Support
Assistant



Scholar alumni Matt Brezina helped found the Penn State Summer Founders Program to support students as they develop their entrepreneurial ideas.
M Scott Johnson

Gift Support

During the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2015, the Schreyer Honors College received 1,687 individual gifts totaling \$1,203,560. Most of these funds were contributed to new or existing endowments that directly support Schreyer Scholars as illustrated by the endowment and gift spending chart below.

SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE
ENDOWMENT MARKET VALUE
\$81,066,600 as of July 1, 2015

Endowment

The college’s endowment is made up of 193 named funds that are designated to support specific areas of work in the college. The University distributes 4.5 percent of the market value of the endowed funds each year to support activities that enrich teaching, learning and research.

Supporting the SHC

Your support can help build the legacy of the Schreyer Honors College as we continue to “shape people who shape the world.” Please join us by contacting us today at 814-865-4258 or ScholarAlumni@psu.edu.

ENDOWMENT AND GIFT SPENDING:

2014–15 FISCAL YEAR	Number of Awards	Amount Awarded
Academic Excellence Scholarships: (includes charitable and institutional funds)	1,177	\$4,221,420
Need-based and Merit Scholarships:	236	\$679,305
Student Awards: (travel grants, internships, and research awards)	469	\$459,621
Program Support:	—	\$934,459
TOTAL:	1,882	\$6,294,805

Engagement

Alumni & Parents:

Admissions Interview Program

The Admissions Interview Program remains the largest volunteer initiative in the Schreyer Honors College and looks to be a key program for years to come. With admissions applications reaching record levels for the second year in a row, both the quantity *and* quality of prospective Schreyer Honors College Scholars continues to increase.

As is standard practice for many elite programs, Schreyer Honors College applicants can meet with Scholar alumni volunteers for an admissions interview anywhere in the world. For prospective students, it is an opportunity to talk with someone who can provide a little more insight into what the honors experience is like at Penn State. For alumni volunteers, it is a chance to introduce someone to their alma mater and help shape the incoming class of Schreyer Scholars. For the Schreyer Honors College, it is a conversation that could provide greater insight in admissions decisions.

In 2014-15, the program included 296 alumni volunteers from around the world who completed 1,490 interviews with applicants to the college. Of the students interviewed, 27% were offered admission, which was 10% higher than those who did not opt-in for the interview. In an increasingly competitive application pool with an overall offer rate of 20%, the interview is fast becoming a factor for both applicants and our admissions decisions.

Alumni interested in interviewing students should contact ScholarAlumni@psu.edu for more information.



📍 Scholar alumna Dawn Behnke '87 Bus, was awarded the Penn State Alumni Association Alumni Fellow Award for her outstanding professional accomplishments. Dawn is the senior vice president of the Life Insurance Division of Pacific Life Insurance Company in Aliso Viejo, California. The award is the highest honor given by the Penn State Alumni Association.

To learn more about how to mentor a Schreyer Scholar, participate in the admissions interview program, or become involved as a Scholar parent, email ScholarAlumni@psu.edu.



📍 Schreyer Parents Council co-chairs Patty and Glen Sosnader, with their son Aaron

Schreyer Parents Council

The Schreyer Parents Council (SPC) is the official parent group dedicated to furthering the success of Schreyer Honors College Scholars. Started in the fall of 2013, the SPC was a natural next step in the evolution of our relationship with parents.

This past year, the SPC expanded its reach to all SHC parents by providing ongoing communication through a regular e-newsletter and gatherings in Pennsylvania's metro areas for Scholar parents to meet each other and members of the SHC staff. For the second year, the SPC spearheaded fundraising for the Parents and Family Fund, which provided emergency scholarship assistance to Scholars with unexpected financial need. In 2014-15, Schreyer Honors College parents gave \$52,096—more than double the donations in 2013-14.

For more information about the Schreyer Parents Council, please contact the SHC Development Office at (814) 865-4258 or SchreyerParents@psu.edu. If you believe you should be receiving the SPC newsletter or other notifications and have not, please send us an email with your Scholar's name and your updated contact information.

2014-15 Alumni Recognition

2014 Schreyer Honors College Outstanding Scholar Alumni:

Meena Bose '90 Lib
Shawn Safford '92 Sci

2014 Schreyer Honors College Outstanding Mentor Award:

Stephanie C. TerMaath '93 Eng

2014 Penn State Alumni Association Alumni Fellow Award:

Dawn Behnke '87 Bus

2015 Penn State Alumni Association Alumni Achievement Award:

Rebecca Allen Delaney '06, '06g Eng
Andrew Giffin '05 Int
Aaron Gotwalt '04 Int

Acknowledgement

Student Achievement:

NEHA GUPTA

Leadership is about serving and empowering others.

NEHA GUPTA '18 SCIENCE
FIRST AMERICAN TO WIN THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PEACE PRIZE
FOUNDER, EMPOWER ORPHANS
INTERNATIONAL MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER



Neha Gupta is the first American to be awarded the International Children's Peace Prize. At the age of 9, she started *Empower Orphans*, an organization established to help vulnerable children in India and the United States. To date, she has raised \$1.7 million and has aided more than 25,000 children.

"Growing up, the importance of civic engagement was drilled into me. Each summer as part of my annual trip to visit my grandparents in India, I would volunteer at the local Baal Kunj orphanage as a way of giving back to the community.

"I was able to comprehend the reality of these children's lives. I considered what it meant to have no one to give you unconditional love, no place to call home, a lack of food and clean water, limited opportunities to attend school, or receive medical attention when needed."

Empower Orphans was born with the mission to provide education and health care to vulnerable children in underserved areas around the world and right here in Pennsylvania.

Neha plans to grow *Empower Orphans* into a self-sustaining organization with student run chapters around the world similar to *Doctors Without Borders*.

WILLIAM FERGUSON

I want to build and design experiences that make people happier, healthier and smarter.

WILLIAM FERGUSON '17
INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY DOUBLE-MAJOR
PRESIDENT, INNOBLUE
DIRECTOR, SUMMER FOUNDERS PROGRAM



William Ferguson is fascinated by entrepreneurship. To him it's more than starting a company or making money launching a product. It is a way for people to create a path for themselves that hasn't existed before. He designed his own major to pursue his passion and wants to help others in the process.

Along the way, William has become the student leader for many of Penn State's entrepreneurial endeavors. He is the president of *Innoblue*, Penn State's student community of coders, designers, and innovators and director of the *Summer Founders Program*, an initiative that offers six student teams \$10,000 each to work on their startup or nonprofit idea for the summer.

He is also a StartingBloc Fellow and worked on volunteer projects in Panama and the Dominican Republic. For the summer of 2015, William interned with Scholar alumni and Penn State Alumni Achievement Award winner, Aaron Gotwalt, co-founder and CTO at computer software company, *Projector*.

"The honors college has provided me the opportunity to surround myself with people who are smarter and more talented than I am. I always remember that iron sharpens iron and the best thing you can do is surround yourself with high-level individuals."

SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission drives in-class curriculum, out-of-class enrichment programs, and honors activities.

The mission of the Schreyer Honors College is to promote:

Achieving academic excellence with integrity,

Building a global perspective, and

Creating opportunities for leadership and civic engagement.

VISION STATEMENT

To educate men and women who will have an important and ethical influence in the world, affecting academic, professional, civic, social, and business outcomes.

To improve educational practice and to be recognized as a leading force in honors education nationwide.

SHAPING PEOPLE WHO SHAPE THE WORLD™

shc.psu.edu

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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