

Student Honorees *of the*

**CHANCELLOR'S
ACADEMIC
HONORS
CONVOCATION
2020**

2020 Student Honorees *of the* Chancellor's Academic Honors Convocation

Help us celebrate the 2020 student recipients of various campus awards. You can find honorees in this document along with the award they are receiving and a short tribute to their impressive contributions at IUPUI and in the Indianapolis community.



These IUPUI students have been recognized as the following:

***Sherry Queener Graduate Student
Excellence Award Recipients***

***Chancellor's Award for Outstanding
Undergraduate Research Recipient***

Chancellor's Scholars

Welcome Letter from Chancellor Paydar



Dear Colleagues and Students,

During these uncertain times, one thing remains constant: the outstanding accomplishments of IUPUI students, faculty, and staff. In fact, honoring the accomplishments of the campus community has been one of the great highlights of my job as chancellor. While the current circumstances have made it unsafe to gather for the traditional celebration of our Academic Honors Convocation, this situation does not diminish all that you have done or the great pride we—as a campus—feel in your achievements.

You represent the spirit of scholarship, creativity, and engagement that defines our campus and distinguishes us as leaders in innovation and discovery. Your excellence in teaching and learning, research, diversity, and collaboration strengthens our reputation as a powerful engine for high-quality education and cutting-edge research. You truly are our best and brightest and are already leading us into the future even as you achieve your personal and professional goals.

Again, congratulations on your recognition and thank you for all that you contribute to IUPUI, especially during this crisis. Your hard work and commitment make me proud and grateful each day that I count myself among you. Take care and be well.

Sincerely,

Nasser H. Paydar, Chancellor

SHERRY QUEENER GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

In gratitude for Dr. Queener's decades of service and dedication to IUPUI and graduate students, the Office of Academic Affairs established the Sherry Queener Graduate Student Excellence Award in 2015. Each year the award recognizes two individuals who personify graduate student excellence.

Kirstin VanderWall

**Department of Biology
School of Science**



Kirstin VanderWall's research has been remarkably productive, resulting in 14 peer-reviewed publications and numerous presentations at regional and international scientific conferences.

Kirstin has been a highly interactive colleague and mentor, and her presence has improved the academic environment of her graduate program. Kirstin has also been highly active in service opportunities both at IUPUI and the local community, including inviting and hosting Dr. Josh Sanes from Harvard University as a visiting speaker at IUPUI.

Following completion of her doctoral program at IUPUI, Kirstin will join Eli Lilly and Company as a post-doctoral scientist in RNA therapeutics.

SHERRY QUEENER

GRADUATE STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Lauren Ryan

Department of Kinesiology
School of Health & Human Sciences



Lauren has taught classes, participated in research laboratory activities, and served as the graduate student coordinator for the IUPUI INShape program. During the summer, Lauren assisted with students attending Camp Brosius in Wisconsin.

Outside of the classroom, Lauren has recently become a Certified Cancer Exercise Specialist-Level 2 from the American College of Sports Medicine, a difficult certification to achieve. She also serves as an Exercise Specialist-PRN, at the Community Heart and Vascular Hospital in Indianapolis. Lauren has also served as a team building consultant for professional organizations and community engagement activities such as Upward Bound, Trio, and DEAP programs at IUPUI. She volunteers her time to the Live Laugh Dance, Adapted Movement Programs, and Moving Company.

Chancellor's Award *for* OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

This award is the highest honor given to a graduating senior who demonstrates excellence in independent research. The IUPUI Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Committee, composed of faculty members from across campus, reviews the nominations for this award.

Samuel Canner

Department of Physics & Department of Computer Science
School of Science



Samuel will graduate with a double major in physics and computer science this semester. He has an outstanding academic record and has made a remarkable contribution to the biophysical research of the group led by his mentor, Dr. Stephen Wassall, in the Department of Physics. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in computational biophysics and has received several offers from prestigious schools. Samuel's work has already earned him co-authorship on two publications, two more are in preparation, and he has presented

at three international meetings. This represents a tremendous accomplishment for an undergraduate student.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

The Chancellor's Scholar Award recognizes outstanding students from each school.

These students were chosen by school faculty on the basis of scholarly achievement.



CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Zainab Almomen

School of Medicine - Health Professions Program



Zainab is a senior in the School of Medicine Health Professions Radiation Therapy Program. Her personal mantra is “Success treads upon the heels of effort and perseverance.” Zainab’s scholarly work, commitment to education, and peer mentoring are exemplary. After graduation, she plans to use her knowledge and clinical skills for personal growth and for the betterment and welfare of cancer patients and others. The Radiation Therapy Program and her classmates are honored to be a part of her journey!

Devin Banks

The Graduate School - Doctoral Program

Devin is a graduate student in the clinical psychology department with a deep passion for working with underserved and underrepresented populations. During her graduate studies at IUPUI, she received an NIH F31 grant and published 17 peer-reviewed articles, with a majority focusing on minority populations in the area of adolescent health and substance use. Upon graduation, Devin will be joining the faculty at the University of Missouri-St. Louis as a tenure-track assistant professor in clinical psychology.



Nirupama Devanathan

Lilly Family School of Philanthropy



Nirupama is a double major in biology and philanthropic studies, with a certificate in Latino studies. After an independent study course with Dr. Kathi Bedertscher, she became even more determined to pursue a career that would allow her to identify and in turn, mitigate the disparities in health outcomes associated with different patient populations. Nirupama is a student with initiative and dedication to reduce the stigma associated with mental health conditions. In the fall, Nirupama will attend the IU School of Medicine.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Cordell Durcholz

School of Engineering and Technology



Cordell will be graduating this May with a double major in mechanical engineering and motorsports engineering. As an honors student, Cordell exemplifies both academic excellence and leadership. He is the vice president of the School of Engineering and Technology Student Council and served as a resident assistant for two years. Upon graduation, he hopes to apply his talents to a career in defense, motorsports, or in aerospace industry.

Elizah M. Griffith

Herron School of Art + Design

Elizah is a powerhouse in the classroom and the art studio. She has maintained a healthy schedule of commissioned work throughout her program in Art Education. Elizah also engages in community service, such as working as the artist in residence for the opening of the Imagination Lab in Plainfield. Her intellect, academic excellence, and curiosity make her a classroom favorite with students; and her energy and empathy get even the most reluctant learners to take notice.



Konstantin J. Gruenwald

School of Medicine - M.D. Program



Konstantin is not only considered first in his School of Medicine class, he has also received superior ratings in clinical rotations. He has shown consistent curiosity in his studies and involvement in medical and scientific research. Konstantin has been an active student leader, heading student organizations aimed at the personal and professional development. Konstantin is a compassionate young physician and advocate for delivering the highest quality, evidence-based care for his patients. He is working towards a career in diagnostic radiology.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Logan M. Harris

Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health



The faculty in Public Health are extremely proud of Logan! Logan is a Bepko Scholar majoring in health data science and informatics. His honors projects include visualization of NFL play-by-play data; advanced fraud detection; data analytics in managerial accounting; and timeseries and business intelligence. Logan has been a data science intern at CliftonLarsonAllen and was a researcher at a Summer Institute in Biostatistics. After graduation, Logan will attend the University of Iowa to pursue his Ph.D. in biostatistics.

Isaac Herndon

School of Informatics and Computing

Isaac will be graduating this spring with his Bachelor of Science degree in informatics. His attention to detail, leadership skills, and focus on academic excellence has led to exceptional performance in his classes. Isaac's excellent work ethic demonstrates his clear desire to exceed expectations in all aspects of his life. He plans to combine his informatics degree and minor in business to pursue a position in business intelligence after graduation.



Olivia A. Hess

Robert H. McKinney School of Law



Olivia is an exemplary student at the Robert H. McKinney School of Law. During her matriculation, she has served as the editor-in-chief for the Indiana International and Comparative Law review. She has been involved in the Dean's Tutorial Society, has served as a mentor for the 1L Mentorship program, and is a recipient of several scholarships. Olivia is a good law school citizen, and this school is proud that she is the recipient of the Chancellor's Scholar award.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Tyler Lawson

School of Science



Tyler graduated in December 2019 with a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental science and a minor in geochemistry. In addition to his coursework, Tyler was involved with the IUPUI Center for Earth and Environmental Science where he took part in environmental research, education, and outreach programs. Tyler is currently employed at Cummins Inc. within the company's Restricted Substances and Product Disclosures group where he works to ensure product complies with worldwide environmental regulations.

Elizabeth Lynch IUPUC

Elizabeth is an outstanding student who has an impeccable work ethic. She completed several projects in her mechanical engineering courses for the Honors Program and received academic awards including Outstanding Student in Advanced Math, Calculus, and an Office of Student Research grant. Elizabeth joined the School to Work program at Cummins Inc. and now utilizes her mechanical engineering skills in the workplace while still maintaining stellar grades in her classes.



Nicholas Lynch

School of Dentistry



Nicholas is a fourth-year Doctor of Dental Surgery student who will be graduating this spring. As a student, Nick embodies academic excellence and is consistently ranked number one in his class. He is the past president of the School of Dentistry's chapter of the American Student Dental Association and the operations chair for the School of Dentistry Student Outreach Clinic. After graduation, Nick will be continuing his education at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Hannah Oliver

School of Nursing



Hannah credits the opportunity to participate as an honors student for igniting a passion for research. Hannah volunteers in the community and is secretary for the Student Nurses Association. She has also worked as a tutor, patient care assistant, and personal care attendant. Upon graduation, Hannah will work as a cardiac nurse. She also hopes to integrate her love of teaching into her career by one day returning to pursue a Master of Science in nursing at IUPUI.

Delia Pauley

School of Education

Delia has been married for 29 years and raised 3 children (a lawyer, a doctor, and a master's degree holder). In addition, she has taught piano for 25 years and worked full-time with children's worship. Delia is finally fulfilling a lifelong dream to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and is looking forward to having her own classroom where she can continue inspiring and teaching children.



Tyler Phillips

The Graduate School - Master's Program



Tyler is a sharp student who has excelled academically during his time in the computer science Master of Science program. He has earned the highest grades in all of his courses, securing a 4.0 GPA. He is a very productive researcher with three published papers and three additional manuscripts in progress. Tyler is responsible, easygoing, and values collaboration. He has freely contributed his time to tutor and assist other students while actively engaged in research.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Eden Rea-Hedrick

School of Liberal Arts



Eden is an English major, minoring in history and French. Her research interests include gender and sexuality studies, queer theory, and modernism. Eden is a remarkable researcher and poised for the profession. Eden has also been an active member on several school and campus committees. She is a member of the Honors College, has presented research internationally, served as a Liberal Arts Ambassador, participated in study abroad opportunities, and has been recognized as a Top 100 student.

Dynasty von Hacker

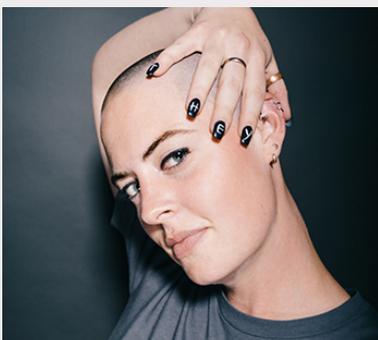
School of Social Work

Dynasty is a Bachelor of Social Work student who exemplifies academic excellence. After earning her bachelor's degree this spring, she will pursue a Master of Social Work degree at Indiana University. Ultimately, Dynasty will use the knowledge and skills acquired through her training to help individuals, families, and communities confronted with mental health and substance abuse challenges.



Elise Whitaker

Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs



Elise displays an intellectual curiosity and natural leadership that has set them apart. After graduating with a policy studies degree, Elise will pursue a doctoral program in public affairs with the goal to become a professor at a research university. Elise has worked with a number of O'Neill faculty, developing and presenting research related to issues of sustainability and climate change. Their engagement in the classroom and community adds a richness to their interactions that is rare and impressive.

CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARS

Katelyn Willis

School of Health & Human Sciences



Katelyn has participated in the Motor Activity Clinic, PAWI Advisory Board, wellness coaching, INShape, Jagathon, Paws' Pantry, Jags in the Street, and has worked at a local hospital. After earning her degree in exercise science, she will be attending the Indiana University Doctorate of Physical Therapy program.

Sabrina Woods

Honors College

Sabrina will graduate with a psychology degree from the School of Science. She made her impact on the Honors College through the Honors Peer Mentor program. She served as a mentor, mentor leader, and planned the annual peer mentor welcome event. Sabrina also completed an internship in the Indiana University Neuroscience Center, she volunteers with Riley Hospital for Children, mentors in the Biology Resource Center, and has studied abroad with a focus on global public health.



Hongyi Zheng

Kelley School of Business



Hongyi is an international student from the Hazihu District in China. He is currently studying the dual program of accounting and finance in the Kelley School of Business. He started in a student program between IUPUI and Sun Yat-sen University in fall 2018 and has excelled in the program with a 4.0 GPA. Hongyi has plans of applying to graduate school for the 2020 semester.