



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



PennState
Schreyer Honors College



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Message from Dean Peggy Johnson



I am very pleased and honored to be the new Dean of the Schreyer Honors College. My tenure as Dean follows in the footsteps of Dr. Kathleen Bieschke, who did an outstanding job as the Interim Dean during the 2016-17 academic year. During Dr. Bieschke’s brief term, she made many positive changes and left the College in great shape. She also worked with me to create a smooth transition, for which I am most grateful. In addition, Dr. Christian Brady, who served as Dean for a full decade prior to Dr. Bieschke, has been gracious in spending time familiarizing me with various aspects of the College and his visions for its future. It is upon the outstanding and caring shoulders of these two recent Deans that I assume this leadership role, and I am delighted to be a part of the Schreyer Honors College community.

The past year was a remarkable year for the College. We had 3,722 applications for admission for the 2016-17 academic year and 501 graduates with an average GPA of 3.81. The Schreyer Honors College continues to be sought out as a highly competitive college for Penn State students. In addition, 23 percent of our students went on to graduate school and the remainder went to work in a wide variety of occupations.

During this past year, a new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs joined our staff. Dr. Keefe Manning, a Professor of Biomedical Engineering here at Penn State, is working on collecting data that can be used to assess the progress of our students and the College, along with strengthening the academic curriculum. Prior to coming to the Schreyer Honors College, Dr. Manning was an honors adviser in the Biomedical

Engineering Department, served as a thesis supervisor for many students, and participated in the admissions review process.

The Schreyer Honors College is fortunate to have a very active, engaged constituency of alumni and friends. Our External Advisory Board, Scholar Alumni Society Board, and Parent Advisory Council together create a caring community that provides input, advice, and assistance to our College. Along with these groups, our Associate Deans, a talented and devoted staff, and the Student Council, we very much look forward to a new and exciting next phase for our College.

I am honored and excited to serve as the Dean of the Schreyer Honors College. The commitment of Penn State and the Schreyer Honors College to outstanding scholarly activity is very strong. I am looking forward to working with an exceptional group of students, staff, and alumni, and collaborating with colleagues across the University to strengthen and advance Penn State’s already strong reputation in honors education.

Peggy A Johnson

Peggy A. Johnson
Dean, Schreyer Honors College
Penn State University

Mission

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

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.



Scholar Spotlight

EMILY KOHLMAN

After one Russian class at Penn State, Emily Kohlman was hooked.

From there, the journalism major decided to study abroad in Saint Petersburg in the summer of 2015, then add Russian as a second major. This summer, she attended the Davis School of Russian at Middlebury College's immersion program, signing a language pledge to communicate only in Russian.

“Living in a foreign language is taxing but extremely humbling,” Kohlman said, “and I am glad that I have taken this opportunity to enrich my language abilities and become a more confident Russian speaker, which will help me share stories with the rest of the world.”

Kohlman is already on her way toward her goal of becoming a foreign correspondent in Eastern Europe and sharing stories internationally. An anchor, reporter, and producer with ComRadio, WPSU, and PSN News, she also has extensive journalistic experience outside of Penn State, publishing stories on the Republican National Convention through McClatchy and the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and covering the presidential election in Washington, D.C. as an intern for Czech Television.

“It made me truly appreciate the way that the news is presented to different audiences,” Kohlman said. “For instance, Czech TV’s news is broadcast in Central Europe, where viewers have different questions about U.S. politics that they want answered.”



“I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A
STORYTELLER
FASCINATED WITH
LEARNING NEW THINGS.”

This past spring, she traveled to Panama and reported on Cuban asylum seekers at a make-shift migrant camp.

“This experience taught me that, as a reporter, it is my duty to tell the stories of people who cannot,” she said. “Access is a powerful thing, and the stories of these individuals should be shared with the rest of the world — this situation is one of many others that are little talked about or waiting to be told.”

Kohlman is a member of the Paterno Fellows Program, the director of the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications' peer mentor program and the vice president of the Penn State

Association of Students in Russian. She credits the Schreyer Honors College with providing her with the financial support to practice journalism around the world and with pushing her to excel on all the continents she plans to visit.

“Schreyer’s environment radiates scholastic achievement, leadership, and ambition, and has pushed me to set goals for myself — goals that I have achieved but never imagined I would be able to,” she said. “Schreyer has shown me the importance of traveling and discovering the world outside of U.S. borders, and this global perspective has led me to want to make the world a better place.”

Scholar Spotlight

MATTHEW RODA

When he was in high school, Matthew Roda suffered a concussion during an ice hockey game that would cause him to miss more than a month of school. But neither he nor anyone else knew that at the time.

Now a biochemistry major at Penn State, Roda, along with two high school friends, has developed a device that helps practitioners screen for concussive injuries quickly, accurately, and on-site.

The “Edge” is a 6-foot-by-2-foot board with digital sensors that measure reaction time, hand-eye coordination and other responses that, when compared with baseline data, can help determine if an athlete has suffered a concussion.

The students’ company, Reflexion Interactive, won a top prize of \$15,000 in “The Investment,” a student startup competition modeled after the popular “Shark Tank” show that aired on WPSU and took third place in a similar student competition as part of the SXSW Interactive conference in Austin, Texas.

Reflexion Interactive is progressing quickly. A team of Penn State researchers led by Dr. Semyon Slobounov is helping it prove the scientific validity of the concept, and a team of seven employees — four of whom are also Schreyer Scholars — are helping with software and adding a different dynamic to the young team.

“As a 20-year-old, you don’t typically think of yourself as an employer,” Roda said. “But to be able to have the fine line between friendship



and boss is something we’ve had to learn over the last few months. It’s really helped me with my leadership skills as well.”

Roda has also learned the importance of networking and how the marketplace is ever-evolving. During the past few months, he and his co-founders have discovered that high-school trainers — Reflexion’s key target group — are interested in the Edge’s “externalities,” including its ability to double as a vestibular therapy device and to help athletes improve their reaction time.

“We’ve learned that concussions are still the main part of what we’re doing, but you should absolutely market all three of these — train athletes, determine if they’ve been injured, and then help

them recover,” Roda said. “It’s something we didn’t initially start out thinking we were going to market.”

Roda said his company is eyeing a Spring 2018 launch and is targeting schools in the Philadelphia area to be “early adopters.” He hasn’t had to wait until then to see the Edge making an impact, however.

“There’s a doctor’s office in Lancaster that uses the device already for vestibular therapy,” Roda said. “To be able to see our device actually in action and being able to help people recover from concussions is pretty awesome.”

Scholar Spotlight

APOORVA MATHUR

Apoorva Mathur knew she wanted to study engineering at Penn State, but wasn’t sure which kind until she talked to some industrial engineering students and professors.

“I found that’s kind of where I fit in best,” the junior Scholar said, “because I wanted to work with building products, to make them more user-friendly, make them more accessible to people and have them be of better quality.

“That’s pretty much what IEs do on a regular basis.”

Mathur, who will graduate in 2018, has already acquired significant hands-on experience in industrial engineering. She spent the summer of 2016 as an intern in the manufacturing engineering body department of General Motors and the summer of 2017 as a business operations intern at Boeing, where she tracked and analyzed various engineering projects.

She has been drawn to the automotive and aerospace industries.

“I think there’s a lot of great things happening in those industries because of the amount of technology that’s involved,” said Mathur, who is minoring in French. “They’re making products that have been around forever, but they’re constantly using new technologies to improve them. It’s crazy how they incorporate a lot of things into what we use on an everyday basis.”



Mathur, who has performed Indian dance since she was a young child, is also involved with Penn State Infusion, which organizes Filmi-Fusion dance competitions. Mathur, the group’s public relations director, helped bring 10 teams to State College for an event in which they competed for a spot in a national dance competition.

“I thought that would be a really different take on something that I’ve been part of for so long and really love,” she said.

She was also a consulting intern for the Malini Foundation, a non-profit group that works to find educational and employment opportunities for women and children in Sri Lanka.

“My job throughout the year was help them develop their educational programs, reach out to people willing to give seminars or online lectures,” Mathur said.

What Mathur likes best about engineering is the feeling it gives her that she is a “part of the building of the future.” She often experiences the same feeling when she is with her peers in the Schreyer Honors College.

“I couldn’t have asked to be a part of a better community,” she said. “A lot of my close friends have been Schreyer Scholars. They have been the ones who have supported me and encouraged me to do the best I can. Without them, I would have had a much different college experience.”

Scholar Spotlight

JUAN MIGUEL HINGADA



Juan Miguel Hingada has always liked working with numbers, and the Penn State Berks student and Schreyer Scholar also believes his Accounting major will help him find a place in a field that is “always needed” in any business.

He also likes working with — and for — people.

As part of his Marketing 301 class, a course he honors optioned, Hingada developed a social media campaign for Be Bold, Take Charge, a campaign designed to improve the lives of the citizens of Reading through increased physical activity and more nutritional choices.

Hingada targeted segmented audiences of different ages using Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat and creating advertising via Google AdWords, Facebook and YouTube. He also devised challenge activities promoting health, fitness, and nutrition at various organizations throughout Reading.

“ONE OF THE THINGS
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BUSINESS.”

“I was able to learn how an organization works, which is definitely important for business and accounting,” he said. “I became better at working with other people about how to organize things. I learned about the backbone of an organization and how they get things done.”



Hingada presented his plan at an undergraduate research and creativity conference held by the Higher Education Council of Berks County (HECBC) this spring.

Born in the Philippines, Hingada moved to the United States a little more than 10 years ago and attended Owen J. Roberts High School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Staying close to home at the Berks campus appealed to him.

“I liked the feel of it. It’s very homey,” he said. “It’s a lot smaller than main (campus), but you still feel you’re part of the Penn State family.”

Before he starts his second year at Penn State Berks this August, Hingada will complete his training as a Lion Ambassador. He plans to study abroad for at least a semester — he spent a week in Denmark as part of an embedded course last year — and said he would like to participate in future conferences similar to the one held by the HECBC in April. Most of his goals involve influencing others.

“One of my main goals is to be able to give back to Penn State as much as they’ve been able to give to me, all these opportunities, especially with Schreyer,” he said. “I’d like to find ways of making the campus more welcoming to students and get them engaged in more activities and organizations.”



Student Awards

Astronaut Scholarship Foundation

Hannah Pohlmann

DAAD Grants for Study and Research in Germany

Jacob Cordell

DAAD RISE

John Brezovec

Erickson Discovery Grants

Benjamin Black
Josef Blaszkiewicz
Sean Clees
Abigail Cosgrove
Brandon Davis
Alex Grigas
Carissa Heine
Jennifer Heppner
Morgan Herold
David Kauffman
Wasi Khatri
Amogh Kiran
Jenna Mandel
Sanjana Marikunte
McKayla Mawn
Christian Morris
Andrew Murtha
Sophia Najjar
Uyen Nguyen
Richard Novak
Madeline Nyblade
Andrew Oneglia
Gregory Reilly
Joshua Riley
Amelia Rogus
Pratiti Roy
Taryn Ryan

Kristen Sprayberry
Aubrey Tallon
Mila Tamminga
Wenxin Tong
Corrina Tucker
Ziyuhan Wang
Anna Whitaker
Aliza Winneg
Daniel Winstead
Zhenyuan Yuan

Foreign Language and Area Studies Program — Penn State

Grace Benner
Benjamin Black
Jason Cornelius
Alexander Goncalves
Emily Kohlman

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA)

Matthew Crager
Laura Kastner
Sarah Kidder

Fulbright Full Grant for Study/Research

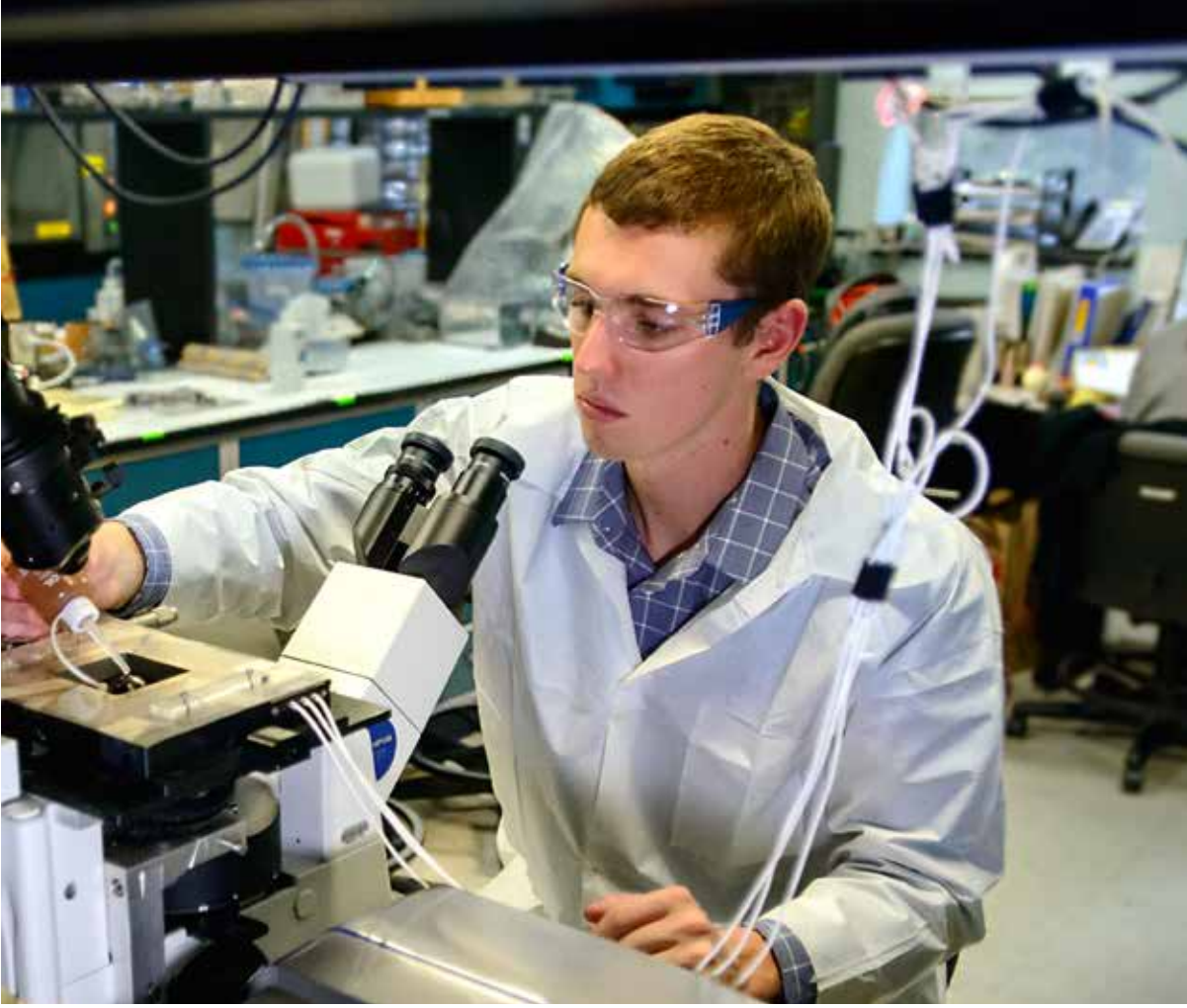
Andrea Biscoveanu
Miranda Holmes

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

Alexander Smith

NIST SURF

Michael Bichnevicius



All About Boot Camp

Completing a thesis is an integral and rewarding part of the Schreyer Honors College experience, but it can also be stressful. Our academic staff is here to help.



Since 2013, more than 1,400 Scholars have attended a Schreyer Thesis Boot Camp. These seven-hour thesis-writing programs help senior Scholars through the sometimes-difficult writing stages of the thesis process. By providing a peaceful and supportive environment, Boot Camps give Scholars the structure and motivation to overcome typical road blocks in the thesis process.

Scholars bring their writing materials, laptops and resources, while Schreyer Honors College staff is on hand to help with formatting issues and questions and to keep morale high. Breakfast snacks, lunch, and coffee are provided. There are typically 2-3 Boot Camps held on Sundays each fall and spring semester and limited to students graduating at the end of that semester. Beginning with the 2017-18 scholastic year, however, fall Boot Camps will be open to Scholars graduating in the spring.



"I cannot stress how useful this was to me. Those seven hours allowed me to focus and write more of my thesis than I have in the last month. Thank you so much!"
— Aidan Wharton

"Thesis Boot Camp is exactly what I needed this semester. A quiet place to work, motivation from my peers, and plenty of caffeine makes it easy to be productive and not feel stressed. Thanks SHC!" — Kokila Shankar

"Motivation doesn't always come easy. It's often difficult to find time to work among the many obligations and activities I have. This was a great way to remember we're all in this together!" — Alex Calderaro

"We might be Scholars, but we're still human. Boot camp forces us not to procrastinate. Many thanks."
— Cameron Stevens



Facts & Figures

Scholars come from **38** different states (including PA) and **29** different countries

1,861
Schreyer Honors College students
(976 female, 885 male)

1,405
Pennsylvania residents (75%)

349
Out-of-State residents (19%)

107
International (residency code other than N or P) (6%)

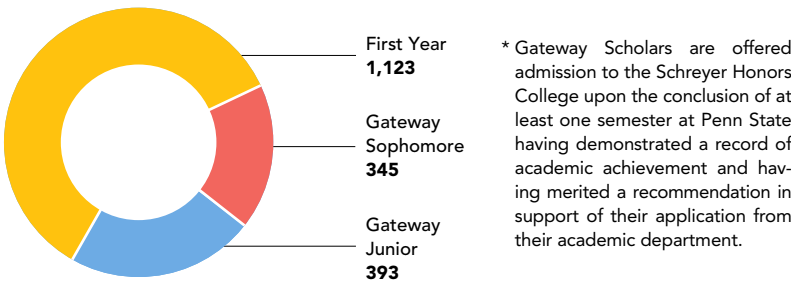
231
First-year students from PA (75%) freshman class of 2016-17

77
First-year students from out-of-state (25%)

First-Year Students			
	Fall 2016	Fall 2015	Fall 2014
SHC mid-50% range High School GPA	4.00–4.33	3.98–4.33	4.00–4.33
PSU mid-50% range High School GPA	3.55–3.97	3.55–3.97	3.55–3.97
SHC mid-50% range SAT	1900–2150	1940–2150	1950–2153
PSU mid-50% range SAT	1710–2000	1750–2000	1750–2000

*PSU scores are for University Park only. SAT figures, which are now on a 1600 scale, are adjusted for comparison with previous years.

Enrollment by Campus as of the beginning of fall 2016				
Campus Location:	Total	First Year	*Gateway Sophomore	*Gateway Junior
Abington	20	2	9	9
Altoona	2	0	1	1
Behrend	40	8	20	12
Berks	17	1	4	12
Brandywine	4	2	1	1
Capital	19	4	5	10
University Park	1,750	1,100	302	348
Other locations	9	6	3	0
TOTAL 2016-17	1,861	1,123	345	393



Scholars at University Park by Primary College as of 5/1/2017

Arts & Architecture	54
Agricultural Sciences	76
Business	198
Communications	42
Division of Undergraduate Studies	16
Education	33
Earth & Mineral Sciences	58
Engineering	505
Health & Human Development	114
Information Sciences & Technology	26
Liberal Arts	311
School of Nursing	14
Science	303
Non-degree	0
TOTAL	1,750

Primary College	Count	Percentage
Engineering	505	28%
Liberal Arts	311	18%
Science	303	17%
Other	348	20%
H&HD	114	6%
Business	198	11%

Building a Global Perspective			
	2016–17	2015–16	2014–15
Travel Grants Issued: (service, research, internships)	285*	334*	335*
Number of Countries Represented:	47	52	53
52 countries Australia, Brazil, China, Fiji, Hungary, Jordan, Russia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom	285 Scholars studied abroad		

*Many students take advantage of multiple experiences.

How Graduating Scholars Perform						
	Summer†	Fall†	Spring†	Total	Avg. GPA	IUG^
2016–17	17	52	432	501	3.81	54
2015–16	19	51	429	499	3.83	52
2014–15	27	51	438	516	3.83	43

†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.

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>.



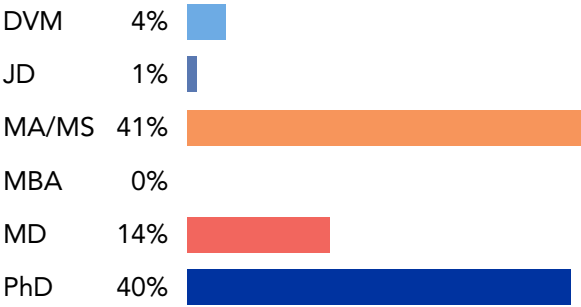
Supporting the
Schreyer Honors College

Your support can help build the legacy of the Schreyer Honors College as we continue to “shape people who shape the world.”

Please contact us today at 814-865-4258 or ScholarAlumni@psu.edu

2016-2017 Graduate School Breakdown

Overall 116 students will be attending Professional Schools

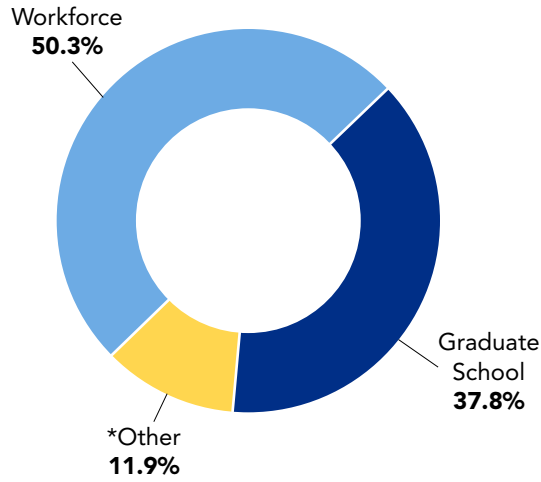


Sample listing of Schools

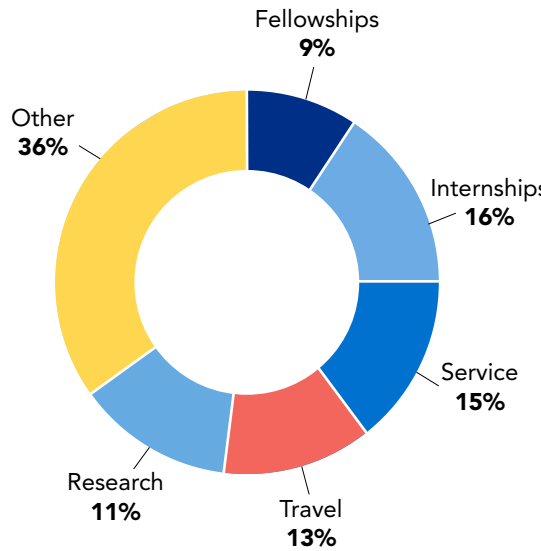
Boston College Law School
Caltech
Chatham University
Colorado School of Mines
Columbia University
Cornell University
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Denver Publishing Institute at the University of Denver
DeSales University
Drexel University
Drexel University College of Medicine
Duke University
Durham University - United Kingdom
George Mason University
Harvard University
Hofstra University
Imperial College London
Iowa State University
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
London School of Economics and Political Science
Massachusetts General Hospital for a Dietetic Internship
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine
New York University
Northwestern University
NYU Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences
Ohio State University
Oregon State University
Penn State Hershey College of Medicine

Penn State School of Music
Pennsylvania State University
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Princeton University
Purdue University
Royal Veterinary College at University of London
Sam Houston State University
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Stanford University
Temple University
Temple University's Beasley School of Law
Texas A&M University
The Scripps Research Institute
TU Delft & Technical University of Denmark
University of California — San Diego
University of California — Berkeley
University of California — Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
University of California Los Angeles
University of California, Davis
University of Chicago
University of Colorado
University of Delaware
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy
University of Toronto
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee Law School
Yale University

2016-2017 Graduate Outcomes



*Breakdown of Other Outcomes



Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program

John and Jamie Davidson are pleased with the quality and value of the education their son James received in his first year as a Schreyer Scholar. They are also helping to give other students that quality and value through the Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program.

Penn State provides a 2:1 match for donors who create scholarships benefiting students enrolled in one of the five pilot programs designed to help students earn their degrees, reduce debt, and excel at Penn State. These programs include Pathway to Success: Summer Start; The Student Transitional Experiences Program; raise.me; Complete Penn State; and Smart Track.

The scholarship the Davidsons are funding targets students in their senior year who come across financial hardship and are at risk of not graduating. If no students meet this criteria in a given year, the scholarship will support students who meet the requirements for need and who are enrolled in any of the other pilot programs in the Schreyer Honors College. If no eligible students are enrolled in any of the pilot programs in a given year, the scholarship will

support any students who meet the requirements for need, outlined above, within the unit. The scholarship will stay restricted to the Schreyer Honors College.

“It’s important for students to know that there’s help for them,” Jamie said, “whether it’s financial or emotional, or in whatever way they need.”

The Davidsons were inspired to give by James, who writes for Onward State and since coming to Penn State has worked for both a nonprofit organization and Reflexion Interactive, a start-up company co-founded by Schreyer Scholar Matthew Roda that is developing a concussion screening device.

“We have the attitude that by doing this, we’re continuing on the path that he actually blazed for us,” John said, “both in the way he accepts and is appreciative of his good fortune and the fact he is very concerned about others and tries to help them.”

To learn more about the Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program, please contact Sean Miller, Schreyer Honors College Director of Development and Alumni Relations at smm401@psu.edu or (814) 863-4543.

Endowment and Gift Spending		
2016–17 Fiscal Year	Number of Awards	Amount Awarded
Academic Excellence Scholarships: (includes charitable and institutional funds)	1,129	\$4,840,122
Need-based and Merit Scholarships:	291	\$947,517
Student Awards: (travel grants, internships, and research awards)	422	\$234,947
Program Support:	–	\$878,717
TOTAL:	1,842	\$6,901,303
Total Endowment Value: \$96,964,356.16 (as of July 1, 2017)		



A Campaign for a Greater Penn State



Greetings, fellow alumni and friends of the Schreyer Honors College. I am writing one year into our new five-year Campaign: A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence. The priorities for our campaign consist of the following

themes: Open Doors, Create Transformative Experiences and Impact the World.

This is a campaign that is focused on implementing the University’s and the Schreyer Honors College’s strategic plan. The goals of the campaign are priorities to help the College remain as one of the top honors programs/colleges in the country.

However, we cannot do it without the unwavering support of our alumni and friends. Our College has a campaign goal of \$30,457,000, and our ability to achieve our goals will be defined by your commitment and support. Please join me in contributing to the future of the Schreyer Honors College, in recognition for all this great college has done for us and our community.

We Are,

Ryan L. Newman
Schreyer Honors College Campaign Chair

“A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence” Campaign

Imperative One: Open Doors

When she was in high school, Krista Grennan took classes at a local community college on sociology and anthropology. Now an immunology and infectious disease major at Penn State, Grennan is a physician at heart, but she is also passionate about interacting with people, which is why she added a second major, in sociology.

“It helps me bring more cultural relativity into my medicine,” she said, “and I think we need more of that.”

Grennan came from a Penn State family — her aunt and uncle attended the university and her cousin is a Schreyer Scholar Alumnus. She knew she wanted to study science in college but wasn’t sure which specific discipline until she talked to an agricultural sciences adviser during a Spend a Summer Day visit.

“I ended up liking immunology a lot more because I like the body and how it reacts to disease,” she said. “It was specializing more than just picking a general biology.”

Grennan is currently part of a study that is examining three proteins that are overexpressed in cancer.

“We’re seeing when they’re expressed in the body, and if we cut them out or downregulate them, what it’ll do in response to the cancer,” she said.



“SCHREYER HAS BEEN
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A Schreyer Grant has helped Grennan cover the costs of specific probes she needs to perform qPCR (a laboratory technique which monitors the amplification of targeted DNA molecules in real time), which are expensive and can only be used a few times each.

“Without this grant, I wouldn’t be able to do the research that I’m doing as in-depth as I’m doing it right now,” Grennan said.

During breaks between semesters, Grennan volunteers at the Saint Clare’s Hospital in Denville, New Jersey, shadowing ER doctors. It has been a place where her loves of science and sociology come together.

“You’re dealing with people that are from different socioeconomic backgrounds, racial and ethnic backgrounds,” said Grennan, who is considering a career in emergency medicine. “I really enjoy that part of medicine, and I think I can bring a lot to the table with that.”

Grennan participates in intramural soccer, the Biomedical Sciences Club, and the Atlas THON organization and is a member of Global Medical Brigades, the Paterno Fellows Program and the Presidential Leadership Academy, which have helped her develop her sense of “cultural relativity.”

“Schreyer and PLA have opened my mind to acknowledging that, OK, there’s an issue, there’s more than two sides to this issue,” she said. “It kind of helps me think better, formulate things better.

“I think that without Schreyer and PLA, I would probably be more close-minded on issues.”

Imperative Two: Create Transformative Experiences

Emma Price’s mother is a neonatal nurse at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, so the Schreyer Scholar is no stranger to healthcare.

“I would always be around a lot of physicians,” Price said. “It was the whole idea of being able to help people, apply myself in a scientific way, and then just kind of advance the field that there is now.”

Price, a biology major, has applied herself to helping others on a large scale during her time with the Penn State chapter of Global Brigades, an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to reach their health and economic goals. With the help of Schreyer travel grants, she has made 10-day trips to Nicaragua, Honduras, and Panama to support various public health projects.

“We’re very aware of not going into these countries and handing off aid and leaving,” she said. “We’re very big on sustainability and wanting these projects to out-live our stay in the communities.”

“The ultimate goal is transitioning out of them and making them sustainable communities.”



“MOST OF MY BEST
FRIENDS ARE PEOPLE
I’VE MET IN MY
HONORS LEVEL
CLASSES.
I FEEL LIKE I’VE HAD
BETTER RELATIONSHIPS
WITH MY PROFESSORS.”

Price, who led the brigade to Panama this past spring, helped with triage, worked in a pharmacy and shadowed local doctors and dentists, seeing hundreds of people along the way. She likes the way Global Brigades seeks to work on preventative strategies — making eco stoves so that smoke in the house doesn’t cause respiratory problems, or coming up with safer ways to store water so that there won’t be a need for treatment of parasites, for example — rather than focusing solely on treatment.

“None of the chapters can succeed without the others,” Price said. “It’s made me see the health-care field in a different way.”

Price has conducted biomedical research on hypoxia at CHOP and is currently working with Penn State assistant professor of biology Charles Anderson in a lab on the labeling of plant cell walls. She plans to go on to medical school and sees herself working in neonatology or pediatrics. She is proud of the work she has already done and her visits abroad have shown her the possibilities for work that lay ahead.

“I didn’t know really what I was getting into, but I couldn’t have asked for a better experience in my time at Penn State,” she said. “It really has changed the way I see the world.”

Imperative Three: Impact the World



During the past year, Karan Shah went snorkeling in Malaysia, hiked up mountains in Indonesia and celebrated Chinese New Year in Singapore. He's not sure he would have done any of it if not for his involvement with the Schreyer Honors College.

"Those experiences were very profound for me," he said.

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Shah, who is double majoring in mechanical engineering and mathematics, spent the spring semester studying at the National University of Singapore. A Schreyer travel grant paid his air fare, but Shah believes that the College did more than that to place him in the program in the first place.

"NUS is a very competitive place," Shah said. "A lot of students apply and very few are selected. I had more background in terms of things that I had done — the research, the honors courses. I think it helped me get selected in the program."

Shah took the same kind of math and engineering courses he would have taken at Penn State, but noticed some differences in the academic culture. Class participation, for example, was not valued in Singapore like it is in the United States. "The curriculum there was more rigorous," he said. "It was pretty fast-paced."

Shah has never shied away from a challenge; in fact, his adviser, while encouraging him, sometimes gently reminds him not to spread himself too thin. He is the international programming chair for Empower Orphans, serves on the content team for TEDxPSU and was a co-op intern this summer at Bosch. He also practices Vipassana meditation, which he says has helped him to be ethical, moral, and mindful and increased his awareness.

"I think they all inspire me, motivate me, and being in their company just makes you push yourself harder," he said.

Alumni Who Shape the World: Danielle Bassett



She is a world-renowned physicist and neuroscientist who studies connectivity patterns in the brain. Before Scholar Alumna Danielle Bassett became what was at the time the youngest winner of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 2014, though, she was a Penn State student who studied poetry and comparative literature at the Berks campus, which helped her nurture a creative side as she learned the sciences.

As a high school student, Bassett was fascinated with the brain, and she pursued that interest from a few different angles as an undergraduate at Penn State.

"The part of philosophy that most fascinated me was philosophy of mind; I ended up taking several undergraduate courses that were in neuroscience and biological psychology simply out of curiosity," said Bassett, who is now an Associate Professor of Bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania. "I think that motivated eventually putting the two together."

Partly at the behest of her freshman English professor, Sandy Feinstein, Bassett joined the Schreyer Honors College through the Gateway program and embraced her research experiences, which included a physical chemistry project involving trying to develop cells that would deposit drugs into a person's body in a targeted manner.

"It was not at all related to physics — it was much more fundamentally biology," she said. "But it did give me the initial appreciation of what research was actually like."

"I was given a lot of freedom in that project, which I think was very motivating to me. I wasn't told exactly what to do; I was told to explore, and to discover. Now, looking back on it, I think that slightly hands-off approach was very motivating to me."

A 2004 graduate with a bachelor of science in physics minor in mathematics, and honors in physical chemistry, Bassett received the NIH-Cambridge Scholarship and Winston Churchill Scholarship and continued her studies at the University of Cambridge. She was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2014, and her current research involves using statistical mechanics to try to understand patterns of connectivity between neurons or between large-scale brain areas.

"This line of research seeks to understand healthy human cognition, how it develops as children grow, and how it goes wrong in psychiatric disease or neurological disorders," Bassett said.

Bassett met her husband, Lee — a Schreyer Scholar Alumnus who also graduated with a physics degree before completing graduate studies at the University of Cambridge — in an 8:00 a.m.

electromagnetism class their sophomore year. A Marshall Scholarship winner, Lee is now an assistant professor in electrical and systems engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. The couple has two young children.

Bassett continues to stay connected to Schreyer through the Mentoring with Honors program. She is impressed with the ambition and the intellectual development of the Scholars she works with, and she encourages them to nurture different parts of their brain, just as she did.

"I think to become a creative, well-rounded academic who is going to be able to see ideas in new places, it's important to have that extended period of discovery and exploration," she said. "I think that is a challenge they should always keep at the forefront of their minds. Yes, it's important to find what you're passionate about, but it's also important to have time to explore."

2016-17 Alumni Recognition

2016 Schreyer Honors College Outstanding Scholar Alumni

- Jayatri Das, '99 Sci
- Jared McKnight, '11 A&A, Lib

2016 Schreyer Honors College Outstanding Mentor Award

- Rosanna McCalips, '99 Lib

2017 Penn State Distinguished Alumni Award

- Mary Beth Long, '85 Com

2016 Penn State Alumni Association Alumni Fellow Award

- John Rooney, '86 Eng

Scholar Alumni Society Board:

Message from Todd Bacastow, President



Dear Scholar Alumni,

The chime of Old Main's bell tower. Creamery Ice Cream. Late nights studying in Atherton Hall. Doesn't it seem like yesterday that we were anticipating a fall semester as Schreyer Scholars? The incredible people, intellectual curiosity

We have some exciting opportunities this fall. Please also look for upcoming emails highlighting ways to volunteer with fellow Scholar Alumni to support students. You may also check out on our new Get Involved page on the Schreyer Honors College website. I look forward to working together on one of these projects and meeting you.

For the Glory,

Todd M. Bacastow
President, Scholar Alumni Society Board
Schreyer Honors College
College of IST, Class of 2005

of academic endeavors, and fun we experienced as students draw us back to Penn State even as alumni. We have the opportunity to help ensure that Schreyer Scholars following in our footsteps have the tools to make the most of their Penn State experience.

I've been fortunate to lead the Scholar Alumni Society Board (SASB), serving alongside an outstanding group of fellow alumni who share a passion for Penn State and honors education. This work uniquely allows us to serve future and current Scholars, and alumni, through various initiatives including the Alumni Admissions Interview Program, Mentoring with Honors, and the Scholar Alumni Society Future Leaders Scholarship. Many of you are already involved with these programs — thank you for your time and support. For those of you interested in learning more, we invite you to participate.



Alumni Spotlight: Meet Amy and Jeremy Frank



Jeremy Frank is very much an engineer — practical, process-oriented, purpose-driven — but the president and co-founder of KCF Technologies likes to spend the occasional afternoon hanging out at The Makery with various local artists.

Amy Frank, the owner of The Makery, a State College arts and crafts studio, has always had an artistic eye and is very much the sensitive type — but she's also a very driven, Type A personality. Amy, who previously worked as a consultant at Accenture, helps her husband create training programs. Jeremy, who has an MBA from Penn State, is a resource for his wife when she goes over The Makery's financial records.

"Those businesses could not be more different," Amy said, "and the way we run them could not be more different."

This State College couple couldn't think of a place where they would rather run their respective businesses and live with their four children. This balanced match was made not far away, at the Schreyer Honors College.

Jeremy and Amy met during their sophomore year at Penn State at a Dance Marathon public relations committee meeting (Jeremy would later confess that he and a friend had joined the committee only to meet girls). Jeremy, a mechanical engineering major had also gotten into MIT, Carnegie Mellon, and Cornell, but thought that he would get to interact with more different types of people at Penn State.

Amy had considered New York's Fashion Institute of Technology but thought Penn State offered a better value. Unlike her husband, she didn't join what was then the University Honors Program until her sophomore year but was pleased to discover she could register early for classes and found that she enjoyed writing her thesis.

Living and working in State College, the Franks have kept close tabs on the Honors College and its growth since they graduated.

"When we were in school, Schreyer was just becoming what it is today," Amy said. "The more we are engaged with Schreyer, the more we see the amazing opportunities these kids have, to really create their own education."

Jeremy was one of the alumni panelists at Connect 2017, the Schreyer Honors College's annual career event. Three of the students he met there wound up working for KCF Technologies, which develops and commercializes products and solutions for industry and the military.



"They're an extremely high caliber of person that's really hard to find in the world, but even Penn State at large," he said. "These people coming out of the program, it's not just about academics; they're prepared for life in a way that's advantageous to any other education."

The Franks believe it is important to stay connected with the College and help where they can, citing relationships they formed with mentors such as Robert "Bear" Koehler, the former Penn State accounting professor.

"That's the personal motivation I have for spending time there, is to try to influence somebody who was maybe in the same place I was 20 years ago," Jeremy said.

The Parent Perspective: Meet the Vranas



Erin Vrana considered several private colleges when it came time to selecting a school four years ago, but she ultimately wanted a fuller experience.

“What tipped her over the edge toward Penn State was the Schreyer Honors College,” said Vrana’s mother, Sheila. “She could see that it was all the benefits of a private school tucked inside a large university.”

Erin graduated this May with bachelor of science degrees in biochemistry and molecular biology and French and Francophone studies. She was the recipient of an Erickson Discovery Grant and the winner of the Health and Life Science Division of The Penn State Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Biotechnology 2017 Undergraduate Research Exhibition.

She will attend Vanderbilt University School of Medicine this fall, and her parents, Sheila and Kent Vrana, say she is noticeably more independent, accountable and willing to take a leadership role than when she began at Penn State.

“She came out with a lot of self-confidence that she might not have had going in,” Kent said. “She’s surrounded by wicked smart people right now, and I don’t think she’s intimidated.”

The Vranas were both familiar with the Schreyer Honors College prior to Erin’s enrollment; Sheila is Associate Dean for Research at Penn State’s College of Medicine and Kent is the Elliot S. Vesell Professor and Chair of Pharmacology in the Penn State’s College of Medicine. During the last four years, they got to see first-hand how some of the College’s benefits impacted their daughter, including the opportunity to schedule classes before other Penn State students, which helped allow Erin to spend a semester in France and still get the courses she needed.

“We knew the importance of studying abroad and wanted to be sure she was able to do that,” Sheila said. “She was still able to get everything she needed. It was important to us that she had that flexibility to study abroad. That was an important criterion.”

The Vranas also saw the help Erin got at various stages of researching and completing her thesis.

“All of the benchmarks and milestones were in place that she finished well in advance,” Kent said. “I’m sure she stressed, but we certainly didn’t, because she was getting things done.”

The Vranas joined the Schreyer Parent Advisory Council in 2013 and will be the council’s co-chairs for the 2017-18 year. They both wanted to take an active role in their daughter’s education and, now that she has graduated, continue to help the College live its mission.

“There are lots of great aspects to the university,” Kent said, “but to think you’ve got a top five or top 10 honors college at one of the largest universities in the country, I want to see that fulfilled and maintained.”





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