

WISDOM



LEADERSHIP



SERVICE



CHARACTER

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS' KEY TENETS



Florida State University Undergraduate Studies
Presidential Scholars
Honors, Scholars and Fellows House
Tallahassee, Florida



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

program and our goals, as they learn about one another and begin to articulate the goals they have for their time at Florida State.

Each fall, we host a Family Weekend brunch in the Great Hall at the Honors, Scholars, and Fellows building. It is always an amazing time to connect with our scholars' families and celebrate their hard work.

In January each year, we head to Panama City for PSchol Paradise - our annual weekend Presidential Scholars Retreat. For two days, the scholars learn, grow and, yes, play (the beach Olympics are always a highlight), and this has become a highlight of the year, creating meaning and memories for our scholars that they carry into the spring semester. It is especially impactful for our seniors, as the retreat marks the beginning of the graduation semester as they prepare to enter the next chapter of their lives.

I hope you find the stories and experiences in this annual report to be inspirational, informative, and interesting. They capture a typical year in Presidential Scholars in all of its breadth, spirit, and energy. Our Presidential Scholars are engaged in exceptional, creative, and innovative programs across campus and around the globe. We have scholars in every college on campus, and they are a true snapshot of the amazing work that FSU students are capable of and the impact they are creating through their participation in the Presidential Scholars program. They demonstrate the leadership, service, wisdom and character that are the hallmark tenets of our program.

Scholars Strong,

D. Craig Filar, PhD

Director, Presidential Scholars
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

We are in the midst of a transformational period for the Presidential Scholars program. In spring of 2026, we graduated our 10th class, the Class of 2026, our final class of 30 scholars. We are also about to welcome our 13th class of scholars to campus, the Class of 2030. We now count over 500 amazing people as Presidential Scholars, both current and alumni. As we prepare to pass this significant milestone, I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on how far we have come and to share where we are headed.

As the program has grown, we have expanded the work we have done with partners across campus and the Tallahassee community. Over the past few years, we have developed year-long initiatives with the Food for Thought Pantry, Unconquered by Debt, and the Center for Health and Advocacy Wellness to create thoughtful programming and events.

We continue to welcome the new class of scholars to campus with our annual Leadership Summit the week before fall classes begin. Over two and a half days, the new scholars participate in a range of events and activities to introduce them to the



THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Presidential Scholars champions undergraduate students with extraordinary potential to be transformational leaders of their generation by cultivating a community of scholarship and service that promotes critical thinking and personal growth.



INTRODUCTION

The late Dean Karen Laughlin had a vision for a prestigious scholarship program that would attract high-achieving students to Florida State University, which was infused with the collaborative spirit of our institution.

Through a generous gift from Linda and Philip Lewis, the Presidential Scholars was launched in 2014 with enthusiastic backing from the university. Dr. Laughlin's vision was realized.

We invest in undergraduate students who show the potential to be the transformational leaders of their generation and who will take on the big questions and issues facing our world. The program provides four years of support and access to the best Florida State University has to offer our students as we provide them with support and education towards this goal. The program is open to high school seniors of great promise, who are selected through a rigorous application and interview process. Presidential Scholars are admitted to the Honors Program and are expected to engage in numerous high-impact educational experiences such as: study abroad, Global Scholars, research and creative endeavors, service-learning projects, public service internships, and entrepreneurial development throughout their time at FSU.

Intellectual and cultural curiosity is fostered through the development of a strong community of scholars. The Presidential Scholars engage in programming created to explore our four foundational tenets: Wisdom, Leadership, Service, and Character. Through a specially designed four-year sequence of coursework and engaged learning experiences, those in the Presidential Scholars community learn to be critical, collaborative, and innovative thinkers who use their talents to make meaningful contributions to society. Scholars serve as mentors to younger scholars when they arrive on campus, increasing the program's strong community.

Join us for a glimpse into the student's activities and research throughout this report. We hope that it will inspire you and show you the promise of better future that these students envision.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

1910 Women's Honorary

Accounting Honor Society

After They Arrive

Alpha Chi Omega Sorority

Alpha Chi Sigma

Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity

Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre Health
Honor Society

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Alpha Kappa Psi

Alpha Phi Sorority

American Chemistry Society

American Landmark

American Medical Women's
Association

American Meteorological Society

American Society of Mechanical
Engineers

American Women in Medicine

Animal Society

Applied Politics and Policy
Learning Experience

Aquila Entertainment

Arabic Honor Society

Argentina Student Association

Askew Student Life Center

Atwood Lab

Baja SAE

Beach Volleyball Club

Beautify FSU

Beta Alpha Psi

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity

Big Brother Little Brother
Mentoring Program

Bioethics Association

Black Law Students Association

Blacks in Computing

Black Student Union

Business Case Competitions

Bowling Club

Bridging Borders for Ukraine

Camp Kesem

Campus Cats Club

Campus Recreation

Caribbean Student Association

Catholic Noles

Catholic Student Union

Center for Academic Retention
and Enhancement

Center for Hispanic Marketing

Center for Leadership and Service

CHAARG

Chi Epsilon Pi

Chi Phi Fraternity

Circle K International

Civil Rights Institute

Class Councils

Club Flag Football

Club Pickleball

Club Sailing

Club Tennis

Colombian Student Association

ColorStack

Comic Book Club

Connecting Experimental Lab and
Life Sciences

Conservation Collective

Corazon Dancers

CRU

Cuban American Student
Association

Cybersecurity Club

Dance Marathon

Debate Team

Delta Gamma Sorority

Delta Zeta Sorority

Devoe L. Moore Institute

Diverse World Fashion Magazine

Diversity & Inclusion Institute

Donald J. Weidner Summer for
Undergraduates Program

Dosie Does Line Dancing Club

Dulos FSU

EcoReps

EngageTLH

Engineering Undergraduate
Research Exploration and
Knowledge Advancement
Fellowship

Engineers Without Borders

Fencing Club

Filipino Student Association

Film Club

Financial Management
Association

Florida Asian American Student
Union

Florida Flambeau

Florida Student News Watch

Food for Thought Pantry

Fortune International Group

ForwardFSU

Fountain of You Production

Freedom Scholars Book Club



Freshman Leadership Institute	Honors Research Society	Kudzu Review
FSL Line Dance	Honors Student Association	Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity
FSU College of Medicine USSTRIDE	Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International	Lambda Phi Epsilon
FSU College of Social Sciences and Public Policy Student Leadership Council	Indak	Lambda Pi Eta
FSU Consulting Group	Information and Technology Services	Lambda Theta Alpha
FSU Democrats	Innovation Hub	Leaders Empowering Others in Need of Education and Service
FSU Weather	Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers	Learning Assistant Program
FSView	Institute of Sport Sciences and Medicine	Legacy Party
Game Development Club	Interfraternity Council	Legislative Certification Program
Gamma Iota Sigma	International Genetically Engineered Machine Program	Legislative Internship Program
Garnet and Gold Key	International Programs	Levana Choral Group
Garnet and Gold Scholar Society	Inter Residence Hall Council	Madhatter Knits
GenCLEO	Intramural Sports	Marching Chiefs
Generational Relief in Prosthetics	Japanese Animation Club of Tallahassee	Medical Response Unit
Global Citizenship Certificate Program	Jewish Student Organization	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Governmental Relations Program	Jordan Lab	National Society of Black Engineers
Gut Biome Lab	Justice-Impacted Student Association	National Society of Black Women in Medicine
Hillel	Kappa Alpha Fraternity	Neuroscience Undergraduate Association
Hispanic/Latine Student Union	Kappa Alpha Pi	New Student and Family Programs
Hollings Scholarship Program	Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity	Noles on Wall Street
Homecoming Court	Kappa Delta Sorority	NuRhoSci Neuroscience Honor Society
Homecoming Executive Council	Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority	Office of Accessibility Services
HOME Street Medicine	Kearney Center	Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society
Honors in Action	kNOW More	Order of Omega
Honors in the Major		
Honors Legal Scholars		

Outdoor Pursuits	Seminole Sound	Swim Club
Outlast International	Seminole Student Boosters	Swing Dance Club
Page Turners	Senate Legislative Certification Program	Tau Beta Pi
Panhellenic Association	Seneff Honors Program	The Big Event
People Power for Florida	Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity	The Finance Society
Phi Alpha Delta	Sigma Chi Fraternity	The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers
Phi Beta Kappa	Sigma Delta Tau Sorority	Theta Tau
PhiDE	Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity	Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society
Phi Delta Epsilon	Sigma Theta Tau	Tri Delta Sorority
Phi Mu Sorority	Spearpoint Robotics Team	Together Tallahassee
Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society	Social Science Scholars	Torchbearer 100
Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honor Society	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics	Torch Society
Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity	Society for the Advancement of Materials and Process Engineering	Unconquered by Debt
Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society	Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers	Unconquered Media
Pre-Dental Society	Society of Collegiate Journalists	Unconquered Scholars
Pre-Lawtinos	Society of Manufacturing Engineers	Undergraduate Finance Workshop
Pre PA Club	South Asian Student Association	Undergraduate Investment Group
Prep and Conquer	Spoonbills Society	Undergraduate Law Review
Pre-Veterinary Club	Sports Analytics Club	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Psychology Club	Sterns Weaver Miller Bridge to Law School Program	Union Board
PULSE	Strike Magazine	University Housing
ReachFSU Ministry	Student Alumni Association	USSTRIDE
Real Estate Investment Fund	Student Athletic Training Association	Virtual Reality Club
Real Estate Partners	Student Conduct Board	Virtutem Populo, Inc.
Real Estate Society	Student Foundation	Weightlifting Club
Relay for Life	Student Government Association	Who We Play For
Renegade Leadership Honor Society	Students Demand Action	Wii Club
RTHM Research Lab	Student Department of Academic Affairs	Women in Pre-Law Society
Rural Med Collective Club	Student Nurses Association	Women in Sports Association
Sailing Club	Student Senate	Women's Club Rugby
Second Language Acquisition Network Group	Students for Dental Dignity	Women's Ice Hockey
SEEDS	Student Teaching Internship	Women's Leadership Network
Seminole Minority Leadership Institute	Sustainable Campus	Women Student Union
Seminole Organic Garden	Sweeney Todd Mainstage Production	Writing Club
Seminoles Engaged in Politics		WVFS Tallahassee

PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP



MIA HARRELL

VERO BEACH, FL | CLINICAL PROFESSIONS

From Summer 2025 through Spring 2026, Mia Harrell demonstrated leadership across multiple academic and service-oriented organizations by combining initiative with a commitment to supporting others. As Recruitment Chair for Madhatter Knits and incoming Vice President, she led outreach efforts to expand membership, organized interest meetings, and created a welcoming environment for new members. She focused on making the organization accessible and engaging, recognizing that strong recruitment builds a sustainable and inclusive community.

Mia Harrell's most meaningful leadership experience has been her involvement with Madhatter Knits. Madhatter Knits is an organization that knits and donates hats for premature infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to hospitals including Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Johns Hopkins. As of Fall 2025, the Madhatter Knits Chapter at FSU

had donated 463 hats to NICUs! Knowing that Mia could be part of that process is very rewarding for her, especially as recruitment chair. Mia loves being recruitment chair as she helps facilitate collaboration events, and hearing everyone share their stories on why they wanted to get involved with Madhatter

Among the organizations she has volunteered with in the Tallahassee community, Mia Harrell found her work with a local organization supporting young pregnant women experiencing homelessness or crisis to be especially impactful. She was deeply moved by the organization's mission to serve underprivileged individuals who often face significant social and economic barriers, providing them with both immediate refuge and long-term support. Through her involvement, Mia observed how the organization connected residents with essential resources such as job opportunities, food, clothing, and childcare. She found this work especially meaningful because it focused on empowering women to build stability for themselves and their children, rather than offering only temporary assistance. This experience resonated with Mia on a personal level. As an adoptee, she recognized the importance of providing support and resources to mothers during vulnerable moments, understanding how access to care and stability can shape long-term outcomes for both parent and child. This perspective deepened her commitment to serving under-served communities and reinforced her desire to pursue a career in medicine that prioritizes compassionate, holistic care.





EMMA BROWN

ELLCOTT CITY, MD | CRIMINOLOGY & MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Emma Brown is a rising senior majoring in Criminology and Middle Eastern Studies. She combines her passion for law and language to help Arab and Hispanic refugees in the Tallahassee community. Emma uses her Arabic and Spanish language skills in different internships and volunteer organizations throughout Tallahassee specializing in refugee resettlement. As an intern at FSU's Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, she greets the Arabic speaking clients in their native language and translates throughout their permanent status application. She translates follow up documents to ensure the clients understand the application process. She also attends medical exam appointments with clients as their translator, ensuring they have the proper vaccine records required to apply for permanent status. She has provided resources for the clients, sharing with them different opportunities

to help them learn English in Tallahassee.

Emma also volunteers with a Tallahassee volunteer non profit named Neighborly. The first Saturday of every month, Emma oversees a donation distribution for the local refugees, most commonly from Syria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, DRC, and Colombia. She operates check in, as she will greet them in their native language and explain the distribution process to the attendees. She operates the distribution of donated items, and has tea time where she will talk with the refugees. On Mondays, she visits the neighborhoods where many refugees live and helps tutor their children. This is an opportunity to alleviate stress from the parents, while also having a native English speaker to tutor the children. She also does house visits to different families each week, helping to provide resources for their needs. She has provided resources for children to get beds, connecting them with different non profit organizations. Emma's favorite event she has coordinated is when she threw an ice cream party for the children and played soccer with them.

Emma also volunteers at pro bono prescription eyeglass clinics. Tallahassee optometrists were able to receive a donation for prescription eyeglasses where Tallahassee refugee children and foster children were able to come and not only leave with prescriptions, but also the eyeglasses right for them. She translates Arabic and Spanish, guiding the children and their parents throughout the day. The eye dilation process is not the same as other countries, so Emma balances translating for the families while also teaching them the medical process.



EMMA SCHLOTTHAUER

FLEMING ISLAND, FL | CELL AND MOLECULAR NEUROSCIENCE

Emma has volunteered with the Remote Area Medical Clinic in March 2026 to register and coordinate patients for medical, dental, and vision services in a high-volume remote clinic setting as well as managed patient intake, documentation, and flow to ensure efficient delivery of care. She supported medical, dental, and vision teams with administrative and logistical tasks. Additionally, this spring, Emma has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to assisted in residential construction projects for low-income families and worked collaborative with team members to complete building tasks. She further volunteered at The Big Event to support community development though hands-on service projects, Relay for Life at FSU to support the fundraising of money for the American Cancer Society, and Dance Marathon community marathons in support Dance Marathon's local high school chapters and their fundraising for pediatric hospitals. She has also volunteered at The Goat Farm in Tallahassee to help care for the animals by feeding the goats and supporting with the daily goat farm chores. From September 2025 - April 2026, Emma has volunteered with the FSU Food for Thought Food Pantry to manage inventory organization and shelf stocking for community food pantry and ensure proper storage, rotation, and accessibility of food items.

Emma's most meaningful experience volunteering in the Tallahassee community has been with the Remote Area Medical Clinic where she was able to register and coordinate patients for medical, dental, and vision services in a high-volume remote clinic setting, manage patient intake, documentation, and flow to ensure efficient delivery of care, and support medical, dental, and vision teams with administrative and logistical tasks. She provided compassionate assistance to underserved populations in a fast-paced environment and maintained accurate records while ensuring patient confidentiality and compliance. During this experience she was able to be a part of the team that served 258 total patients and assist in providing \$175,445 in care for underserved communities.





ERYN FILES

TALLAHASSEE, FL | INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

During her tenure with the Sullivan Foundation Service Corps from May to July 2025, Eryn Files served as a consultant for Equal Plates, a food insecurity non-profit organization based in Asheville, North Carolina. In this role, she prepared and delivered food to vulnerable community members, designed promotional graphics, and volunteered at a local farm. She also developed a consulting document focused on non-profit operational models and actively engaged in community advocacy by contacting political representatives to support a critical food insecurity bill. This internship provided valuable insights into social entrepreneurship, resource mobilization, and the creation of self-sustaining service systems.

From July 2025 to April 2026, Eryn expanded her campus and community impact through multiple leadership roles at Florida State University. As a member of the Black Student Union, she developed the curriculum for the Seminole Minority Leadership Institute, volunteered at events to boost campus morale, prepared self-care bags for the Kearney Center, and participated in a food-packing challenge against the University of Florida. Concurrently, with the Civil Rights Institute, she supported programming for a speaker series and the inaugural Unity 5K, designed organization newsletters, conducted community interviews, and represented the institute at various events across the Southern United States.

As a Community Ambassador for the Center for Leadership and Service (CLS), Eryn completed a semester minimum of 75 service hours, which included supporting the Food For Thought Pantry and assisting students with applications for the Moellership Scholarship and CLS Service Scholars programs. Through the CLS EngageTLH program, she participated in volunteer trips to Fiddlehead Farms and the Food for Thought Pantry. Eryn also engaged in broader community initiatives, joining the Presidential Scholars Group during The Big Event in February 2026 to clear weeds at a Women's Community Home, and assisting the graduation ceremony keynote speaker for the CARE Department's SS Scope/STEM Program in April 2026.

Eryn's involvement with CLS Florida State Alternative Breaks (FSAB) profoundly shaped her perspective on cultural preservation and community care. Between November 2025 and March 2026, she facilitated service during the Annual Native Indigenous Arts Celebration, where she checked in hundreds of students, worked as a stagehand for two Native American performing arts groups, and assisted with camp cleanup. This experience with the Seminole Tribe of Florida underscored the importance of cultural sensitivity and maintaining meaningful institutional relationships. In March 2026, she drove a student group to Camp Boggy Creek, a camp dedicated to children with medical conditions. There, she served a family of six for the weekend and contributed testimonial materials for the organization. Paired with children who shared similar life experiences, Eryn utilized the opportunity to offer mentorship and encouragement, ultimately concluding this impactful year of service with a deepened commitment to empathy, gratitude, and purpose-driven leadership.



KATE KHVOROSTIANA

MIAMI, FL | INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

For the past year, Kate has been involved in various opportunities across campus, both to enrich her academic and social experience at Florida State and beyond. Kate serves as a co-founder of a nonprofit “Bridging Borders for Ukraine” which aims to provide cost-free English tutoring to high school students affected by the war. Started alongside her classmates, Kate has stayed involved in the nonprofit despite going to college and has contributed to a team effort of raising over \$5000 for war reparations. At Florida State, Kate joined Delta Zeta sorority, where she has been immensely involved with their philanthropy of Speech and Hearing, carrying out direct impacts on the local Tallahassee community. Recently, Kate traveled to the Regional Delta Zeta conference held in Atlanta, Georgia, where she connected with fellow sorority sisters and learned about how to make a greater impact post-graduation. Following her aspirations of becoming a lawyer, Kate also joined Kappa Alpha Pi, a pre-law fraternity, where she connects with a network

of students aspiring to work in the legal field as well as engages with a multitude of impactful speakers. Additionally, Kate was chosen to be a part of the Spring 2026 Seminoles Engaged in Politics cohort, as part of which she has gotten to lobby at the Florida Capitol and take advantage of opportunities that help jumpstart a career in public service. Kate has also had the special opportunity of working on a UROP project that aligns heavily with personal experiences, as she was a long time volunteer at the Miami-Dade Teen Court which she now had the chance to research from an academic angle.

Out of all of her engagements, Kate has especially gained a lot of knowledge from joining her sorority, Delta Zeta. Growing up outside the country, joining a sorority was an extremely foreign idea to Kate until she got to Florida State as a freshman. Joining DZ has been everything and much more than Kate ever expected as its impact spans beyond social life. While Kate does not have a specific personal connection to its philanthropy, she has truly developed one throughout this year, as Delta Zeta is the only sorority that has the chance to work with the local Tallahassee community. Despite fulfilling attendance requirements, Kate has attended every single service clinic or event benefitting the FSU Speech and Hearing Clinic as she fell in love with the impact that was being made. Whether it's raising money or hosting themed events for kids in Tallahassee, Kate has put her entire heart and 100 percent of her effort into making the greatest impact, and hopes to one day assume the position of Philanthropy Head.

Engage TLH (November 2025- March 2026), traveled to Wesson Early Learning center to assist teachers with morning activities, became certified volunteer within the Tallahassee system. Food Recovery Network (March 2026- April 2026), aided in picking up leftover food from Einstein Bros. Bagels and transported it to the Food Pantry for further stocking. FSU Speech & Hearing Clinic (October 2025-March 2026), served as a volunteer for events held at Delta Zeta, interacting with kids who are hard of hearing and their families. Contributed to raising over \$9,000 in a single event towards the Speech and Hearing philanthropy. Seminole Organic Garden (November 2025- March 2026), aided in cleaning up the garden to ensure its maximum sustainability as well as conduct daily tasks such as watering plants, removing weeds, and identifying overgrown spots.

Her involvement with Delta Zeta at Florida State University and the Speech & Hearing Clinic has been the most impactful to her because it allowed her to both give back to the local community and see the effect of volunteering first hand. Through DZ, she took part in various service events and helped organize themed clinics such as Valentine's Day and Halloween. These events made these holidays much more fun for the children as they received a lot of attention and also got a chance to connect to kids like them. She also participated in larger events like Hits for Hearing and DZ on the Block, which raised awareness and especially money that goes towards the support for speech and hearing services. Working these clinics provided a more personal perspective and helped me understand how advocacy is often needed to be supported by direct actions as well.

RESEARCH



JULIA LOBODZINSKI

PEMBROKE PINES, FL | ECONOMICS

Julia is one of three research assistants in the Department of Criminology, where she takes charge in researching and completing a complex database containing information on homicides against the Disabled community. She also leads lab sessions and office hours as a Precalculus Algebra Learning Assistant. Julia also serves as the Chair of Research for the Presidential Scholars program and as a Research Ambassador for the Honors Program's new Research Society.

Serving as the Chair of Research has been the most impactful, as it allows Julia to reach all Presidential Scholars with research opportunities, education, and enrichment. She is very proud of the work the Research Board has done and hopes to continue with more events in the future.

Julia has been working on a comprehensive database project with Dr. Brendan Lantz for the past two years. She gathers data from the media pertaining to homicides against the disabled population before compiling it into an Excel spreadsheet and analyzing it for patterns and potential red flags that would alert law enforcement before the crime actually occurs. Julia has also been researching AI hallucinations with the DAG Team at the Devoe L. Moore Institute. She works under the supervision of Dr. Crystal Taylor, running various test prompts through different LLMs to locate errors and weaknesses, before presenting which models are the most and least effective. In addition, Julia has begun initial research towards an Honors Thesis, she is currently compiling data that examines structural and cyclical factors leading to abnormally high rates of youth unemployment in East Asia.

Julia has attended the Undergraduate Research Symposium at FSU this April with her AI Hallucination research, with a poster titled "Artificial Intelligence Hallucinations in Urban Economics: Fabricated Citation Comparative Analysis". Julia has also worked on building and presenting a website located at <https://www.floridaopengov.com/>. This website provides the public with a variety of datasets and visualizations ranging from education data to salary transparency. For this work, she has been recognized in the Tallahassee Democrat.

Julia, along with the DAG Team at the Devoe L. Moore Institute, placed first in the FSU Libraries Data Visualization Competition for their work on <https://www.floridaopengov.com/>. With this award, Julia received more recognition for her work on the site, and was able to present it to a larger audience.



GRADY ANDERSON

FRUITLAND PARK, FL | POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCE

As part of the program, Grady participated in a leadership seminar during the spring semester of his junior year, which prepared him for advanced research, internships, and service-oriented projects. This experience supported his participation in the Big Ten Summer Research Opportunities Program at The Ohio State University, which was funded in part by a \$5,000 award from the Social Science Scholars Program. Through these experiences, he further developed his research skills and gained exposure to graduate-level research.

Grady defended his Honors in the Major thesis in Fall 2025. It was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, received the Honors Thesis Excellence Award, and funded by the Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award and the Institute for Governance and Civics. Supervised by Dr. Andrew Ballard (Department of Political Science), Grady's thesis examines competing explanations for affective polarization, or animosity towards political opponents. Some scholars argue that affective polarization stems primarily from partisanship, with out-partisans viewed as an out-group. Others contend that (dis)agreement on policy also plays an important role. Grady's thesis advances this debate by arguing that the relationship is moderated by the importance of the policy issue. Drawing on data from an original survey experiment with nearly 3,000 respondents, Grady finds that policy importance conditions the relative influence of partisanship and policy. When issues are less important, respondents rely more heavily on partisanship; as issue importance increases, policy (dis)agreement becomes more influential. These results provide support for accounts suggesting that individuals may behave rationally when forming affective evaluations, while raising questions about purely social identity-based explanations of affective polarization.

Grady presented two working papers at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. One of those papers, "Policy, Not Partisanship, Drives Affective Polarization" leverages an original survey experiment and a hierarchical linear regression model to establish that affective polarization is driven by disagreement on policy as opposed to partisanship acting as a social identity. The second paper, coauthored with Dr. Carlisle Rainey (Department of Political Science) and Emma Barrett (FSU B.S. '25; Ph.D. student, Department of Government, Harvard University) aims to establish if passively engaging in online political discourse can affect levels of polarization.

Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award - \$750 for my thesis
Bess H. Ward Travel Grant - \$900 to present two papers at the Southern Political Science Association
Honors Thesis Excellence Award
Thomas R. Dye Award, Department of Political Science - recognizes a political science major who has achieved 60 credit hours or senior status and has maintained an excellent academic record.

Grady Anderson worked closely with Dr. Andrew Ballard as his Honors in the Major thesis advisor in the Department of Political Science. Although they had not previously worked together, Dr. Ballard agreed to supervise Grady's thesis and provided extensive mentorship throughout every stage of the research process.

GRADY ANDERSON

CONTINUED

Under his guidance, Grady developed his prospectus, designed and implemented an original survey experiment, and completed a thesis examining competing explanations for affective polarization. Dr. Ballard offered detailed feedback on survey design, IRB materials, and methodological decisions, helping ensure the project met high standards of internal and external validity. He also supported Grady in securing approximately \$4,000 in additional funding to supplement the Bess H. Ward Honors Thesis Award, enabling the successful fielding of the survey.

The thesis was presented at the Southern Political Science Association and received the Honors Thesis Excellence Award. In addition to research mentorship, Dr. Ballard played a central role in preparing Grady for Ph.D. applications, advising on program selection, faculty fit, and application materials. Because of this mentorship, Grady will attend the University of Chicago, while another of Dr. Ballard's advisees was admitted to multiple top programs and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at Harvard, reflecting his strong record of preparing students for top-tier doctoral programs.

There is debate over the mechanisms underlying affective polarization. Some scholars (e.g., Iyengar et al. 2019; Dias and Lelkes 2022) argue that affective polarization stems primarily from partisanship, with out-partisans viewed as an out-group. Others suggest that (dis)agreement on policy also shapes affect (e.g., Orr and Huber 2020). I argue that this relationship is moderated by the importance of the policy itself. Ciuk and Yost (2016) show that citizens engage in heuristic processing on low-importance issues, and systematic processing on more important issues. When respondents evaluate hypothetical non-elite partisans, they rely on two distinct cues: the partisan identity



YUSONG LIANG

WEST PALM BEACH, FL | COMPUTER SCIENCE & CYBER CRIMINOLOGY

Since her freshman year UROP project, Yusong has continued working with Ms. Chaewon Kim on NutriQuest, a game-based platform designed to promote mindful and intuitive eating among young adults. Her contributions span the design, implementation, and research phases of the project. Conducted internally at FSU, this work carries implications for health communication and nutrition literacy in college-aged populations. Figure Impact on Scientific Journals Under the supervision of Dr. Yifang Wang at FSU, Yusong contributes to a project examining how figure quality influences the academic impact of scientific papers. Her role centers on data collection, cleaning, and analysis. The long-term goal is to develop a human-AI system that generates publication-ready figures, with the aim of reducing inequality in paper acceptance caused

by disparities in visualization quality. Virtual Patient System – FSU MakeX Lab (Upcoming Summer 2026) This summer, Yusong will join FSU's MakeX Lab under Dr. Te-Yen Wu to work on an AI-driven Virtual Patient System that trains medical students in empathy and clinical communication. The system allows students to converse with a virtual patient and receive automated performance reports. Yusong's focus will be integrating the current laptop-based system into a virtual reality environment, creating more immersive and realistic training scenarios.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS



ALEXANDER DELISE

TAMPA, FL | APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL MATHEMATICS & COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE

During Summer 2025, Alex participated in the Computational Mathematics for Data Science Research Experience for Undergraduates at Emory University. There, he worked under Dr. Matthias Chung developing interpretable baseline models for solving general forward and inverse problems that arise in the sciences and engineering. This new mathematical framework bridges the gap between statistics and machine learning and generalizes several classical results in statistical learning under a modern perspective. Alex has presented this research at a variety of venues, most notably at the 2026 Joint Mathematics Meetings. This past Spring 2026, Alex began his honors in the major thesis under Dr. Nick Dexter at FSU in the Department of Scientific Computing. This project investigates the intersection between compressed sensing, which

seeks to recover high dimensional signals from few observations; active learning, which instructs how to acquire the signals in the most effective manner to ensure signal recovery; and generative modeling, which uses a generative model prior to perform actual signal recovery. Alex hopes to develop new mathematical theory that characterizes how conditioning a generative model can affect signal recovery under an active learning regime.

Alex has been fortunate to share and publish his work many times throughout this past year, which he now lists in chronological order by research group. QAO REU Alex recently published to arXiv a preprint of his joint work, "Learning Feasible Quantum States for Quadratic Constrained Binary Optimization Problems". The final manuscript is currently under revision for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. CMDS REU Alex has presented his joint work, "Optimal Linear Baseline Models for Scientific Machine Learning" at several venues, including: the 2026 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Washington, D.C. in January 2026 (poster and oral presentation), and the 2026 Florida Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of North Florida in March 2026 (poster). This work is also published to arXiv as a preprint and is under review to a peer-reviewed journal. HITM In April 2026, Alex was fortunate to be one of five students selected to represent FSU at the 2026 ACC Meeting of the Minds hosted at FSU, where he gave an oral presentation on his preliminary results for his work titled "Active Learning for Conditional Generative Compressed Sensing".

Alex is fortunate to be named a 2026 Goldwater Scholar, a nationally competitive award recognizing outstanding undergraduate students pursuing research careers in mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering. Selected recipients can receive up to \$7500 per year.



ALEX DEN BOGGENDE

BRADENTON, FL | INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

Alex is currently working as a EUREKA Fellow at the High Performance Materials Institute where he studies both Aircraft turn-times and flight holding patterns to find inefficiencies and evaluate solutions through data-driven processes to reduce delays at both small and large scale airports.

Alex was able to secure an internship as a research assistant with Dr. Yanshuo Sun for the Fall of 2025. This internship provided the necessary experience in order to qualify and earn the EUREKA fellowship he would later receive the next semester. Alex currently works under Dr. Sun as a research fellow on an aircraft holding project to enhance customer experiences. He also took Dr. Sun's new class, Introduction to Data Engineering.

BLAKE BOLE

LITHIA, FL | STEM ENTREPRENEURSHIP & FINANCE

During the 2025–2026 season, Blake served as captain and president of the Florida State University Debate Team, leading the organization while competing at the highest level of collegiate debate. He began the season at the Steve Hunt Classic in Portland, Oregon, where he earned the tournament's coveted "triple crown" by finishing as the top seed, top speaker, and tournament champion. He continued that momentum later in the semester by advancing to the quarterfinals of the Big Tent tournament.

The spring semester brought even more opportunities to compete against many of the strongest debaters in the country. After advancing to elimination rounds at the Gorlok Gala, Blake earned an invitation to the Spring Showcase, an invite-only round-robin reserved for competitors with exceptional season records. He advanced to the semifinals of the Showcase and later reached the quarterfinals of the WKU Spring Tournament. At the final seasonal tournament, the UNLV Rebel Debate Tournament in Las Vegas, Blake advanced to the championship round and finished as the second seed, second speaker, and tournament runner-up, losing to only one debater throughout the entire competition.

The season culminated at the national championship, where months of research, preparation, and competition came together. Blake successfully advanced through the preliminary stage and multiple elimination rounds before concluding the tournament as an octofinalist, placing him among the top 16 debaters in the country for the second consecutive year. Although the competitive achievements made the season memorable, he is most proud of representing Florida State across the country, learning from talented opponents, and helping strengthen the community and future of the FSU Debate Team.



MATTHEW AZUARA

GUILFORD, CT | METEOROLOGY

Matthew Azuara was named a recipient of the prestigious Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, a highly competitive national honor awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The scholarship provides critical monetary assistance for two years of undergraduate study alongside a guaranteed, full-time paid internship at a NOAA facility. This opportunity has allowed Matthew to bridge his advanced mathematical and computational training with practical applications in meteorology, significantly broadening his academic and professional horizons beyond the campus community.

The program has proved to be a pivotal milestone in Matthew's career development, serving as a primary catalyst for his transition into the professional scientific sector. Over the summer of 2026, he is participating in his NOAA internship in Arizona, engaging in specialized environmental research and operations. This immersive experience has allowed Matthew to explore the meteorological field on a national scale, helping him refine his career objectives, build essential industry connections, and narrow down his long-term path within atmospheric and sciences.



MELANIE MITCHELL

CINCINNATI, OH | BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

Melanie Mitchell expanded her research portfolio through her selection for the Cincinnati Children's Research Fellowship, a prestigious external program hosted by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Spanning from the summer of 2025 through the spring of 2026, this fellowship allowed Melanie to apply her analytical and computational skillset to critical challenges within a premier clinical and pediatric research setting.

The experience provided Melanie with direct, hands-on exposure to clinical data and biomedical research methodologies, offering her a comprehensive view of how quantitative analysis directly influences patient care and clinical outcomes. By working alongside medical professionals and clinical researchers, Melanie gained invaluable insights into the translational research pipeline, bridging the gap between computational mathematics and real-world healthcare solutions.



ALEXIS STAVESKI

NEW PORT RICHEY, FL | ECONOMICS & COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE

Alexis Staveski has achieved significant academic distinction, earning multiple prestigious scholarships that recognize her exceptional performance in quantitative and analytical disciplines. She was honored with the Reva Daniels Metzinger Scholarship from the Department of Economics at Florida State University. This accolade is selectively awarded to undergraduate students who have demonstrated sustained academic excellence, superior analytical capabilities, and outstanding promise within their field of study.

In addition to her achievements in economics, Alexis was awarded the Boehringer Scholarship Award from Cornell University's Systems Engineering Department. This major award fully funds the tuition for her Master of Engineering (MEng) degree in Systems Engineering, which she will begin in the upcoming academic year. The scholarship underscores her preparation

for advanced graduate study, where she will leverage her background in applied mathematics to solve complex, large-scale systems problems at the graduate level.



INTERNSHIPS



MARIANNE RUSCHMAN

NICEVILLE, FL | CRIMINOLOGY & PUBLIC HEALTH

During the summer of 2025, Marianne Ruschman served as a City Manager Intern with the City of Niceville, Florida. In this capacity, she conducted extensive research on municipal laws and public policies directly affecting the municipality and assisted local officials in drafting city ordinances. Her role provided her with comprehensive exposure to municipal governance, which included attending critical strategy meetings focused on affordable housing initiatives and local budget allocations. Additionally, she participated in targeted professional development opportunities alongside local judges, attorneys, and senior city personnel.

This immersive experience in local government proved foundational for Marianne's career trajectory, fostering a deep professional passion for public administration and policy. By actively contributing to the legal and operational

frameworks of municipal operations, the internship successfully solidified her long-term career aspirations and affirmed her decision to pursue a legal education at law school.

TAFARI D'AGUILAR

RIVIERA BEACH, FL | MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

During the summer of 2025, Tafari D'Aguilar served as an Engineering Intern within the Exploration Ground Systems program at the NASA Kennedy Space Center. In this role, he contributed to critical engineering initiatives supporting ground systems for active space exploration missions. The internship provided him with direct, hands-on exposure to complex system integration, human-machine interaction, and advanced engineering applications within a premier, real-world aerospace environment.

This highly competitive technical experience served as a pivotal milestone in Tafari's professional development. Engaging directly with NASA's engineering workflows successfully reinforced his academic and long-term interest in aerospace engineering and deep space exploration. Furthermore, the rigorous demands of the aerospace environment allowed him to substantially strengthen both his specialized technical competencies and his broader professional skill set.





MARINA FARULLA

MIAMI, FL | POLITICAL SCIENCE & PSYCHOLOGY

During the fall of 2025, Marina Farulla interned at the Office of the Public Defender for the Second Judicial Circuit under the leadership of Public Defender Jessica Yeary. This position allowed her to engage directly with her passion for public service while gaining comprehensive insights into criminal law and the broader American criminal justice system. The hands-on experience in public defense provided her with invaluable exposure to courtroom procedures and case preparation, standing out as a defining milestone in her undergraduate career.

In addition to her work in criminal defense, Marina has interned with the El-Hashem Immigration Firm since the summer of 2025. In this role, she utilizes her language skills to translate vital legal documents and facilitate critical conversations for immigrants navigating the process of obtaining

legal status in the United States. As a first-generation American, this work carries deep personal significance for Marina, drawing on her own family's history of navigating a complex and unfamiliar legal system to provide empathetic, high-quality support to clients.

HUDSON KHAN

TAMPA, FL | FINANCE

Hudson's most meaningful engagement has been his work with the Undergraduate Investment Group. As an Analyst Intern focused on the healthcare sector, he conducted comprehensive financial analysis and built detailed financial models to support the team's investment thesis on TransMedics Group, a medical technology company specializing in organ transplant solutions. This experience was particularly impactful because it combined his academic interest in finance with real-world application of valuation techniques and equity research. The process of constructing a 50-page pitch deck with supporting financial models taught him how to synthesize complex information into a compelling investment narrative. Working collaboratively with other analysts showed him how investment decisions are made in a team environment, where different perspectives on risk, valuation, and market positioning need to be reconciled. The opportunity to analyze a company in a rapidly evolving healthcare subsector deepened his understanding of how macroeconomic trends, regulatory changes, and competitive dynamics affect investment returns and directly supports his career goals in investment banking and private equity.



Hudson landed two private equity analyst internships focused on healthcare during the 2025-2026 academic year. In January 2026, he joined Clinton Harbor Capital as a remote Spring Analyst working on healthcare investments. His primary responsibility was evaluating potential acquisitions of companies that provide mobility services to senior populations. He built financial models to determine whether deals made sense, examining how much debt the company could take on, what kind of seller financing might be needed, and what returns investors could expect. He spent significant time analyzing the financial health of target companies by reviewing their tax returns, forecasting future cash flows, and stress-testing different financing structures.

In April 2026, Hudson moved to Dioun Health as a Summer Analyst with a similar focus on healthcare acquisitions, but at a much larger scale. This firm specializes in home healthcare and senior care businesses. His work involves assessing whether potential acquisitions fit the firm's standards by looking at the local market conditions, the quality of care being delivered, and whether the business has strong long-term growth prospects. He evaluates these companies both quantitatively, through financial performance metrics, and qualitatively, by examining operational efficiency, staff retention, and care delivery models. These positions have been significant for Hudson's career development because they gave him direct exposure to how deals are structured and evaluated in the real world, which aligns closely with his goal of working in investment banking and mergers and acquisitions after graduation.



KENNEDY MURPHY

JACKSONVILLE, FL | POLITICAL SCIENCE & CREATIVE WRITING

During the Summer of 2025, Kennedy was a legal intern at the Public Defender's Office in Duval County, Florida. Kennedy completed various tasks her supervising attorneys required, including case law research, police body camera footage review, and speaking with clients to update them of their case status. Kennedy found the trial preparation aspect of criminal law fascinating, as well as the strong adherence to Civil Rights found among the public defenders: this internship cemented her goal to be an attorney. Moreso, her time here inspired her to write and publish a research paper in the FSU Undergraduate Law Review on differing plea practices in Duval County and the impact of those practices on the civil rights of defendants. On a slightly different route from legalase,

Kennedy began working as a Learning Assistant (LA) in POS 1041: Introduction to American Government in Fall 2025 and continues to work in this role. Through this role, Kennedy has learned how to successfully manage differing opinions and conflict of peers in the context of American politics. Adding on to student leadership, Kennedy currently works as a Resident Assistant in Salley Hall for FSU Housing. This experience has allowed Kennedy to practice emergency management, conflict-resolution, and problem-solving. Everything from floods to roommate conflicts to residents possessing drug paraphernalia has forced Kennedy to make decisions that impact the well-being of her residents. This role has given Kennedy irreplaceable leadership experience. Starting in August of 2025, Kennedy began working as an intern at the Innocence Project of Florida (IPF). IPF is a non-profit law firm specializing in post-appellate criminal law: it seeks to exonerate wrongfully incarcerated, innocent individuals in Florida. Kennedy's chief career goal has always been to find a way to help people with the knowledge and skills she has gained: these internships showed her a career in law is the perfect outlet for that.

Additionally, internship has been some of the most hands-on work Kennedy has done as a pre-law student. She personally conducts in-depth reviews of clients who apply to IPF, looking at thousands of pages of trial transcripts, police reports, appellate records, and more. Then, Kennedy writes an extensive memo and presents the case, as well as her recommendation for further steps, to staff attorneys. In many cases, Kennedy is the only individual who completes an entire front-to-back review of the case. In January 2026, Kennedy was offered to continue working at IPF as a paid intern. She still works as a paid intern at IPF and plans to continue her work for the remainder of her time at FSU. This experience by far has been the most impactful element of Kennedy's college career.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE



AMELIE GALBRAITH

**JUPITER, FL | CREATIVE WRITING &
HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

This upcoming summer, Amelie will be completing an IDEA Grant with fellow scholar Merium Qureshi, researching female mental illness within the Florida prison system. Together, they will write a series of creative essays which explore the criminalization of mental illness, both historically and presently. Amelie and Merium will interrogate the “mad woman” trope in American society, as seen through history and literature, and its consequences for women in the Florida prison system. They will conduct interviews with different stakeholders in this issue, from scholars to community activists and justice-impacted women themselves.

Their resulting essays will synthesize research and personal experiences into stories that explore different perspectives surrounding the human rights

issue at the intersection of mental illness and women’s incarceration in Florida. Dr. Ross Moret will supervise their IDEA Grant. This summer, Amelie will also be conducting research on artificial intelligence and the criminal justice system within a small cohort of eight FSU Honors students. The group will present their research at the Oxford Consortium of Human Rights at Oxford University this July. Dr. Moret will also supervise this project.

Amelie presented at FSU’s Undergraduate Religion Symposium at Dodd Hall on March 28, 2026. She orally presented her human rights paper entitled “Special Education and the Right to be Different,” which explored the state of special education in the U.S. and how to best protect disabled students’ fundamental right to a receive an education.

Amelie was awarded the FSU English Department’s Schloff Award for Creative Nonfiction in Spring 2026. She won the award for a creative nonfiction essay entitled “Daffodils.” In Spring 2026, Amelie was also awarded an IDEA Grant for a project she is completing alongside her fellow scholar, Merium Qureshi. The IDEA Grant comes with a monetary award which allows Amelie and Merium to spend their summer writing a series of creative essays about female mental illness inside the Florida prison system.

Amelie will be completing the IDEA Grant with her partner Merium Qureshi this upcoming summer and also attending the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights with FSU Honors and Dr. Ross Moret.

ALYSSA BALLIETT

LAKE WALES, FL | PHILOSOPHY & SOCIAL WORK

During Summer 2025, Alyssa completed an internship with Doctors of the World UK in London, where she worked with asylum seekers, refugees, and other underserved populations facing barriers to healthcare. In this role, she supported service users experiencing complex challenges, including mental health concerns, housing instability, and a lack of legal or language resources. She assisted in connecting individuals to appropriate services, advocated for their access to care, and contributed to casework as part of an interdisciplinary team. This experience was especially meaningful as it deepened her understanding of global health inequities and strengthened her commitment to advocacy for marginalized communities. From Fall 2025 through Summer 2026, she has been employed with Elder Care Services in Tallahassee, Florida. In this role, she has worked to support older adults in maintaining access to essential resources, including nutrition programs and social support services. Through direct interaction with clients, she has developed skills in communication, problem-solving, and compassionate care. This position has reinforced her interest in working with vulnerable populations and highlighted the importance of addressing social isolation and basic needs.



During Summer 2025, she participated in a study abroad experience in London, where she interned with Doctors of the World UK, supporting asylum seekers and refugees facing significant barriers to accessing healthcare. She engaged in casework, helped connect service users to medical and social resources, and observed the ways in which policy and systemic inequities impact marginalized populations on a global scale.

Through her abroad internship, Alyssa gained a deeper understanding of how systemic barriers such as immigration status, language access, and policy restrictions can significantly impact an individual's ability to receive basic healthcare. Working with asylum seekers and refugees challenged her to think critically about the intersection of social work, human rights, and global health. She learned the importance of cultural humility, adaptability, and trauma-informed care when working with individuals from diverse backgrounds who have experienced complex and often severe hardships. Additionally, observing interdisciplinary collaboration reinforced the value of teamwork in addressing multifaceted client needs. She plans to apply these lessons in her future by approaching field experiences with a more globally informed and equity-focused perspective. Professionally, she hopes to carry forward the skills she developed in advocacy, client-centered care, and navigating complex systems into her future career as a social worker. This experience solidified her commitment to serving marginalized populations and strengthened her goal of contributing to both direct practice and broader policy reform.



JOSEPHINE WHELAN

MIAMI, FL | BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

During her fully funded National Science Foundation (NSF) International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) program through Yale University from May to July 2025, Josephine Whelan conducted field research in Formosa, Argentina. Working under the guidance of Dr. Fernandez-Duque, she examined the thermoregulatory behaviors of Azara's Owl Monkeys (*Aotus azarae*) across various tree islands and gallery forest habitats. This biological anthropology initiative allowed her to master essential field techniques—including radio telemetry and the execution of ethograms—while simultaneously improving her Spanish language proficiency. She manages the ongoing analysis of this data externally with the goal of publishing and presenting the findings at a future academic conference.

In addition to her international research, Josephine presented a poster titled “Microhabitat Manipulation of male Lance-tailed Manakins” at the 2025 Ecological Society of America (ESA) conference in Baltimore, Maryland, with funding support from ESA SEEDS. She completed this specialized avian study as part of a highly competitive Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) grant, also funded by the National Science Foundation. Beyond her primary scientific research, Josephine contributes to campus academic life as an Academic Trainer through University Housing, where she mentors students in foundational study skills and learning strategies.



PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS ALUMNI

JAIME LOPEZ

CLASS OF 2020

After graduating, Jaime Lopez attended Georgetown Law and interned on a Guantanamo Bay trial team with the Department of Defense. They also serve on the editorial board of the Georgetown Journal of International Law and are preparing to work for the U.S. Department of State.

EMILY DAILEY

CLASS OF 2019

Emily Dailey works full-time with Prime Medicine, Inc. as an environmental, health, and safety manager and Relief Marine Technician. She leads a team of EHS contractors supporting chemistry and biology labs, and has experience in GxP environments and animal care facilities.

LEAH RUMANCIK

CLASS OF 2018

Leah Rumancik works at Google as an Android Graphics Developer. Her work in open-source operating systems supports millions of devices and reflects her expertise in computer science.

ROBERT COTTER

CLASS OF 2020

Robert Cotter graduated from Yale School of Medicine and is now an Anesthesiology Resident at UF

Health Jacksonville. His work builds on a strong undergraduate foundation that included research, service initiatives, and entrepreneurship.

AMANDA SCHELL

CLASS OF 2018

Amanda Schell works for the Department of State to evaluate the foreign policy impacts of scientific research and build technology and innovation capacity within the diplomatic corps. She has received multiple professional awards recognizing her impact on the federal government. She serves on three non-profit boards focused on civic engagement and community development. In 2023, Amanda was awarded the Reubin O'D. Askew Award and is now halfway through a second graduate degree in Artificial Intelligence from UT-Austin!

ALLISON LANG

CLASS OF 2019

Allison Lang works as a Program Coordinator in South Korea through IES Abroad after completing a Fulbright ETA. She provides pastoral care and academic support to IES Study Abroad students and continues to engage in cultural exchange and language learning while working in education abroad.

ANNA WUEST QUINN

CLASS OF 2020

Anna Wuest earned a master's degree in Health Data Science from Harvard and now works as an engineer at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute within the Informatics & Analytics department. She primarily focuses on AI platform engineering and building ML infrastructure to improve cancer care, patient outcomes, and hospital operations across the institute.

NAMI PRUETT

CLASS OF 2022

Nami Pruett is a Directorate Fellow with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They work in ecological services supporting conservation and the Endangered Species Act.

MICHAEL SPIRO

CLASS OF 2020)

Michael Spiro is an experienced business professional who previously served as a Big 4 Consultant and now works as the Co-CEO at Halotherapy Solutions, one of the largest salt-therapy companies in the world. His work focuses on business operations and entrepreneurship.



OLIVIA ROSE BOCKLER

CLASS OF 2018

Olivia Bockler is a Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience at the Washington University School of Medicine. Her research focuses on computational neuroscience and visual processing, integrating machine learning techniques.

GRACE ROBBINS

CLASS OF 2022

Grace Robbins works as a Graduate Research Assistant while pursuing a Master's degree in Historic Preservation at the University of Florida with a broader interest in the intersection of land use law, planning, and preservation.

ALEyna NEIVANDT-BROWN

CLASS OF 2018

Aleyna Neivandt- Brown earned two master's degrees and now works as a full-time professor of Commercial Music at Dallas College while continuing her career as a professional audio engineer, composer, and musician. Aleyna is the Founder of Red Pin

Productions—a music, sound, and label services company based in Dallas and serving clients worldwide. Aleyna was inducted into The Recording Academy as a GRAMMY® Voting Member.

GIOVANNA GARCIA

CLASS OF 2020

Giovanna Garcia graduated from Harvard Law School after teaching in Spain. She works as a legal fellow with FIDH's Americas Desk in Brussels, Belgium, where she analyzes political and human rights developments across the Americas to inform advocacy strategies and litigation. Her work focuses on international human rights law and advocacy.

GRACE HAYES

CLASS OF 2020

Grace Hayes is a high school music educator in Florida. She is active in education leadership and union work while coordinating district-level choral programming.

BETH BROWNRIGG

CLASS OF 2020

Beth Brownrigg works in television production in New York as a costume assistant for Netflix studios. She also continues to work in theater as a designer and director.

GREGORY SEEL

CLASS OF 2018

Gregory Seel works at Duke Energy Corporation in product and services management within the outdoor lighting business development industry. He also maintains an active career as a jazz musician.

MATTHEW ISRAEL

CLASS OF 2020

Matthew Israel is a mechanical engineer at NuScale Power.

CARA AXELROD

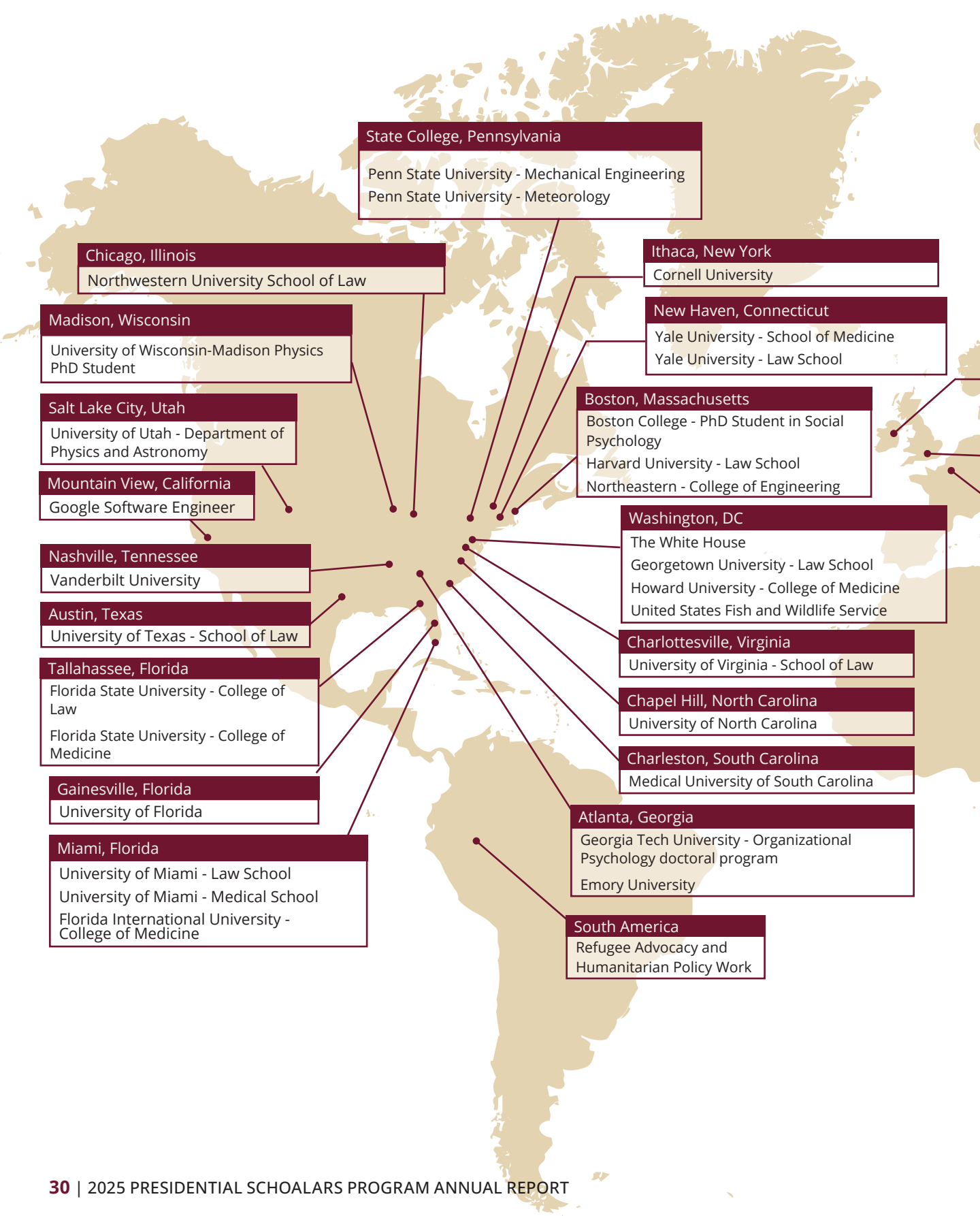
CLASS OF 2020

Cara Axelrod works as a Senior Academic Guide at Florida State University. She supports student success initiatives and serves as a Guardian ad Litem while pursuing a master's degree in Entrepreneurship.



UNCONQUERED

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS



HAVE GONE ON TO...



Dublin, Ireland

Trinity College of Dublin

London, United Kingdom

London School of Economics
and Political Science

Paris, France

Le Centre Medeleine Middlebury
School in Paris

Seoul, South Korea

Seoul National University



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