Haddix Dean’s Fellows
Year In Review  2019–2020
The 2019–2020 academic year was a year like no other, but the Haddix Dean’s Fellows Program made the most of every moment together, whether in-person or virtually. We welcomed another large freshman class in the fall, with 43 students from 15 states. With our growing size, we nearly filled the Creighton University Retreat Center for our annual retreat with just our freshman and sophomore cohorts and a few select upperclassman leaders.

We are grateful for the in-person experiences we had throughout the fall and early spring semesters, including cohort meetings, the senior trip, and the holiday party. In mid-March, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Creighton University moved all undergraduate classes online and closed campus. Our executive team and campus partners worked tirelessly to adapt to these challenges, moving our cohort meetings online, conducting elections and awards virtually, and finding creative ways to celebrate our graduating seniors.

“I love the Dean’s Fellows program because it gives me the opportunity to grow as an individual and inspires me to be a better leader. When this program brings so many intelligent, driven, and morally bound people together, I can see why I love this program so much. It is full of students and faculty rooting for you to succeed in the future, and they help you get the tools to do so.”

– Jacob Benes ’23
CLASS OF 2019
Outcomes

20 seniors* graduated from the Haddix Dean’s Fellows Program

*19 students completed the outcomes survey

As students of Creighton

84% participated in research
*Fields of research included: American studies, psychology, biology, environmental science, chemistry, medicine, biomedical science, exercise science and physics

32% completed an internship
*Internships included: Senator Amy Klobuchar’s office, Think Whole Person Healthcare, Assel Grant Services, the Creighton EDGE, and the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office

As alumni of Creighton (within 6 months of graduation):

5 employed full time
*Companies include: Amak Towing, Elemental Scientific, ECOLAB, Creighton University

10 attending graduate or professional school
*Schools include: Creighton University, University of Iowa, Ohio State University, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, and University of Wisconsin–Madison

4 seeking next opportunities
CLASS OF 2020
Senior Trip

In the fall of 2019, 23 senior Dean’s Fellows traveled to Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland, to explore racial justice in America. Prior to departure, students participated in pre-trip seminars with community leaders—including Brenda Council, Creighton University School of Law alumna and former member of Omaha City Council; Preston Love Jr., North Omaha community activist; and Eric Ewing, PhD, executive director for the Great Plains Black History Museum—to learn more about the history of race and racism in Omaha. Additionally, Christopher Whitt, PhD, Creighton University’s vice provost for Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, helped with the planning and provided guidance as the group explored these difficult topics.

In D.C. and Baltimore, the students visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Frederick Douglass Museum, spoke with Jesuits at the Baltimore Cristo Rey High School, heard from a representative of the Congressional Black Caucus, and met with staff at Georgetown University to learn about their efforts toward reconciliation.

Students also had the opportunity to meet with and hear from Creighton University College of Arts and Sciences alumni Joshuah Marshall, Kevin O’Brien, Steven Mahon, Katie Waldo and Jill Marmol.

What Students Said:
“My experiences in North Omaha and Washington, D.C., have inspired me to be active in the community, advocating for those who find themselves in disadvantaged positions.”

“The Senior Trip allowed me to engage with issues of race and agency in the United States in addition to reach out to public officials who were trying to address these issues.”

| 90% | 97% |
| “Somewhat Agree” or “Strongly Agree” that they put others’ best interest ahead of their own | “Somewhat Agree” or “Strongly Agree” that they believe an organization needs to play a moral role in society (A 10% increase from the pre-immersion survey) |
Dean’s Fellows looking through historical documents pertaining to Georgetown’s history with slavery

Dean’s Fellows at Georgetown University

Dean’s Fellows hearing from Christopher Whitt, PhD, outside of Baltimore City Hall
Civic and Community Engagement

Despite challenges faced in the spring semester, Haddix Dean’s Fellows still found time to engage in service and advocacy during the 2019–2020 academic year. Four Dean’s Fellows took on leadership roles as team leaders in the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice (SCSJ), including Mary Kate Garriott ’21, Maggie Knox ’20, Sadie Lage ’21, and Julie Turner ’23.

Overall, 53 Dean’s Fellows participated in weekly service, service and justice trips, advocacy events or virtual service last year through the SCSJ. Locations and activities included:

- EXCEL
  - Morton, MS
- Hubbard House
  - East St. Louis, IL
- Habitat for Humanity
  - Stroud, OK
- House of Charity
  - New Orleans, LA
- Sustainability Trip
  - Lincoln, NE
- Resurrection Catholic Church
  - Montgomery, AL
- Columban
  - El Paso, TX
- Casa Romero
  - Milwaukee, WI
- Mosaic
  - Axtell, NE
- Catholic Worker
  - Cleveland, OH
- Annunciation House
  - El Paso, TX
- Intercultural Senior Center
  - Omaha, NE
- Women’s Intercultural Center
  - Anthony, NM
- Excel Community
  - Okolona, MS
- Siena/Francis House
  - Omaha, NE
- Completely KIDS
  - Omaha, NE
- Habitat Restore
  - Omaha, NE
- North Omaha Boys and Girls Club
  - Omaha, NE
- YATES Community Center
  - Omaha, NE
- 402 Service
  - Omaha, NE
- Living Undocumented Virtual Program
- Serve from Anywhere: Senior Pen Pal Letters Virtual Program
- Social Analysis: Completely Kids Virtual Program
- Social Analysis: North Omaha Boys and Girls Club Virtual Program
- Social Analysis: Siena/Francis House Virtual Program
- Jesuit Refugee Services Advocacy Day Virtual Program
Learning about and experiencing other cultures is an important part of a well-rounded, liberal arts education. We are proud of our nine students who were able to travel abroad last year as part of their educational experience and leadership development. Unfortunately, students who studied abroad in spring 2020 were called home early and all summer Faculty-Led Summer Programs Abroad were cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**FALL SEMESTER 2019**
Bailey Mitchell ’21, The Galápagos, Ecuador

**SPRING SEMESTER 2020**
Melia Bayliff ’22, Santiago, Dominican Republic
Jillian Brauninger ’21, Caen, France
Kathleen Magee ’21, Dublin, Ireland
Emma Slattery ’22, Bologna, Italy
Sarah Sommers ’22, Bologna, Italy

**SPRING BREAK 2020**
Nicole Haen ’21, MEDLIFE (Peru)
Gracie Rae Hunkler ’22, MEDLIFE (Peru)
Conor O’Carroll ’21, FLPA (Las Vegas, NV)
Ava Smesik ’21, MEDLIFE (Peru)
Additional Awards and Honors

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows, 2020

Rebecca Black ’22
“Examining the role of Kmt5b in lung development and function”

Kendal Kellerman ’21
“Pyridine-substitutes triazole compounds with pKa-driven antimicrobial properties”

Sydney Westphal ’23
“Soil health and arthropod communities in urban green spaces”

CURAS Travel Grant Recipients, 2019–2020

Chris Banister ’21
Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

Krista Chang ’21
Behavior Conference

Max Markuson DiPrince ’22
APS Meeting

Audrey Greder ’21
American Psychology-Law Conference

Rachel Kain ’21
Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium

Siddharth Venkatraman ’20
Keystone Symposium

Clare Boothe Luce Scholarship Recipient, 2019–2020

Kendall Kellerman ’21

2019–2020 Phi Beta Kappa Initiates
Eilidh Chawanec ’20
Mackenzie McCuddin ’20
Siddharth Venkatraman ’20

Inaugural Recipient of the Joan Yambing Memorial Scholarship
Sydney Westphal

The Joan Yambing Memorial Scholarship was established by the Yambing family, in memory of their daughter and Dean’s Fellow, Joan Yambing, who passed away during her sophomore year at Creighton University. The scholarship is awarded to an outstanding freshman Dean’s Fellow with a demonstrated commitment to and passion for academics. In addition to the scholarship, recipients also receive a copy of Joan’s book of poetry, *Roots of a Wildflower*. 
Elected and appointed virtually in May 2020, the new executive team is ready to take on the challenge of building community while social distancing, wearing face coverings and navigating in-person event restrictions. The team met throughout summer 2020 to brainstorm ways to welcome our freshman class and engage all cohorts virtually, while remaining true to the program goals and outcomes.
Admissions

This year, the Haddix Dean’s Fellows welcome a record-shattering freshman cohort of 64. These high-achieving students come from across the U.S. and other countries to join us both in person and virtually.

- 260 Applications
- 64 New Freshmen
- 13 States Represented
- 2 Countries Represented
- 4.03 Average GPA
- 30 Average ACT