Haddix Dean’s Fellows
Year in Review
2020–2021
Our Dedicated Students Took on a Different Kind of Year …

Faced with a year of social distancing and masking, our student executive team had to get creative for the 2020–2021 academic year. They thoughtfully adapted the program, ensuring our new members—the largest class in Dean’s Fellows history!—learned what it means to be a Haddix Dean’s Fellow. From an online freshman retreat to remote, and later, socially distanced cohort meetings, our students were able to build community and develop as leaders during a truly unique year. We applaud our students for their adaptability and resilience!

“The cohort meetings provided a safe space to have difficult conversations in unprecedented times. Although the meetings were virtual first semester and socially distanced second semester, we were able to cover relevant topics about how we can better our knowledge of current events and how we can apply what we learn to the Creighton community.”

- Olivia Lewis ’22
Admissions

In 2020, the Haddix Dean’s Fellows welcomed a record-shattering freshman cohort of 64. These high-achieving students came 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
2020–2021

Haddix Dean’s Fellows
Executive Team

Elected and appointed virtually in May 2020, the new executive team made a priority of remaining true to program goals and outcomes. The team met throughout summer 2020 to brainstorm ways to welcome our freshman class and engage all cohorts either virtually or while considering in-person event restrictions such as social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Conor O’Carroll ’21
Executive Chair

Claire Shinners ’22
PR and Outreach

Rasika Mukkamala ’22
Mission and Mentoring

Sadie Lage ’21
Service and Advocacy

Spencer Evoy ’22
Arts and Cultural Engagement

Alaina McBride ’22
Administrative Chair
Dean’s Fellows in the Community

Despite limitations, the Dean’s Fellows continued to show their commitment to social justice and service through both in-person and virtual activities throughout the year.

**SCSJ Team Leaders**
Melia Bayliff ’22  
Melissa Cantu ’23  
Matthew Freeman ’24  
Mary Kate Garriott ’21  
Sadie Lage ’21  
Grace Litzau ’23

**Environmental Justice**
Community Orientation  
Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice  
Temporary Protected Status Legislative Visit  
Jesuit Refugee Service Advocacy Day  
*How to be an Antiracist* Book Club  
Great Plains Black History Museum Tour  
Migration Justice Weekend  
Racial Justice Weekend

**Weekly Service Sites**
Completely KIDS  
Learning Community Center of South Omaha  
TeamMates Mentoring Program  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands  
RISE  
Lutheran Family Services

**Virtual Service and Justice Activities**
Serve from Anywhere—  
Letter Writing  
Streaming Social Justice

**Creighton COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**
Greta Purcell ’23 (pictured above) and other Dean’s Fellows readily pitched in to help with Creighton’s vaccine clinic. Here’s a look at how much they contributed.

118 Shifts  
638 Hours
Dean’s Fellows Span the Globe

University travel was suspended for the academic year, but several of our students looking to make their mark on the world took advantage of international opportunities once they became available again.

Bridget Backer ’22
ILAC Summer Health Program, Dominican Republic, Summer 2021
(Pictured on bottom right)

Annika Muse ’22
ILAC Summer Health Program, Dominican Republic, Summer 2021

Maria O’Brien ’24
John Cabot University, Rome, Italy, Summer 2021
(Pictured on top right)
Additional Awards and Honors

The students in Dean’s Fellows made an impact across campus. Here are just a few of the awards and honors our great students have earned.

**Dr. and Mrs. Randolph Ferlic Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows**

**Evan Johnson ’24**
“Three-Coil System for Off-Center Uniform Magnetic Fields”  
Faculty mentor: Jonathan P. Wrubel, BS, PhD

**Zachary Rinke ’21**
“Characterization of the K. Lactis Spindle Pole Body”  
Faculty mentor: Ann Cavanaugh, PhD

**Joan Yambing Memorial Scholarship Recipient**

**Kate Wald ’24**
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.

**Phi Beta Kappa Inductees**
Sadie Lage ’21  
Kathleen Magee ’21  
Rebekah Rapoza ’21  
Alexandra Van Cleave ’22

**Alpha Sigma Nu Inductees**
Bridget Backer ’22  
Melia Bayliff ’22
Farewell to Our Seniors!

After a senior year with few in-person activities, we were happy to host one final reception before graduation for the class of 2021.

Congratulations to you all!
Dean Keegan enjoyed the afternoon on the mall celebrating and saying goodbye to our seniors (pictured).