

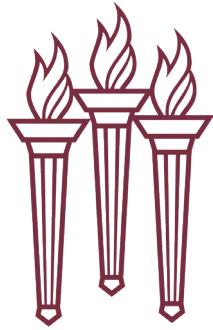


FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR THE WORLD'S FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



WISDOM



LEADERSHIP



SERVICE



CHARACTER

## PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS' KEY TENENTS



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

[PresidentialScholars.fsu.edu](http://PresidentialScholars.fsu.edu)





# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

The Presidential Scholars Annual report showcases some of the amazing accomplishments and experiences of the Presidential Scholars program and alumni over the past years. Presidential Scholars provide value to student organizations across our campus, conduct world class research, and devote countless hours to making the world a better place, embodying the four tenets of our program: Wisdom, Leadership, Service, and Character.

In addition to showcasing some of the individual achievements of the scholars, the program itself continues to grow in innovative and impactful ways. Our original monthly programming has transformed into a robust four-year curriculum, providing an engaging structure for research and service. The Presidential Scholars explored every facet of food insecurity on campus during the 2021 - 2022 academic year. During the 2022-2023 year we partnered with Sustainable Campus, the Student Government Association, and Seminole Dining to investigate the facets of sustainability on our campus. The year culminated with a Presidential Scholars led community round table event to gauge students' perceptions of sustainability efforts on campus filtered through Mitchell Thomasson's *Nine Elements of a Sustainable Campus*. This has resulted in a white paper report to the university President, *FSU Student Statement of Sustainability Support*. The paper reflects how students at Florida State University perceive sustainability on our campus and offers a call to action for administration, faculty, staff, and students.

The Presidential Scholars program continues to expand. We welcomed our new Associate Director, Maddie Rodnite, on the last day of the spring semester. We will be welcoming our

largest incoming class of scholars ever in the Fall of 2023 with 48 curious talented and innovative young minds joining the Presidential Scholars community. Our student leadership team continues to expand as well. In addition to the Community and Education board, founded in 2020, and the Service Board in 2021, we have formed an Outreach Board to collaborate and assist with the recruitment and promotion of our program. All of our leadership boards work closely with our student executive board in crafting programs as well as working with me on impactful approaches to how we engage with one another and with our campus community.

The Presidential Scholars are involved across campus and in the community in meaningful ways that produce insightful scholarship, direct service, and impactful leadership. We have welcomed scholars from 32 states, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom. Presidential Scholars have been recognized with national awards, being named as Truman Scholars, Fulbright Scholars, Goldwater Scholars, and Hollings Scholars, to name a few.

Our Presidential Scholars Alumni Council provides valuable organization to our ever-growing alumni group, offering professional and personal opportunities for our young alumni - and connecting them with our current scholars. The board has been chaired and co-chaired by Sophie Rottenberg (Class of '18) and Joseph Goldstein-Greenwood (Class of '19), respectively. We thank them and the rest of the board- Matt Molianri (Class of '22), Jonathan Marcus (Class of '22), John Powell (Class of '19), Grace Robbins (Class of '22), Cara Axelrod (Class of '20), and Bailey Propps (Class of '21)- for their generous service to launch this facet of our scholars community.

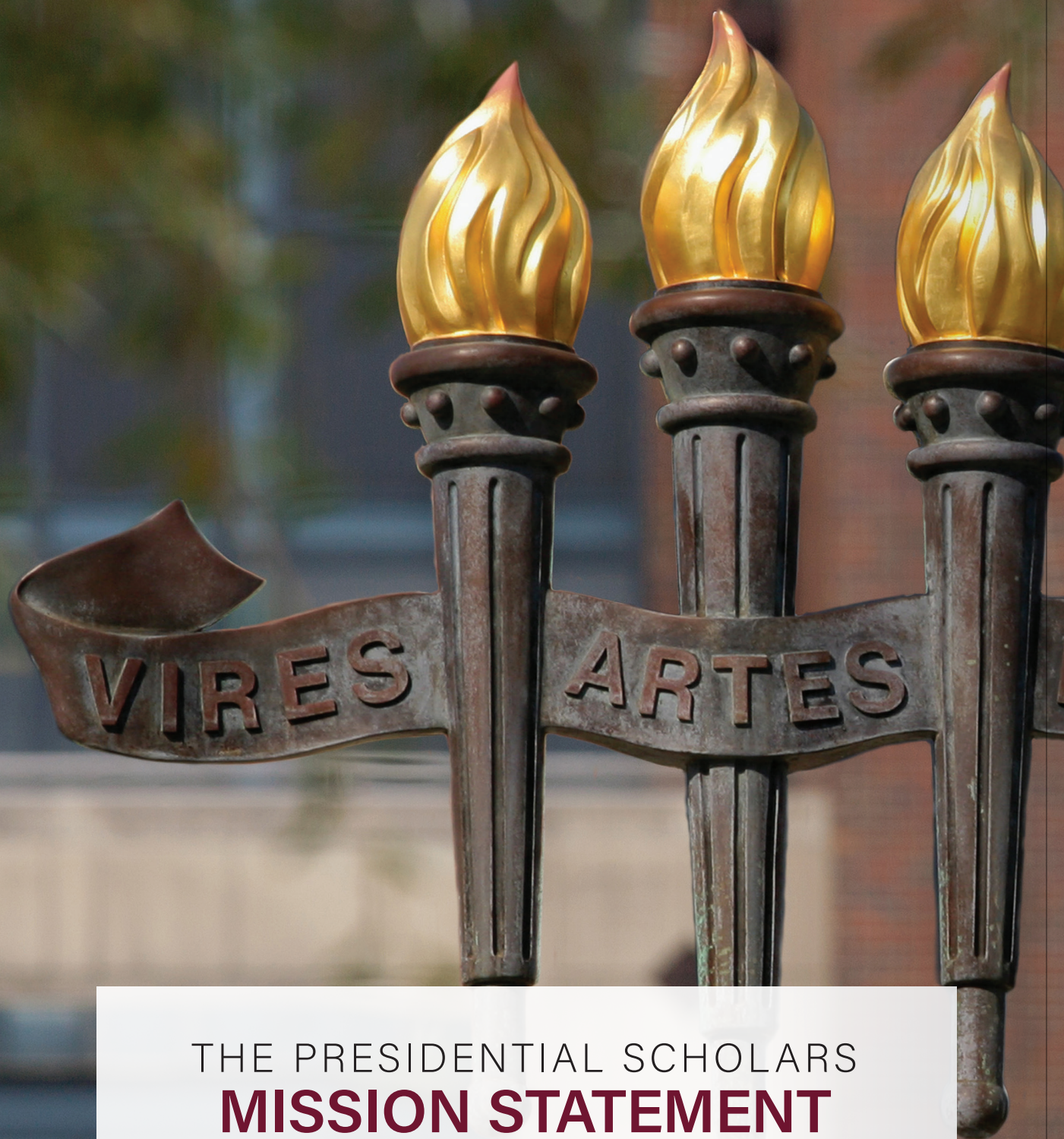
Each Presidential Scholar plays an integral role in the success of the program and represents the phenomenal work done by Florida State University students. The Presidential Scholars came to FSU where they were each challenged to "outgrow their dreams." Throughout this report, you will see how they rise to and surpass this challenge in new and amazing ways. Go Noles!

## D. Craig Filar, PhD

Director, Presidential Scholars

Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies





## 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, as we provide students with support and education toward 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 scholars participate in a robust, specially designed curriculum of experiences and activities that they undertake as individual cohorts and as an entire group over their four years. Scholars serve as mentors to younger scholars when they arrive on campus, enriching the program's strong community.

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



# PUBLIC SERVICE



## NATALIE GRIFFITHS

*SALT LAKE CITY, UT*

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES & PUBLIC HEALTH**

As a pre-medical student, Natalie has a strong desire to provide compassionate patient care, which she has extended to her service with Big Bend Hospice. Natalie's interest in hospice came from her late grandfather's time spent in hospice in a VA hospital far away from his family; although the nurses who cared for him were very attentive, he spent most of his final days without much companionship. Believing that nobody should spend the final chapter of their life alone, Natalie has been serving as a home volunteer for Big Bend Hospice since May 2022.

Natalie has been assigned to four families during her time with the hospice, each assignment lasting until the patient's passing, building a personal relationship with each of them. Natalie has enjoyed talking to patients about their life experiences - their biggest achievements and milestones, their children, their work - and also helping their caregivers, many of whom are elderly, manage the tasks around the home that can become overwhelming when faced with the responsibilities of caregiving full-time. Her experiences in hospice have provided her with a new respect for the beauty of life and the privilege of aging.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS: 100**



## HANNAH SQUIER

*STUART, FL*

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Volunteering at Second Harvest of the Big Bend has been the most enjoyable and rewarding volunteer opportunity Hannah has experienced here in Tallahassee. Moving here, she wasn't aware of the immense problem of food insecurity in the local community. Second Harvest's mission opened her eyes to its prevalence. Helping pack food for children and elderly facing issues with hunger allowed Hannah to contribute to the local community while introducing her to an impactful organization. She hopes to continue volunteering with Second Harvest in the future, since addressing food insecurity in vulnerable local communities benefits society as a whole in a number of ways and is an crucial step in developing the area.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS: 125**





## NADIA RASSECH

MIAMI, FL

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
& MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Nadia spent the past academic year volunteering for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), where she tutored refugee students in a variety of subjects, mostly English, as well as served as volunteer coordinator for her IRC team. Being of Afghan descent herself, this work was impactful, but also immensely valuable to her academic and career development, as she wishes to pursue international law, concentrating on refugee law, in the future. Working with the IRC has allowed her experiences with those impacted by international and domestic refugee law, and has further affirmed her passion for such work. Beyond the IRC, Nadia was also Director of Philanthropy for Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, raising over \$18,500 for the Arthritis Foundation in the Spring 23 semester, breaking the record for highest raised in her chapter's history. These involvements led to her receiving the Jon C Dalton Servant Leader of the Year Award, by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS: 145**

## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Academic Recruitment Organization

Alliance of Black Women

ALPFA

Alpha Chi Omega Sorority

Alpha Chi Sigma

Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity

Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

American Medical Women's Association

American Meteorological Society  
North Florida Chapter

American Society of Civil Engineers

Amnesty International

AMS/ NWA

Animal Society

Arabic Honor Society

Artists Reaching To Society

Asian American Men

Asian American Student Union

ASLC Film Committee

Association of Information Systems

Baptist Collegiate Ministry

Best Buddies

Beta Theta Pi Fraternity

Big Bend Hospice

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big-Bend-211

Birding Club at FSU

BLG Hall Council

Boy Scouts of America

Burning Spear Society

Caribbean Students Association

CASO

Catholic Student Union

CDW



# RESEARCH



## **JOHN ASKEW**

*DRAPER, UT*

**PSYCHOLOGY**

John conducted research at the University of Cambridge in their Political Psychology Lab. John used qualitative and statistical techniques to examine the written opinions of over 6,000 American and British respondents as they expressed their views on the current state of political polarization in each of those political systems. In so doing, he and his fellow researchers found how the mode of presenting data on polarization can impact the way in which it is perceived.

In addition to learning from the research and experiences of others in Cambridge's phenomenal academic community, John was able to study the nature of the political, psychological, and socio-cultural conflict currently dividing both the U.S. and U.K. In his free time, John traveled to London, Paris, and the Netherlands, learning how place is a part of the landscape of social and psychological thought.



## **WILLIAM DHANA**

*PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL*

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

Will completed an National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU) at Johns Hopkins University after his first year of college. He worked full-time for a summer training a convolutional neural network to recognize pancreatic microanatomy in the Denis Wirtz and Ashley Kiemen Laboratories, working under mentor Lucie Dequiedt.

The study that he contributed to aims to find novel ways to detect pancreatic cancer. Will was an aspiring physician but after working with world class researchers, he would like to become a physician-scientist with a focus on cancer research and treatment.



## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP



**JOSIE WHELAN**  
MIAMI, FL  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Under the guidance of Dr. Daniel Okamoto (Biological Sciences) and Mr. Matthew Schumm, Josie conducted a research project on *Heterandria formosa*, or the Least Killifish. She used specimens from an ongoing food and harvest project occurring at the FSU Greenhouse to measure lipid content in male *Heterandria*. The ongoing project has several harvest treatment, two of which are a nonselective harvest (60% removed from each size class), and a selective harvest (60% of the largest fish removed); this project looks at how these treatments affect lipid content. This research was initially conducted through the UROP program, but will be continued through DIS research next year.

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Global Engagement

Center For Leadership and Social Change

CERV FSU

CHAARG

Club Downunder

College Democrats

College of Arts and Sciences  
Student Leadership Council

College of Business Student  
Leadership Council

College of Social Sciences Leader-  
ship Council

Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity

Digital Media Production Student  
Association (DMPSA)

Engage100

Environmental Service Program  
(ESP)

Esports at FSU

FAMU-FSU College of Engineering  
Advisory Board

Fencing Club

Financial Management Association

Florida State Athletics Coach's Film

Florida State Men's Ultimate Club  
(DUF)

Florida Student Policy Forum

Food For Thought Pantry

ForwardFSU

French Club at FSU

Freshman Leadership Institute

Friday Night Live at FSU

FSU Academic Recruitment  
Organization

FSU ACM

FSU Animal Society

FSU Association of Herpetologists  
and Entomologists







# FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS



## NIKA POVELIKIN

NEW YORK, NY  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Nika received a Goldwater scholarship, a national scholarship awarded to students pursuing research careers. She began her own research project this year investigating how past environmental change has shaped genetic divergence between populations of ringneck snakes. She is working under the mentorship of the curator of herpetology at the American Museum of Natural History, while performing the molecular lab work in her honors thesis supervisor, Dr. Emily Lemmon's (recipient of this year's honors thesis mentor award!) lab, and coordinating with researchers across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to obtain the samples she needs. She was also awarded a Roger Conant grant in Herpetology from the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles to support this research.

## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

FSU Athletics (Swimming)

FSU Beach Volleyball

FSU Climbing Club

FSU College Democrats

FSU Economics Club

FSU F1

FSU GEN Action

FSU Global Exchanges

FSU Global Scholars Program

FSU Homecoming Court

FSU Honors Medical Scholars

FSU Honors Program (Oxford Human Rights Consortium)

FSU ITS

FSU Mock Trial

FSU Philharmonic Orchestra

FSU Political Review

FSU Presidential Scholars Cohort 2023

FSU Securities Society

FSU Spring Opera

FSU STARS (Students & Technology in Academia, Research & Service) Alliance

FSU Surf Club

FSU Symphonic Orchestra

FSU Undergraduate Mock Trial Program

FSU University Relations

FSU Weather

FSU Wind Orchestra

FSView & Florida Flambeau

G4

Garnet & Gold Key Leadership Honorary

Garnet and Gold Goes Green

Garnet and Gold Scholars

Global Citizenship Certificate Program

# INTERNSHIPS



## ELLA GARCIA

*MOUNT DORA, FL*  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Ella works as a legislative intern for Florida House Representative Anna Eskamani. This experience has allowed her better to understand the inner workings and functions of state government. As an intern, Ella's roles have included constituent services, policy research, and political communication. She hopes to continue working in political spaces, specifically in the legislature, to learn more about the policymaking process. This year, she is also participating in the APPLE Program through FSU's Political Science Department, which will allow her to work during the legislative session at the Capitol and intern in Washington, DC, over the summer. Through her political internships, Ella has gained valuable skills and insights into a career she is passionate about while serving her community and developing professionally.



## JOSEPH COFER

*ORMOND BEACH, FL*  
MARKETING

This past summer, Joseph took part in a Management Consulting program based out of South Africa to clarify his interest in the consulting field. Being mentored by industry leaders from the Big Four, he interned on an international team of six as a management consultant to assist a South African company trying to break into the European market. Additionally, Joseph organized an externship with Tom McAlpin, his mentor through the James M. Seneff Honors Program and CEO of Virgin Voyages, to deepen his understanding of an industry that has always piqued his interest: the cruise industry. Leading dozens of meetings with the Virgin Voyages' Senior Leadership Teams and President at their headquarters in Miami, Joseph formed profound relationships that will last beyond his undergraduate career. Joseph also served as the 75th Summer Senate President, leading the most impactful summer legislative session in Florida State's history by the amount of legislation passed, individuals confirmed, and community fostered.



## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Greek Goes Green Program  
 Health Educated Asian Leaders  
 Hearts for the Homeless Tallahassee  
 Herpetology and Entomology Club  
 Herps and Bugs Club  
 Hiking Club at FSU  
 Hillel  
 Homecoming Chief  
 Homecoming Princess  
 Honor Legal Scholars  
 Honors Colloquium Leader  
 Honors Medical Scholars Program at FSU  
 Honors Signature Zine  
 Honors Student Association  
 HOSA Future Health Professionals  
 Innovation Hub  
 Innovation Hub (FabLab)  
 Institute of Politics  
 Interfraternity Council  
 Intermural Sports  
 International Business Ethics Forum  
 International Rescue Committee  
 International Rescue Committee  
 InterVarsity Christian Fellowship  
 Intramural Sports  
 James M. Seneff Honors Program  
 Jewels, Inc  
 Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority  
 March Lab  
 Medical Response Unit  
 Mental Health Council  
 MLab Research Center  
 Mock Interview Mentor (Career Center)  
 Museum of Fine Arts Volunteer  
 National Society of Black Engineers



### EMMA BARRETT

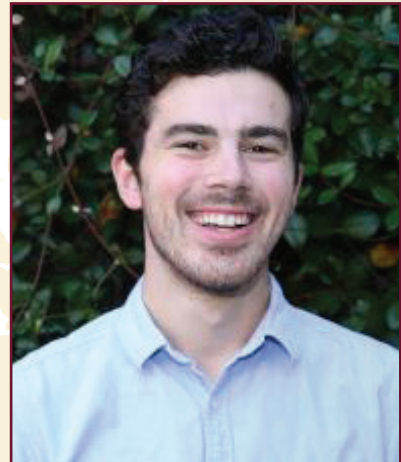
TAMPA, FL  
 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
 & POLITICAL SCIENCE

Emma spent her summer completing two internships in the political science field in DC this summer. Emma is currently interning for Transparency International US, an NGO based out of DC that is dedicated to financial anti-corruption efforts in the US. Emma hopes to go into the anticorruption field after graduation and work for a similar organization. She is also currently interning part-time with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Immigration Detention Ombudsman Office (OIDO). OIDO works to ensure that ICE and CBP detention facilities are safe and humane.

# INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE



ALLY KUKANZA  
London, England



JAMES BARBERIS  
London, England



SUSAN MORALES  
Seoul, South Korean



## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

### ALLY KUKANZA

SARASOTA, FL  
ECONOMICS

London, England Spring 2022

Ally spent her Spring semester studying at FSU London. While taking interesting cultural courses on British culture and history, she was able to explore the city and witness firsthand the places mentioned in her textbooks. The tangibility of her education was an unforgettable experience. Besides exploring the cultural hub of London, nearly every weekend she was able to explore a new city with affordable European travel. She travelled to Belgium, Portugal, Spain, France, and Greece—although perhaps her favorite trip was to Harry Potter Studios where she spent the day exploring the set of her favorite movies. Through this enriching experience, Ally was able to open her mind to different cultural perspectives and experiences.

### JAMES BARBERIS

GAITHERSBURG, MD  
ECONOMICS

In the summer of 2022, James attended the Documentary Filmmaking section of Florida State's International Programs in London, England. The experience was immediately riveting as his first few days were defined by exploring the city, meeting his classmates and instructors, and immersing himself in British culture. He became enthralled by the ways in which London mirrored American cities, but possessed a unique feel compared to U.S. staples like New York City. His experience excelled when he and his peers began work on their documentary projects, for which James focused on the complexities and defining traits of U.K. pub culture. Through interacting with locals and speaking with pub patrons and employees, James' London education was assisted by a personal touch that he is forever grateful for. London will always hold a special place in James' heart and he will certainly be returning to this incredible city in the future.

### SUSAN MORALES

TAMPA, FL  
SOCIOLOGY & WOMEN'S STUDIES

In the summer of 2022, Susan was spent 6 weeks in Seoul, South Korea at a study abroad program where she conducted auto-ethnographic research on identity formation. Her research included assessing how her own identity was perceived by the South Korean people through her own perspective. Along with her research partner's, her observations were compiled into a zine that included pictures, links to videos, and in-depth analysis of her experience in Seoul. Based on sociological theory and knowledge, this study allowed Susan to utilize the theories and methods she had been learning about for 1.5 years in college. Her experience with this research helped her reach her decision to pursue a master's degree. From her experience abroad, Susan learned to love exploring new things and learned a lot about the path she wants her academic career to lead her on. Her love for interdisciplinary studies was emphasized through her classes and the research she was conducting abroad. Regarding the rest of her career, Susan wishes to conduct more ethnographic research and compile it in creative ways to make her research more accessible.

Navigators at FSU

New Student Convocation  
Planning Committee

No Bears Allowed

Noles Engaged in Politics (NEP)

Nu Rho Psi

Office of Governmental Affairs

Office of Governmental Relations

Office of National Fellowships

OFTW FSU

Outreach Board

Panhellenic Association

Phi Alpha Delta

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity

Phi Eta Sigma

Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Phi Mu Fraternity

Phi Sigma Pi

Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity

PIRG

Power of WE

Pride Student Union

Private Sequity/ Venture Capital  
Club

Psi Chi Honor Society

Psychology Club

Renegade Leadership Honor Society

RENEW

Reverb A Cappella

SASA

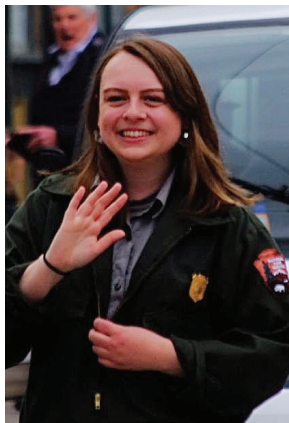
SCURC

SEEDS

Seminole Nursing Students  
for Sexual and Reproductive Health

Seminole Organic Garden

# PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS ALUMNI



## GRACE ROBBINS CLASS OF 2022

Grace Robbins credits her networking abilities and her vision for interdisciplinary relationships in the humanities and public service to the Presidential Scholars Program's diverse makeup, engagement, and mentorship. She remembers reaching out to older Presidential Scholars in the program about internship opportunities in the digital humanities and learned about the FSU library's digital scholarship internship in archaeological research. Her real academic journey immediately began after that. Without the support from Presidential Scholars, Grace would not have discovered how her love for history could "materialize" into archaeology and have a stake in socio-political and legal issues, whether through conducting ancient fieldwork in Italy or traveling to collect data for her undergraduate thesis on archival work and 20th-century repatriation.

Since graduating, Grace has taken her growth from presidential scholars, her interests in public history and archaeology, and her skill to ask interdisciplinary questions, and cast her net in the National Park Service. She moved to Skagway, Alaska to learn paper conservation at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. Here, she witnessed the necessary cross-divisional work a small remote park needs to successfully serve both its local community and its tourist industry. In the winter, she moved on to work in education at the same park, creating educational programming to teach the local school children about their archaeological and natural heritage. This summer Grace has shifted gears once again, this time serving as an archeological field technician and helping carry out emergency excavations at the nearby historic town site of Dyea—much of which is falling into a river at rapid speed due to increasing glacial melt from climate change. Her appreciation for archeology has been reignited on a new, urgent level as she witnesses its relationship with local communities, tribal stakeholders, state agencies, and federal law daily. She hopes to take these lessons in the National Park Service and enhance them through graduate work in cultural heritage studies in the next few years and spend time in other parks or organizations that need archaeological work and research.

There are endless adventures to be had when living in Alaska. Grace has both hiked on a glacier and up several mountains, kayaked on a beautiful Canadian lake, skied under the moonlight, flown in a helicopter to work and camp in the backcountry, and even encountered a Mama bear and her baby cubs in her work site. Her desire to see more of the world has only been strengthened by living in such a challenging but rewarding corner of America's last frontier.

Grace thanks Presidential Scholars for being a crucial space in a very malleable time in her life. She believes that surrounding herself with motivated, involved, bright young people gave her the consistent inspiration she needed to set the academic and personal goals she did while in her undergraduate career.





## ALEYNA BROWN

### CLASS OF 2018

Aleyna earned three bachelor's degrees during her time at Florida State as a Presidential Scholar, graduating summa cum laude in 2018 with a B.M. in Flute Performance, B.M. in Music Composition, and a B.A. in Commercial Music with a minor in Business. During her time at FSU, she enjoyed the many benefits of the mentorship, resources, and community of the Presidential Scholars Program. Being surrounded by her fellow scholars whose achievements were diverse and stunning, Aleyna was inspired and humbled by the excellence fostered by this program. Aleyna took advantage of research and international enrichment opportunities by participating in UROP - Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, and studying abroad, twice! She traveled to London in Spring of 2015, studying music and its cross-influences of art and culture in this musical epicenter. She enjoyed performances of musical theater in the West End, Classical opera at the Royal Opera House, and a stunning orchestral performance by the London Symphony, as well as falling in love with the art and architecture of London's world-renowned museums. Then, in the summer of 2017, Aleyna was accepted to the prestigious InterHarmony program in Arcidosso, Tuscany. She participated in intensive flute and chamber music studies and performances with an orchestra of professional Italian musicians and InterHarmony students. Aleyna's enriching and life-changing undergraduate career was entirely made possible by the support of the Presidential Scholars Program. After FSU, Aleyna remained in Tallahassee living and working as a professional pit orchestra musician and audio engineer at a recording studio. During this time, she released her debut independent album and performed live shows at local music venues and festivals. Then her ambition took her to Texas in pursuit of two master's degrees at the University of North Texas. She graduated summa cum laude in 2021 with a M.M. in Flute Performance with an emphasis of Contemporary Music and a M.A. in Music Composition - Computer Music. Her thesis research included multimedia exhibitions and interdisciplinary collaborations surrounding Femininity: Ownership and Empowerment.

She now lives in Downtown Dallas with her fiancé Philip and works as an Adjunct Professor of Music Industry Studies at the University of Texas in Arlington while also continuing her professional audio engineering -- with a second solo album on the way! She is also a member of the band MOONtransmissions, alongside Dan Silver and Chelsea Davis, with an upcoming release mixed by 12-time Grammy-nominated audio engineer Mark Needham.

## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Seminole Tap Troupe

Senate President

Seoul System

Service Board

SGA Student Body Deputy Treasurer

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

Sigma Tau Delta

SISTUHS Inc

Social Change Peer Educator

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

Society of Physics Students

Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

Sophomore Class Councils

South Asian Student Association

Special Olympics

SSDP

STARS

Sticky Rice Asian American Ministries

Student Conduct Board

Student Engineering Leadership Board

Student Government Association

Student Health Advocacy Board

Student Senate

SURGE FSIF

Sustainability Garden

Sustainable Campus

Swing Dance Club

Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare: Bixler Emergency Center

The 75th Student Senate - current Summer President

The Eggplant

The Florida State University Student Foundation

The Hammock Lab DIS

# PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS ALUMNI



## GIOVANNA GARCIA CLASS OF 2021

Entering her undergraduate years with an interest in international human rights work, the Presidential Scholars program gave Giovanna access to ample opportunities to engage in this work and a community that supported her in achieving and refining her interests. Since graduation, Giovanna spent one year teaching English in the northwest of Spain before she began pursuing her J.D. at Harvard Law School where her academic and extracurricular interests center on international human rights law with a focus on migration and conflict. Her law studies have taken her to Lesbos, Greece where she spent the summer of 2023 working with an NGO engaging in asylum advocacy at the intersection of Greek, European and international law. After law school, Giovanna intends to work for an intergovernmental or international organization engaging in litigation, advocacy and policy work around human rights and refugee law.



## BETH BROWNRIGG CLASS OF 2020

Presidential Scholars was the foundation of Beth's experience at FSU and was transformative for her professional life and personal worldview. Guided by the Presidential Scholars Program, Beth was able to pursue countless opportunities, from directing her thesis production *It's True, It's True, It's True* to interning at Dixon Place, an experimental Off-Broadway theatre where she worked as a curator for HOT! Festival, the longest-running queer arts festival in the world. Beyond her theatrical work, Presidential Scholars encouraged Beth to explore and develop her other creative interests. She participated in the UROP program her freshman year, where she worked with Dr. Nancy de Grummond in the Classics Department to create 3D printed replicas of Etruscan artifacts. Beth continued partnering with Dr. de Grummond throughout her time at FSU and was able to participate in two archaeological digs in Italy, assisting in the design and installation of their exhibit at the Museo Nazionale Archeologico of Florence.

Through Presidential Scholars, Beth was exposed to artists and academics that have had a profound impact on her creative voice. These experiences served as the perfect launch pad for her career in media and design.

Since graduation, Beth has relocated to New York and has been working in television as an art assistant and set decorator. Her work can be seen on Amazon Prime (*Dead Ringers*) and Hulu (*Godfather of Harlem*). She is currently an art assistant on Season 3 of *The Drew Barrymore Show*, a proud member of a team that received 7 Daytime Emmy nominations this year and stands in solidarity with WGA and SAG-AFTRA. Beth has continued her work in theatre, serving as a designer at FRIGID Fringe Festival, a production assistant on *Willa's Authentic Self* with Lisa Clair Group and directing her own production of *Horse Girls* this past March. She credits her Presidential Scholars experience as the key to her development as an artist. It's where she was able to hone her theatrical craft, discover her passion for design, and gained the tools needed to engage critically and creatively with the world around her.



## CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP



### GRACE HAYES CLASS OF 2020

Grace is going into her third-year teaching choir and world music at Gateway High School in Osceola County, FL. In addition to graduating via Zoom while living back in her hometown during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, she was active with Be The Change Barrington, a local student and alumni advocacy group founded in June 2020 to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in her hometown school district. Upon moving to Orlando in August 2021, Grace joined the Osceola County Education Association; she currently serves as a union representative and the co-chair of OCEA FYRE, a focus

group for young educators. Additionally, she is active in music education associations at the local and state level and was recently appointed to be Osceola County's inaugural District Coordinator for choral events. In her free time, she enjoys inline skating, eating her way around Orlando, and singing with Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus. Grace is grateful to the Presidential Scholars program for the solid foundation of skills, perspective, and community that have shaped her post-undergraduate career.



### GREGORY SEEL CLASS OF 2018

Gregory Seel graduated with the inaugural class of Presidential Scholars in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering - while maintaining a side career as a musician on the Tallahassee jazz scene as an accomplished saxophonist.

As the president of the FSU Music Engineering Club, he intended to pursue a career that integrated his two passions, but soon found opportunities in the electric utility industry. He began performing contract design work for Duke Energy in Orlando, which soon turned into a project management role in street lighting. He now serves the largest customer in Duke's six-state territory while continuing to perform, record, and travel in his free time.

The March Lab DIS

The Mental Health Council

The Nineteen Ten Honorary

The Student Foundation

Themed Entertainment Association

Theta Tau

Theta Tau Professional  
Engineering Fraternity

Torchbearer 100

Undergraduate Law Review

Undergraduate Research  
Opportunity Program Leader

University Ambassadors

University Health Services'  
Student Health Advisory Committee

University Housing

University Relations

USSTRIDE

Visitor Information  
Center Student Ambassadors

W.E.B. DuBois Honor Society

Women's Student Union

World Affairs

WVFS

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated,  
Rho Kappa Chapter

# A YEAR OF MEMEORIES

INTRAMURALS



SENIOR CLASS SOCIAL



HOMECOMING



SOPHOMORE SOCIAL



SUSTAINANOLE



BUILD A HOUSE







PRESIDENT MCCULLOUGH  
AND SOPHIA MILLER



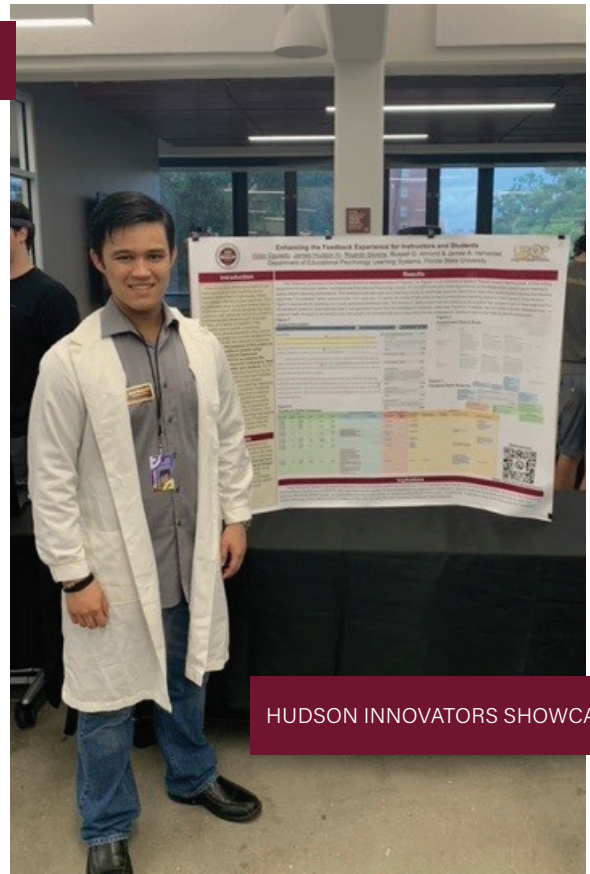
OLYMPICS



MENTORSHIP



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

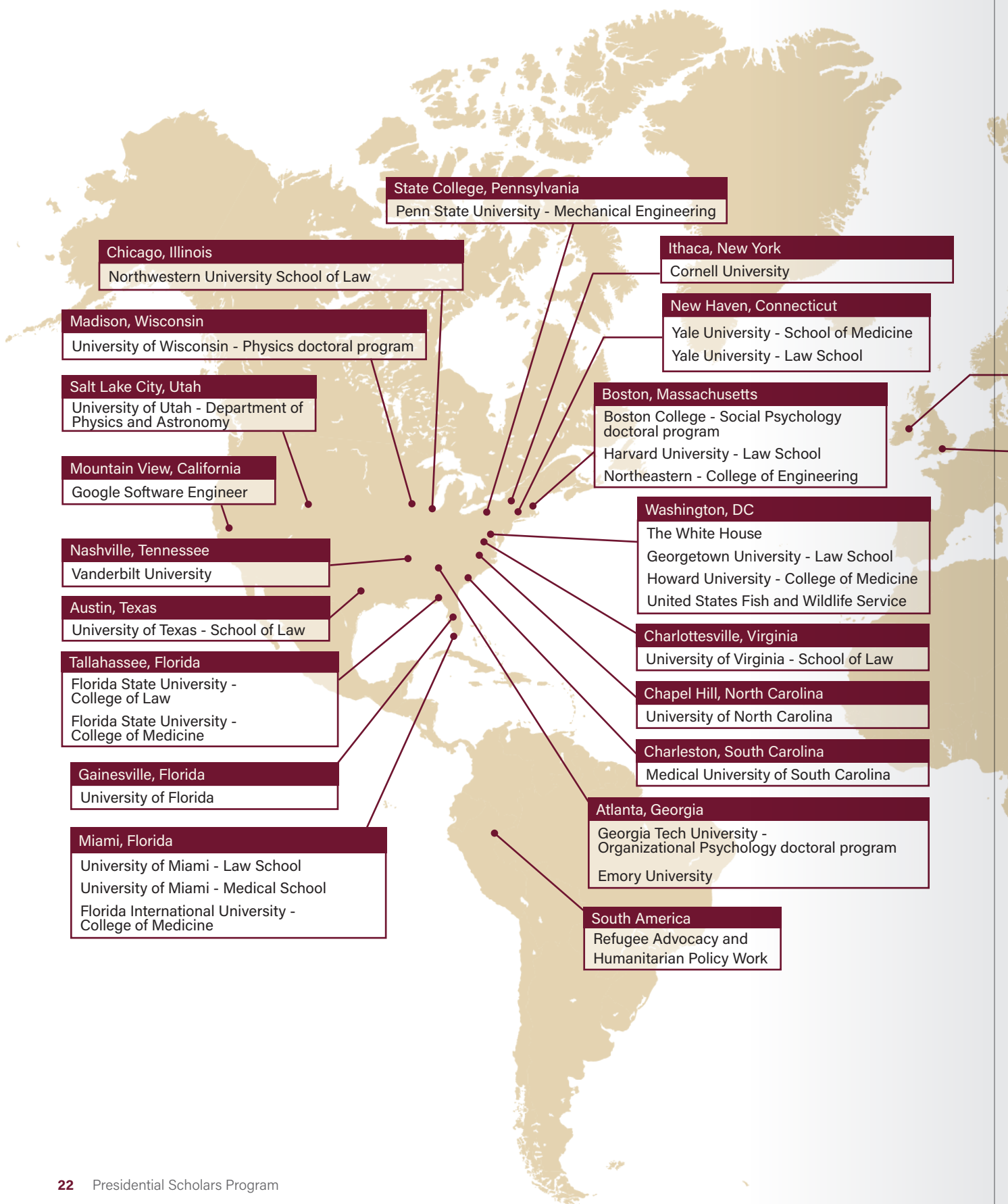


HUDSON INNOVATORS SHOWCASE



INTERVIEW WEEKEND  
RECEPTION

# PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS





# HAVE GONE ON TO...

Dublin, Ireland

Trinity College of Dublin

London, United Kingdom

London School of Economics  
and Political Science

Seoul, South Korea


Seoul National University





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