

Creighton University

College of Arts and Sciences

Honors Program Convocation



Friday, May 15th, 2020

Convocation Program

WELCOME

Mark May

Class of 2020

INVOCATION

Mary Townley

Class of 2020

PRESENTATION OF HONORS PROGRAM GRADUATES

Jeffrey Hause, Ph.D.

Director, Honors Program

Logan Baumberger

Major: Chemistry-Biochemistry Track

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Julianne Soukup
- Service Group Leader for the Cortina Community
- CURAS Ambassador

Emilia Marie Berni

Majors: Chemistry, Biomedical Physics

Minor: Biology

Plans: Attend University of Colorado Dental School

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Destino: NASA Fellowship
- Alpha Sigma Nu
- Pi Beta Phi Sorority

Srilekha Bonala

Major: Computer Science and Informatics-Digital Development Track

Plans: Join an Accelerated Nursing Program to get an RN

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research in the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Rehabilitation Lab

Noah Brady

Major: Chemistry

Minors: Biology, Mathematics

Plans: Attend Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Fletcher
- Phi Delta Theta Fraternity: Risk Manager
- Welcome Week: Move-In Executive

Haley Christine Briggs

Majors: Mathematics, Theology, Secondary Education

Plans: Teaching Mathematics at Creighton Preparatory High School

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton Students for Life: March for Life Coordinator
- Theta Alpha Kappa
- Phi Mu Epsilon

Margaret Winifred Carrig

Major: Chemistry-Biochemistry Track

Minor: Classical Languages

Plans: Attend Medical School

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Protein Biochemistry Research with Dr. Lynne Dieckman
- Service with Habitat for Humanity and the Magis Clinic
- Peer Ambassador in the Global Engagement Office

James Xavier Connors

Major: Sustainable Energy Science

Minor: Philosophy

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- President of the Creighton Trailblazers Outdoor Club

Mary Elizabeth Cronkleton

Major: History

Minor: Business Administration

Plans: Attend University of San Diego School of Law

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- MyIT Service Desk Technician

Joseph Patrick D'Alesio

Majors: Chemistry, Biomedical Physics

Minor: Criminal Justice Policy

Plans: Pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Colorado Boulder

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Particle Physics Research with Dr. Janet Seger
- Resident Advisor Lead
- Phi Beta Kappa

Connor Diaz

Major: Biology

Minors: Spanish and Hispanic Studies, Behavioral and Cognitive Neuropsychology

Plans: Attend University of Missouri School of Medicine

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Creighton's Clinical and Translational Science Department
- Teaching Assistant for Cell Structure and Function
- 2018 UNMC Undergraduate Poster Presentation Winner

Nick Dinaro

Major: Sustainable Energy Science

Minor: Computer Science

Plans: Work at Fast Enterprises as an Implementation Consultant

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Honors Program
- Chess Club
- Computer Science Club

Sean Paul Downey

Major: Environmental Science, Political Science

Plans: Attend University of Minnesota Law School to Study Environmental Law

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society
- Research with Dr. Mary Ann Vinton, Dr. Graham Ramsden, Dr. Pierce Greenberg
- Creighton Greenjays: Communications Director

Alyssa Marie Ellerbusch

Major: Philosophy

Minor: Legal Studies

Plans: Taking a gap year to spend time discerning then going to law school

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority: New Member Chairman and Marshal
- Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honors Society: President
- Midwest Undergraduate Philosophy Conference Presenter 2018 & 2019

Olivia Ilene Fuson

Majors: History, Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Minor: Women's and Gender Studies

Plans: Attend Oregon Health & Sciences University School of Medicine

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Creighton Educational Opportunity Center: Volunteer teaching ESL
- History Capstone Project: "Red Lines, Class Codes, Highways, and Hipsters: Invisibility Politics and 'Racial Progressivism' in Portland, Oregon, 1940-Present"

Haley Fye

Majors: Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professions

Plans: Pursue a Doctorate of Physical Therapy at the University of Iowa

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton Women's Cross Country Team
- Research with Dr. Jake Siedlik
- Athletic Department Administrative Aid

Allyson Rose Greco

Major: Chemistry

Minor: Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. James Fletcher
- CSU Program Board
- Kappa Kappa Gamma: Membership Chairman

Briana Marie Gregg

Major: Biology

Minor: Classical and Near Eastern
Studies

Plans: Either attend a Ph.D. program in
biomedical sciences or apply for jobs in
research and development

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research in Dr. Cavanaugh's Yeast Laboratory
- Delta Delta Delta Sorority
- Creighton University Symphonic Orchestra

Taena Christine Hanson

Major: Neuroscience

Minor: Behavioral and Cognitive
Neuropsychology

Plans: Pursue a Ph.D. in Behavioral
Neuroscience at Arizona State
University

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Dustin Stairs
- Skutt Art Gallery Coordinator
- Theta Phi Alpha

Jack Henry Hersh

Major: Health Administration and Policy

Minor: Graphic Design

Plans: Work in marketing or health administration and obtain a Master's in Public Health

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Phi Delta Theta Fraternity: Executive Team
- Public Relations Chair Creightonian Student Newspaper: Graphics Editor
- Research with Dr. Kevin Estep

Chase Howard

Major: Biology, Environmental Science-Organismal/Population Ecology Track

Minor: Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Plans: Complete a Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Management at Creighton and use his last year of eligibility for Cross Country

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton University Cross Country Team: NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Research with Dr. Shea

Sora Esther Hutchison

Major: Psychology

Plans: Continue working towards becoming a pilot

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Theta Phi Alpha: Philanthropy Executive
- Swim Club President

Kelsey Kay Jones

Major: Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professions, Theatre

Plans: Attend College of Saint Mary's Doctorate of Occupational Therapy Program

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton Theatre: Actor, Costume Designer, Crew
- Alpha Psi Omega
- Research with Dr. Rohan Edmonds

Ayushi Kaul

Major: Neuroscience

Minor: Medical Anthropology

Plans: Take a gap year to work as a CNA at Quality Living Inc. before applying to medical school

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Best Buddies: President
- SCSJ Service Trip Coordinator
- Research with Dr. Annemarie Shibata

John Edward Kral

Major: Biology

Minor: Economics

Plans: Pursue a Master's of Biomedical Sciences with a Specialization in Anatomical and Physiological Sciences at Colorado State University

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Ken Kramer
- Blue Crew: Vice President
- Beta Theta Pi: Scholarship Chair

Neha Lamsal

Majors: Biology, Psychology

Plans: Pursue a Master's of Biomedical Sciences before going to medical school

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Resident Advisor to the Wellness Learning Living Community
- Creighton University's MEDLIFE: Vice President, Financial Chair
- Research with Dr. Mackenzie Taylor

Alexander Charles Larsen

Majors: Biology, Environmental Science-Organismal/Population Ecology Track

Minor: Sustainable Energy

Plans: Getting involved with conservation work while applying to graduate school for an advanced degree in ecology to research social-ecological systems and sustainability

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Vinton on a NASA Nebraska Space Grant Fellowship
- Teaching Assistant for Terrestrial Ecology and Atmospheric Science

Andrea Laudi

Major: Biology

Minor: Medical Anthropology

Plans: Begin Creighton's Secondary Education Master's Program to advance into a career as a high school science teacher

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Campus Ministry SALT Team
- Biology Teaching Assistant

Jacquelyn Kay Laughlin

Major: English

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- CCAS Student Senate: Mental Health Committee Coordinator
- ILAC Water Quality Program: Student Leader
- Creightonian Student Newspaper: Copy Chief

Kimberly Kraft Levine

Major: Neuroscience, Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Plans: Pursue a Master's of Medical Sciences at Creighton University

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Delta Delta Delta: Standards Board, New Member Educator, Secretary
- Research with Dr. Maya Khanna and Dr. Gabriel Rivera
- St. John's Religious Education Teacher for 3-6 year olds, 4th and 5th graders

Brady Robert Manker

Major: Neuroscience

Minors: Biology, Science and Medicine in Society

Plans: Attend Creighton School of Medicine

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Alpha Sigma Nu
- Welcome Week Community Life Executive
- SCSJ Service and Justice Trip Coordinator

Mark May

Major: Mathematics- Medical Mathematics Track

Minor: Statistics and Data Science

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton EDGE: Attached Tutor
- EvenSong Choir: Social Commissioner
- Research with Drs. Lynne Dieckman and Aimee Schwab-McCoy

Kaitlyn McFarland

Major: Neuroscience

Minor: French and Francophone Studies

Plans: Pursue a Master's of Medical Biology

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Undergraduate Researcher in Clinical and Translational Sciences
- Tri Delta Sorority Member
- Residence Life Desk Receptionist

Renae Katherine Melone

Major: Neuroscience

Plans: Take a gap year to work as a CNA at Nebraska Medicine and volunteer around the Omaha area while preparing to apply to medical school

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- SCSJ Service Trip Coordinator
- EDGE Academic Success Peer Mentor
- Pi Beta Phi Sorority

Marah Katherine Miller

Major: Neuroscience

Minors: Spanish and Hispanic Studies,
Music

Plans: Work to get clinical hours and apply to PA school

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton Climbing Club: President, Vice President
- Phi Beta Kappa
- SCSJ Service Trip Coordinator

Cameron Johnnie Nielsen

Majors: Mathematics, Computer Science and Informatics

Minor: Environmental Science

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Phi Delta Theta: Executive Risk Manager
- Computer Science Research with Dr. Catie Baker
- Atmospheric Science Teaching Assistant

Hannah Jane Okelberry

Majors: English, Psychology

Plans: Continue to work in neuropsychology research while applying to psychology Ph.D. programs

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Dustin Stairs
- Outstanding Senior in Department of Psychological Science and Department of English
- Phi Beta Kappa

Braden Brock Oldham

Majors: Neuroscience, Classical and Near Eastern Civilizations

Plans: Post-Baccalaureate Research Training Program at the National Institute of Health-NIA researching the neurobiology of Parkinson's Disease

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- President of College of Arts and Sciences Student Senate
- 2018 Community Orientation and Diversity Awareness Welcome Week Executive
- Phi Beta Kappa

Shambhabi Paudyal

Major: International Relations

Minor: Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Plans: Work in the field of research/data and then attend law school

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton Residential Life: Resident Advisor
- Peer2Peer Mentorship Program: President
- Pi Sigma Alpha

Allison Rain Quady

Major: Psychology

Plans: Attend Loyola University Chicago's School Psychology MEd/EdS Program

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Psychology Research with Dr. Huss
- Theta Phi Alpha: Vice President
- School Psychologist Intern Council
Bluffs School District

Carly Grace Rademacher

Majors: English, Journalism

Minor: Economics

Plans: Serve for a year with Jesuit Volunteer Corps as an Engagement Specialist with the Bethesda Project in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Schlegel Center for Service and Justice:
Team Leader, Service Trip Coordinator,
Participant
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority

John Rafferty

Major: Biology

Minor: Health Administration and Policy

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Beta Theta Pi Fraternity
- Pep Band
- Research with Dr. Bourret

Kathleen Ann Resman

Major: Exercise Science and Pre-Health Professions

Plans: Complete a year of service then attend medical school next fall

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Campus Ministry: Hands of Hope Coordinator and Hospice Volunteer
- Exercise Immunology Research with Dr. Siedlik
- Involvement in Empty Bowls and Ceramics Community

Mason Rhodes

Majors: Physics, Mathematics

Minor: Philosophy

Plans: Pursue a Ph.D. in physics from the University of New Mexico at the Center for Quantum Information and Control with a focus on theoretical aspects of quantum computing

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- 2019 Goldwater Scholar
- Authored 3 Peer-Reviewed Papers in Quantum Computing
- Sigma Pi Sigma Honors Society: President

Lorenzo Riva

Majors: Physics, Mathematics

Minor: Philosophy

Plans: Pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Notre Dame

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Mathematics Research
- Math Tutor for the EDGE
- Phi Beta Kappa

Abby Robinson

Majors: Biology, Environmental Science-
Global and Environmental Systems Track

Minor: Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Plans: Pursue a Ph.D. in Ecology, Behavior,
and Evolution at Boston University

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Theodore Burk with Support from the Clare Boothe Luce Scholarship
- Resident Advisor for the Honors Scholars Community
- Environmental Science Club: President

Anna Grace Rossini

Majors: Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry

Plans: Move to Texas this summer and attend medical school in 2021

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Mathematics Club: President
- Chemistry Club: President
- Turning Point USA: President

James Koley Sickler

Major: Chemistry-Biochemistry Track

Minor: Biology

Plans: Attend Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Creighton Men's Club Volleyball
- Research with Dr. Martin Hulce
- Alpha Sigma Nu

Shelby Jane Smith

Major: Medical Mathematics

Minor: Data Science

Plans: Pursue graduate degree in Biostatistics from the University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority: Event Chairman
- Kiewit Hall Resident Advisor and Assistant Resident Director
- Probability and Statistics Teaching Assistant

Mary Catherine Townley

Major: Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Minors: Theology, Latin American Studies,
Studio Art

Plans: Attend accelerated nursing school

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Schlegel Center for Service and Justice Student Leader
- Siena Francis House Service Leader
- Campus Ministry Fall Adventure Retreat Leader

Andrew Joseph Walther

Majors: Mathematics, Biomedical Physics

Minors: Data Science, Business

Administration

Plans: Pursue a Ph.D. in Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Physics of Cancer Research with Dr. Andrew Ekpenyong
- RSP Decurion
- CURAS Ambassador

Tyler Dean Wikoff

Major: Neuroscience

Minor: Health Administration and Policy

Plans: Attend University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Public Health to Pursue a Master's of Public Health in Health Policy Management

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Phi Delta Theta
- Encounter 42 Coordinator
- Selmecki Labs Bioinformatics Analyst

Jacquelyn Taylor Wright

Major: Chemistry-Biochemistry Track, Spanish and Hispanic Studies

Plans: Pursue a Ph.D. in Biosciences

Involvement & Accomplishments:

- Research with Dr. Lynne Dieckman
- Phi Beta Kappa
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention

About the Honors Program

Honors Program Mission Statement

Rooted in the university's Christian, Catholic, and Jesuit traditions, the Honors Program relies on the belief, articulated by Pope John Paul II, that "the united endeavor of intelligence and faith will enable people to come to the full measure of their humanity." Its goal is to foster a community committed to the ongoing education of students and faculty members as fellow seekers for truth. The program seeks individuals of all faiths and backgrounds who are intelligent, well prepared academically, highly motivated, and academically adventurous. The curriculum then immerses these students in an academically rigorous but flexible program of study guided by a faculty mentor who is charged with paying special attention to the personal dimension of learning. The program ultimately understands itself as a fellowship of inquiry whose individual members have dedicated themselves without reserve to love of learning.

The program is designed for talented, imaginative students desirous of participation in small, discussion-oriented classes and in courses on interdisciplinary and topical issues. It provides students with special opportunities and challenges to enhance their undergraduate experience and to contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of the University. The program also offers students the opportunity to pursue a course of study that complements their majors. Criteria for admission to the Honors Program include academic achievement and demonstrable interest in the program's aims and aspirations. Required application materials include an activities resume and two essays.

Honors Program Administrators

Dr. Bridget Keegan, *Dean*
College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Jeffrey Hause, *Director*
Michael W. Barry Professor

Dr. Eric Haas, *Interim Associate Director*
Associate Professor of Chemistry

Ms. Jolene Buckingham, *Program Coordinator*
College of Arts and Sciences

Honors Faculty Board Members

Dr. Erin Averett

*Department of Fine &
Performing Arts*

Dr. Theodore Burk

Department of Biology

Dr. Lydia Cooper

Department of English

Dr. Margaret Doig

Department of Mathematics

Mackenzie Taylor

Department of Biology

Dr. Greg Zacharias

Department of English

Dr. Juliane Strauss-Soukup

*Department of Chemistry
Director of CURAS*

Dr. Erica Moreno

*Department of Political
Science and International
Relations*

Fr. Michael R. Romero, S.J.

Department of Philosophy

Dr. Amy Lane

*Department of Fine &
Performing Arts*

Dr. Nicolae Roddy

Department of Theology

Dr. Brooke Kowalke

Department of English

Dr. Janet Seger

Department of Physics

Dr. Tricia Ross

Honors Program

Dr. Brian Martens

Honors Program

Laurel Hogan

*Resident Director of
Swanson Hall*

Dr. Carol Zuegner

*Department of Computer
Science, Design, and
Journalism*

Student Board Members (2019-2020)

Executive Committee:

Mark May, *President*

Molly Carrig, *Vice President of Operations*

Lindsey Theut, *Vice President of Academics*

Joey D'Alesio, *Vice President of Programming*

AJ Gilcrest, *Vice President of Student Affairs*

Ayushi Kaul, *Vice President of Public Relations*

Class Representatives:

Freshmen:

Joey Rougas
Chandler Fong
Kate Timboe

Sophomores:

Regan Lavallee
Paul Martin
Kevin Nguyen

Juniors:

Ellie McCreary
Eleanor Albers
Kishen Patel

Seniors:

Carly Rademacher
Jackie Laughlin
Shelby Smith

Community Resident Advisors:

Abby Robinson
Evan Williams