



*2016-2017 Annual Report*



# Honors College

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

*Imagine • Pursue • Create • The Honors College*

# Message from the Dean

## M. Grant Norton

Dean, WSU Honors College

During the last twelve months we celebrated the many accomplishments of our students and faculty. Honors College students Keesha Matz and Julianna Brutman both received Barry. M. Goldwater Scholarships: the highest recognition for undergraduates in the STEM fields. Since 2013 Honors College students have been recognized 10 times by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in Excellence & Education Foundation. We also launched several new programs. In January, the Honors Global Leadership Program included some of our most distinguished alumni including Dr. Michael Scott and Dr. Jeffrey Franks. Mike Scott was one of the scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore. Jeffrey Franks is head of the International Monetary Fund in Europe and Senior Resident Representative to the European Union.

Our students also made significant contributions to world-class research being conducted by our faculty. Keesha Matz, working with her advisor Professor Hector Aguilar, was co-author on the paper "Cytoplasmic Motifs in the Nipah Virus Fusion Protein Modulate Virus Particle Assembly and Egress" published in *Journal of Virology*. This work is important because Nipah Virus has a mortality rate in humans of 75%. By understanding how these viruses assemble and then leave infected cells, Keesha is hoping her work will lead to the development of new vaccines. Margaux McBirney was first author on the paper "Atrazine Induced Epigenetic Transgenerational Inheritance of Disease, Lean Phenotype and Sperm Epimutation Pathology Biomarkers" published in *PloS One*. Since its publication in September, Margaux's paper has already been viewed over 7,000 times indicating its importance to the scientific community.

This year the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine opened its doors and welcomed its first cohort of medical students. Four Honors College alumni Kyle Geiger, Michelle Hedeem, Ethan Payton, Christina Street, were in the charter class. We are looking forward to building cross-college partnerships that ensure that the best of Washington's students can train as doctors to fill critical health care gaps in rural Washington and serve all of our state.

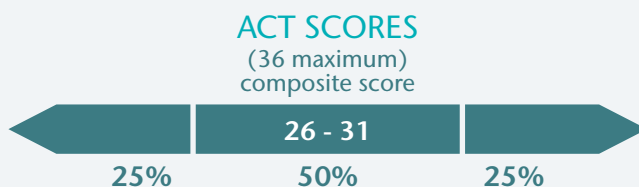
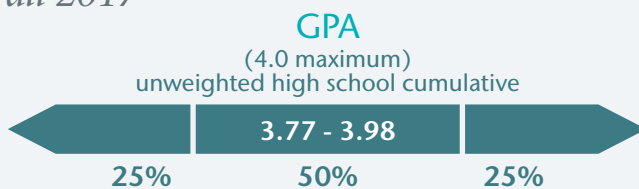
I invite you to read our annual report to see what else has happened in the Honors College over the past year. Please visit our website to learn more about our students and faculty. You might also enjoy looking at our on-line literary arts journal, *The Palouse Review*. You will find stories, poems, artwork, and musical compositions.



With sincere thanks and warmest wishes,  
M. Grant Norton, Dean

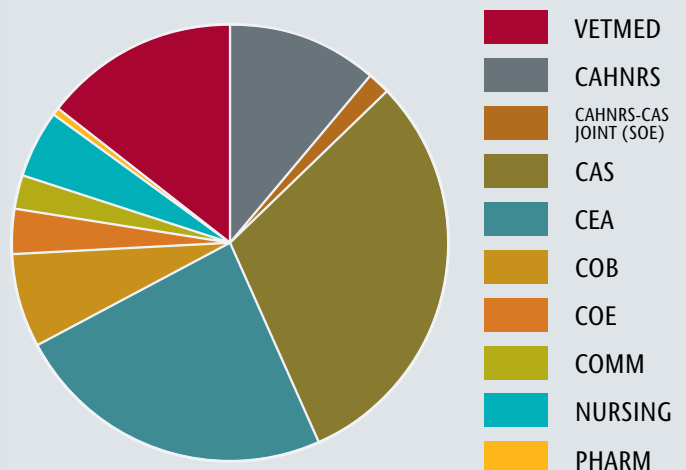
## INCOMING FRESHMEN

Fall 2017



## Distribution by Academic Class

Fall 2017



Cover photo: Honors alumna, Alisha McBride ('13)

# Alumni Engagement

## Meet the Members of the Advisory Board

**Wayne Asmussen** ('86), *Microsoft Corporation*, **Carole Butkus** ('65), *Butkus Consulting, Inc.* and *Belltown Records, Inc.*, **John Caunt** ('68), *Hos Brothers Construction, Inc.*, **Ross Cook** ('01), *Caiman Consulting*, **Andrew Flanagan** ('04), *Interface Engineering, Inc.*, **Donna Hamilton** ('67), *U.S. Department of State (retired)*, **Cassa Hanon** ('83), *Oracle*, **Carl Hauser** ('75), *WSU School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (retired)*, **Janece Herzog** ('84), *Pacific Surgical, PC*, **Kris Herzog** ('89), *Comtech*, **Ted Herzog** ('84), *Tonkon Torp, LLP*, **Diana Kirkbride** ('69), *North Thurston Public Schools (retired)*, **Lewis C. Lee** ('88), *Lee & Hayes, PLLC*, **Dave McGoldrick** ('65), *Law Firm of Morton McGoldrick, P.S.*, **Lindsay Sandler** ('13), *The Boeing Company*, **Colin A. White** ('03), *Matisia Consultants*

# #CougsGive!

Thanks to our alumni and friends, the Honors College ranked top among units in the 2017 CougsGive Campaign!

Over \$13,000 was raised to provide transformative opportunities to our students and faculty!

## Thank You Cougs!

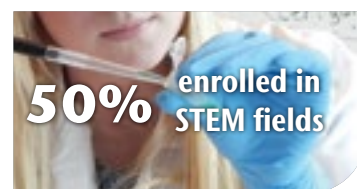


**Anna King ('00)**

*Keynote Speaker, May 2017*

Thank you, Anna, for serving as Keynote Speaker for the 2017 Honors College Spring Commencement Banquet! Anna is a journalist for Northwest Public Radio and Richland Bureau Chief for Northwest News Network.

## Honors College Students at WSU



## The Honors College Offers First- and Second-Year Leadership Programs!



*WSU Honors College Dean, Dr. Grant Norton, with students and faculty from Southeast University in Nanjing on their visit to Pullman.*

The First-Year Honors Leadership Program (FHLP) provides an enriched and distinct experience that involves team-building exercises, case studies related to ethics and leadership, exploring leadership styles through an analysis of personality types, and engaging with leaders from various professional backgrounds. Support of the FHLP was provided by The Boeing Company.

The Second-Year Honors Leadership Program (SHLP) focuses on leadership in a global context. The course content invites leaders from industry, government, and academia to present and discuss the importance of leadership in a globalized world. The SHLP is offered annually in spring semester and includes a global case project where WSU Honors students

work throughout the semester with Honors students from Southeast University in Nanjing, China. In the spring, students from both universities come together in Pullman to present their cases and address issues to their topic.



# What does Honors mean to you?



*"I joined the Honors College because I want to expand my knowledge through research, and work with small groups and faculty to attain a personal yet collective development."*

**Vanessa Giramata**  
Economics



*"Everyone in the Honors College is extremely helpful, and the students here motivate me to work harder and explore new ideas."*

**Bogdan "Theo" Mynka**  
Music - Voice Performance



*"To me, WSU Honors means thoughtfulness and perspective. As a student and alumnus my involvement with WSU Honors prevents my knee-jerk reactions to the various situations that life puts me in, and that calmness fuels my confidence to handle any situation."*

Andrew Flanagan ('04)  
Associate/Senior Engineer, Interface Engineering  
Pictured with wife, Rebecca ('04), and children

## Invest in the Honors College

### Support for Student Excellence

- Merit- and Need-based Scholarships
- Research Opportunities
- Internships
- Mentorships

### Experiential Learning Opportunities

- Study Abroad
- Participation at Academic Conferences
- In-Class Speaking Engagements
- Industry Visits

### Support for Faculty Excellence

- Fellowships
- Distinguished Professorships

*Visit [give.wsu.edu](http://give.wsu.edu)*



*"The WSU Honors College means to me the highest in academic achievement. It means for WSU students the opportunity to achieve the best education possible. It means for WSU the opportunity to showcase excellence in education and undergraduate research."*

Dave McGoldrick ('65)  
Attorney, Law Firm of Morton McGoldrick P.S.



**Linda Infranco**  
*Director of Development*  
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Since joining the WSU Honors College in 2016 I have been in awe of the incredibly talented young people who walk through our halls each day. Conversations about their academic goals, research projects, faculty interactions, study abroad experiences, and personal triumphs create such excitement in me that I want to share their stories

with you – our Honors College alumni and friends!

Though our Honors students may come from various backgrounds, they all share several common traits – perseverance to overcome obstacles, ambition to achieve goals, and drive to positively influence the communities in which they live and work.

In fiscal year 2016, the WSU Honors College awarded over \$118,000 in scholarships. You will see throughout this report the impact made by every dollar received. Your engagement in the Honors College plays a significant role in the success of our students! Whether you serve on our advisory board, speak in classes, mentor students in the labs or office, open doors at your place of work, or financially invest in student, faculty and programmatic excellence, your investment is making a difference. Your investment in the WSU Honors College allows us to dream big!

Thank you for your support this past year and always. I look forward to meeting you soon in Pullman or your home community. Until then – take care, be well, and as always – **Go Cougs!**



*"As a student, I honed skills in discussion, research, and interpreting diverse viewpoints. It's invaluable for WSU to have this offering that enriches the learning of students like me."*

Cassa Hanon ('83)  
VP Program Management, Oracle

# Success at a Glance



## Keesha Matz

As a junior, Keesha Matz earned the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship to help fund her studies for the 2017-2018 school year. This scholarship is a highly competitive national award that acknowledges student achievement in mathematics,

the natural sciences, and engineering. Keesha plans to become a leader in the study of viruses and infectious diseases at an international biomedical research institution, such as the World Health Organization. Keesha has presented at national conferences, won numerous awards and scholarships, co-authored multiple manuscripts, and was offered an internship at the Mayo Clinic.



## Daniel Goto

Only a month into his time at WSU, Daniel Goto started research with the flexible sensor team, led by Dr. Arda Gozen in the Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture. Daniel's role involves increasing the accuracy of speed of a

microcontroller and radiofrequency chip that allow data to be recorded from a flexible sensor. Also early in his career at WSU, Daniel joined the Palouse RoboSub Club, a team that builds robotic submarines. He manages the power control which is complicated by the robot's use in water. Daniel has also been involved in the Honors Student Advisory Council (HSAC) and the Second-Year Honors Leadership Program.



## Dr. Brendan M. Walker

Dr. Brendan Walker, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology, was named the Honors College Distinguished Professor for 2016-2018.

His selection was based on demonstrated excellence in teaching, service, and research,

which previously earned him the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. Dr. Walker teaches a section of Honors 270 about psychology and his related research on addiction.



## Dr. Robin Bond

Dr. Robin Bond was promoted to assistant dean of the Honors College after serving as a faculty member and advisor for Honors since 2007. For her work advising students on coursework and competitive scholarships and internships,

Dr. Bond received the Global Award for Outstanding Faculty Advisor from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). She was also promoted to clinical professor at WSU.

## Distinguished Scholarships

### Academic Year 2016-17

German Academic Exchange (DAAD) – Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) – **Lars Neuenschwander** and **Allisa Horst** were selected as interns for the RISE program in summer 2017.

Gilman Scholarship – **Laura Abbot** received the Gilman Scholarship in 2016 to study in Japan and **Michael Young** received the Gilman Scholarship in 2017 to study in China.

Goldwater Scholarship – **Julianna Brutman** and **Keesha Matz** were both selected as Goldwater Scholars.

Mount Vernon Leadership Fellowship – **Savannah Rogers** was selected for the 2017 class of Mount Vernon Leadership Fellows. She is the third student in a row to be selected from the WSU Honors College.

Truman Scholarship – **Alyssa Norris** was selected as a Truman Scholarship finalist.

Udall Scholarship – **Alyssa Norris** received 'Honorable Mention' by the Udall Foundation in the environmental category.



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## Upcoming Events for 2018

- **Wednesday, March 28**  
CougsGive 2018 Campaign  
([cougsgive.wsu.edu](http://cougsgive.wsu.edu))
- **Friday, May 4**  
Honors Commencement Banquet featuring keynote speaker, Jon Jones ('93), CEO of Brighton Jones LLC, SEL Event Center, Pullman
- **Saturday, April 7**  
Honors Student Advisory Council (HSAC)  
Mom's Weekend Brunch, Honors Lounge
- **Stay tuned for announcements of Honors College alumni events near you!**



Honors College